Reception held for Msgr. Sheridan

A reception for the retiring pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church was held in Sheridan Hall in Sunday June 30. Approximately 500 people turned out to wish Msgr. Gregory Sheridan farewell at a party of the combined Catholic communities of Anglo and Mexican-Americans.

A Mariachi band was imported from Ensenada. They played from 2 till 4 p.m. The guitar choir from the Sunday evening youth mass provided background music for the socializing hour earlier and later. Two dances were performed in native style by dancers from the Mexican Youth Group.

The hall was decorated with banners and posters in English and Spanish. Yellow and white flowers decorated the tables and the cake. The walls and stage were decked with large green plants.

The tables were constantly being replenished with finger food of ethnic duality. People of all ages from infants to grandparents circulated about them.

Children from both backgrounds presented their spiritual talent with flowers. Gene Hoh and Lucy Duran represented the English and Spanish-speaking people as masters of ceremonies. They kept the pace moving as many people spoke of the good their pastor had brought to Fallbrook. Lucy interpreted both ways.

Msgr. Sheridan says his spiritual life first flourished under the guidance of the Benediction Monks. He was raised and educated by the monks at St. Benedict's College and Abbey in Atchison, Kan.

He says he was inspired to become a priest by the devotion of the Monks as they arose at 4 a.m. to chant the divine office and by their service throughout the day.

The Monsignor was ordained at Leavenworth Cathedral on January 12, 1955. It was here that he first served as assistant. He was later moved to Topeka, Kan., then to Pueblo's Texas, near El Paso. He served as missionary for part of El Paso Co., Sierra Blanco Co., and Van Horn Co.

Then came his first Pastorate at Mineahans, Tex. in charge of three counties. After a short period in Omaha, Neb., he came to California in 1947. He spent a year in Santa Ana at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

His first assignment in San Diego Diocese was in the Imperial Valley in 1948. In 1949 he became pastor at St. Joseph's in Upland. Here he purchased the present church property and went on to build the whole parish complex.

St. Jude's Shrine of the West is one of Monsignor's favorite accomplishments.

In Sept. 1970, then-Father Sheridan came as pastor to the Fallbrook parish. During his tenure he converted the old hall into classrooms for the religious education of the children.

He replaced the old hall with a much more versatile building with kitchen, hall, stage and space dividers. This has become a much-used facility for the overall community of Fallbrook. The parish named the hall in his honor. It was here that he was honored on Sunday.

Tax credits take bite out of child care costs in summer

Parents who are facing increased child care costs now that school is out may find some relief from the financial pinch, according to the Internal Revenue Service. This number is operational 24 hours, every day.

ORATION — Eugene Hohl extols the virtues of Msgr. Gregory Sheridan of St. Peter's Catholic Church. The occasion was the cleric's retirement party.