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Thanks Given for Notre Dame's 25 Years

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor
 Elmira — Graduates, students and supporters of Notre Dame High School filled the school's auditorium Sunday, Feb. 10, for the Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the school's 25th anniversary.

Participants featured a variety of connections with the school. The two deacons, Rev. Mr. Joseph LaRabee and Rev. Mr. Michael Sullivan, are graduates of the school. Among the concelebrants were Father Robert Hammond, the school's current chaplain, former chaplain Father Richard Murphy, and the first chaplain, Father Joseph F. Hogan, and several priests who are alumni.

Acolytes and lectors were Notre Dame students; the gifts were presented by Warren Tessier, the school's former principal, and his family.

Cantor was Jesuit Father

Jerry Hall, a Notre Dame graduate. Choir director was Sister Edwina Butler, a member of the school's original faculty and a native of Elmira. And the leader of the congregational singing was Father Benedict Ehmann, who performed the same function at the school's dedication 25 years ago.

A special choir for the event included current students, graduates, parents of students and faculty members.

In his homily, Bishop Clark noted that his involvement in the celebration began "in the depths of the War Memorial" in Rochester, when, before his installation, he met Sister Arlene Semesky, a Notre Dame graduate and faculty member.

The bishop related that he commented on the beauty of his vestments, and was told that the maker was there and he could thank her himself. Sister Arlene received the

compliment and told him that "there's a bill for it," he related, which was his participation in the celebration.

He noted that in 1955 when the school was dedicated, he was graduating from a high school that was staffed by Sisters of Mercy, as is Notre Dame.

Bishop Clark noted that he hopes that "what we celebrate here today" will help those attending understand the past 25 years.

He said that it is possible to go back to the "good times" in the Eucharist, where God can be thanked for all the good things that have occurred.

But, he pointed out, the Eucharist serves not simply to consider the past, but to hope for the future.

When Notre Dame was founded 25 years ago no one knew what the future would bring, he said, just as we don't



Bishop Clark and concelebrants of the anniversary Mass.

know what will occur in the next 25 years. "As we come to Eucharist today," he said, "we are proclaiming our belief that 'He will always be with us.'"

Regardless of where those attending came from, or whatever the spiritual reality of each person, Bishop Clark said, "we are one in Christ, and 'you can be sure that in

Christ all things will work for good."

Following Communion Bishop Clark acknowledged the efforts of those who have worked over the years to keep Notre-Dame open.

He also said that he would not consider his visits to the diocese's high schools complete until he had returned to Notre Dame to

visit with the students during a school day.

Following the Mass, the 1,000 persons who attended greeted Bishop Clark and examined displays such as uniforms formerly worn by Notre Dame students and the "Hall of Fame" which included pictures from the 25 years, and listings of graduates.



Two players in the upcoming Donkey Basketball Game to benefit the Elmira Catholic schools were caught practicing in St. Mary's School recently. Above, Father Albert Delmonte, St. Anthony's pastor, and Sister Marilyn-Reeves, St. Mary's principal, with the donkey "Albert" in front of a display in the school publicizing the event.

Donkey Basketball Players Set

Elmira — A list of 45 players has been released for the Donkey Basketball Game to benefit the Elmira Catholic Schools.

In addition to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Fathers Richard O'Connell, Robert Hammond, Daniel Holland, Albert Delmonte, Paul McCabe, John Firpo, John Dillon and David Gramke

are set to ride for either the "Saints" or the "Sinners" the two teams for the event.

Players also will include board members Tom Santulli and Martin Tracy, and Sisters Diane Marie, Ann Marie, Marilyn, Davidica and Leona.

The game will be Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the Elmira College Murray

Athletic Center, the "Domes."

Event organizers also have announced that two cheering squads are being organized. The squad for the "Saints" is being formed by Stanley Douglas from the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital. The backers for the "Sinners" are being organized from the staff of the Elmira Correctional Facility by Sister Joseph Toomey.

The St. Patrick's Junior High Band also will be on hand.

Donkeys for the game are owned by Shaw Brothers Sports of Sayre, Pa.

Tickets are now available, at \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 14 with preschoolers free, from Lou Pal's Sporting Goods, both Gerould's Pharmacies and Caparulo's Variety Store.

Prizes Awarded

Corning — Three students in Corning Catholic schools received awards in a contest sponsored by the Steuben County Dental Health Society during National Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 4-8.

Sarah Calkins, a first grader at Catholic School North, won first prize in the kindergarten through grade two poster competition. Another

North student, Shelly Crisco from the third grade, won third prize in the poetry competition.

A sixth grader at Catholic School South, Joseph Gehl, also received an honorable mention in the poster contest.

Eighteen schools in Steuben County participated in the competition.



International Day

Fifth-grade students at Corning Catholic School North participated in an International Day Feb. 8, and got the opportunity to try a variety of foods from various countries. Students made the dishes from recipes from the countries of their ancestors. Several students also were dressed in costumes representing various countries. Above, Mrs. Arline Ely, the class's teacher, left, helps serve the food to the class.

Clergy Tour Hospital

Hornell — A ministerial teaching day Monday, Feb. 11, at St. James Mercy Hospital sponsored by the Pastoral Care Department acquainted area clergy with the hospital.

Father Eugene Emo welcomed the 18 ministers who attended, and Sister Mary Augustine spoke about the functions of the Pastoral Care Department. Sister Mary Colette explained the role she plays as sister-visitor assisting patients after discharge from

the hospital.

During the day-long program, the ministers heard presentations from persons involved in the various aspects of the hospital, beginning with Sister Mary Rene McNiff, hospital administrator, and Dr. John Coyle, medical staff president.

The ministers were

acquainted with the various medical departments and outpatient services available, and were made aware of such programs as the local chapter of "Make Today Count," and the hospital-sponsored psychiatric day treatment program, the Aquinas Center.

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