

Sense of Permanency Growing For St. Elizabeth Parishioners

After St. Elizabeth Ann Parish began two years ago, the Courier-Journal traced in words and pictures its simple beginnings and gradual growth. Now a site has been chosen for a permanent church and the founding pastor, Father William Amann, has his own rectory. Parishioners Bob and Grace T. Carson provide this update.



A rectory has been purchased.

Text by Grace T. Carson
Photos by Robert F. Carson

As the new year unfolds, the pastor and people of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Hamlin look forward to the second anniversary of the founding of their faith community and back upon a year of tangible progress and growth.

An exciting and important event was the purchase of 15 acres at Lake Road-West Fork and Brick Schoolhouse Road, designated as the permanent location for the church building.

Father William Amann, pastor, and parishioners have been traveling throughout the diocese for nearly a year, gathering ideas on concept and design for the new church. Churches and related buildings of widely varied architectural designs have been studied. The input from these studies will be presented at public workshops this year.

Not only does the pro-

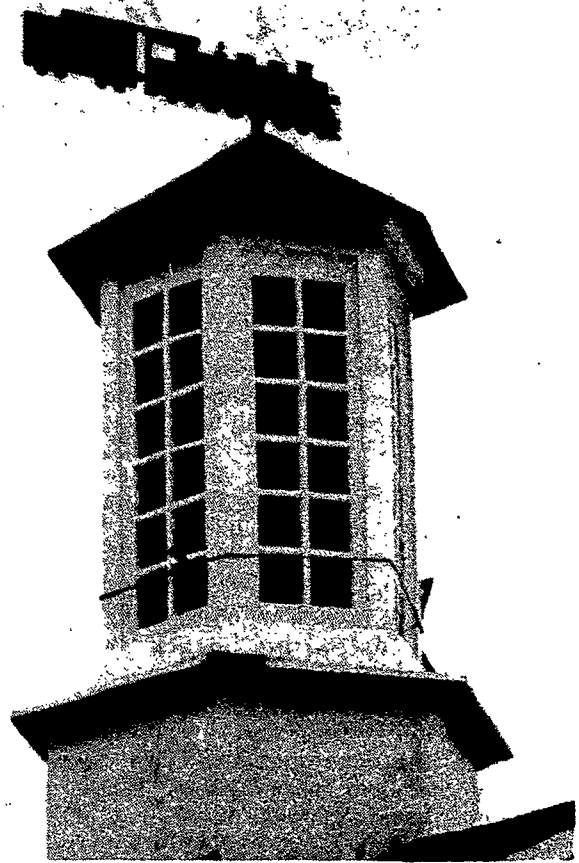
jected church building now have a permanent site, the pastor now has a permanent home! A split-level house at 1634 Lake Road, close to the center of town, has been purchased. With the help of many willing hands and hearts, Father Amann was

settled into the new rectory in early December.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish also has acquired two very special crosses. The smaller stands atop the depot church, crossbeam extended, as if in blessing over the town of Hamlin. The larger one

is in storage, hopefully to be mounted atop or within the planned church. Though these crosses are new to St. Elizabeth, there are old to the diocese and dear to the memory of many of its priests. For many years, they stood on the towers of St. Bernard's Seminary and under their silent benediction, not only did Father Amann study, but so also did neighbors Father Chester Klocek, pastor of St. Leo's in Hilton, and Father John Philipps, pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport, as did most of the priests of the diocese.

St. Elizabeth's continues to call the faithful to worship with the sound of bells. An old school bell, yet to be blessed as "Joseph," is mounted in a cupola at the west end of the present depot church roof. This cupola is adorned with a weathervane in the figure of a train, an authentic replica of a 4-8-4 steam locomotive and its tender.



Weathervane atop the depot church is a replica of a steam locomotive.

Also, 12 Hamlin residents will be preparing for a new life of grace as Catholics in the parish program of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. On the first Sunday of Advent, these 12, the same number as last year, were accepted as catechumens. And on Easter they will be accepted as full members of the parish.

Bishops Release Hispanic Pastoral

Washington (NC) -- The 9,500-word final text of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on Hispanic ministry was released Jan. 10.

The document, "The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment" is also being made available in Spanish.

The bishops had approved the essence of the pastoral at their Nov. 14-17 meeting in Washington. After the amendment process was completed the pastoral letter was officially approved Dec.

12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and released Jan. 10.

The total U.S. Hispanic population is estimated at least 20 million and the United States ranks fifth among the "world's Spanish-speaking countries," the bishops noted in the letter.

The letter spoke against racism and called for U.S. Catholics, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic, to work together "to explore creative possibilities for responding innovatively, flexibly and immediately to the Hispanic presence."

The bishops recommended Spanish and bilingual worship, bilingual ministers and more resources for Hispanic ministry. They called for a third Encuentro, a gathering of representatives of the Hispanic community.

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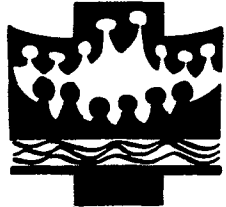
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Insights In Liturgy



By Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ

Preparing Lent-Easter time

Parish liturgy teams and their music and art sub-committees put so much effort into planning and praying the liturgies of Holy Week that it takes a lot of courage (some might say "nerve") for anyone to suggest that the celebration of the Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday are only a beginning. Yet that is exactly what they are!

Easter Sunday begins a celebration so big that it cannot be contained in one day -- it takes 50 days to celebrate it fully. Parish liturgy teams need to plan now so that this period of celebration does not fall flat in relation to the Easter celebration, but continues it and brings it to a grand climax in the celebration of Pentecost.

In October of 1983, the dioceses of New York State presented a proposal to the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions regarding the celebration of Eastertime. They urged a full observance of the 50 days of Easter and made the following suggestions to aid in this observance: "em-

mystagogical character of the season; environment which vividly proclaims the Easter message on all the Sundays of Easter; use of Easter hymns and music throughout the entire period; preaching which emphasizes the paschal nature of these days; public celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours; integration of the Easter theme with the celebration of First Communion, Confirmation and other sacraments and devotional practices during this time." (Position Statement, 585, FDLC)

As parish liturgy teams discuss the best way to celebrate Easter for 50 days, they need to keep always before their eyes the focus of these seven weeks: the joyful celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Whatever else is celebrated can only take a back seat to this primary focus.

In addition to the suggestions made above, other assistance may be found in "Of Fast and Festival" by Barbara O'Dea, Paulist Press, or in "The Great Sunday: Fifty Days of Easter in Your Parish" by Dan Onley, Pastoral Arts Associates. The Liturgy Office staff is also available to help with this planning.

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