

# St. John's Is Reborn!

Elmira — A doubly happy day is in store for the parishioners at St. John the Baptist as the community celebrates the resurrection of the Lord. On Easter Sunday worshippers will file into a "resurrected" church, a church reborn from a fire which ravaged it in late December, 1973.

Father William Tobin, pastor, said that the parishioners began

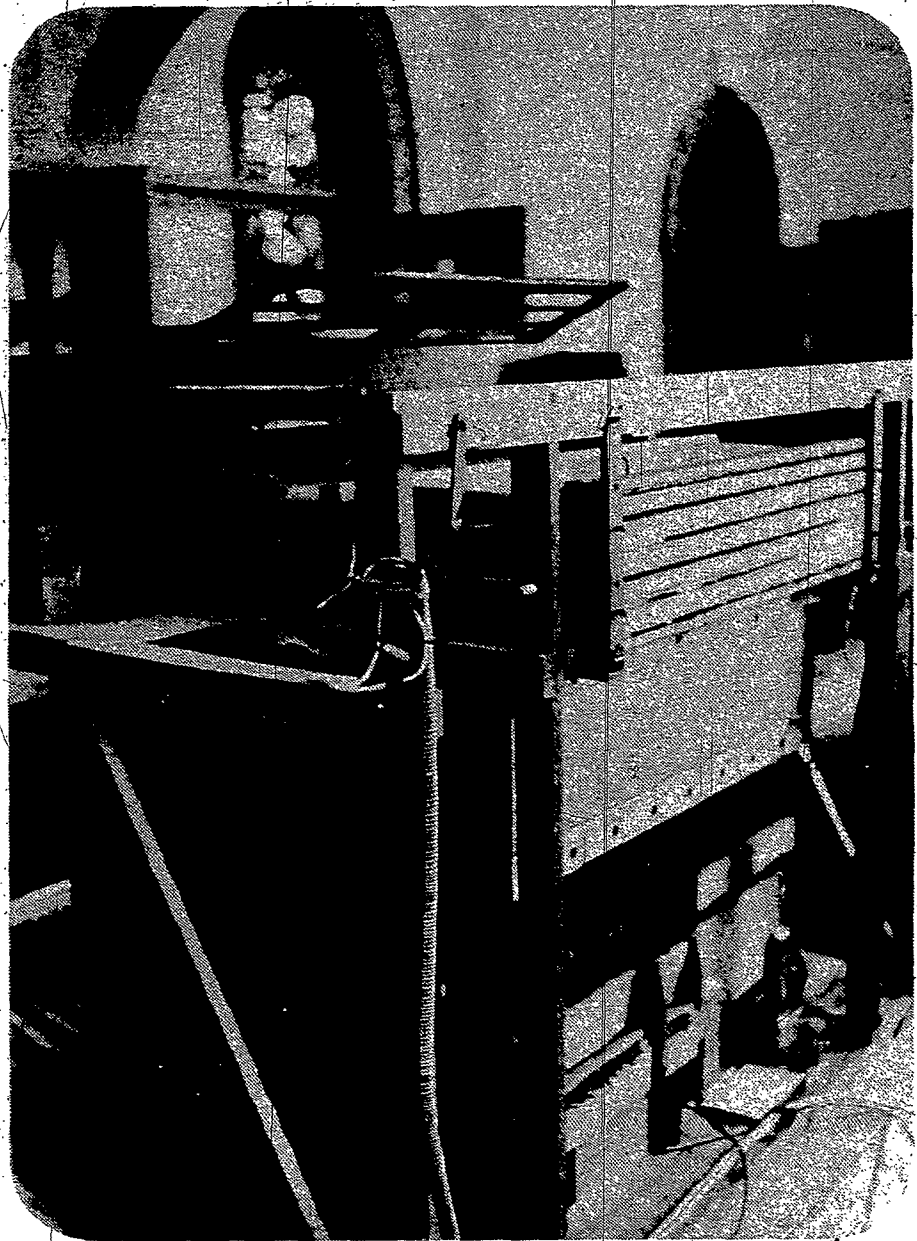
work on the building last summer. Late last week, work of restoring the church was nearly completed. Workmen were in the process of laying the carpet, arranging the sanctuary furnishings and installing the organ.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 27, 1973, a police patrolman discovered smoke pouring from the church steeple. The fire, later declared a case of arson, was called one of the largest ever seen in this community.

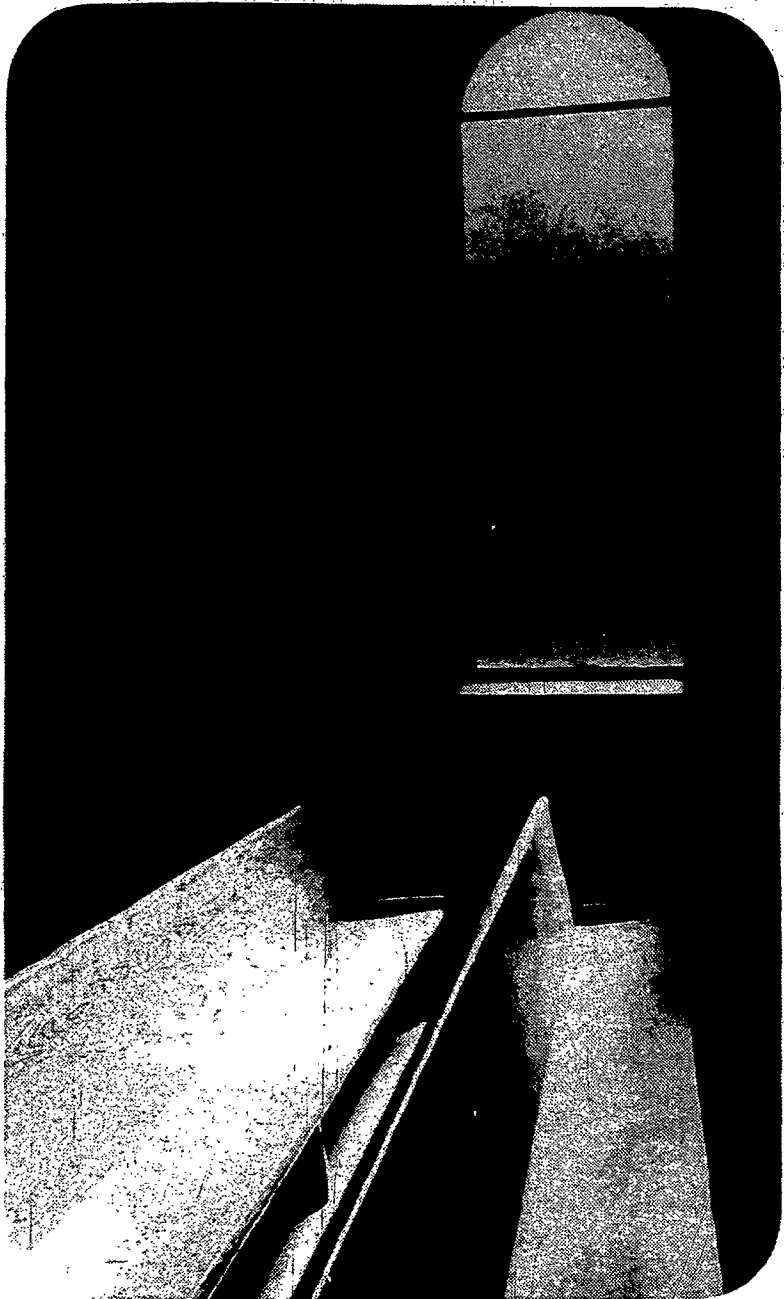
A man was charged and convicted in the case and he is serving a sentence at the Attica Correctional Facility.

The predominant colors in the restored building are cream and deep blue. Oak decorations in the church have also been restored to their original pale finish.

All but one of the stained glass windows were spared in the blaze. The destroyed window is now in the process of reconstruction.



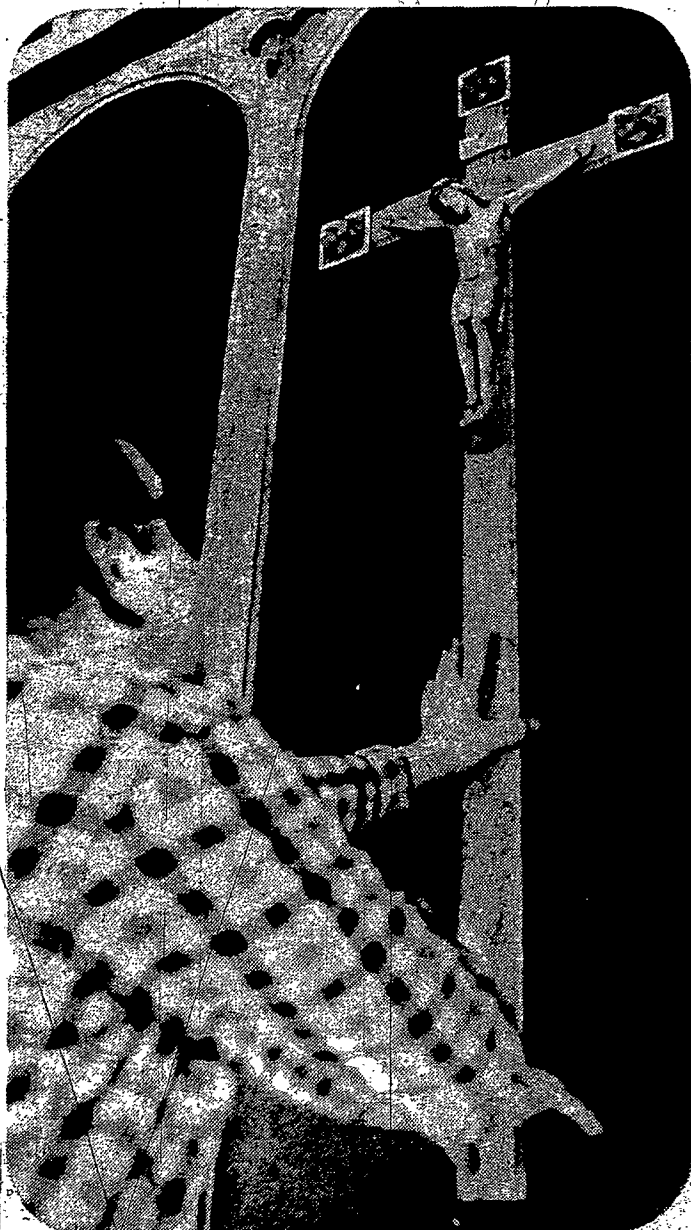
The new parish organ, formerly in St. Bernard's Seminary Chapel, awaits final installation.



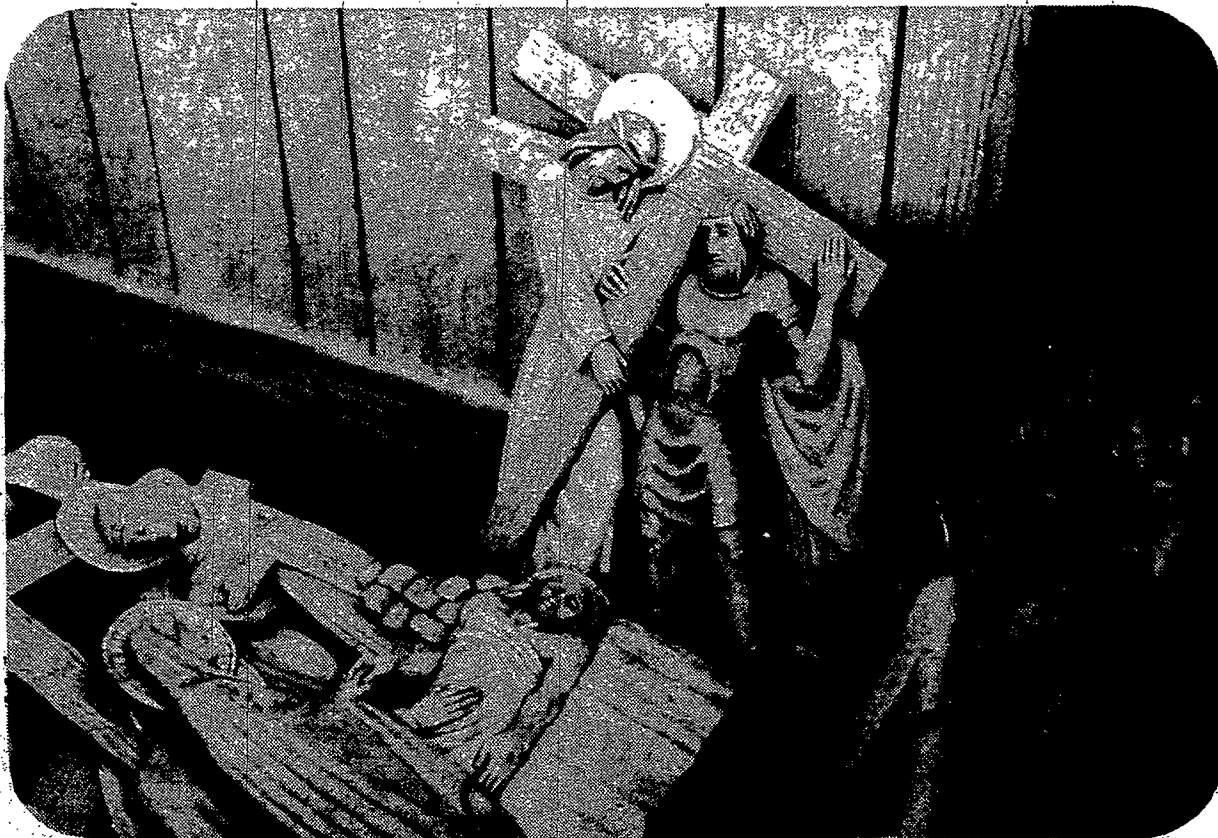
The lone window empty of stained glass is the last reminder of the fire.



The window of St. Cecelia demonstrates the craft of bygone days.



Robert Gates positions the crucifix over the altar of repose.



The new stations of the cross await mounting.

Laurence the Virgin