

Spirit rose above flood

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File photo

The side altar at Ss. Peter and Paul was toppled by flood waters. At the height of the flood, the church was filled with eight feet of water.

siderable damage," he said. "We lost both side altars, and that's something that you can never replace; they were brought in from Italy. The main altar was salvaged, though."

By Christmas Day, the church still showed the effects of the flood. The building had not completely dried out and some spots of mud remained. But Father Foy said parishioners did not seem bothered by the damp conditions.

"We felt like the pilgrims in Bethlehem," Father Foy recalled. "I can remember preaching about Bethlehem while I was looking out at the rough floor and the dirty walls. The dampness and the deficient lights really made it feel like Bethlehem."

Sister Robertina Finnegan, SSJ, who lived at Ss. Peter and Paul convent at the time of the flood, was another admirer of the parishioners' resiliency.

"They were a great faith community; they took the flood so well," said Sister Finnegan. "They could have just walked away and went somewhere else. The (condition of the) church was like Bethlehem. It wasn't the way we would have liked it to be, but the stable wasn't either."

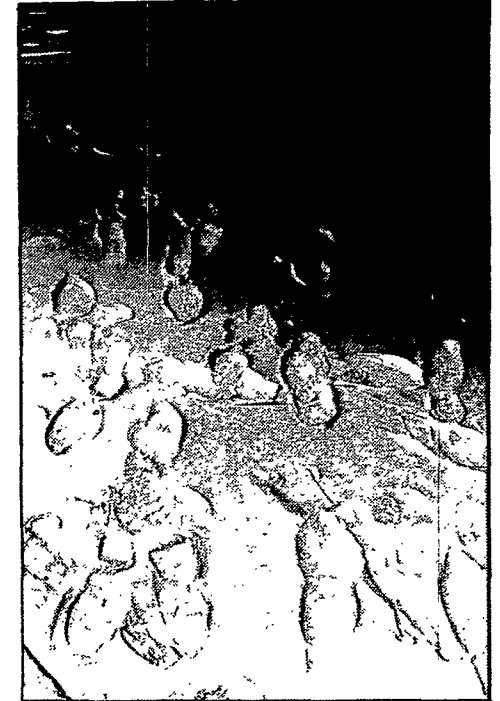
The parish's Christmas was also made special by the outpouring of clothing and gifts from throughout the diocese. "Things were brought to us like toys, clothing and food," said Sister Francis David, SSJ, who was also living at the convent in 1972. "The parish tried to carry on in the usual manner ... that was our objective. We wanted to get (parishioners) to move on."

Ziminski said that even though "90 percent of the parish was washed out," during the flood, it didn't take away from celebrat-

ing the most important religious holiday of the year.

"We patched things up. People come forward when they are faced with a disaster. You have to really experience it," Ziminski said. "Everybody knew there wasn't going to be a lot of gift giving, but it didn't bother them because they didn't lose any loved ones. Christmas was simple that year, but nobody cared."

Just like Christmas in Bethlehem.



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Marring the "carpet" laid by the flood, footprints indicated the mud level in the church and rectory. Mud coated the flood region, both inside and outside buildings.

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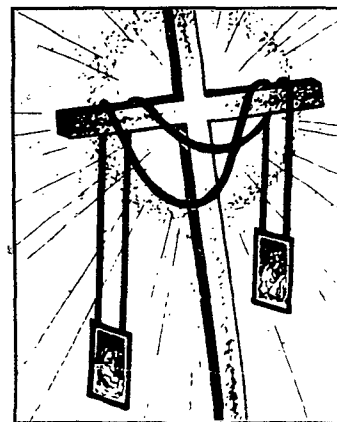
Children's

Christmas

Fund

Monies raised are used to purchase toys that area hospitals give year-round, to children who undergo ambulatory surgery or are hospitalized overnight.

191 East Ave. Rochester, New York 14604



"Whoever wears clothed
in this Scapular shall not
suffer eternal fire."
—Mary's promise to
St. Simon Stock,
July 16, 1251

MAKE YOUR FIVE FIRST SATURDAY'S NOW!

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First Saturday Reparations

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady appeared with the Child Jesus to Lucia (one of the Fatima children) at the Dorothean convent in Pontevedra.

Our Lord Jesus asked Lucia to "Have pity" on the Heart of her "Most Holy Mother" and to offer acts of reparation.

Then Our Lady said: "Look, my daughter, at my Heart encircled with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me, and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the grace necessary for salvation all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of my Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

In May 1930 Lucia was asked by her confessor to ask Our Lord why He requested five First Saturdays and not seven or nine in honor of the Sorrows of Our Lady. Our Lord told Lucia on May 29-30 of that year:

"My daughter, the motive is simple:
There are five ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- #1. The blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.
- #2. The blasphemies against Her virginity.
- #3. The blasphemies against the Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to accept her as the Mother of all mankind.
- #4. Those who try publicly to implant in the children's hearts indifference, contempt and even hatred against this Immaculate Mother.
- #5. Those who insult her directly in Her sacred images.

Here, my daughter, is the reason why the Immaculate Heart of Mary (My Mother) causes Me to ask for this little act of reparation and due to it more of My mercy to forgive those souls who had the misfortune of offending Her."

Our Lady also said at Fatima:
"If my wishes are fulfilled, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecution of the Church. The Good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be annihilated. But finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

Please help us fulfill the request of Jesus and Mary!

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