

# Broad Parish Support Exists for New Church

While parishioners have been heavily involved in every phase of the planning for the construction of a new church for St. Mary Our Mother, parish leaders recognized that the most important sign of their support would come when the fund drive was launched. Would the volunteer commitment to plan for the church be backed up with pledges?

The date for the fund drive, Oct. 2, 1977, was announced before architectural plans were ready, and when the drive took place, construction bids had not been sought, and the construction start was only tentatively scheduled. As it happened, it would be nine

months before construction would start.

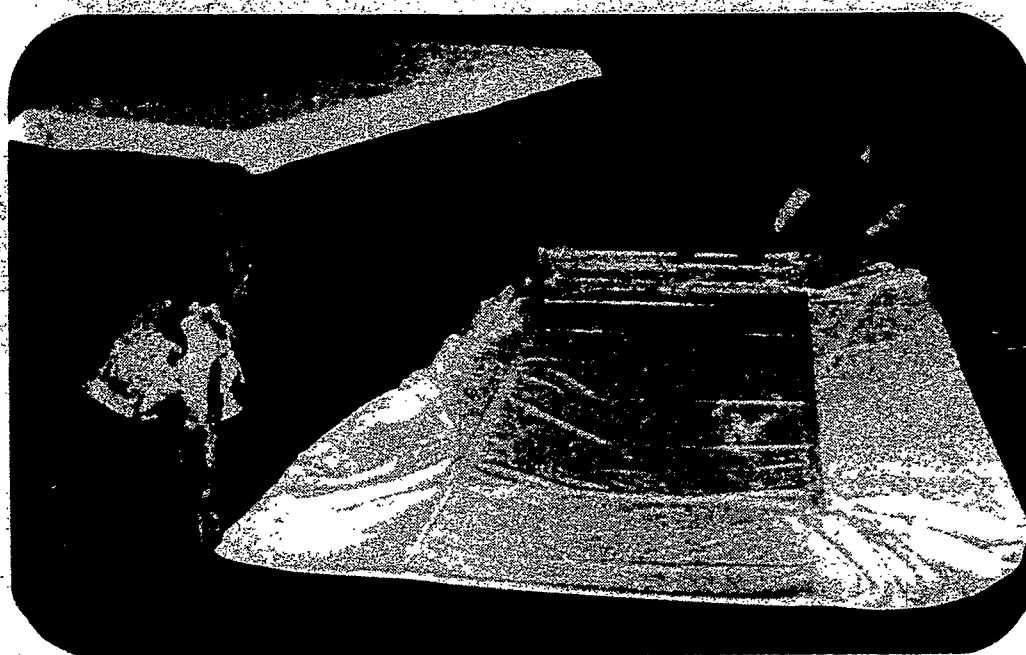
Considering projected costs and a planned mortgage, the planning committees set a minimum goal of \$350,000 for the pledge drive. Less than that amount would have endangered the entire project.

The first indication of what the result would be occurred when a call for 382 workers for the drive drew 563 volunteers.

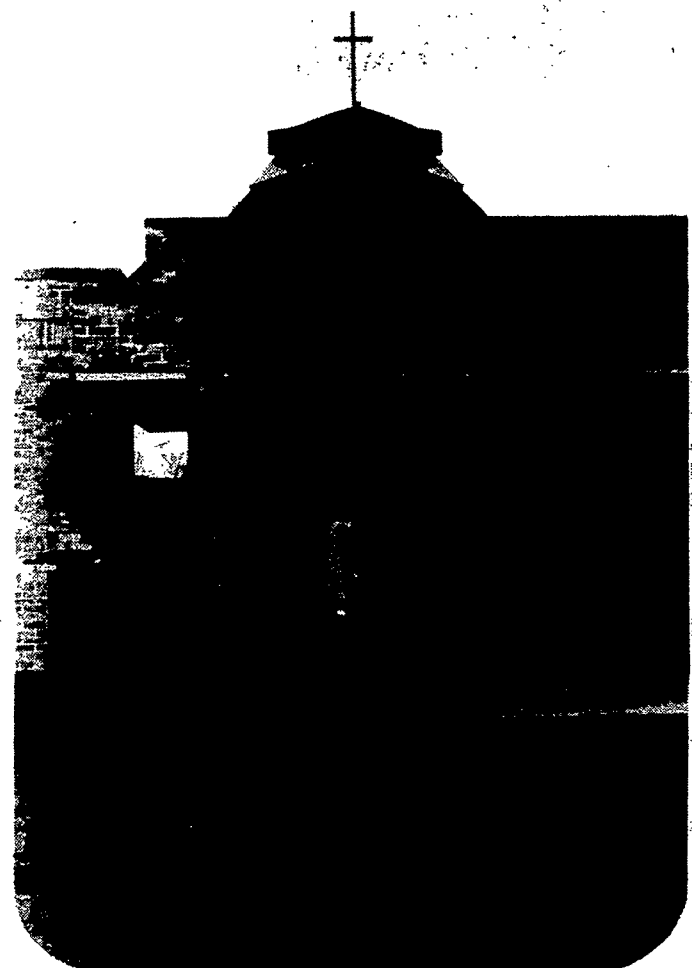
And when they made their calls, they quickly had 1,026 pledges averaging more than \$500. Pledges totaled \$557,304, more than \$200,000 above the goal.

Additional pledges not included in the original total and the money being donated by new parishioners raised the estimate of expected collections through the end of the three-year pledge payment period to \$600,000.

And support of the project has not waned. When two years of the three-year drive ended last month, 213 pledges had been paid in full, and some of those people have continued donating. A total of \$382,069.31, or 64 percent of the expected total, had been donated.




Kay Diffenderfer, Mary Ann Cannioto and June Sawester working on the new altar cloth.



Sister Catherine Gibbons, school principal, and the church's main entrance.



Still a maze of framework and scaffolding, the cross was placed atop the new church April 18, 1979. Turned so that it will be visible from Route 17, the cross was made by parishioners Richard Rodabaugh and Richard Smith.




Congratulations St. Mary's... Best wishes for the future!


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