

An embassy spokesman said they may have been arrested in the recent ouster of

## New Friary at DeWitt Is Dedicated Thursday

### Bishop Albers Officiates at Rites for New \$300,000 Building

By THELMA HARNETT  
(State Journal Religion Writer)

Four priests and seven lay brothers of the Order of Friars Minor, patterning their lives after that of St. Francis of Assisi, who lived in the 12th century, joined in the dedication of their new friary in DeWitt Thursday afternoon.

Most Rev. Joseph H. Albers, bishop of the Lansing Catholic Diocese, officiated at the impressive religious ceremony at the new \$300,000 structure in The Portiuncula of the Pines, in a secluded, wooded area.

More than 120 other priests and a number of nuns from Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey and

Pennsylvania, and approximately 100 of the laity also attended the dedication.

Rites began with a procession from the retreat house, several hundred yards to the southwest of the friary.

#### SERMON PREACHED

Stopping in front of the light tan cinder block and brick friary, Bishop Albers blessed it and its cornerstone, then consecrated the chapel.

The visiting religious workers and other guests then heard a short sermon by Rev. Fr. Theophane Kalinowski, O. F. M., delegate general of the Franciscan Custodies and Commissariats of the U. S. A.

Emphasizing the significance and purpose of the friary, Fr. Kalinowski reviewed the history of the original "Portiuncula," a venerable little chapel standing for more than eight centuries in the Umbrian valley below Assisi, Italy.

There, he said, St. Francis founded his great order.

"St. Francis loved his Portiuncula . . . his 'little portion' . . . and perhaps equally as well, he loved another spot on top of Mt. Alverno, where he and his brethren



**BISHOP BLESSES FRIARY—**  
Most Rev. Joseph H. Albers, bishop of the Lansing Catholic diocese, blesses the newly

erected friary of the Order of Franciscan Minors in dedication rites Thursday afternoon

in the Portiuncula of the Pines at DeWitt. (State Journal Photo)

LOCAL HISTORY  
BOX COLLECTION  
FILE

ren dwelt in huts close to a little chapel dedicated to the Queen of Angels, surrounded with cedar and pines," Fr. Kalinowski said. "This was his Portiuncula in the Pines, where he reached the zenith of his union with God, and received his stigmata, the five wounds of Christ."

Fr. Kalinowski said St. Francis preferred especially this Portiuncula in the Pines on Mt. Alverno, as most suitable for contemplation.

#### TO CONTEMPLATE GOD

"After spending himself in apostolic labors, our Seraphic Father would return there to rest in the peace of intimate contemplation of God, and regain his spiritual strength," the delegate general said. "Like the heavenly spirits on Jacob's ladder, of which we read in the Old Testament, he mounted up to God by the spiritual ladder of prayer and contemplation, and descended again to communicate to his fellowmen the graces he had received."

Fr. Kalinowski reminded the friars from the local Portiuncula in the Pines that the sons of St. Francis can likewise ascend to God in prayer and contemplation, and then descend into the apostolic fields to speak to men of God . . . to bring God to men, or on occasion, to invite to this dedicated spot those that desire to know Him better.

After the visiting priest's address, Bishop Albers blessed each room in the friary, and returned to the chapel for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Rev. Fr. Clement Kiraly was deacon to the bishop and Rev. Fr. Nicholas Dengl, sub-deacon. Assistants to the delegate general were Rev. Fr. Dominic Dohanyos and Rev. Fr. Hyppolit Ferenczl.

Visitors then viewed the new building. Refreshments followed at the retreat house.



**PORTIUNCULA IN THE PINES** — The new \$300,000 friary of the Order of Franciscan Minors in the Portiuncula of the Pines at DeWitt, was dedicated by Most Rev. Joseph H. Albers, bishop of the Lansing Catholic diocese Thursday afternoon. More than 130 priests, several nuns, and 100 members of the laity, attended the rites. (State Journal Photo)

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
FILE

# Expect 1,000 for Michigan Retreat Day at DeWitt Sept.

DEWITT. — More than 1,000 persons from all over Michigan are expected to participate in a day-long 'Michigan Retreat Day' here Sept. 17, the Rev Julian Fuzer, OFM, said this week.

Father Fuzer, resident retreat-master at Portiuncula in the Pines Retreat House here, said the purpose of Michigan Retreat Day is "to help every Catholic, every Christian, and practically every person of good will to be retreat conscious."

Persons involved in the retreat movement "are firmly convinced that retreats are THE response to church renewal initiated by the Second Vatican Council," according to Father Fuzer.

"IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND the beauty and magnitude of their Christian vocation in this time of renewal, the laity need the experience of the retreat," he said. "Behind the apostolate of the laity there is a spirituality and mentality which are refreshed, renewed and revitalized by the experience of the retreat."

The Most Rev Alexander Zaleski, bishop of the Diocese of Lansing, will be the principal speaker for Michigan Retreat Day.

Father Fuzer said that at a national retreat convention in Boston last year laymen "openly and bitterly deplored the lack of support for and interest in retreats on the part of the hierarchy."

Bishop Zaleski, he said, officially and publicly endorses the retreat movement "and puts his episcopal authority behind the retreat movement for the laity."

SAM W. OBRECHT of Lansing, general chairman of Michigan Retreat Day, said other speakers will include:

State Rep. Dale E. Kildee of



PORTIUNCULA IN THE PINES RETREAT AT DeWITT

Flint—"Apostolic laymen in the Retreat;" and,

Mrs. Stephen Hopko of St. Johns,—"The Experience of the Retreat."

Members of a panel who will discuss the retreat include Frank Guerrero of Mason, moderator; the Rev Francis T. Martin, pastor of Resurrection Parish, Lansing; Francis J. Coomes, executive director of the Michigan Catholic Conference; and Mrs. Russell Lince of Fenton.

The program will be held in the auditorium of DeWitt Public High School starting at 10 a.m. Box lunch will be available during a noon break.

A consecrated Mass is

combined efforts of all retreat houses and retreat leaders in Michigan. "It is hoped," he said, "that this program will dispel the apathy of many towards the movement and will enthrust lay people to avail themselves of the many blessings and inspirations of the retreat in these days of renewal."

There are 12 retreat houses in Michigan affiliated with the National Catholic Laymen's Retreat Conference. The Michigan chapter of NCLRC is headed by John Raymond, a Detroit attorney who will participate in Sept. 17 program.

"It is strange," Father Fuzer said, "that while some Catholics

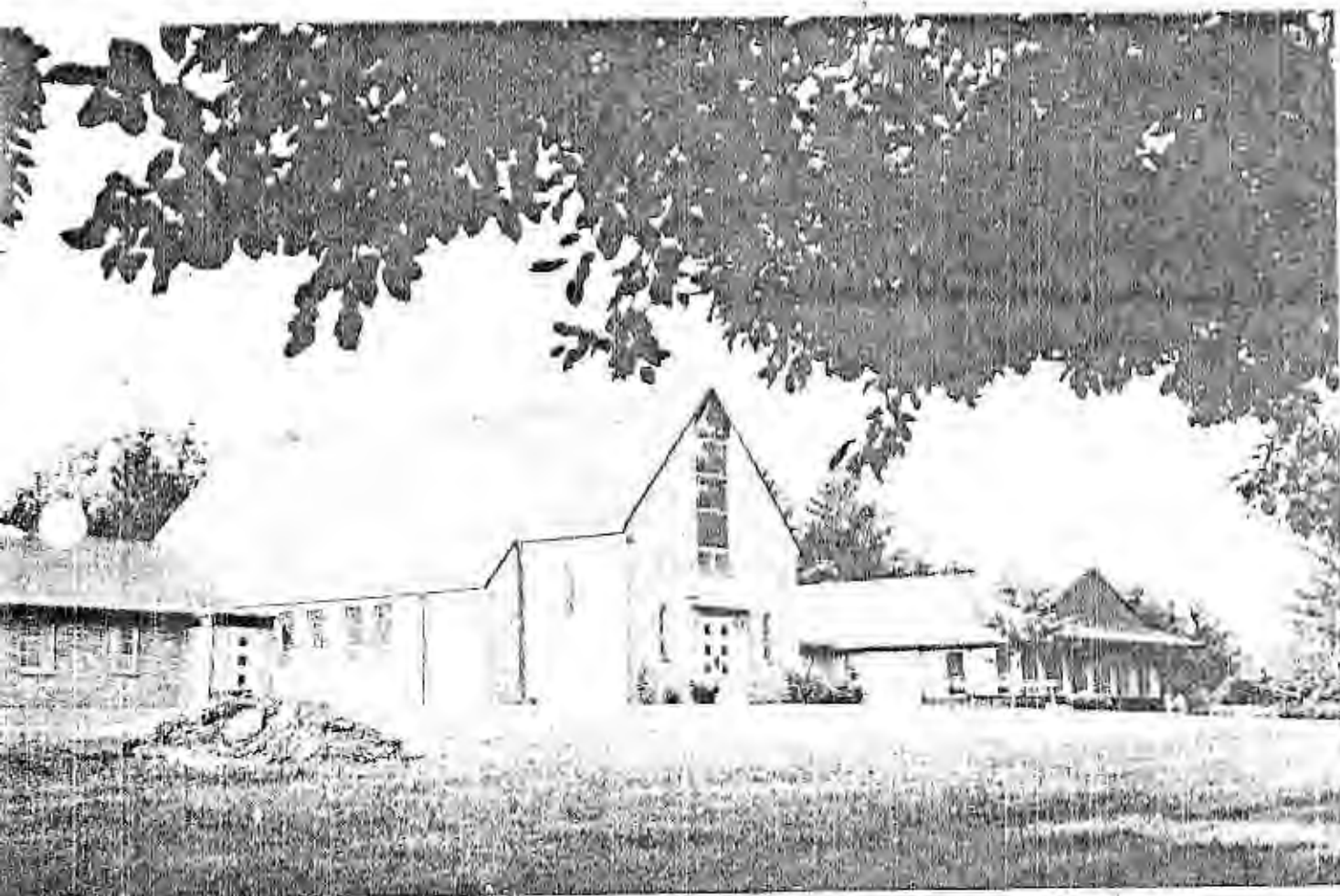
are flocking to Catholic retreat houses in increasing number."

He said several retreats for Protestant ministers and wives of ministers have been conducted this year at the Franciscan Retreat House in DeWitt. Lutheran college students also are seeking a date for a retreat at DeWitt he said.

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ACCORDING TO FATHER Fuzer, every weekend there are Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians among

the Catholics who participate in a retreat.

"These are wonderful people," he said, "who are happy to be with us, and we are happy to have them. This is true ecumenism."

Father Fuzer said there will be no charge for participation in the Sept. 17 Michigan Retreat Day and anyone who wishes may come.

Others get quick results with Clinton County News classified ads—you will, too!

# Changes Mark Retreat

## New Emphasis Since Vatican II

By THELMA HARNETT  
State Journal Church Writer

In a secluded pine-decked section of DeWitt, five Franciscan priests and seven Franciscan brothers, in long dark brown habits and sandals, go quietly about their work in centuries-old tradition.

But their apostolate is serving a year participate in the mid-week and weekend retreats. Fifty retreatants may be accommodated at one time.

"There is no fixed charge," said Father Julian, retreat master and director. "The generosity of the retreatants helps the Franciscans to keep the place

open for all who seek peace and happiness in God."

Vatican II Council has made great changes in the work of the Franciscans at the Retreat House.

"The first change is in the retreatants themselves," said Father Julian. "They are less in number than before, but they are more articulate, more active and more inquisitive spiritually than before."

A surprisingly large number of the retreatants are college graduates and professional people, the priest said.

He said that another great change among the retreatants is that not only Catholics but Protestants, too, come to the Retreat House in increasing numbers. Almost every weekend there are two or three Protestant retreatants.

"We have special retreats for Methodist ministers, wives of ministers, and Women of Christian Service," Father Julian explained. "For the Catholics themselves, we have retreats for parishes, artists, university students and married couples."

The retreat master said the changes in the quality of the retreatants indicate the importance of the laity in the Catholic Church after Vatican II.

"These people are very much aware of their Christian vocation. They appreciate their Christian vocation. They appreciate their Christian inheritance and try to make it relevant in their individual lives and in their social lives."

A third change in the retreat apostolate is noted in the content of the retreat experience. The spiritual instructions and directions are not the traditional ones, such as meditation on death, sin, purgatory, and hell. They are modern, exciting, stimulating approaches to the religious problems of modern man.

"In the modern retreat," Father Julian said, "the retreat master speaks of such topics as encountering God through art, music, in nature, in work, and in the person of one's fellowman."

"He speaks of the experience of prayer, the meaning of spiritual poverty, Gospel spirituality, the meaning of the apostolate of the laity, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our times."

Father Julian said the reaction of the retreatants to these directions and meditations is sought and encouraged. Whatever experience, insight, inspiration or thought the retreatants have they share it with one another.



Br. Benedict Barath, Br. Michael Lenz and Statue of St. Anthony



Glenn Sharp

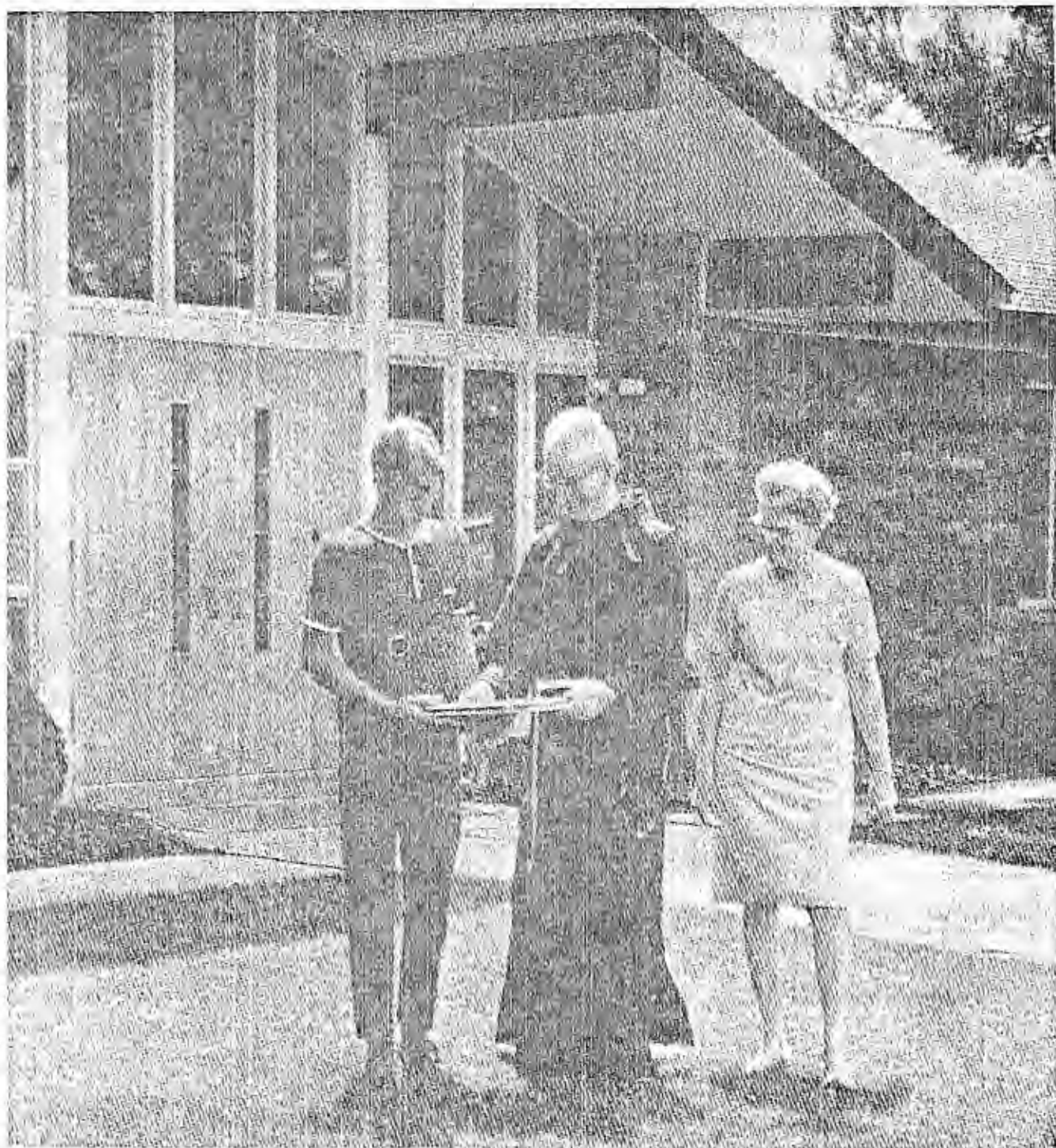
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Fr. Julian Fuzer Guides James Reed, Mrs. Milford Schon on Tour





**VITAL MEMORIES**—Rev. Clemens Kiraly, O.F.M., rests in a chair at the retreat house Portiuncula in the Pines at DeWitt, after his brisk daily walk through the pine-studded grounds. He is seated in front of a stained glass window done by a Hungarian artist he knew. Fr. Clemens was a friend of Cardinal Mindszenty, refused to testify against him, and had to leave Hungary. (State Journal Photo)

## Priest Survived Nazis, NKVD

# Church Unity Is His Goal

By VIRGINIA REDFERN  
State Journal Staff Writer

DE WITT—Rev. Clemens Kiraly, O.F.M., will be honored at his Golden priestly jubilee on Tuesday at Portiuncula in the Pines at DeWitt.

The announcement has been made by the Franciscan Pa-

large number of Hungarian Catholics in his parish.

### SAW HITLER RISE

While serving in Berlin, Fr. Clemens saw Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party rise to frightening power.

"The church," he said, "was in the position of putting itself

ical book. The NKVD were impressed.  
"I was put in a room with of them," said Fr. Clemens painful recollection, "and four days and nights they tried to break me down physically and mentally. My bed was a chair in the corner. I could not lie down or stand up."

**VITAL MEMORIES**—Rev. Clemens Kiraly, O.F.M., will be honored at Portuncula in the Pines at DeWitt, after his brisk daily walk through the pine-wooded grounds. He is seated in front of a stained glass window done by a Hungarian artist he knew. Fr. Clemens was a friend of Cardinal Mindszenty, refused to testify against him, and had to leave Hungary. (State Journal Photo)

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**DE WITT**—Rev. Clemens Kiraly, O.F.M., will be honored at his Golden priestly jubilee on Tuesday at Portuncula in the Pines at DeWitt.

The announcement has been made by the Franciscan Fathers and Brothers of the Commissariat of St. John Capistrano, who have mailed gold-inscribed invitations to a Solemn Jubilee Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a dinner at 6 p.m.

And to Fr. Clemens, the milestone anniversary means much more than special honors. It also is a time, he believes, for renewed dedication to the principles of Ecumenism or "world-wide Christian unity."

A flashback to his experiences with the Nazis in Germany and the Russian NKVD (secret service) in Hungary that made this his goal in life was revealed at an interview at the peaceful retreat house. His story begins in 1934.

This was the year he was sent from his parish in Pecs, a university city in Hungary, to Germany, at the request of the Bishop of Berlin who needed a Hungarian priest to help with the

large number of Hungarian Catholics in his parish.

### SAW HITLER RISE

While serving in Berlin, Fr. Clemens saw Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party rise to frightening power.

"The church," he said, "was in the position of pitting itself against the state in the struggle for control. The Nazis wanted to dictate to the Bishops and the church wished to be free of state control."

"This includes both Catholics and Protestants," said Fr. Clemens. "because the Nazis were against all Christianity and its hold on their people."

It was at this time, while he was editing a Hungarian Catholic paper, that he first studied German Protestantism in relation to the Catholic view of ecumenism as stated in "Una Sancta."

He heard Mark Metzger, founder of the Una Sancta ecumenical movement in Germany, speak, as well as famous Lutheran theologians such as Bishop Dibelius and Martin Niemöller.

### LEADER EXECUTED

Later Metzger was executed by the Nazis and it was "right then," said Fr. Clemens, "that I knew we had to unite for the future of the Christian faith. Our fight is for the church against the totalitarianism state."

His determination to spread this knowledge was solidified when he was captured by the dread NKVD (Russian secret police) in 1944.

He had returned to Hungary in 1942 after Hungary had joined Germany in the invasion of Russia. And for two years he was busy editing Ecumenical books and the "Way of the Union," a monthly magazine.

In 1944 Russian troops invaded Hungary and occupied the country. Fr. Clemens, dressed in rags, joined a family group and passed through the lines undetected to the city of Csongrad, about 100 miles from Budapest.

A week later, dressed in his Franciscan robes, he appeared at the door of a church in the city ready to resume his role as pastor among the people.

It was then that he was seized by the NKVD and accused of being a German spy. The fact that his family name was Koenig (later changed to Kiraly, the Hungarian version) did not help, nor did the fact that he had been stationed in Berlin.

On the other hand he was a long, anti-Nazi man which he had based his

neal book. The NKVD were unimpressed.

"I was put in a room with 12 of them," said Fr. Clemens in painful recollection, "and for four days and nights they tried to break me down physically and mentally. My bed was a chair in the corner. I could not lie down or stand up."

On the morning of the fifth day he was taken before the commanding officer who pushed a full confession at him. All he had to do was sign it and the torture would stop, he was told.

### OMINOUS SIGN

He refused and was given the sign of the cross by the officer who indicated that he would be hanged at dawn. That night, the first during his capture that he could be down, Fr. Clemens could not sleep.

"But then," he says, "and when he gets to this part of his story his smile is radiant." "Divine Providence stepped in."

The commanding officer who had ordered his death was called in the night to Budapest where Hungarian resistance had endangered the Russian occupation.

Some other officers who, he believes, had had some religious training in their youth and who knew he was an ordained Catholic priest, opened his door and said "Go home."

Why was he saved? Fr. Clemens believes with all his heart that it was to keep on with the ecumenical work he had been doing — to continue his effort to preserve Christianity through union of the churches.

In 1945, he was made Visitor General in Hungary, and in 1947 came to the United States. He has been at DeWitt for 2 years.

He is continuing his work as associate editor of the Catholic Hungarian weekly magazine and president of the Catholic Hungarian Ecumenical Committee. He edited the "History of Hungarian Ecumenism."

Last fall he was asked to talk to ecumenists before 50 Calvinist pastors in Ligonier, Pa.



### Lutheran Church Begins DeWitt Area Services

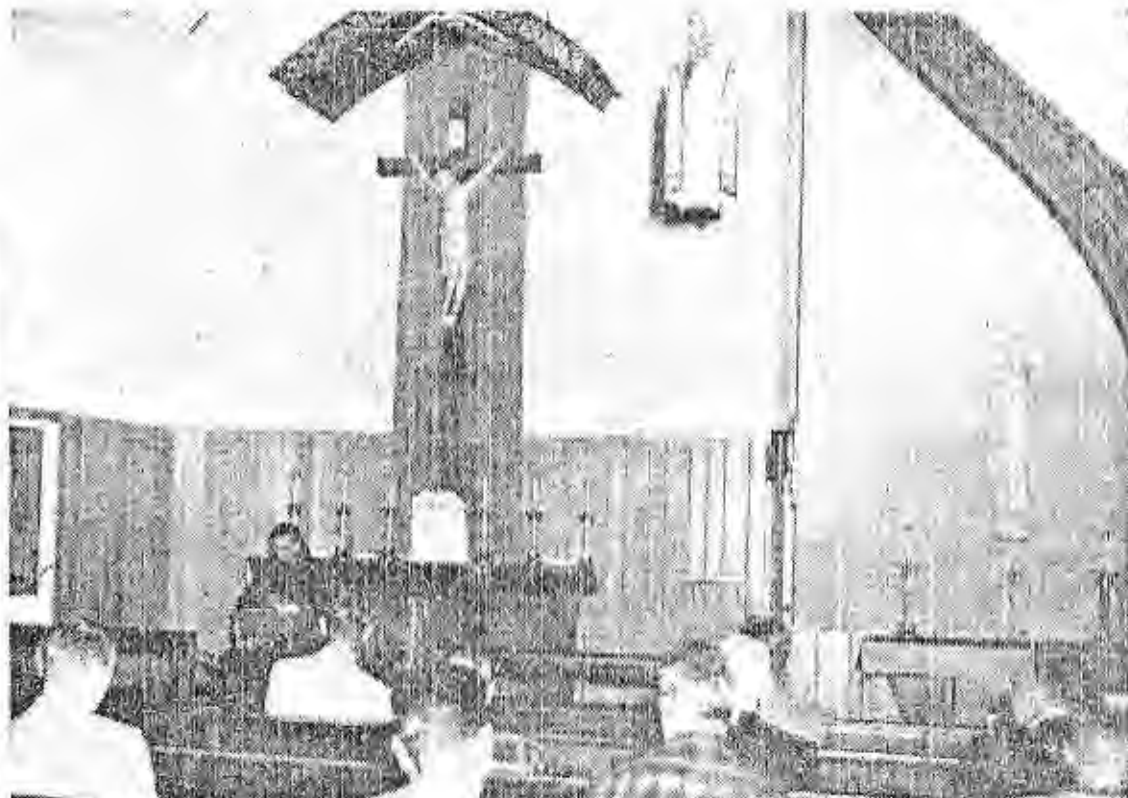


The Lutheran Church of DeWitt, - North Lansing will conduct her first worship services in DeWitt High School, 2957 W. Herbison Road, at 11:00 a.m. this Sunday morning, Nov. 3, 1968. The Rev. David B. Franzmeier, pastor of the newly formed congregation, said that the worship services will be held in DeWitt High School until the spring of 1970 when a new worship structure will be dedicated on Herbison Road, just west of US-27, five miles north of Lansing. Sunday School and Adult Discussion groups start on Nov. 17th, at 9:45 am, in the high school. An open invitation is extended to the community to be in attendance at this historic event.

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he spacious, rolling  
ine trees which lend  
Mother, a nine-foot  
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**CHAPEL TIME**—Regularly scheduled prayer and devotional services are conducted for Retreatants by Fr. Maximus in the Chapel of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels. The chapel is simply and tastefully decorated. The men follow the services, which are mostly in English, with the aid of specially prepared Retreat booklets.



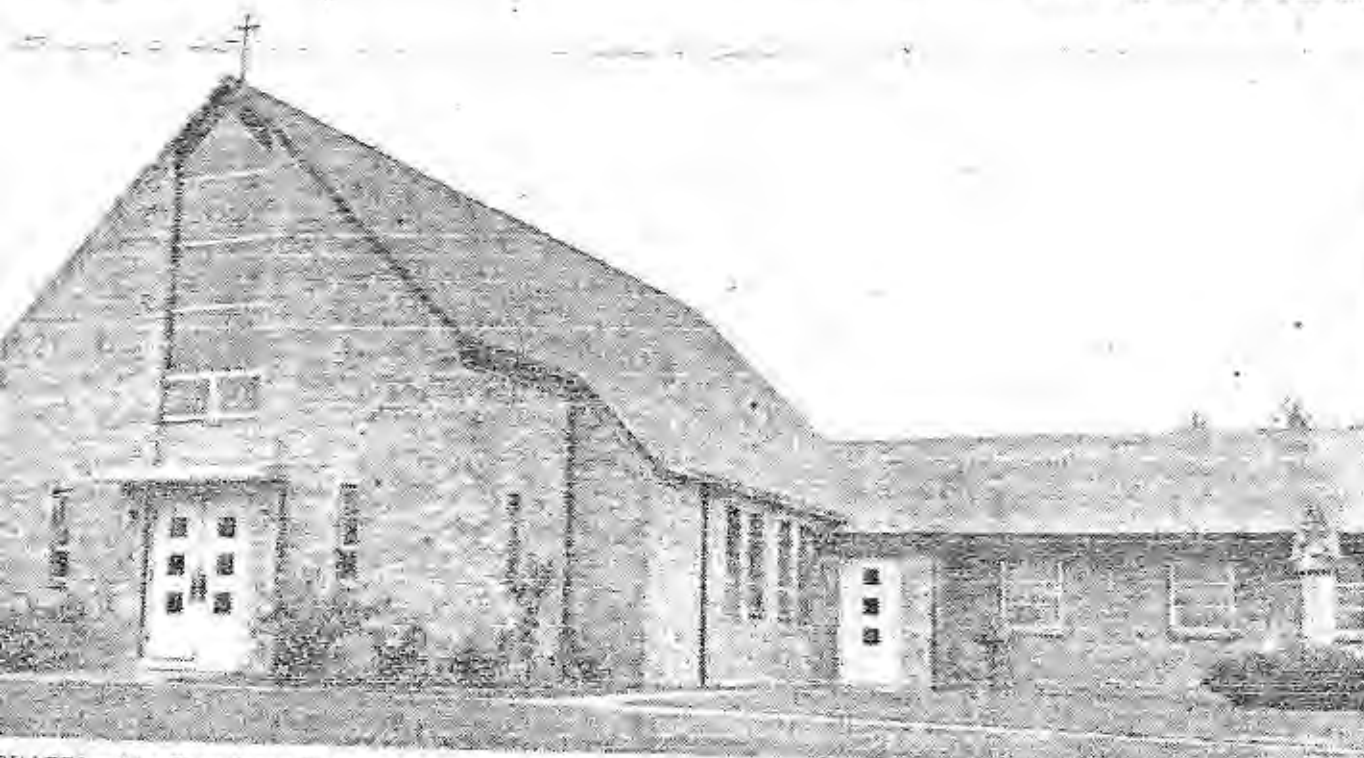
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**DINNER IS SERVED**—Mr. Kenneth serves a delicious, well-planned lunch to Retreatants at the DeWitt Franciscan Retreat. The clean, well-lighted dining room is equipped to serve 45 persons at one time.

**FREE TIME PREPARATIONS**—Fr. Benignus, head cook, turns an efficient hand in the stainless steel kitchen at Portiuncula in the Pines. At right is Leland Reed, candidate of the Franciscan Order.

**DINNER IS SERVED**—Br. Kenneth serves a delicious, well-planned lunch to Retreatants at the DeWitt Franciscan Retreat. The clean, well-lighted dining room is equipped to serve 45 persons at one time.



**CHAPEL**—The Franciscan Retreat House near DeWitt the Chapel (above), flanked by corridors containing individual sleeping rooms. One corridor leads into the dining room, the other to the recreation room and lounge.



**FREE TIME**—Retreatants may spend free time strolling about the grounds of Portiuncula in the Pines or in study and meditation in their individual rooms. The rooms have simple but comfortable furnishings and a private bath.



# Fr. Mandl marks 25 years

By KAREN DOUGLAS  
Staff Writer

DEWITT — A family of chattering chipmunks scampers back and forth beneath the branches of the tall, stately pines as two chirping bluejays hover protectively over a nest in the shadowy boughs.

A gentle mist-like rain begins to fall. It has no bearing on the daily activities of God's little creatures. In their world — Portuncula in the Pines — they exist in a Camelot of contentment, peace and tranquility.

Walking along the beautifully-landscaped grounds of the Franciscan retreat center, located just outside DeWitt, one is immediately aware of the deafening silence that precludes the sounds of nature.

**STILLNESS PREVAILS**, and silence is encouraged — in the facility, as well as on the grounds — "because we want to provide our visitors with an opportunity for spiritual renewal in a silent, prayer-

ful atmosphere," said the Rev. Maximus Mandl, O.F.M., retreat director, and founder of the center.

Constructed 24 years ago by a branch of the Order of Friars Minor, the Roman Catholic Retreat Center is a place where a person may go to escape the noise and cares of the workaday world — a place designed primarily for meditation and prayer.

Today — September 1 — marks the 25th anniversary of Father Mandl's arrival in DeWitt. A native of Hungary, the Franciscan priest was ordained in Rome in 1941, and came to the United States in 1946.

In the 1950s, with the growing institution of retreat centers across the United States, Father Mandl and Brother Stephen Csordas came to this area to find an appropriate spot to build a facility.

"In the early days chapels were built in oak forests, but when we saw this beautiful place with the tall pine trees, we knew right away this was where we must build," Father Mandl said.

**FORTY-TWO ACRES** of rolling wooded land were purchased in the spring of 1954. (An additional



Staff photos by GINGER SHAI

Rev. Maximus Mandl stands in the sanctuary of the chapel beside a brass work depicting the burial scene of Jesus, symbolizing His death, and the Eucharistic symbols, symbolizing the risen Christ. The art work was designed by Hungarian artist Frank Varga of Detroit



Rev. Maximus Mandl

# n 'Camelot of contentment'

60 acres would be purchased later in the early 1960s.) Brother Stephen and Father Mandl, who would serve as the first retreat director, began to plan their move to DeWitt.

The priests had no trouble selecting a name for the center, Father Mandl said. It would be called "Portiuncula" — meaning "little portion" — named after the Portiuncula Chapel in the Umbrian Valley of Italy where St. Francis of Assisi died in 1226. It was St. Francis who founded the Franciscan Order of the Roman Catholic Church in 1208.

In 1955, ground was broken for the new center, and on June 26, the cornerstone was laid for the chapel.

**FATHER MANDL REMAINED** as director of the retreat center until 1960 and then assisted Rev. Julian Fuzer, OFM, until 1964. The following three years Father Mandl served as superior of the Franciscans of Hungarian origin in the United States, with headquarters in Roehling, N. J.

But in 1967, Father Mandl returned to DeWitt to again assist Father Fuzer. He assumed the position of retreat director and retreat master of Portiuncula in 1970 when Father Fuzer accepted a pastorate in New Jersey.

Each year, over 2,000 retreatants participate in midweek and weekend retreats at the facility. Ninety-nine percent are Catholics, but any denomination is welcome, Father Mandl said.

Fifty-three retreaters may be accommodated in the private rooms at the center. Each room contains a single bed, a chair, and a sink. Some rooms have private baths, while others are shared. There is also a lounge, a dining room, and several meeting rooms, in addition to a small chapel. The entire facility is simple in design, but functional, Father Mandl said.

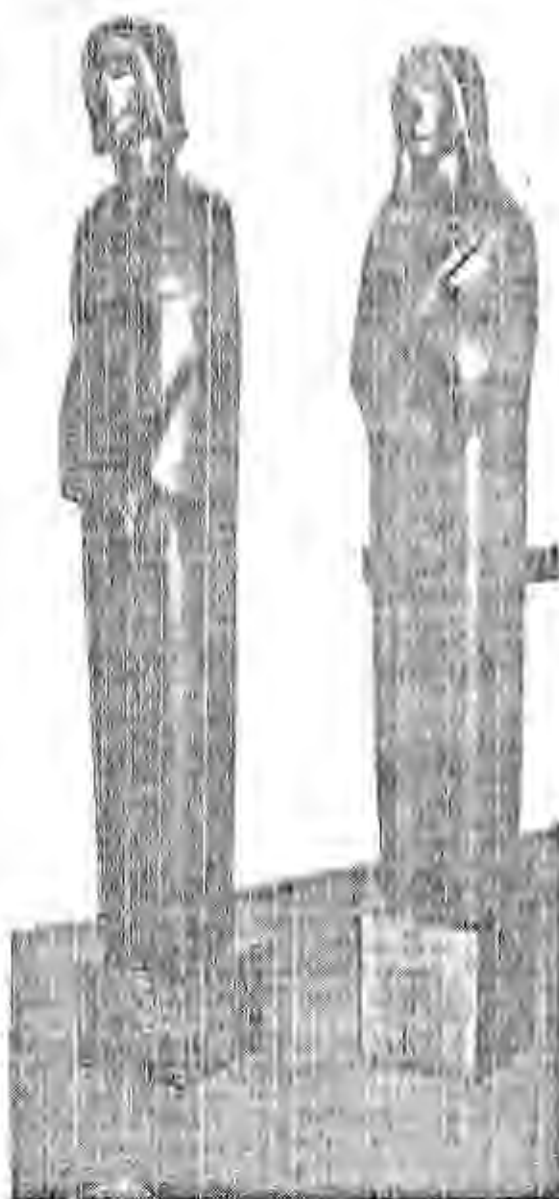
During the weekend retreats, which primarily serve Catholics of the diocese, retreatants are required to attend two conferences (instruction periods), one penance service, and mass. Attendance at open discussion periods is optional, he said.

The main emphasis for retreaters during the weekend is on time by themselves. A time for personal meditation is essential for each individual, Father Mandl said. Periodically, each person should ask himself if he's headed in the right direction.

"If you don't function well in your spiritual life, no one will tell you, but each person must strive to understand his own inner spirituality.

"And you have to find the answers yourself," Father Mandl said, emphasizing the importance of a calm, serene atmosphere for soul-searching, "as you will never find answers out in the marketplace."

**EACH YEAR, FATHER MANDL** selects two  
Concluded on page A-5



**Hand-carved wooden statues of Mary and Joseph by Frank Varga, of Detroit, stand to the right of the priest in the sanctuary of the small chapel. Positioned on small stands because of their sainthood, their presence symbolizes their participation and prayers with the priest and members of the congregation**

lay's Yellow Sheet

If Packer A's inflated price is indeed the one adopted the Yellow Sheet, he'll get \$4,000 more from his customer, while losing only \$200 or \$400 in his little charade of Packer B.

The Agriculture Department report on its beef-price situation last year started the problem of possible manipulation. But our associate Tony Cordero ph-

# Contentment'



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## Fr. Mandl marking 25 years in retreat

Concluded from page A-4

topics to speak on at the Saturday and Sunday retreat conferences. This year, he is speaking on "Love as the Basis of Morality" at the Saturday session and "Faith" for the Sunday service.

After speaking on the same topic all year, Father Mandl said he hardly recognizes the sermons he gives in December as the same ones he started with in January.

"As I sit down to write a sermon I approach it from my viewpoint, but after speaking to 2,000 people, and discussing it with them, I find that I may delete some aspects, and emphasize some of their thoughts which might be more important," he said.

The retreats are a learning process for him, as well as the participants, he added.

Three priests and five brothers now live in the Friary, across the road from the center, on the 102-acres at Portiuncula. Robed in dark, brown habits, the Franciscans involve themselves with their daily activities of maintaining the grounds and preserving this "little portion" for all who seek a few quiet moments of peace — a warm communion with God.

AND SO they come — retreaters, businessmen on their lunch hours, a minister to prepare his weekly sermon, And a woman, nurturing a deep sorrow, who just needs to be alone.

During silent time periods at the retreats, the priests are available, if needed, for private consultation and discussion of personal problems, business problems and special problems.

"This, we know, is our most important role," Father Mandl said.

"And though we have no magic out here for solving anyone's problems, we always have time to listen."



Rev. Maximus Mandl