

Immaculate Conception, Ithaca

By Father Robert F. McNamara

Like several other "substitute" pilgrimage churches for the Rochester Advance Holy Year of 1974, Immaculate Conception in Ithaca dates from the earliest months after the establishment of the Buffalo Diocese in 1847.

As was the case in so many instances, the first Catholics came into the area in the 1830's and were Irish immigrants. Mass was first offered in Ithaca in 1837 by a priest from Holy Family Church in Auburn; and for the next 13 years Ithaca remained a mission station, visited whenever possible by a priest from Auburn or Geneva, or Owego.

During the first "whirlwind" tour of his new diocese in 1847-1848, John Timon, the first bishop of Buffalo, celebrated Mass in the city hall of Ithaca, administered Communion to around 70, and confirmed 24. What was more important, he named Father Michael Gilbride that very same year to be the first resident pastor of Ithaca.

Although Father Gilbride began to build a church (on the site of the present rectory), it was his successor, Father Michael Creedon, who completed it; and it was under Father Creedon's successor, a Father Mallon, administrator, that Bishop Timon dedicated the church, on Dec. 7, 1851. The name of this first church, a small frame Classical Revival structure, was not Immaculate Conception, but St. Luke.

It was the second church that was given the name Immaculate Conception. A Romanesque Revival building, also in wood, it was constructed on the site of the present church. Bishop Timon dedicated it on Dec. 12, 1866. It served its purpose as a church for over three decades. When the



third church was undertaken in 1895-1896, the second church was moved back on the lot, and turned into a parish hall — which it still is today.

A.B. Wood of Ithaca was architect of the present stone church. Designed to accommodate about 900, and costing \$63,000 to build, it was dedicated by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid of Rochester on Sept. 11, 1896.

The building dedicated in 1896 has since then been substantially remodeled inside. In the 1920's, an open-beam ceiling was installed. In 1938 the sanctuary was considerably altered and redecorated, under the super-

vision of Rambusch, the New York firm of church decorators. Three altars of marble and mosaic were then set in place, the high altar a gift of Mrs. Mary E. Collins, the side altars the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Speno. Since Vatican II, of course, a wooden altar facing the people has been positioned in the front center of the sanctuary. But the notably beautiful picture of Our Lady, a true, handwoven tapestry, still hangs above the 1938 altar.

Catholics have never been truly numerous in the university city of Ithaca. Even today they constitute only about one-seventh of the population. The influence of Immaculate Conception Church has nevertheless been con-

siderable, not only as Ithaca's only Catholic church but as mother church of the four other parishes in the relatively small County of Tompkins.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY
Prescription Specialists
COSMETICS — TOILETRIES
PHOTOGRAPHY
251 1/2 Dewey Avenue 885-2210

Stock Up Now
for July 4th week-end!

Entertain at Home, Economically with

The Brothers

COCKTAIL MIXES:

Screw Driver Mix • Creme DeMenthe Mix
CremeDeCacao Mix • Bloody Mary Mix, etc.

AVAILABLE IN QUARTS & GALLONS



Commercial Prices!

cable-wiedemer inc.

283-291 CENTRAL AVE • ROCHESTER • 716-454-7494
Park in our rear lot or front of store



Photo by Susan McKinney

Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond G. Frank have a lot to smile about as they look forward to celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary Sept. 2. A Mass at St. Andrew's Church will be said by the couple's son, Father Edward R. Frank of Columbus, Ga. Father Frank will be hearing vows which the couple originally recited before Msgr. George Eckl 50 years earlier. A reception at the Plantation Party House will follow the noon service.

NURSE
AIDE
TRAINING
PROGRAM

FREE

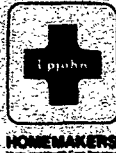
HOMEMAKERS Home and Health Care Services has growing pains!

We need more mature, responsible people willing to work 25 to 40 hours a week caring for the elderly in private homes and in nursing homes.

To begin in September, our free training program will give you the basic nursing skills necessary to become an active member of our staff.

If your children are grown up, you have a car, and are willing to learn, why not consider this opportunity for a new and rewarding career in the health field?

Call us today for all the details



HOMEMAKERS
140 METRO PARK
442-4900

NAZARETH IS
THE PLACE TO BE



for new opportunities through CONTINUING EDUCATION
toward advancement, career change, enrichment, or a degree

Registration daily NOW through September 5
Classes begin September 3

Evening courses available in the Undergraduate Program:

Art studio and history*; business and economics; education; English, including the Irish Literary Renaissance*; Music, including a workshop in music for children*; nutrition, philosophy, focusing on current films; religious studies; social sciences, and speech pathology.

*new course offerings

(Undergraduate students are also welcome in the day classes)

Evening courses available in the Graduate Program:

Education, both required and elective courses, and in the concentrations in liberal arts, reading, learning disabilities, and speech and hearing pathology

Nazareth Graduate Program courses also taught at Keuka College Campus:

Learning disabilities (introductory and clinical practicum)

Workshop in reading

History of the English language

and at Wayne Central District

Individualization of instruction

The learning disabled child

Counseling available by appointment at the Continuing Education Office

For further information, brochures, or catalogs, write or call:

Continuing Education Office, Nazareth College of Rochester, Smyth Hall,
Room 131, Rochester, NY 14610 Telephone: (716) 586-2525

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays; 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays