

The church's exterior, showing the main entrance to the left and the Narthex windows on the right.



Virginia Stanton, parish religious education coordinator, arranging supplies in the vesting sacristy.

Fr. Firpo Wrote Dedication Prayer

In preparation for the dedication of the new church, St. Mary Our Mother intern associate Father John Firpo wrote a dedication prayer, which was printed on cards and distributed to all parishioners.

The prayer:

"Blessed are you O Lord, God of Israel, Our Father!

"From living stones, Your chosen people, You have built an everlasting sanctuary to the glory of Your Name."

The Altar

The altar was designed by the architect, John Teitsch, and was constructed locally and donated by the Pfaff family of Horseheads. The Pfaff family also donated the other principal appointments of the sanctuary. The altar is constructed of oak.

In keeping with the directives of the Church, the altar is simple, free-standing in its own area, and without decoration of any sort. It is truly the focal point in the sanctuary which is both spacious and uncluttered, thereby offering a suitable setting for the Holy Table.

Church Includes Seasonal Shrine

Just inside the new church's main entrance is the Seasonal Shrine. The shrine will allow a constant change of focus during the liturgical year. For example, during June, the shrine could honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. During the novena in preparation for the Feast of St. Anne, it could honor her.

"Like precious chrism running down from Aaron's beard, down to the collar of his robes, You have lavished spiritual gifts upon Your faithful people, Your Church.

"Confirm and seal within us the treasures of Faith, Hope and Love.

"Graciously accept the fragileness of our lives, the sincerity of our worship, and the dedication of our love as

a humble offering to You.

"Increase Your life and power within us so that our lives may be gladdened with Your blessings, and be the home of Your glory.

"Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, and through Mary Our Mother."

Granite Rock Serves as Font

At the main entrance of the liturgical space stands a rock, that is, 3,000 pounds of granite from the quarries of Barre, Vermont, the gift of Jack Raplee, and trucked to the site Nov. 30, 1978. The rock serves three capacities.

First, it is a symbol of the unchangeableness of God in this world of change, and of the power of God in these days of weakness.

Second, it reminds us of the Book of Exodus, where God tells Moses "You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it."

Therefore, the rock is the

font of Baptism, located at the entrance of the liturgical space. It rests on an eight-sided foundation, a symbol from early Christian times.

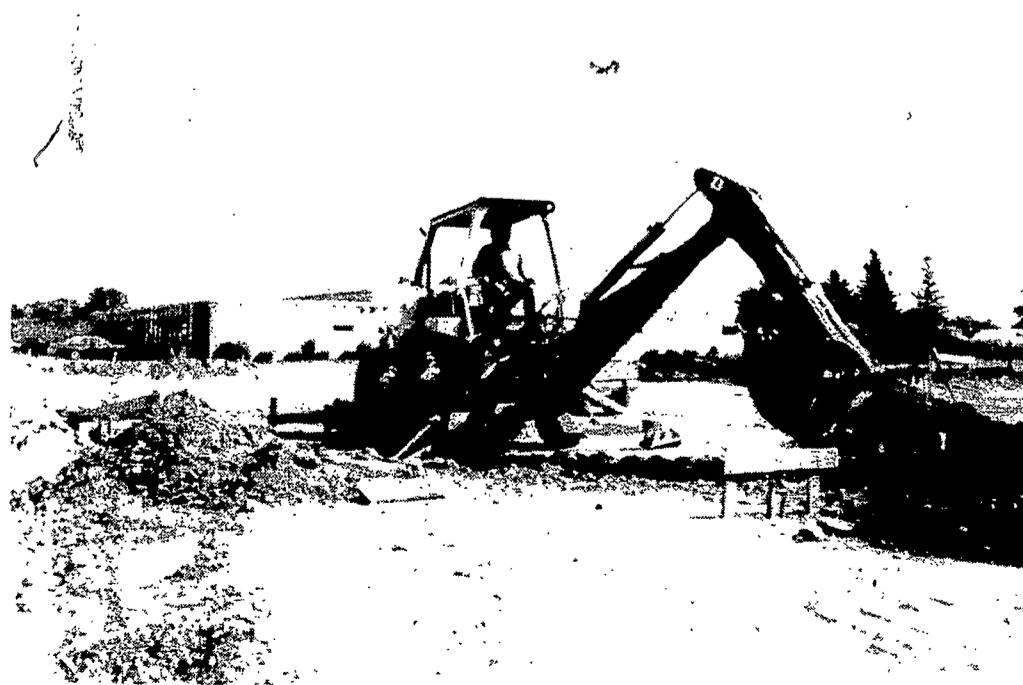
Third, the rock serves as the holy water font (which traditionally is a miniature Baptismal font).

Altar Relics

The relics deposited in the new altar are those of St. Maria Goretti and St. Charles Lwango and his companions of Uganda. The relics were obtained for the parish by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, bishop of the Scranton, Pa., diocese.



Father O'Brien and Joette Knott looking over the baptismal font in the Narthex.



Work began on the new church in August 1978, as can be seen here as the ground was prepared for the footings. In the background is the parish school.

To St. Mary Our Mother Parish

CONGRATULATIONS

On the Dedication of Your New Church



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