

# 'Unity' Mark of Rites At Holy Cross Parish

By LORRAINE DRAZEK

**Dryden** — "Here we are all together as we sing our song joyfully... Here we are joined together as we pray we'll always be."

The hills of the Dryden area echoed the joyous refrains back to the parishioners gathered on a recent Saturday in the natural amphitheater on the George Junior Republic grounds to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Holy Cross parish.

Colorful banners fluttered in the breezes as the Mass of celebration and thanksgiving was celebrated by Father Thomas Cleary and Edward Dowling. The Liturgy of the Word, featuring a prayer of the Sioux Nation, Psalm 100, a text from the Epistles, and the Hymn to the Sun of St. Francis of Assisi concluded with the "Trust in Providence" text from the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Then came the rains! Undaunted, parishioners gathered up chairs and banners and moved the altar into the Republic's gymnasium.

There the guitars and voices proclaimed, "I Am the Way" as gifts of love and talents were presented. As the water and wine were dedicated the congregation joined in singing "Take Our Bread."

The canon was read by all and the hymn "What a wonderful day, what a wonderful way to share God's love together" was sung. The closing hymns "Amazing Grace," and "Shalom" were followed by the congregation asking God's blessing on Father Cleary as an expression of their devotion and gratitude for his guidance in the 25 years of the community's existence.

A festival followed the Mass and featured swimming, games, food of all description, music and an all-round day of fellowship for families.

Parishioners, continuing their festivities on Sunday, under a blue sky and golden sun, welcomed guests, including Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Banners again flew as the community processed into Holy Cross church to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving.

Reading the prologue to the liturgy, John Gilmartin, chairman of the Steering Committee for the Parish Council, quoted from the preamble of the new Parish Constitution: "Holy Cross parish is a community of all people in a brotherhood of unity in a common faith and worship, in this defined geographical area."

Continuing the theme of unity, readers from all walks of life presented the Liturgy of the Word. Readers were Cynthia Maynard, Rev. Thomas Kline, Leonard Hammone, Kathy Francis, Gregory Pellerin, Mike Rehbein, Bill and Pat Harrigan, Marian Schickel, Emmett Honan, Evelyn Murphy, Donald Funke and Jan Rogowicz.

In his homily, Bishop Hogan remarked that he had been at the parish five years ago to dedicate the church and was most happy to participate in the services of thanks and gratitude.

He said that Holy Cross had a quarter century of grace, thanks to the dedication of Father Cleary who, like the Good Shepherd, knows his family and people and they know him.

Holy Cross stands on the threshold of a new era, the Bishop said. Leadership is emerging in the formation of the first Parish



Marnie and Norb Schickel, as they are known in Dryden, with Father Cleary and Bishop Hogan.

Council. We are called to live out a response of Christian doctrine, to lead, to guide, to work with and to follow. He recommended the council spend most of its meetings in prayer.

Father Cleary presented Harry Barron, Richard Flaville, Robert Harkness, Roger Pellerin, Thelma Rehbein, Marian and Norbert Schickel, Brian Streeter, Mary Valentinelli and Marian Witko to the Bishop who heard them accept their responsibilities and pledge talents and time to the practice of following his charge in fulfilling their duties.

Tompkins-Cortland Community College was the site of the final event of the celebration. Following dinner for approximately 300 persons, Father Dowling, who had lived at the Holy Cross rectory for the three years he studied at Cornell University, gave the invocation. Toastmaster Father John S. Hayes introduced Father Cleary.

Dr. Ross Arnett of Siena College, one of the parish founders, recounted the time in 1947 when a gasoline shortage and a lack of funds found two student families, the Arnetts and the Schickels, making trips to Cornell to attend Mass. He spoke of the need then for services in Dryden. The late Msgr. Donald Cleary, the present pastor's brother, consented to use the Grange Hall, located over a restaurant for the first Mass in Dryden on July 24, 1947.

Arnold Grace spoke of the days when he would bring students of George Junior Republic to attend Mass and found the Grand Hall site inadequate. He and others had already bought land on South Main and cut wood for lumber to build a church when it was suggested that the chapel at George Junior be considered as a site for Mass. The Republic, the first institution to encourage self-government by youth, at that time also needed a special person to be chaplain, one who understood and respected young people. The group secured the services of Father Cleary who moved into the Urquhart home.

In 1950, following a successful summer school program for 300 children, it was decided to start a fund-raiser for a parish center. It netted \$45,000. By 1969 the fund had grown to \$100,000 and the parish added \$99,000 to erect a new church and rectory. The first Mass was said in the new church in June 1970.

Donald Urquhart, head of the Republic, spoke of the institution's desire for a community for the Catholic youngsters and said he welcomed the opportunity of starting the first ecumenical movement between the diocese and George Jr. It was the first time a priest became a member of a Protestant family, he quipped.

Gilmartin said the joy present

at the Masses, the feeling of family, basking in the love of the Lord all were evidence of the spirit of the parish.

Sarto Schickel, son of the founding family, said Father Cleary and all who lead need comrades and followers to create a world in which Christ truly is king.

Father Cleary said he was deeply moved by all the events. "We were celebrating the 25th anniversary thanks to those who had made the first anniversary possible."

He thanked the Urquharts. They not only shared their building and facilities but themselves, he said.

He expressed thanks for all that had been done over the quarter century. Among those he mentioned were Marnie Schickel and her group of youngsters who picked and arranged flowers for the Mass and dinner; Harold Huntley and Jesse Solomon, for assembling and printing with citizens of George Jr., the printed material for the weekend.

The pastor concluded by noting that the formation and installation of the Parish Council was the start of a new trend, a step into the future.

## SCHOOL BOARD

**Hornell** — Three new members of the St. Ann's School Board have been elected — Robert Griswald, Mary Hanrahan and Mary Hillman. They replace Dr. Mario Argentieri, Kevin Doran and William Kelleher, whose terms expire.



Photo courtesy of the Hornell Evening Tribune

## Commencement

Graduates of St. Ann's School, Hornell, receiving congratulations from Father Robert MacNamara are, from the left, Gus Wall, Daniel Koehler, Pamela Moore and Stach Middleton.

## Ithaca Parishioners Fete Father Mura

**Ithaca** — Father David W. Mura celebrated a farewell Mass at Immaculate Conception Church Wednesday evening, June 25. He is now assigned to Christ the King Church, Rochester.

To many of the 7,200 parishioners, it was like losing a member of the family. Father Mura was the spark of countless parish activities, and soon came to the attention of the community-at-large as well. In 1972 he was named "Man of the Year" by the Ithaca Journal for his work in digging homes out of the Corning-Elmira floods.

Some highlights of his pastorate:

A communal Passover supper. Programs at the county jail and improvement of facilities. Religion Committee, Ithaca school board. Mass of anointing of over 300 ill and aged with commissioning of service families to provide Communion to shut-ins.

Adult education through GIFT (growth in faith together), lectures, and discussion groups on topics of vital interest to parishioners.

Opening of Holy Year '75 with pilgrimage, by foot, to Owego, and to Rome, by jet (upcoming).

Vietnamese Welcoming Committee (just before leaving.)

In his remarks, Fr. Mura spoke of two favorite examples — John the Baptist and St. Joseph — of ordinary people called to make straight the way of the Lord and

prepare for his coming, only to step aside. He expressed the hope that the Holy Spirit would continue its work among the "spiritually rich" people of Ithaca.

He also cited Father John Maloney as one of the outstanding pastors of the diocese.

Mass was concelebrated by Father Doyle, SJ, Father Cleary of Freeville, Father Ryan of Trumansburg, and Father Maloney. Immaculate Conception's folk choir led the singing. The family of Matthew Schwoeble, Father Mura's godson, served Mass, and William Sullivan was lector.

A reception went on till midnight afterwards in the Old Parish Hall with refreshments and dancing. Helen Torchia, Betty Silvin, and Helener Parker coordinated the party.

Many parishioners expressed their sorrow at saying goodbye, but one parishioner expressed it differently; "I feel very happy for the people who are going to meet him and benefit by his priestly services."

Immaculate Conception was Father Mura's first assignment as a priest.

## HONORARY DEGREE

A former Rochesterian, Marion Kellogg has received an honorary degree of law at St. Lawrence University. Miss Kellogg recently was elected as General Electric's first woman vice president. She is a graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, Manhattanville College, and Brown University.

COMING JULY 23, 1975

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