#### THE DALLAS POST, NOVEMBER 24, 1976

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## **Gate of Heaven recalls 25** years since dedication

Parishioners and friends records, the seed of the of Gate of Heaven gathered last Thursday evening for a concelebrated Mass to commemorate the 25th nineteenth century when anniversary of the formal dedication of the parish. Bishop J. Carroll Mc-Cormick was chief celebrant, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Jordan, pastor, Gate of Heaven; the Rev. Stephen McGough, asst. pastor; the Rev. Joseph Sammons, pastor, St. Therese's, Shavertown; the Rev. Patrick Healey, pastor, Our Lady of Victory, Harveys Lake; and Msgr. Francis Kane, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, West Pittston, who was pastor of Gate of Heaven for 19 years.

More than 400 were present to hear the homily delivered by Msgr. Kane which traced the history of Gate of Heaven to the very foundation.

Music for the Mass was provided by the adult choir of the parish and the Shalom Folk group of the parish. The most inspirational renditions were the "Pansis Angelicus" by the adult choir with Mrs. David Wojiechowski and Mrs. David Hurst providing violin accompaniment.

Mrs. Theodore Veremeychik was flutist. The folk singers then followed with the prayer of St. Francis, in song.

Mrs. Walter Weir was chairman of the reception which followed in the school auditorium, and a deep sense of accomplishment prevailed. A history of Gate of Heaven was prepared by Dr. Rudolf J. Schleich, a resident of Oak Hill, (excerpts from history are as follows).

According to available

Catholic Community of the Back Mountain region was sown during the midthe Myron Williams, Nellie Shultz and the Kern families settled in the Loyalville area at Harveys Lake, the Peter Straub and Peter Youngblood families erected homesteads at Chase.

Other persons of the same persuasion followed during the period of the Civil War, seeking refuge, we are told from the turmoil of that conflict.

One could hardly overestimate, the communications difficulties which attended the service of the scattered, primarily rural communicants of this sprawling parish which embraced Trucksville, Shavertown, Fernbrook, Carverton, Demunds, Dallas Borough and Township, Lake and Lehman Townships, Laketon, Noxen, Loyalville and Kingston Township. Bishop Hoban responded in September, 1926 to the need of Fr. O'Leary and his parishioners in the Trucksville, Shavertown and Dallas areas by providing for a feasibility study of alternate parochial sites which would be more readily accessible to these per-

sons. Among the desirable locations identified was one on which St. Therese's Church was later erected. Although, almost two years intervened -- a period during which services were held for approximately 60 families at the Hillside Recreation Hall (the later Bulford Farm Machinery Store) -- an enthusiastic response by the Catholic residents provided the

and moral

support which contributed to the commencement, in June, 1929, of the construction of the new church and rectory. Unfurnished and with scaffolding still in place, Mass was sung for the first time in the church on Christmas Eve of that same year.

Not even the torrential downpour of Nov. 4, 1929 could dampen the spirits of hundreds of

the parishioners and friends of Fr. O'Leary who attended the solem dedicatory festivities at which Bishop O'Reilly presided. Although the weather obliged the cancellation of a prospectively impressive procession, a special choir of selected voices from the leading choral groups of the Wyoming Valley performed during the High Mass that morning, and Fr. Francis P. Duffy, chaplain of the renowned Sixty-ninth ("Fighting Irish") Regiment of the New York State National Guard delivered the dedicatory sermon. Also in attendance were many of Fr. O'Leary's comrades from the period of his own distinguished service in the Armed Forces.

With the establishment of St. Therese's Church, Our Lady of Victory became a mission of that parish. Throughout the following decade, Catholic residents at Harveys Lake would attend religious services at the Chapel, or, in the case of the residents at Laketon, at the Sandy Beach amusement hall--an arrangement which was generously tendered by Thomas Pugh, the proprietor, and continued by his successor Samuel Slomowitz.

During the winter added two years later. The months a number of these families would hire a bus to transport them to Shavertown on Sundays and other feast days.

youngsters.

vears. Sisters Borromeo and During the era of Rosaire of College economic growth following Misericordia had the Second World War, organized a Sunday School modern highways were at St. Therese's and constructed and this led to therefore, these trips a significant increase in became extended outings the number of full time with each family providing Back Mountain residents. themselves with a pre-The greatest number of packed "brunch" to tide new Catholics were centhem through the posttered in the area between Mass religious instruction Shavertown and Harveys sessions for the Lake. Father O'Leary an-By the late 1930's, thanks ticipated the spiritual and to the generosity of John educational needs of Hanson, it was possible for residents and gained permission to purchase Harveys Lake parishioners to attend services during property at the corner of the winter months at the Machell Ave. and Spring

former's lake-side

restaurant. Here also the

religious instruction of the

children was entrusted to

the dedicated Sisters of

Mercy. And, when a

heating plant was finally

installed in Our Lady of

Victory Chapel in 1940 it

provided a comfortable

facility for services during

every season of the year.

progress had also been

made in furbishing St.

Therese's Church. This

was a very gradual process

since a great effort had

been expended by a

relatively small number of

parishioners in funding the

construction of this

ruggedly handsome

at a small portable altar

which had been used for

many summers at the

Sandy Beach services. In

1930 stationary altars and

pews were installed and a

basement auditorium was

furnishings of the latter

would, in the interest of

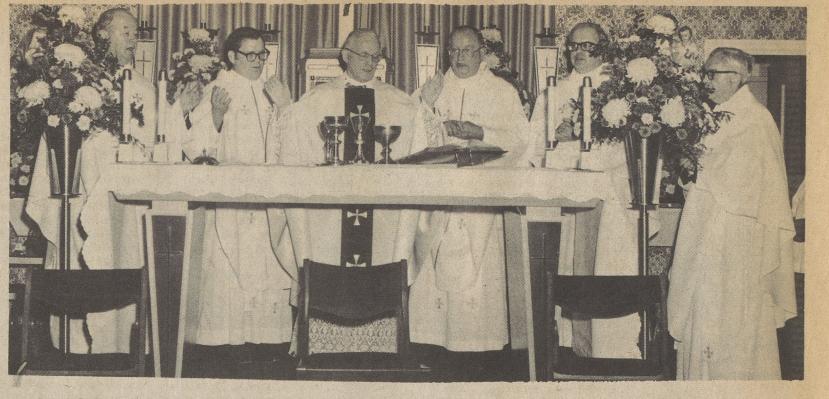
economy, take a good

number of additional

At first, Mass was read

edifice.

In the meantime,



ANNIVERSARY MASS--More than 400 persons attended the Concelebrated Mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of Gate of Heaven Church. Bishop J. Carroll McCormick was chief concelebrant. Left to right, above,

> Street, where the he envisioned a new school.

Construction was entrusted to the firm of Harry G. Pethick, and Fr. Francis A. Kane, then administrator of St. Mark's Parish, Inkerman.was assigned the responsibility of supervising the project. Through countless delays Father Kane would not be discouraged and in September of 1951 Gate of Heaven commenced its first academic year, with 168 students (grades one through sixth) with a faculty of six sisters of Mercy, one lay teacher, Mrs. Joseph Polacky, of Huntsville Road, and Sister

## St. Therese's holds birthday tea

St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, held its annual birthday tea, Sunday, Nov. 14. Mrs. Rosario Vecchio, was chairman assisted by Mrs. Chester Molley, cochairman. Honorary chairman was Mrs. Joseph Bren, president.

Committee chairmen were tickets and programs, Mrs. John T. Luke, Mrs. Joseph Banks, Mrs. Jerry Paxton; kitchen, Mrs. Thomas Glenn, Mrs. Harry Jarrett; punch table, Mrs. Robert Zukosky, Mrs. Dorothy Cebrick; second time around table, Mrs. Walter Koziel; publicity, Mrs. Walter Williams.

are Msgr. Francis Kane, Rev. Stephen McGough, Bishop McCormick, Rev. Thomas Jordon, Rev. Patrick Healy, Rev. Joseph Sammons. (Photo by Alex Rebar.)

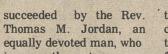
Mary Ignatius, RSM, principal. It was then decided a

new parish should be centered in this edifice, and the Church of Our Lady, Gate of Heaven with a nucleus of 20 families, was dedicated on a cold Nov. 18, 1951.

The years brought continued growth, and on Nov. 17, 1957, an additional two story wing, which housed eight additional classrooms and a multi-purpose cafeteriaauditorium and gym, were dedicated.

Father Kane, who is now Monsignor Kane, served his beloved Gate of Heaven for 19 years and was

Dick, Betty Judy Andrasko, Anna Fannick, Emily Steltz, Mary Wilkes, Ruth Evans and Jean Franklin.



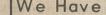
is currently pastor. Some 950 families now belong to Gate of Heaven. And 336 children attend the eight grades of the school. If indeed, there is a central theme in the relatively brief history of Gate of Heaven Parish, it is to be found in the increasingly heroic commitment of its ministers and people to the formation of an authentically Christian ethos of individual and social dimensions, and, in particular, its application to the education of the young. Although the mode and rhythm of liturgical expression, under the influence of the Second Vatican Council, manifested a changing, adaptable idiom, this central objective remained Nellie Sipple, Marty Dilley, constant, i.e., to cultivate in all communicants a maturing, caring association in the larger

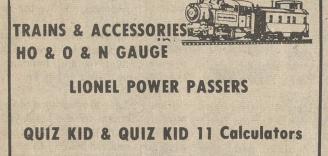
the fathership of God. One can only speculate about the interior aspects of this formation; however, it is clear that the life of the parish has been focused to a great extent, on this educational mission.

And this concentration of effort shows dedication on the part of its pastors, Fr. (later Monsignor) Kane, and Fr. Jordan, of their associate priests--Fathers Joseph J. Ferrara, Louis S. Grabacik, Edward P. Nolan, Richard J. Frank, Michael J. Rafferty, Leo P. Cummings, Lawrence Homer, John A. Bergamo, Thomas A. Flynn, Thomas V. Banick and Stephen McGough-and of the school's lay and religious faculty. especially the devoted Sisters of Mercy, those surrogate mothers who soothed many a bruised heart and skinned knee sustained in the youngster's rough and tumble journey towards adolescence and adulthood.

# DARING'S MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, DALLAS

human community under





THE DALLAS SHOPPING CENTER

material



Hostesses of the beautifully arranged tables were January, Mrs. John T. Luke, Mrs. Joseph Banks; February, Mrs. Joseph Bren; March, Mrs. Joseph Youngblood; April, Mrs. Gustave Walgren, Mrs. Chester Molley; May, Mrs. Edwin Yanchick; June, Mrs. Walter Williams, Mrs. Jerry Paxton; July, Mrs. Daniel Wisnieski, Mrs. Bernard Luksic, Mrs. Fred Mihal; August, Mrs. James Reinert, Mrs. Raymond Durkin; September, Mrs. Robert Dominick, Miss Joan Dominick; October, Mrs. Peter George; November, Mrs. Anthony Fannick; December, Mrs. Nicholas Konek, Mrs. Alfred Hudak; spring, Mrs. John Rogus, Mrs. Frank Wallace; summer, Mrs. Michael Olinatz, Mrs. John Carey; autumn, Mrs. Raymond Markiewicz, Mrs. Ann Mackiewicz; winter, Mrs. Tony Hudak, Mrs. John Berti, Mrs. Daniel Parsons.

Prize winners were Mrs. Marie Yatsko, June Gavenonis, Jennie Gocek,

### 'The Family' special

on TV here

The television special, "The Family...and other living things," combines drama, music and humor to give a panoramic view of amily life.

Scheduled for WDAU-TV Nov. 27, from 8 to 9 p.m. "The Family" was produced by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons).

