

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established in St. Matthew Parish in January, 1931, with George Dettloff, President, Leslie Hartway, Vice-President, and Al Schwehofer, Secretary-Treasurer.

For almost 25 years the Society has been continuously doing a commendable job of giving spiritual and material assistance in the parish.

Today the Society consists of eight active and 18 honorary members. Father John O'Neill is Spiritual Director; Louis Getz, President; Leo Petz, Vice-President; John Murphy, Treasurer; Eugene Chapp, Secretary. Joseph Rademacher, Alfred Jehle, James Killeen and Anthony Petz are active in the work of the society.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

The Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers is a spiritual organization which unites Christian women by the observance of its rules and regulations.

The Confraternity in St. Matthew Parish was organized in June, 1927, under the direction of the late Father James P. Welsh, former pastor.

First officers of the Confraternity were:

Mrs. James Young, *President*

Mrs. M. Conselman, *Vice-President*

Mrs. M. Wenzel, *Secretary*

Mrs. Joseph Eger, *Treasurer*

The Confraternity takes care of the altars in the church. Members receive Holy Communion in a body once a month. For every good deed performed in the interest of the society, an indulgence is granted.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The National Council of Catholic Women is a federation of organizations of Catholic lay women in the United States. Its purpose is threefold:

- to unite all Catholic women for joint action whenever, in the judgment of the Bishops, such action is indicated
- to serve as a clearing house for plans and programs for all Catholic lay women's organizations
- to serve as a unifying force and a channel of communication for programs and projects suitable for the affiliated lay groups

The Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women has been affiliated with the National Council since 1938. Deanery Councils exist in the eight deaneries. St. Matthew Parish has been represented in the Eastern Deanery from its beginning in 1938.

Two organizations belong to St. Matthew Parish Council: St. Matthew Women's Club and the Christian Mothers. The Parish Council encourages, stimulates and guides women's activities within the parish.

Women Volunteer Service

Reports from St. Matthew Council to the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women show that the women of this parish contribute thousands of volunteer hours in a variety of fields.

Last year the Cancer Sewing Group completed a total of 3,835 pads for the American Cancer Society and distributed 1,500 tags during Cancer Week.

Each year many members work on the Mothers' March on Polio and on the Torch Fund.

Post Motion Picture Ratings

The women post motion picture rating lists in the church, keep the religious pamphlet racks supplied, visit stores in the neighborhood to curb the distribution of indecent literature.

Many hours of volunteer work are also reported in such fields as hospitals, Camp Fire Girls, Cub Scouts, and the teaching of Christian Doctrine.

Thousands of pounds of clothing are donated to relief agencies each year. Last year the parish Council sponsored a USO party. Thirty-four women completed Red Cross Home Nursing courses.

Report Spiritual Development

In spiritual development, too, our reports have been most gratifying. Reports show block rosary groups, family rosary groups, living rosary groups, hours of adoration, days of recollection, retreats, and pilgrimages.

An almost overwhelming number of scapulars and rosary beads have been completed for the Chaplain's Aid.

Parish Women Hold Office

Three St. Matthew women have held office in the Eastern Deanery :

<i>Secretary</i>	1938-1939	Mrs. Basil Cunningham
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	1952-1954	Mrs. Daniel Sweeney
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	1954-1956	Mrs. A. H. Einheuser

The following women have served as chairmen in the Deanery :

<i>Discussion Clubs</i>	1940-1941	Mrs. Basil Cunningham
<i>Family Life</i>	1946-1947	Mrs. A. H. Einheuser
<i>Bulletin</i>	1947-1952	Mrs. T. J. Stodola
<i>Library and Literature</i>	1950-1951	Mrs. Lawrence Kratz
<i>Discussion Clubs</i>	1952-1954	Mrs. A. H. Einheuser
<i>History</i>	1954-1956	Mrs. Daniel Sweeney
<i>Reception</i>	1954-1956	Mrs. A. H. Einheuser

Ten women have served as St. Matthew Parish Representatives to the Eastern Deanery. They are :

Mrs. Basil Cunningham	Mrs. Frank McKay
Mrs. John E. Quirk	Mrs. T. J. Stodola
Mrs. Frank Smith	Mrs. Frank Hall
Mrs. Norbert Hoffman	Mrs. Robert Montgomery
Miss Adelaide Huhn	Mrs. Martin A. Gorman

Present Parish Council officers are :

Parish Representative — Mrs. Martin A. Gorman

Chairmen

<i>Spiritual Development</i>	Mrs. Vincent Lauer
<i>Discussion Groups</i>	Mrs. A. H. Einheuser
<i>Library and Literature</i>	Mrs. Marvin Brinkman
<i>Decency Crusade</i>	Mrs. Martin A. Gorman
<i>Chaplains Aid</i>	Mrs. Leo Jarosik
<i>Civic Solicitations</i>	Mrs. William Sherman
<i>Cancer Sewing Group</i>	Mrs. George Lauhoff
<i>Red Cross Home Nursing</i>	Mrs. Clarence Wagner

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Two hundred twenty-three elementary school children in this area who do not attend Catholic schools received regular weekly religious instruction through the Catholic Instruction League in St. Matthew Parish in 1954. Three children were baptized, 45 prepared for First Holy Communion, 43 Confirmed, and 5 placed in parochial schools.

In 1938, the League was admitted to the Archdiocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine under the direction of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John C. Ryan, former St. Matthew Assistant.

Classes are conducted weekly on Monday for children at Arthur School, and at St. Matthew School for the students attending Stellwagon School; on Tuesday, at Finney School.

Director of Catholic instruction for St. Matthew Parish is Mrs. Harold J. Oliver. Parish spiritual director for members of the League is Father John E. O'Neill.

The following parishioners serve as teachers :

Mrs. J. Blanchfield	Mrs. W. Schulte	Mr. M. O'Brien
Mrs. M. Nath	Mrs. F. Sieman	Mrs. J. Murphy
Mrs. V. Lauer	Mrs. M. Craig	Mrs. E. Rotarius
Mrs. J. Ungelback	Mrs. F. Hall	Mrs. F. C. Pohl
Mrs. W. J. Howard	Mrs. H. B. Kearns	Mrs. G. Quinn

For students attending public high schools, Fr. John O'Neill and Fr. Gerald Nitoski conduct classes each Monday evening in St. Matthew School. During the last scholastic year, 45 students attended these instruction classes.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

MEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE

According to the records, the following charter members of St. Matthew Men's Bowling League have not missed a season since the League was organized in 1939:

T. Long	W. Pokriefka	W. Howard	Dr. C. Shaver
L. Jensen	J. Wroblewski	S. Jacobson	B. King
R. Carion	W. Hearsh	O. Lenhard	B. Gottlieb
E. Cook, Sr.	C. Pfanzer	C. Stoll	F. Lyons
A. Handloser			A. Louwers

Originally, the League was composed of fourteen teams, organized under the spiritual direction of Father Vincent Myrick whom Father Joseph Fillion appointed to work with the group.

After a year the number of teams in the League was increased to 20, the size of the League today.

Officers for the first year were:

President: L. Easterman
Vice-President: A. Allwein
Secretary: B. King
Treasurer: L. Jensen
Trustees: R. Bielman
A. Louwers
W. Steinle

Officers for the 1955-'56 season are:

President: W. Dubeau
Vice-President: J. Murray
Secretary: R. Pokriefka
Treasurer: W. Pokriefka
Trustees: J. Kolly
B. Gottleib

The Men's Bowling League sponsors a number of social events in addition to its regular bowling nights. To replace the popular roast beef dinners which were held in the past under the stewardship of Joseph Van Deweghe, the League holds two mid-season dinners annually, at Buckingham Hall, supervised by Julius Tanceusz. A Bowling banquet is held at the end of the season.

Special events during the year are bowling for turkeys at Thanksgiving, and the end-of-the-season doubles and team tournaments.

The League is grateful to the following sponsors who have supported it since its founding:

Cook Motor Sales	Van Deweghe Mortuary	Paige-Matejec
Dr. Charles Shaver, Optometrist	Jack's Super Service	Doetsch Brothers

The St. Matthew Men's Bowling League meets at Regal Lanes, on Wednesday evenings, at 9.00 P.M.

LADIES' BOWLING LEAGUE

St. Matthews Ladies' Bowling League meets at Maple Lanes Recreation, E. Warren near Mack, Thursday evenings, at 9:00 P.M.

The purpose of the League is to promote friendship and fellowship among the members. All women of the parish who are interested in bowling are invited to join the League or register as substitutes.

The League was first organized in 1928. Mrs. A. Carreyn was its first president and Mrs. J. Eger Secretary-Treasurer.

After a period of inactivity, the League was re-activated in 1939 under the spiritual direction of Father Joseph Fillion. First officers of the reorganized League were Mrs. Omer De Smedt, president, and Mrs. Ben J. King, secretary-treasurer.

President for the 1954-55 season is Mrs. Ralph E. Nicholson. In addition to bowling, the League sponsors several other activities. One is an annual card party for the benefit of St. Matthew Parish. Another is a banquet to celebrate the end of each bowling season, at which awards are given to the top individual players and teams.

DADS' CLUB

St. Matthew Dads' Club, the newest club in the parish, welcomes this opportunity to publicize its goal—"Every Dad a member of the Dads' Club."

The Dads' Club was organized in October, 1954, with the approval of Father Joseph Fillion. Father Thomas Shields, assistant, was the club's first spiritual director.

The officers of the club are:

<i>President:</i>	Donald Alter	<i>Corresponding Secretary:</i>	Martin Gorman
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Donald Hatzenbuhler Frank Novak	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Albert Marshall
<i>Recording Secretary:</i>	Edward Lucas	<i>Board Members:</i>	Edward Kennedy Joseph Payne Neil Schwartz

The purpose of the Dads' Club is to aid in the promotion and supervision of organized games and recreational activities for the children of St. Matthew Parish. Attention is given to their spiritual as well as their physical development.

Under the guidance of Father Joseph Fillion, and with the cooperation of the Sisters of St. Matthew School, the club has grown, in nine months, from a few men to a membership of 175.

Since October, 1954, the Dads' Club has sponsored grade school dances, chaperoned all High School Club activities, supervised all athletic events, and supplied needed athletic equipment.

The Club has formed soft ball, hard ball, and swimming clubs and initiated marble contests for the children of the parish.

The Dads' have also formed a choral group of 60 children who, with other youth of the parish, presented the first annual Dads' Club Talent and Variety Show on October 14th and 15th, 1955.



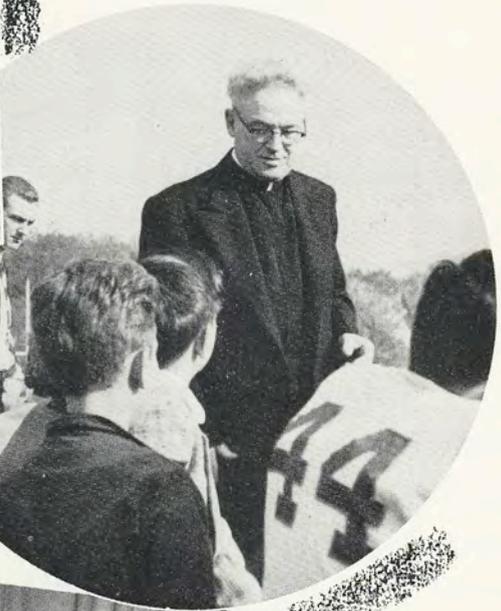
Fr. Fillion had a great time at the First Annual St. Matthew Dads' Family Picnic on Sept. 11, 1955. He is shown talking with Club Officers, Albert Marshall, Pres. Donald Alter and Martin Gorman.



Fr. Fillion entered the egg-throwing contest, cigar, homburg and all.



Grade School City Football Champions, 1949.



Grade School City Baseball Champions, 1952-1953.



CYO Minor Division Basketball Champions, 1953.

ATHLETICS

St. Matthew Parish is a name that has been well known and often feared in inter-parish competition ever since the parish was founded.

In keeping with the idea that recreation and competitive sports contribute to a strong and healthy mental attitude, and that good sportsmanship goes hand-in-hand with spiritual values well formed, St. Matthew Parish has, for many years, conducted quite an extensive recreational program. Adults, youth, particularly those of high school age, and children at the elementary school level, participate.

Adults Distinguish Themselves

Tales of the crack men's softball team of the days preceding World War II are still heard around the parish. Father Fillion and some of his assistants were members of that team.

Even more enduring are the men's and women's bowling leagues which have been in existence many years.

The adults have acquitted themselves in fine fashion in C.Y.O. competition. The Major Men have won several divisional championships in baseball and basketball. The Senior Girls have won both divisional and city honors.

Youth Win Recognition

The youth of St. Matthew Parish, especially those of high school age, have achieved city-wide recognition in several fields since the inception of the C.Y.O.

The Minor Boys were City Champions in basketball in 1946-'47; the Intermediate Girls in 1947-'48. Both these teams won again in 1952-'53.

School Sports Program Organized

St. Matthew School has a well-organized sports program.

For a number of years, the elementary school boys have taken part in competition sponsored by the C.Y.O. Teams represent St. Matthew School in football, basketball, and baseball in the C.Y.O. League, which is the largest of its kind in the country.

St. Matthew School teams have won several divisional championships in the powerful Northeast Division of the C.Y.O. League. Three times in the last ten years they have been city champions; in baseball in 1946, in football in 1949, in baseball in 1953.

Ray Jungwirth, a member of the championship baseball team of 1946, directed the 1953 team to its championship.

For the past two seasons, the St. Matthew School girls have entered competition in basketball, winning the championship of the Northeast Division in the 1954-'55 season.

Training Shows Results

The high school and college athletic records of the boys and girls who participated in St. Matthew School athletic programs show the results of the training they have received. Many have gone on to star in sports.

But more important are the other benefits of training in competitive sports. Participation in team play teaches our children how to work with others to achieve a common goal, and how to accept defeat. It helps them to develop a fighting spirit.

Many Contribute to Program

Many people in the parish have worked together to make our athletic program a success. Father Joseph Fillion, our pastor, co-operates in the program and supports it generously. His assistants and former assistants, the late Father Morgan Harris, Father Robert Kilcoyne, Father Thomas Shields, and Father John O'Neill, who have served as athletic directors have given time and encouragement to our teams. The Sisters of St. Matthew School do their part to make the sports program a success. The people of the parish, the fathers, especially those in the Dads' Club, the mothers, relatives and friends of our athletes, loyally give their support—moral and financial—to a program intended to achieve this ideal: "a healthy mind in a healthy body" for all the youth of St. Matthew Parish.

Athletic Achievements

1945-46	Basketball	(Grade School Boys)	N.E. Division Champs
1946	Baseball	(Grade School Boys)	City Champs
1946-47	Basketball	(Minor Boys)	City Champs
1947	Baseball	(Grade School Boys)	East Division Champs
1947-48	Basketball	(Intermediate Girls)	City Champs
1948	Baseball	(Minor Boys)	N.E. Division Champs and Runnerup to City Champs
1948-49	Basketball	(Junior Boys)	East Division Champs
1949	Baseball	(Minor Boys #1)	N.E. Division Champs
1949	Baseball	(Minor Boys #2)	East Division Champs
1949	Football	(Grade School Boys)	City Champs
1950	Baseball	(Grade School Boys)	N.E. Division Champs
1950-51	Basketball	(Intermediate Girls)	N.E. Division Champs and Runnerup to City Champs
1951	Baseball	(Grade School Boys)	N.E. Division Champs
1951-52	Basketball	(Men's Majors)	N.E. Division Champs
1952-53	Basketball	(Minor Boys)	City Champs
1952-53	Basketball	(Intermediate Girls)	City Champs
1953	Baseball	(Grade School Boys)	City Champs
1953-54	Basketball	(Grade School Boys)	N.E. Division Champs and East Side Runnerup
1954-55	Basketball	(Senior Girls)	East Division Champs and Runnerup to City Champs
1954-55	Basketball	(Grade School Girls)	N.E. Division Champs



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CLUB

In 1950, a small group of young adults decided to band together and form a young people's club. Their purpose was good, clean entertainment in the company of fellow Catholics. Their first efforts to form a permanent organization did not meet with success, but a year and half later interest in a group of this kind revived.

Father Joseph Fillion appointed Father Gerald Nitoski to help establish the group and act as its spiritual advisor. The Club elected officers, drew up a constitution, and began a membership drive.

Decide on Minstrel Show

With about twenty young people enrolled, the young people decided to put on a minstrel show. When this word got around, membership boomed. A large group of young people took part in the six months of planning and practice that preceded the show. Approximately 50 were in the cast. The show, which ran for 5 performances, played to an audience of approximately 1500.

Dick Brouckaert, a talented young man with an ear for music, deserves much credit for the success of the venture.

Membership Booms

In the spring of 1954, with word of the minstrel show on everyone's lips, the Young People's Club was really booming. New members flocked to join. But, for several reasons, membership dropped off somewhat after a time.

As a result of the wholesome companionship of the members during practice for the show, wedding bells were ringing for many in the not too distant future.

Uncle Sam had his eye on a few of our talented men, and thought they would be a sensation in the starring role of G.I.'s in the U.S. Army.

Although the club felt the loss of many good members, it was happy to be achieving its purpose of fostering Catholic friendships and wholesome entertainment.

In the fall a new group of officers took over the tremendous job of living up to their predecessors. They came up with a new idea to keep members interested, a trip to Gaylord, Michigan, for a week-end of skiing.

In February of '55, 34 members boarded a Greyhound bus for Gaylord. The week-end proved to be a test of skill on skis and who'll win the pinochle match.

Plan Other Entertainment

The club is interested in educational activities along with entertainment. Mr. Sam Torini, a lawyer, gave a talk to the group on the "Separation of Church and State." The President of the Flying Saucer Club of Detroit, Mr. George Maday, spoke on flying saucers.

Unusual types of fun also intrigue the club. Board members search for the "definitely different" in entertainment. Horseback riding, moonlight trips to Bob-lo, picnics, stage plays, swimming, a trip to Cranbrook, and, most unusual of all, a canoe trip down the Au Sable River have the members wondering, "What's next?"

The club does not neglect the spiritual side of life. The third Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday for the group. Recently, some of the members went up north for a week-end retreat. A three-day mission for all the young people of the parish is in the planning stage. The club boasts three religious vocations of former active members.

The Young People's Club invites all young people of the parish out of high school to join in the fun and work with the group to fulfill the aims and hopes of its members.



BOY SCOUTS

As a Troop, and as individuals, the Boy Scouts of Troop 148 have won recognition in Catholic Scouting.

Troop 148 is one of the few which has participated in every Boy Scout Retreat since the first one held at Duns Scotus in 1949. This year, 52 boys and leaders of Troop 148 were present at the Scout Retreat at Camp Howell, Brighton, Michigan, which brought together 2600 Scouts and their leaders.

Five active members of Troop 148 have received the highest religious award in Scouting, the Ad Altare Dei medal which signifies that a Scout knows well the teachings of his faith and has given a minimum of 150 hours service to his parish.

1000 Boys from Troop 148

Almost a thousand boys have belonged to Troop 148 since it was organized approximately 25 years ago. The average annual enrollment is from 40 to 60. More than half our Scouts attain First Class rank or better. Many have become Star and Life Scouts. A few have earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The men who have served as leaders, assistant leaders, and committee men for Troop 148 are responsible for its fine record of achievement. First Scoutmaster for the Troop was Father C. A. Murphy, now at St. Francis Cabrini Parish in Allen Park.

Others who have led the Troop are: W. Edgar Murray, George Herbert (deceased), M. H. Lysaght, Frank J. Nowicki, Clayton Willard (deceased), E. F. Guswiler, T. Stansberry, I. Wheaton, and Francis Weber, the present Scoutmaster. Several of these men have gone on to higher offices in Scouting.

Over the years, the Scouts of Troop 148 have camped out during the four seasons, learning to take care of themselves in all kinds of weather. Highlights of these trips have been the camp-outs at the Scout Reservation at Brighton, D-Bar-A Camp at Metamora, state parks at Lakeport and Bay City, as guests of Troop B-11 at Lapeer, Sportsmen's Congress at Oxford, Algonac State Park, Chelsea State Park, Kensington Park, the Kiwanis Camp at Lapeer, and a train trip to Jackson.

Mothers Help Equip Troop

The Boy Scouts Mothers' Club of Troop 148 was formed in 1951 to assist the Dads and Scouts in equipping the Troop. As a result, the Troop now has, in addition to its own trailer, enough equipment to tent about 50 boys and 15 men, as well as its own lights, water, and cooking facilities. On a camp-out, Troop 148 looks like a miniature city.

Registration is in January

The new registration period for the troop is in January. Boys over eleven years of age are welcome to join.

CUB SCOUTS

At the Annual Scout Exposition this year, our Cub Pack won district-wide awards as well as a number of individual awards. This is typical of Cub Pack 148 which has been one of the foremost youth organizations in the parish for the past 15 years.

Dens of six to eight boys, from eight to ten years of age, meet weekly in the homes of volunteer Den Mothers to learn co-operative work and play.

A Pack meeting is held each month in the parish hall, under the supervision of the volunteer Cub committee men, to review the work of the past month and plan for the month ahead.

Highlights of the Cubs' year include: the Father and Son Picnic in October, the Christmas party, the Blue and Gold Dinner in February, and the Family Picnic in June.

Last year, under the leadership of Chairman George Netscke and Cub Master Arthur Van Hoeck, there were more than 50 active Cubs.

Cub Pack 148 was founded in 1940 under the chairmanship of Clarence G. Adams. Clayton Willard was the first Cub Master. More than a thousand boys have been members of this Pack.

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts were organized in St. Matthew Parish in the fall of 1951, for girls from 7 to 14 years of age. Mrs. William P. Cusick, a member of the parish and a former leader in Scouting, was instrumental in organizing the group.

The Women's Club of St. Matthew's sponsors the Girl Scout units in the parish: the Brownie, Intermediate, and Teen Age Troops. Mothers of the Scouts serve as Volunteer Troop Leaders.

Each year, a Girl Scout Investiture ceremony is held in St. Matthew Church for those who are joining the group and those who are advancing in rank.

HIGH SCHOOL CLUB

Since its origin, St. Matthew High School Club has sponsored everything from swimming in mid-winter to picnics in the early spring. It is well known among other high-school groups in the area for its novel ideas.

The club was organized in the fall of 1951, with Father Robert Kilcoyne as spiritual advisor.

Last year, with Father Thomas Shields as spiritual director and Bill Yott as president, the High School Club drew up a constitution.

The objective of the club is to promote wholesome recreation, Catholic friendships, prayer, and Catholic ideals.

ARCHITECTURE

St. Matthew Church is built in the form of a crucifix, with a semi-circular sanctuary, a style of Christian architecture which has been popular since the earliest days of the Church.

All through the Christian era, symbolism has been used conspicuously in church architecture. It is recorded that the early Christians used symbols to decorate the catacombs outside the city of Rome. Following this precedent, a certain amount of symbolism is used in St. Matthew Church.

Imported Marble Enhances Altar

In front of the main altar, which is of imported marbles, is a bas relief of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper." On both sides of this are colored marble inserts of the Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which signify that Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.

Four mosaic symbols on the face of the gradines at the top and back of the altar represent the four evangelists. The winged man symbolizes St. Matthew, typifying the Incarnation. The winged lion is a symbol of St. Mark and the Resurrection. The winged ox, St. Luke, is symbolic of patience and strength. The eagle is a symbol of St. John and the Ascension.

Outside and above the main altar, four fluted columns support a canopy of wood richly painted in colors and gold leaf. Symbols of the Seven Sacraments, Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Extreme Unction, are repeated in squares on the front and sides of the canopy. A carved wood crucifix is suspended from the canopy. Surmounting the canopy is a gilded cross.

Use Symbols on Side Altars

On the face of the side altars, which are of imported marbles, is an insert panel with colored marble monograms. One is the symbol of Mary, the Blessed Virgin; the other is of St. Joseph. At each side of the symbol for Mary is an inserted mosaic figure of a rose, symbol of the Nativity. At each side of the symbol for St. Joseph is a mosaic lily, representing Easter, purity, and immortality.

The pulpit, also of imported marble, has carved panels in a grape vine design which signifies the Blood of Christ and the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

Railing is of Bronze

The base and posts of the communion rail are marble. The railing is bronze. In alternate panels, there is a monogram of the Chi Rho, the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. The other panels have a bronze cross.

The panels in the communion rail gate are a little more elaborate, with grape vine ornament. In one gate is a

cross and sunburst and the letters I.H.S. which stand for the first three letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus. The other gate has a Chalice and grape ornament, symbolic of the Blood of Jesus and the Holy Eucharist.

The baptistry is set off from the narthex by a wrought iron and bronze screen made in Spain.

Marble has been used extensively in the interior of the church, for walls, wainscoting, columns, window sills and floors.

A Wicks pipe organ has been installed in the Church.

Exterior Is Romanesque

The church, built of granite, marble, stone, and other masonry is in the Romanesque style.

The exterior is of crab orchard stone in shades of buff, tan, and brown, laid in various thicknesses. The trim is of Indiana limestone. Granite is used for all entrance steps and sills.

Marking the main entrance portico are rose red granite columns from Sweden.

In the gable of the main facade is a sculptured figure of St. Matthew, the patron saint, in stone.

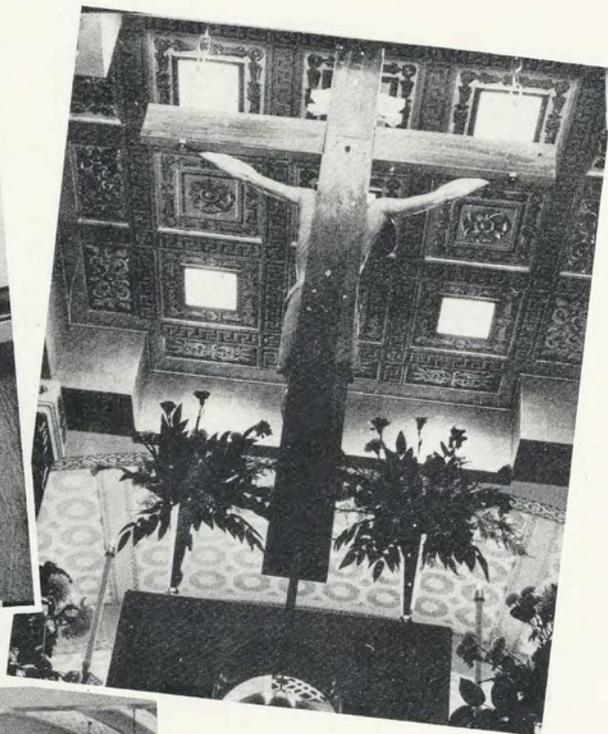
The pitched roofs are covered with red shingle tiles. Copper covered domes surmount the two towers at the front of the building.

Church Accommodates 1200

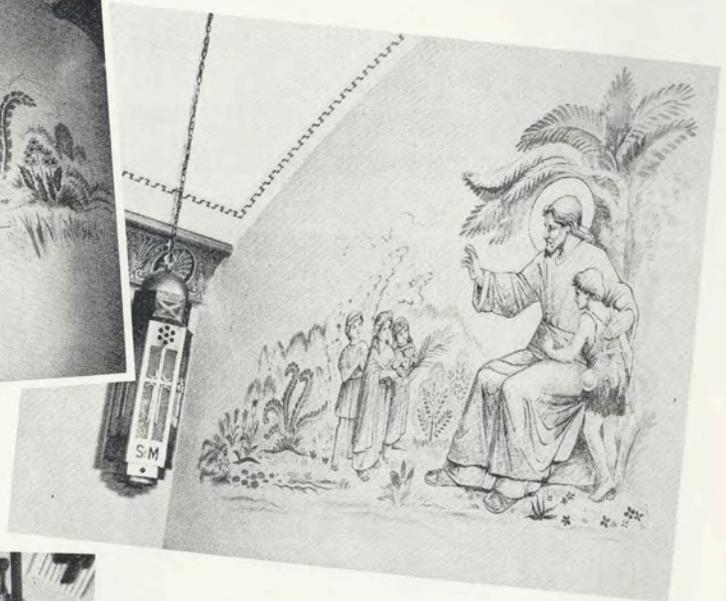
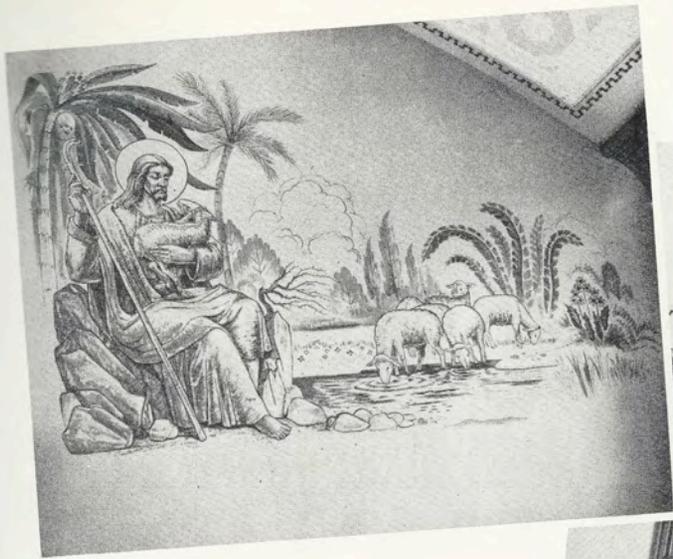
The church will seat nearly 1200 persons. The full basement is designed to be used for church services, but it can be converted into a large parish hall by means of folding doors which close off the sanctuary and sacristies. A kitchen in the basement is equipped for serving large groups.

Rectory Joins Church

A rectory adjoining the church provides accommodations for the pastor and four assistants. In addition, there are five offices, three guest rooms, and quarters for two housekeepers.



Upper left: Bas relief of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" on front of main altar. Upper right: Ceiling of canopy above main altar to show decorative carving. Lower left: At the Dedication ceremony. Lower right: Imported marble statue of the Sacred Heart, carved in Italy.



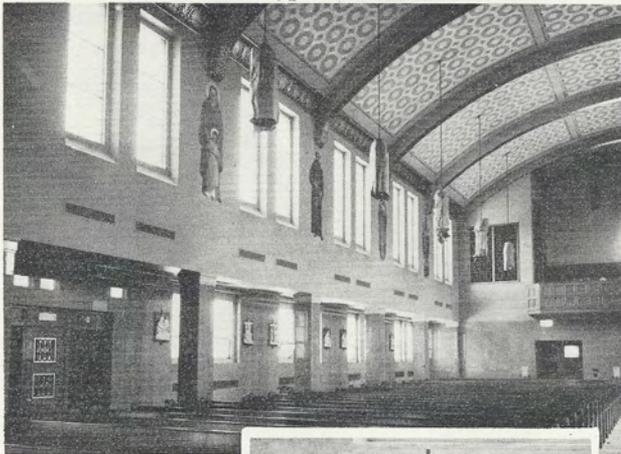
Above: Murals in tones of brown decorate side walls at front of church. Lower left: View of side aisle to show decorative ceiling. Lower right: Imported marble statue of Virgin and Child, in flesh tones and soft blue-gray surmounts left side altar.



Four fluted marble columns support a canopy of richly painted wood above the main altar. A mosaic of Christ and the Apostles will grace the sanctuary ceiling.



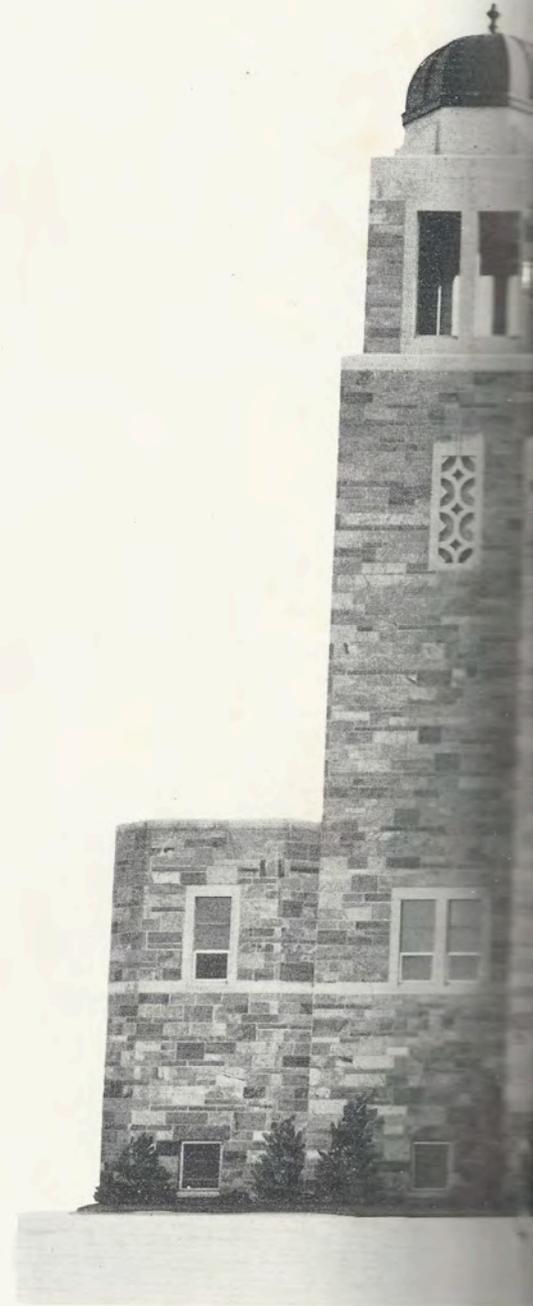
Symbols of the seven Sacraments, painted in gold leaf and color, are repeated in squares on the front and sides of the canopy.

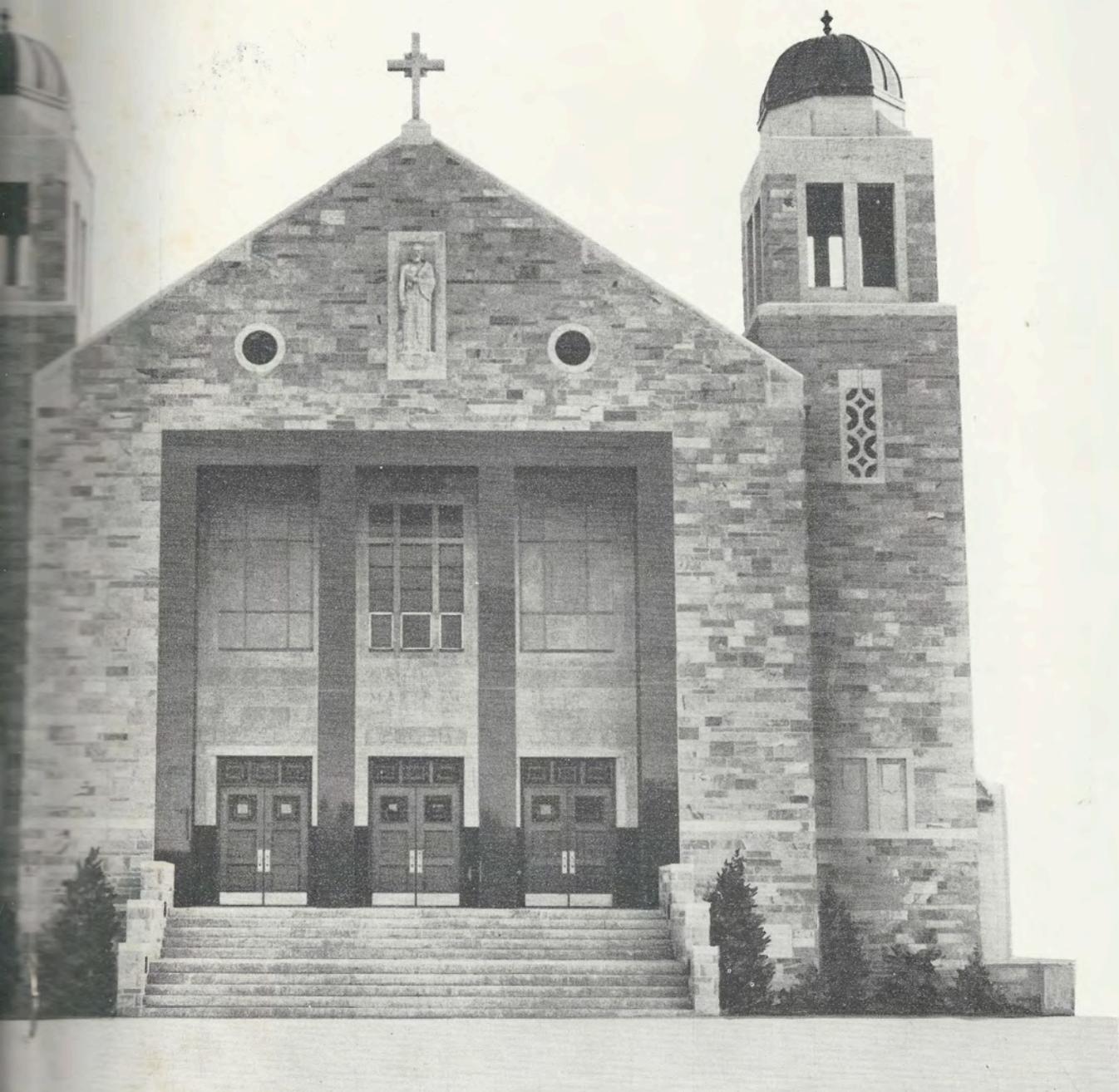


Colorful paintings of the saints decorate the side walls of the church.



The carving which decorates the supporting column of the baptismal font shows Christ being baptized by John the Baptist.

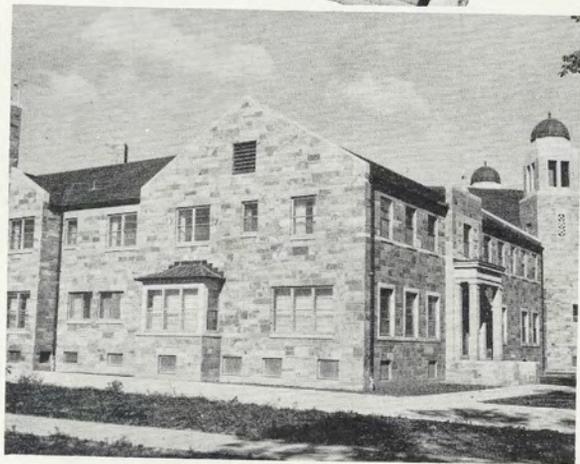
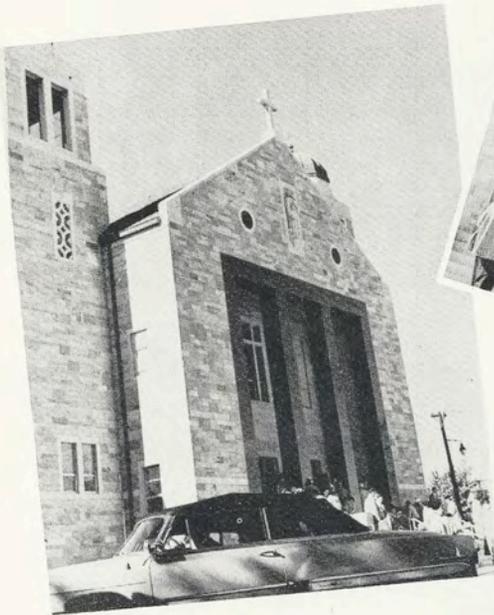




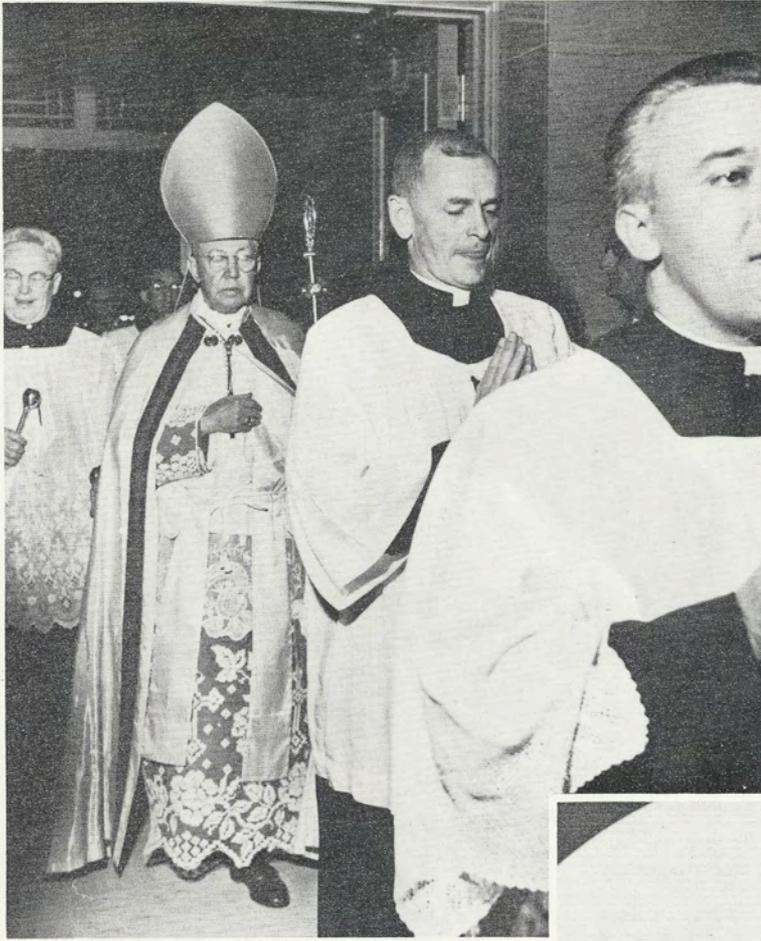
The church, Romanesque in style, is of crab orchard stone in shades of buff, tan, and brown. Rose red granite columns from Sweden mark the main entrance portico. A sculptured figure of St. Matthew is centered in the gable of the main facade.



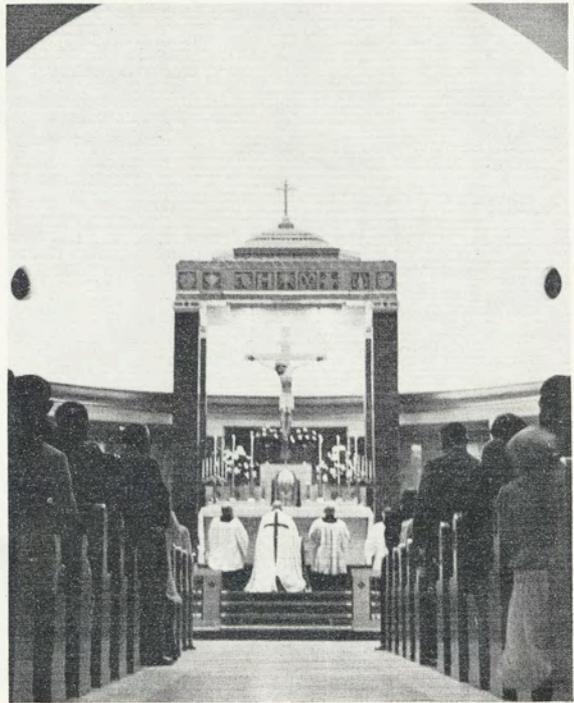
Upper left: Imported marble figure of St. Anthony and Christ Child. Upper right: Right side altar, dedicated to St. Joseph. Figure and background are in complementary tones of brown imported marbles. Lower left: Side altar dedicated to St. Matthew. Lower right: Side altar dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

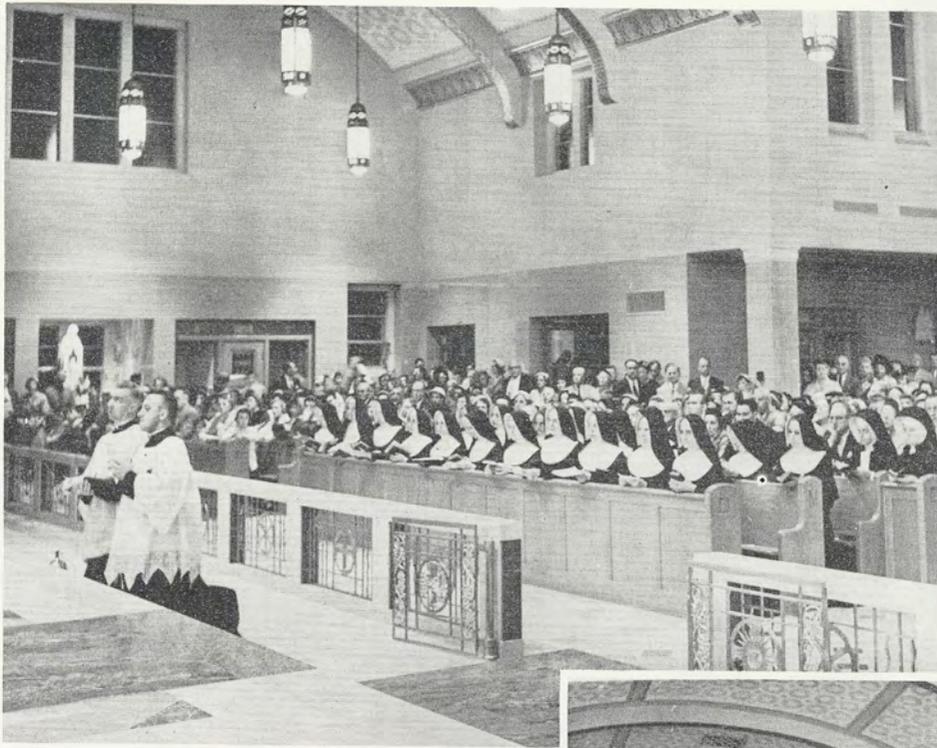


Upper left: One of the two towers, with copper-covered domes. Upper right, center right, and above: Exterior views on the day of the first Mass in the new church. Opposite: The rectory.

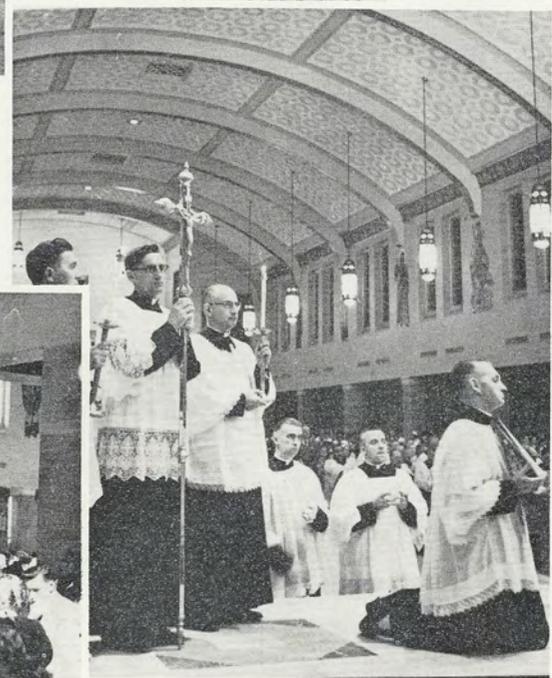


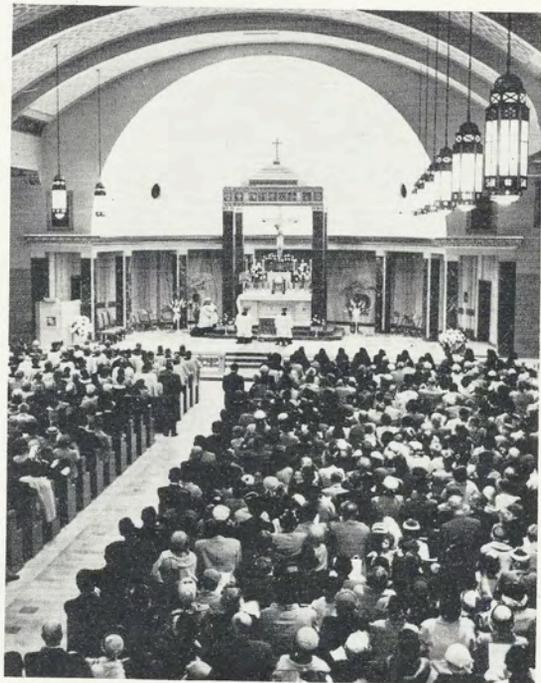
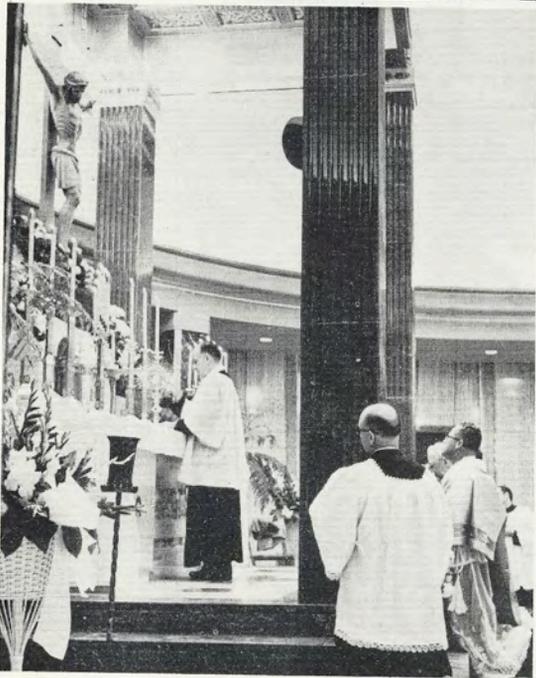
The Dedication procession and ceremony, showing Cardinal Mooney, Father Fillion, and attending clergy.





Clergy, religious, and an overflow crowd of parishioners and friends fill the church for the Dedication.

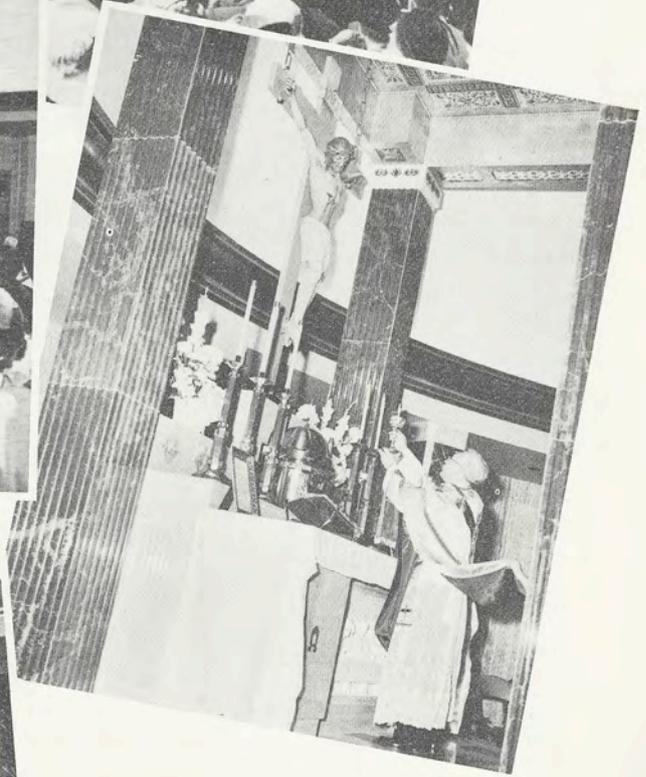
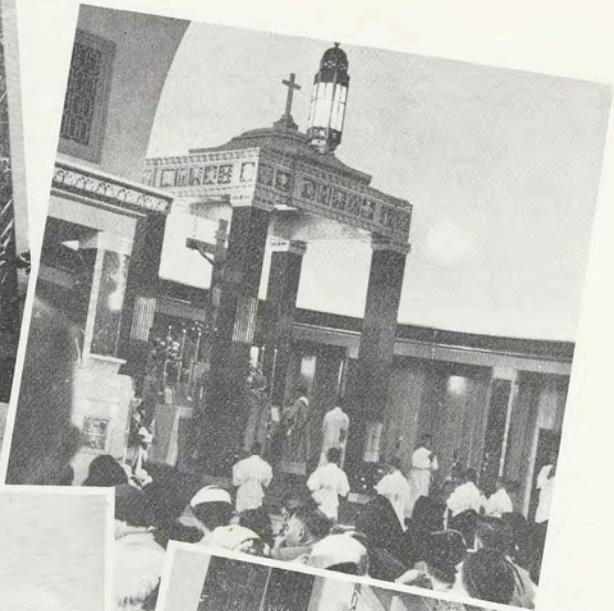




The church was crowded to overflowing with St. Matthew parishioners and friends on the evening of the Dedication ceremony.



The first Mass being celebrated in the new church on Sunday, Sept. 25, 1955. Father Joseph L. Fillion, Pastor, delivers the sermon.



It was a proud moment for Father Fillion when he celebrated the first Solemn High Mass in the new St. Matthew Church. It was a proud moment, too, for the thousands of parishioners who crowded into the majestic new church.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This dedication brochure was not the work of any one individual. Just as the inspiring new St. Matthew Church grew from the zeal, sacrifice, and generosity of St. Matthew parishioners and took shape under the skilled hands of many workmen, so this booklet was the work of a number of devoted parishioners.

In sincere gratitude, we wish to commend those who worked together to produce this memento of a great day in the history of St. Matthew Parish: Helen Foley, who edited the copy; George Peters, who, in a rather limited time, artistically laid out the format; Ben King, who, under the same pressure of time, got the brochure to press and bindery; Mrs. John Quirk, who marshalled the following women of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, in a quick and effective canvass of local merchants for advertisements:

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Our appreciation, too, to Tony Spina, Chief Photographer for the Detroit Free Press, and Charles Haun, Free Press Picture Editor, for their excellent pictures of the church, rectory, and dedication ceremonies.

For helpful suggestions in planning the booklet, we are indebted to Edward Brennan, Helen Foley, Bob DeMascio, and Joseph Van Deweghe.

Without the help of the parishioners, who gave us facts and pictures about their respective parish organizations, this project would not have been possible. Though a limited space prevents listing their names, we want them to know their generous co-operation is appreciated.

For their extraordinary efforts in obtaining pictures to illustrate the history of the parish, we are particularly indebted to Miss Elizabeth Welsh, the sister of the late Fr. James P. Welsh, and to William Cusick, Martin Gorman, Mrs. Ben King, John Kolly, Charles Narozny of General Pictures and Joseph Gazdick of East Side Photographic.

We deeply appreciate, too, the sacrifice of long hours made by these members of the Young People's Club in the exacting work of typing the copy and Patron list: Dorothea Hill, Marilyn Tegetoff, Nancy Tosti, and Janice Wheaton.

Finally to all patrons and advertisers, may we say "thank you" for your support. And, may we ask the parishioners to patronize the advertisers who supported this commemorative brochure.

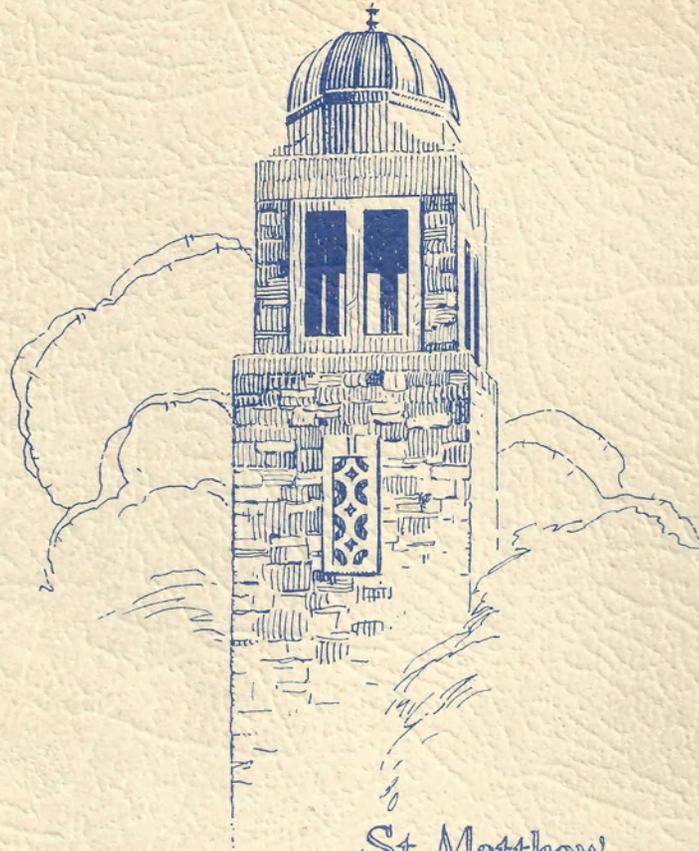
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