

Renovation under way at St. Patrick's in Owego

OWEGO — By the end of this year, St. Patrick's Church is expected to have a changed look.

The church, located at 300 Main St. in this Tompkins County village, is in the initial stages of a renovation project. The project's estimated cost is nearly \$775,000.

In a Feb. 10 meeting of the St. Patrick's Parish Council and Finance Committee, members voted 8-5 to initiate the project, which has been in the planning stages for three years. In addition to work on the church roof — which has already started — the renovation will target the church interior as well as the parish hall in the basement.

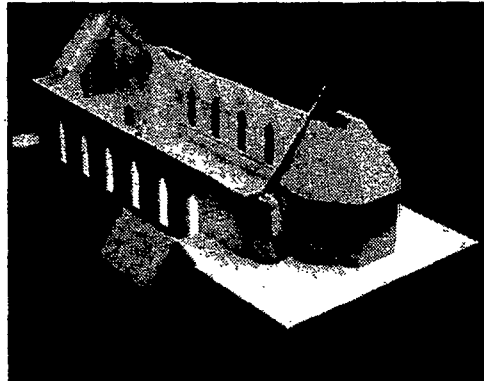
The parish hopes to have the work completed by Dec. 31, 1992. Also included in the project is renovation of the Stanbrough House, a landmark building on Front Street, which serves as the parish center. That work, part of the project's final phase, is slated for 1993.

Father William Darling, pastor of this 1,075-family parish, acknowledges that there are mixed feelings about the renovation. But he maintains that the changes are necessary for the 102-year-old edifice.

"Two-thirds of the cost are repairs that would have had to be made anyway," he maintained. "There have been a large number of parishioners who didn't want anything changed, but as a little more plaster has fallen off the walls, they've realized that we need to do this."

"We were very concerned about following the guidelines of Vatican II. We had a bunch of town meetings that the people were invited to, and we asked them what they treasured the most and would want to keep. Then we prepared three different designs. The parish had a long time debating on which design to use. The vote was 231-129 in favor of this one."

Work on the church's interior will



A small-scale model of the church, designed by project architects Doran Associates, sits in the Owego church.

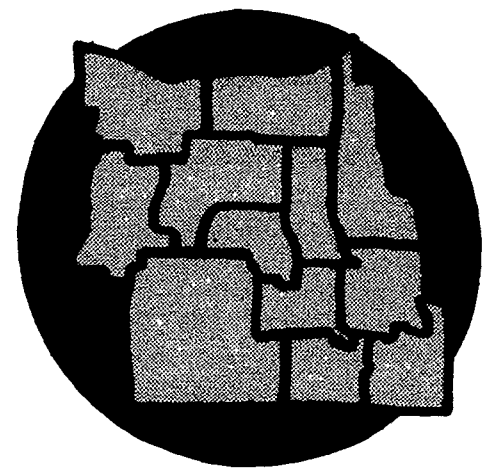
include restructuring of the pews and music area; removal of the balcony; the creation of two small chapels; better access for the handicapped; and a new entrance to the building.

Father Darling pointed out, "We're making better use of what's already here. The only things we're demolishing are the balcony and one wall. We're rearranging the space in very efficient ways."

The project's estimated cost is \$774,310. Father Darling figured that about \$175,000 of that money is already in hand. The parish is hoping that the remaining \$600,000 will come from the St. Patrick's Sesquicentennial Fund Drive, launched earlier this week.

"I think this will improve the community aspect of our parish," said Bernie Cohan, a St. Patrick's parishioner and the fund drive's co-chairman.

— Mike Latona



'Hurting' Catholics invited to sessions at Hamlin church

HAMLIN — Catholics who have been hurt by the church are invited this month to attend a series of sessions at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 3747 Brick Schoolhouse Road.

According to a press release from the church, the sessions will allow Catholics to "get their problems with the church out in the open." These problems can include alienation from the church because of divorce, abortion, annulment, birth control, or differences with a priest.

The sessions will begin on March 15, when staff members will listen to any grievances. On March 22, the staff will respond to concerns about the church. The sessions will conclude on March 29, when participants will be advised on what they can do and how they can resolve their problems with the church.

Call 716/964-8627 for information.

Parish set to offer 'Evenings of Reflection' in March

HENRIETTA — As part of its Lenten celebration, Good Shepherd Parish, 3318 E. Henrietta Road, is offering "Evenings of Reflection" from 7-8:15 p.m. The programs take place from 7-8:15 p.m. in Room 113 of the school, 3288 E. Henrietta Road.

Sister Barbara Moore will present "An Exploration of Our Woundedness" on Wednesday, March 18. Betty Carr will present "Do You Want to Be Healed?" on Thursday, March 26.

In addition, the parish has scheduled its seventh annual Lenten mission from March 31 to April 2. The pro-

grams will run from 7:30-9:15 p.m. in the chapel.

Father Joseph L. Larrabee will speak on "Embracing Life's Wounds" on Tuesday, March 31. Two workshops will close out the mission. On Wednesday, April 1, Kathleen Mahoney and Joe Piersante will present "The Pain and the Possibility," with guided meditation by Father Edward L. Palumbos.

Artist Kristin Malone will present "Gifts for Re-Membering" on Thursday, April 2.

Call Gloria Ulterino at 716/334-3023.

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