

Center offering focus for 'Vatican II parish'

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GREECE — For parishioners at Holy Name of Jesus, the closing of Cardinal Mooney High School couldn't have happened at a better time.

Not that anyone at the parish welcomed the school's demise. What was fortunate was that Mooney closed just after Holy Name opened its new parish center, which was built as an addition to the back of the church. Before the addition was completed, the parish had been conducting its religious-education classes at Mooney, which also happened to be the site of the parish's first Mass on August 30, 1964.

The timing of the center's completion last March is nothing less than providential according to Dick and Kay Kurz, who joined the parish a year after its founding.

"I think we feel very fortunate to have a center now," Kay Kurz said, and her husband agreed "It's one indication of how the Lord has really blessed the parish," he said.

The Kurzes joined several hundred other parishioners at a celebration of the parish's 25th anniversary Sunday, Aug. 6. Following noon Mass at the St. Martin's Way church, parishioners headed out past the doors behind the altar and into the new center where they enjoyed a barbecue.

Before the festivities got started, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the guest homilist, dedicated the parish center, which has been seeing a great deal of use since it opened in April. The parish's school of religion is now located in the new center, which also houses meetings of Holy Name's various groups and committees.

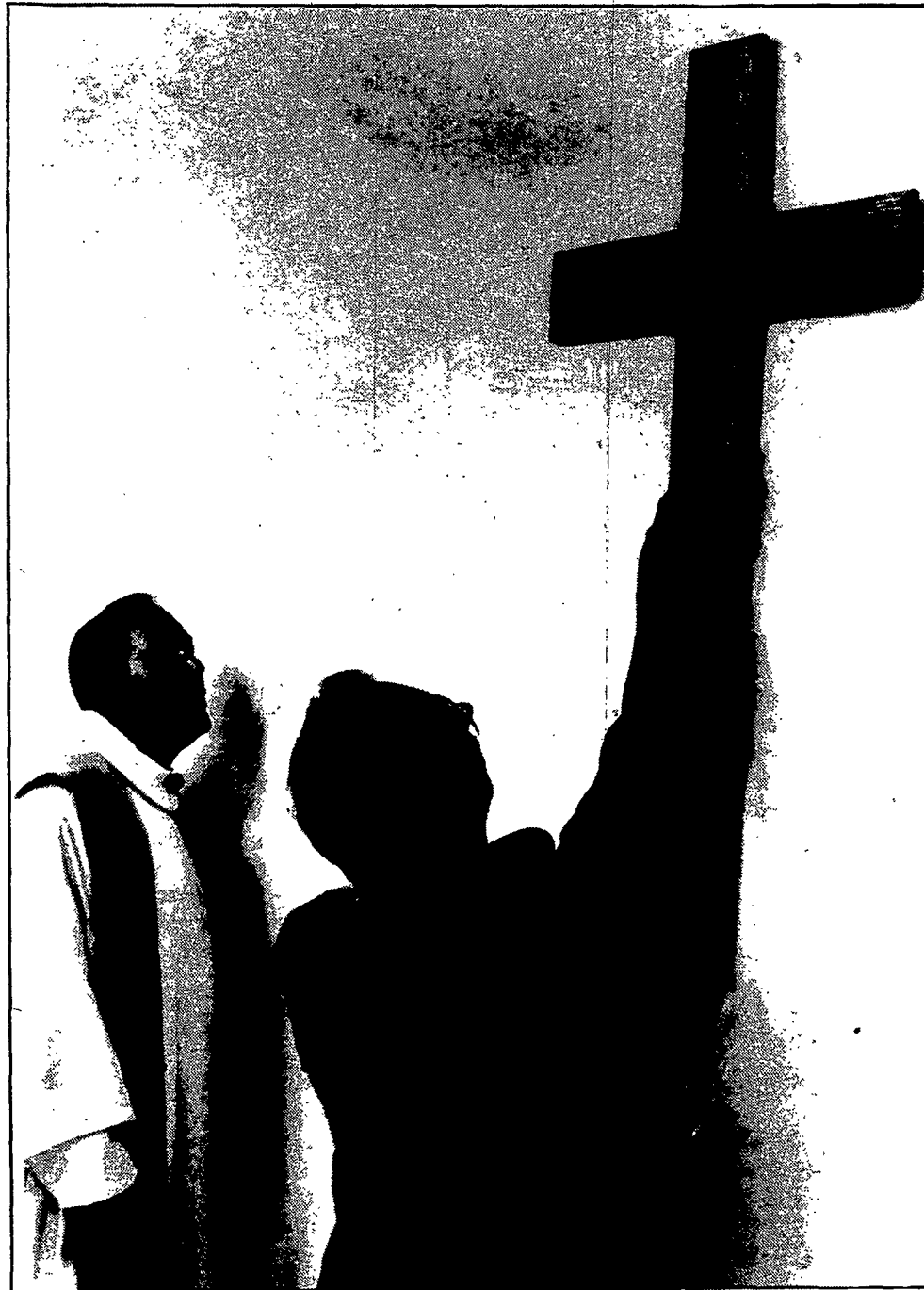
The center cost \$500,000 to build and covers 5,900 square feet, according to John Miller, a parish council member who served on the center's building committee. Parish Council President Florence Tripi noted that the parish underwrote the center's building through a fundraising drive three years ago.

"Generally, at first, you had a lot of questions, but once they were answered, it was the people that really supported and contributed to it," she said of the drive.

That kind of support reflects the overall involvement of the laity in the administration of the parish, Tripi commented. "This is a parish that exists for and encourages the involvement of the laity," she said.

Parishioners like to refer to Holy Name as a "Vatican-II parish," observed Tom Beck. "This is a very lay-run parish," Beck said. "They make the decisions."

He pointed out that the parish has never housed an elementary school. Hence, un-



Bishop Matthew H. Clark looks on as Jerry Schneider, an usher and 25-year member of the Holy Name of Jesus Parish, installs a new crucifix on the wall of the new parish center. Schneider made the crucifix out of red oak.

like other parishes that have built their communities around a school, Holy Name has had to build a community on a basis of lay involvement, Beck said. "If you need help, people come running," he added.

Kay Kurz echoed Beck's observations. "I think the laity has been very involved in the parish's development. We have never had a parish school, but we have taken it upon our shoulders to educate children and adults," she commented.

The parish has been committed to religious education since it began sending its

children to Saturday classes at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in 1964, according to a parish history compiled by Bernadine Weeg. This fall, Holy Name's school of religion, begun at Mooney in 1966, will undergo several changes, according to Beck, who chaired a committee that completed a review of the school in January 1988.

Religious-education classes will now take place on Sundays between Masses, Beck said, adding that the school also plans to eventually feature programs for the en-

tire family. "Since you have your whole family here for Mass, it will make a complete Sunday program," he said, noting, however, that specific family classes are still on the drawing board.

The school will also offer three Bible-study courses as part of the new diocesan Academy of Scripture, said Joann White, director of the school of religion. The academy, sponsored by the diocesan Department of Religious Education, will offer adults basic and advanced courses in Scripture throughout the diocese this fall.

Religious education's dynamic nature at the parish reflects Holy Name's general philosophical outlook, White noted. "This has always been a parish that is interested in renewal. We've tried to build it into programs for children and adults."

Embracing the desires of children and adults of all ages consumes the time and energy of the parish's liturgy committee, remarked Rose Marie Lombard, committee chairwoman. "We're quite open to mixing music from different traditions," she said. "Some liturgists might say that's bad liturgy, but if it reflects the composure of the parish, I don't think so."

Holy Name's population includes numerous senior citizens, she said, so the committee must balance the parish's "Vatican II" orientation with a sensitivity to older parishioners' image of the Mass. She noted that a typical Mass includes one or two older hymns and some folk music numbers.

The committee also regularly calls on parishioners of various ages to assist during Mass, Lombard said. "The general population is represented in our liturgies — male and female, young and old — and that's something that just doesn't happen. We're sensitive that we make each subgroup in the parish represented," she said, noting that at the 25th anniversary celebration, an older parishioner distributed the Eucharist and younger members participated in the offertory procession.

Balancing conservative and liberal needs in the parish means occasionally changing a planned liturgy, according to Dean Frederickson, a parish staff member who coordinates liturgical music. Frederickson said he loves older Catholic music as well as the newer styles. "Whenever possible, we use Gregorian pieces with English texts," he said. "I feel it's especially important on the feasts of the church."

Yet the music director is still waiting to pull out a Mass with jazz music intended for Bishop Clark's Sunday visit, but postponed by the liturgy committee. "It's a

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Courier editor in chief named assistant to general manager

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the appointment of Karen M. Franz, who has served as editor in chief of the *Catholic Courier* since April, 1985, to be assistant to the general manager, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. She will continue as editor in chief. Bishop Clark said that a managing editor will be appointed to oversee the day-to-day operation of the diocesan newspaper's editorial department.



Under the reorganization plan, which becomes effective September 1, all department heads will report directly to Franz. In addition, circulation — which is currently part of the business department — will become a separate department.

Franz is a graduate of Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications. Prior to her appointment to the *Courier* in April, 1985, she was employed by Wolfe Publications, Inc., which publishes nine weekly newspapers in the Rochester area. While at Wolfe she served

as assistant features editor and as copy editor for the chain of newspapers.

In assessing Franz's effect in four years at the *Courier*, Bishop Clark said, "The editorial department of the *Courier* has been vastly improved." He said that the decision to restructure the newspaper was made because, "We now feel that it is the moment to concentrate on creating a more efficient and cost-effective business operation."

Franz said she plans to give priority to the development of a business plan that will encompass all aspects of the newspaper. She said specific attention will be devoted to the newspaper's growth in the areas of circulation and advertizing, and that she will be working closely with the heads of both departments in this effort.

"In the coming year we are planning to make a major effort to improve our services to parishes, which are, of course, the major source of our circulation," she said.

Since Franz's appointment as editor in chief, the *Courier* has won a number of awards from both the national Catholic

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