

Conesus Church to Celebrate Centennial

Conesus — The mission church of St. William has changed little in the hundred years that it has served the diocese of Rochester. The same church building still welcomes area parishioners and vacationers to worship on Sunday mornings.

A centennial Mass will be said at 11 a.m., Aug. 1 by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan to highlight the centennial celebration, which continues with a social hour and dinner at St. Michael's Mission, Divine Word Seminary, here.

St. William's history dates from the founding of the Rochester Diocese in 1868. St. Rose of Lima was one of the original diocesan parishes, with a mission, St. Michael's, in Livonia Center. In 1871, St. Michael's was raised to a parish for the Livonia Center-Honeoye-Conesus area, and four years later, St. William's was founded as a mission of Livonia Center under Father William Seymour.

Father Seymour and William Egan, leader of the Conesus Catholics, organized the 20 families to purchase land and help build a church. The original property cost \$625, which was raised by farmers and mill workers through personal sacrifices.

The parishioners started work on the church during the summer of 1876, hiring carpenters and a mason, but donating many hours sawing and nailing to speed the construction. Families, meanwhile, had to travel to Livonia Center to hear Mass by Father Seymour or gather in a local home to say prayers together. "Church building" became everyone's hobby, from the men who did manual labor, to the women who brought food for the workers.

Father Seymour later said Mass in

School House No. 4 in Conesus, and the new church was modeled after that building. St. William of Aquitaine was chosen for the patron saint of the mission, probably because he was buried in a wilderness monastery; the name also was influenced by Father Seymour and Egan.

The church was finished by Thanksgiving, 1876, and the mortgage was dated March 17, 1877. Father Timothy C. Murphy came to the pastorate in November 1877, and he saw the church furnished with painted benches, an altar and statues. The church was incorporated in May 1878 and St. William's was dedicated by Bishop Bernard McQuaid Aug. 14, 1881.

In 1915, St. William's became the mission church of St. Joseph's Parish, Livonia. The church continued serving a small number of families through its history, with one parishioner recording that, in 1901, it still served 20 families.

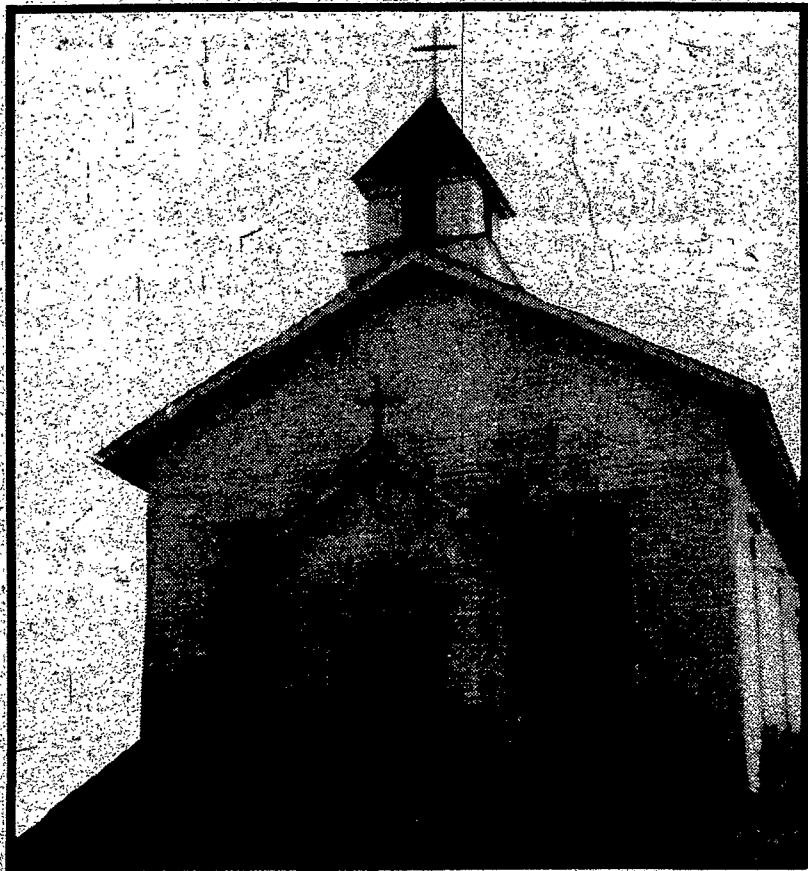
Father Roy F. Hagerty, pastor emeritus of St. Joseph's, directed many improvements for St. William's since he assumed duties in 1953. The church was extensively remodeled in 1956; the old pump pedal organ was replaced, tile flooring was laid, and the ceiling was lowered, to add to the new pews and oil furnace installed in 1950. The church was expanded in 1971 with a north side wing and a separate entrance. It now has a modern kitchen, and facilities for meetings or church services.

Father Hagerty became pastor emeritus in 1972 and Father Jerome F. Schifferli became pastor of St. Joseph's. Active as religious adviser to the St. William's Women's Altar Society, he has been a part of many church improvement programs, tap sessions, and special activities.

St. William's Church received a centennial birthday gift from its parishioners in the form of new vinyl siding and trim. The original lines of the church building were

preserved yet the building was made more comfortable and useful. The priests of St. Michael's Mission, Society of the Divine Word, also have assisted at Masses

and other parish activities. They will share in the centennial festivities by hosting the church's reception after the celebration Mass.



St. William's Church

Head Start On College

Geneva — DeSales High School's first offering of an advanced placement course turned out to be a complete success. Sister Helen Kannan, school guidance counselor, was notified recently that all seven members of the English advanced placement class, taught by Sister Ann Patrice Carrigan, chairman of the English Department, had qualified for college credit.

The program, providing a practical way to prepare high school students for college, was inaugurated by the English Department last September. An examination administered in May tests each candidate's success in

meeting the college level requirements set for the course.

Students who received credit are Deborah Conrad, Marie D'Amico, Jacqueline McCormick, Mark McDonald, Christine Onorato, Cynthia Stuchkus and Bernadette Taney.

GARAGE SALE

Penn Yan — The Catholic Daughters of America of St. Michael's is sponsoring a garage sale at the church hall on Aug. 5-7. The parish asks all interested persons to leave articles for this sale at the church hall or at the home of Mary Jensen, 403 Liberty St.



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