

Msgr. Klauder to Observe Golden Jubilee on May 19

Pastor of St. John the Baptist for 40 Years
Has Seen Parish Grow From 35 Families to 2400

The pastor for more than 40 years of St. John the Baptist Church, Town of Tonawanda, Msgr. Charles A. Klauder, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination May 19.

This will be the second part of a week-end celebration highlighted by the consecration of St. John's Church by Bishop James A. McNulty, bishop of Buffalo, at 9 AM May 18. As part of this ceremony, the bishop will bless a new marble altar.

First such ceremony in the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo in 10 years, it will include the blessing of the outer walls of the church and 12 places within the church, where permanent crosses have been installed.

Three Nephews to Help

At noon May 19, Msgr. Klauder, who will be 88 years old in December, will celebrate his golden anniversary Mass at the new altar. He will celebrate the Mass with three nephews: Rev. Charles A. Schnoor, SJ, of St. Joseph's High School, Philadelphia; Rev. Joseph A. Schnoor of St. Matthews Church, Conshohocken, Pa., and Rev. Francis J. Klauder, SDD, St. Don Bosco Seminary, Newton, N. J.

Bishop McNulty will preside at the anniversary Mass. The Rev. Cajetan Menke, O. Carm. of the Whitefriars Hall, Washington, who received his early education in St. John's Parochial School, will preach.

After Mass, Msgr. Klauder will be honored at a dinner in the parish social building. Msgr. John J. Dempsey, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in East Aurora, will be master of ceremonies.

A Native of Philadelphia

On Sunday, Msgr. Klauder will be feted at a reception for all the parishioners and friends. He will celebrate a special Mass May 18 for children of the school. Afterward, he will be honored by a special program presented by the children, under the direction of Sister Louise, SSMN, principal.

Msgr. Klauder was born in Philadelphia in 1880. He worked for many years in the family's tannery before entering a seminary when he was in his early 30s. He was ordained at Belmont Abbey, North Carolina, May 17, 1918. After his ordination, he came to this diocese and served as assistant at St. Joseph's, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Rose of Lima parishes.

Parish Founded in 1836

During his early years here he persistently sought permission from Bishop William Turner to reopen the little chapel of St. John the Baptist, which had been founded in 1836 by a missionary priest, Rev. John N. Neumann, who later became bishop of Philadelphia and since has been beatified and declared Blessed John Neumann.

As a boy, Msgr. Klauder often prayed at the crypt of Blessed John Neumann in St. Peter's Cathedral, Philadelphia.

In 1927, Bishop Turner granted the priests' request and Msgr. Klauder, then Father Klauder, became the second resident pastor of St. John's, the second oldest Catholic Church in the Diocese of Buffalo.

The parish, which then had 35 families and now has more than 2400 — one of the largest in Western New York. The little chapel is still used for many parish services. After building a school, Msgr. Klauder in 1950 directed the construction of the present colonial-style church.

Distributes Scapulars

The soft-spoken, silver-haired priest has become known as the "scapular Priest" because of his devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He has distributed several hundred thousand cloth scapulars, which he makes himself in his rectory.

His parish assistants, Rev. Norman R. Conlin and Rev. Richard A. Graeber, are chairmen of the consecration ceremony. Kenneth P. Ayler, president of the Holy Name Society, and Mrs. Walter Dahlke, president of the Neumann Guild, are honorary chairmen of the golden anniversary committee. Thomas B. Carroll and William F. Callahan are co-chairmen.

Other committee chairmen are: Richard D. Grunz, William J. Greely, James U. Kordenbrock, Bernard M. Thomann,



MSGR. CHARLES KLAUDER
Second Pastor of Parish

Louis V. Coniglio, Frank Nuchterno, Edward P. Termer, Elmer B. Koener, Raymond F. Griffin, Mrs. Dominic Nigro, Mrs. James L. Denzel, Mrs. Richard H. T. Flanigen, Mrs. Roy G. Maythem Jr., Mrs. William Lamond, Mrs. Harry J. Reither, Mrs. Matthew J. O'Hara, Mrs. Edward J. Cray, Mrs. Paul MacPherson and Mrs. John Robb.