

THIS IS A SPECIAL

Courier Journal OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

To evening Mass During Scenerama Week

6th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1955 2 Sections 20 Pages

Catholic World Mission Exhibition First Event In New War Memorial

A Memorial to Victims of War . . . Also Serving the Living

By Margaret Connolly

The heart of Rochester's largest public assembly building is a small, stark chapel, where a flame burns constantly in memory of local men who died under arms, in the service of their country. The Community War Memorial is a monument not to war, but to its inevitable victims.

The rest of the building is for the living, and its spreading spaces are alive from time to time with all kinds of entertainments and celebrations, trade fairs, graduations, conventions and exhibitions.

The installation of Bishop Matthew H. Clark Tuesday night was not the first enormous gathering of diocesans in this place. In October, 1955, seven months before the memorial was dedicated, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith staged a huge exhibition, with Masses celebrated by

distinguished prelates from far places, homilies by front-line missionaries, and finally, talks by Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen that drew two capacity crowds of 10,000. Mass celebrants included the exiled Cardinal Thomas Tien, Archbishop of Peking, China, and Bishop Paul Yamaguchi of Nagasaki, Japan.

Archbishop Sheen, a well-remembered Bishop of Rochester, was, at that time, U.S. head of the international mission society, and was, as well, an internationally known radio and television personality. So it was arranged that his talk could be heard by two capacity audiences, and tickets were allotted to the dioceses of Syracuse and Buffalo, with charter bus trips scheduled.

Msgr. John S. Randall, then diocesan head of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, had the assistance of Frank E. Wolfe and hundreds

of lay people in arranging for more than 100 mission organizations to make their pitch at the exhibition. About 8,000 parochial school children were scheduled to tour the exhibition on each of its eight days, according to the Courier-Journal of Oct. 14, 1955. Bishop James E. Kearney celebrated Mass Sunday afternoon, Oct. 16, to open Scenerama Week.

Since then, many religious bodies have convened in the memorial building, varying

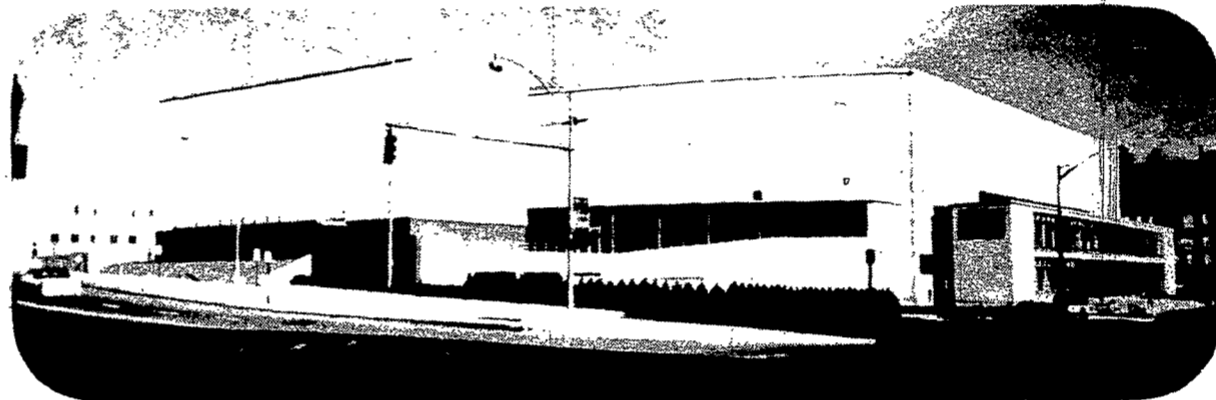
the program of rock concerts, circuses, home fairs, automobile shows, hockey and basketball games, etc. that come this way each year. A national convention of Presbyterian church people in the early seventies included a Chuck Mangione concert as a gift to the community.

Bernie Hoepfl, general manager of the building, worked there for 10 years for the city before he was hired by the management firm that took it over, and he has a good

backstage view of it. When the Jehovah's Witnesses come in, for regional or state meetings, they bring their own cooking pots and cooks, he says, along with many of the technicians that are needed, and they feed as many as 7,000, and clean up after them. The general run of circus folk with Ringlings, on the other hand, cook at home—a 100-car train parked on a siding in the city. Hoepfl's schedule for early June showed a one-day public meeting called by the

Assemblies of God and an event billed as The World's Greatest Gospel Show that drew, he said, an orderly crowd of 3,500 people who sang enthusiastically.

A typical thing that the Memorial management does for a tenant: the 40 by 48-foot platform on which Bishop Clark's altar was placed was constructed to order by a service crew, and the hangings were supplied by a decorator who knows that interior well.



Welcome To Bishop Clark

From the
Parishes in Irondequoit



- Christ the King
- St. Ambrose
- St. Cecelia
- St. James
- St. Margaret Mary
- St. Salome
- St. Thomas the Apostle

