

Long wait ending for congregation of Hamlin parish

The long wait for the first Catholic Church in Hamlin is nearing its end. Riding in a horse-drawn wagon, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and a cart full of children arrived Tuesday, May 6, at the intersection of Brick Schoolhouse Road and Lake Road West Fork in Hamlin to break ground for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.

The congregation of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton celebrated the ground-breaking for their new church even though the exact dates of the building's construction and completion have yet to be determined.

"It was very important that we had the ground-breaking service ceremony; it keeps the issue alive," said Robert Carson, parish council chairman at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. "A lot of people would like to see a more formal church edifice here. We hope that with the brand new church, more people will come attend Mass here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton."

Carson delivered the welcoming address at the ceremony, pointing out that regular parish interaction with Hamlin's St. John's Lutheran Church and United Methodist Church has kept the "spirit of ecumenism alive." Carson then thanked all in attendance for their "time, talent and treasure," three words frequently used by Father William J. Amann, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Carson said, however, that the time had



About 125 members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish were on hand Tuesday, May 6, at ground-breaking ceremonies. Bishop Matthew H. Clark blessed the ground and turned over the first shovel of soil.

come for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioners to establish their own identity.

Parishioners are currently using a railroad depot for their church services. He stressed that not only should church attendance increase once the new building is constructed, but there should be an escalation in overall involvement in the parish community.

"A new building will help us with our ministries here," Carson said. "The depot

church was never more than an interim solution."

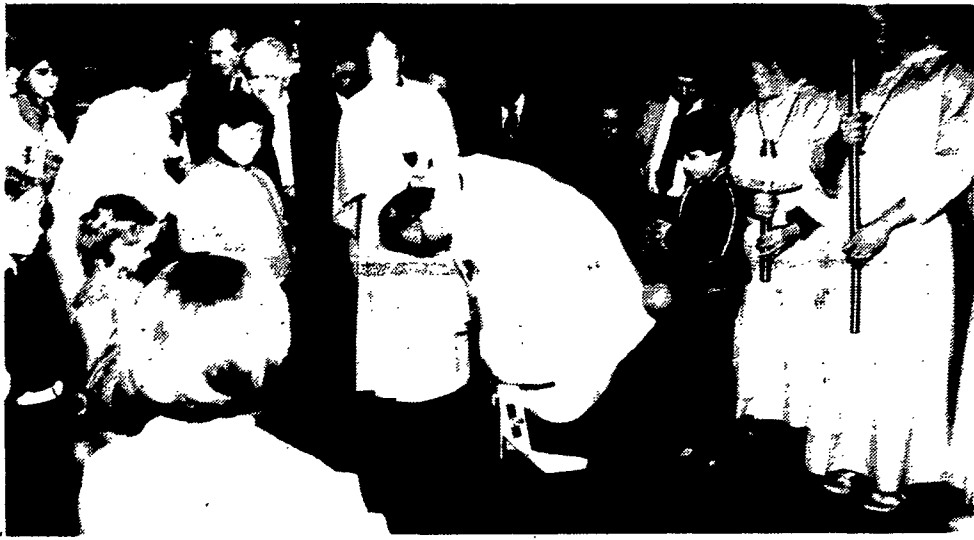
Although Carson admits that some pessimism among parishioners has resulted from the long delay, most believe the new church will soon become a reality.

"Generally everyone is convinced it's going to happen, Carson said. "The new church will be a focal point and an obvious presence in the community. That's what we are all hoping for."



Peter Docteur, 4, is safe in the bishop's arms, as other dignitaries take turns at the shovel. Peter also took things into his own hands and did a bit of digging.

Planning and hard work pay off for St. Mary's parish center in Geneseo



Father William Gordinier, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Geneseo, turns over the first shovel of dirt for the new St. Mary's Parish Center. Pastor emeritus, Father Walter Carron, members of the parish's building committee and other parishioners look on.

For almost 20 years, the people of St. Mary's Parish in Geneseo have dreamed of a new Parish Center — a place where the parish family at St. Mary's could "gather and grow in knowledge and service." The people of St. Mary's did more than dream, however, they worked, planned and saved.

Father Walter Carron, pastor of St. Mary's from 1965 to 1983, formed a building committee which began to explore various designs for a center. This committee, taking into account the needs of the parish and the sites available for the building, drew up several architectural renderings and consulted with the diocesan Building Commission.

For various reasons, however, such as the need to build up a stronger financial base within the parish and the unavailability of one key piece of real estate, the project had to be temporarily put on the back burner.

In August of 1984, a new building committee was formed to continue the work begun by its predecessor. This committee

hired Florian Sobolewski as the architect for the project. After countless meetings and studies, a plan was submitted to the diocesan Building Commission and, after some modifications, was accepted. Bishop Matthew H. Clark gave his go ahead in January of 1986.

In the meantime, a drive designed to raise \$150,000 was conducted with the guidance of Statewide Counseling Service of Dansville, and \$202,000 was pledged. Of the 15 bids received on the project, Canfield Construction Corp. was selected as general contractor.

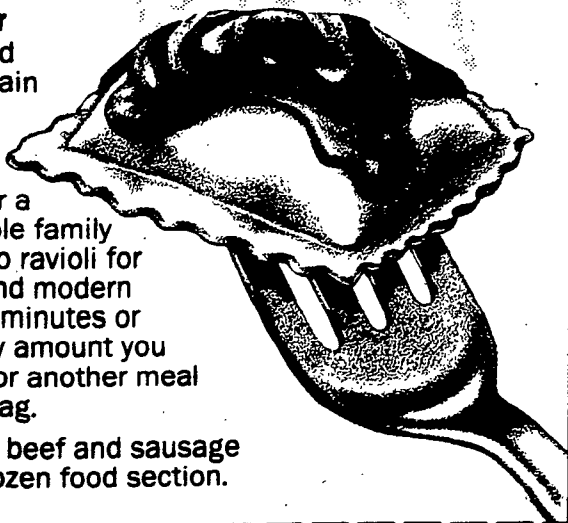
Recently, a ground-breaking service was held and work began soon after. Father William Gordinier, pastor of St. Mary's, said the target date for the completion of the building is September 12 but that there is a good possibility that things will be wrapped up by August 1. The total cost should be about \$400,000 including furnishings and equipment, according to Father Gordinier.

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