

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA



Fathers Watts and Cason in the procession at the start of the anniversary Mass.

135 Years of Service Noted by St. Patrick's

Owego—St. Patrick's Parish commemorated its 135th anniversary with a special Mass and a parish picnic Sunday, Sept. 11.

The mother church for the Tompkins-Tioga region, St. Patrick's was founded in 1842, 25 years before the Rochester diocese was established. When the Southern Tier counties became part of the Rochester diocese before the turn of the century, St. Patrick's already was 50 years old.

Father Thomas Watts, St. Patrick's co-pastor and homilist for the special Mass, noted that the parish is "truly thankful today for the efforts of all the priests, the sisters and the lay people who built the parish."

Reflecting on the parish's history, Father Watts noted that the parish has had a great past, but stated that "the years ahead are going to be even greater."

Volunteers Sought To Be Parent Aides

Elmira—Volunteers are currently being sought for a program in Chemung County to aid the treatment of parents who neglect or abuse their children. The Parent Aide program, used in particular cases when it is thought it will help the parents, is conducting eight training sessions for prospective volunteers.

Volunteers are matched with an abusing or neglecting parent. The volunteer spends time with the parent, providing friendship and the benefit of the volunteer's child rearing experience. When the parent has suffered from the lack of a good parent role model, the volunteer can provide basic parenting information, and assist the

Music for the Mass, which was broadcast on local radio, was provided by the parish choir and by the Singout music group. Parish council members acted as lectors and led the procession into the church.

During a special "Liturgy of Thanksgiving," the parish expressed gratitude for its long tradition, and for the 10 priests and 17 sisters that have come from the parish.

For the first few years, St. Patrick's priests served missions in Ithaca and Waverly, providing ministry to the entire area. The first parish church was built in 1848; the current structure was dedicated in 1890. In 1869 the parish school opened, staffed by the Sisters of Mercy.

A booklet commemorating the parish's anniversary has been compiled, and will soon be released.

parent to improve his or her parenting skills. Volunteers are trained, and receive continuing support from professionals.

The first three training sessions are open to the public; the remaining five are for those joining the program. Prospective volunteers also will be screened.

The sessions begin on Wednesday, Sept. 28 and continue each Wednesday for eight weeks at Park Church, Elmira. The Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and 12 sessions are open to the public. Further information can be obtained by contacting Ellen Leblanc through Family Services of Chemung County, 733-5696.

Chemung Board Elects

Elmira—New officers were elected, and registration figures announced at the September meeting of the Chemung County General Education Board Sept. 8.

Dr. Lawrence Stephens, of St. Mary's Parish, was re-elected as board president for the year, despite the fact that he will no longer represent St. Mary's on the board. As a result, he will be president but not have voting power. Martin Tracy of St. Patrick's was elected to serve as vice president. Sister Julia Clare, St. Mary's principal, will take the secretary's duties this year, and Sister Joan Cawley, St. Patrick's Junior High principal, will serve as treasurer.

Total registration of 962 students for the four school buildings was announced by T. H. Banks, school system business manager. He noted that the registration was down from last year's 1,051 students, but also pointed out that it represented an increase over figures for last May, when only 910 students were attending classes.

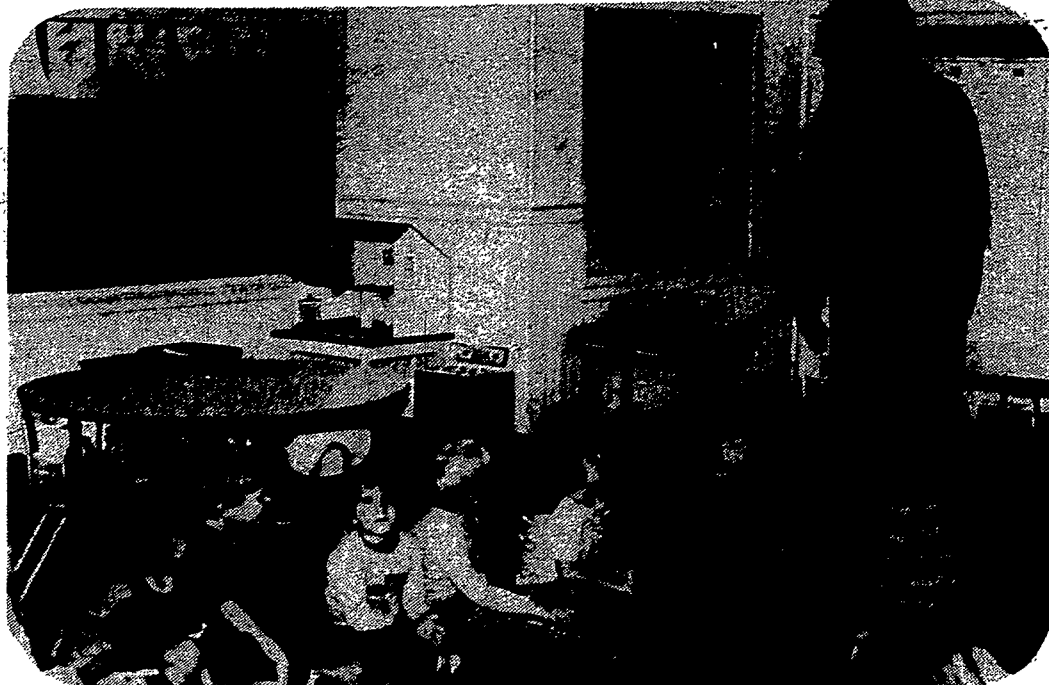
During her report, Sister Joan noted that the additional duty of vice principal at the junior high, for which \$1,000 in salary is available, is vacant, and she made a motion that the money be used to pay a part-time chaplain for the junior high. A discussion ensued concerning the responsibility of parish priests to visit the schools, and the special needs of the junior high students, who come from every parish. Sister Alice Marie, St. Casimir's principal, noted that she felt there needed to be more contact between local priests and the school children. Martin Tracy raised questions concerning the effect paying one priest to work at the junior high would have on the priests visiting the elementary buildings.

Stephens said the parish priests' presence in the classroom is an "issue of critical importance" and asked if possibly what was needed was for the priests to meet and discuss a policy covering their responsibilities in the schools.

Responding to a question, Sister Joan said that she had spoken with Father Neil Miller, regional staff member for the Office of Human Development, about the position. She noted that they were speaking of a 40-hour-per-month commitment, and she said that she saw no other way to ensure that a priest would be available for that much time. She emphasized the special needs of the age group involved, and said that a chaplain is "one of the needs of the junior high school."

When the issue came to a vote, hiring of a chaplain was approved, 11 to 5.

In other action, the Ways and Means Committee announced that Saturday, Oct. 15 has been set for the annual Walkathon, and that it would follow the same format as last year.



"Bigfoot"

"Bigfoot" visited classrooms of Catholic schools in Chemung County recently, promoting the Walkathon, scheduled for Oct. 15. Tickets are on sale for the event, with the Chemung Catholic Schools, St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads, and Notre Dame High School participating. Above, students at St. Mary's School, Elmira, assure "Bigfoot" that they will sell tickets for the event, and join in the walk, from St. Patrick's Junior High to Notre Dame.

St. Patrick's Coming Celebrating 75 Years

Corning—St. Patrick's Church will commemorate its 75th anniversary with a special Mass, with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as principal celebrant, on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 4 p.m.

A reception will follow the liturgy in the school hall. Priests and sisters formerly assigned to the parish have been invited to attend the festivities, and an invitation also has been extended to former parishioners to attend the Mass and renew old friendships.

St. Patrick's Parish was established on Aug. 10, 1902, by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, and Father Walter J. Lee was named its first pastor. The parish had operated since 1886 as a mission of St. Mary's, Corning, in a former Salvation Army barracks at Market and Steuben Streets. Father Lee purchased property at Steuben Street and East Erie Avenue, now Denison Parkway, which is the current location of parish properties. On that land, a combination church-school was constructed, and dedicated Nov. 1, 1903, less than six months after groundbreaking. The school opened, with 200 students taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, in September 1903. Adjoining homes were purchased for use as a rectory and a convent.

The oldest current building is the rectory, built in 1910-1912, and renovated since then. The current church was constructed in 1932, at a cost of \$60,000, and also was dedicated on

Respiratory Seminar Set

Elmira—A program of interest to persons who have respiratory care equipment for home use is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital.

A Respiratory Home Care Conference on cleaning and disinfecting of respiratory therapy equipment will be conducted in the hospital's Doctor's Meeting Room.

The public is invited to the conference, which is being sponsored by the Cardio-Pulmonary Department of St. Joseph's.

All Saints Day. The original church-school building was renovated and expanded and used as the parish school until 1960. The current convent was built in 1953, and the current school building, the newest parish facility, was constructed in 1960. A school was maintained in the building until 1971, when the parish joined with St. Mary's and St. Vincent's to form the Corning Catholic School System, which utilizes the school buildings of the other two parishes. The school building remains available for parish groups, religious education and other uses.

In its 75 years, St. Patrick's has had only five pastors. Father Lee, the founding pastor, moved to Geneva in 1922, and was succeeded by Father Ed-

mund A. Rawlinson, who oversaw the building of the new church, and served the parish until his death on Dec. 18, 1948. The following month, Father William Cannan became pastor, a position he held at his death in July, 1965. Also serving the parish during that time was Father William Tobin, who acted as administrator from 1957 until 1965; Father Tobin currently is pastor of St. John the Baptist, Elmira. Father L. Emmett Davis became pastor in 1965, and served until his retirement in 1975; he currently resides in Rochester. In 1975, Father Andrew Teuschel began his pastorate.

The parish also has been the source of 17 vocations to religious life; seven as priests, including one bishop, and 10 as sisters.

Make Today Count Chartered in Elmira

Elmira—After months of organizational efforts, the Southern Tier has a recognized Make Today Count Chapter with presentation of the charter at St. Joseph's Hospital on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

The national organization, established in Iowa in 1974, is dedicated to allowing people with life-threatening diseases to share their mutual problems in a positive way. Friends, families, professionals and other interested people also join in the effort to cope with the realities of a serious illness.

The local chapter, one of more than 50 nationally, is a memorial to Faye Epstein. Before her death, Mrs. Epstein worked to establish a local group. The St. Joseph's Hospital auxiliary and the Elmira Sroptimist Club carried on her efforts. Several meetings were held to acquaint the public with

the basic philosophy of Make Today Count. Simply put, it is to help seriously ill patients and their families "to live each day as fully and completely as possible."

Currently the local chapter has nearly 40 members. Many are not patients but have an active interest in those who are. Starting on Sept. 12, meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month in Meeting Room 6 in St. Joseph's Hospital's Dunn Memorial building. Future projects include guest speakers, group discussions, workshops, home and hospital visitations and a monthly newsletter. Interested persons can contact the chairperson, Mrs. Chris Zaineddin, 733-0390.

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