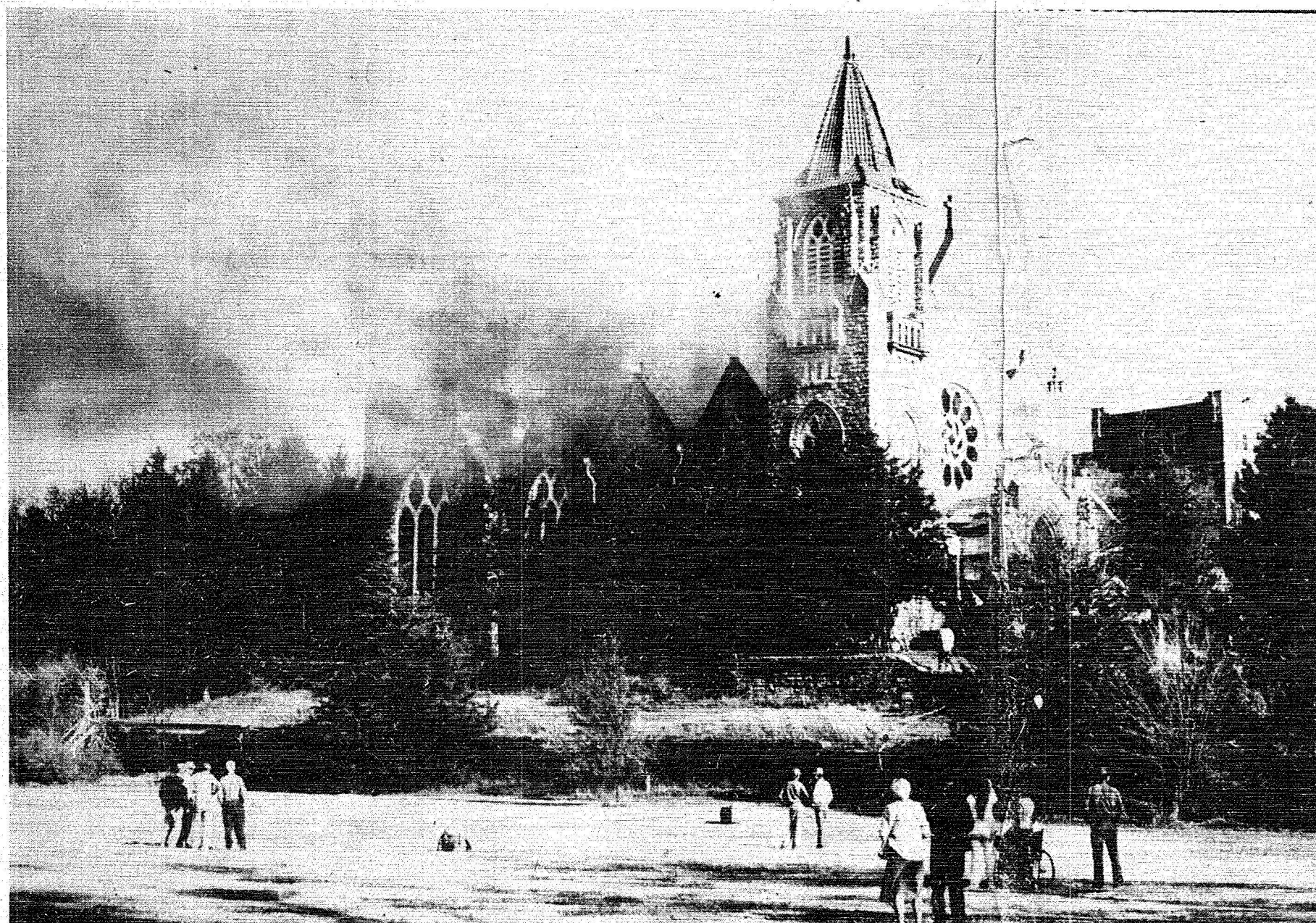


Historic College Chapel Burns



STUNNED SPECTATORS watch as smoke pours from the roof of the Immaculata Chapel.

We Will Rebuild, Of Course!

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

Little knots of people stood in stunned silence, many with tears in their eyes as they watched the flames lick at the crumbling roof of the Immaculata Chapel. The smoke, sometimes gray and sometimes black, billowed from the gaping, open circle which had once held the beautiful rose window. Breaking from the intense heat, sounds of crackling glass punctuated the air. Bystanders involuntarily shuddered as it fell from the priceless, irreplaceable stained glass windows. The tall, red-tiled steeple, with its cross atop, was gone and the wooden louvered shutters crashed in flames. Wednesday, November 8, 1978, will go down in St. Marys history as one of its darkest, saddest days.

For 70 years, the Immaculata Chapel had been a landmark, a symbol of St. Marys, and now, like the walls of Biblical Jericho, it was tumbling down. There was no Joshua leading his band of trumpeters and marching men to cause the destruction, however. Instead, there were dozens of brave men with their helmets and their hoses, fighting a losing battle to save a chapel, an organ, marble altars, and years of history and tradition. But the flames spread rapidly, and although the men worked tirelessly, the fire was the victor.

At the foot of the recently repaired flight of steps leading to the Immaculata, Brother Augustine of the Society of the Friends of St. Pius X

was answering dozens of questions asked by news reporters and television cameramen alerted to the disaster. He managed a smile when he told me he had just talked with Father Hector Bolduc at the Queen of the Angels Chapel in Dickinson, Tex. Father Bolduc had announced emphatically, "We're going to rebuild the church, of course!" Director of this center, the Reverend Bolduc will fly in immediately to survey the damage.

Brother Augustine said the fire was discovered about 12:53, when two ladies passing by noticed the smoke, notified the cook, and the St. Marys Fire Department was called. Lunch was just over, and the painters had not yet climbed up on the high scaffolds. Four men, however, had resumed their repair work on the rotted steeple, replacing shingles and tile. Warned by an employee of the McElroy Plumbing and Heating Company, they were able to scramble to safety although smoke was already pouring out from under the false plaster ceiling. Brother Augustine said no torches were being used on the

repair work; he had no idea what had caused the fire, and would have to wait for the fire marshal's report. "Only God knows why it happened," he said. One of the ironies of the destructive fire, he observed, is that the colorful glass in the windows were made in a Munich factory destroyed by fire during an Allied bombing raid in World War II.

The cornerstone for the Gothic chapel called the Immaculata was laid on December 9, 1907, in the midst of a fierce winter storm. Dedicated on May 23, 1909, at an estimated cost of \$75,000, alumni and friends also contributed funds for the pastel Stations of the Cross, the oak pews, the windows, and the Italian marble altars. The pipe organ, given in 1926 in honor of Cornelius A. Shyne, was installed near the rose window. For all these years, the Immaculata has stood like a beacon on that little knoll, a source of beauty and pride to St. Marys residents of all faiths.

The chapel was still afire by late afternoon and, at that time, little had been saved from the sanctuary except the Holy Water font. When the heavy wooden doors were opened, intense heat had already charred the inner side into black cinders. The fire companies were concentrating their efforts on the north side of the Immaculata, hoping to protect the altars quarried and crafted in Carrara, Italy. Only a few of the windows remained intact. Behind the chapel, barns and a silo also caught fire, and some crews rushed to that area.

The stunned crowd stood at a respectful distance, admiring the efforts of the firefighters as they manned the writhing hoses, trying to protect and preserve some parts of the historic area.

LATEST BULLETIN . . .

In a telephone conversation with Fr. Hector Bolduc Thursday morning, he indicated that insurance men were coming to visit with him concerning the fire. There is blanket coverage on the property, Fr. Bolduc said, but how much will apply to the chapel remains to be seen.

The chapel will be rebuilt as completely to the original state as possible. Crews are coming in from everywhere on Saturday to help with massive clean-up.

"Architects are coming Thursday or Friday to give professional opinions," Fr. Bolduc commented. "The walls appear to be structurally sound. We'll start right in as soon as the fire marshal gives permission -- today, if possible."

Wary-voiced, he continued, "Perhaps God gave us a reason to have more faith. In such difficult times, we feel our faith strengthened, rather than weakened. It was very difficult," he said when he first viewed the devastation. "We were so close to having the work completed."

He accompanied the firemen into the chapel last night, and the altars appeared to have only superficial damage. Miraculously, they seem to remain intact, although there is some slight chipping from falling debris. Three huge charred beams are hanging over the main altar, but Fr. Bolduc hoped to have a crane safely remove them today. "The real damage is to the stained glass windows, which are irreplaceable. We will pick up every bit of glass and, hopefully, some of them can be reconstructed." The heat melted the lead, causing some to fall.

Father Bolduc again expressed his heartfelt thanks to the fire crews, and police department, and to all the St. Marys citizens who helped in any way. "WE WILL REBUILD!"

Today I Watched Our Chapel Die

by Betty J. Pappas

We heard the fire engine as we were in Katie's Korner for lunch and didn't think too much about it. Then a young man came running in to get some keys and said there was a fire at the college. Again, we didn't think too much about it since there are brush fires this time of year. The fire alarm went off and Alex said, "Let's take our cameras and go see what the fire is all about." This is unusual since we never follow fires and never take pictures of fires because that's more for newspaper work and not for use in our type of publications. I almost said, "No," and stayed at the office, but then decided to go.

As we neared the college we saw the black smoke. Again I thought it was just a tree on fire, but when we approached the library and the billows of smoke were quite huge, I said, "Oh, my God, I hope it's not the chapel!" I will never forget the scene that greeted us as we rounded the corner. There were large flames licking at the roof of the chapel and the smoke was black and ugly.

We stopped and I took a couple of pictures and then the camera just hung around my neck. I wanted to cry. My mother drove up; she had seen the flames from their house. She and I stood there as grief-stricken as if it were our own homes. The flames ate at the interior and then we could see them in the choir loft behind the rose stained glass window that always was the jewel in the center of the crown of the chapel. I watched as the intense heat melted the lead and the colors melted away; one by one the windows popped . . . a sickening, stomach-sinking sound. They all were gone. And then, later on, the wooden scrollwork that held the stained glass windows burned away

building. It was a solemn crowd, people of all ages. Some remembered when the chapel was built. Others, like Bill Pope and John Ronnau, had been students at old St. Marys College, and reminisced about their school days in the mid-20s. Many young couples had heard their parents talk about the college and special Masses at the chapel. School children, who had waged a "Save the Chapel" campaign during the Bicentennial, watched in sadness, too, as the fire raged.

It wasn't the first time that the college grounds had been the scene of devastating fires. The second chapel built at the mission, a new stone structure, was destroyed in 1880. Little was saved except the pipes for the organ, the baptismal font, and the Benito painting of the Immaculate Conception brought from Rome in 1854 by Bishop Miege. The present parish church replaced that sanctuary in 1882, and the Immaculata was built primarily for the college students. There were several bad class building fires, too. J. P. Smith, veteran of many years of the St. Marys Volunteer Department, was one of the first men at the scene, just as he was in the 1930s, when a building housing students' trunks caught fire in the attic.

Other departments were called in to help that day, too, and then -- as today -- their help was needed and appreciated. Responding to a call for assistance yesterday were men and equipment from Topeka, Silver Lake,

until there was nothing but a gaping hole.

The fire consumed the inside of the chapel while the brave firemen and volunteers tried vainly to contain it with their lack of water and lack of equipment. A fire such as this needs big city equipment and lots of water; we had neither. Our men did a fantastic job with the help of units from neighboring towns. They not only had to fight the chapel fire but the fire in the barn and silo behind the chapel as well.

I'm not a Catholic, as many of you know. But we, Alex, I and my entire family, feel as deeply about that chapel and those college grounds as anyone born of the Catholic faith. I think that's the way it is with most people who have been raised in this community or who have lived in this town for any length of time. It's always been a part of this community; we identify with that chapel.

I'll never forget attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in the chapel. There was snow on the ground -- a perfect Christmas setting with the chapel up on its mound and the lights leading up the steps. Inside it was quiet -- perfect for meditation and the Jesuit voices singing in such perfect and spine-tingling harmony was an impression that I have remembered over the last twenty-five years or so since I experienced it.

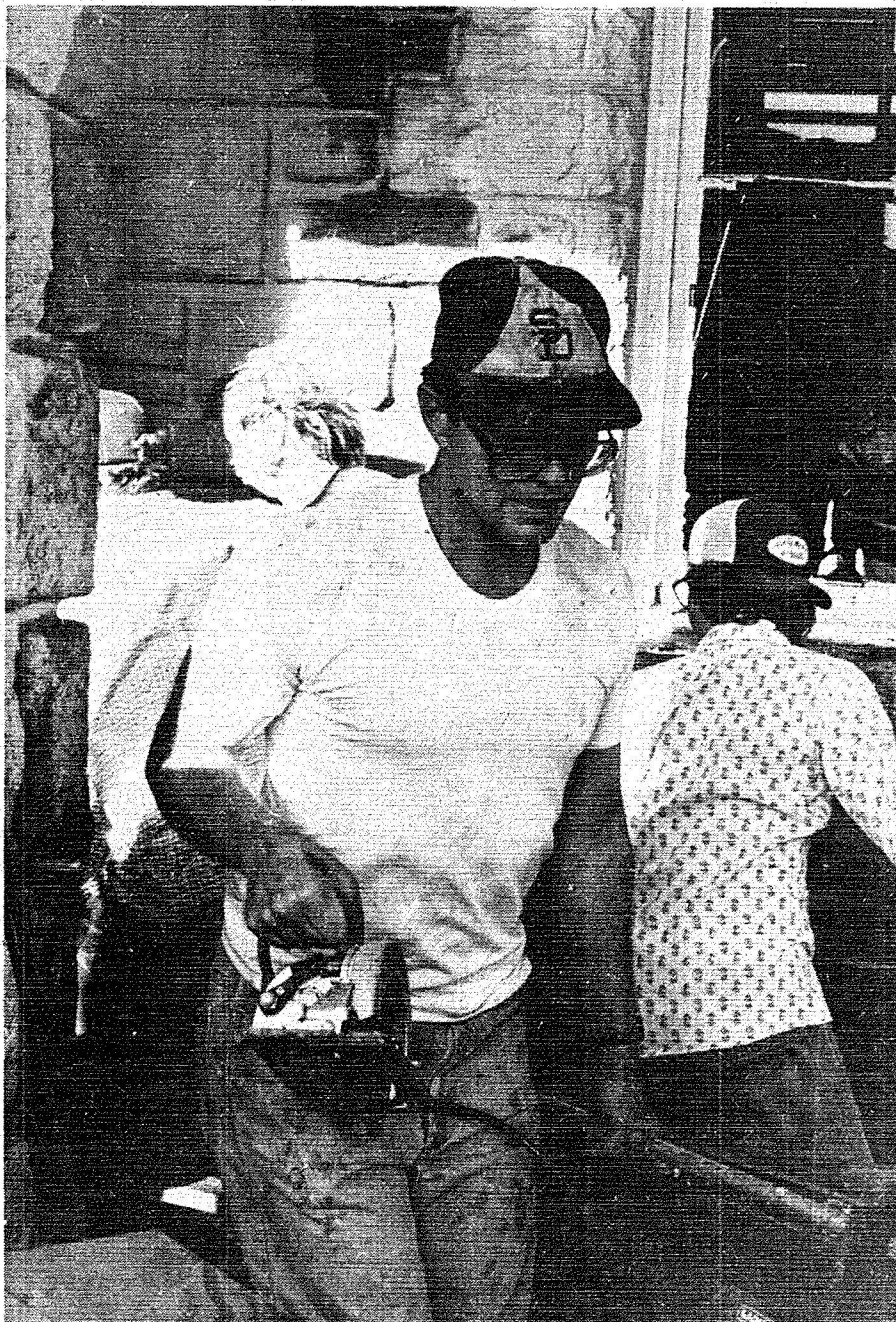
To me, the chapel died today and I mourn its loss along with the many who loved it for its beauty, its religious significance and its historical memories. It will never be the same. But, life goes on, we have our memories and the chapel will be rebuilt and restored. It will be different and it might even be more magnificent.

I can accept all that . . . but, today our chapel died and I cried.

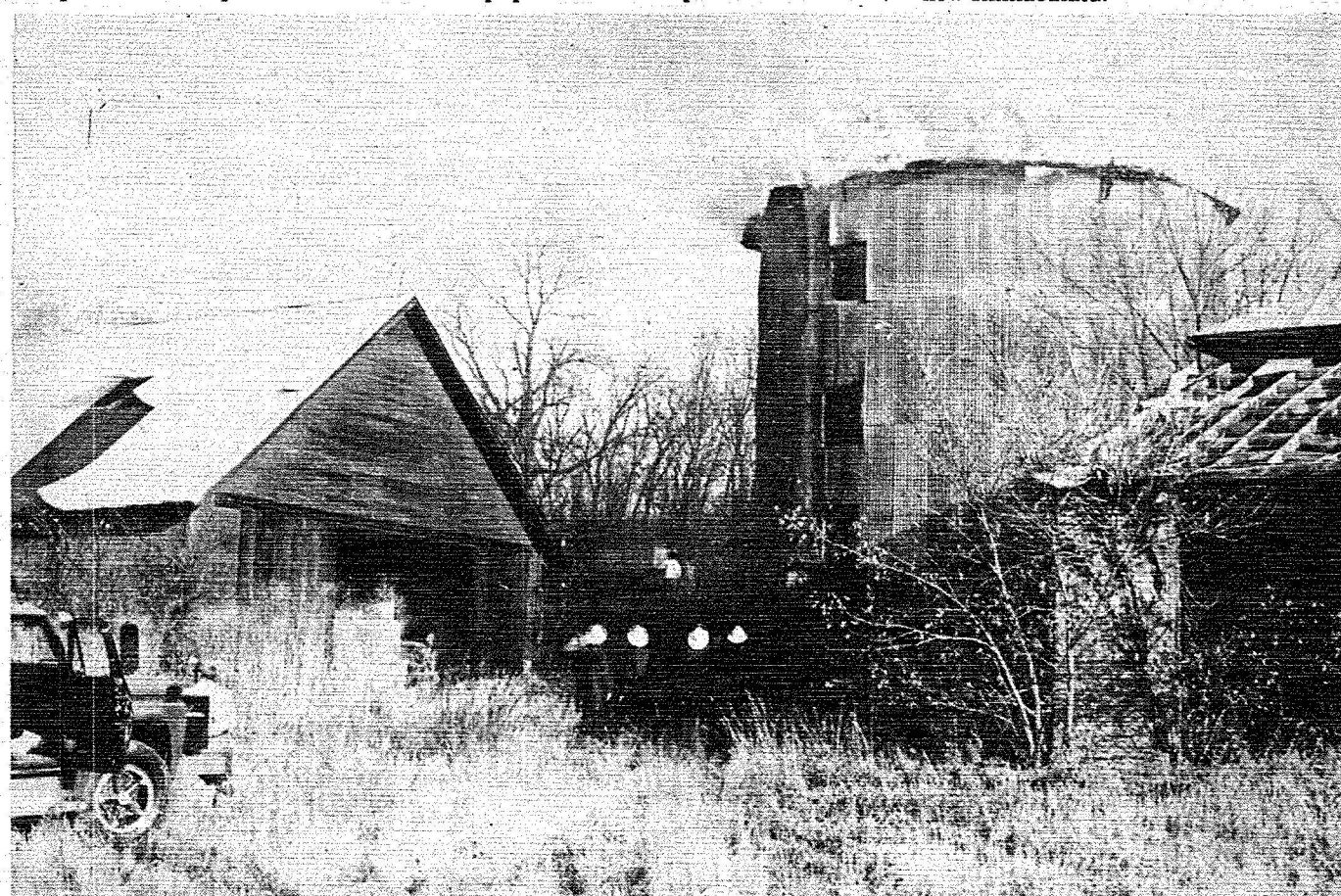
rossville, Emmet, Warner, and Manhattan, as well as the ever-ready and well-trained St. Marys volunteers. I watched the men with admiration and respect, some in the regulation uniforms of their department, and the men from volunteer units in working garb, but all risking life and limb. The Pottawatomie County Ambulance Service Crew stood by. Thank God, they were able to do just that . . . stand by. Women from the community set up long tables of food, coffee, and cold tea for the firefighters, and how they must have appreciated that break from the frustrating job.

Sometimes it takes a tragedy to unite a community. Out of the flames came an outpouring of sympathy and concern for the members of the Society of Friends of St. Pius X, who had planned an Immaculata Rededication Ceremony for Easter Sunday. David Gayner, a spokesman for the Society, asked me to convey a message from Father Bolduc and the members, an expression of their deep thanks and appreciation to all the men of the fire-fighting crews, and to the people of St. Marys. Father Bolduc will say a special Mass at 9 a.m. Thursday, November 9 (this morning), on the chapel steps.

The Immaculata Chapel as we knew it is gone, but Mr. Gayner echoed that same, "We will rebuild" dedication. Although a historic landmark went up in smoke yesterday, these determined men and women are already planning to rekindle a beacon light of faith in a new Immaculata.



KARL STROMBERG carries tools out of tower. Karl has been working as a carpenter at the college for about two and a half months. In the background, firefighters battle blaze in tower.



Silo north of college burning



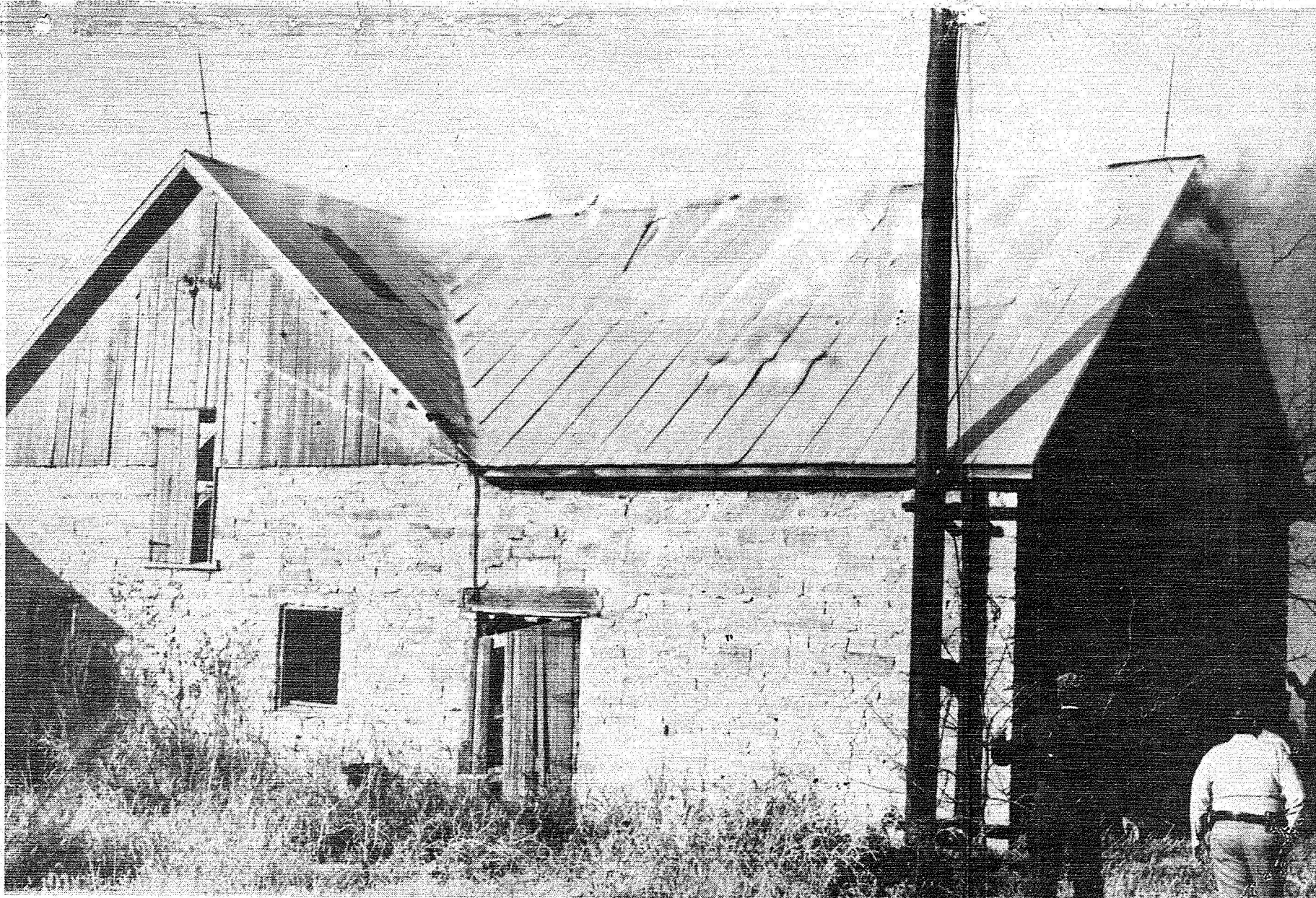
FIREMEN FROM SIX OTHER COMMUNITIES joined the St. Marys Volunteer company. Marvin Muckenthaler manned the hose from his precarious perch on the "Cherry Picker."



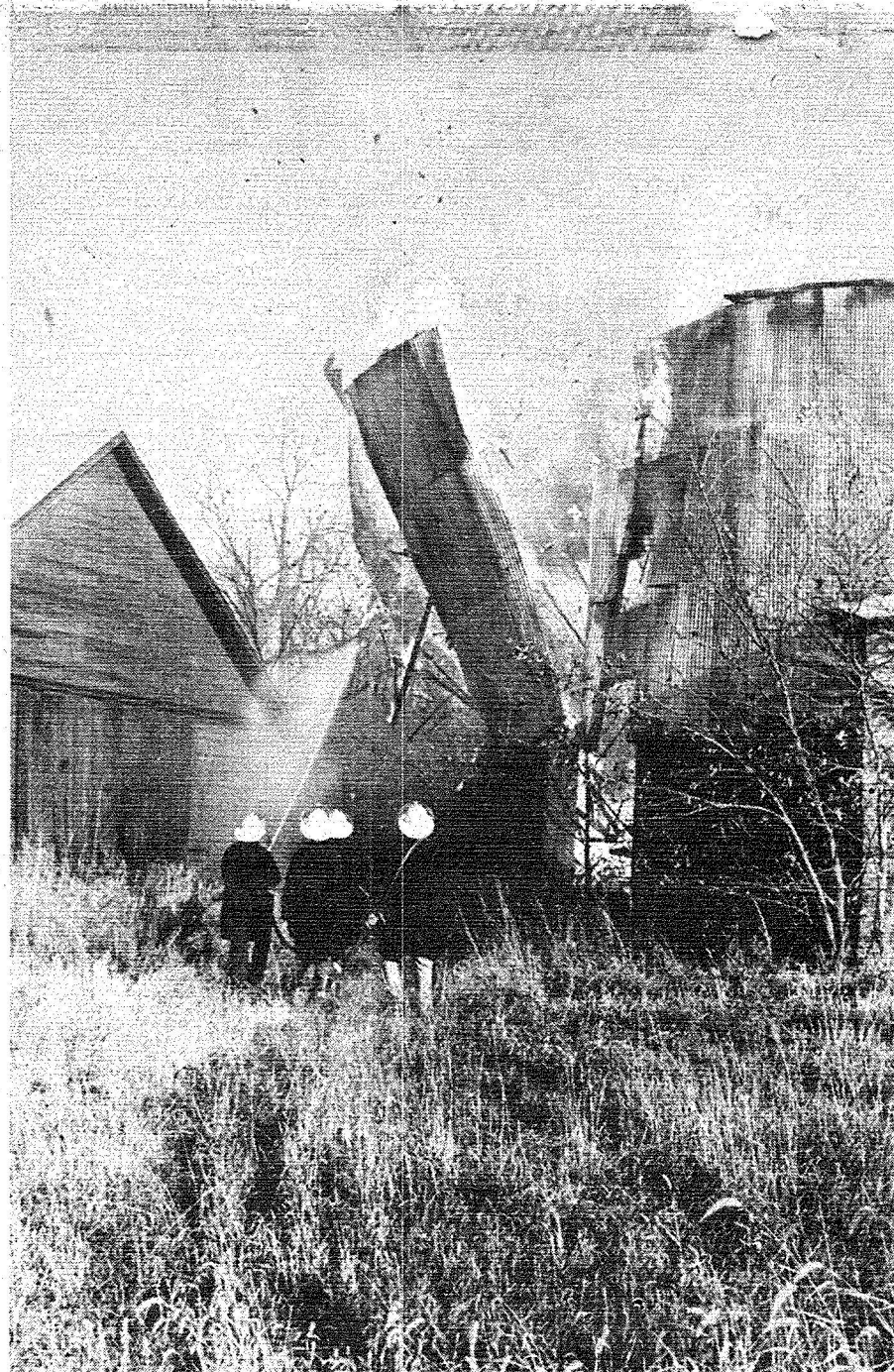
BILL SIMECKA and the St. Marys truck. Men and equipment from Topeka, Manhattan, Wamego, Silver Lake, Rossville and Emmett were stationed at various locations on the campus.



THREE BRAVE YOUNG MEN, content on aiming the hose through the chapel door, were too busy to give their names to the photographer.



FLAMES BREAK THROUGH the roof of one of the old college barns being used for storage by the Brunins.



FIREMEN WATCH as a silo collapses on the adjacent machinery storage shed.

Faulty Wiring Cause of Fire

Don Ray, an inspector from the state fire marshal's office, and members of the St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department and the City Hall were on the St. Marys College campus Thursday poking through the still smoldering ruins of the historic chapel which burned Wednesday. From about 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., people were questioned and ashes were studied for clues to the cause of the tragic fire which destroyed the chapel.

According to Fire Chief Bill Rezac, Ray was unable to find anything other than faulty wiring as the cause of the blaze. During the period of time the chapel had been used and the intervening years when it was empty, the

wiring had not been replaced. The normal wear and tear, plus the fact that varmints may have been chewing on the casing pointed to the cause of the fire as the wiring, Rezac said that in no way was the organ in the chapel implicated. The organ had not been turned on; in fact, after the fire, the master switch to the circuit box was still in the off position.

Workmen indicated they had been using gooseneck lamps to light up the rose window and when the wiring began to spark, the lamps had been turned off and unplugged. Ray indicated that if the wiring to the gooseneck lamps (which had been used by the choir to light up the music) was

bad, the rest of the wiring in the attic was undoubtedly in the same condition.

Rezac said that the investigative crew was satisfied that embers from the burning chapel ignited the silo which had a wood shingle roof and embers from the silo in turn set the barn north of the chapel ablaze, just under the roof. "It was a chain reaction," Rezac commented, "and in no way do we suspect arson as the cause of any of the fires."



**To enroll in St. Mary's Academy
call or write**

Headmaster — Admissions St. Mary's Academy

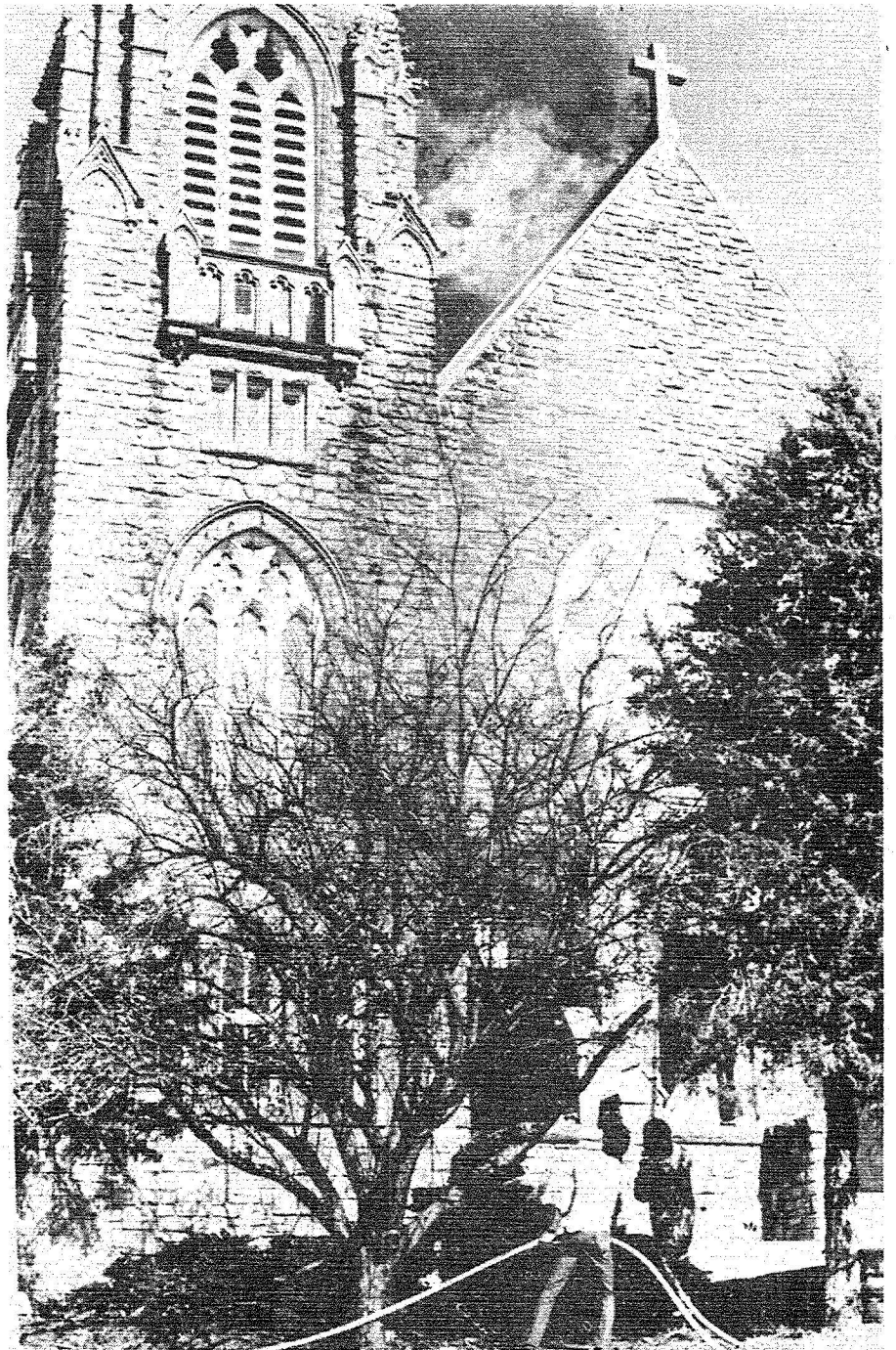
P.O. Drawer 159

St. Marys, Kansas 66536 (913) 437-2471

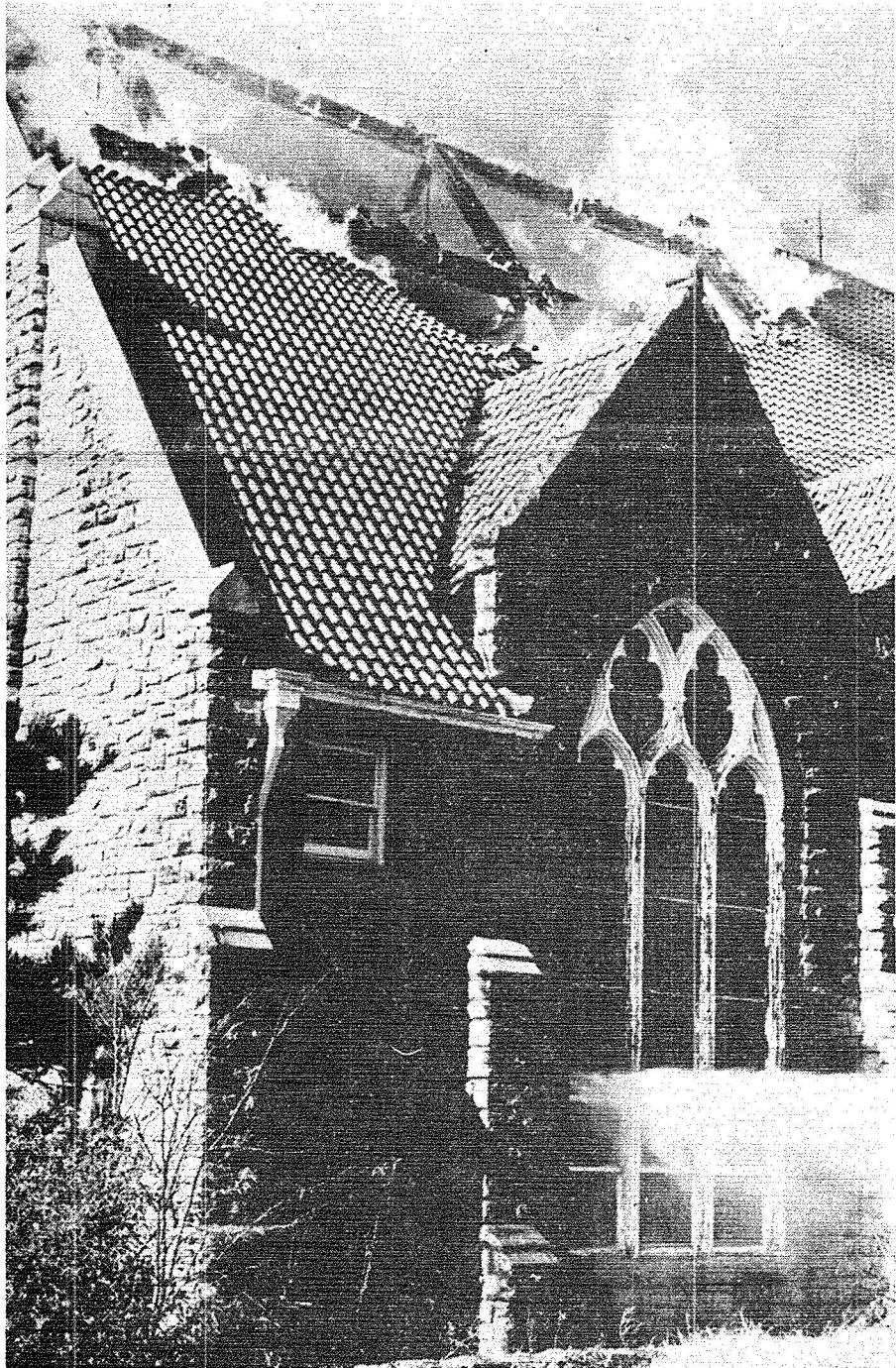
Photos During the Fire



A HEART-BREAKING, sickening sight. Fire destroys the beautiful 70- year-old sanctuary.



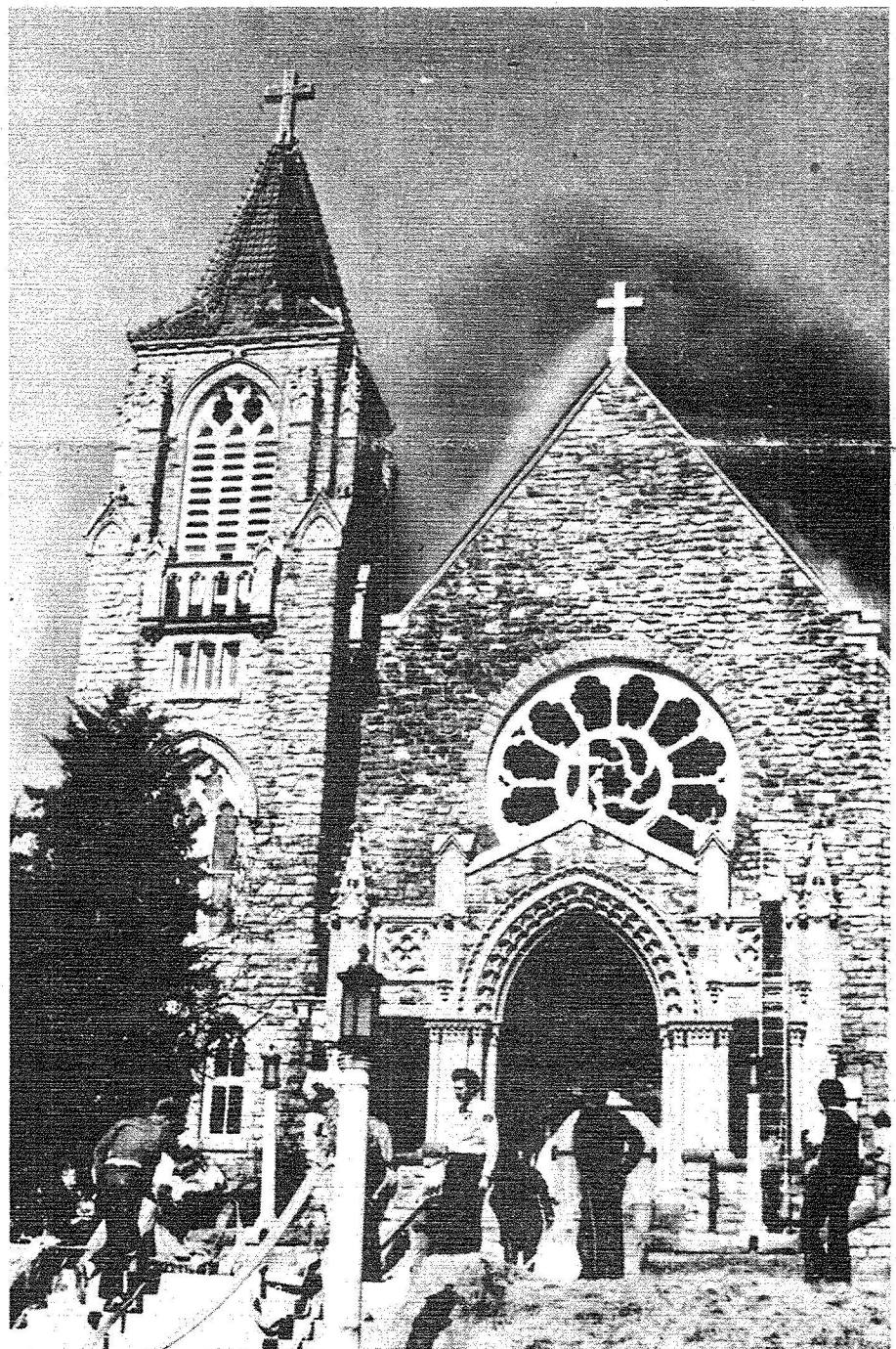
FIREMEN POSITION their hoses shortly after 1 p.m. as flames break through the tiled roof.



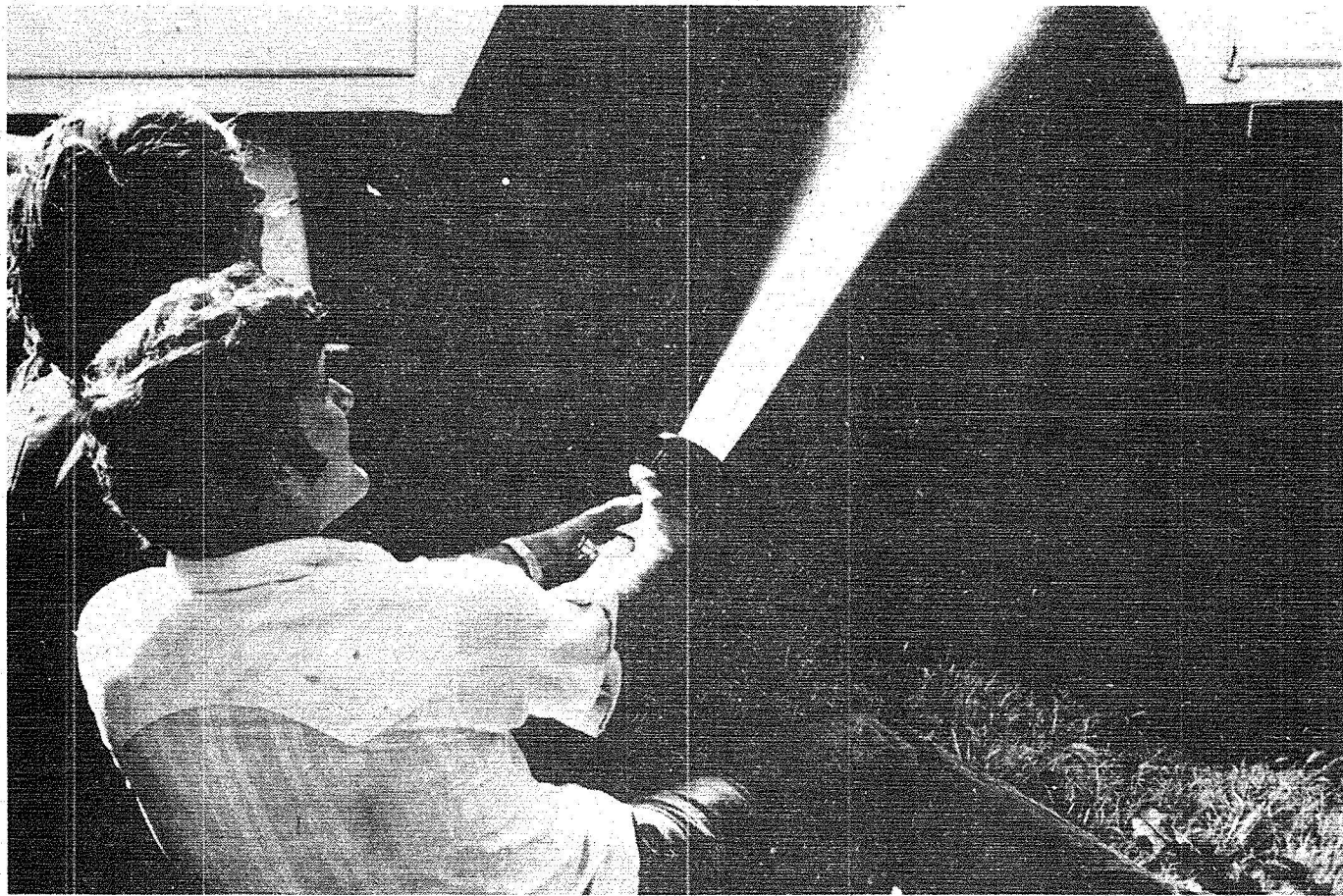
TILE GONE and beams exposed the flames continue to consume the roof.



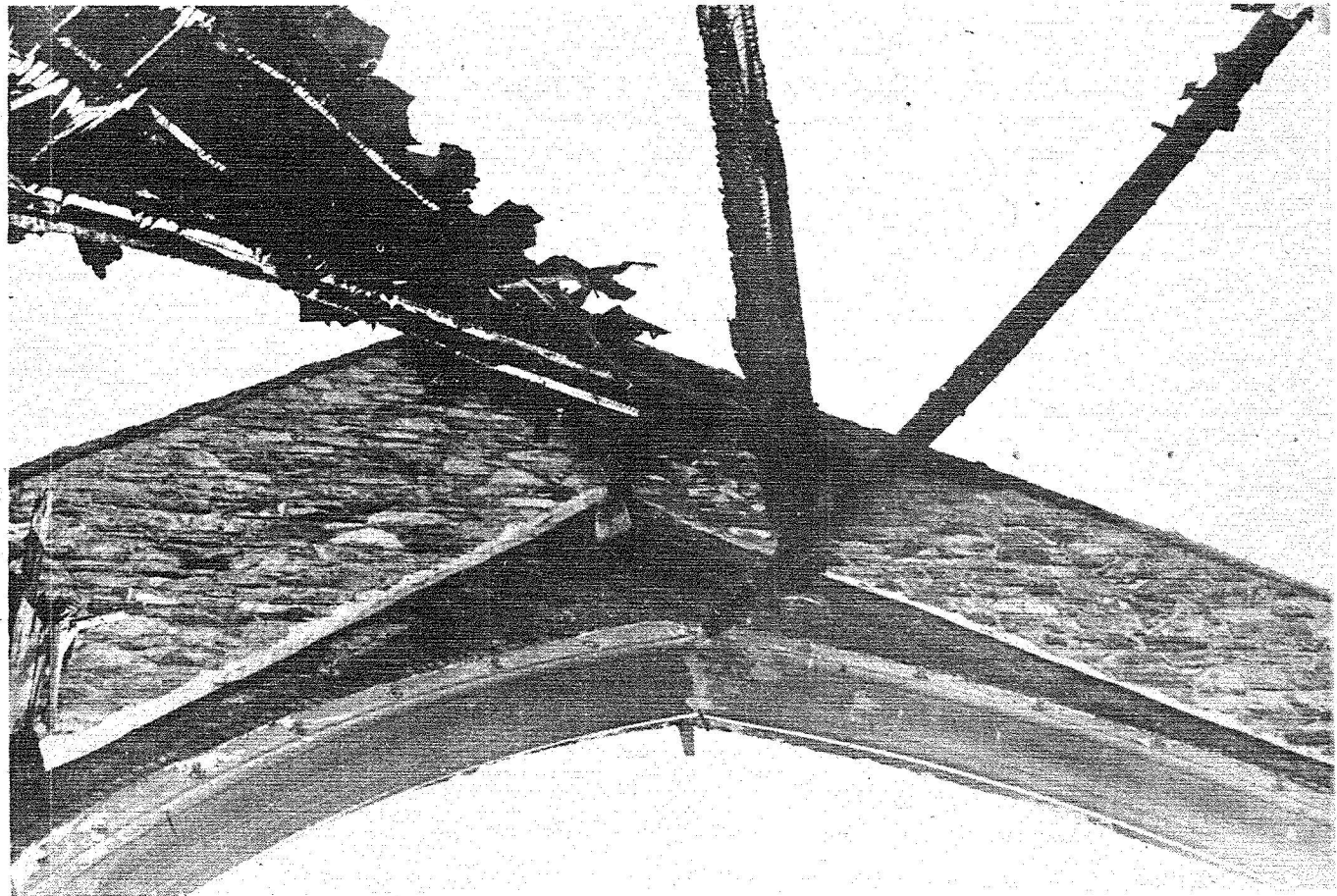
A LOOK at the burning chapel, as people wait in horrified anticipation for the steeple to collapse.



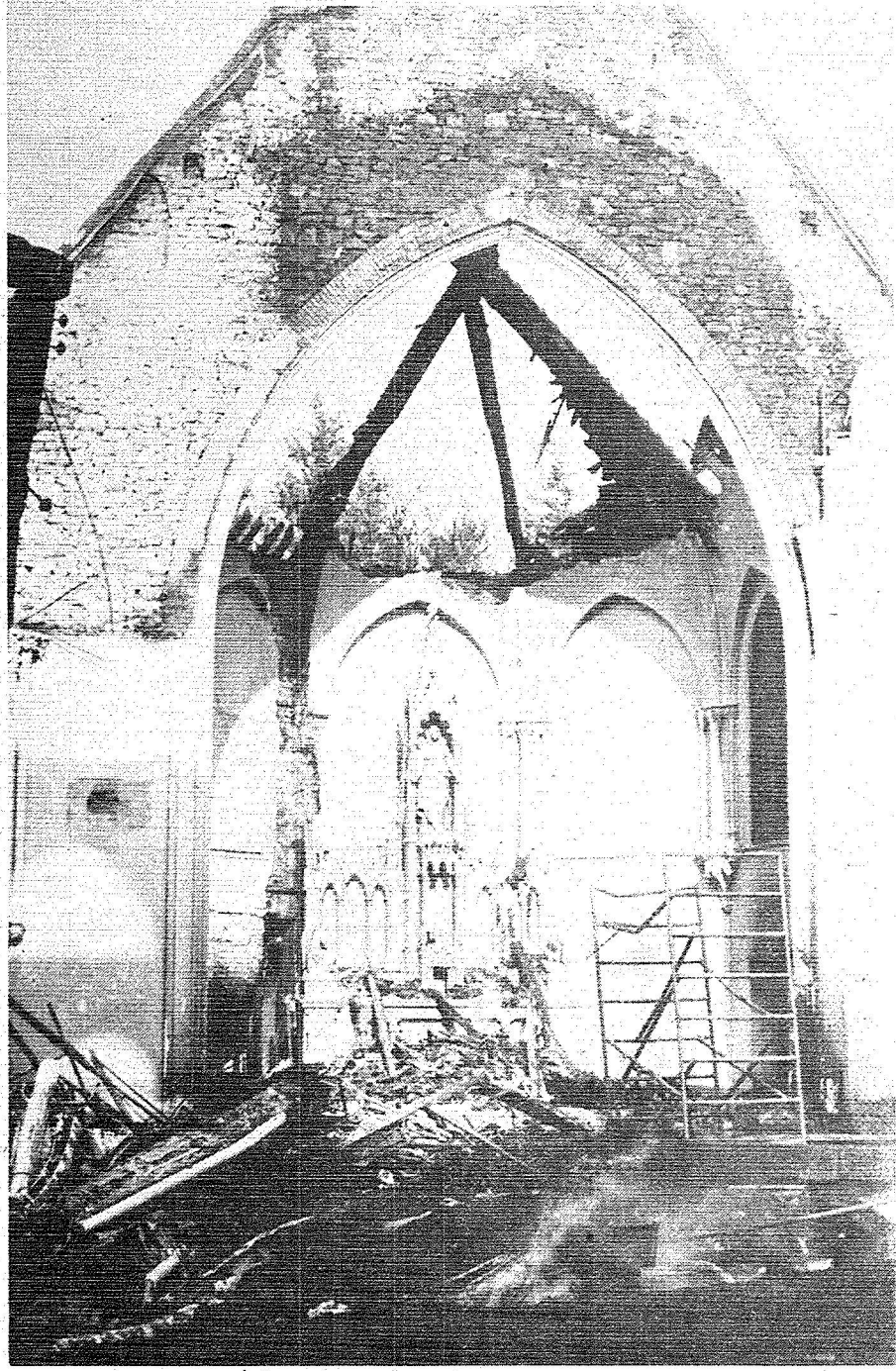
ONE LAST FAREWELL look at the Immaculata with the priceless stained glass already gone from the rose window.



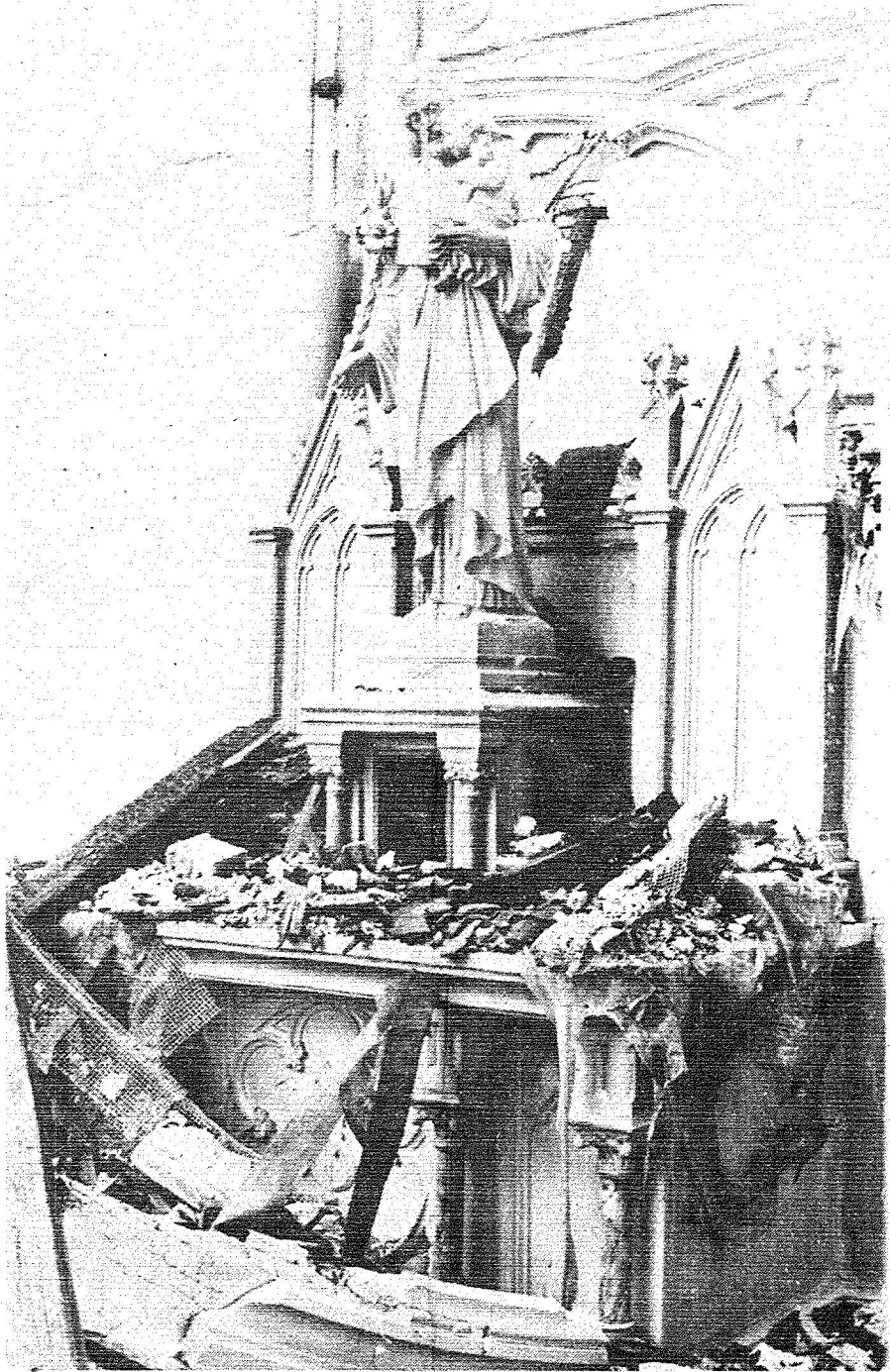
HOLD ON, MEN! Father Bolduc expressed his deep appreciation to all the fire-fighting crews, the police, and the people of St. Marys for their assistance.



CHARRED FROM THE FIRE, the beams still remain in place. A crane was to remove them . . . hopefully in one swoop so additional damage to the altar below could be avoided.



AMID THE DEVASTATION following the fire, the altar is illuminated from the hole in the roof. Three charred beams perch precariously above the altar; rubble still smolders in the foreground.



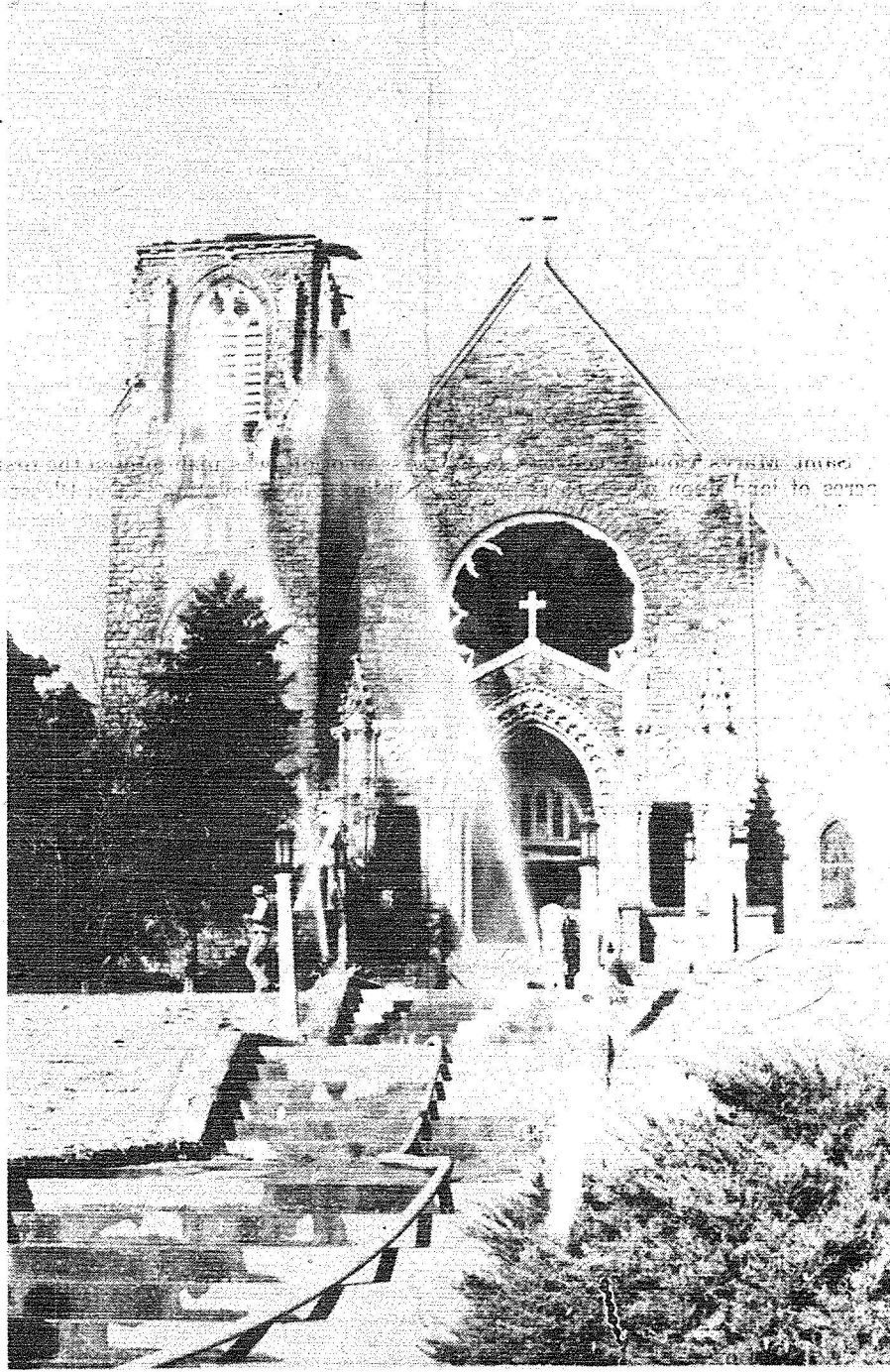
IT IS "ONLY A STATUE" but it appears that Joseph is sharing his disbelief of the tragedy with the child Jesus in his arms.



BROTHER AUGUSTINE, spokesman for the Society of the Friends of St. Pius X, is interviewd by Anne Rubenstein, as a television cameraman records for W.I.B.W. news.



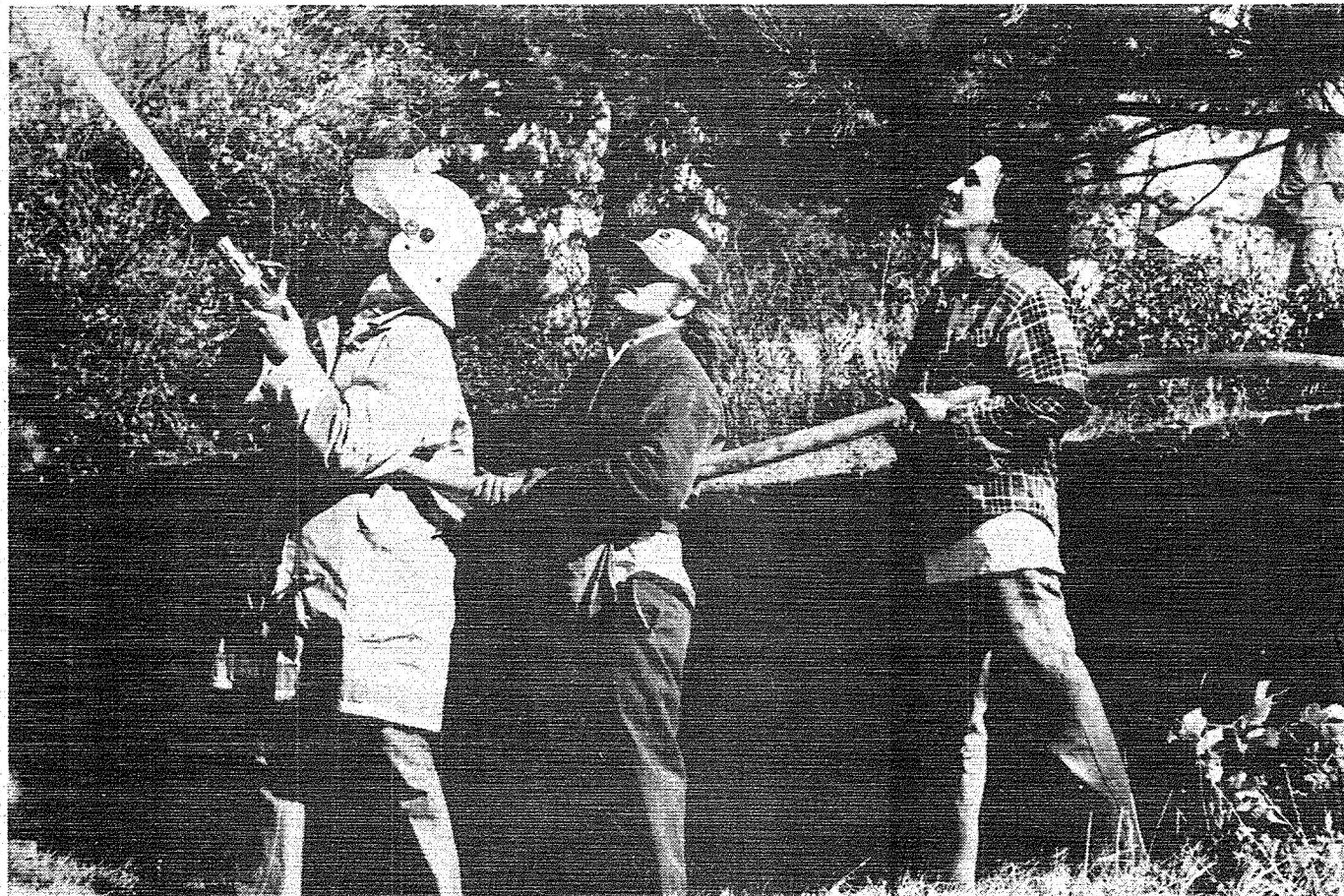
FIREMEN DRAG heavy hoses through the charred chapel doors.



GONE! The cross and the steeple, so long a symbol of St. Marys, tumbled down.



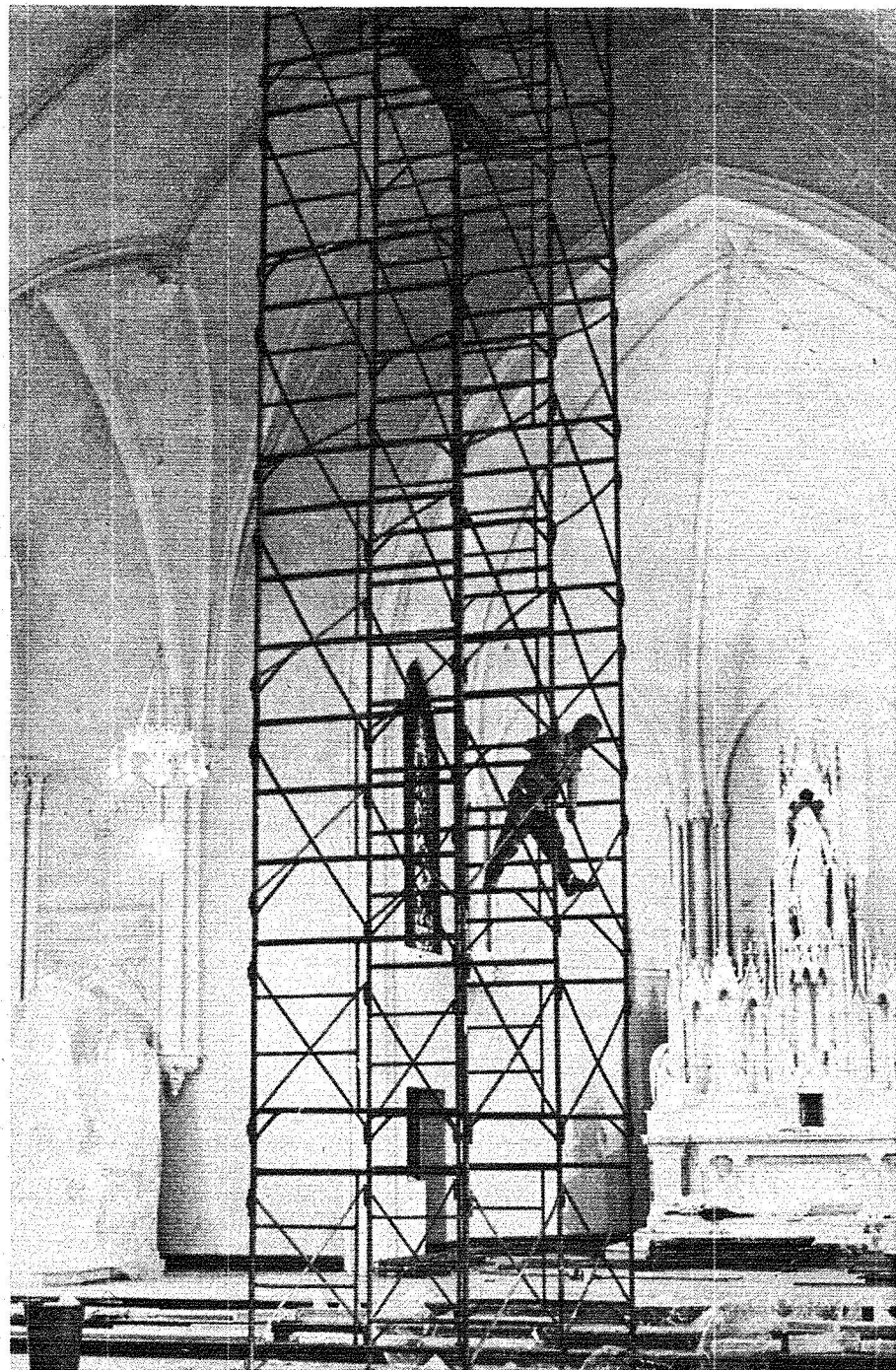
CHUCK RONNAU and Pat Roth adjust the hose pressure nozzle as they work on the east side of the chapel.



KENNY ZELLER, St. Marys Fire Department, is assisted by two college employees who were repairing the steeple roof when fire was first discovered.



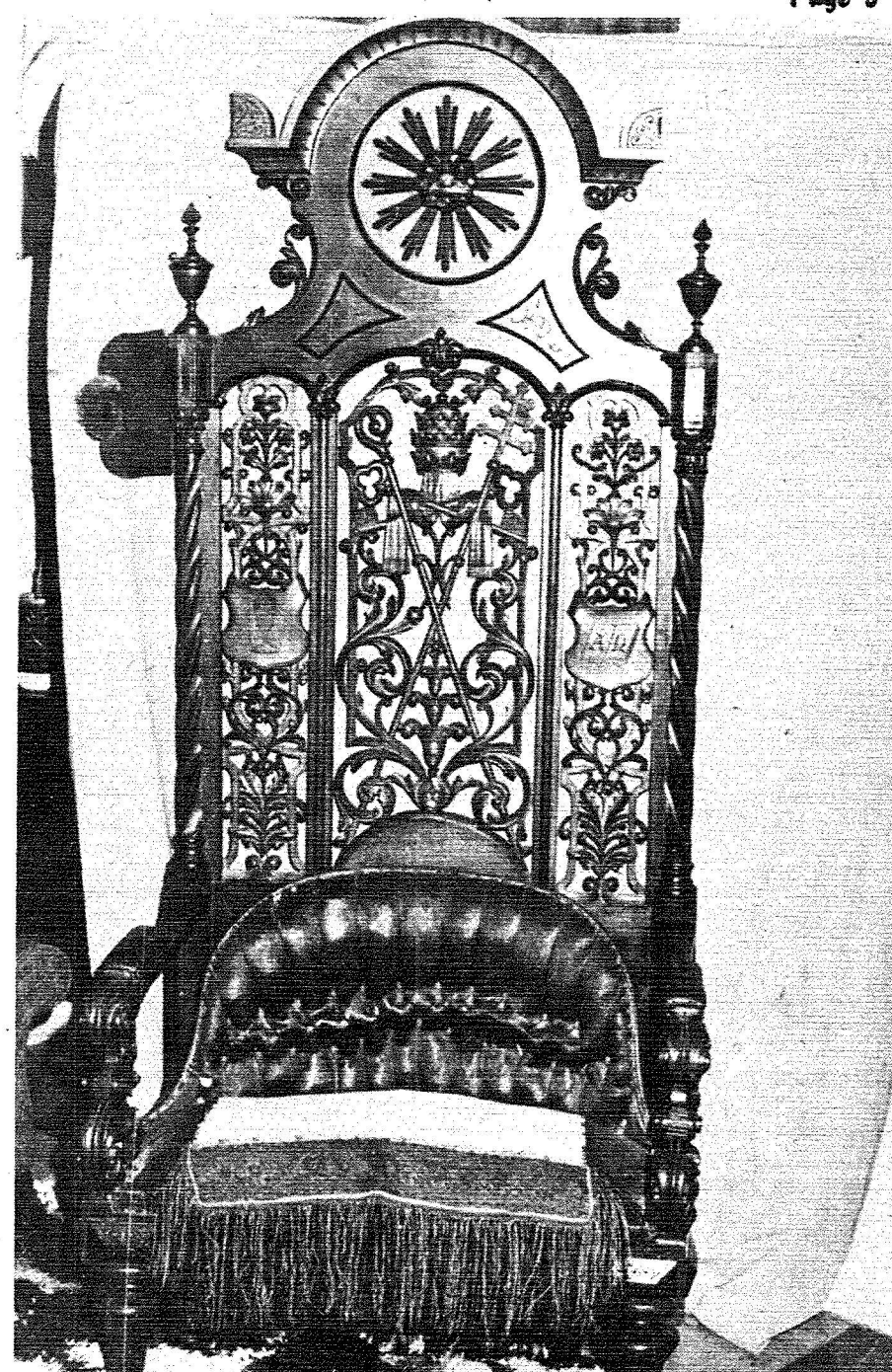
THE ROOF hopelessly out of reach, water is sprayed through an east window as firemen try to protect the contents of the sanctuary.



Painting interior of Chapel



Workmen in Archway



Bishop's Chair

Our Dreams For The Future

Restoration work began soon after Friends of the Society of St. Pius X acquired the old St. Marys College property. It was nearing completion when fire broke out Wednesday, November 8. The interior of the church was painted in dove blue and antique white, and trimmed in gold accents. A workman climbed the tall metal scaffold. In the background is the main Italian marble altar. The ornate carved arches above the doors to the Immaculata were repaired and repainted. The historic, antique Bishop's Chair was returned to the Society. It was being stored in another building on campus, and friends will be relieved to know it is safely preserved.

The following article was printed in "The Angelus" and describes the work being done and the hopes the Society have for the future.

from "The Angelus"
October, 1978

During last spring Mr. David V. Gayner, the co-ordinator of the Society of Saint Pius X Chapel in Topeka, Ks., paid a visit to the former Jesuit Seminary in St. Marys, Ks. Being much impressed and finding this beautiful complex for sale, Mr. Gayner immediately notified Father Hector Bolduc about the property.

A month or so later, on May 22, 1978, His Excellency Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre inspected the buildings and grounds. Upon completion of this tour, His Grace instructed Father Bolduc to proceed with the necessary negotiations to acquire the property. One month and one day later -- June 23, 1978 -- St. Marys became the property of the Society!

Almost immediately -- within days --

many volunteers began arriving to prepare what had been the Jesuit's infirmary for habitation. A temporary Chapel was set up on the ground floor of the Library Building. The author of this article arrived on the scene on Thursday, July 13, and two weeks later at the suggestion of Father Bolduc, began maintaining a daily chronicle of all events that transpired in regard to the restoration activities. Due to this foresight on the part of Father we are able to piece together all the "pieces" of the "jig-saw puzzle" that constitute the present restoration activities at St. Marys.

On Thursday, July 13, Father Bolduc answered the questions of the press. In attendance from the town of St. Marys were the City Manager, City officials, banking representatives and the local City Historian. Father explained the Society's plans for the restoration of the buildings and grounds. Later on, while Father Bolduc stood silhouetted against the facade of the Immaculata (the Church), he was questioned by the media for about one hour. The local townspeople were elated that St. Marys College is to be restored as a Catholic institution and we have received very favorable coverage in the local papers. We are very fortunate to enjoy an excellent rapport with the local townspeople.

The preparation of meals was somewhat of a problem until the arrival on July 25 of Mrs. Agnes Thompson and her daughter, Marie Catherine. They now prepare all the meals and serve them on a regular schedule. This frees the workers to devote their full energies to the restoration of the property.

Boys began arriving during July and were placed under the supervision of Brother Augustine. They are from traditional families from various states

and they engaged in all types of work activities during the summer. A daily schedule was set up for them consisting of morning and evening prayers, plenty of work, recreation and daily recitation of the Rosary at the end of each day. Discipline problems were few and minor! A number of men also arrived during this time and they offered their services and spent anywhere from a day or two to a week or two working with us.

Saint Marys College consists of 27 acres of land upon which there are 13 buildings. The first building to be restored (as mentioned earlier) was the one used by the Jesuits as their Infirmary. One of the first major projects here was to tear out an old furnace which occupied a room on the first floor and to renovate and make it suitable as a laundry room. Many hours of labor, gallons of paint and a new tile floor turned it into a spotlessly white utility room.

One of the problems which became immediately evident was that of providing heat to all of the buildings this coming winter. There is a large central heating plant on the property but it was discovered that it would be too costly to heat all of the buildings so it has been decided that individual heating units will be installed in each building. Only four buildings will have heat for the time being and the rest will receive them as needed.

During the weekdays, most all the work is accomplished by men and boys -- in addition to families who arrive by camper and spend several days to a week or more with us. On Saturdays, however, families from all over the area converge on Saint Marys and work at many and varied tasks.

There are two statues of the Blessed Mother on the grounds. Both have been completely scraped of built-up

paint and restored several weeks ago.

Another big project is the continuing effort to clear away overgrown brush and trees from around the buildings and other parts of the property. Several of the workers have suffered from severe cases of poison ivy!

Many of the families who have come to Saint Marys brought along many items that were sorely needed for the residence, the chapel and the sacristy!

On August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, was inaugurated the first public outdoor devotion to Our Blessed Mother since the acquisition of the property. It was spontaneous but all who were part of it will always remember the occasion! It began at 7:00 p.m. with Father Bolduc offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the temporary chapel. About sixty people -- men, women and children -- were in attendance. After Mass, each one picked up a candle, a hymn book and a prayer card and all assembled before Our Lady's statue. The Rosary was recited and appropriate hymns in her honor were sung. Then all proceeded up to the yet unrestored church. All gathered in a semi-circle around the main altar which holds in a niche high above the tabernacle, a statue of Our Blessed Mother. Father led the recitation of the Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mother followed by the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At this point all the sanctuary lights were turned off and only the soft glow of each of the sixty or more candles illumined the interior of the vast church. Father Bolduc and Brother Augustine then chanted the haunting strains of the Salve Regina which echoed throughout the entire edifice. All present will never forget the awe generated by these simple acts.

The Immaculata (church) is being restored at the present time. Several

men and boys are working diligently on a full-time basis. Scaffolding has been erected around the sanctuary and, already, the painting has progressed from the ceiling to the lower walls. Plastic covering has been placed over all the altars as well as the Stations of the Cross and the stained glass windows. There are four confessional boxes in the church but two had been completely dismantled several years ago. One of the men who arrived from California to lend his hand is a top-notch carpenter and has already reassembled them! The wooden bases of the columns inside the church are presently being repaired and plastering work is being accomplished in various places where the roof leaked and damaged the ceiling and walls. Areas in the church roof which had suffered from dry rot have been replaced as well as many roof tiles. These tiles are difficult to locate and a gentleman drove all the way down to Oklahoma to find tiles that matched perfectly.

The magnificent stained glass windows are worth considerable money and are irreplaceable. Fabricated in Munich, Germany, many years ago by a factory that was destroyed in the bombings of World War II which has never re-opened. It is considered a miracle that these windows were not vandalized during the eleven years since the departure of the Society of Jesus. The huge pipe organ in the choir loft is still intact and a representative of the company that originally installed it many years ago, will arrive in Saint Marys soon to replace and repair the necessary parts.

On Tuesday, September 12, a kindergarten was opened on the third floor of the Library building. The first session boasted of only two boys but a little girl has joined the class as this is being written. It is a modest beginning

... but a beginning nonetheless!

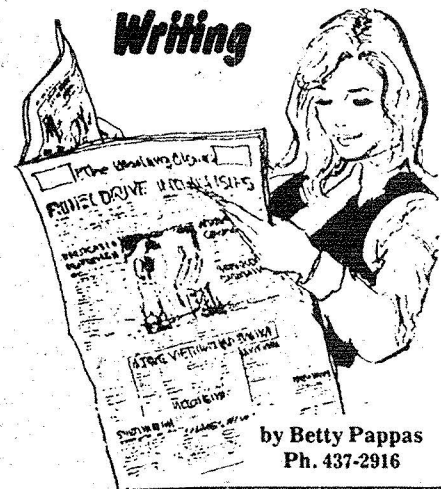
Next year it is hoped that a complete elementary and high school will be opened in the Academic Building, Bellarmine Hall.

Also projected is a large retreat house for laymen. This building, Loyola Hall, has some 144 rooms! The oldest building on the property, made of native stone, was used by the Jesuit Fathers as an Indian Museum. This will also be used for the same purpose and will contain things Catholic.

The largest of all the edifices on the property looks to be as one single building whereas it is actually four buildings in one. Each building was added during different administrations under the Jesuits. This massive structure includes the Faculty Building, Canisius Hall, Suarez Hall and McCabe Hall. Canisius Hall contains a cavernous room (refectory) which formerly served the Jesuit faculty and student dining area. At one end is a stained glass representation of The Last Supper.

One final note ... Saint Marys, Ks., is situated only a short distance from the geographical center of the United States. During his brief visit to the property in May, Archbishop Lefebvre expressed the wish and the hope that Saint Marys would become a center of great pilgrimage. Situated as it is in the "hub" of the nation, it seems Our Divine Lord and His Most Blessed Mother have destined great events to take place on these very hallowed grounds. Combining the past history of Saint Marys under the guidance of the Society of Jesus and the history now being made here, one might combine the motto of the Jesuits with that of Pope Saint Pius X ... INSTAURARE OMNIA IN CHRISTO ... and ... AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM! (To restore all things in Christ ... for the greater glory of God.)

Just Thinking and Writing



I don't think any of us can drive past the chapel and not shake our heads in disbelief. It looks like a bombed out shell of a church from a war-time bombing raid. It's amazing how we have all taken it for granted for so long and thought that it would always be there. People from all over have heard or read about the tragic fire. It was even in the papers and on the radio in Goodland.

How many times have you heard ... "I was going to get down and see the rose window at night, all lighted" ...

or ... "It had been a long time since I had been inside the chapel and I was going to go down and take a look to see how they were doing on the restoration" ... or ... "I wanted to take pictures of those stained glass windows from the inside and never got around to it." I guess that's human nature ... sometimes we don't realize just how precious something is until it's gone.

I was down there the next morning after the fire and it was eerie with the smoldering embers still releasing smoke. The statues looked in good order and it is amazing that the altar area looked relatively untouched. Some of the stained glass windows were still intact but, of course, the rose window was completely gone.

The St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department was still working the next morning after a watch had been maintained throughout the night. Chief Bill Rezac, Ron Martell, Jim Keating, Whistle Besau and J.P. Smith were tired, but they never let us their vigil to make sure all the fire was out. I've said it before but it bears repeating ... we are very lucky to have such a good volunteer fire department. These men leave their work, the comfort of their homes, their recreation or whatever they might be doing at the time, to answer a call and they stay with it until the job is completed. In this case, it was one long day and night and into

the next morning.

Many of us didn't realize that the silo and barns about a half a block north of the chapel were on fire. While we were watching out front a group of men were frantically fighting in the back. My dad, Bill Simecka, had taken a water truck back there and Alex left me with the cameras saying he was going to help him hook it up. That was the last I saw of him until about four hours later when he climbed out of Marvin Muckenthaler's truck looking like a refugee from a chimney cleaning. Dad and J.P. Smith, both beyond retirement age but neither looking or acting like it, were in there giving their best, wrestling those hoses and doing a tough job well.

Jay Thurlow came to the rescue with his bulldozer, clearing the small trees and bushes in back of the chapel that were dry and very susceptible to sparks. Also, when the silo was burning and then crashed against the storage barn filled with hay, he took his dozer and pushed the burning silo away to save the barn and its contents.

How many men from how many fire departments were there? I really don't know, but they all did a tremendous job. Marvin Muckenthaler's arms must have been ready to fall off after spending hours up in the city's snorkel holding the hose so that water could get inside the chapel and could fight some of the worst of the flames.

There weren't only men working ... the ladies did their part, too. CeCe Muckenthaler and Mary Schumaker organized food and coffee ... with the help of many people around town they came up with sandwiches, cookies, rolls, apples, oranges and beverages to keep the men going throughout the day and all through the night. In fact, CeCe and Mary stayed there all night serving all the people who were working.

It's interesting to think back at people's responses regarding the fire ... Ron Martell was in Kansas City at a meeting; he heard the news but thought they said the St. Marys Church in Kansas City had burned. Imagine his stunned surprise when he found out it was our chapel. Terry Simecka and Lett Lutz were leaving the parking lot in Topeka on their way home from work and heard the report that the chapel had been destroyed. Hearing that and then seeing the chapel when he got home was a terrible shock to Terry. Steve Bayer heard the news in Manhattan and called his folks and told them he was coming right home ... our son, Alex, was going to drive from Goodland and it took everything we could conjure up to talk him out of it. He was crushed with the news. The editor of the "K-State Collegian" and one of the reporters didn't know how they could break the news to one of the young women reporters in the office. She had been

researching the chapel to do a special article and the editor had pulled her off the job temporarily to handle something else. He had told her, "The chapel will always be there."

We all feel the loss so keenly but can you imagine how the people feel that attended school at the college and were in the chapel daily. Bill Pope and Johnny Ronnau were talking about how they were day students and didn't live on campus like many of the other students but, of course, that didn't make their memories any less fond. Bill was reminiscing about the fact that Kenton Kilmer, Joyce Kilmer's son, was in one of his classes. Mary Bushey was saying how Frank loved the college and its campus and, of course, the chapel. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Besau were married in that chapel; what a beautiful place to get married. The memories flood back at a time like this.

Out of the Ashes . . .

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

With the burned-out shell of the Immaculata Chapel staring starkly at passersby, people are concerned and interested in the effort of restoration. Father Hector Bolduc, who directs this center for the Society of Friends of St. Pius X, is presently on the campus, overseeing the clean-up operation.

Brother Augustine reported on Friday, November 24, that an expert skilled in stained glass window construction has been on the campus. He supervised the initial sifting through the debris, and all fragments of glass have been picked up and sorted. O. H. Anderson and his employees have removed those windows which miraculously remained intact and have taken out the other empty frames. These have all been placed in storage

for safe-keeping.

Those three huge charred beams still hang menacingly over the main altar, but a frame canopy shelter has been built to protect it. The altar, which was washed in a special solution, has been sealed in a moisture-proof, plastic-like wrap as a prevention against freezing rain or snow which might cause cracking or damage.

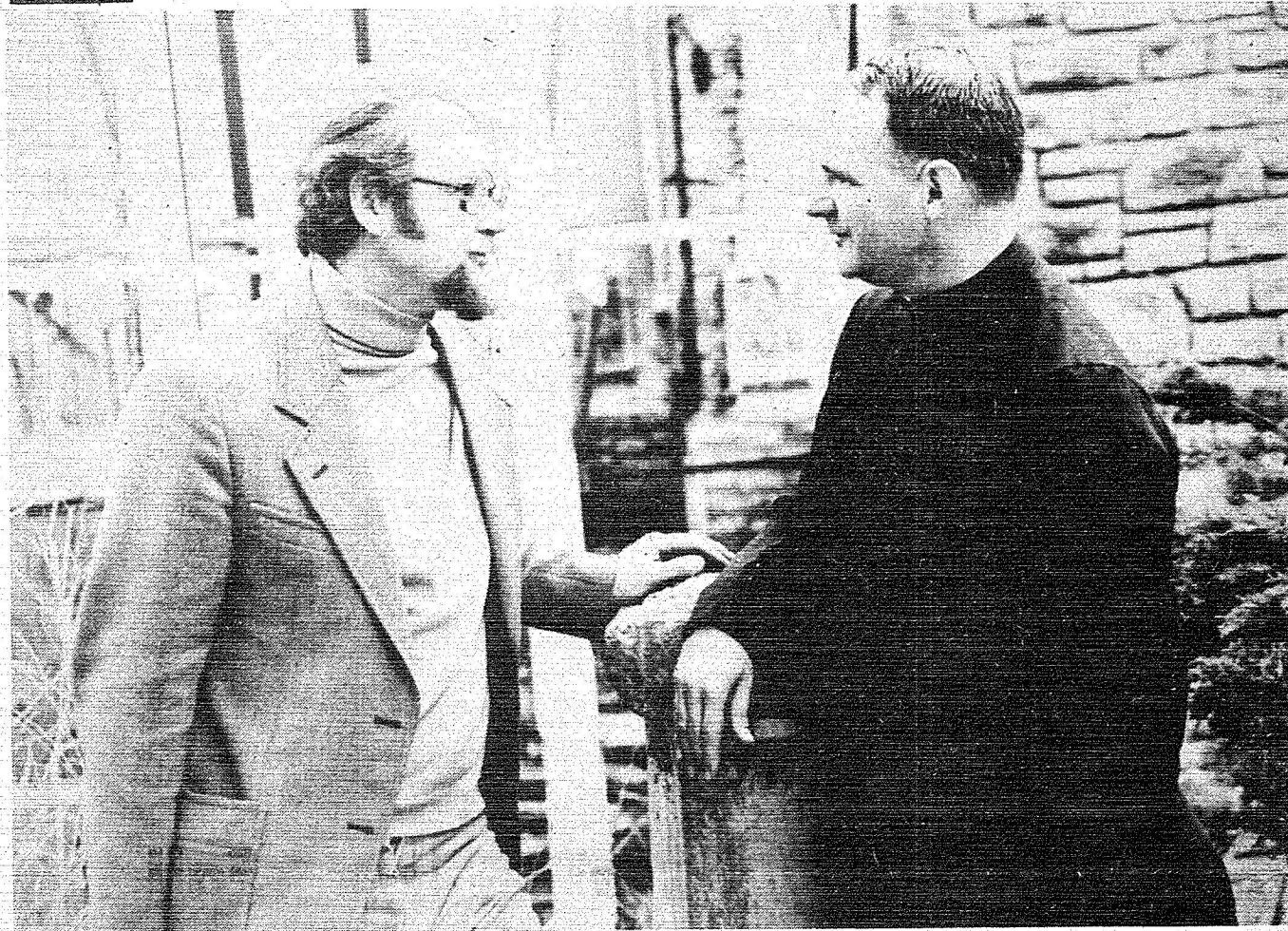
The plaster, pastel Stations of the Cross were completely destroyed, and will be replaced. Since the Society recently purchased the entire interior furnishings of the Sacred Heart Church in St. Louis, those Stations and the pulpit will be used in the new Immaculata. The original Communion railing which George Verschelden had returned to the Chapel was retrieved from the debris. The marble is badly

scorched, however, and may be burned too deeply to restore. This past weekend, workers were trying to uncover the marble baptismal font still buried in the rubble. Brother Augustine said not one single piece of the organ console or the pipes had been recovered from the rubble of fallen timbers.

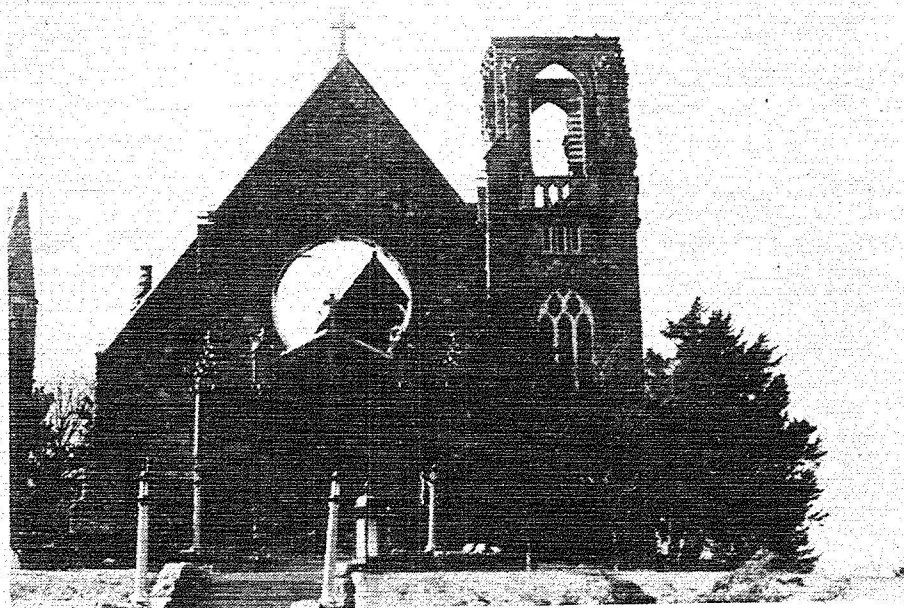
The tragedy of the chapel fire has touched the hearts of many people, especially those who remember the glorious days of St. Mary's College in the hey-day of the 1920s. Max Walls talked about doing construction work on Rodman Hall, renamed Bellarmine Hall by the Jesuits. He also dug by hand the two footings for the water tower, and vividly remembers finding perfect imprints of ferns in the soap-stone rocks.

All the Society's efforts for restoration of the campus are now concentrated on the chapel. Representatives from the Society are currently meeting with architectural firms and engineers to assess the strength of the walls, and to determine the process of reconstruction. "We are assured," Brother Augustine said firmly, "that the Immaculata can and will be completely restored, a fireproof building built even more solidly than originally." Then, with a smile he added, "Father Bolduc promises that when the Immaculata Chapel is finished, we'll all march down the aisle, singing a jubilant 'Te Deum,' the hymn of joy and praise."

I know I speak for so many others in the community when I say that we will be offering thanksgiving, too!



FATHER HECTOR BOLDUC, left director of the Society of Friends of St. Pius X, discussed the planned restoration of the windows of Immaculata Chapel with Manfred Hoehn. Hoehn, who visited the St. Mary's College campus last week, is a representative of the Franz Meyer Factory, Munich, Germany, which made the original windows. He will supervise the reconstruction according sketches and plans found safely preserved in the basement of the bombed-out factory building.



THE IMMACULATA CHAPEL
Clean-up and restoration work has started.

Would You Call It A Miracle?

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

Easter is the season for miracles, and that seems to be what's happening in the stained glass window restoration project at Immaculata Chapel. At least, listening to the story of Father Hector Bolduc, director of the Society of Friends of St. Pius X which is located on the St. Marys College campus, the discovery seemed miraculous. Few people have forgotten the tragic fire last November which destroyed so much of the Chapel and left only eight of the magnificent windows still intact. "Irreplaceable" was the word most often used to describe the loss. No one dared to dream of miracles.

The windows, designed and constructed by craftsmen at the Franz Meyer Glass Company in Munich, Germany were shipped to their import company in Chicago. American glaziers, trained by the Meyer Company, installed the beautiful windows in the Immaculata which was dedicated

in May, 1909. After the fire, all the bits and pieces of glass were carefully removed from the debris and tediously sorted, in the hope that the windows might someday be restored. On a recent trip to Europe, Father Bolduc turned detective, contacting every Franz Meyer family in Munich to ask if their family had ever done stained glass work. Since "Franz Meyer" is a little like "John Smith" in America, it turned out to be quite a task, he smiled, but finally, the correct family was located. A surprised descendant told Father Bolduc that the factory had been rebuilt after the Allied bombings during World War 2, and that once again, skilled artisans were making those lovely windows and mosaics.

Father Bolduc visited the factory in Munich about a month ago. In searching through old sketches and plans that had evidently been stored in a cellar and had survived the bombings, they found the original drawings for the windows of the Immaculata. These

sketches, along with the many pictures and slides sent in response to Father Bolduc's plea for help, will be of tremendous value in the restoration. Perhaps almost as amazing as the sketches' preservation is the fact that three of the original craftsmen who actually worked on the windows are still living. All three men, including a delighted Franz Meyer, are in their 90s.

Manfred Hoehn, a bearded, young but knowledgeable representative of the Meyer Factory, has been on St. Marys campus, carefully checking the conditions of the remaining windows as well as the fragmented ones. I watched as he and Father Bolduc checked the pictures and then accompanied them to what Father Bolduc laughingly calls the "intensive care" room. It contains a sample piece of everything that could be salvaged from the debris -- pieces of railings, columns and ornate decorative pieces which will provide the molds for reconstruction. Placed in the windows of the room, where the sunlight once again revealed their loveliness, were rescued sections from damaged windows. Mr. Hoehn pointed out the various kinds of damages and explained how they would be repaired. In the "Land of Galilee" panel, one area had been completely knocked out by pressure from the fire hose or debris from the falling tower. Those pieces will be matched and replaced, probably with fragments of other windows. The "Marriage Feast at Cana" window had some sections with only small scratches and they can be covered. Some showed tiny fractures or cracks from the intense heat; they can be repaired by a special epoxy. There were even some windows unbroken but melted by the flames, and these will be releaded.

We then visited the "recovery room." The entire floor was covered with portions of the windows which had been retrieved from the burned-out sanctuary shell. The exquisite colors of the glass were completely hidden under layers of smoke. The task seems formidable, but it can and will be done, both men assured me. All the panels which have damaged or missing parts will be sent to Germany so that the colors can be skillfully matched. Mr. Hoehn estimated that one third of the windows can be salvaged.

Actually, Mr. Hoehn admitted, it's easier and less time-consuming just to make new glass, but as he described the ancient process, I wasn't so sure. The Franz Meyer Company is world-renowned for its excellent work. It uses the old method which had been lost for

centuries, but was rediscovered in the 1850s. Using a portion from the Assumption window as an example, Mr. Hoehn explained the complicated process. The glass is really "stained," not painted. With the exception of silver yellow used as trim on the sleeve of Mary's robe, only basic colors are used -- red, green, blue, and so forth. The glass is hand-blown (that accounts for the tiny bubbles we could see), then rolled into a long, flat section. Paper patterns are made of each shape (a flower petal, a leaf, or the face), and then the piece of glass is cut out. It is set on clear glass with hot wax for several hours. The pigment is then mixed and applied (it contains water, vinegar and other undisclosed ingredients), and the skilled artists erase parts of the stain to form the necessary details and lines. The glass is fired at 1,100° F for brief seconds and the stain melts in to fuse into one piece of lovely colored glass. They are leaded into the designs, and the results are those magnificent picture windows we remember. Luckily, there were eight still intact after the fire, three large ones at the north end of the sanctuary, and five in the tower. Many of the ornate frames are also in remarkably good condition.

Mr. Hoehn, an expert who has spent 20 years in this craft, estimates it will take five years to complete the project. Father Bolduc said that as the Chapel restoration progresses, clear, protective glass will be placed in the frames. Then as the picture windows arrive one by one from Germany, they will be installed in their original places. The Meyer Company does much of this kind of restoration work, and is presently working on cathedral windows in Regensburg, Germany. That is more difficult, he said, because there are no pictures or sketches to use as guides. He also explained the tragic deterioration of much precious stained glass in European cities, due to concentrated smoke, pollution, and humidity which combine to act as an acid that is gradually eating away the windows. Meyer's is famous for its skillful, beautiful work, including the La Paloma (the Dove) in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which is just behind the main altar and above the throne. They specialize in mosaics, Mr. Hoehn said, using stone, glass, and various colors of marble. Still done entirely by hand, the methods have not changed in over 2,000 years.

As we watched the bulldozer remove debris from the Chapel floor, Father Bolduc discussed the progress being made in the clean-up operation, and the future plans. The Chapel walls and ceiling will be completely reinforced with steel beams which will be encased in wood or decorative plaster, according to the original design. The weight of the roof will rest on the steel, fire protective materials will be added, and the Chapel will be stronger and just as beautiful as ever, he assured me. Already stored on campus (but still in hundreds of pieces) are an 80 ton Pakistani green and gold onyx altar which came from a church in St. Louis, and an organ from a Kansas City church. Valued at \$25,000, it was a gift from a friend who heard of the fire. With 76 ranks, four manuals, and 5,000 pipes, it will be reassembled and, hopefully, will fit in the Chapel's organ loft.

Work continues on the other buildings. The 160-bed Loyola Hall is ready to house guests for the summer retreats and the exciting ceremony scheduled for this fall. Equipment, ready for installing in the kitchen, now covers the floor in the dining hall. Father Bolduc pointed out the many beautiful windows in that building, too. One, given in memory of the Guffey family, was done by Emil Frie, an artist who worked for Meyer both in Munich and St. Louis. The Society director laughed when he told us he had refused a very, very generous offer from a rich Texan who wanted the lovely panels of "The Last Supper" for his ranch house. A da Vinci interpretation, it was given in memory of George Morpenberg, S.J., by his sister.

Sadly, some things seem to be damaged beyond restoration, including a crucifix with a smoke-dimmed plaque reading "In Memory of E.A. Coleman." It is badly burned and broken, a crumbling life-sized statue of

What a Difference a Year Makes

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

The past year has been one of mixed blessings and heartaches for the Kansas Friends of the Society of St. Pius X. In May of 1978, Texan Carl Boddy arrived on the campus of St. Mary's College. He was the first of the many followers of the traditionalist Catholic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre who are coming to make this Kansas town their home. With rosy dreams and far-reaching plans, work began immediately to refurbish the Immaculata Chapel, repair the vacant, decaying buildings, and restore the entire campus to its original beauty. Then tragedy struck. Only days after the young men who represented KATO, Inc. of Arizona presented director Father Hector Bolduc with the plaque commemorating their gift to the Society, fire destroyed much of the historic chapel. Faint-hearted followers would have quickly and quietly given up, for the monumental task of rebuilding the Immaculata seemed insurmountable. However, while burning embers were still falling and priceless stained glass was still crashing to the smoldering floor, Brother Augustine stood at the foot of the Chapel steps and confidently reported assurances from his superiors: "We will rebuild!"

Now, approximately a year after the deed for St. Mary's College was recorded, optimism abounds, and many of the pre-fire plans are being realized. Father Bolduc revealed that preparations had been made for a summer work camp, retreats, seminars, and the parochial school. He also detailed the plans for the Unity Pilgrimage and Convention which will be held August 13-16. The highlight of the occasion will be the solemn Pontifical High Mass led by Archbishop Lefebvre himself on August 15, the Day of the Assumption. Reservations have already been received from Catholics in many countries. Some 2,000 people are expected to come to St. Mary's College that week, and motels and hotels in Topeka, Manhattan, and Wamego have been reserved to provide needed accommodations. Shuttle buses will provide transportation for those arriving by train or chartered air flights, and electrical hook-ups will be available on the grounds for campers and motor homes. Since the college kitchen will be ready for use, the meals will be prepared on campus. The program for the 15th of August will include the celebration of the High Mass, the laying of a new cornerstone by Archbishop Lefebvre, a candlelight procession, and a confirmation service. The Mass will be held on the site of the first cathedral of the prairie. The little log cabin church built by the Jesuits at the Mission to the Potawatomi was named the Pro-Cathedral for Bishop John Miege, S.J. in 1851. If the weather is inclement, the service will be held in the gymnasium, Father Bolduc said.

An outstanding program is planned for the two days preceding the August 15th celebration. Designed to emphasize entire family participation, there will be day care centers for preschoolers. For children of school age, there will be "Angel Talk" Christian education classes, as well as catechism and Mass server-altar boy clinics. For many concerned parents, practical-help seminars are scheduled for those who want to establish Catholic schools. One unusual clinic will be led by Londoner Colin Mawly. He will direct the choir training session. All the centers will be sending their choirs and directors, and these will combine to provide the music for all the religious services. Reports from traditional Catholic groups around the world will be given, as they share news of the work being done in Europe and South America. There are also now many centers in the United States and Mexico. Two months ago in Eeone, Switzerland, Father Bolduc was named District Superior of the rapidly growing congregations in the southern and western states and in Mexico.

Undoubtedly, all those in attendance will be extremely interested in a major address on August 15, given by the noted Catholic lecturer and author, Michael Davies. His new two-volume book, *Apologia Pro Marcel Lefebvre* (Apologia is a Greek word meaning "a defense") is a record of the St. Pius X movement. Published by Angelus Press in Dickinson, Tex., it will be released that week in St. Marys. The book is the first complete, chronological record of all the

Christ on a charred wooden cross. "But," Father Bolduc said quietly and emphatically, "we never questioned." As we walked back down College Avenue, he added enthusiastically, "It's so good to hear the sound of work being done." I wonder, is that how a miracle sounds?

documents relating to the conflict between Monseigneur Lefebvre and Pope Paul VI.

The St. Marys Angelus Convention will not be all work, of course. A variety of recreational activities will be held, including a Tuesday night barbecue. Several movies will be shown, including "Song of Bernadette," "A Man of All Seasons," and naturally, "The Bells of St. Marys." The pilgrimage will conclude on August 16.

This month of June, young men between the ages of 13 and 21 will be arriving from points as distant as Norway and Alaska for a summer work camp experience. It is a program requested by the parents, an opportunity for the youths "to learn the importance of giving of themselves to work for a good task," as Father Bolduc expressed it. They'll have religious training, recreation, and work (painting, cleaning up the ground, etc.). The boys will be quartered in the old administration building where 80 bedrooms are now ready, and a chef will provide the wholesome, hearty meals and snacks. The rules are strict, reminiscent of the regulations detailed in the old St. Mary's College bulletins.

Many of the same rules will apply to the expected 200 or more students who will enroll in the St. Mary's Academy this fall. "The students are coming here to learn," Father Bolduc emphasized. "and they will receive accelerated, high quality education from the best teachers possible. Our goal is to turn out well-educated students who are proud of their Christian heritage, and who have developed sound morals and good ethics." The headmaster is coming from Florida, other teachers from many states, and the faculty will include Catholic nuns. Day students in the traditional Catholic co-educational school will enroll in grades kindergarten through 10. An estimated 100 boys and girls in grades seven through 10 will be boarding school students. Since the St. Mary's campus will be used for the school, another site is being purchased for a seminary.

Other summer activities planned are the traditional retreats sponsored by the retreat masters of the Society of St. Pius X. The men's session will be held July 16-21, and the women's retreat will be July 23-28.

More than 20 families from many states have already come to live in St. Marys. "They are hard workers who have left their homes and good jobs, but they feel the sacrifices will be worth it for their families," the director said. Anticipating the arrival of many more families, the Society has taken an option to buy 400 acres of land from the Jesuits. The area around the College is already buzzing with activity. Gardens have been planted, the first animals have arrived for the beginning of a dairy herd, and there are chickens and pigs in the farm buildings.

What progress has been made in the Chapel window restoration project? Father Bolduc reported that this past week, he had commissioned the Franz Meyer Company to begin work on the beautiful rose window. Although they have been unable to locate the original plans in Germany, enough pictures and written descriptions are available to make the rebuilding of the rose window possible. It may be 1985 before the window once again glows in all its beauty, but it will be worth waiting for. Representatives from the company will come here to supervise the packing and crating of the fragments which will be used in restoring the other windows.

Although the destructive fire was a severe blow to their immediate plans for St. Mary's College, the members of the Society have never lost their faith and enthusiasm. Let's hope that the next year will see even more of their dreams come true.

Rose Window to be First Completed

In a conversation with Fr. Hector Bolduc Wednesday, May 27, he said the rose window for the chapel will be the first project of the artisans from the Franz Munich Factory. A crew from Germany will arrive on the campus to pack up all the glass; the frame and whatever else necessary to rebuild the window. No date was given for its completion and installation, but Fr. Bolduc feels it might be several years due to the tedious nature of the reconstruction.

Society of St. Pius X

Insurance Problem Transferred to Federal Court

Attorneys for the American Friends of the Society of St. Pius X, Inc., filed a petition with the Clerk of the District Court at Pottawatomie County, Kansas, on Thursday, June 7, 1979, to transfer the action pending in District Court to the United States District Court for the District of Kansas.

The Society is asking for settlement of a claim in excess of \$10,000, exclusive of interest and costs, resulting from the fire to the Immaculata Chapel on the St. Mary's College campus which occurred November 8, 1978, totally destroying the building.

The insurance company, Employers Fire Insurance Company, based at Boston, Mass., claims that under the

terms of the co-insurance policy issued, the company is not liable for the total amount of the claim filed by the Society.

The Society, in a countersuit, denies allegations made by the insurance company and indicated the insurance company did issue a succession of thirty-day binders beginning June 23, 1978, and that the Society was insured against fire.

Included in the petition for removal of the case to federal district court, the Society states that Danvers Eason Insurance Company, Houston, Texas (an agent for Employers Fire Insurance Company) was not licensed or qualified to negotiate or solicit in-

surance on risks within the State of Kansas and thus violated the provisions of Kansas statutes.

The Society of St. Pius X asserts the bidder of insurance in effect on November 8, 1978, provided for blanket coverage on fourteen buildings and contents in the amount of \$3,250,000 and that the chapel was one of the buildings insured under the binder. The Society feels that blanket coverage requires full amount of insurance to be applied to any loss and does not indicate that co-insurance is applicable.

Subsequent to the fire and in March, 1979, the insurance company issued a final policy of insurance that did not

conform to the binder and was advised by the Society of the inconsistencies between the binder and policy including the wrongful insertion in the policy of a co-insurance provision.

In the counterclaim filed, the Society is asking for damages against the insurance company for "breach of contract including the sum due under the contract of insurance plus statutory attorney fees, costs and of such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable."

Attorneys for the Society of St. Pius X, Inc. anticipate that within 90 days, the question of the amount of coverage will be submitted to Judge Richard Rogers for decision.

Archbishop

Marcel Lefebvre

Coming to St. Marys

August 15, 1979, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre of the Society of St. Pius X, Ecône, Switzerland, will be on the St. Mary's College campus to celebrate the Pontifical High Mass at the Feast of the Assumption.

The pilgrimage to St. Mary's will draw traditional Catholics from all over the United States and Canada for the three day period of August 13-16. Other religious activities scheduled include candlelit processions, Solemn Vespers, Solemn Benediction, and Holy Mass each morning. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by the Archbishop at 6 p.m.

on the Feast of Assumption.

A choir conducted by Colin Mawby of London whose Westminster Cathedral Choir replaced the Sistine Choir at the canonization of the Forty English Martyrs, will be made up of people making the pilgrimage. They will sing for the Pontifical High Mass, the processions and the Confirmation.

Lectures and seminars during the three day period will be conducted by the renowned author Michael Davies, and the director of St. Mary's College, Reverend Father Hector Bolduc.

Many reservations have been received from individuals and families planning to attend the pilgrimage.

The Three R's Plus Religion and Respect

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

"We'll be teaching the five R's in our classrooms at St. Marys Academy," headmaster Herman Belderok stated emphatically. "They are the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, along with religion and respect," he explained. The Belderok family recently arrived from Florida, and he is already busy with his duties as administrator of the Academy as well as coordinator for the campus activities.

The Academy brochure has been published and it opens with this statement: "St. Marys Academy is a private, co-educational, traditional Roman Catholic school located in the heart of America in St. Marys, Ks., about twenty-five miles west of Topeka. The Academy is housed on the grounds of St. Mary's College, formerly operated by the Jesuits, where thirteen buildings on twenty-four acres now belong to the Society of St. Pius X. Kindergarten through tenth grade classes will be offered this term, with grades 11 and 12 to be formed in 1980 and 1981."

What about those other two R's of Academy education -- religion and respect? "The day begins with the Holy Mass (the Latin Tridentine Mass), and all students are required to attend," according to the brochure. The daily Rosary is also "a major part of life" at the co-educational school whose students will include boarding scholars in addition to local and commuting students. Dormitory rooms are already waiting for boarders in a refurbished Loyola hall. The faculty, all Traditional Roman Catholics, are "good, qualified

personnel," the headmaster said. Classes will also include music, arts, and sports for a completely well-balanced education. The fifth R -- respect -- will place emphasis on "rules of good conduct and citizenship, and the use of good common sense." Mr. Belderok continued, "Because the children are under age, there will be strict rules, reasonable but firm." One requirement will be uniforms, and a grooming code for all students will be in effect.

Mr. Belderok, a tall, distinguished-looking man, made two positive statements about the students who will be accepted at the Academy. "This is an institution of learning, not a correctional facility for problem children," he stated firmly. He also stressed that enrollees must be capable of work on their basic academic level. If remedial help is needed, it will be the parents' responsibility to provide home or special tutoring. Registration will begin this week.

Currently, there are 25 to 30 workers rushing to complete work on the campus buildings which will be needed for the school, the summer retreats and seminars, and the August 15 visit of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. "They are a fine group of dedicated people who work from dawn to dusk," Mr. Belderok said warmly.

We visited one of the classrooms in the old Bellarmine Hall, the building adjacent to the Immaculata Chapel. It is lined with blackboards which were completely filled with notes on deadlines to meet and work to complete

in the various buildings and on the grounds. Considering the tragedy of the chapel fire last November, it's no wonder that prominent on the detailed lists were smoke alarms, fire hoses, and exit signs. "We're right on schedule," the administrator beamed, and he certainly must be pleased to check off each job completed as the days speed by.

Mr. Belderok and his wife, Ellen, a native New Yorker, have two sons, Jacques, 11, and Herman, Jr., nine. He has had an interesting life. Born in Antwerp, Belgium, he went to school in Holland, and held Dutch citizenship. There he studied with the Jesuits. During World War II, he went to London and continued his education with the Christian Brothers. Having been taught traditional Roman Catholicism all his life, Mr. Belderok explained that he could not agree with the changes in the Church. He became interested in the Society of St. Pius X through their school at Long Island, one of many established in the United States. Now Mr. Herman Belderok is headmaster on the same campus where his first teachers, the Jesuits, had established an Indian Mission and school, and later a college and a seminary. Members of the Society have optimistic plans for a St. Mary's College again someday, too. Meanwhile, classes at St. Mary's Academy begin on September 10. Once again, students will file into the old classroom building to learn the importance and value of religion and respect, as well as the familiar reading, writing, and arithmetic.



MR. HERMAN BELDEROK

Archbishop Lefebvre to Visit
St. Mary's College August 15

Saint
Mary's
Academy
Classes
Now
Forming
For
Fall
Enrollment

Lefebvre to establish a Society chapel in Dickinson, Tex. By 1977, Queen of Angels, a complex consisting of a chapel, school, rectory and convent, was opened in Dickinson. Also in that year, he was responsible for the founding of "The Angelus," a monthly traditional Catholic magazine, and The Angelus Press, which publishes traditional Catholic books, pamphlets, calendars, educational material and most recently the first volume of the large work by renowned Catholic writer Michael Davies of England -- *Apologia Pro Marcel Lefebvre*. Also in 1977, the St. Joseph's House in San Antonio, Tex. was opened under Fr. Bolduc's direction. In 1978, property in Kenner, La., a suburb of New Orleans, was acquired for Our Lady of Grace chapel and school.

Since the Friends of the Society of St. Pius X acquired the St. Mary's College in 1978, Fr. Bolduc has served as its director. He has worked diligently setting priorities for the restoration of the buildings for a traditional Roman Catholic school (St. Mary's Academy) which will begin with boarding and day students on September 10, 1979; and has directed the summer youth work program, the men's and women's retreats, and the enormous pilgrimage to the college from the 13th to the 16th of August with emphasis on the Feast of Assumption on August 15. Within the next few years, the Academy will be able to accept students through the 12th grade, and the first year of the college will be open. Eventually, the college will be a four year learning center.

The Southwest District under Father Bolduc's direction includes 30 chapels in 26 states including Hawaii, Alaska and Mexico. The district headquarters are at St. Marys, Kansas.

The Reverend Hector Bolduc

The director of St. Mary's College and Academy is also the District Superior of the Southwest District of the United States for the Friends of the Society of St. Pius X. The Reverend Father Hector L. Bolduc was born in 1936 in Laconia, New Hampshire, and was educated in the local schools.

He attended St. Procopius College, Lisle, Ill., and Xavierian College, Washington, D.C. He was graduated from the School of Philosophy of Catholic University, Washington, D.C. and began theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary and Consortium, also in Washington, D.C. He prepared for his Master's degree in Greece, Turkey, Italy, France, Germany and Ethiopia, and attended Fribourg University in Switzerland. In 1974, Fr. Bolduc was ordained at the Seminary of St. Pius X in Ecône, Switzerland. He knows several languages and fluently speaks French and German as well as English.

Fr. Bolduc served with the Third Armored Division, 27th Field Artillery, U.S. Army and was assigned to Germany. He attained the rank of sergeant.

After ordination, Fr. Bolduc was assigned to St. Joseph's House of Studies, a seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in Armada, Mich. In 1975, he was sent by Archbishop Marcel

Sunday.

Second row, L-R -- William H. J. Wagster, Tulsa, Okla.; Michael Fear, Del City, Okla.; Frank Meccia, Jr., St. Mary's College; Rodney Rickard, Ballston Spa, N.Y.; Robert Startz, Tulsa, Okla. Third row -- Billy Joe Wagster, Tulsa, Okla.; Leonard Tschirhart, Warren, Mich.; Milton Perry, Romeo, Mich.; Peter Gayner, Rochester, Mich.; John Hogan, Fenton, Mich.; David Bawden, Oklahoma City, Okla. Fourth row -- Gregory Boylson, Decatur, Ill.; Louis Gonzales, San Antonio, Tex.; James Stein, Algonac, Mich.; Peter Wick, Tonawanda, N.Y.; Dennis Murphy, Monett, Mo.; Vincent Wohletz, Bucyrus, Fifth row -- William Cain, Port Huron, Mich.; Gary Pouliot, Pasco, Wash.; Ralph Stevens, Springfield, Mo.; Joseph DeLallo, South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; Myron Boylson, Tuscola, Ill.; Robert Wohletz, Bucyrus; Kenneth Bawden, Oklahoma City, Okla. Sixth row -- James Leporte, Des Moines, Ia.; Neal Webster, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Frank Shopen, Shawnee Mission, Matthew Newman, New Haven, Conn.; and Martin Wehry, Walnut, Calif. are not pictured.



PICTURED ON THE STEPS of Loyola Hall at St. Mary's College are the retreat leaders and the men who participated in the spiritual exercises which were held July 16 through July 21.

Following the old format of the "Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola," the founder of the Jesuit order, the participants spent the week in complete silence. The day began with a low Mass at 6:15 each morning. There were class lectures by the retreat leaders, and periods for quiet meditation in a place of solitude on the beautiful campus grounds or in the isolation of their individual rooms. The 32 men who participated came

from many states.

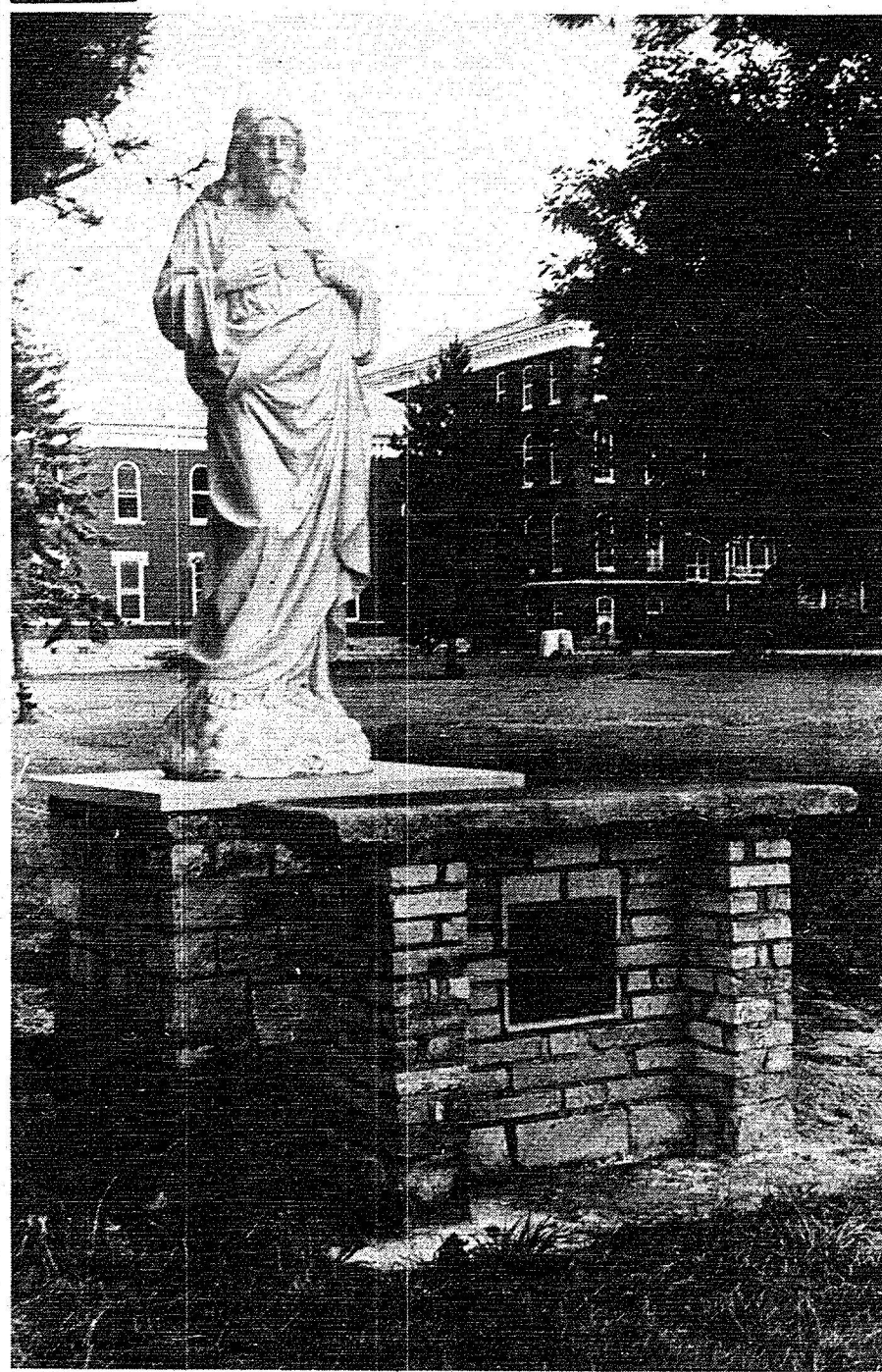
Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Roger Petit, seminarian in the International Priestly Society of St. Pius X, with headquarters at Ecône, Switzerland; Father Hector L. Bolduc, district superior of the Southwest district of the Society of St. Pius X, whose office is located at St. Mary's College; Father Richard Williamson, a native of England, retreat master, from Ecône, Switzerland, and Father Anthony Cathey, who was ordained June 29, 1979, in Ecône by Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. A South Carolinian, he celebrated his first solemn High Mass at St. Mary's on



THE FIRST WOMEN'S RETREAT held at the St. Mary's College was from Monday, July 23 through Saturday, July 28, and consisted of 44 ladies. Instructors and priests responsible for the retreat are pictured, left to right, in the front row -- David Bawden, Roger Petit (Seminarian), Fr. Terence Finnegan, and Fr. Hector Bolduc.

Retreatants were, second row -- Miss Margaret Tobin, Olathe; Mrs. Maria Liano, Juarez, Mexico; Mrs. Janice Gillilan, Garden Grove, Calif.; Mrs. Sharon Blake, Harrisonville, Mo.; Miss Julia Kabance, Monroe, Conn.; Mrs. Agnes B. Farris, Carbondale, Colo.; Mrs. Lillian M. Maguire, Ontario, Canada; and Mrs. R. E. Wohletz, Bucyrus. Third row -- Mrs. Dorothy Gutsche, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Mrs. Helen M. Nichols, Monett, Mo.; Miss Maureen Goggin, San Pedro, Calif.; Mrs. Maria Worgull, Tyler, Tex.; Mrs. Dorothy Carabetta, San Antonio, Tex.; and Mrs. Myron Boylson, Tuscola, Ill. Fourth row -- Miss Lucille Durzo, Carbondale, Colo.; Miss Angela Worgull, Tyler, Tex.; Mrs. Patricia Boyd, New York, N.Y.; and Miss Maria Alicia Castaneda-Tanguma, San Antonio, Tex. Fifth row -- Mrs.

Frances Janacaro, Independence, Mo.; Mrs. Joy Testa, Sanger, Tex.; Mrs. Helga Konecny, Rifle, Colo.; Mrs. Tickle Bawden, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Mrs. Dorothy M. Belzak, Juneau, Alaska; Mrs. Jewell Tammero, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; and Mrs. Patrick Boylson, Galesburg, Ill. Sixth row -- Mrs. Carol Perugini, Waterbury, Conn.; Miss Clare Buckalew, Denton, Tex.; Mrs. Elizabeth A. Burns, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Margaret C. Lunow, Campbell, Calif.; Miss Theresa Gonzales, San Antonio, Tex.; Miss Elizabeth Graisy, Stevensville, Mont.; and Mrs. Carol N. Cerny, St. Marys. Seventh row -- Mrs. Virginia Takacs, Carbondale, Colo.; Mrs. Teresa Gonzales, San Antonio, Tex.; Mrs. Helen Murphy, Kansas City, Mo.; Miss Mary Ellen Gillilan, Long Beach, Calif.; Mrs. Christiane Wehry, Walnut, Calif.; and Dr. Annamaria Kosa, Powers Lake, N.D. Eighth row -- Mrs. Patricia Smith, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Diane M. Ferrara, Westwood, N.J.; Mrs. Vicki Kuefler, Racine, Wisc.; Mrs. Reno Cerise, Basalt, Colo.; Miss Marianne DeLallo, So. Lake Tahoe, Calif.; and Miss Pamela Lee, West Palm Beach, Fla.



THE STATUE OF THE SACRED HEART (weighing two tons) was hoisted to the top of the pedestal recently built near the altar marking the location of the sanctuary of the very first Pro-Cathedral between the Mississippi River and the state of California. The statue came from Sacred Heart Church in St. Louis, Mo. The parish was closed and the contents of the church were purchased by the Society of St. Pius X. The altar to the east and immediately in front of the statue was erected several years ago at the site of the first log cabin mission on the St. Mary's College lawn.

Commandant ordered her release and she returned to her children broken in health but unbroken in spirit. When she eventually died after long years of suffering all who knew her testified that her death was the death of a saint, and there are numerous testimonies to favors obtained through her intercession.

Marcel was brought up in a family characterized by the highest standards of piety, discipline, and morality -- and it was the example of the parents which above all formed the characters of the eight children. Five of them are now priests or religious and the entire family still remains closely united. As a child Marcel was always good humored and industrious with a particular love of manual work. While a seminary student he installed an electrical system in his parents' home with all the skill of a professional electrician.

After his vocation to the priesthood became apparent he studied in his own diocese and then in the French seminary in Rome. He obtained doctorates in philosophy and theology. He was ordained priest on 21 September 1929.

His first appointment was to the working class parish of Marais-de-Lomme, where he was extremely happy and well loved by the parishioners. The impact he made is well illustrated by an incident involving the death of a virulent anti-clerical. This type of person is virtually unknown in English-speaking countries, where those who are religious tend to be indifferent. In most Catholic countries there are people possessed by a fierce hatred for the Church and above all for the clergy, whom they associate with everything that is retrogressive and repressive in life. This particular individual remained inflexible until the end, but just before his death he said that he would see a priest -- but it would have to be the young curate as he at least wasn't "one of them".

In 1932 Father Lefebvre joined the Holy Ghost Fathers and was sent to Gabon as a missionary, where he remained throughout the war. This was, he testifies, one of the happiest periods of his life.

In 1946 he was recalled to France to become Superior of a seminary at Mortain, but he returned to Africa when he was appointed Vicar-Apostolic of Dakar on 12 June 1947. On 22 September 1948 he was appointed Apostolic Delegate (the Pope's personal representative) for the whole of French-speaking Africa -- a mark of the great confidence placed in him by Pope Pius XII. He was appointed as the first Archbishop of Dakar on 14 September 1955.

Even Mgr. Lefebvre's most severe critics have been forced to testify to the efficacy of his apostolate in Africa. In 1976, a Swiss priest, Father Jean Anzevui, who had been welcomed as a guest at Ecône on a number of occasions, published a most distasteful attack upon the Archbishop, entitled "Le Drame d'Ecône." Father Anzevui's assessment of Mgr. Lefebvre's apostolate is all the more remarkable from an avowed opponent. He states:

During his thirty year

apostolate in Africa the role of Mgr. Lefebvre was of the very highest importance. His fellow missionaries still remember his extraordinary missionary zeal which was revealed in his exceptional abilities as an organizer and a man of action. He persuaded a number of congregations which had previously shown no interest in the missions to undertake work in Africa. He was responsible for the construction of large numbers of churches and the foundation of charitable works of every kind... they are all agreed in recognizing his magnificent career, his courtesy, his affability, his natural and simple distinction, the dignity of his perfect life, his austerity, his piety and his absolute devotion to any task which he undertook.

I Have Worked Only in His Service

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

"I have worked only in His service." These are the words of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, founder of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Pius X, who will be in St. Marys on August 15, the Day of the Assumption. The very mention of his name evokes a variety of emotion. To his followers, it signifies tradition, respect, discipline, admiration and devotion. To his critics, the words are more like radical, rebel misunderstanding, distrust, and even fear. Having read a few unflattering, almost inflammatory articles in the secular press, the record of the St. Pius X movement as written by Catholic author and lecturer Michael Davies presented an entirely different view.

Davies' new book, *Apologia Pro Marcel Lefebvre*, was published by The Angelus Press in Dickinson, Tex., and will be released in St. Marys during the pilgrimage. Davies gives a brief history of Lefebvre's life, then details in chronological order all the documents relating to the conflict between the Archbishop and Pope Paul VI. The book is written in easily understood layman's language, and carries a complete text of all the letters, appeals, and correspondence exchanged.

The first pages of the *Apologia* concerning the history of Marcel Lefebvre's life and early church appointments have been reprinted in this special issue with the permission of author Davies. Born in 1905 in Tourcoing, France, he was ordained on September 21, 1929, and spent many years in Africa as a missionary. In September 1947, he was appointed Apostolic Delegate (the Pope's personal representative) of all of French-speaking Africa, and in 1955, was named the first Archbishop of Dakar. Marcel Lefebvre, speaking on the occasion of the community celebration of his seventieth birthday at the International Seminary of St. Pius X, Ecône, Switzerland, discussed the growth of the Church in Africa during those years. He added, "And each year, I had the joy of going to Rome and approaching Pope Pius XII. For eleven years I was able to visit Pope Pius XII, whom I venerated as a saint... He always received me with extraordinary kindness, taking an interest in all the problems of Africa. That is also how I got to know very closely Pope Paul IV, who was at that time the Substitute (assistant to the Vatican Secretary of State) of Pope Pius XII."

Mr. Davies continued: "Monseigneur Lefebvre was appointed to the Central Preparatory Commission of the Second Vatican Council in 1960 by Pope John XXIII. In January 1962, he resigned his archbishopric in favor of a

native African, now His Eminence Cardinal Hyacinthe Thiandoum, who had been ordained by Mgr. Lefebvre." He served briefly as Bishop of Tulle, France where he was already considered traditional, and was then elected to a 12-year term as Superior General of the Holy Ghost Fathers, the world's leading missionary society. Accepting the post on the advice of Pope John, it involved traveling to visit the far-flung missions of the order and to gain insight into the state of the Catholic Church throughout the world.

During the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), Mgr. Lefebvre was one of the leaders of the International Group of Fathers who sought to uphold the traditional Catholic faith. In June 1968, rather than collaborate with what he felt was the liberal majority which now dominated the general chapter of the Holy Ghost Fathers, he resigned. With a modest pension sufficient to rent a small apartment, he retired to Rome to spend his remaining years in quiet solitude and prayer.

Mr. Davies comments that if Archbishop Lefebvre had retired from public life in 1968 as he had planned, "He would have earned a distinguished and

honored place in the history of the Church. No one had done more for the Church in Africa in this century; no one had done more to uphold the true faith during Vatican II. "Instead, when young men were sent to him to ask for help in locating a truly traditional Catholic seminary, the search ended in Ecône, Switzerland on the property of the Canons of St. Bernard. The Seminary of St. Pius X was formally opened on October 7, 1970. Word quickly spread that an orthodox seminary had been established and young men began arriving from many countries.

Throughout the *Apologia*, emphasis is placed on the importance of tradition in the Roman Catholic Church. The members of the Society follow the traditions that were once commonly observed by all members of that faith, such as fasting from meat on Friday, the women wearing head coverings in the sanctuary, and the form of the Mass being retained. Although Latin is the preferred language because it is "frozen" and the meaning does not change whereas the vernacular of English and other languages causes changes in the meanings of words and

phrases, the form of the Mass is what the traditionalists wish to keep. Author Davies discusses what they consider the current lack of acceptance of the traditions of the Church, and the intrigue involving certain Vatican officials. He emphasizes Mgr. Lefebvre's devotion to the Church and allegiance to the Pope. One particularly interesting chapter described the Credo Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome in May, 1975, led by the Archbishop who was accompanied by the Seminary professor and the students at Ecône.

Archbishop Lefebvre's visit to St. Marys, when he will celebrate Mass in the Refectory (Canisius Hall) which has been remodeled and is now serving as a temporary chapel to accommodate the parishioners until the Immaculata is finished; and other services and celebrations to be held on the site of the log cabin Cathedral of Bishop Miege, will bring many members of the Society of St. Pius X to the Pilgrimage. It will also attract many representatives of the news media, for the eyes of much of the world will be focused on the events at the St. Mary's College campus from August 13 through August 16.

Providence, and the inspiration he imparted to them all in the midst of terrible suffering. His greatest sorrow was that he had to die without seeing his children again.

The mother of the Archbishop was born Gabrielle Watin. All who knew her considered her to be a saint. The story of her life was written by a French priest in 1948. Gabrielle was celebrated not simply for sanctity but for strength of character. During the absence of her husband in the First World War she directed the factory, looked after her children, cared for the wounded, found time to visit the sick and the poor, and organized resistance against the Germans. She was arrested and subjected to an extremely harsh imprisonment, was distraught at the separation from her children, and became gravely ill. The German Commandant, anxious and embarrassed, promised to release her if she would write a note begging him to pardon her. She refused to do so, being prepared to die rather than compromise on a matter of principle. Fearing the consequences of her death, the

Who is Marcel Lefebvre?

Taken from *Apologia Pro Marcel Lefebvre Vol. I* The Angelus Press, Dickinson, Tex. 77539. Used with permission of author, Michael Davies; copyright 1979.

Marcel Lefebvre was born at Tourcoing in northern France on 29 November 1905. His parents were exemplary Catholics. His father owned a textile factory and was a daily communicant who would assist at Mass at a quarter past six each morning and recite his rosary before arriving at the factory to begin work ahead of his employees. Each evening he would be the last to leave. The welfare of his employees was always a primary consideration for him. The textile industry was to a very large extent dependent upon fluctuations of the market and in 1929, the year of Marcel's ordination, Monsieur Lefebvre was declared bankrupt and the family suffered financial ruin. But with characteristic resolution he set to work and succeeded in building up his business again.

From the age of eighteen he had been

