

St. Monica's Church

St. Monica's Will Note Its Diamond Jubilee

By JOHN DASH

They'll be celebrating their thankfulness for the past, gratefulness for the present and hopefulness for the future next Sunday at St. Monica's Church.

The occasion will be a noon observance of both the 75th anniversary of the founding of the parish and the installation of the first parish council.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the principal concelebrant at the Dec. 16 Mass and installation ceremonies to be witnessed by present and former parishioners, civic and community religious leaders, former associates of the parish family and the church's former pastor, Msgr. Gerald Lambert.

A parish get-together will be held in the school hall following the Mass.

Father Edward A. Zimmer, pastor, said he hopes for a large number of former parishioners to attend "because there was a lot of wonderful blood, sweat and tears by thousands and thousands of parishioners that went into the parish, and we would enjoy seeing them as well as our own real good people."

Father Zimmer describes St. Monica's as an "optimistic and real happy parish that's on the move."

He finds it difficult say how pleased he is by the numbers of young families moving into the

parish in recent months.

He cites figures on school enrollment and says that exclusive of the new kindergarten, which opened this fall, the registration is up for the first time in 15 years.

The human dimensions of the parish also come in for Father Zimmer's enthusiasm. He says he is especially pleased with the Parish Council and its liturgy, human development and parish facilities committees. He claims his administrative staff is the "best. Real, great, beautiful people." Wryly he does admit that two of the staff members were overhearing his comments; but his affection is genuine as he lists their accomplishments for the parish family.

St. Monica's started out in 1898 as a backwater community of 65 families who formerly attended Immaculate Conception Church.

The community was poor, Father John P. Brophy, the first pastor recalled in 1933. "There were any number of times when I walked downtown because I lacked the necessary five cents to pay the fare, but I never thought about it as a hardship," he said.

But that first winter must have been a dilly because he noted "Father and Mother sent us a load of turnips and carrots in the fall and somehow we got through the winter. Youth is wonderful."

Mass was celebrated in the first church building on the Feast of

the Immaculate Conception that year; and, in January of 1899, the school opened its doors.

The first Mass in the present church building was celebrated in 1915, on Jan. 20. The following day Bishop Thomas Hickey blessed the structure.

Father Brophy built a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph who staffed the school in 1928. Three years later Pope Pius XI conferred on him the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

Msgr. Brophy's 41 years as pastor ended with his death in 1939.

He was succeeded by Msgr. William F. Bergan, chancellor of the diocese. During his eight-year pastorate, Msgr. Bergan remodeled the school, redecorated the church and began construction of a new wing to the school. He died, after a year's illness, in 1947.

Msgr. Gerald Lambert followed him as pastor. His accomplishments, include supervising the construction of the school addition and the building of a new rectory, now tenanted by 21 sisters working both in and out of the parish.

Msgr. Lambert retired in 1970 and now lives at the Heritage.

YOUNG DIPLOMATS PARTY

The Campbell-Whittlesey House opens its doors for the Landmark Society's Fifth Annual Teenage Diplomat Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 16, 2-4 p.m.

The 1835 Greek Revival house, located in the Third Ward Historic District will be the site for old-fashioned Christmas festivities for the area's foreign students and their American hosts and hostesses. The museum's junior docents will demonstrate 19th century crafts in the old kitchen.

Mercy Students To Give Concert

The annual Christmas concert of Our Lady of Mercy High School will be held Thursday, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

effort of the Glee Club, Chorus and Orchestra.

The entire program will be presented for the student body at an assembly on Tuesday, Dec. 11.

The presentation is a combined

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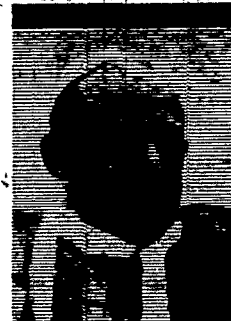
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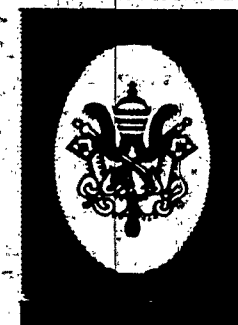
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Nazareth Singers List Yule Program

The Nazareth Academy Perosian Choir will present The Song of Christmas, in assembly on Friday morning, Dec. 21, at 9:15. The program will open with The Perosians in candle light procession singing Wolcum Yole from Britten's A Ceremony of Carols.

Dr. David Fetler will be guest conductor; Sarah Hemings, pianist; and Sister Marie Stephanie, organist for the choir. Mary O'Keefe will narrate and Nancy Ignatowski will greet the assembly. Both girls are Perosians.

The Nazareth Academy Choral Belles, selected from the Perosian Choir, plan to spread Christmas Cheer singing around Rochester this Yuletide season. At Rochester Products on Thursday, Dec. 20, the girls will entertain the personnel with the old and the new Christmas favorites.

They will also be heard in a Christmas program at Holy Family school on Friday, Dec. 14,

on the Eddie Meath Show, Monday, Dec. 17, and in assembly at Nazareth Academy on Friday, Dec. 21, at 9:15 a.m.

Sister Rose Teresa is vocal director.

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