

St. Mark's Parish Celebrates

St. Mark's Parish celebrated an anniversary, a homecoming and the installation of its Parish Council last Sunday at a noon Mass.

A modern \$300 thousand church was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day in 1966.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who as Father Hogan once served the community on Sundays celebrated the liturgy which marked the tenth anniversary of the parish and installed the 11 member Parish Council.

Those installed are Mrs. Richard Schmeer, chairman; Seth Norton, vice chairman; Mrs. Raymond Hermans, secretary; Mrs. Robert Apsey, Homer Smith, Nicholas Leccese, Charles McCarthy, William Kastner, Jacqueline Ranches, James Voelkl and Father Joseph Donovan, the pastor and founder of the parish.

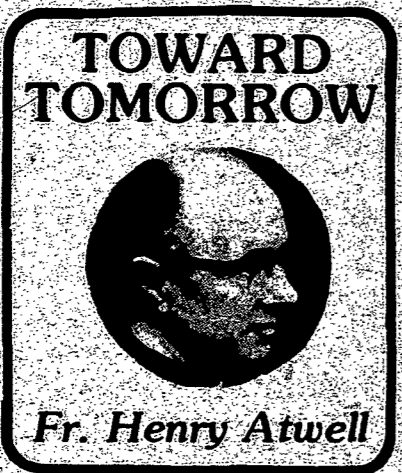
Back in 1964 Father Donovan quipped that "My parish is 80 per cent under water," and his rectory was the "best duck blind" in the diocese.

Since that time, the parish has developed substantially.



Special Day

Sister Clare Francis, SSJ, principal of St. Patrick Junior High School in Elmira, joins Stan Douglas, community relations director for St. Joseph's Hospital at a special presentation during the school's recent activities day. The school consists of the seventh and eighth grades and is conducted by the area's Consolidated School System. 335 pupils attend.



Fr. Henry Atwell

One thing that always disturbs me about Christmas is that its focus is a stable and that the chief characters there are the poor, the ignored, the by-passed people of the world.

My life has been spent far more often in company of the "have" people than with the "have not" people, and in these afternoon hours of my life that begins to bother me.

If we could condense the world to a village of just 100 people, and if Jesus came to our village, as he did to Bethlehem, what would he find? Of the 100 people, only 30 would be able to read and only one would have a college education. At least 50 would be suffering from malnutrition and 80 would be living in substandard housing. And out of these 100 people, only six would be Americans. But these six would collect half our village's income leaving the other 94 people to survive on the other half of the income.

I am thoroughly convinced the Lord's sympathy would lie with the 94 rather than with the six.

Jesus repeatedly urged us to translate his words into action, especially by facing up to our brother in need. St. John points this out, "Christ gave up his life for us; and we too ought to give up our lives for our brothers." He also cautioned us, "Our love is not to be just words or mere talk."

All the warning lights are flashing ever more insistently that thousands, even millions, are already at the point of starvation. Headlines in our local papers tell us times are going to be difficult even here at home. Our pocketbooks and bank balances already indicate how close to home the difficulty indeed will be.

Many experts insist the present tragic situation is due, quite simply, to greed.

Huge international corporations in quest of quick profits have exploited the resources of several nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America; they have built up private fortunes through the manufacture of frightening weapons and often sold them to belligerents on both sides of a conflict; they have manipulated the minds of customers through misleading advertising and propaganda; they have influenced political activities through massive financial pressures; they have been careless about pollution, safety and even decent working conditions.

Churches and thousands of people who attend those churches have investments worth multi-millions of dollars in these corporations — and thereby a great potential to determine the policies of these corporations. But we are a sleeping giant, ignorant of our power and too lazy to use it while people by the millions suffer in consequence.

If you were one of those people who said nuns should stay off the picket lines and stay in their convents and classrooms, if you have said priests should stay out of politics and stay in their pulpits, then I ask you what have you done to prove you are your brother's keeper.

The desperate situation in which we find ourselves and our brothers demands more than letting this be just another ho-ho Christmas.

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Merry Christmas. To all?

Right now, in the hurry and happiness of the holiday season, think for a moment of the millions of children who will know only sadness and suffering this Christmas. Helpless and homeless, their hunger is all the more desperate because it is two-fold. They are starved not only for food, but for the Word of our Lord. Think how much richer and blessed your own Christmas will be if you will but reach in your heart and help all of the world's children.

HELP US HELP. Truly, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the principal one among all Christian charities, for it represents the total Church in its work of extending the Kingdom of Christ on earth. Through your charity the Society supports more than 187,000 missionaries and seminarians—providing love, faith and hope as well as food, medicines, education and shelter through orphanages, hospitals, schools, leprosaria and homes for the aged throughout the world.

To help share in the service, selflessness and love of our missionaries, and in the prayers of the thousands helped by the missions, I joyfully enclose my gift of \$ _____

CJ 12/18/74

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