

'Oasis of Faith' Ruined

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

The Redemptorists' "oasis of faith in midtown" was built between 1843 and 1846 in a neighborhood of private homes and gardens. The parish itself was organized in 1836, 22 years before the establishment of the Diocese of Rochester, and the Franklin Street land was purchased by the founding pastor with money he solicited in Germany.

The beginning of St. Joseph's parish can be seen as an accident, in that a break in the Erie Canal stalled a traveling German priest in Rochester.

Redemptorist Father Joseph Prost, on his way to Wisconsin in the fall of 1835, and anxious to complete his trip before winter closed in, used the inconvenient delay to look up his fellow countrymen. Through St. Patrick's parish, he found that there were about 700 German immigrants in this city of 12,000. He promised to return to them the following year. The Germans organized meanwhile and bought a building from a Protestant congregation. The church was at Ely and Minerva, a corner that has disappeared under Lincoln Tower. Its basement housed the pastor and his school, the first parochial grammar school in the city.

The present church was dedicated July 26, 1846, before its original square tower had been erected. The graceful Late Renaissance tower designed by Joseph H. Oberlies, and the harmonizing facade, were completed in 1909.

Physical changes in the neighborhood have been accompanied by functional alterations in services provided by the Redemptorists. Seventeen years ago, when special permission still was required for the celebration of evening Mass, they inaugurated the daily 5:25 p.m.

PAPAL RECEPTION

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul received Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, at a special audience. The black Methodist clergyman from the West Indies who heads the Council of 267 Protestant and Orthodox member Churches, had earlier addressed the world Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church on Oct. 11.



Seton Sale

This doll head, along with 89 others, is the centerpiece on the display tables at the 18th annual Seton Sale, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the second floor of the downtown Holiday Inn. The luncheon and fashion show sponsored by Setons will be in the Holiday Inn's Windsor Room at 12:30 p.m. Proceeds from the sale will help St. Mary's Hospital develop a new research laboratory and buy research equipment.

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Mass for downtowners on their way home. Noon Masses and special events for organizations and conventions have given the church a floating congregation, in addition to the faithful who come back from the suburbs and other residential areas.

Over the years, St. Joseph's has provided an orphanage, a chapel and special services for the deaf and a commercial high school. All of these are gone. The old walled garden remains, one of the last spots of natural greenery for miles around.

Parish Considers New Church

Horseheads — A feasibility committee has been established at St. Mary Our Mother Church here to look into the possibility of building a new church for the parish.

Parishioners are urged to attend the committee's study sessions and to offer suggestions to the 17-member group.

The committee is looking at the possibility of a new church along the lines of constructing a House of Worship.

No date has been set as to when the committee will prepare a final report for submission to the other members of the 6,000-plus parish.

GREGORIAN MASS

A votive Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, in the Cenacle chapel, with music by the Gregorian Chant Choir.

The choir, directed by Dr. Erich Schwandt of the Eastman School of Music, has scheduled Latin High Masses also for Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, under the auspices of the Eastman School Newman Community. All will be held at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave. The public is invited.

Currently the parish has a chapel, which also is part of the church's school. Many parishioners have told the parish priests and members of the Parish Council that the present chapel has outgrown its use in terms of space.

The group, which has been meeting for two months, has studied population on what the church of today should offer in terms of buildings, according to present church legislation.

St. Mary Our Mother Church is one of the last parishes in the Diocese of Rochester which still uses a gymnasium to hold its regular church services.

COUNSELOR COURSE

The Drug and Alcohol Council of Rochester will hold a counselor workshop at the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., on 12 consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning Nov. 6. Hours are 7:30-10. The course is designed to develop understanding of people as well as of the effects of drugs, according to Enrique T. Rueda, council director. Further information may be obtained by writing to the council at 9 Lawrence St., Rochester 14607, or by calling Armand Tanguay there, 454-2535.

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