

Nazareth Hall Notes Centennial Year

Last Tuesday, Bishop Matthew H. Clark launched the celebrations for Nazareth Hall's centenary. The institution is the only Catholic private elementary school in the diocese not affiliated with a parish.

Following is an account of the school's history provided by Sister Alice, SSJ.

Nazareth Hall, a private school for boys, had its beginning in 1884 in a beautiful stone residence situated on a 72-acre tract of land known as the Pritchard Estate which extended from Lake Avenue west to the railroad. This tract had been

purchased by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

On the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, July 19, 1884, the bishop solemnly blessed the new house and gave it the name of Nazareth Hall... Concluding his sermon on that day, he said, "If the

success attending the work of the years already passed, since the Sisters of St. Joseph began their educational labor in the Diocese of Rochester, is any guarantee for the future, then surely the years to come must produce great fruit."

From the very beginning, Nazareth Hall offered residence accommodations to its students between the ages of 5 and 12. Classes were held in the large stone mansion, and a smaller house nearby provided sleeping quarters for the boys. Five Sisters were assigned to Nazareth Hall the first year, and their number soon increased to ten.

In 1890, the Lake Avenue property was sold and quarters for the school were provided in a frame building on Frank Street, on the Nazareth Motherhouse grounds. The school remained at this site until a building planned for this purpose by Mother Agnes was constructed at the corner of Raines Park and Alameda Street.

On Jan. 8, 1908, this new Nazareth Hall Academy for Boys was opened for classes. Sister Aquinas, who had been a teacher at Nazareth Hall for the first 20 years of its existence, was recalled as principal. A high school department was at once inaugurated. This department continued from 1908 to 1920, offering throughout that period first year academic subjects, and for several years second year academic classes. There were as many as 25 boys enrolled in the high school department at one time.

The original building on Raines Park was soon overcrowded. In 1914 a wing was added and a brick gym-



Kiyomi Salom, a first grade pupil, enjoys her first meeting with Bishop Matthew H. Clark during the anniversary Mass in the school gymnasium.

nasium built. In 1931 another wing of brick was constructed.

Sister Aquinas remained principal until 1938.

She was ever the alert, progressive, religious teacher and, while she never lost sight of the three Rs, she was among the first to introduce into the grammar school curriculum courses in speech, art, music and physical education, each of which was in charge of an instructor with special training. Sister Aquinas had a vigorous intellect and a penetrating judgment, a courage combined with practical wisdom. But it was her strong faith and singleness of purpose which the boys, grown to manhood, remembered best.

In 1952, Nazareth Hall was

reorganized as a "cadet school," which combined a military program with a curriculum well-balanced in spiritual, intellectual and physical education, and with a definite emphasis on social adjustment. Officers of the NROTC unit at the University of Rochester supervised the program which included any aspect of military training which helped to bring out the finest qualities of manhood in these boys.

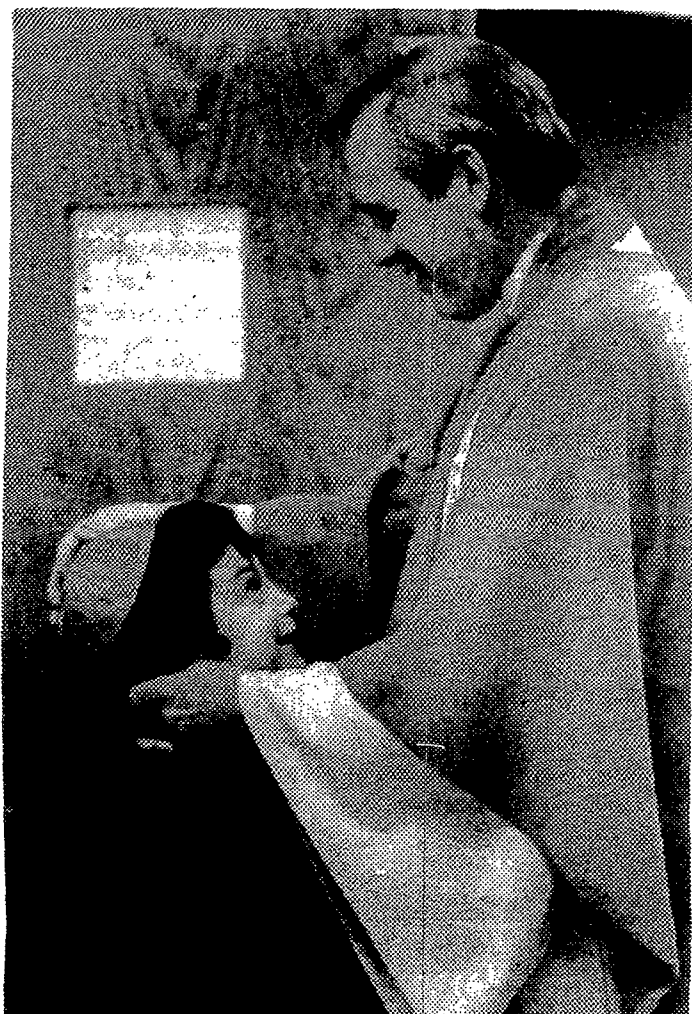
On April 10, 1964, Bishop James E. Kearney dedicated a beautiful new gymnasium-auditorium which had been built with the generous contributions of parents, friends and alumni. Shortly after the addition of the new building, the old gymnasium was converted into a lovely

new student dining room and the old cafeteria was converted into classrooms.

In 1963 when the enlarging of facilities was considered, it was decided that Nazareth Hall should remain at approximately 200 students, thus assuring the advantages offered by small classes.

Nazareth Hall's current status as a private co-educational school, from Kindergarten through Grade Eight, was inaugurated in 1970. An Early Education Program for 3- and 4-year-olds was started in 1972.

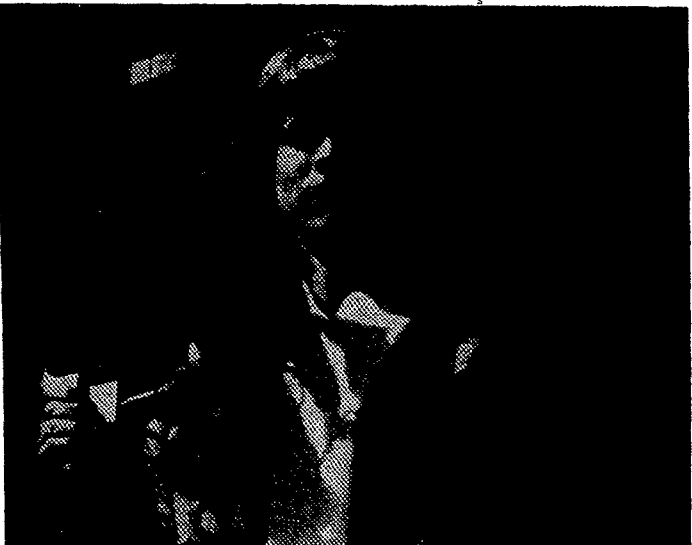
School officials are in the process of locating alumni to advise them of an October centennial banquet. Alumni not yet contacted are asked to call the school office, 254-1925.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Second-grader Samuel Sacco gets a rare privilege -- trying on the bishop's zucchetto.

TELEVISION



Producer Gets Grant

Paul V. Chaplo, a video producer and director whose home parish is St. Mary's in Scottsville, has been awarded a LIFT grant through Arts for Greater Rochester to produce a 20-minute color videotape on late 19th and 20th century Ontario lakeside resorts. The title of the program is "Old Summertime." Chaplo noted that "currently, efforts are underway to secure additional funding. Even at this early date, a great deal of interest has been expressed in this project."

BOOKS

Destruction of Monte Cassino

"Monte Cassino," by David Hapgood and David Richardson. Congdon & Weed (New York, 1984). 269 pp., \$17.95.

Reviewed by John H. Carroll NC News Service

Certain military campaigns have captured the attention of authors and historians down through the years. In World War II, D-Day, the liberation of Paris and the fierce battles in southern Italy to open the road to Rome have received much literary coverage.

David Hapgood, an editor and writer, and David Richardson, a military researcher, have contributed a worthwhile study to the long list of books on that ill-fated tragedy of errors, the struggle for the abbey of Monte Cassino.

In the winter of 1943-44, the Allied drive on Rome was stalled in the inhospitable

Abruzzi mountains of southern Italy. Lt. Gen. Mark Clark, the young and ambitious commander of the American Fifth Army, and his superior, Gen. Sir Harold Alexander of the British army, were under tremendous pressure to take the Italian capital.

Winston Churchill, British prime minister, particularly wanted to vindicate his campaign against the "soft underbelly of Europe." The Allies were confronted with serious problems fighting the Germans in rugged terrain and bad weather. There were also difficulties coordinating operations in the polyglot Fifth Army, comprised of Americans, British, French, North Africans, Indians, New Zealanders, Poles and Brazilians.

The authors recount that opposite the Allies on the high ground of the German Gustav Line was a well-entrenched force, the 14th Panzer Corps. Ironically its capable commander, Gen. Frido von Senger und Etterlin, was a devout Catholic and a member of the Benedictine Third Order. The central German positions were situated around the town of Cassino and the abbey, which dominated all of the terrain in the region.

While digging in around the area, the Germans had

removed many of the Benedictines' art treasures to Rome for safety. Some of these apparently were slated for the collection of Field Marshal Hermann Goering.

The French feint to outflank Monte Cassino to the east was abortive. The Allied sea-borne landing at Anzio to the northwest stalled. Allied headquarters then decided on a frontal assault against the Gustav Line at Monte Cassino. Successive waves of Allied troops failed to break through the German defenses.

Gen. Bernard Freyberg, commander of the New Zealand Division, the spearhead of another assault on Monte Cassino, was convinced that the Germans were using the abbey as a strong point and observation post. Accordingly he requested that it be bombed from the air. Clark acquiesced reluctantly and Alexander apparently approved to avoid political problems.

On Feb. 15, 1944, 230 Allied bombers in several waves attacked and reduced the abbey to ruins and killed numerous Italian civilian refugees. The monks survived in their shelters and left after the bombing.

The Germans, however, reacted quickly and moved in paratroopers, who dug into the rubble. They were to hold the position for another three months.

Finally the French succeeded in outflanking the

abbey to the east. The Germans withdrew in good order and set up another defensive line — the Gothic Line, north of Rome. The Poles captured a deserted pile of rubble on Monte Cassino.

The authors show that evidence available today, especially a Benedictine diary, reveals that the Germans, although they were in the area, never used the abbey for military purposes. They moved in after the bombing. Lack of intelligence, a desire to move forward and reduce casualties and an effort to avoid political problems dictated an Allied bombing of a famous religious house in a strategic position.

Authors Hapgood and Richardson have provided an interesting and informative analysis of this great wartime tragedy.

Carroll, a World War II Army veteran, retired as an intelligence officer after more than 20 years in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mirrors, Mirrors

"The Reflected Image," an invitational exhibition of works incorporating mirrors, is on view in The Gallery Store, Memorial Art Gallery now through May 27. Works are by 20 artists and include Shaker-style mirrors to nouveau, deco, contemporary and imaginative designs.

CATHOLIC BROADCAST SCHEDULE

PROGRAM	CABLE COMPANY	CHANNEL	MON.	THURS.
American Catholic w/Fr. John Powell, S.J.	American Cable (Rochester)	20	7:30 p.m.	
	American Cable (Webster)	20	7:30 p.m.	
	Peoples Cable (Suburban Rochester)	27	7:30 p.m.	
	Channel 12 West (Greece Gates, Chili)	12		8:00 p.m.
The Glory of God w/Fr. John Bertolucci	Channel 12 West (Greece Gates, Chili)	12		7:30 p.m.