



Ann Marie Cardman of St. Catherine's holds daughter Theresa, 3, while Jaimie, 9, asks what is next on the program

St. Catherine of Siena



St. Catherine of Siena Church Choir members (left to right) Sean Kinsella, Mig Gallagher, Ed Halgas, and Jack Burns warm up their voices in the last moments before Monday evening's musical.



Marjorie Penalver, left, of the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church Choir, leads their joint choir in "Let Us Sing 'til the Power of the Lord Come Down."

Sings in Its 25th Anniversary

The golden light of the setting sun streamed through the windows of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ithaca, as voices rose in celebration of the church's 25th anniversary. Eight musical groups from area churches, including two bell choirs, gathered in an ecumenical musical celebration Monday, April 29, to end a full weekend of anniversary activities. The event had special significance because it fell on the feast day of the church's patron, St. Catherine.

Other activities during the anniversary weekend included a Mass said Saturday, April 27, by Bishop Matthew H. Clark and the confirmation of 30 young people on Sunday.

The parish was incorporated in March of

1960 and for the first two years, Masses were celebrated at various locations. The founding pastor, Monsignor Donald M. Cleary, chose as the name for his church St. Catherine of Siena, in honor of his mother, Catherine, as well as the patron saint who counseled Pope Gregory XI during the Avignon crisis. The new church was dedicated by Bishop Kearney on April 29, 1962, and two years later the rectory/parish center was completed.

From the 300 founding families — 94 of which are still active in the parish — the parish has grown to nearly 600. With the recent confirmations, the future looks bright as St. Catherine's embarks on another 25 years.



Fr. Michael Hogan delivers a brief history of St. Catherine, the patron Saint who counseled Pope Gregory XI during the Avignon crisis.



Mig Gallagher concentrates on G.F. Handel's notes as she sings "Sing Praises to God."

Photos by Jeff Goulding