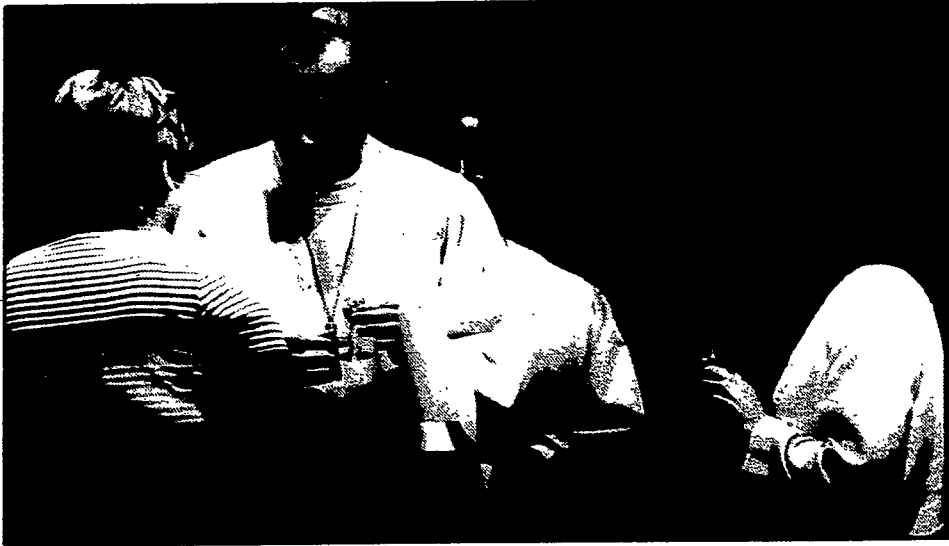


Rededication ceremony caps seven-year Elmira pilgrimage



Gail Shaw waited to receive a portion of sacred chrism from Bishop Matthew H. Clark, as Janet Fusco looked on. The chrism was taken to the walls of the church, which were then anointed by Fathers Holland and Linsler.

Faith, generosity key to success of project

By Richard A. Kiley

For the parishioners at St. Patrick's Church in Elmira, a seven-year pilgrimage has come to an end — almost.

On Wednesday, May 6, Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined parishioners and friends of St. Patrick's to rededicate the 115-year-old structure. The ceremony marked the end of a renovation/rehabilitation project that dates back as far as 1980.

Now the only major task remaining for St. Patrick's 1,150 parishioners is to pay off the \$300,000 loan the parish obtained from Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in order to finance the renovation. But that task should be a cinch for a parish that has bypassed traditional fund-raising measures in the past, relying solely on the faith and generosity of its people.

According to Father Daniel F. Holland, pastor, initial work on the edifice began back in 1980, when a local insurance company suggested that the church be closed because plaster was falling from its deteriorating roof.

The first project involved the installation of a new roof on the church and hall, a new heating system, restoration and preservation of the stained glass, and such interior work as plumbing.

Funding for the \$250,000 project — which included \$80,000 for the slate roof alone — was raised through a monthly restoration collection. Parishioners were asked to give \$10 per month in addition to their normal weekly contributions.

"That (restoration) envelope easily raised the money we needed at the time," said Father Holland, who came to St. Patrick's after six years as associate pastor at St. Thomas Apostle in Irondequoit. He credited former parishioner Andrew Malloy, who has since moved to Poughkeepsie, with proposing the monthly collection.

Donald Nurnberg, who is now in his



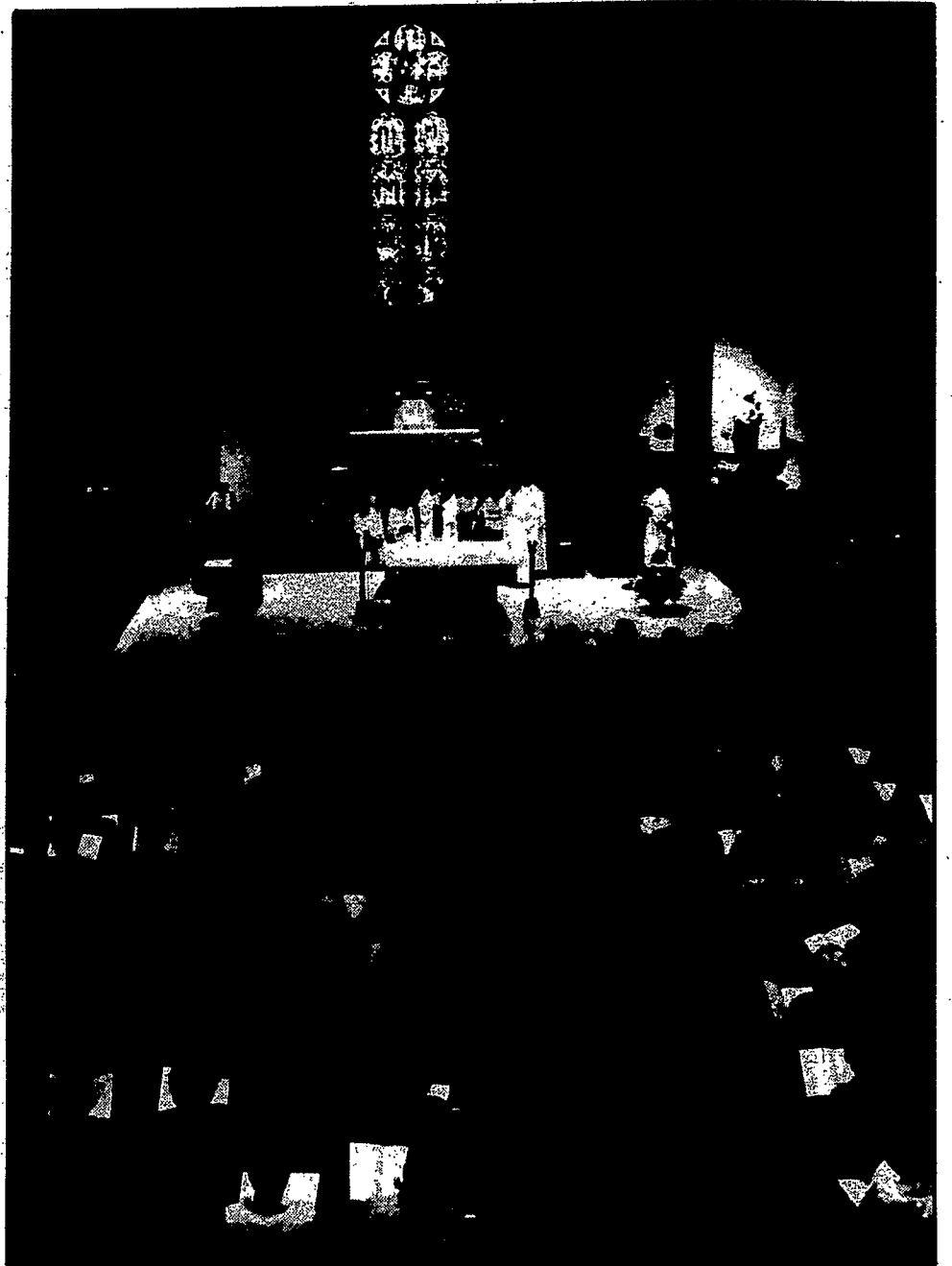
Architect J. Victor Bagnardi greets an admirer before leaving for the reception held after the rededication.

second year as chairman of the parish council, believes similar collections will provide ample funds for the recently completed second phase of renovations.

"This parish has a tradition of helping out," said Nurnberg, who has served on the council for the past three years. "We will not have to do any fund raising. We've raised as much as \$250,000 in the past."

Despite the relative ease of raising funds for the project, renovation has not always been easy for St. Patrick's. Some parishioners were unprepared for the scope of the renovation plans presented by the parish council and the Church Interior Research Committee — which consisted of Nurnberg, Peter Buckley and Paul Pappalardo — and a heated debate ensued.

"Some of the people thought we were



The relics of St. Oliver Plunkett, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul were deposited beneath the newly constructed altar.

trying to do too much," said Nurnberg, who was a supervising engineer at U.S. Steel's American Bridges plant in Elmira for 36 years. "But the parish council felt we had the pulse of the parish. We asked parishioners if this was in the best long-term good of the parish; and the council and most of the parishioners said yes, it was."

The parish council and parishioners were not unanimous in their vote to authorize the renovations, however. Because of the poor economic climate in Elmira, some parishioners objected to so much money being spent on the project. "About 110 to 115 people felt that feeding the poor was more important," Nurnberg said.

Some parishioners also objected to the way the parish council planned to pay for the renovations. A cost-plus agreement — which

included labor and materials plus a fixed profit margin — was worked out with contractors and suppliers.

"Cost plus was the fairest way ... provided you have a good contractor," Nurnberg said. "Some parishioners thought we were going to be taken because we didn't get any firm bids. They thought we were giving (the contractors) a blank check."

He explained that in order to get firm bids for the project, the parish would have to issue specifications on "everything from the exact paint to the exact width of the brushes. We had no idea what to expect, especially with the plaster (work)," Nurnberg said.

Once such details were firmed up, parishioners also had to adjust to the fact that their church would be closed — for the first time

Continued on Page 13

HOLIDAY "HOME COOKING"

Don't forget the ZWIGLE'S ROCHESTER'S FLAVOR FAVORITE TEXAS & WHITE HOTS

AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVORITE MARKET OR NEIGHBORHOOD STORE.

Zweigle's

Famous for Quality Sausage & Meat Products Since 1880

ZWIGLE'S INC. 546-1740 651 Plymouth Ave. No.

PELICAN BAY MARINA
560 River St., Rochester, NY
716-621-6040

Arrow Glass **NEW**

NEW 13' - 21' Cuddy's

13' to 30'
performance with "CLASS"

In water demonstration **CHECKMATE**

- USED BOATS
- FULL SERVICE
- LAUNCH RAMP
- DOCKAGE
- SHIP STORE
- OUT BOARD REPAIR AVAILABLE
- GAS
- HAULING
- STORAGE
- DRY DOCKAGE

Now taking orders for boats of 10' to 30'.