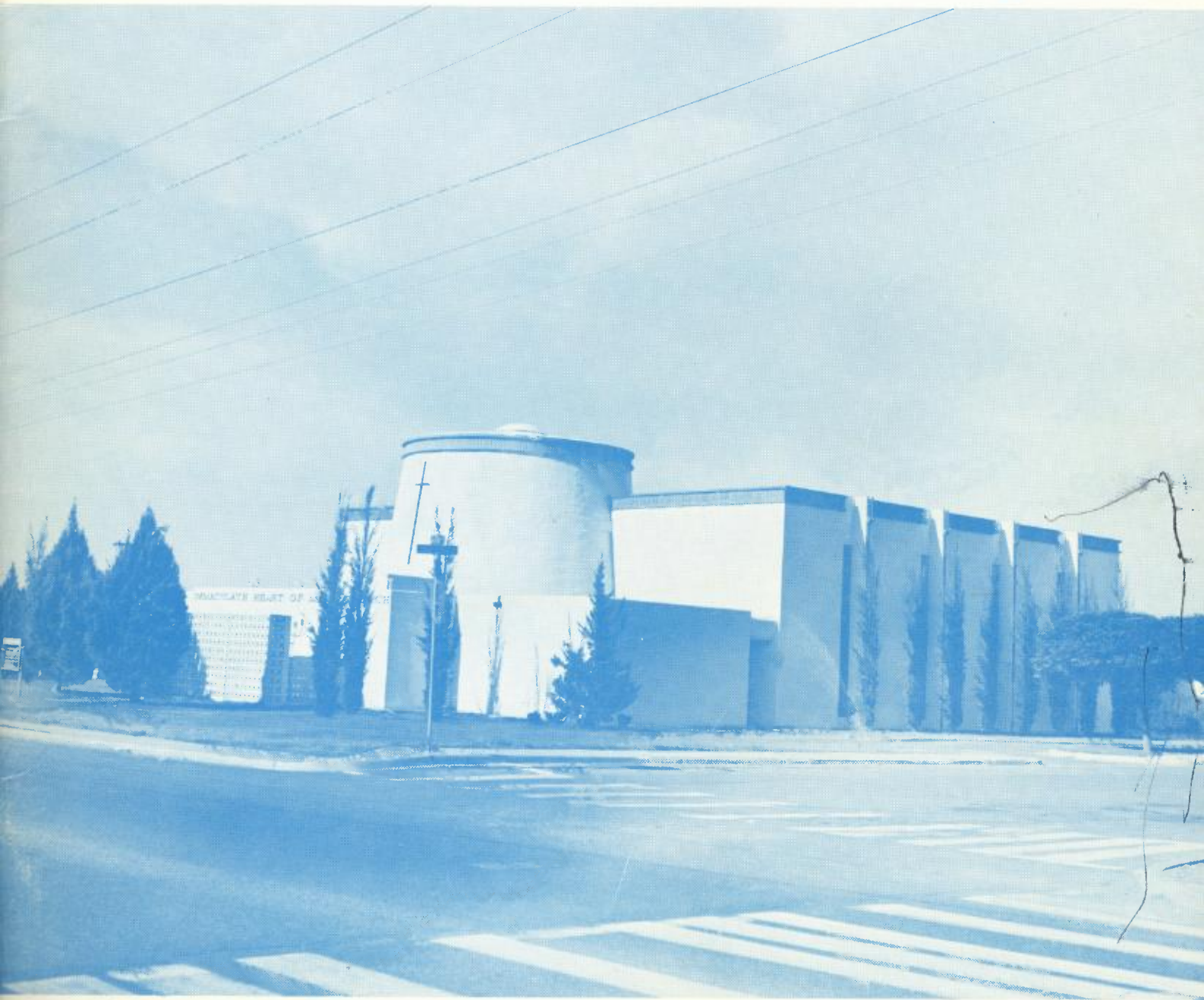


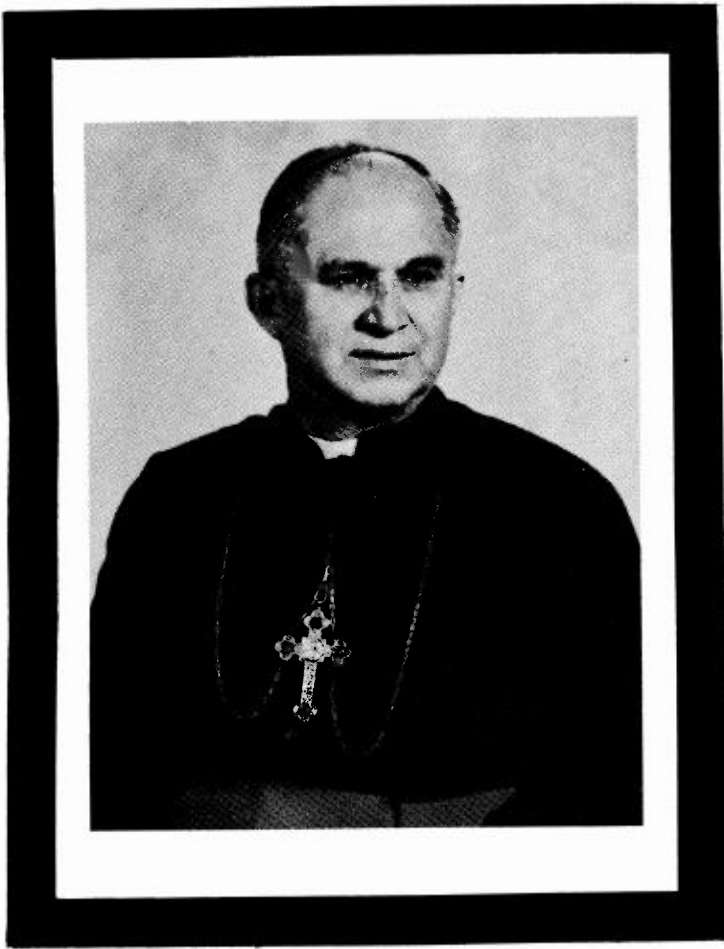
Immaculate Heart of Mary 25th Anniversary



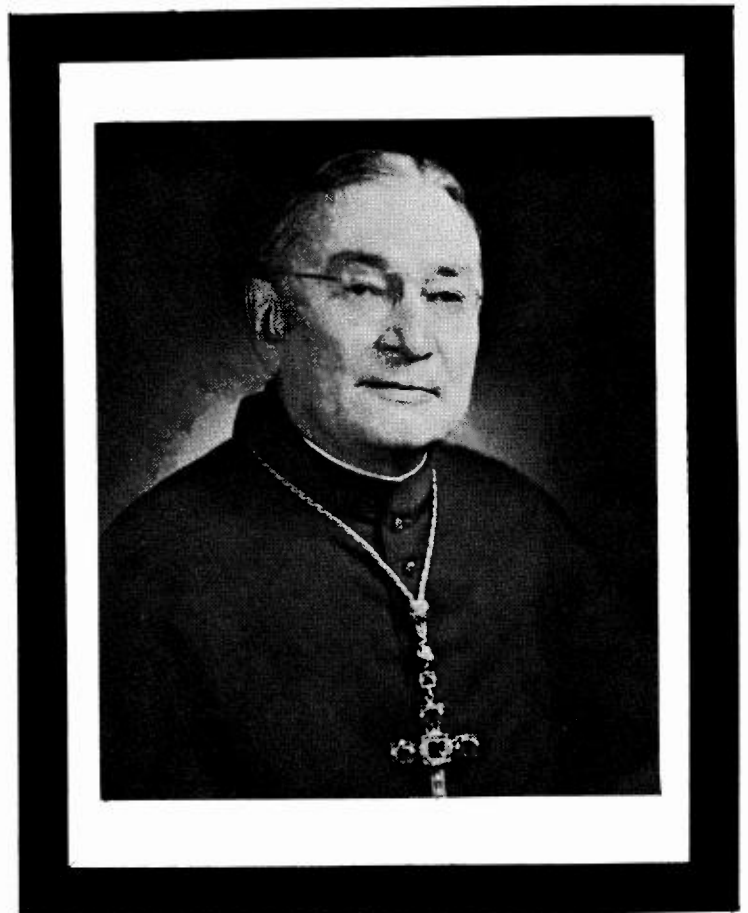
1953-1978



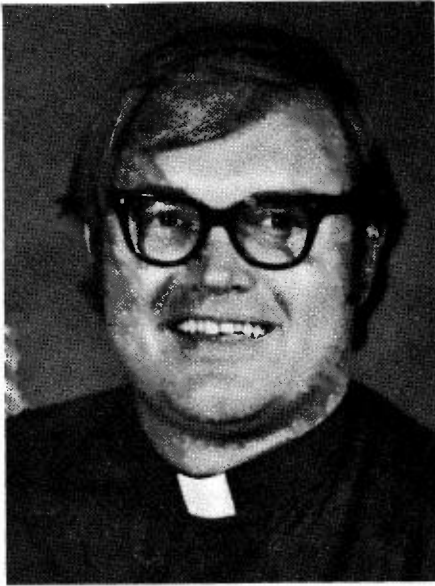
Dedicated in loving memory of Msgr. Everett F. Finley



Most Rev. Patrick F. Flores
Bishop of El Paso
May 29, 1978 —



Most Rev. S. M. Metzger
Bishop of El Paso
to May 29, 1978

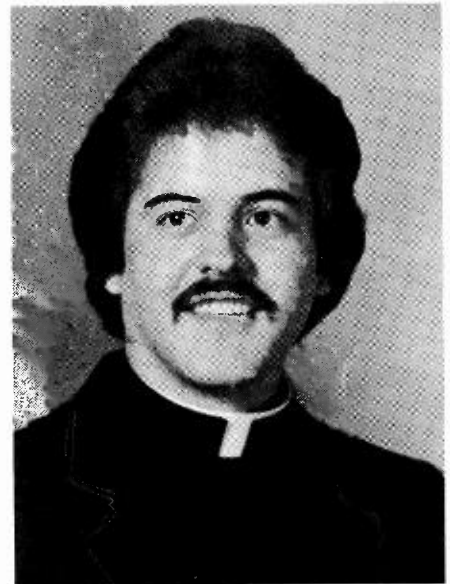


Father Edward Sullivan
Pastor
September 1, 1977 to present

Prior to his assignment to Immaculate Heart of Mary Fr. Sullivan was the Vocations Director for the Diocese of El Paso.

Father Jaime A. Soliz
Associate Pastor
July 11, 1977 to present

Completed studies at Pontifical College Josephinum, Worthington, Ohio, 1973 and received his Master in Theology, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1977. He was ordained in 1977.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

"TO BECOME THE SERVANT CHURCH"

1240 SOUTH ESPINA STREET
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001
PHONE 524-8563

May 1, 1978

Dear Family of Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Congratulations to all of you - to all of us together - on this twenty-fifty anniversary of our family! This is a time for celebration, for joy, for coming together in even closer bonds of unity and fellowship in Christ Jesus.

A couple of us are relatively new to the parish family and we experience, above all, a very strong and active community of people in many phases of the parish life. We are proud of a strong parish school. We long to deepen our experience of God in our worship and we want to see the family grow in the Spirit of the Lord.

We see many things happening - good things, and we are greatly encouraged and glad to be part of you. If there is anything that touches us deeply it is the fact that we ourselves have been drawn into the parish family and can call this "home."

And so, we join you in saying we have come a long way from the small beginnings from which the parish started, and at the same time continue in the tradition of the pastors who have gone before us in encouraging you to continue to work, to share, to live the Christ life individually, in your families and in our whole parish community.

Let us join our prayers closely together and our spirits as in one family to rejoice and to celebrate this life that is ours in Christ Jesus, especially as we mark this twenty-fifth year. As we call you to even closer unity, we rededicate ourselves to you as your pastors and in celibate love want to live for you and to serve you with our lives.

We love all of you.

Your Pastor, In Christ's love

Ed Sullivan

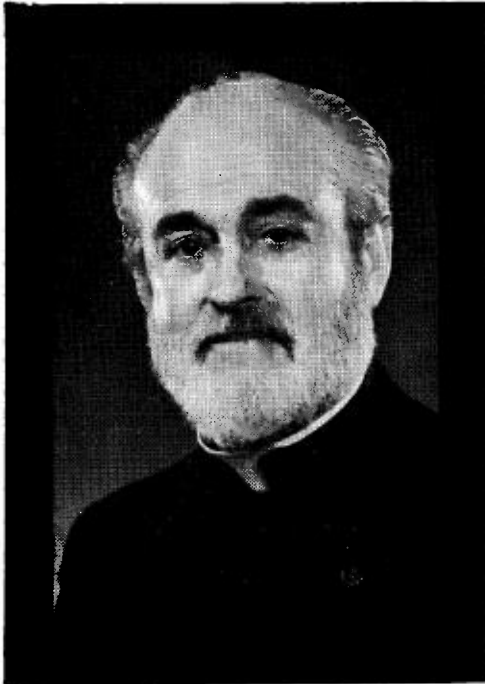
Rita Keever

Helene Ruffee

Lucienne Savoie

Jaime A. Soley

Former Pastors

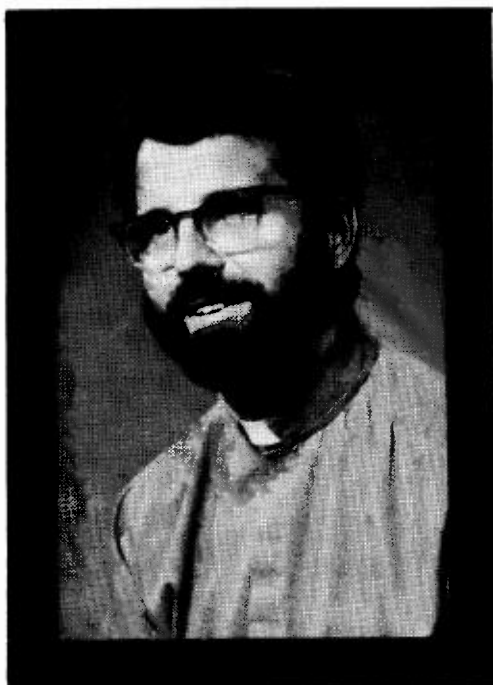


Father William Ryan
Pastor 1953-1960

Monsignor Everett F. Finley
Pastor 1960-1975
Chaplain USA Ret'd.

Father Joseph E. Flannagan
Administrator 1961

**PHOTO
NOT
AVAILABLE**



Father Robert L. Getz
Associate 1974
Pastor 1975 to 1977
Now serving as pastor at
St. Raphael's, El Paso.

Former Associates



Father John Anderson
Associate 1968-1974

PHOTO

NOT

AVAILABLE

Father Lorenzo Maggion, OSM
Associate 1965



Father Thomas J. O'Mahony
Associate 1961
Pastor (temporary) 1965



PHOTO

NOT

AVAILABLE

Father Edward Erzen
Associate 1958

PHOTO

NOT

AVAILABLE

Father Cletus Foltz, C.P.P.S.
Associate 1976

PHOTO

NOT

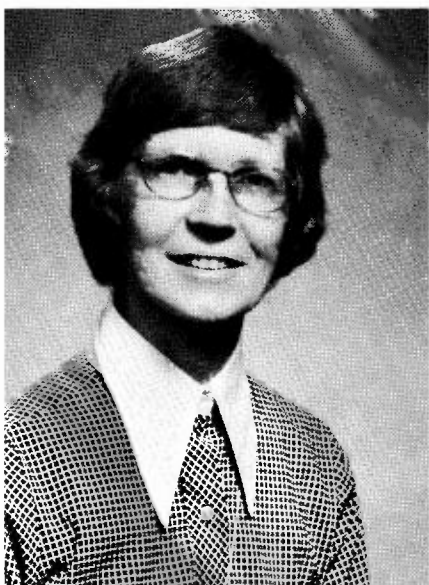
AVAILABLE

Father Terence Holachek, O.P.
Associate 1976

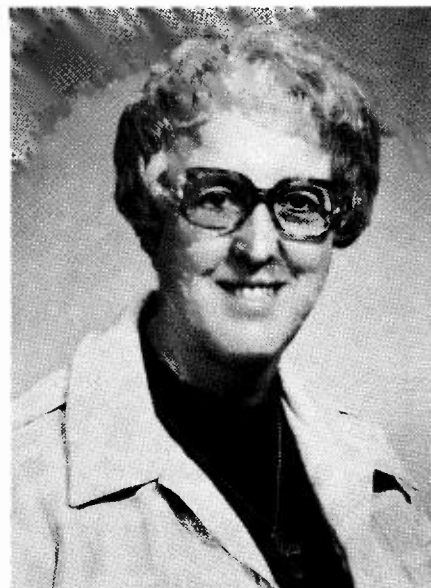
Pastoral Team

Sisters

Sister Helene Rueffer, C.P.P.S.
Coordinator of parish C.C.D.
Director of Religious Education



Sister Rita Keeven, C.P.P.S.
Pastoral Ministry
Convert instruction, Scripture
classes, special First Communion
instruction



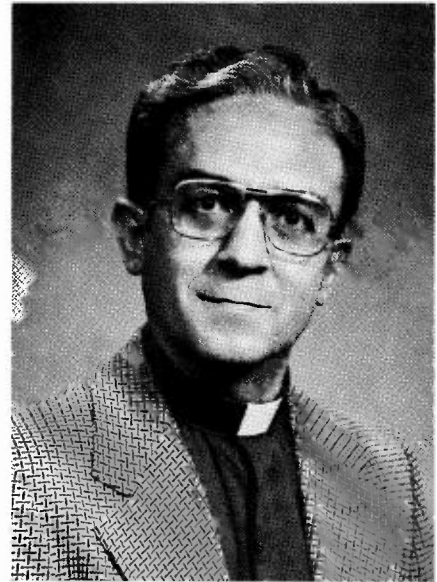
Sister Lucienne Savoie, C.S.J.
Pastoral Ministry
Thursday Scripture classes, sacris-
tian, weekly communion calls, meal
preparation, bulletin boards, and co-
ordinates the seminars.

Deacons

PHOTO
NOT
AVAILABLE

Rev. Arthur Grant, Deacon
Ordained May 3, 1976
Now residing in Canyon City, Colorado, serving a parish.

Rev. Richard DeBlassie, Deacon
Ordained 1976. Chairman Counseling
and Educational Psychology, NMSU.
Primary area of ministry is Religious
Education and Pre-Cana.



Rev. Al Bowers, Deacon
Ordained 1976. Professor of Engineering,
NMSU. Primary area of ministry
is working with the parish school.

Deacons are nothing new to the church, they were in service extensively during the early days of the church. During the growth of Immaculate Heart the church re-established the office of permanent deacon. Three men from our parish were ordained.

Some of the areas of their service and ministry include preaching the homily one

Sunday per month at all Masses, celebrate the baptisms monthly, handle convalidations, perform paraliturgical services as needed, counseling, benedictions, funerals, Holy Hours, and other ministries as assigned.

Presently we have one man studying for the diaconate, Mr. Howard Gale. He hopes to be ordained sometime later during the year of our parish's anniversary.



PHOTO
NOT
AVAILABLE



Thomas Beggane
Ordained Deacon 1977, graduated St.
Thomas Seminary, Denver
Ordained to priesthood, May 24, 1978

Jon LaVertu,
student, St. Thomas Seminary, Den-
ver, Colorado.

Benjamin Saenz,
American College, Louvain, Belgium.



Robert Beal
Ordained Deacon 1978,
graduated; Notre Dame Seminary
New Orleans

Pictured at left: Bob Beal, center, is assisted by
Fathers Robert Kownacki, San Antonio, left and
Jaime Soliz, right in putting on his vestment and
stole.

Parish Office Staff



Mrs. Nellie Lopez,
Secretary

The parish office staff sees to the daily task of serving members of I.H.M.

Mrs. Nellie Lopez, secretary, came to the parish after working for St. Gen. When the telephone rings or you perhaps come to the church office she is the first contact for you. Nellie handles the parish census, registration, appointments for the padres, scheduling of activities, typing and filing for the pastoral staff.

Mr. Berndt, a part-time employee of the parish is retired from one occupation and now embarking on another - parish finances. Harold handles the day-to-day bookkeeping functions of the parish. It is from his office that monthly reports are issued and he sees that we keep on keel within our budget.

Mrs. Saenz, housekeeper, is responsible for order and routine in the padres lives. Aside from cleaning she makes the best tortillas in the Southwest.

Mrs. Morales wears several hats. She counsels, she does minor construction, works with volunteers, helps with St. Vincent de Paul situations, is a student and wife and mother.



Mr. Harold Berndt,
Administrative Assistant,
Financial Records.



Mrs. Eloisa Saenz,
Housekeeper



Mrs. Dorothy Morales,
Volunteer Coordinator

IMMACULATE HEART - A LOOK AT GROWTH

Perhaps all history is but a study in contrasts between what once was and what is now; and over the universal record men have hung the masks of Comedy and Tragedy - so near allied that, as seen only from the surface, they show but a single difference: the lips of Comedy upward - tilting toward fulfillment - those of Tragedy sloping downward toward doom.

Of course there are contrasts to be found in the history of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish; but after brief acknowledgement of those souls who lament all change as tragic and who sorrow over any remembrance of things past, it is necessary in the cause of truth to affirm that in this record hope prevails; and fulfillment of many works and prayers stands solidly proclaimed in the beauty of the new church.

Surely, however, we admit the contrast between past days and the present moment. We remember the isolation of the little chapel-of-convenience that Father David J. Kirgan built between 1947 and 1948 on what was then the dusty and unfrequented corner of Idaho and Espina, where flash floods still rushed periously close when the infrequent rains came. Few of the town's Catholics had ever actually seen the chapel; and to those who had, it was a glimpse from a distance as they ventured down Solano, that stretch of bad, unsettled road from Lohman to the College. In those days, few of the chapel's two hundred and fifty seats were ever filled all at one time.

Then came the change that transformed New Mexico from a realm not readily identifiable as a bona fide state of the Union in the minds of many Americans on the "outside," into one of the fastest-growing regions in our country, when people flooded into the Enchanted Land from north to south to begin the work of the new post-war age. Many of them from White Sands came to the quiet corner where the chapel

stood; and it was changed.

It was made a separate parish under the name of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1953, with Father William H. Ryan as pastor. His rectory and office were in a small house across the street from the spot where the school now stands, and so rapid was the growth of the new parish that these temporary quarters seemed inadequate almost within weeks. Masses were now attended by increasing crowds, and the two hundred and fifty seats offered increasingly insufficient accommodations for them. With the people came their children, and in 1957 - only four years after his becoming pastor - Father Ryan saw the completion of the beautiful new school where the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, who came that same year, were to offer the little ones the Catholic education which is their birth-right.

So many children came, and then so many more, that the Sisters needed help. Then the lay-apostolate began, with two girls from Philadelphia who came to fill this urgent need. Their sacrifice and that of those other young women who came after has enabled the school to continue under the pressures of the ever-increasing enrollment, with no increase in the number of teaching sisters.

In 1960, when Father Ryan was transferred to St. Genevieve's parish, Father Everett Finley came to replace him. Under the new pastor, the number of Catholic families continued to increase, and the need for a new and larger church became urgent. Plans were initiated, and a campaign to raise funds was started in January, 1965.

The new church was begun in September, 1965 to be finished in May, 1966. Its design is contemporary Southwestern. Before the building began, Father Finley returned to the Army as a chaplain, and Father Thomas O'Mahony was put in charge.

Certainly Father Tom, who took

over for the duration of Father Finley's absence, is a continuing inspiration to the members of the parish with his own dedication to service and sacrifice. He extols the help constantly given him by the Altar and Rosary Society, and by the Holy Name Society whose members have unstintingly performed their designated functions, and much besides.

At Father's suggestion, a Parish Committee was formed in September, 1965, to help in the administration of the parish. This was a permanent committee representing various professions and occupations with a diversity of knowledge and experience that proves invaluable in many matters including that of setting up an operating budget.

This was new to the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, and to the Church; one example of the greater participation of the laity resulting from the Vatican Council.

Likewise in keeping with the Council's concern that parochial schools maintain standards as high, or higher, than those of the public schools, a parish School Board was formed. The purpose of this board was to promote a better understanding of Catholic education, implement the policies of the diocesan office, be responsible for achieving a high standard of academic achievement, and set up an operating budget.

Serving on the Board were three professors from New Mexico State University, five of the officials and faculty from the Las Cruces Public School system, and three local business men.

Then there was the Home and School Association whose members have worked zealously toward the school's success, showing themselves willing to make any effort to safeguard their children's privilege to attend Catholic Schools.

However, with growth in both size and excellence (a notable achievement, since quantity and quality do not always go together), there were growing difficul-

ties to be immediately met and solved. The Home and School Society came forward to offer a voluntary increase in tuition. The sisters had been given a new residence, in a building which had been the home of the Lay-Apostles.

There were heavy demands on members from whom have come all the lay teachers of C.C.D. with the many crowded classes which they gladly teach. There were eighteen Saturday morning classes for grades one through six; two Wednesday evening classes for grades seven and eight, and seven Sunday evening classes for the high school students, among whose teachers were several professors from New Mexico State University.

But the greatest challenge lied ahead. To Father O'Mahony it confronted the most privileged segment of our society-the educated Catholic youth - in whom the greatest hope for the future rested. It was evident that the school could not continue without the help of the lay apostles; there were still only four Sisters, and the eight hundred families in the parish would not decrease in number.

In this retrospective glimpse of the short, happy life of the parish, one thing strikingly emerges: the unity among its members, the devotion of its pastors, and the benevolence of the Bishop. Contrast is everywhere; but unity prevails amid the diversity. In every step we trace, we can see the determined direction which has led through difficulty to the day of the dedication of the new Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Adapted from an article by Dr. Marion Hardman, former Professor of English, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

BY KATHY BLACK

When asked to write an article on the growth of Immacu-

GROWTH, continued from previous page

late Heart of Mary parish, I was reminded of this parable of Jesus from Luke's gospel:

"What does the reign of God resemble? To what shall I liken it? It is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a large shrub and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

As a native Las Cruces, I was a member of old St. Genevieve's on Main Street when Father David Kirgan, the pastor there, built a chapel at the corner of Idaho and Espina to accommodate God's people living in the southeast part of Las Cruces. The chapel is now Finley Hall. After our marriage, we lived on Walden Drive in that same southeast section of the city for fourteen years, and I should have rightfully changed my registration; but, as with so many oldtimers, my heart remained at St. Genevieve's and I continued to make that my parish--after all, my baptism, first communion, confirmation and wedding had taken place in that beautiful old church. To me, IHM was still just a chapel to handle newcomers and nothing absolutely required me to change my affiliation. In those days, Father Kirgan wore several hats--he was pastor of St. Genevieve's and of this chapel, as well as being chaplain to the Catholic students at the university, and Father William Ryan may well have had to do the same thing for a time.

It was only when we moved into our present home in Mesilla Park after returning to Las Cruces in late 1968 from a two-year educational sojourn in Northern California, that I really felt myself to be a bona fide, registered parishioner of IHM. During my absence, St. Genevieve's had been torn down, breaking other hearts besides mine, but we won't go into that.

Also a big beautiful, new church for IHM had blossomed while I wasn't looking, and Msgr. Everett Finley was pastor. A year or so after I became a member, a

brash young priest named John Anderson came as Assistant Pastor. To me, these two priests complemented each other well, in that one might be said to be of "the old school", while the other was definitely of "the new." All Catholics were suffering from the labor pains of change in those days (still are, you say?), and if three Catholics were gathered together it might not be for prayer but more likely to talk about "all the changes going on in the church." And of those three, one would say there had been too much change too fast, another that there hadn't been enough and none too soon either, and the third would be simply and totally bewildered. God, who knows our needs even if we don't, knew that we at IHM needed a Father Finley and a Father Anderson. There was a need for diversity in our ministers--and diversity we had! My active participation in the parish came about through my appreciation of Father John's work here and, although I enjoyed a good and friendly relationship with Msgr. Finley, I swung like a magnet to Father John's liturgy, sermons, teaching and friendship.

Someone once said, "change is constant", and that has certainly been true at IHM. There have been many, many periods of change in her relatively short history, but I would say that the mid-1970's saw the beginning of a period that would effect the greatest change--at least it seems that significant to me. If we can say that IHM has made progress in her attempt to grow from an "institutional church" to a "community", I would point to this time as the beginning, the time of planting that seed.

As Msgr. Finley's health failed and Father John prepared to transfer his ministry to the Newman Center, the Parish Council came of age. For with the big beautiful building came a big, ugly mortgage and attendant spiraling expenses. The Parish Council had been spending its

time and energy going from crisis to crisis, worrying about discouraging, red-inked financial reports and the results of deficit spending, but never getting a firm grip on the jello-like problem. It was at this time that the Council unflinchingly (well, maybe with a flinch here and there) took the reins, appointed a parish manager, and then made a decision to launch a parishwide stewardship program. Our byword was "Becoming the Servant Church" and we went to work, aided by many volunteers and under the direction of Council Chairman Ed Gaughan and Parish Manager Danny Joe Lyle, but surely and firmly guided by the Holy Spirit. We sought out our parishioners on a face-to-face basis, speaking to them about their parish, her needs, problems, assets and liabilities, answering questions, noting complaints, and asking for a commitment of time, talent and treasure from each parishioner.

During the formation days of this stewardship program, God sent us a priest very much attuned to the ideals of that program, and Father Bob Getz came bouncing into our parish bringing with him those twin gifts of love and joy and that resounding--and now so familiar -- acclamation, "PRAISE THE LORD!" Father Bob reminded us of the need for prayer for guidance in this endeavor and the faith this built in us gave us the courage for our task.

Change not only continued to be the mode at IHM after the loss of Msgr. Finley and Father Bob's acceptance of the pastorate, it was rampant. It is impossible to enumerate all the changes the new pastor instituted, since they range from mundane house-keeping chores like grocery shopping for the rectory to any and all ways of making IHM a truly servant church and each member an exemplary witness for Jesus Christ.

God Blessed Father Bob with a stamina that puts most of us to

shame, and this was certainly proved in the Fall of 1975 as he visited and blessed the homes of our parishioners. When he first broached this idea, the Parish Council took the bit eagerly and confidently, remembering the fun, blessings and success of the stewardship program earlier. As you will remember from reports of the campaign, some parishioners had resided in the same homes for ten-twelve-fourteen years, and Father Bob was the first priest to visit. What a giant step this was toward cementing (and sometimes mending) relationships, and building that most sought-after spirit of community in our parish.

At a time when it is easy to get discouraged by that we see in the world today, we can praise God for the work He is doing in and through, and the use He is making of, His servants. With the high cost of living, most of us have had to trim some areas of spending, and one might be tempted to trim the amount donated to the church; but, as published financial reports indicate, our offertory collection has increased rather than decreased and our financial statements are finally ending in the black. Surely, part of this is due to the example of frugality exercised by our pastor in rectory spending, and to the fact that so many of our parishioners have a real feeling of belonging to a parish family with an obligation to support and help meet the expenses of that parish family which naturally increase in inflationary times just as individual family expenses do. We seem to be heeding our pastor's oft-quoted biblical advice to seek God first and rely on Him to provide the rest.

It is gratifying to see the church full for a Sunday Mass, and even more so to witness the selfless work of so many parishioners, and the strong bond of fellowship, love and well-being that is evidenced by such small things as so many worshippers remaining after the 12:30 Mass to sing God's

GROWTH, continued from previous page

praises as long as the musicians will play; or the fact that members of organizations will remain after meetings just to talk, relate and share with one another; or in remarks of visitors who see and feel the love, fellowship, friendship--whatever they happen to call it--in our parishioners.

Of course, IHM has always had her selfless volunteers, as any parish does, and she has had her programs, plans and dreams from her first days as a parish, and I do not mean to denigrate any of those or the good people who labored in the vineyard then, but there seems to be a refreshing, open, prayerful--yes, Christian--atmosphere in our parish now. Organization and committee meetings begin and end with prayer; retreats, workshops and other faith-building programs are

accepted and encouraged; commitments are made for long-term sustained programs for spiritual growth; many different ministries among parishioners are sponsored to enhance the spirit of community--these include our religious education classes, this very newspaper, organizing to visit the elderly and sick, involvement with our parish school, the work of the whole pastoral team in Bible classes, convert classes, and prayer sessions, to name just a few. Making lists is risky, and this partial list is submitted for you to take if from there and add many more that are just as important and stimulating to the spiritual advancement of our parish family.

So, that mustard seed, sown so long ago as a chapel of conve-

nience, has indeed grown into a large shrub--but the growth I see at IHM is not so much one of size and number, but one of involvement, a spiritual growth in our people that can only be attributed to a yielding to God and His will and to the power of the Holy Spirit.

And for this, we echo our pastor, "PRAISE GOD!"

THE PARISH

A parish is more than geographical boundaries. It is something really quite intangible. Sure, there is the organized structure side of a parish...its operations. But isn't it something else? Yes.

A parish is a community of people. These people, although they live in particular area of a city, town or county have something special in common. That something in common is unity...hence community. But the community is bound together by Christ through professing the doctrine and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Many years ago the rigid boundaries of parishes did not exist. Priests were sent as missionaries to territories and rather than people coming to a central church location, they went to the people. The missionary reached out, as Christ to minister and serve. Mass might not have been as available as it is now, but when

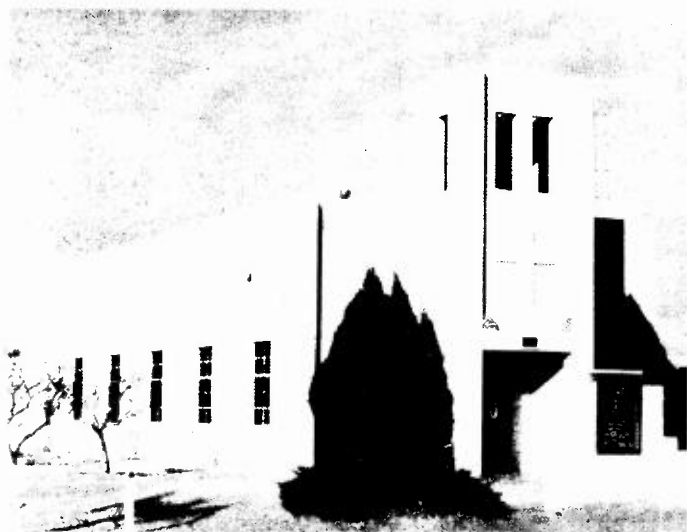
it was celebrated...it was celebrated.

As time went and people clustered in quantity in certain areas the need arose for priests to establish churches, places of worship for the easier access of the people.

Thus we now have a parish. But what does a parish do? We all have our notions, and ideas and concepts. We all see what is done by our priests, at least on Sundays. But a parish operates seven days, 24 hours each day.

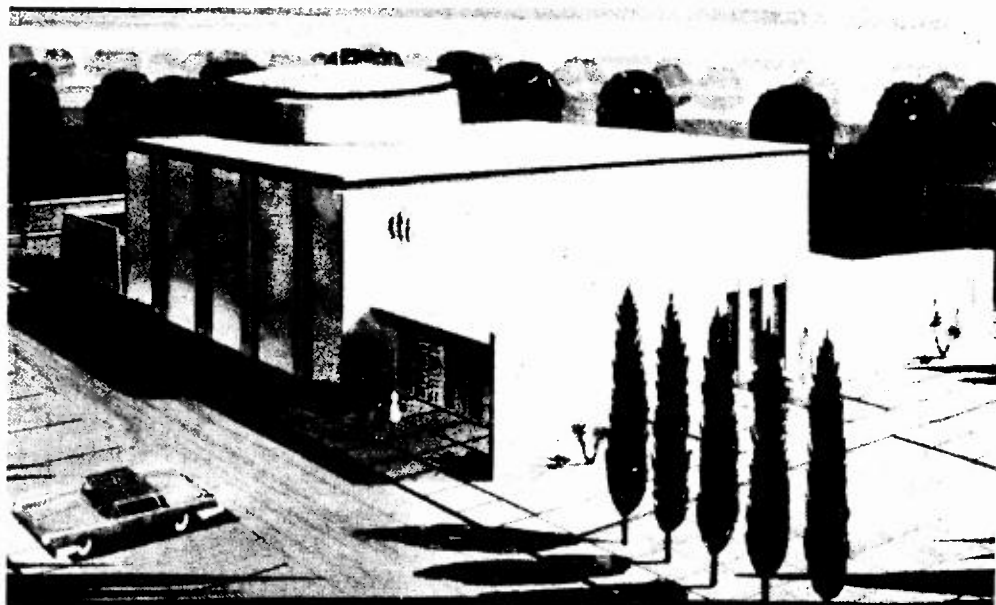
A parish has several functions. To mention a few: proclaiming the Good News of salvation to those who have not heard it, to establish baptized in the faith, to offer the liturgy of praise and gratitude, to be a sign of God's kingdom on earth, to offer the service of the Gospel, to do works of the Lord such as feed the hungry, visit the sick, forgive sinners, to foster and support a diversity of ministries, to offer appropriate Christian response to times of today, and most importantly to discern the desire of the Spirit in Church.

These functions of a parish perhaps are not complete, surely there are more. But a parish basically should minister, serve and see that the people with common unity of goal and purpose have the Word of God and the sacraments available.



1947-1966
NOW FINLEY HALL

1967 —





CHANCERY OFFICE

DIOCESE OF EL PASO
1012 NORTH MESA AVENUE
EL PASO, TEXAS

October 9, 1954

**This letter
officially created
the parish of
Immaculate
Heart of Mary**

The Reverend
William Ryan
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
P.O. Box 337
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Reverend and dear Father and devoted faithful:

The growth of Las Cruces has made it necessary to divide the parish of St. Genevieve in order to provide more adequately for the spiritual welfare and care of souls.

The construction of Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel under the direction of Father Kirgan is deeply appreciated. It was the first step to make possible the appointment of Father William Ryan who assumed his responsibilities last year with the understanding that Immaculate Heart of Mary would become a parish in its own right.

In the beginning we asked Father Kirgan to suggest parish lines that were merely tentative until the problem could be studied better.

Unless other instructions are received from the Chancery Office the following are the lines between St. Genevieve's parish and the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Lohman Street to Esperanza; Esperanza to Kansas; Campo Street from Kansas; from the end of Campo Street and Jornada Street straight west to La Colonia; La Colonia to Melendrez to Brown Road west. All territory north of La Colonia, Melendrez, and Brown Road belongs to St. Genevieve's. The territory south of these lines including Mesilla Park belongs to Immaculate Heart of Mary.



CHANCERY OFFICE

DIOCESE OF EL PASO
1012 NORTH MESA AVENUE
EL PASO, TEXAS

Father Kirgan merits the gratitude of all for his understanding of the problems of Las Cruces and his zeal in solving them. St. Genevieve's, the venerable mother parish, is still very large even after the division. The parishioners of the new parish should gratefully remember the kindness and generosity of St. Genevieve's. As is customary, the mother parish, St. Genevieve's, generously gave its support until the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary functioned independently. Such generosity and zeal for the things of God draw down heavenly blessings in abundance.

With every good wish and blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of El Paso

SMM:rmc

P.S.

This letter should be read from the pulpit in St. Genevieve's Church and the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on three Sundays--namely: October 10th, 17th, and 24th.

FISH IN STAINED GLASS

The new church building completed in 1967 was designed with Southwestern style and tradition in mind. Incorporated into the church design were several appointments to the interior decor of the building.

The most noticeable are 16 stained glass windows on the sides of the church. The following article, "Splendor in Stained Glass" by Marilyn Watson appeared in a copy of New Mexico in August 1969.

Fish in the desert, organs in the sky. An incongruous pairing? Visit the new Immaculate Heart of Mary Church near Las Cruces.

The impressive window motif of a fish rises in stained glass splendor from the desert floor, with the jagged spires of the Organ Mountains in the far distance.

According to Andrea Bacigalupa, the Santa Fe artist responsible for the window design, the plan from the outset was to free the church of superfluous statues, pictures and the like. "The sacred appointments and essential furnishings were to provide all form and color within the interior," Bacigalupa says. "With this idea of a pure -- not stark -- interior, I decided that one place to put lots of exciting color was in the windows. The architect agreed.

Why a fish motif? The fish symbol is one of the earliest known to Christianity, Bacigalupa explains. It comes from the initial letters -- I X O Y C -- one of the fish appeared to have a bilious belly." The section was removed and redone. The discarded window symbol as a secret sign while seeking to avoid persecution.

"I liked the idea of this one well on its own -- a blaze of simple symbol, rather than myriads of symbols or saints, for a contemporary church in the economical age. I thought too, of

the miracle of the fish in the desert and of the church's location in arid country at the foot of the Organs."

Incidentally, some people never see the fish in the nave windows. "I like this," Bacigalupa remarks, "for I never wanted the fish to be overpowering, but rather only an element or form and color in the walls."

Sixteen windows, about 18 inches by 23 feet each, are divided eight to a side. The fish shapes are not always seen -- at least not at once -- because their designs stretch along the entire length of each wall.

Counteracting broken areas of unadorned plaster was achieved by strong use of linges. At the same time, Bacigalupa had the opportunity he desired "to create individual windows which, when viewed close up, presented mere abstract color rather than subject matter."

From conception to installation the windows took about two and one-half years. Louie Ewing of Santa Fe Church Art Studios, one of the Southwest's most experienced in his field, handled the faceted glass work. Bacigalupa assisted closely to see that the thousands of individual pieces and various sections conformed to the original design.

"We stumbled once, substituting an entire gold area-part of the fish--with green," Bacigalupa recalls. "It was not noticed until the windows were installed..and one of the fish appeared to have a bilious belly." The section was removed and redone. The discarded window section is now on the Bacigalupa living room wall. "It stands very well on its own -- a blaze of abstract form and color."

As for the design of the edifice itself, architect Loren Mastin tells of some wavering over where to

situate the sacristies, the rooms where sacred vestments and utensils are kept. It is conventional to put them adjacent to the sanctuary--that is, in the vicinity of the altar. But it was decided to put them off the narthex--the vestibule leading to the nave.

"This would allow a processional entry to the sanctuary down the center aisle with minimum awkwardness," Mastin explains. "Since parish members do not leave their seats until the recessional, it would allow the priest to be stationed in the narthex to greet parishioners as they leave Sunday morning Mass -- again with less awkwardness."

As for the over-all design, some have found it analogous to that of a Sunrise temple. Mastin calls it a contemporary adaptation of territorial style for which this area of New Mexico had historical precedence. Little thought was given to the exterior, he says, until the interior plan had been developed and improved. "We wanted a simple plan that would function well for today's changing liturgy."

Mastin elaborates: "The building is designed from within to without. One does not dream up an exterior design and then try to fit an interior to it. Their interior

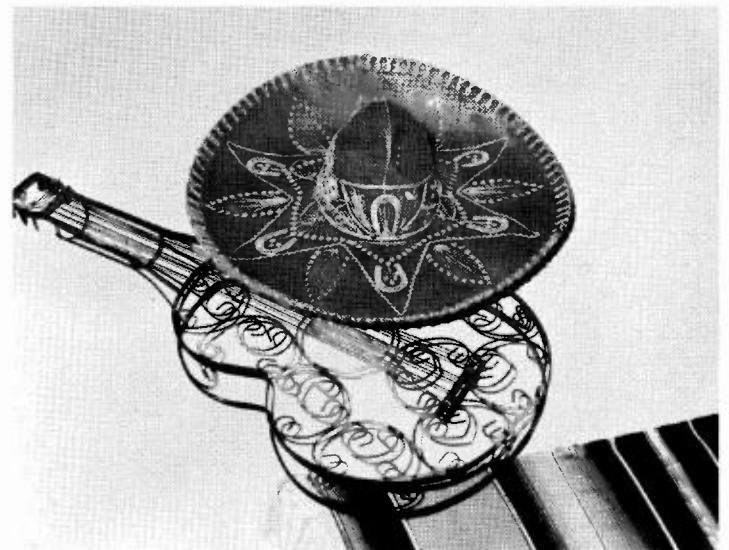
dictates the exterior. Perhaps this is what Wright and Sullivan (world-famous architects) meant when they said form follows function."

Mastin further expounds his philosophy: "Also, I do not believe in copying any style. We can logically give recognition to a historical style which is regional, but I believe that it must be adapted to today's materials and methods of building."

Interestingly, this church began as an isolated little chapel-of-ease as recently as 1947. With population influx, it became a separate parish in 1953. Four years later, a new school was completed. A fund-raising drive in 1965 led to completion of the new church the following year.

Father Thomas O'Mahony envisioned a kind of Catholic Peace Corps for his parish. He looks forward to a commitment by young Catholic men and women with college educations to devote one teaching year of their lives to the school--at low stipend--to provide a continuing Catholic education.

Of inspirations to all in the parish -- and to visitors as well -- are the fish in the desert, the organs in the sky.



A serape, a wrought-iron guitar, and a mexican hat; symbols of a cultural influence in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. These decorated the wall of Finley Hall during one of our Fiestas.

Las Cruces -- Steeped in Catholic Tradition

The following copy is adapted from an article by Paul Taylor which appeared in the July 1976 issue of La Palabra.

The first missionary expedition through the Mesilla Valley was the Franciscans - Fray Augustin Rodriguez, Fray Juan de Santa Maria, and Fray Francisco Lopez. They were the first to follow the Rio Grande northward to the Indian pueblos. The expedition party perhaps did no more than to make an overnight camp in the valley. The friars mingled with the Manso Indians, the native population of the area.

Although seeming uneventful these padres blazed the trail that would ultimately become known as El Camino Real, the link between Mexico City and Santa Fe.

The Rodriguez expedition was the first of many by the zealous Franciscans. Fray Bernardino Beltran came southward down the Rio

Grande Valley after an expedition commanded by Don Antonio de Espejo failed to bring aid to the missionaries. Fathers Rodriguez, Santa Maria and Lopez met with death in their efforts to Christianize.

In 1598 Don Juan de Onate traveled northward through the Mesilla Valley to establish New Mexico's first permanent Spanish colony---first at San Juan de los Caballeros, then at San Gabriel, and finally at Santa Fe in 1610. With Onate came eleven Franciscans including Fray Alonzo Martinez, Father President of New Mexico Franciscans.

Mass was perhaps celebrated on foothills overlooking the river or perhaps along the riverbank in a clearing among native vegetation.

Under Fray Alonzo the mission system was established, the bulwark of Christianity in an isolate colony of Spain. These missions were supplied with necessities brought from

Mexico City on a slow caravan begun in 1609 by government contract. Father Francisco de Ayeta was Father Quartermaster on this mission train.

The Mesilla Valley, though a stopping place on the trail northward, was not permanently settled until the 1800's. In 1805 Don Juan Garcia Noriega settled in the Brazito area. He obtained the grant from Spain in 1823, then dying in 1825, the land was vacated a few years later.

The second settlement was Dona Ana in 1840, Las Cruces in 1849 and Mesilla in 1850. Coming of the railroad in 1881 the villages of Picacho, Tortugas, Santo Tomas, San Miguel, La Mesa, Chamberino, La Union, Anthony, Mesquite and Mesilla Park were developed.

Each of these villages settled by people of Spanish/Mexican heritage had the Church as a pivotal part in their life.

Deep traditions provided creative outlets in arts, music, and drama for the posadas, pastores, and alabados. Many of the spiritually motivated products of the people are highly treasured folk arts people preserve today.

In the early days of settlement priests traveled from El Paso del Norte, now Juarez, on their periodic visits to the colonies. Records from El Paso del Norte show Father Bernardino Hinojos performed a baptism in Dona Ana approximately February 2, 1851.

Records of St. Genevieve's begin in 1859 but it is known that a church existed in Las Cruces at least as early as June 1852.

Until 1858 churches of the Mesilla Valley were under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Durango. In 1868 it became part of the Diocese of Tucson until the Diocese of El Paso was created in 1915.



Belen's Originals

—CERAMICS—
DRIED ARRANGEMENTS &
ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR DECOR

Supplies and Instruction

DUNCAN-MAYCO-CERAMICS

FLOWERS

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES

Wedding Flowers

Religious Statues

Nativity Sets

Advent Wreaths

Congratulations I.H.M.
on 25 years of ministry

Mon. - Sat., 9:00 to 5:00 1105 E. LOHMAN AVE.
Tues., 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. LAS CRUCES, N. M. 88001
PH. (505) 523-1566



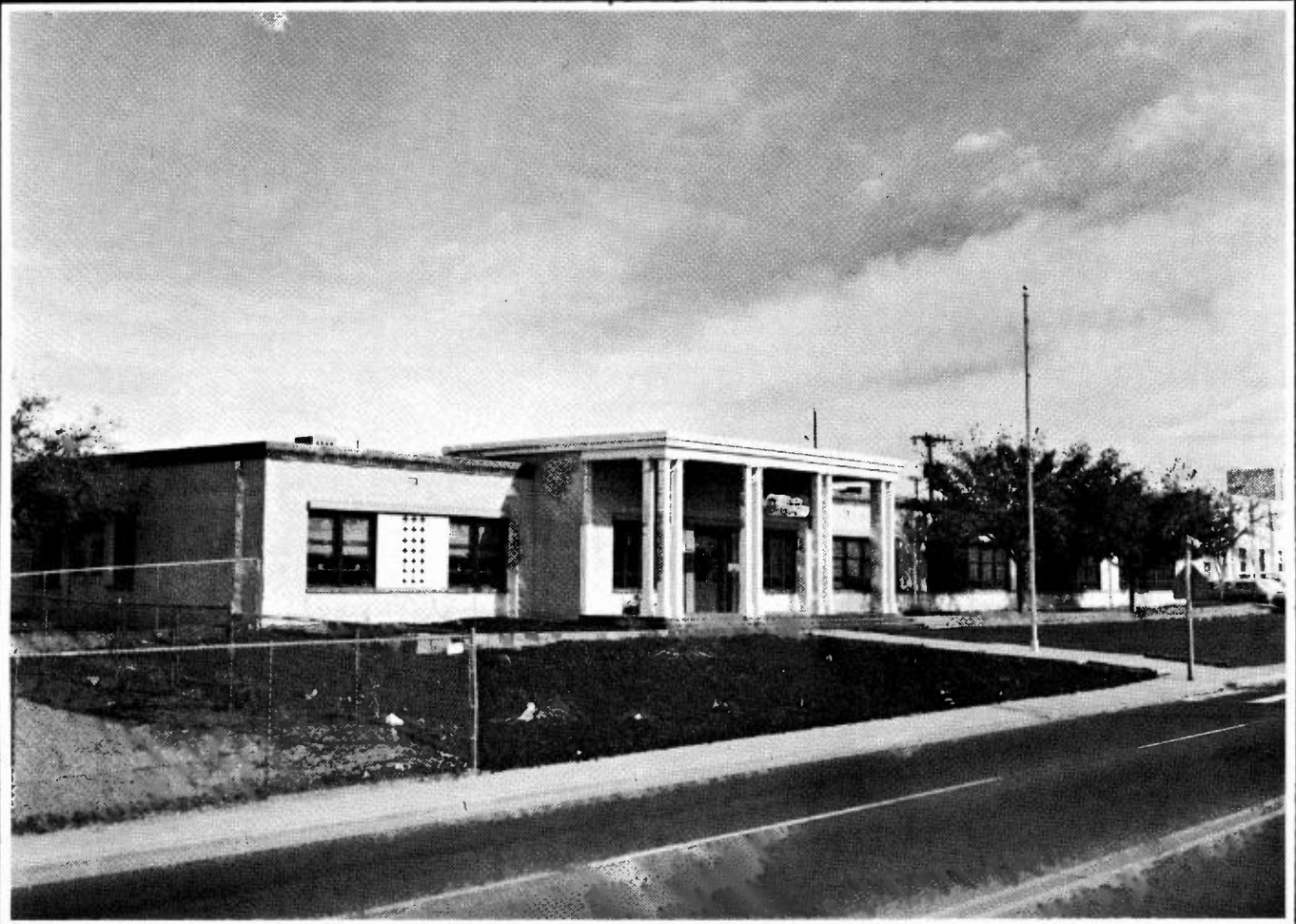
**Best of Love
on your 25th**

300 E. IDAHO
523-1356

AND

2424 N. MAIN
523-1411

An Important Part of Growth -- Our Parish School



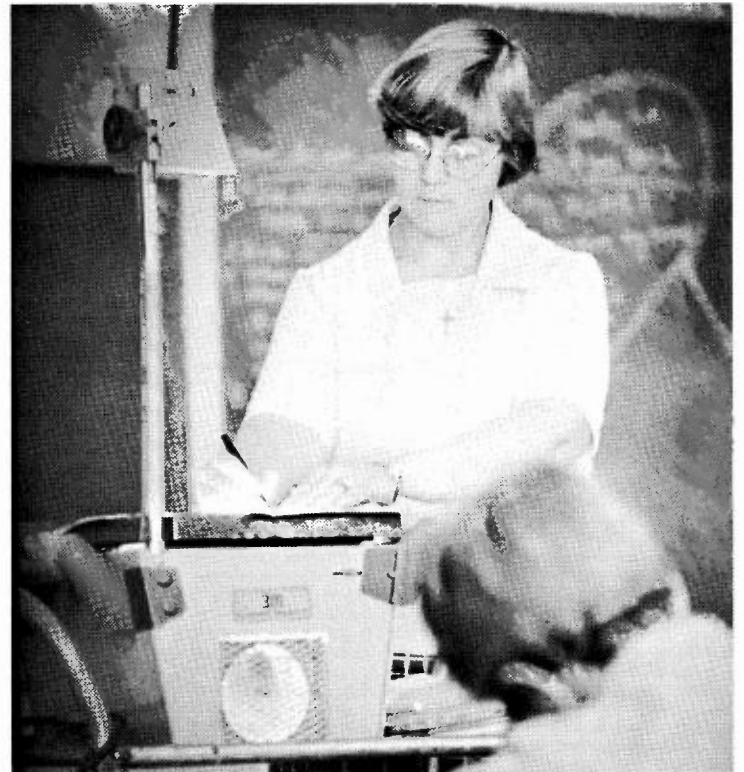
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish School is "Different Where It Counts"...firmly established in the teachings of Christ.

Students are encouraged to become the best person they were meant to be. They are provided with an environment to help them grow scholastically, emotionally, and socially as well as morally and spiritually.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish School was constructed in 1957 and opened on September 3, of that year. In its early days part of the building was used as the convent. Later the present convent was built.

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood staffed the school in its beginning and do now. Growth has added personnel to the staff where now the school has three sisters and seven lay teachers. They also have two part-time physical education coaches, cafeteria workers, library workers and teacher aides.

The school offers grades pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It is fully accredited by the state of New Mexico and the El Paso Diocese. All required subjects are taught as well as a program of religious instruction emphasizing doctrine, liturgy and service.



Sister Therese uses just some of the media tools available to give the quality education at Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

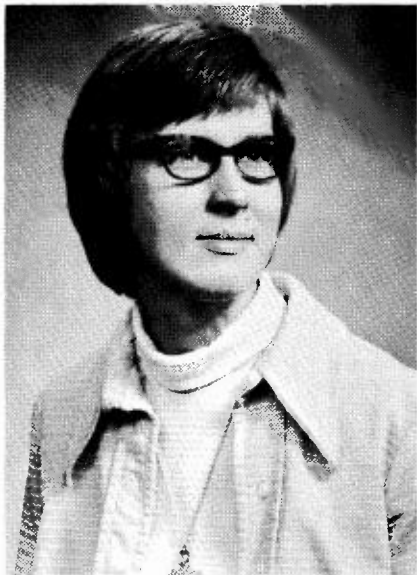
Photo courtesy of the Sun News.



Sister Mary Dolores, C.P.P.S.
Principal



Sister Therese DeMoor, C.P.P.S.

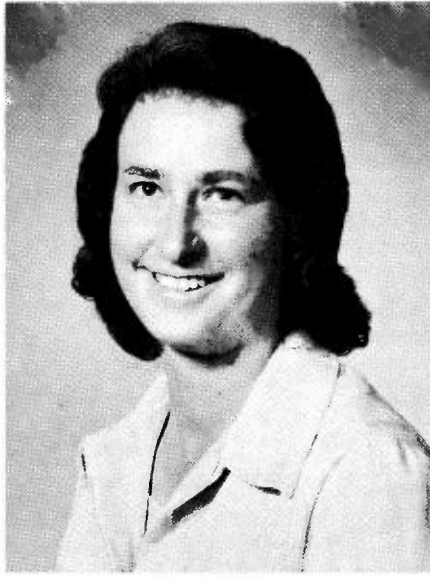


Sister Monica Schieber, C.P.P.S.

Lay Teachers



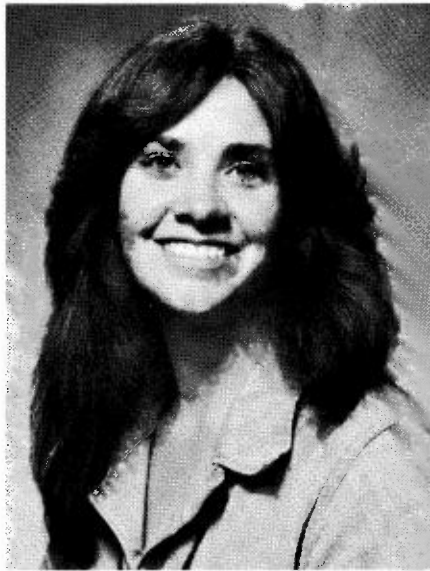
Mrs. Laura Tipton



Mrs. Donna Mills



Mrs. Lois King



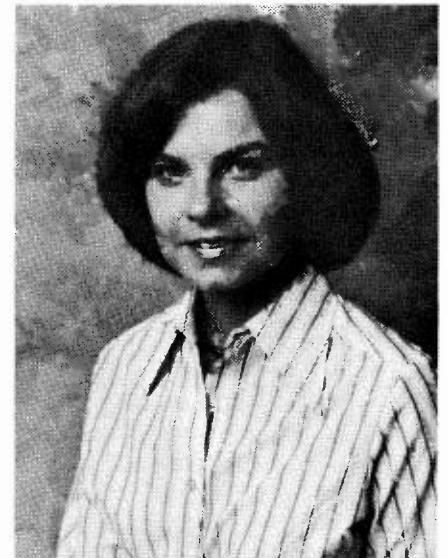
Miss Niki Hathorn



Mrs. Linda Cuzan



Mrs. Sharon Gwin

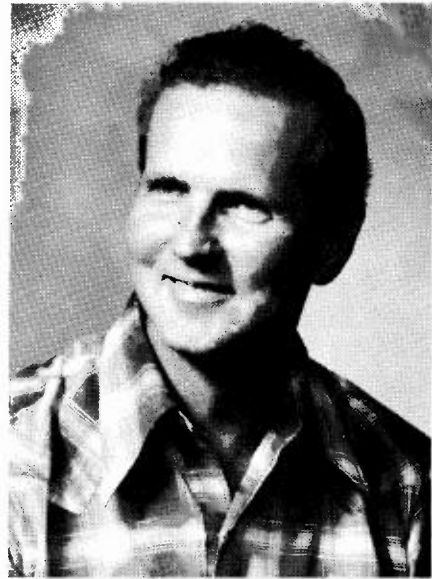


Mrs. Margaret Drinkwater

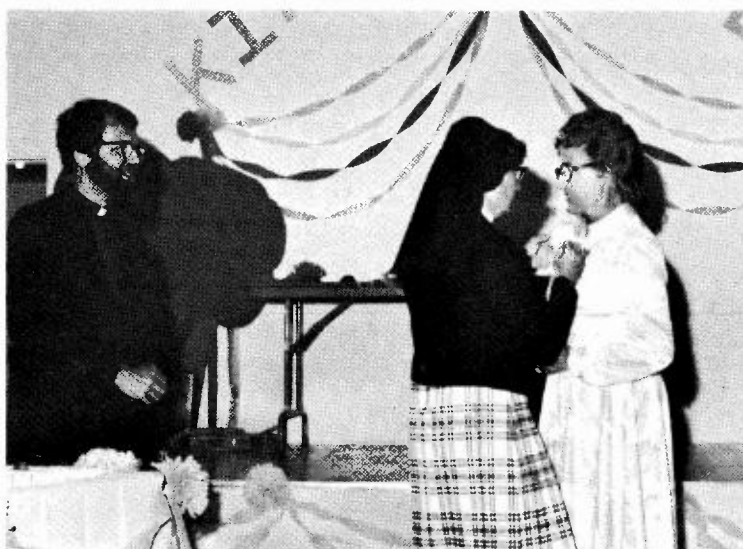
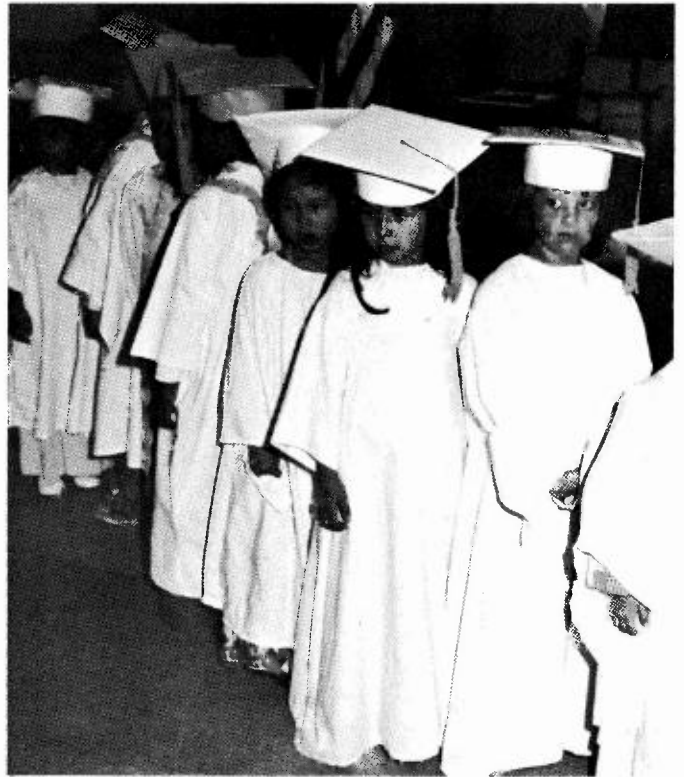
School Support Staff



Mrs. Liz Sweo,
Secretary



Mr. Bill Atchison,
Maintenance



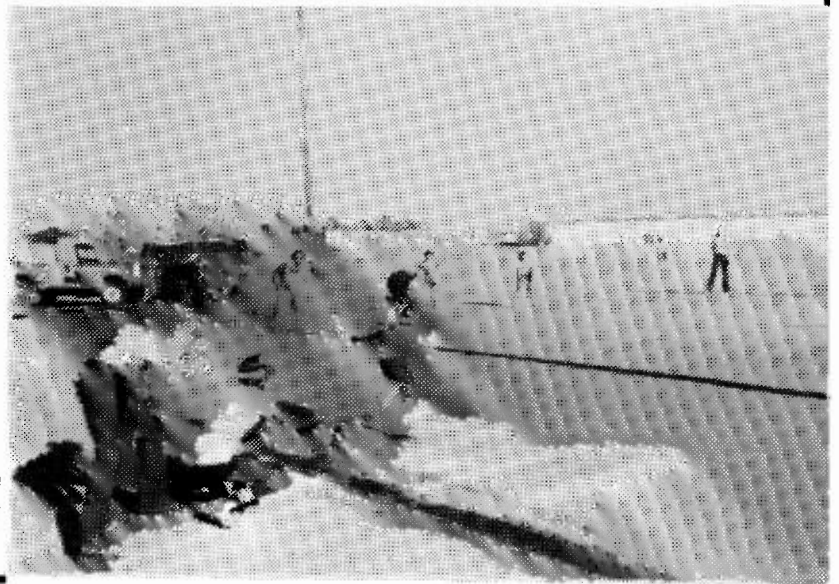
For parents of I.H.M. parish school kindergartners graduation is a big event. Clockwise from left, a lad receives his diploma from Fr. Bob Getz; the graduates line up with all the pomp and circumstance; and Fr. Bob watches as Mrs. Tipton their teacher receives a special award from Sister Dolores.

In conjunction with Holy Cross School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish School students can benefit in a hot lunch program every day while school is in session.

The library at the parish school is a complete library with approximately 3,000 volumes. Children attending Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish School are strongly encouraged to use the facility and grow in knowledge through reading.



Sister Domitilla (now on assignment in Peru) watches with Sister Dolores the action of an I.H.M. parish school baseball game.



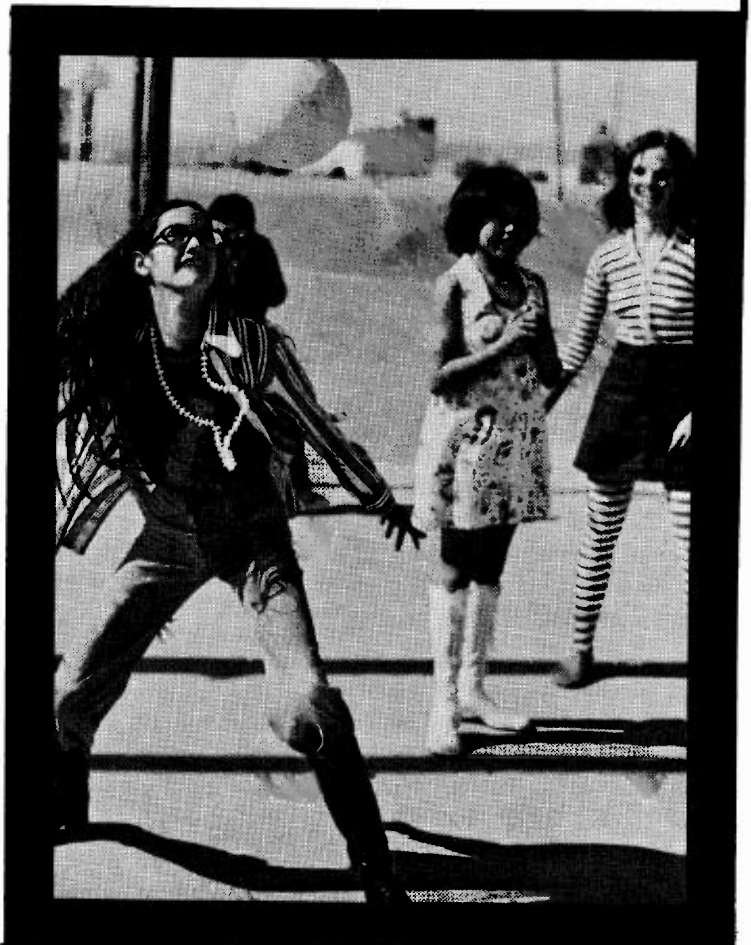
The baseball team for the girls is one of several outlets the students have for developing their bodies as well as their team spirit.

The School Board of Immaculate Heart of Mary serves as a policy board on matters relating to the Diocesan office, determines policies of operations, approval of the annual budget, and seeks to gain support of Catholic education within the local community.

Home and School is comprised of parents of all children in the school. It is a support group of the parish school, raising money for special projects and boosting morale.



Education for students often goes out of the classroom. Students learn at Aguirre Springs about the types of life in the desert.



At right, a student readies for the game point. With eyes braced and muscles tensed she'll be sure to score against the teachers in the annual Crazy Days volleyball game.

A Ministry of Advice -- Parish Council

Key to the meaning of Parish Council is servant. By its very nature it is to be a servant, a servant to the people, to the pastor and associate, and to itself.

The structure of Immaculate Heart of Mary's Parish Council is primarily leadership and committees. The president chairs meetings while the nuts and bolts work is done in committees. Our Parish Council has committees of Administration, Finance, Family Life, Education, Social Concerns, Liturgy, Facilities, and Maintenance.

Parish Council meets monthly and opens its meetings to any parish member. It is at the meetings that parish members can give their thoughts and ideas on what should happen in the parish. Parish Council, after all, is an extension of the whole community. Some of its members are appointed, some elected and still others serve by virtue of the organization they represent.

The essential ministry of the council now is to give the pastor and associate suggestions on actions to be taken in operating the parish. Through its members the council body brings feelings of the people in the parish.

Committees Share the Ministry Role

Administration becomes familiar with the operations of the parish, consults on office and personnel procedure, and confers with the pastor on matters of parish operations.

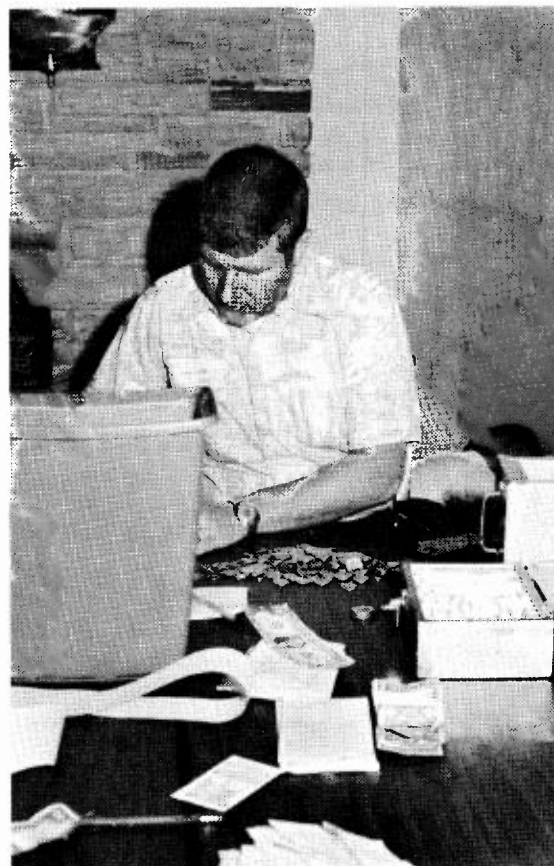
Family Life Committee works in areas such as youth ministry, senior citizen activities, programs for the development of family life, helps welcome new parish families and encourages greater and deeper spiritual growth in a family.



Facilities consults on maintenance of the parish plant. They make periodic inspection tours, deal with inventory of parish property and consult with the pastor on suggestions where repairs or replacements are needed.

The Education Committee is concerned with the total religious education of parish members. They work closely with the parish school, C.C.D and their respective support organizations. Important areas of concern are developing religious vocations and promoting family education.

The Finance Committee works with the Administrative assistant in preparing the annual budget, recommending action on major expenditures and audits the parish records. They also educate themselves as to means of fund-raising, methods of accounting in the parish and consult with the pastor on investments.



A member of the Teller Committee starts the arduous task of coin counting. A different crew counts each week to prepare our offertory collection properly for deposit.

Committees Share The Ministry Role

Social Concerns fosters community relations, civic and charitable activities, promotes stewardship and apostolic activities, fosters a mission consciousness within the parish and works on such annual projects as the food baskets during the holidays.



The Liturgy Committee fosters spiritual life of the parish through planning liturgies, special devotions and celebrations. They work with the leaders of music groups, the ushers, and readers to see that liturgies are adequately ministered. The committee promotes retreats, prayer groups, bible study and other means of deeper spiritual growth.



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR I.H.M.

Now that 25 years of ministry and service has passed... where does Immaculate Heart of Mary go from the present?

In just a few years our parish has grown to over 1300 families. Each of these families will have important roles in the future of the parish.

With the growth in families expected to get larger what with the area of the parish above Telshor and the new apartments built just a few blocks away our parish has to gear for such growth. Why, houses are being built with a rate faster than they can be sold. And business in the parish area is growing too. Soon another shopping center will be built just down Idaho.

Looking toward the future the following questions might be raised: What will happen if a new parish was formed around the Telshor area? How might this affect our revenue? How might such a revenue change directly or indirectly affect our programs?

With an increase in membership several areas of growth will be affected. They are the Physical plant, the Staff, Liturgies, Spiritual life, the Parish school and Religious education.

One topic often discussed is

the parish hall. Should a new hall be built? Or should the present one be enlarged with extensive remodeling? If a new hall was built it might be located on the back corner of the church grounds or maybe even where the present hall is now.

Some members would like to see an automatic sprinkler system installed on the grounds and quality grass planted for better appearance. And some have even thought a ball diamond might be good for the school.

With more families coming to Mass on Sundays the parking lot could see expansion. On the drawing board now is a possibility of resurfacing the present lot with a seal-coat.

Physical plant condition/maintenance, of course, is always in the future concerns with growth in mind. Such projects as repainting the outside of the church and the school are perhaps in order. The carpeting in the church might need to be replaced.

With a growing community of faith new services from the office will also be developed. Under study now is the possibility of an in-house printing reproduction function. This might be a small offset press

or a good quality dry copier. Another possibility could bring about the computerization of our parish census. This will give the pastoral team up-to-date family information, sacramental history, mailing list availability and analysis of finances.

With growth in the parish community, CCD and our parish school will obviously be affected too. The school might need more audio-visual equipment, more staff and other new equipment. CCD might have to add additional paid staff persons, more supplies, volunteers and books.

Spiritually, the parish is just beginning. It is foreseeable that small Christian communities might be formed. Using neighborhoods as a geographical basis, small groups of families will be encouraged to gather together for Mass, social activities, prayer or Bible study.

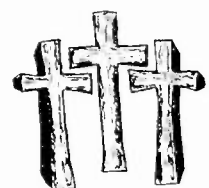
Youth ministry needs will be expanded through CCD, prayer community and the school undoubtedly.

Liturgies are presently growing into being more responsive to those who attend particular Masses regularly. Father Sullivan hopes to see members of the parish com-

munity from those Mass communities become more involved in planning their worship.

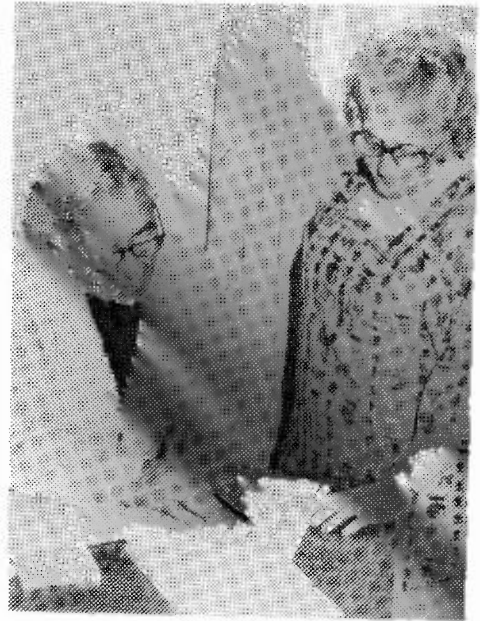
Looking back to a June 1977 issue of La Palabra we see other items that might be required with added growth. Some from a list compiled by former pastor, Rev. Robert Getz, are: hiring a liturgy coordinator, providing training programs for parish leaders, a new car for the parish, greater evangelization (adult education especially), and perhaps mailing the bulletin.

But what happens in the next 25 years is up to you the present parish members and those yet to come. By being involved and committed to the parish community, an extension of your own family, the directions that Immaculate Heart of Mary take will be charted for the deeper love of Jesus.





At left, several members of the I.H.M. parish community gave their talents in musical voice expression when the parish had an adult choir. Tony Gomez was the director at the time.



Shortly after her arrival, Sister Lucienne Savoie, pastoral ministry, confers with Father Cletus Foltz, C.P.P.S. then associate pastor. Father Cletus is now serving in California.



A sunny Sunday afternoon Father Robert Getz posed with some of his favorite girls. From left are Sisters Therese, Lucienne, Monica, Rita and Helene.

MUSIC GIVES LIFE TO LITURGIES



Guitars and flutes praise God at our 12:30 liturgy. Led by Mr. Lou Gomez the group also blends with a vocal group at special liturgical functions.



Organ and violin provided music at the 11 a.m. Mass. With the book going to press and a new music group formed we were unable to get a photograph.

The Tuesday evening prayer community has a group of dedicated musicians to help bring the greater honor and glory to Jesus through musical praise.

The liturgy on Saturday evening has a group also, usually led by Sister Therese, except during the summer when she is on vacation or furthering her education.



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS MINISTER



Servers

It is from these young men that future priests could come. The altar servers assist at the altar with the celebrant. Servers rotate schedules to give each a chance. Many of the servers come from our parish school, many from the public schools.

Carmelites

Members of this community find value in contemplative prayer and following the life style of their religious counterparts. The third order of Carmelites is a very special support group to any parish. It gives a member of the laity, a woman, the opportunity to develop her spiritual life even deeper by giving rule and order to living.

Maid servant of the Lord Prayer Community



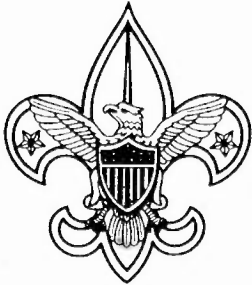
Every Tuesday evening many parish members gather to praise Jesus with song, prayer, and Scripture teaching. The prayer community provides both spiritual support and working support to the parish community. You're invited to find out more about the ministry of the Maid servant of the Lord Prayer Community.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

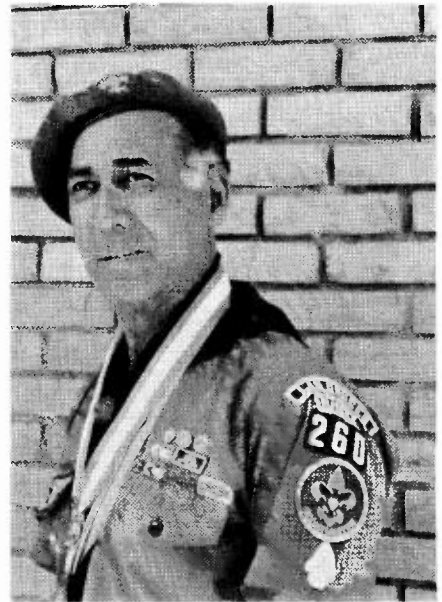
Structurally it is not like other chapters of St. Vincent de Paul. They do not have a store, they don't sponsor enchilada suppers, they do minister. Silently they take referrals from agencies in the community that cannot help people in need. They beg as St. Vincent did himself for needed funds to help people who are down and out. This is a special ministry and not everyone is called, but you'll never know until you try.



Scouting



B.S.A.



Under the direction of Mr. Joe Berroteran, above, Scoutmaster of I.H.M.'s Troop 260 the boys develop their mind and their bodies through the Scouting program.

Scouting is one part of the total parish scouting program.

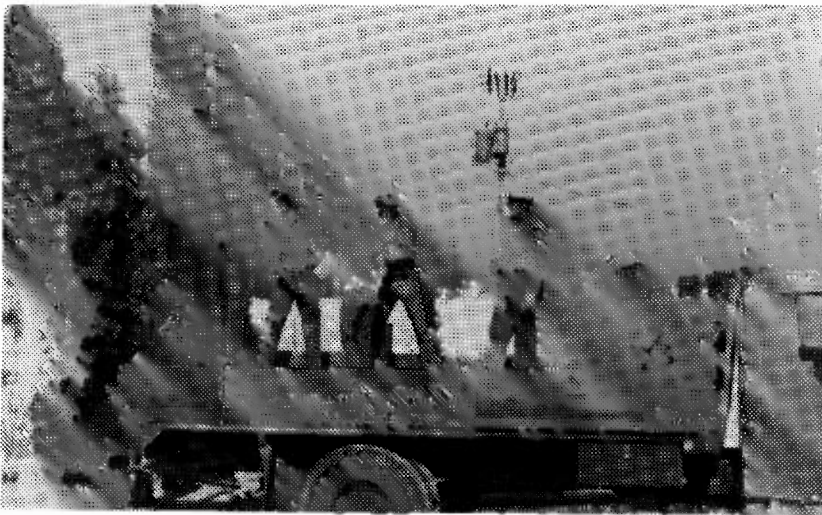
Also offered in the parish is Cubs, Girl Scouts and Brownies. Girl Scouts and Brownies meet during the school year. Boy Scouts and Cubs meet all year.

Activities of Scouting include, to mention a few, camping, crafts skill awards, social events, field trips and leadership training.

All of the scout troops at Immaculate Heart of Mary are under the leadership direction of skilled adults. Some are parents of members that serve on boards or participate directly in the activities.

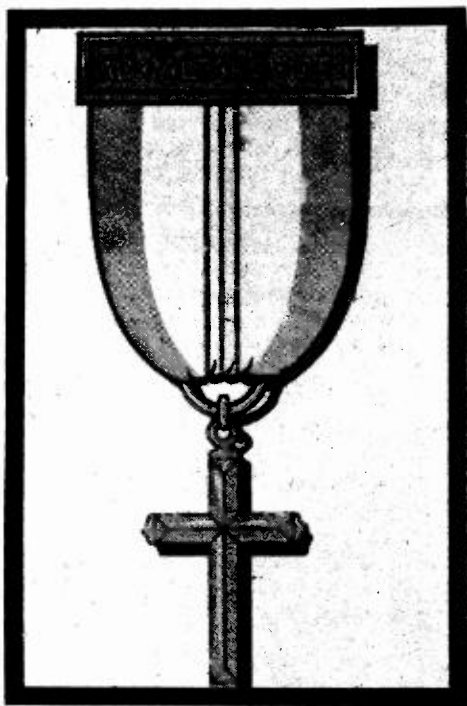
Scouting also gives boys and girls the opportunity for individual achievement and experience in goal-setting through earning merit badges.

But the best part of the scout program in this parish is the fact that it is available to all boys and girls in the parish.



One project of Scout Troop 260 of Immaculate Heart of Mary was to rebuild part of the walls of Fort Selden. Above they load used adobes onto the truck. Below the adobes are unloaded at the site of the old fort.





Ad Altare Dei means "To the Altar of God."

This is the religious emblem award for Boy Scouts, members of the Catholic faith.

To earn the award the scout must show his knowledge in the faith and the sacraments. Working under the guidance of a counselor the scout must pass his review.

Most recent awardees from our parish were Jimmy Wilson and Marcos Montes. The Most Rev. S.M. Metzger, then Bishop of El Paso, presented the awards.

The Marian Medal is the religious award available for members of Girl Scouts.

The girls too must pass a review and perform certain activities to meet requirements.

It usually takes about a year to pass the necessary requirements.

After approval of their counselor and the Diocesan office the award is presented.

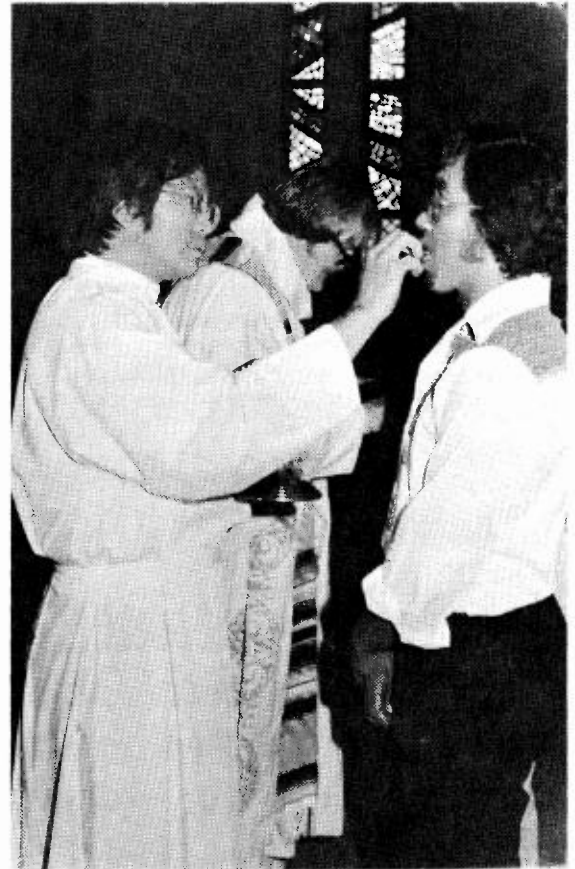
Kendra and Karen Unger were the last to receive the Marian Medal. It was presented to them in ceremonies on May 4, 1975 by Monsignor Finley.





Readers

It is a special gift of God to be able to proclaim the Good News at liturgies. This ministry is especially vested in the laity as presented in the documents of Vatican II. Although it helps to have a good voice, and some training in public speaking with the use of microphones, it is not a requirement. With practice anyone feeling so led can assist at the liturgies and give life to the Word of God.



Communion Ministers

The love of God and the deep understanding of what Eucharist is all about prompts these men and women to assist with distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ. Many of the ministers not only serve at the altar but also spend time taking our Lord to the Las Cruces Manor, to shut-ins, and to Memorial General Hospital. All the ministers must go through orientation training and then receive permission from the Bishop.



Ushers

Every Sunday at all the Masses a group of men and youth from the community of Immaculate Heart give their time to collect the gifts of you and your family. Some of the men have been ushering since the beginning of this parish. They have the ministry also of seeing that people find seats, and that aisles are not blocked for fire prevention. It, too goes unnoticed but it too is an important area of service.



Bingo

A large percentage of support to our parish school comes from a silent but vocal community of the parish on Monday nights. Finley Hall comes alive to the sounds of B-1 and "BINGO" as men of the parish and women of the Altar Society work to aid the finances of our parish school. If you have never gone to bingo, try it. Better yet give some time, even one Monday night, and serve as a worker.

ALTAR SOCIETY



From a 1975 photograph, Msgr. Finley congratulates newly elected officers of the Altar Society. From L to R they are: Mrs. Casimir Gonzales, Mrs. Trobio Apodaca, and Mrs. Ray Chavez. Not present when this was taken was Mrs. James McMillan.

Work of these dedicated women often times goes unnoticed, perhaps even taken for granted, at least humanly, but surely not heavenly.

The group of women who serve as members of the Altar Society of Immaculate Heart have been working for years ministering to the altar.

They plan their activities at monthly meetings which all women of the parish are welcome to attend.

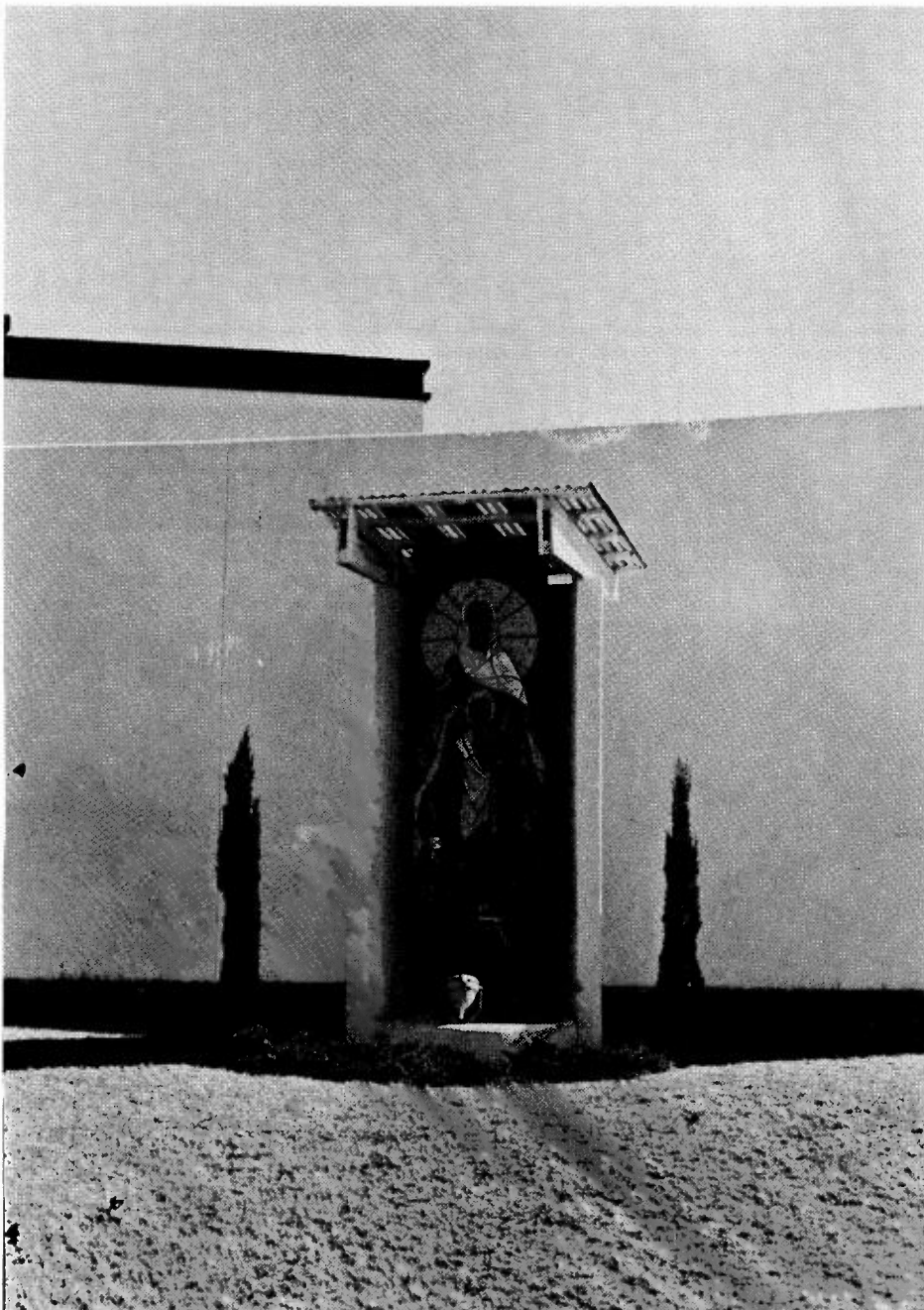
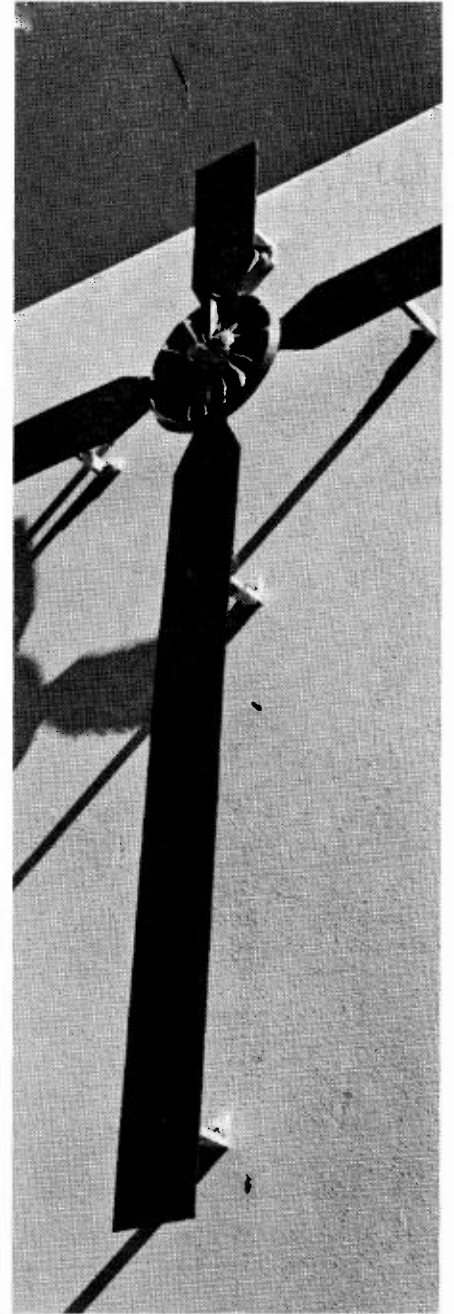
As you sit in church some day notice the flower arrangements, the different banners hung, the altar cloths, the candles that never burn down too low. The care and upkeep of the sanctuary is because God has blessed us in this community with some very dedicated and very talented people.

Altar Society members also handle the food concession for Bingo on Monday nights.

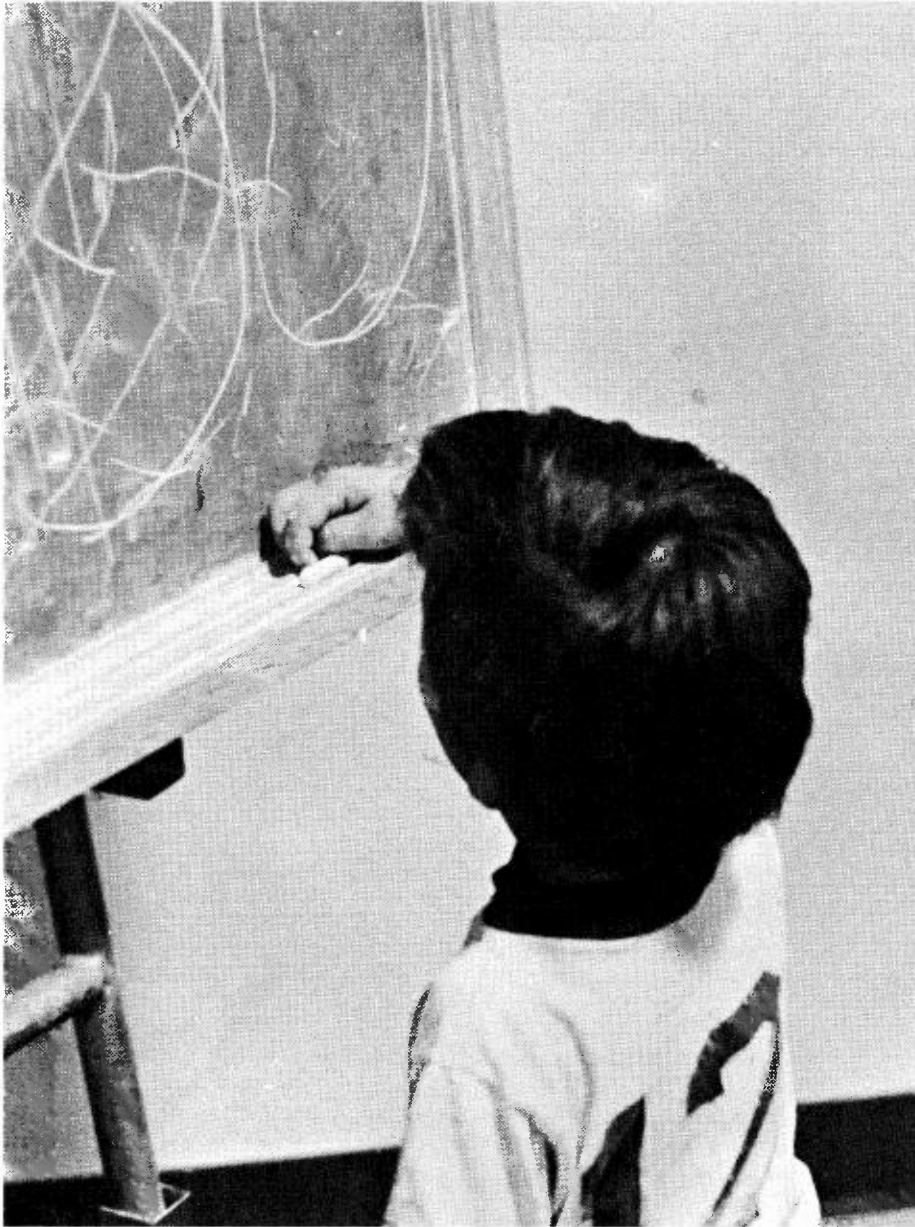
**Josephine Delgado,
representative of ser-
vice given by members
of the Altar Society.
[Photo by Terance
Holachek, O.P.]**



The new church building, built in 1967, had several works of art as appointments both inside and out. The cross pictured at right made of cast aluminum has the Immaculate Heart of Mary in bas relief as its center.



At left is the terracotta tiled shrine of Virgin and child by Gian Andrea of Santa Fe. The shrine, exposed to weather and vandalism, is in the process of being restored this year. It was missing a few pieces at the time of this photograph. When the restoration is complete it will probably be mounted inside the lobby of the church.



Before the chapel was finished in the church it was used as a nursery during the Masses. Being able to entertain himself this young boy ponders his creative endeavors.

Voz Vaqueros, The Singing Men of Las Cruces, have performed at Immaculate Heart of Mary for several concerts. The men, all volunteers, sing because they like to sing. They blend harmoniously with traditional and seasonal favorites.



CCD -- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Some of the staff consult with Sr. Helene, far right, on planning an activity.

From Monday through Friday as to be expected you will find the parish school a veritable beehive of activity. The school is in session where almost 200 students are taught a full curriculum of subjects, including religion.

But not all of the children in Immaculate Heart of Mary go to the parish school. Attending public school, these students get their religious education on weekends.

On Saturday and Sunday a volunteer staff of almost eighty teachers, aides, and office workers provide religious education for over 400 students. Senior high students met on Wednesday evenings last year.

Saturday and Sunday sessions are arranged so grades 1-5 meet Saturday and Sunday with grades 6-9 meeting on Sunday too.

The program of religious education through CCD is planned for each year to build upon the previous year. This building is geared for deepening the students' Christian faith.

Two special liturgical events of the year are major preparation tasks for some of the CCD staff. The events, First Communion and Confirmation, demand much time and planning to insure adequate instruction and formation. With these events the training of the parents are included in the formation of the child's.

Serving Handicapped

By Mrs. Dorothy Morales

Mental retardation, learning disability, slow learner - these words all mean about the same thing. They mean that a child adapts more slowly to learning about things, about themselves, and about God.

God, in Christ, calls all people to Him including the mentally and physically handicapped. In His Life, Jesus especially showed His love to the less fortunate people.

We here at Immaculate Heart of Mary feel that the spiritual well-being of those children, in part, is our responsibility. We can be loving to those children and teach them by example and by the power of Jesus' love.

Our program started in 1976. In two years nine children have made their first communion.

Special education classes are for the mentally and physically handicapped and are open to children over seven years of age and to anyone in the parish community.

We feel that by having this program available we can help the child not only spiritually, but emotionally, socially and educationally.

If you know of anyone that may benefit from these classes let us know at the rectory so that we may also help that child grow.



A student diligently works on her paper during class sessions in the CCD program.

A WEEKEND OF MINISTRY OF SERVICE

In each class the students are given a balance of text and experiential learning. Much effort is placed into liturgical experiences, such as prayer, scripture and of course the Mass.

Students in the Sunday session are encouraged to attend the 11 a.m. Mass just after the classes end.

But all school and no play makes children dull. So the CCD program offers such diversifications as movies, social activities, a Christmas party, and service projects.

To keep teachers and staff continually motivated Sr. Helene Rueffer, Director of Religious Education-CCD, strives to give her staff recognition and training. At the end of the year after students have their picnics, teachers and their spouses are treated to a recognition dinner-dance.

Program planning actually begins for the CCD program weeks before the school year begins. Sr. Helene, with the aid of the CCD board, sets dates, chooses texts and registration procedures are developed and fund raising is planned.

Sr. Helene commented once that she hopes the program could grow to where she could work more in teaching, teacher training, and adult education; less office administration functions.

She herself has grown through completion of her Masters in Religious Education this year, serving actively in CORE (Coordinators of Religious Education) for the Vicariate and teaching religious education in the parish school.

Yes, CCD-Religious Education is truly a ministry of service - a weekend ministry.



Fr. Bob Getz addresses the new teachers in the CCD program in 1976 at an installation ceremony during a Mass.



During the recognition dinner-dance held this past May, Mrs. Nellie Lopez, Fr. Ed Sullivan, Mrs. Dorothy Morales and Mr. Daniel Rivera get together to the tune of some Spanish Music.



Friday of the third week of Lent
March 26, 1954

Most Reverend Sidney M. Metzger, D.D.
Bishop of El Paso
1012 North Mesa Avenue
El Paso, Texas

March 29, 1954

Your Excellency,

I am writing at this time to request permission to purchase some additional property for the parish. We wish to purchase "Block 17 of the Valley View Subdivision, according to the amended Plat thereof filed April 24, 1907," of Las Cruces, New Mexico. This is the vacant block immediately west of the present block of Church property and is bounded in the following manner:

- Espananza St. - on the West,
- California St. - on the North,
- Almendra St. - on the East,
- Idaho St. - on the South.

This block measures the same as our present block of property, i.e., 425' x 300'.

The price for the block of property is \$6,000.00. This does not include lots 16 & 17 (measuring 25' x 135') which are located in the northwest corner of the block. These are separately owned by one Anita Terrazas, presently living in Mesa, Arizona. We have entered correspondence with her in an effort to buy these lots also. To purchase the property, we must make a down-payment of \$2,500.00 and pay off the remainder within 5 years. This will be handled through the Southwest National Bank of El Paso, and the charge will be 6% interest.

At the present time we have \$2,141.99 in our Building Fund, revenue from regular Church collections for the purpose together with funds derived from the efforts of our Parish Men's Council. We have planned to borrow \$1,000.00 from one of our parishioners (who actually will borrow it from the Bank for us) at 5% interest. This will enable us to make the down-payment and have over \$800.00 in reserve toward buying the two lots. We expect to pay off both debts by regular payments from our Building Fund. I think we should be out of debt within two years--three at most.

We respectfully await your reply, Your Excellency, in order that we may close the deal soon.

Obediently yours in Christ,

William H. Ryan
Administrator

A letter asking to purchase the property now the playground.

The Reverend
William H. Ryan, Administrator
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
880 N. Idaho Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Father Ryan:

In reply to your esteemed letter of March 26th in regard to the purchase of "Block 17 of the Valley View Subdivision", Las Cruces, N.M., you have permission to make this purchase and also approval for all the financial arrangements as outlined in your letter.

Rest assured that I am greatly pleased with your excellent work and I am confident that Immaculate Heart of Mary parish will prosper throughout the years.

With every good wish and blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

S. Metzger
Bishop of El Paso

SGV/ea

The reply granting permission to acquire the land.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

1240 S. Espina 526-5793 Las Cruces, N.M.

FR. EVERETT F. FINLEY, Pastor
Fr. Thomas J. O'Mahony, Ass't. Pastor

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Rectory: 1240 South Espina
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO



FR. EVERETT F. FINLEY, *Pastor*

Phone — 526-5793

FR. THOMAS J. O'MAHONY, *Assistant Pastor*

SUNDAY MASSES:

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

WEEKDAYS: School Days—6:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Saturdays—6:00 and 8:00 A.M.

HOLY DAYS:

6:00 and 9:30 A.M., 6:00 and 7:00 P.M.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 4:00 - 5:30, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

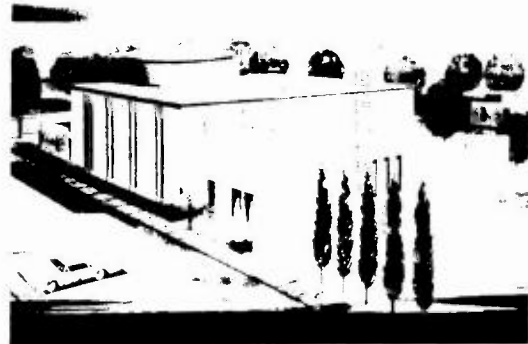
BAPTISMS:

Sundays at 3:00 P.M., other times by appointment

Rectory Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



Courtesy of IKARDS FURNITURE & APPLIANCE



MASSSES:

SUNDAY — 7, 8, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 A.M. and 5 P.M.

WEEKDAYS — School Days, 6 and 11 A.M. Sat. 6 and 8 A.M.

HOLY DAYS — 6 and 9:30 A.M. 6 and 7 P.M.

CONFESSIONS — Saturdays 4 to 5:30 P.M. and 7 to 9 P.M.

BAPTISM — Sunday at 3 P.M. Other times by appointment. Only practicing Catholics may act as sponsors. Please make arrangements for Baptism by telephoning the Rectory, Monday thru Friday during Office hours, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

A reduced copy of a former bulletin form that was used in the early 70s.

From an old parish calendar



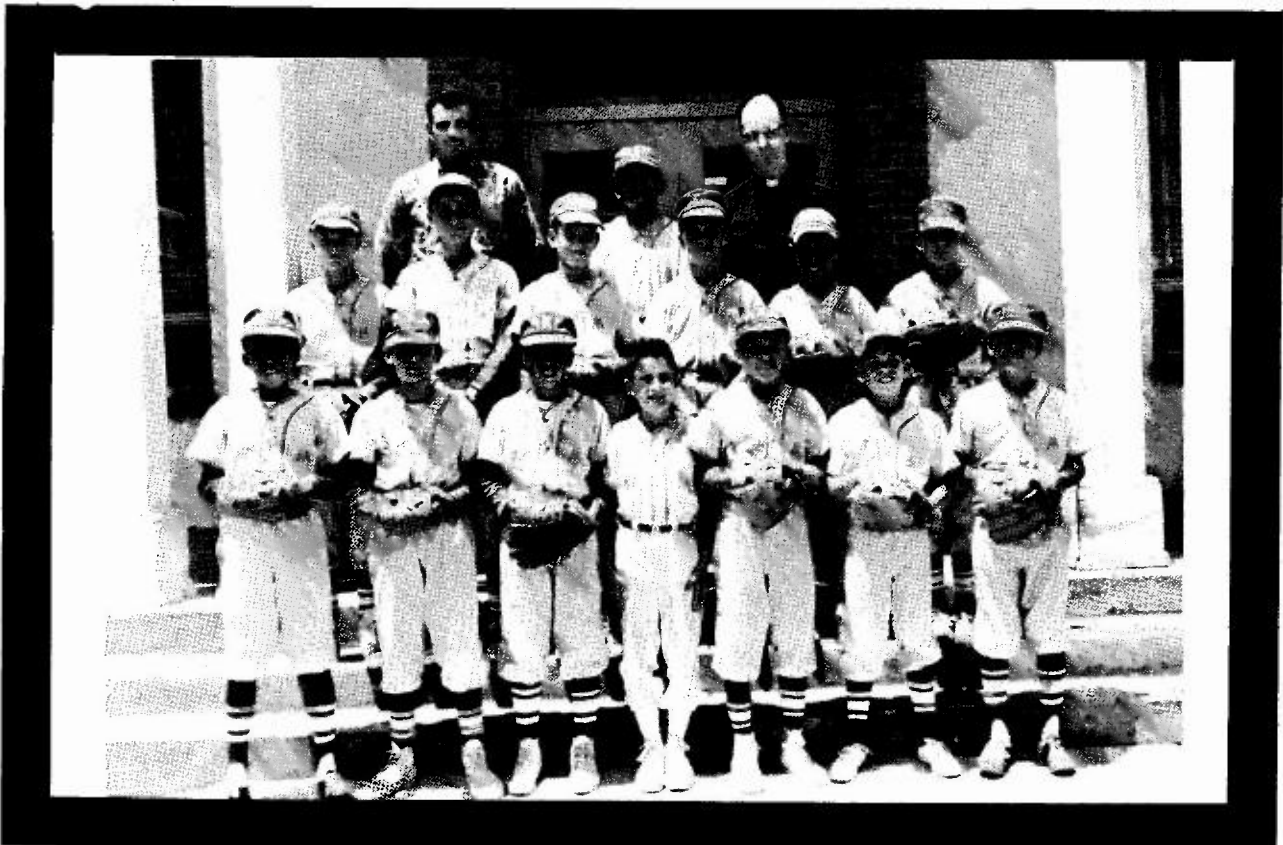
I.H.M. for the past few years has shared the event of high school graduation with its students by hosting a baccalaureate service.

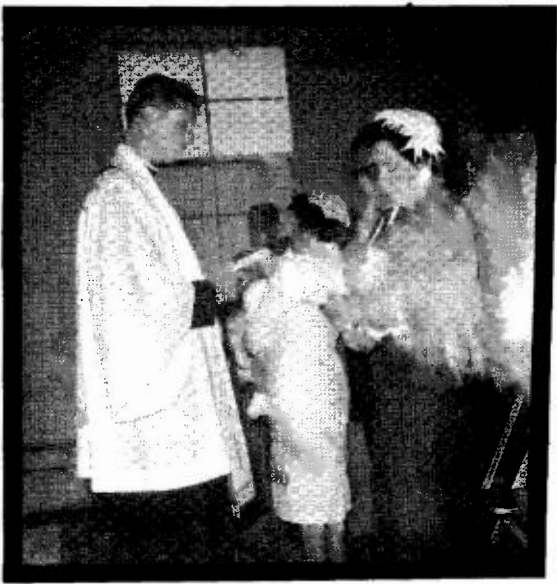


Shortly before Immaculate Heart was formed this photograph of the Third Order of St. Francis was made at St. Genevieve's in what is now their parish hall.

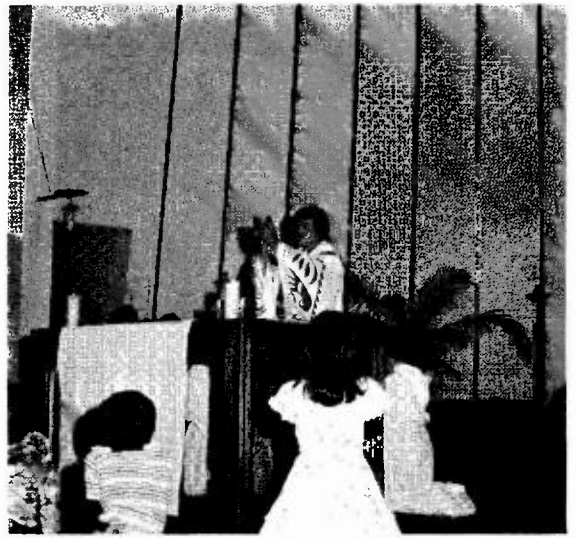
From left to right, Row 1: Rosalita Dominguez, Dora Varela, Marcelina Martinez, Francisca Paz, Fr. David Vlraromontez, Everardo Gil Lopez, Refugio Apodaca, and Rosarito Madrid. Row 2: Corina Lopez, Lupe Rede, Maria Holguin, Josephina R. Delgado and Refugio Marin. Row 3: Antonia Nevarez, Maria C. Ramos, Urbana Fritz, Fannie Serna, Fr. David Kirgan, Pastor, Angelita Banegas, and Teodula Lopez, This photo courtesy of Josephine Delgado.

The photo below, although undated, should bring memories to some of our families. No information as to who the boys are was available when the photo was discovered. It must have been the school sponsored baseball team shortly after the school was opened.





Above - Fr. Erzan baptizing Kathleen Spiller, Ray and Felize Chavez stood as Godparents. Roy Spiller took the photograph in 1960.



Raising the cup of wine, Jesus' Blood, Fr. Jaime offers in celebration his first Mass at I.H.M.



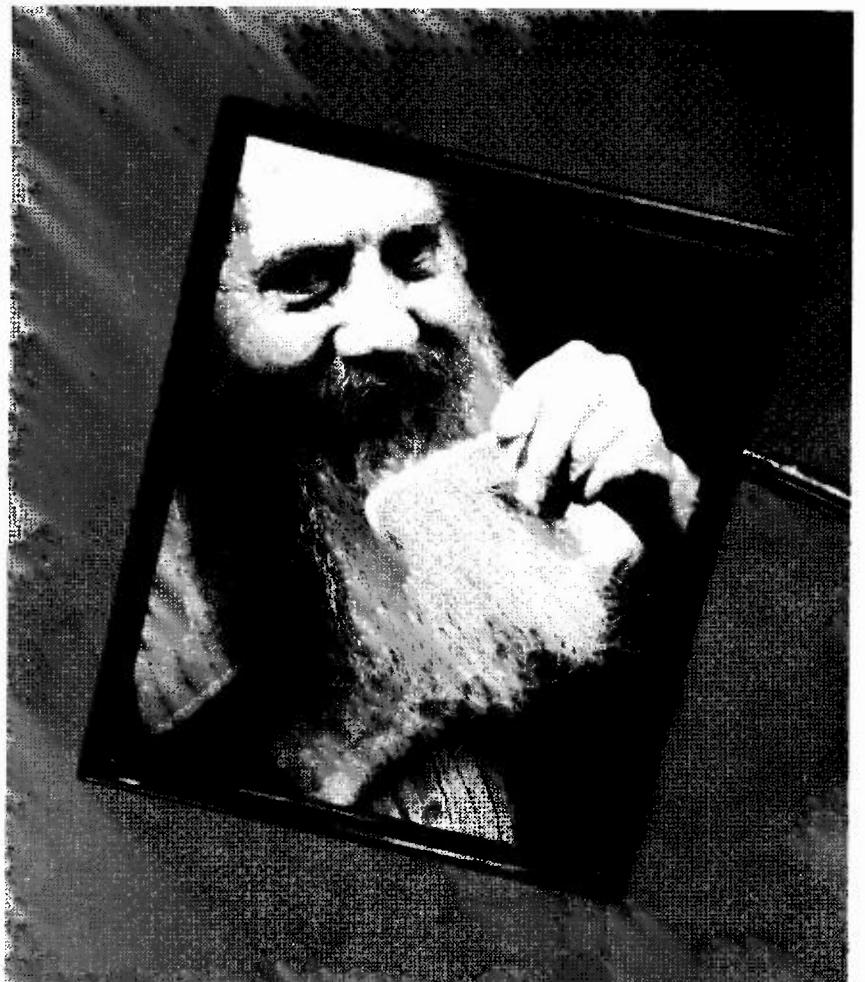
Fr. Cletus Foltz, C.P.P.S. (left) confers with Fr. Bob Getz and Harold Berndt, Administrative Assistant.



The kitchen will never be the same especially after Mrs. Dorothy Morales finishes with cutting away the old wire mesh that held up the plaster. This was taken in 1977.



The office doesn't look like this anymore, not at all. But in 1973 it did and Marti Garcia the secretary then was hard at work maintaining the files of the parish records.



Do you know who this is? If you've seen him lately he doesn't look as old... his beard got shaved several months ago. Gabe Paz and his whiskers were a familiar sight around the parish for many years. Gabe will be well remembered for his chairmanship of our parish Fiesta in 1976.

May 9, 1966

Capt. Everett Finley
Box 120
Fort Knox, Ky.

Dear Everett,

I received your letter and am delighted you can make it to Las Cruces for the 22nd May.

Everything is in a rush here as the builder was slow on the job. The carpet for sanctuary and aisles will not be delivered on time due to factory problems. However, Msgr. Quinn said to go ahead with the dedication. I will attach a schedule of events as we have the Holy Name May rally on that day also.

The fiesta was a great success, even though it rained heavily all day. In the bar-b-quo and raffle we made at least \$4,000 profit. We intend to have a re-run next Saturday from 2 to 8 p.m. with all booths open. The television was won by a man in El Paso, a Mr. Thomas.

By the way, would you like to be deacon at the high Mass of dedication. The Bishop will sing the Mass in Latin. Write and let me know at once. Do you intend to stay in the Rectory over-night?

I sold the old pews to Our Lady of Health. Any chance the Army would buy the Stations of the Cross and Communion Rail?

Congratulations to Ed. I hope his wife is well.

Write by return.

Yours fraternally,

SCHEDULE

5 Masses in old church.
One Mass at 11 A.M. in new church (Dedication)
12:30 Registration on N.M.S.U. campus for Holy Name Rally
3:00 Benediction in football field 6:00 Banquet

DEDICATION SERVICE

1. Next Sunday, 22nd May at 11:00 a. m., the dedication service will take place. It will be followed by a high Mass. (Missal users should look up in the back of their books the "Mass for the Dedication of a new Church")
2. There will be five masses in the old church. We will omit the 10:45 a. m. and the high mass of dedication will take its place.
3. The church must be completely empty of people for the dedication. The Bishop will begin the service outside the front door. So the choir and parishioners should congregate there. His Excellency will bless the walls on the outside, and then lead the people into the church.
4. The altars must be bare for this service. As soon as His Excellency goes to the sacristy to vest for the Mass, the Altar Society ladies should dress the altars and put out the flowers. They can have everything in readiness in the room on left-hand side of Sanctuary.
5. The ushers marked for the 10:45 Mass will usher the high Mass. They will need extra help. Make sure you bring the baskets over, and return them to the old church for the 12:00 (noon) Mass.
6. All cars must park on play-ground as we wish to leave the California St. side of church free for the Bishop to walk around during his blessing.
7. In the near future a bulletin board will be erected in the Narthex (vestibule) of the new church. All announcements must be placed on it. No one is to deface the walls or doors of the new church by attaching announcements to them no matter how worthy the case.
8. There is a new entrance at the back of the rectory leading to the Sacristy. This is for the use of the priests. Please do not start the custom of making it an entrance to the Rectory. The front office is the proper place to speak to the priests.
9. We will not have the carpeting for the dedication, due to factory problems. However, the Chancery office wishes us to go ahead with this ceremony.
10. Msgr. Hugh Quinn, Chancellor, will be the speaker-preacher for the Dedication. Fr. J. Hay, Rector of the Minor Seminary, will be the M. C.
11. A brochure to commemorate the dedication of our new church as well as the Holy Name Rally hosted by this parish, will be sold next Sunday. We hope all the families of the parish will purchase at least one copy.

THE STUDIO OF GIAN ANDREA

on historic old Camino Cañon, 626 CANYON ROAD SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO Yucca 2-0054



25 May 1966

The Reverend Thomas J O'Mahony
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
Rectory, 1249 S Espina Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Reverend and Dear Father:

I'm sorry we couldn't see more of you over the weekend. We had to rush Ruan, our younger son, to the hospital on Saturday evening. He was in sudden high fever and Dr Hurro diagnosed it as bronchial pneumonia. After the dedication on Sunday, we went immediately to friends who were caring for him and started home. He is still out of school and convalescing, but, thank God, seems much better.

Ellen and I were very pleased and impressed with the beautiful service, and grateful to have had the opportunity to work on a building which is now dedicated to the worship and glory of God.

Enclosed is a letter suggesting changes in the baptistery for your consideration, as well as a statement for appointments delivered. My sub-contractors have been pressing for payment.

Please consider the baptistery railing changes very carefully. I feel certain these modifications would please everyone when finished.

Sincerely,

Andrea B.
Andrea Bacigalupe



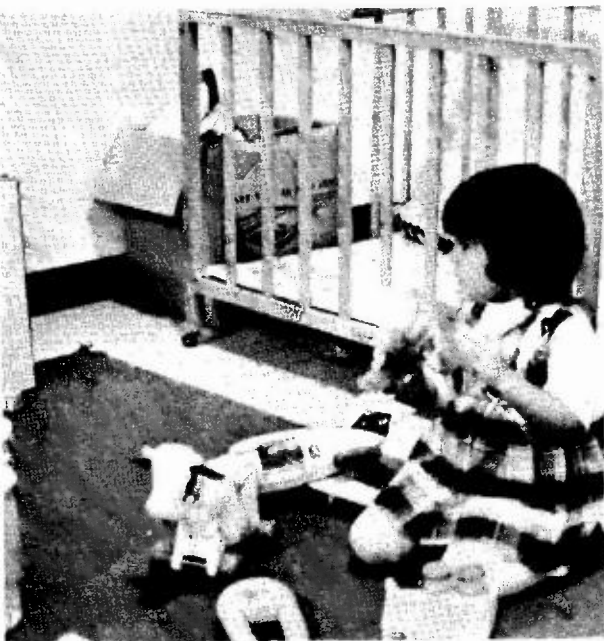
Some interesting letters from the files of Parish life. . . . Correspondence and highlights of dedication of the new church building.



Msgr. Finley met a friend, The Most Rev. Robert Sanchez, Archbishop of Santa Fe.

IHM SILVER PATRONS

<p>Mr. & Mrs. Jesus M. Zamora 2216 Solar Way Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Arthur & Carmen Valdez 1804 Pomona Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mrs. Leander J. Vercher 2043 Crescent Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Dick Lopez 1345 Roberts Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Phillip L. Shannon & Family 1030 Organ View Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Leo Luchini 2309 Concord Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Angel Chavez, Jr. 1330 Chaparro St. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mrs. Alden E. Spees 1221 Lees Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Richard Andazola 627 S. Espina Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>The Saucedas 914 Solano Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Dr. & Mrs. Don Marketto, Jr., M.D. 1755 Imperial Ridge Family: Leslie, Don, Las Cruces, N.M. 88001 Anna, Nick</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Cooper 1845 Myrtle Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Rachel Dye 3116 Enchanted Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. P. Gamboa 809 E. Utah Ave Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Roy J. Williams & Sons 641 Sunset Drive Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Juan Saenz Family 905 S. Espanola Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. P. Jerome Short Box 145 Organ, N.M. 88052</p>	<p>Mr & Mrs. Robert E. Cavanaugh 2710 Winston Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mrs. Dolores K. Stevenson & Family 2212 Magnolia Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>In Loving Memory of Father Kirgan Maria Sierra</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. D.A. Danforth 2745 Huntington Drive Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Peace and Happiness is in Knowing God Mr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Rivera & Family</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Raymond S. Telles & Family 1830 Colorado Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Tellez Jr. 1826 Boston Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Louis & Josie Chavez & Family May the Love of the Lord be with you always.</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth G. Dick 1001 E. Nevada Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Harold J. Berndt 2215 Desert Drive Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Margaret Marrufo & Family 1302 Branson Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Helen and Pat Dyer 808 E. Idaho, # 130 Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. James R. Graver & Family 4003 Lilac Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Garcia 1620 Smith Ave. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Mr. and Mrs. Alex Mendoza & Family 1948 Gladys Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Celso G. Bencomo 2000 Idaho Ave. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Andazola Family</p>
<p>Bennie Altamirano Family 1513 Aspen Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>Manny, Dorothy, Don, Susan Morales 1308 Delano Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Lois Cunningham 1101 Boutz Rd. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p>The Henry B. Chavez Family 1709 Bellamah Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Yorey</p>	<p>David, Rhonna, Scott, James, Robert Barbier 1809 E. California Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>



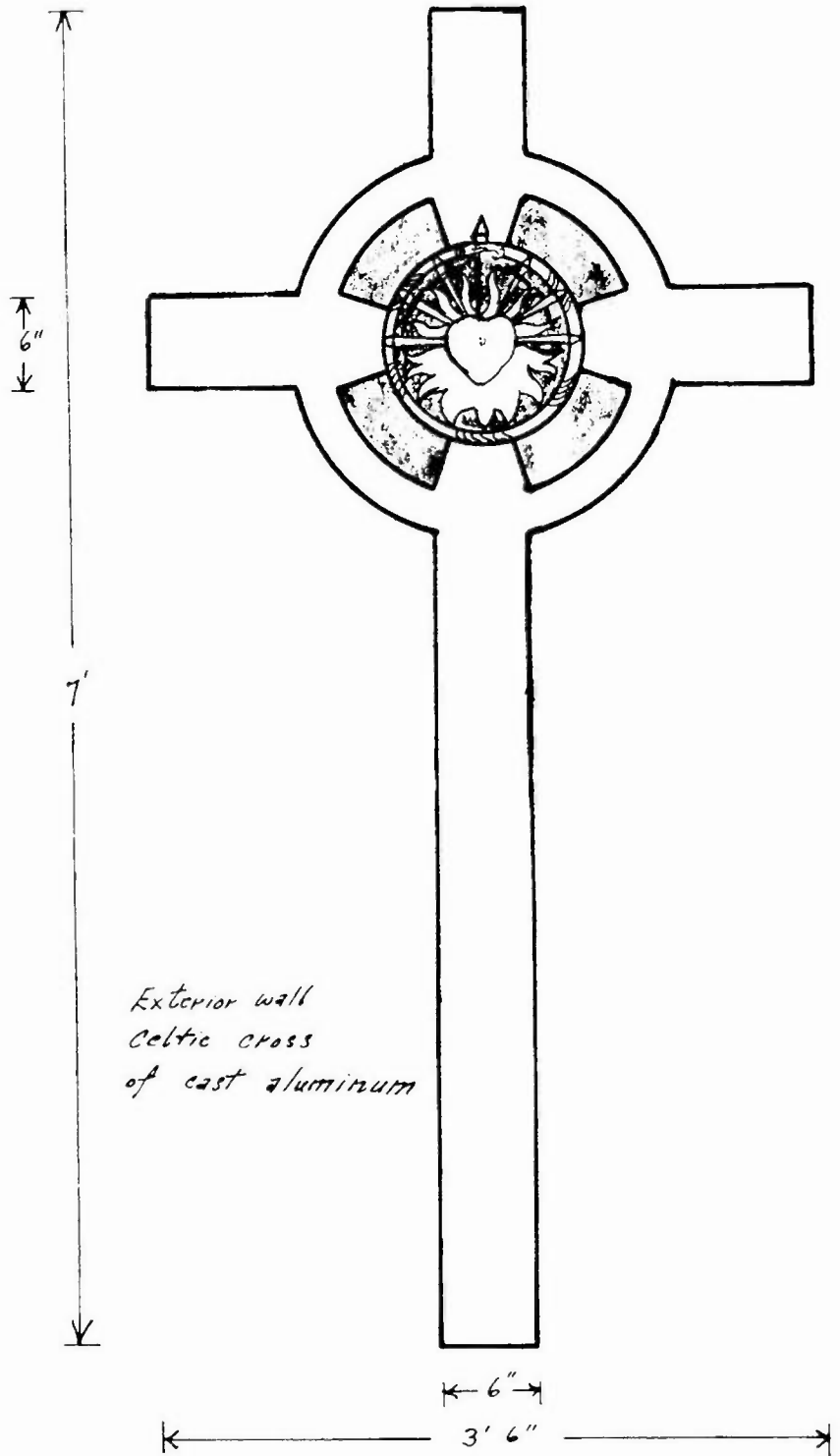
At left a child makes use of toys provided in the nursery while her parents were attending Mass.



Below, Fr. Ed and Fr. Jaime mix another batch of cement for modernizing the patio and yard behind the rectory. Above, Sr. Rita and Fr. Ed smooth the concrete slab for the patio.



Below, a copy of the original idea for the exterior wall cross of the new church building.



*Exterior wall
Celtic cross
of cast aluminum*

Scale: 1" = 1'

IHM SILVER PATRONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo C. Montano Vita, Bernice, Arthur 1289 S. Espina Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Helen, Tom, Helen Marie, Tommy Kathleen, Patricia and T.C. Beggane 1417 Locust St. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Gamboa 415 Phillips Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Harry 2005 Calle de Suenos Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">From A Friend</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I.Z. Romero Rt. 2, Box 243 Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Andy & Carolyn Nunez & Family</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dorothy A. Needham 905 Conway Ave. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. & Mrs. James Tarazoff 1512 Gladys Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Don & Collene Whaling & Family 2912 Majestic Ridge Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Fabrowicz 460 El Prado Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Salvador & Margaret Sanchez 314 Phillips Dr. Las Cruces, N.M. 88001</p>

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond B. Heath
1600 Imperial Ridge
Las Cruces, N.M. 88001

SPONSOR PATRONS

Mr. & Mrs. Macinto L. Salcido
 Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Trejo & Family
 Raymond Reynaud Family
 Arturo Garcia
 Roberto Garcia
 Anna Marie Garcia Bleimeyer
 John J. Andazola
 Mr. & Mrs. William Tipton
 Melchor Ortiz
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Franco
 & Family
 Benjamin & Carmen Delgado & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben M. Garcia
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry R. Apodaca & Family
 Richard M. Glaze Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Tejada & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Sipliano G. Abila
 John E. Direen, Jr. & Family
 Carl Z. Walsh
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Warren Higgins
 Yvonne Lail
 Mr. & Mrs. John Theodore
 From a friend
 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Medina
 Mr. & Mrs. David L. Arnn

The Arnn Family
 Compliments of a friend
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Beardsall
 Genevieve M. Strouse
 T.J. Baca
 Mr. & Mrs. Arturo Baeza & Family
 Mrs. Fanstino Valles
 Ed Ruyballd & Family
 Laura, Eric, Hillary, Louis Chavez
 Alejo Lozano & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred M. Garcia and Family
 Antonio Sanchez & Family
 A.H. Rede
 Mr. & Mrs. James D. Bonney
 In Loving Memory of
 Mr. & Mrs. Marcedo Morales
 Mr. & Mrs. Herrol J. Skidmore
 Mr. & Mrs. Beatriz Gallegos & Family
 Antonio G. or Mary Lou Marta
 Helen A. Dyer
 A Friend
 Ronald K. Prokopec
 Charles & Evelyn Chapman
 Donald A. Esker
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Scarcella

Mr. & Mrs. E. Savlano & Family
 Robert C. Wood
 Carolyn O'Donnell
 Albert M. Rivera
 Sally & Richard McLean & Jill
 Jesus M. Zamora
 Mary Cahill Harris
 Mrs. Louis Villines
 Mary Lou Amesquita
 Josephine R. Delgado
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Montano Family
 Marie Helton



Our parish acting on the Word of God sponsored a Vietnamese family in 1976. Nguyen T. Phai holds his newest child Lani, left. Below Marie Fischer tutoring the children, Son, Hoang, Guyen, Zang, Huyen, and Van.



During a visit from the Dominican Evangelical Team Sr. Kate led the families and guests in songs of praise in a parishioner's home.

Msgr. Everett F. Finley

Priest Well Earns Title

A Las Cruces Catholic priest, Rev. Everett F. Finley, has been elevated to rank of monsignor, announces Bishop Sidney M. Metzger of El Paso Diocese.

Msgr. Finley came to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Las Cruces in mid-August, 1960 and is noted for his service not only to the church and diocese, but also his community and his country.

Among church-related activities he is serving on the diocesan board of consultants. His efforts in Las Cruces Knights of Columbus have been varied. And he is now studying Spanish four days a week at New Mexico State University, "to help better serve the parish and the community."

In serving the community, Msgr. Finley is a member of Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and has served on various committees in the Lions Club. He takes part in various community services and activities.

"I am a member of the Aggie Booster Club," Msgr. Finley proudly states, "and I attend as many games as possible."

Among Msgr. Finley's accomplishments is planning the new church edifice of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Most of the construction was done while he was at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, having been recalled to active service.

He has seen the parish grow from 300 families to about 800 families.

Msgr. Finley's Army career began in 1951, and during 16 years, he served the active Army, Reserves and the National Guard, including service in Korea, Japan and Alaska. He earned his honorable discharge on Dec. 16, 1966.

Army awards and decora-

tions include the Bronze Star Medal, Korean Service Medal, U.N. Service Medal and National Defense Medal.

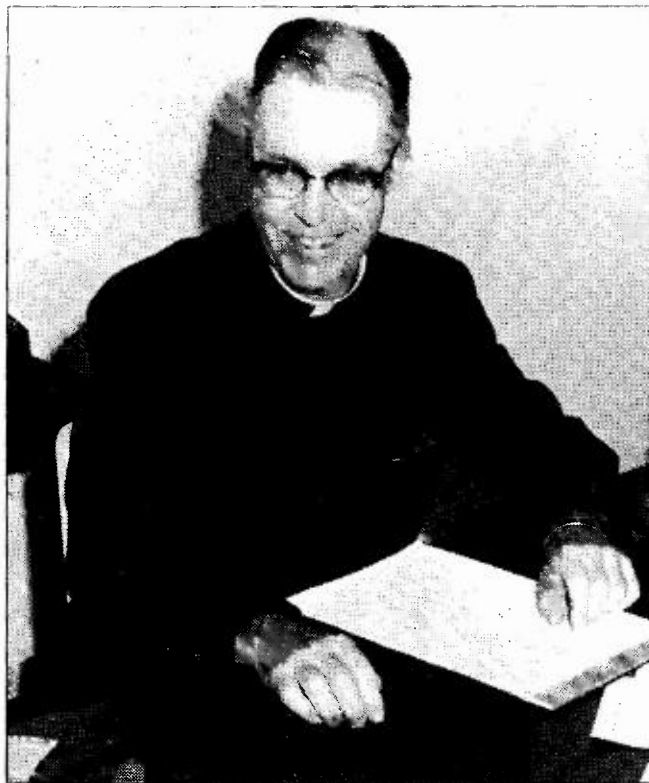
A native of Rome, N. Y., Msgr. Finley was ordained for the service of the Diocese of El Paso, in Buffalo, N. Y. on May 22, 1948. His only living close relative is a brother, Edward Finley, who lives with his family in El Paso.

The Las Cruces priest came to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish from Our Lady of the Valley in Ysleta, Tex. after serving parishes in Kermit and El Paso.

Msgr. Finley expressed appreciation to Bishop Metzger for recommendation for this latest honor.

An honor well deserved is Rev. Finley's promotion to rank of monsignor, for he has through the years and is now giving of himself to not only his parish and church-related organizations and events, but to the entire community and his country.

Msgr. Finley and Msgr. Gonzalo Morales of St. Anthony's Parish are the two in this portion of El Paso Diocese to have achieved this high rank.



Msgr. Everett F. Finley (Murphey)

The article at left appeared in the Las Cruces Sun-News Friday, October 1, 1971 when Father Finley earned the title of monsignor.



Many activities happen in the parish, some are pictured here. At left participants on a Search weekend in the church. Below left is our billboard sponsored by the Legion of Mary just this year. You saw this usage of modern media on Solano by ABC Fence Co. Below right The Most Rev. S.M. Metzger seals the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of this young girl.



A Final Note

Much effort went into preparing this anniversary book. Many people helped in support and assistance, too numerous to mention here in the space. The advertisers who placed messages deserve a big thanks because they paid the cost. The parish office staff, members of organizations, Frs. Bob, Ed and Jaime, and Harold Berndt deserve a special thanks. Jennie Badley, Mrs. Tommie & Francis Montoya, and Lois Cunningham wished to be Sponsor Patrons but their names did not get in on time for typesetting, so thank you to them. It has been a pleasure to put this project together for you, my parish. I know I might have missed some aspects, some photos, some names but most is included. It is hoped that this might start a continuation of effort to maintain historical files on our parish over the next 25 years.

John E. Sweo

© 1978, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish; 1240 S. Esplna; Las Cruces, N.M. 88001. John E. Sweo, Editor. All Rights Reserved.