

Pilgrimage Churches: St. Michael's, Rochester

By FATHER ROBERT F. McNAMARA

Substitute pilgrimage church for the cathedral in Rochester's Northwest Region is St. Michael's Church on Clinton Avenue, North.

This church is the second building that has served the parish. St. Michael's parish was cut off from St. Joseph's and Holy Redeemer in 1872, and constituted, like them, a German language parish. Temporary pastor was Father August Pingel, a Redemptorist from St. Joseph's Church. He entered actively into the planning of the first church building, a brick structure 126 by 66 feet in size (the present parish hall). The first permanent pastor, Father Fridolin Pascalar, was named February 1, 1874. One month later the new church was dedicated by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid. The parish population at that time was stated as "about 15-1600 souls."

This population continued to grow steadily, so in 1887 Father Pascalar began to plan for a new church, the present one. After the laying of the foundation stone on May 27, 1888, the new structure of grey Lockport sandstone and brown Medina stone rose quickly. Polished granite columns held up the lofty roof, and the whole structure located on a rise of ground, with a graceful spire 220 feet high, stood out impressively, widely visible from the center of the city.

Those familiar with Cologne Cathedral find the Rochester church reminiscent of it in its domination of the horizon. Philip Drinding of Chicago, the architect, had a fine sense of architectural masses and silhouettes.

St. Michael's interior is a period piece of German-American church structure. The main altar is of gilded oak decorated with polychrome sculptures, and crowned by five Gothic spires, dextrously carved. St. Michael the Archangel is represented on the exterior by a copper statue over the main doorway; and again inside, by a stained glass window over the main altar. The windows were all produced in Innsbruck, Austria. In keeping with the angelic theme set by the church's patron, angels have been pictured in all the other window in the south transept represents the Nativity of Christ. The artist has cleverly introduced Bishop McQuaid as one of the Three Kings, kneeling in front of the Child. In the right-hand panel of the window, one of the shepherds has the face of the founding pastor, Father Pascalar.

St. Michael's originally stood in the midst of the very German neighborhood of "Butterhole," several blocks north of the New York Central tracks. Much has changed there since World War II, most of the old parishioners are gone, reducing parish population to 1500 (where it was in 1874). In fact, St. Michael's has been chosen as a pilgrimage church not only because it is handsome, and because 1974 is the centennial year of its first church, but most of all



because it is now an "inner city" church, and thus represents all the impoverished Catholic churches in the city center.

"A fit temple for the God of heaven to dwell in." That is how Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid described the present St. Michael's at its dedication on September 29, 1890. Will St. Michael's be able to survive financially for another generation? Those who visit it and admire it as pilgrims in 1974 will certainly hope so.

Pilgrimage Churches

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. Symbolizing the authority of the Bishop of Rochester, this is the chief Holy Year pilgrimage church. Catholics in each diocesan region are being urged to send at least a token pilgrimage to the Cathedral.

Alternate Pilgrimage churches. These have been designated by the Bishop as substitutes for the Cathedral.

Monroe County regions: **St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit; St. Michael, Rochester; Holy Trinity, Webster; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Pius X, Chili.**

Yates-Ontario Region: **St. Francis de Sales, Geneva.**

Seneca-Cayuga Region: **St. Alphonsus, Auburn.**

Tompkins-Tioga Region: **Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Patrick, Owego.**

Chemung-Schuyler Region: **Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira; Mount Saviour Monastery, near Elmira; Monastery of St. John of the Cross, Waverly Hill.**

Steuben-Livingston Region: **St. Columba, Caledonia; St. Mary, Corning; St. Ann, Hornell.**

Official Days of Pilgrimage

All Sundays and holy days of obligation (at hours apart from regular scheduled services).

The feast day of the church or monastery.

Other feast days: Official opening, **May 31** (Visitation). **June 21** (Sacred Heart of Jesus). **June 22** (St. John Fisher, diocesan patron). **June 29** (Ss. Peter and Paul). **July 26** (Ss. Joachim and Anne). **Aug. 6** (Transfiguration). **Aug. 15** (Assumption). **Aug. 20** (St. Bernard). **Sept. 9** (St. Peter Claver). **Oct. 7** (Our Lady of the Rosary). **Oct. 19** (Ss. Isaac Jogues and Companions). **Oct. 25** (Feast of the dedication of Sacred Heart Cathedral). **Oct. 28** (Ss. Simon and Jude). **Nov. 13** (St. Frances Cabrini). **Dec. 12** (Our Lady of Guadalupe).

Homes Sought For Students

A unique student travel program is looking for diocesan families to host French and Swedish students for a month this summer.

The program, AVEL Council on Student Travel, needs to place more than 80 Europeans for the program which begins July 8.

The students are boys and girls 15 to 20 years old who have completed four years of English language training. All have been screened and all have signed a pledge to act as good ambassadors of their families, schools and country. The students carry their own pocket money, are comprehensively insured and are Roman Catholic.

The boys are all from St. Croix School in Paris and the girls come from a number of Catholic schools in Sweden.

The American host, AVEL says, "should desire to share their

family with the student be open to international understanding and be willing to treat the guest as a member of their own family.

According to Alice Murphy, who with her husband, Stephen, heads up the local program, though all the students are Roman Catholics, it is not necessary that the host family profess the same faith.

Further information on the program may be obtained from the Murphys at 1445 Ridge Road East, Webster, N.Y., 14580; (716) 872-2954.

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Farley Awarded Laetare Medal

New York [RNS] — The University of Notre Dame, presented its highest award, the Laetare Medal, to the New Deal (Democratic) political leader James A. Farley at a dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here.

"Today, when America's faith in its political institutions and personalities is challenged as never before, you stand as a beacon of integrity," said the citation. "Your public life, as well as your business career, are on record for all to see."

Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame, read the citation and made the presentation.

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Abortion Law Restricted

Albany [RNS] — New York State's Right to Life Committee hailed passage by the legislature of a bill restricting New York's four-year-old liberalized abortion law, calling it a "victory for the innocent, helpless child."

The measure, known as the Aid to Live Aborted Fetuses Bill, was passed by the Senate 43-13, after it had earlier been approved by the Assembly, 81-31. The bill is expected to be signed into law by Gov. Wilson, who supported it.

John T. Middleton, chairman of the state right to life group, described the legislative action as a "real breakthrough on behalf of children, irrespective of the method of their birth."

The bill mandates that, in abortions involving fetuses 20 weeks or older, a second physician must be in attendance solely to attempt to save the fetus if it survives.

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