

Catholic Schools Plan Holiday As Tribute to Msgr. Holbel

Pupils in Catholic elementary and high schools throughout the diocese will have no class on March 6 in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Very Rev. Msgr. Sylvester J. Holbel, superintendent of the Buffalo Catholic diocesan schools.

As part of the celebration, a Solemn Mass will be sung at 10 o'clock that morning in St. Joseph's Cathedral. Students will sing the responses.

Msgr. Holbel was ordained March 3, 1928, by the late Most Rev. William Turner, who at that time was bishop of the Catholic Diocese.

Besides Msgr. Holbel's superintendency responsibilities, he is chaplain in St. Mary's School for the Deaf. In the school chapel on the exact 25th anniversary date, March 3, a special Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated.

A reception for Msgr. Holbel will be given in Bishop McMahon High School March 8 by the Federation of Home School Associations of the diocese. A buffet supper will be served from 4 to 6 o'clock.

Msgr. Holbel's advanced studies were taken in Catholic University, Washington. He attended Canisius High School and was graduated in 1924 from Canisius College.

He prepared for the priesthood in Niagara University Seminary of Our Lady of the Angels, Niagara Falls. After ordination, he was assigned to the parish of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean, as assistant to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Rengel.

Several years later he was re-assigned to All Saints Church in Buffalo as assistant to the late Rev. William H. Meegan, former director of Catholic Charities.

Msgr. Holbel was named assistant superintendent of parochial schools June 24, 1939, and advanced to superintendent June 23, 1941, succeeding the late Rev. John W. Peel. The position of assistant superintendent now is held by the Rev. Leo E. Hammerl.

Msgr. Holbel has helped expand the schools of the Buffalo Diocese to a complete educational system comprising both parochial schools with a full range of elementary grades and high schools for boys and for girls. Bishop McMahon High School offers a full four-year high school course and secretarial training for girls.

Msgr. Holbel was elevated to monsignor May 17, 1946.



MSGR. SYLVESTER J. HOLBEL