

Anointing Rites Held in Ithaca

On Sunday, May 4, a double ceremony — Anointing of the Sick and the commission of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist — took place at Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and the priests of the Tompkins-Tioga Region were on hand to anoint the aged and infirm. The anointing of the sick was first in the area.

PHOTOS BY AMELIA LONGO
STORY BY JOY CHALONE

Ithaca — We walked up the church steps amid bustling activity, people helping people, some in wheel chairs, some with walkers, some with canes, some just walking slowly, carefully.

They came from the homes and nursing homes for miles around. The white and chrome, shiny ambulances stood waiting on the street, should there be a mishap. There was none.

The church overflowed and as we searched for a seat, nurses in

white uniforms aided us, helped us get in to the right pews for those to be anointed. Every few aisles another nurse stood, watchful, concerned.

I looked down at the carnation corsage my handicapped daughter and I were given to wear. A lump rose in my throat. The choir sang out and our Bishop Hogan and 10 priests from the area parishes proceeded down the aisle, beginning the "Mass of Communal Anointing" at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca. They laid hands on them and all were healed.

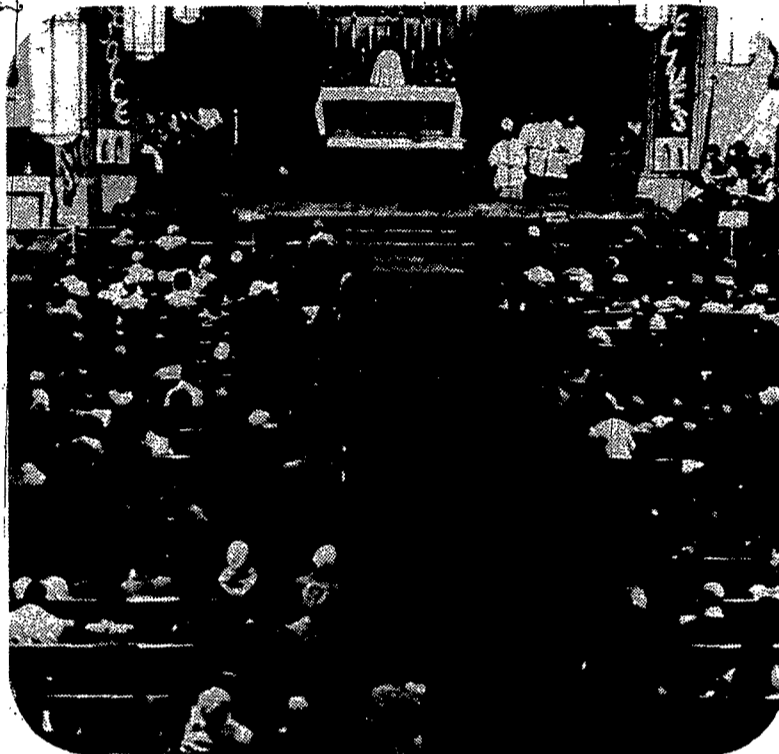
The priests and bishop moved out into the congregation, first to those in front in wheelchairs and then on back through the church, stopping individually to each person that was to be anointed, placing the oil on their foreheads and hands. I looked at my oily palms. My tears stayed safely within my eyes. Others let them fall.

Mass continued. "This is my body... this is my blood... The Eucharist never meant so much. It was over and we



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at anointing ceremony.

walked out of the church into the gray day. The rain had held off all the time that was needed to get these aged and infirm to the service and back safely to their homes. An hour before and an hour after, it poured. The Lord had given our earth its anointing, too. The lump was still in my throat.



The church was overflowing.



A gracious welcome.



Father Andrew Ryan of Trumansburg.

Chorus Auditions For Summer Opera

Auditions for the 1975 Opera Under the Stars Chorus will be held at the Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs St., on Friday, May 16 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, May 17, from 10 to Noon, and 2 to 5 p.m. To make an appointment for auditions, the number is 275-2146, daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Members of previous Opera Under the Stars Choruses need not re-audition. They should, however, call to confirm their

interest in this year's productions.

Opera Under the Stars productions:

July 3 and 5, Verdi's The Masked-Ball.

July 17 and 19, Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana; Leoncavallo's I Pagliacci.

July 31 and August 2, Lerner and Loew's Camelot.

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