

Anniversary Celebration Set At Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Brighton's oldest Roman Catholic parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, over the past 50 years has grown from a church serving a rural community of 5,000 to one of the Diocese of Rochester's most established parishes. The start of Our Lady of Lourdes is admittedly humble, yet it points with pride to the caring individuals who guided the parish through difficult years of growth.

After 114 years of existence, mostly as a rural area, the Town of Brighton began to witness new growth in 1928. This fast-paced growth prompted Bishop Thomas F. Hickey to establish a new parish. On July 26, 1928, Bishop Hickey named Father Frank W. Mason a founding pastor. Shortly afterwards, on Aug. 1, 1928, the Bishop officially established the new parish.

Father Mason requested that the new parish be consecrated to Our Lady of Lourdes. The parish property, a site of approximately three acres, consisted of 16 lots. It was located in the Bel-Air tract, which adjoined Rose Lawn

in the Rose Lawn-Monroe Ave., section, north of Monroe Avenue.

Father Mason moved quickly to have a temporary building erected for the celebration of Mass. The church was erected in only three weeks and the first Mass was celebrated by Father Mason, 8 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, 1928.

In June, 1937, the Bishop appointed Father Mason as pastor of St. Ambrose parish and Msgr. Francis Luddy was named the new pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes. Msgr. Luddy, with the help of Paul McGuire and parishioners, launched a campaign to raise funds for a needed parish school. Bishop James E. Kearney

laid the cornerstone of the new school, May 9, 1948. The first parochial school to be built in Brighton stood at Corona and Warrington Drive, adjoining the church.

After 25 years as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Msgr. Luddy died, Feb. 18, 1958 and later that year, Bishop Kearney appointed the present pastor, Msgr. Leslie Whalen to Our Lady of Lourdes. Msgr. Whalen celebrates not only the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes parish this year, but also 20 years as its pastor and 40 years in the priesthood.

In the summer of 1964 work on the new church was begun and services were temporarily held in

the school hall. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated by Bishop Kearney, May 31, 1965, the feast of the Queenship of Mary.

Many events and people have come and gone over the 50 years. The parish has continued to thrive. Through the coordinating efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crough, parishioners will join together in a Jubilee Year Celebration. A Jubilee Dinner Dance is scheduled for Oct. 20 at Oak Hill Country Club and a Jubilee Mass will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, 3 p.m. It will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Msgr. Whalen with a reception following in the school hall.



Bazaar Planned

A Bazaar for the benefit of Blessed Trinity School, Auburn, is scheduled for Nov. 12. Shown above are members of the Blessed Trinity Home School Association's Bazaar planning committee. They are (bottom row, from left) Rose Reichard, Betsy Bennink and Kathy Kerstetter, (top row) Gean Reichard, and George Kerstetter.

Service Agency Seeks Helpers For Retarded

The Monroe County Coordinating Group on Developmental Disabilities has a program called Citizen Advocacy which matches trained volunteers with mentally retarded or otherwise impaired people. The advocate helps his protegee to learn how to get along in ordinary community life, and at the same time, helps the community to appreciate the abilities and problems of the handicapped.

A training program is scheduled to begin at 7 p. m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the Monroe Developmental Center, 620 Westfall Road. This first of five sessions will be an informational meeting, open to anyone interested. The other weekly sessions will be scheduled to suit the convenience of the participants.

A brochure prepared by the Coordinating Group describes "What advocates do for me: Help me get into a school or training program; help me join a recreation program; teach me how to look nice; cheer me up when I'm down; be a friend." The one-to-one relationships engendered by the program enrich the lives of both persons, the agency comments.

Thursday Deadline

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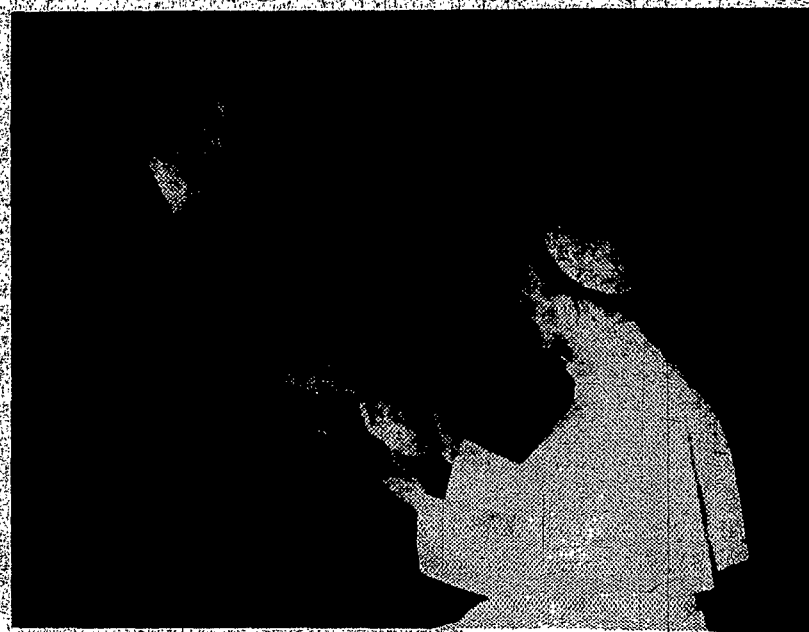
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