



On Monday, two days after the fire, parts of a textbook lay with ashes amid the snow. The page is headed "Words to Know."

## Fire

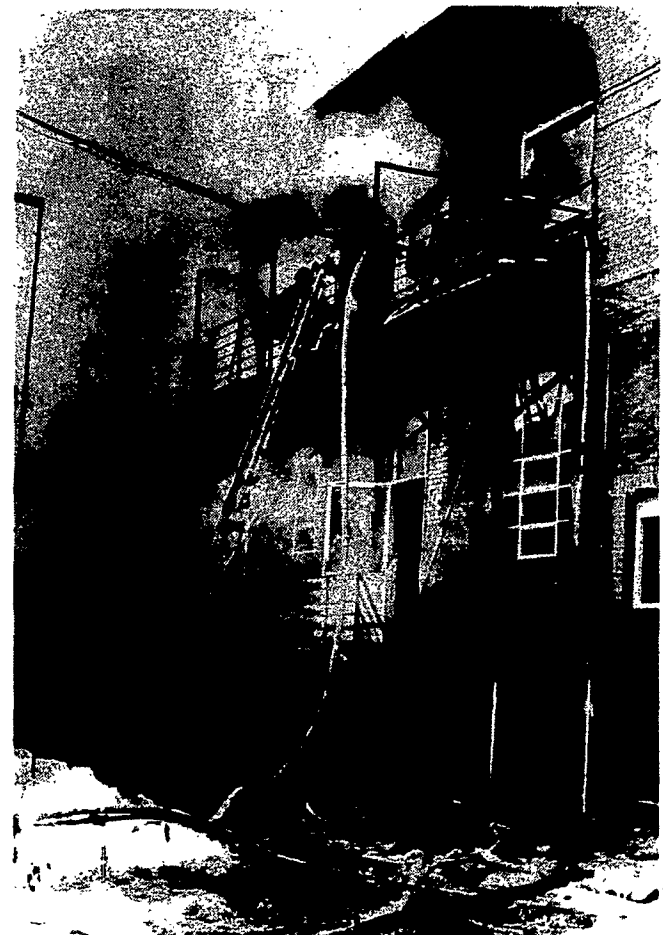
Continued from Page 3

schools, of Aquinas Institute; Father Thomas Wheeland of Sacred Heart Cathedral; Father Robert C. Bradler, fire department chaplain, and Father Charles Latus, secretary to Bishop Clark.

A funeral scheduled at the church had to be moved to nearby St. Anthony's and Father Meng had to leave the scene to officiate there. The pastor of St. Anthony's, Father Albert DePascale, said that at the height of the blaze, the smell of smoke could be detected at his church.

Holy Rosary parish began as a mission of St. Patrick's in 1890 and the school was established in 1891. The present school building went up in 1904 and was dedicated on Dec. 4 of that year by Bishop Bernard McQuaid.

Because of high enrollment, described by pastor Msgr. Charles F. Shay as "the highest in the diocese," a new school addition was begun in 1946 and completed in October of 1947. That year the school had 804 pupils but enrollment continued to grow until it reached 980 in 1961. Enrollment was about 230 at the time of last week's fire.



Hundreds of feet of hose crisscross the area as firemen battle on the third floor fire escape.



Firemen in action at the height of the blaze.

## Recalling Another Fire When It Was a School Day

The first thought of so many at the fire scene Saturday morning at Holy Rosary School was gratitude that it was not a school day, that no children were in the building when the fire broke out.

Actually, at another school in another time, a school was full of children when a similarly destructive fire destroyed the building. It was at St. Joseph's Academy in Albany on another frigid December morning, in 1944.

The sights, the smells, the tears, the water-filled streets, the shocked groups of onlookers bundled warmly against the pre-Christmas cold were strikingly consistent.

Thanks to God, the fact that St. Joseph's was hit during a school day did not result in tragedy. No one was killed and as far as this memory serves not one pupil was injured; we had learned well the lessons of the frequent fire drills.

We paraded out of the school in neat and orderly fashion, following easily the guidance of floor leaders and the, as always, stern Sisters of Charity. We marched through smoke-filled hallways and stairways, even from the fourth floor, out into the cold, flurried December morning and safety.

We have the feeling that even if Holy Rosary had been hit during a school day, that same alert Catholic leadership would have evidenced itself under Principal Sister Brian Madigan, SSJ, and pastor Father Robert A. Meng. Still we owe God gratitude that the children and parents and staff did not have to go through the experience. — Viglucci

## Polish Fund

Continued from Page 3

used to purchase food for Poles. He also announced that, of his personal discretionary funds, he would give \$1,000 to the effort.

He prayed also with the congregation for the "supreme gift of charity — to pray for the oppressors," and in benediction he said, "May He bless and keep and cherish forever the Polish nation and may we be one with them."

The Polish fund was established earlier last week. Monies donated will be sent to Catholic Relief Services for food distribution through Catholic agencies in Poland.

The mailing address for the fund is Polish Tribute Fund, Father Joseph Reinhart, Diocesan Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.



Smoke infests the alley between the school and the rectory.

## Chr Beh

As of Mon the Cou Christmas F lagging some last year's re total on Dec. last year on t total was \$47 to a total \$50,000.

Anthony publisher manager of Journal, said lateness of th still time to a our diocesan last-minute c get to the d lonely in time

Although the fund's distributed a Catholic Cha expertise emergency fo the course of

During th Courier-Jour

## Rosary Honor

Geneva Benedetti w of the year Society C Sunday, D Sisters of S Francis De held at the House, fe guests F Metzger, s Thomas C St. Franc Tommaso, Stephan's.

Mrs. Ben engraved "recognior willingness received fl from memb Mrs. Ben Geneva sch and a pas Rosary Soc and public the Saint and a mem American I

## Bisho Recov

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