

FIRST MASS IS SAID HERE BY NEW PRIEST

Rev. Sylvester J. Holbel Officiates, in St. Francis Xavier's.

The Rev. Sylvester J. Holbel, ordained Saturday at Niagara university to the priesthood of the Catholic church by the Rt. Rev. William Turner, bishop of Buffalo, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock celebrated his first solemn high mass, in St. Francis Xavier's church in East street.

Father Holbel attended the grammar school of St. Francis Xavier's church as a boy. Following his graduation from Canisius college he attended Niagara university seminary. Among the people who crowded the church for the mass were his father, Benjamin Holbel, of 7 Guernsey street, and a sister, Sister M. Carmella of the Order of St. Joseph, stationed at Sacred Heart church, Dunkirk. Two brothers, Benjamin A. and Clement G. Holbel, and two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Schweitzer and Miss Ludwina M. Holbel, also were present.

Members of the Knights of St. John from all parts of the city, under the leadership of Capt. Frank Barth, attended the ceremony. Official delegates were Maj. Edward Kreppel and Capt. Phillip Gerhardt. The knights, with members of the Holy Name society of the church, acted as an escort to Father Holbel on the march from the rectory, around the church grounds, to the church.

The Rev. Emil M. Deck, pastor of the church, was arch priest at the mass. The Rev. Charles G. Gampp, assistant pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows' church, was deacon, and the Rev. Erasmus A. Pauly, assistant pastor of St. Agnes' church, was subdeacon. The Rev. Anthony Nichter, assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier's church, was master of ceremonies.

The little Misses Antoinette and Deloris Schweitzer, nieces of Father Holbel, and Irene Doul acted as flower girls.

Sunday evening Father Holbel opened the novena of grace in honor of St. Francis Xavier in the church, with solemn benediction. The novena in St. Francis Xavier's church is for the people in the northern part of the city and will continue until March 12.