



# St. Ambrose History Adds A Great Chapter As Cardinal Dedicates New Chapel Dec. 2

By Msgr. A. J. Burke, President

December 2, 1953, was a day that will never be forgotten in the history of St. Ambrose College. Since its founding by the first bishop of Davenport in 1882, there have been many memorable occasions, but the dedication of our new chapel of Christ, the King, will stand out in our annals as the greatest achievement in our long history and quite possibly a more significant event than the future will be privileged to witness.

The day of dedication was memorable for the number of distinguished visitors. It was the first time that a Prince of the Church has appeared on our campus. The gracious and scholarly Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, performed the ceremonies of dedication, presided at the dedicatory mass, and preached the sermon. Present also on a throne in the sanctuary was the Archbishop of Dubuque, the Most Reverend Henry P. Rohlfman, former Bishop of Davenport, and last year honorary National President of the Alumni Association, personally known and loved by thousands of Ambrosians. Two other archbishops, twelve bishops, and two abbots graced the occasion with their presence. Our own Bishop, the Most Rev. R. L. Hayes, offered the pontifical mass.

The weather on December 2 was not favorable, but fortunately the rains held off until after the blessing outside the chapel was completed and the procession had entered the new church. The brilliantly lighted chapel, the solemnity of a pontifical mass, the excellent performance of our choir supported by the vibrant warm tones of our new organ, the colorful robes of the Cardinal and attending bishops produced a feast for eye and ear as well as afforded spiritual satisfaction to the mind, heart, and soul of all participants. "The Lord hath sanctified His tabernacle; for this is the house of God . . . How lovely are Thy tabernacles O Lord of Hosts!" Above all we were conscious that at long last we at St. Ambrose had done everything we could to provide Christ, our Eucharistic King, a fitting abode and a place where the Holy Sacrifice could be offered with the dignity and beauty commensurate with His majesty.

The day of dedication has passed, yet the feeling of wonder, as well as gratitude, grows that we have such a beautiful chapel on our campus. It is hard for me to realize when I step into the building that I am at St. Ambrose. The contrast from having so little in the past to having so much is too new and sud-

den to be grasped all at once. Our students are experiencing the same feeling. The passing of time may diminish somewhat this sense of wonder and exhilaration, but appreciation will remain and will be expressed by the use to which the chapel will be put. The beauty of building and furnishings and services will attract; the convenient location will encourage frequent visits. Each Sunday we shall have a solemn high mass with procession and vested choir so that the same high level of worship observed on the day of dedication will be repeated weekly to the glory of God and for the benefit of our students and faculty.

Though I have frequently expressed my great gratitude to the priests of the Diocese of Davenport for their generosity in providing the building, and this at great personal sacrifice, I want again to thank them through this column. St. Ambrose exists because of the support given to the college from the diocesan priests. The chapel is only the latest evidence of the loyalty of our clergy throughout the years. To the priest

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alumni outside the Diocese of Davenport we are indebted for their contribution of the magnificent main altar. Though the lay alumni were not solicited for donations to the chapel, many have voluntarily sent in donations. To them also we send our heartfelt thanks.

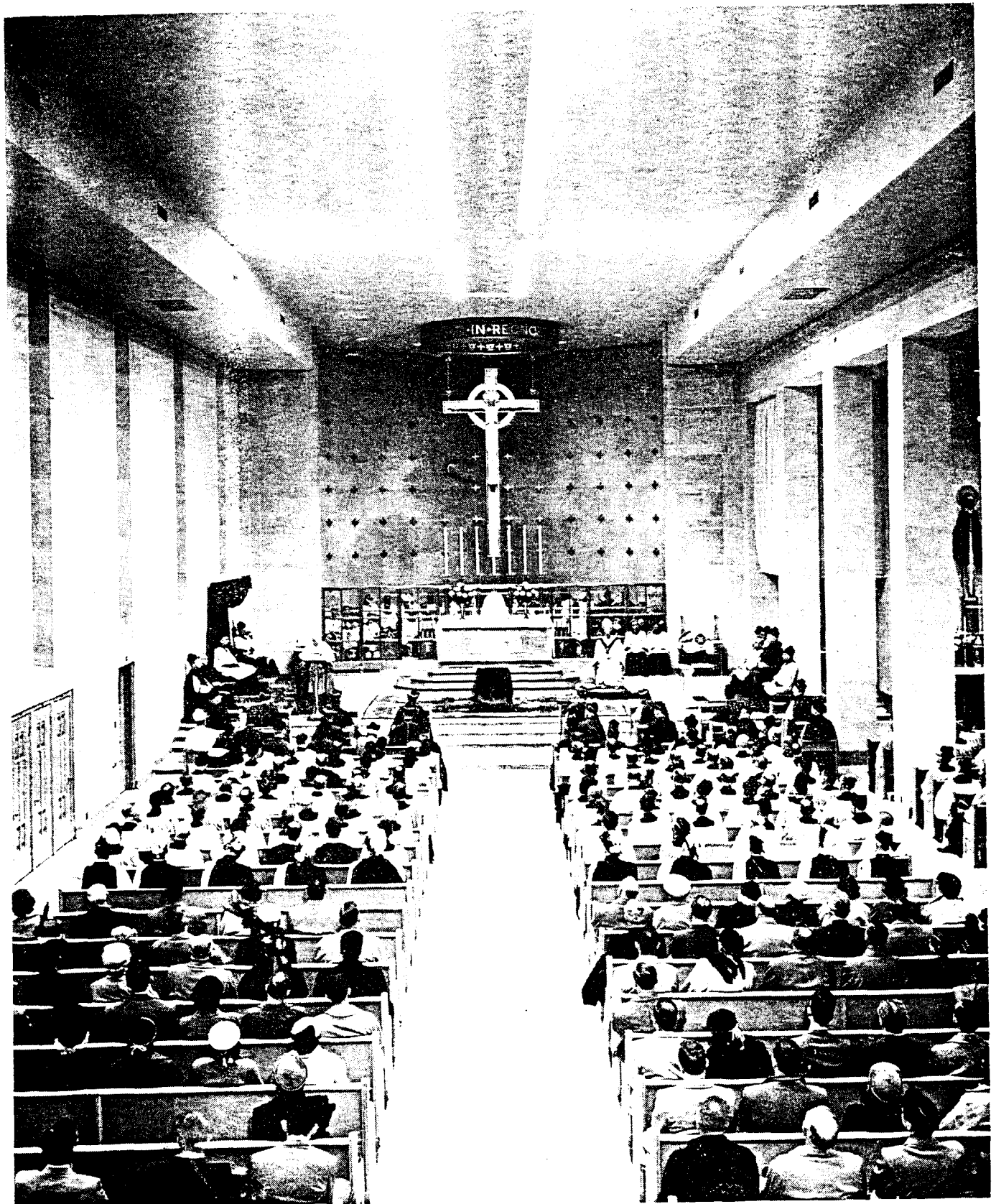
Already the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association is planning for Homecoming 1954. No doubt the solemn mass on that occasion will be the highlight of next year's reunion. In the meantime a cordial welcome is extended to every alumnus who has the opportunity to come and see the completed chapel.

My final observation is this: Having provided an adequate chapel for our Eucharistic King, I am confident that He will take care of our many other needs in due time by inspiring Catholics of means to give us the other buildings that will complete our campus.



**HIERARCHY AT DEDICATION CEREMONIES** — Nineteen members of the Catholic hierarchy of America, one of the largest numbers ever to attend a ceremony in the diocese of Davenport, were on the campus for the solemn dedication of the new college chapel on Dec. 2. Pictured as they left the administration building for the procession to the chapel are, front row, left to right: Abbot Vohs of St. Bede's benedictine monastery, Peru, Ill.; Abbot Killeen of St. Norbert's abbey, West DePere, Wis.; Bishop Loras T. Lane, auxiliary of Dubuque and president of Loras College; Bishop John L. Paschang of Grand Island, Nebr.

Second Row from left: Bishop William A. O'Connor of Springfield, Ill.; Bishop John F. Dearden of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Bishop William E. Cousins of Peoria; and Bishop Martin McNamara of Joliet, Ill. Third row, from left are Bishop Edward C. Daly, O.P. of Des Moines; Bishop Albert R. Zuroweste of Belleville, Ill.; Bishop Joseph M. Mueller of Sioux City, Ia.; and Bishop Joseph M. Gilmore of Helena, Montana. Top row, from left, are Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan of Omaha; Bishop John P. Cody, auxiliary of St. Louis; Archbishop Henry P. Rohlfman of Dubuque, metropolitan of the Iowa province; Bishop Thomas L. Noa of Marquette, Michigan; and Archbishop Leo Binz, coadjutor of Dubuque. Not pictured were Cardinal Stritch and Bishop Hayes of Davenport.



SCENE AS CHAPEL OF CHRIST THE KING IS DEDICATED-This picture was taken during the solemn pontifical high Mass of dedication on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Enthroned at left is Cardinal Stritch of Chicago, who presided and preached. At right center, Bishop Hayes of Davenport, celebrant of the Mass, is seated on the faldstool, and enthroned at far right is Archbishop Henry P. Rohlman of Dubuque, metropolitan of the province of Iowa. Visiting archbishops, bishops and abbots are seated at the foot of the altar, behind which are monsignors, priests, fourth degree Knights of Columbus, and guests. Ceiling lights in the nave are in the form of a huge cross, as shown. The transept chapel with the Blessed Mother's altar is shown at far right, through the stone pillars.