

The new 12,600-square foot church at St. Mark's Parish, 54 Kuhn Road, Greece, can accommodate about 830 people. A collective effort involving 50 to 60 parishioners helped carve the church's landscaping.

St. Mark's celebrates new church

GREECE — Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a special dedication Mass for the new church at St. Mark Parish, 54 Kuhn Road, on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 21.

Designed by Robert Healey of LaBella Construction and built by Javen Construction Company, the new church covers 12,600 square feet. The cost to complete the building project was \$1.5 million.

Funds to build the new church were raised during a pledge drive directed by parishioners Jim Bell, Tom McCarthy and Jack Palvino.

The Aug. 21 Mass culminated three years of efforts to build the new church, according to information provided by Meg Gerke, chairwoman of the communications committee.

A parish-wide survey taken in 1990 revealed that most parishioners wanted a larger church building. The old church, which was built in 1965, was actually intended to be a temporary worship space, according to Gerke. The old church accommodated only 180 people; the church hall could handle up to 350 people for overflow seating.

Between the main church, the daily Mass chapel and family room, the new church can accommodate about 830 people, according to Father Thomas M. Erdle, pastor. The added space is welcomed since the parish now numbers 1,100 families, the pastor added.

Ground was broken in July, 1992, and the first Mass in the new church was celebrated on June 12.

Father Erdle noted that the church's landscape was created by a collective effort of between 50-60 parishioners.

Although the new church adheres to

post-Vatican II worship space guidelines, its stained-glass windows and ornate furnishings — particularly the ambry and altar — echo a more traditional church look than that found in many churches built following the council.

Debra M. Litwiller, a member of the committee on arts and environment, noted that the new church's combined traditional/contemporary look was no accident — a thought Father Erdle echoed. The parish wanted such a look, they both noted, and, in particular, Litwiller credited Roger Otis, the professional sculptor the parish hired, for turning that desire into reality.

In addition to the expanded seating, the new church also boasts the following features designed by Otis and Healy: could," she said.



Father Thomas M. Erdle, St. Mark's pastor, celebrated a special dedication Mass with Bishop Matthew H. Clark on Aug. 21.

Litwiller met Otis at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where they both pursued graduate degrees in woodworking. Otis wound up doing 14 different pieces inside the church, he said.

In addition to the expanded seating, the new church also boasts the following features designed by Otis and Healy:

- A granite and mahogany altar. "The rich red earth tones of the mahogany (symbolizes) our flesh and blood ties to the earth," Otis said in a parish information packet. "And the granite base is symbolic of the Gospel of Jesus Christ being built upon a rock"

Continued on page 18

Family Care

Continued from page 4

bled individuals, Dechaine said. Thus, she added, the diocesan program will encompass a wider variety of disabilities than many of the other programs.

Further, Dechaine said, adding Family Care to the programs the diocese currently offers will enable Catholic Charities Residential Services to provide a greater variety of services — ranging from group homes to supported apartments to support for individuals in their own homes.

"We are committed to giving people the kind of environment that's good for them," Dechaine said.

EDITORS' NOTE: People interested in learning more about Family Care may contact Dechaine at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, by calling 716/328-3210.

— Lee Strong

Offices helping disabled offer limited accessibility

ROCHESTER — Even as Catholic Charities Residential Program expands its services to developmentally disabled individuals (see related story), staff members acknowledge a problem with the location of their main offices.

Diocesan Social Ministry, which encompasses Catholic Charities, is located on the third floor of the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road. The building's first floor is handicapped accessible; the third floor is not.

Paul Pickering, director of the Residential Program, said the staff had considered possible solutions.

One option would have been to relocate the offices of staff members who deal with disabled individuals — particularly the office of Lucy Dechaine, director of Community Services — to the first floor.

But Pickering said staff members agreed that they did not want to separate Dechaine from the rest of the program's offices.

A second option would have been to move the entire department to the first floor. Pickering said that option wasn't possible because the first floor is already occupied by the Offices of Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Human Resources.

Thus the decision was made to keep all Residential Services offices on the third floor. In situations where disabled individuals meet with staff at the Pastoral Center, the meetings are held in rooms on the first floor.

He said, however, "Most of our work is going out to the individual rather than their coming to us."

Indeed, Dechaine reported that

since she moved to the Pastoral Center in January, no clients had come to 1150 Buffalo Road.

One long-term option would involve making the Pastoral Center handicapped accessible on all three floors. But doing so would require the installation of an elevator, the cost of which would be prohibitive, noted Eric Patchke, diocesan manager of Building and Properties.

Both Pickering and Patchke acknowledged that the situation might change if the the Pastoral Center added more disabled staff members. Dechaine — who is blind — is the only full-time, disabled employee.

Dechaine said that she has had no problem using the stairs.

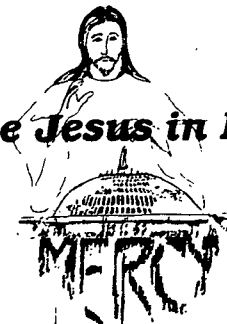
"My eyes are the only part of me that don't work properly," she said.

Oneida Indian Nation Bingo
 HWY 46 - 3 MILES SOUTH OF ONEIDA • 1-800-782-1938
 Saturday Eve, Aug. 28th, Special -
Money Machine Game
 Winner spends one minute in the "Money Machine" with a chance to win up to
\$15,000

CONGRESS OF THE DIVINE MERCY

OCTOBER 5, 6, & 7, 1993

Experience Jesus in His Mercy



Come and enter with us into the mystery of Jesus' Divine Mercy, in three full days and evenings of presentations and events here at this beautiful Shrine to Mary. Nationally prominent speakers will help us to embrace the living Mercy of Jesus so very close to each of us, as we face the challenges of life today.

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

1023 Swann Rd • PO Box 67 • Youngstown, NY 14174-0167
 1-800-55-MERCY