



History of St. Augustine's Parish Peru, New York:

St. Augustine's History Herald

Plattsburgh Sentinel—Nov., 1883, from **Peru Personal Correspondence** column

It has been commented upon that I have taken no notice of the projected movement of building a new Catholic church and we would remind our Catholic friends that it has not been from any intentional particulars in regard to it until this present writing, and we will now try to give them, and if at all incorrect corrections may be made later. The ground upon which the R.C. church is to be built is very nicely situated in a central part of the town in the northeastern part of Peru village, facing directly on the main road. The grounds, which are a free gift from Mrs. Franklin Elmore of our village, are a level tract of land consisting of about seven acres, which are to be used for the church and a burying grounds. At a recent meeting of the people near the grounds, a committee for building was appointed consisting of Father Guilbault of Keeseville, Peter Soulia, Joan Stone, Lawrence Hickey and Frank Provo. The stone for the foundation having been given and hauled to the grounds by the people at Lapham's. Mr. Lawrence Hickey, who had taken the contract of doing the stone work, had it all completed ready for the frame. The frame is 35 by 60 feet. The contract for building was awarded to Mr. R. M. Bissell of Valcour. The timber which was mostly obtained on the Travers farm and sawed at Lapham's mill will soon be on the ground and the work of building fairly commenced. Many of our Protestant population have helped by subscription, and if all who have subscribed are punctual in payment, we see no reason why we may not have a third church in our village soon. We learn from interested parties that Father Guilbault's personal subscription was one hundred dollars.

Ant I. Quarry

Certificate of Incorporation—August 5, 1884

State of New York,

Office of the Secretary of State

It is Hereby Certified That the
Certificate of Incorporation
Of
Saint Augustine's Church
Peru, N.Y.

With acknowledgment thereto annexed, was filed
and recorded in this office on the fifth day
of August 1884.

Witness my hand and the seal of office of the
Secretary of State at the City of
Albany, this fifth day
Of August one thousand eight
Hundred and eighty-four.

Signed by Secretary of State

Plattsburgh Sentinel—June 29, 1888—**Confirmation by Bishop Wadhams**

Last week the Rt. Rev. E. P. Wadhams, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, administered the sacrament of confirmation to classes in Clinton county numbering as follows:

- At Church of Immaculate Conception, Keeseville, 61
- St. Augustine's church, Peru, 70
- St. Alexander's church, Morrisonville, 70
- Church of the Assumption, Redford, 204
- St. Bernard's, Rogersfield, 215
- St. Joseph's church, Dannemora, 63
- St. Alexander's church, Morrisonville, 40 from Cadyville

Plattsburgh Sentinel—August 3, 1888—**Peru News**

A picnic under the auspices of St. Augustine's church at Peru will be held on Thursday, August 9th. The Rev. Father Blanchard of Malone will deliver a lecture in the evening on "Rome and the Holy Land."

Plattsburgh Sentinel—August 22, 1890—**Peru News**

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the R. C. picnic, which will be enjoyed at Smith's grove, near Peru depot. The Peru Cornet Band will be in attendance. The proceeds of the entertainment to be used in helping to pay off the remaining indebtedness of St. Augustine's church

Plattsburgh Sentinel—May 29, 1891—**Peru News**

A fine spire is in process of building to St. Augustine's church in Peru village, which when completed will make it a neat structure.

Essex County Republican—July 29, 1897—**Death of Rev. George Burque**

The lives of some men may be contemplated in their opinions, their knowledge and their usefulness; of other, in their ability and enterprise. But seldom do we see one with those united powers, devoting itself continually and resolutely, in the fear of God, to the best good of man. Such a life ended Monday morning, July 26, when Rev. George Burque, the well-loved pastor of St. Augustine's R. C. church, of Peru, N. Y., calmly and peacefully passed away.

Father Burque came to Peru eleven years ago last April and was the first resident pastor of St. Augustine's church. One year previous to his coming, through the benevolence of Mrs. F. Elmore, a site was procured on which to build a church, and although the building had progressed so far that services might be held therein, it was far from being completed. To the accomplishment of this task, Father Burque labored with the most untiring zeal. In a short time, not only the church was completed, but a parsonage and other buildings were erected, beautiful shade trees planted and walks laid; and, in all this work, Father Burque was the leading spirit. Every enterprise was assisted, not only by his good advice and management, but by frequent donations from his own purse. Thus he labored, till every difficulty was overcome, every incumbrance removed; and it may be truly said that St. Augustine's R. C. church stands today as a monument to his ability and enterprise. Not only this work was under his supervision, but two other charges were also to his care, that of Morrisonville and Rand Hill, until about two years ago, finding the exertion too much for his declining strength, he asked to be relieved of the Rand Hill mission. In all those places he labored with matchless energy. No self-sacrifice was too great to further the advancement of his Church. Wherever he was he was planning the outlines of the tasks to which he bent his strong will and determination. In all his intercourse with his fellow beings his greatest charm was his simplicity. He greeted everyone with a cordiality and affection. He exerted a strong influence among his people. He instructed by his conduct as well as by his words. His life was a faithful exposition of his doctrine—a living voice. His heart overflowed with goodness and charity. His door was always open to those who required his aid. Regardless of distance, inclemency of weather or other causes, he was ever ready to carry comfort to the sick or peace to the dying. Although never very robust, yet his health was comparatively good until the latter part of the winter when a serious type of disease appeared. After consulting his own physician he decided to go to the hospital at Montreal, where he remained over two months. Finding his health was not improving and that he was daily growing weaker, he decided to return to the place he loved above all others—home. As he would often say, "Home, sweet home, there is no place like it." Peru and its people had become very dear to his heart. He would like to have remained longer, yet, he bowed submissively to the will of Him whom he had so long and faithfully served, and patiently awaited the end.

Such was the life of our pastor whom God saw fit to remove from us. Thus his life runs out. He has gone to repose on the bosom of eternity, where his soul already dwelleth. He has gone from our midst yet his memory will be ever fresh to our minds. His voice no longer fills the sanctuary, yet it still vibrates in the hearts of his flock; and though we shall see him no more, we feel he is still near us, still watching over us with the same loving solicitude which characterized the eleven years he spent with us. Our hearts are saddened by his loss, yet we feel we are better for having known him. He has wielded an innocence

which time can never obliterate from our lives. And, in the beautiful language of the Gospel, we may say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things; therefore, thou shalt be placed over many things in the mansions of the Lord, thy God."

L. L.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—November 26, 1897—**Peru News**

The large room over the shed belonging to St. Augustine's R. C. church is being fitted up into an auspicious hall in which all church festivals, lectures, bazaars, etc., will be held in the future. This idea originated with the late pastor Rev. Geo. Burque and as a tribute to his memory the hall will be named Burque Hall. The ladies of St. Augustine's Society, under the direction of the current pastor, Rev. F. Perron, are preparing for a bazaar to be held the week after Christmas. It is expected Burque Hall will be completed by that time.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—January 7, 1898—**Peru News**

The fair held at Burque Hall, under the auspices of the St. Augustine Society, was a great success as the net proceeds were \$400.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—September 9, 1898—**Pilgrimage to St. Anne of Isle La Motte**

The R. C. congregation of Peru and Morrisonville will hold a pilgrimage to St. Anne of Isle La Motte the 11th day of September. The Rev. Fathers Perron and Desauliniers invite their friends to participate.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—December 8, 1899—**Church Fair at Peru**

A church fair, under the auspice of the ladies of St. Augustine's church, Peru, will be held at Burque Hall, commencing December 12, and continuing to the 16th. Sessions will be held each afternoon and evening with the exception of Friday evening. Suppers will be served and entertainment, consisting of music and recitations, will give pleasure to those in attendance. A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—July 18, 1902—**Married**

Weaver-Downs—At St. Augustine's church, Peru, May 28, 1902, by Rev. Father A. Perron. Fred Weaver and Miss Agnes Downs.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—July 25, 1902—**Picnic at Peru**

The annual picnic for St. Augustine's R. C. church will take place August 12. on the church grounds. Games, music and refreshments will be served during the day. No pains will be spared to make it an enjoyable time. By order of Committee.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—November 11, 1904—**Peru News**

A grand bazaar for the benefit of St. Augustine's church in Peru will be held in

Burque Hall beginning next Monday night, November 14, and continuing throughout the week. A prize will be given every night: Monday night to the school children, Tuesday to married women, Wednesday to babies, Thursday to young ladies, Friday and Saturday to men. Supper will be served every night, chicken and turkey being on the bill of fare every night but Friday, which is the oyster night. Supper tickets will be 25 cents. Everybody is invited to attend any or every night of the fair..

Plattsburgh Sentinel—December 16, 1904—**Church Trustees Enjoined—Restrained From Building Catholic Church in Peru**

An injunction restraining the trustees of St. Augustine's church of Peru from building a new church was served on Rev. J. Simard yesterday. The order was granted upon affidavits showing that no legal meeting of the trustees had been called or held, that the lay trustees were not legally appointed and that the formal approval of Bishop Gabriels had not been obtained. It is also alleged that the present church will meet the requirements of the congregation for many years, that the corporation has only \$300 on hand, and that the consent of the Supreme Court to raising money to pay for the new church had not been obtained. The action is brought in the name of Peter L. Soulia in behalf of himself and seventy other members of the congregation.

The contract for the erection of the new church was let to Ulric Bolleau of Keeseville, the contract price being \$10,500. John B. Riley is attorney for the plaintiff.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—July 23, 1929—**Downs-Coffey**

At St. Augustine's church, Peru, N.Y., July 18th, occurred the marriage of J. Edgar Downs of West Peru and Miss Irene Agnes Coffey, daughter of Mrs. James Coffey of Peru. Rev. Father Granottier officiated at the ceremony and at the nuptial mass which followed.

The bridesmaid was Miss Gertrude Coffey, a sister of the bride, and Philip Connors was best man.

The bride was gowned in white satin and wore a white hat and carried a wedding bouquet of roses. The bridesmaid wore rose color with a white hat and her bouquet was sweet peas.

Mrs. Cyril Sharron presided at the organ.

After the ceremony, a breakfast was served at the home of the bride and the couple left on a trip to Montreal and summer resorts in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Mrs. Downs is a graduate of Peru High School and of the Plattsburgh State Normal School and has taught at Schuyler Falls.

Among those from out of town who were present were John Coffey and Catherine Coffey of New York City, brother and sister of the bride, Winifred Coffey of Troy, a sister, and Charles Miller of New York City.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—January 6, 1931—**Beloved Priest Died New Year's Morning—For a Number of Years He Was Missionary Among Ontario Indians**

Father Granottier was admitted to the hospital on November 5. One week later he underwent an operation. Four weeks ago he underwent another.

Father Granottier was a native of Lyons, France. He was born there on May 29, 1852, the son of Joseph and Phelominia Bresche Granottier. His early education was

acquired in the schools of France. Later he came to America and took his theology course at St. Michael's Seminary near Toronto, Canada. Returning to France, he was ordained at Lyons by an American bishop who was then visiting in Europe.

For two years after his ordination he carried on his chosen work in the churches of his native land. A half century ago he returned to America and became a missionary among the Ontario Indians, in those days, primitive inhabitants of that part of the Dominion. For a number of years he carried on his work among those savages, having charge of several tribe missions.

Leaving the missions, he went to Sandwich College, a Canadian border seminary where he taught for some time. Later he was assistant in St. Anne's church in Detroit.

He came to northern New York about 35 years ago accepting the pastorate of the Crown Point church and charge of the missions in that vicinity. He remained there for five years after which he accepted the pastorate at Cooperville where he remained for about one year.

Thirty-two years ago he became pastor of the church at Morrisonville and remained there for 12 years, after which he assumed charge of the Peru parish in which he had done faithful work for the past 20 years.

Father Granottier was an active participant in the community life of that village and was held high in the esteem of his parishioners and friends in the community. He was an active member of Plattsburgh Council 234 Knights of Columbus.

The body was removed from the parish house at three o'clock yesterday afternoon and taken to the church where it will be in state until the funeral hour this morning.

Last evening special services were conducted at the bier by the Knights of Columbus.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—January 6, 1931—**Peru News**

Rev. Father Granottier, former pastor of St. Augustine's R. C. Church who died on Thursday morning after a long illness, was buried on Saturday morning. The funeral services were attended by fully one thousand people from this town and outlying places thus attesting to the high esteem in which the esteemed was held. All places of business in the village were closed during the forenoon. Right Rev. Joseph Conroy and scores of priests also their parishioners and friends paid their final tribute by attending the services. Internment was in Peru cemetery.

Plattsburgh Sentinel—February 13, 1931—**Fr. Brisson Welcomed By Peru Parish—Big Reception Tendered Newly Appointed Pastor of St. Augustine's Church**

About 500 parishioners of St. Augustine's church gathered in the town hall at Peru last evening to welcome the newly appointed pastor, Rev. Father Louis Brisson.

The program opened with a march played by Mrs. Ida Sharron. Patrick F. Fitzpatrick presided as toastmaster and after a few introductory remarks called upon Rev. Father E. J. Brown, pastor of St. John's church in this city. Father Brown spoke on the duties of the parishioners toward their pastor.

The next speaker was Rev. Father Joseph Pontur, pastor of St. James church of Cadyville who made a few remarks.

Next followed a vocal solo by John J. Downs of Peru who sang "When Irish Eyes

Are Smiling."

The next speaker was Rev. Father Brisson, a brother of the Peru pastor, who is stationed at Keene. He spoke of his missionary work in India.

An address of welcome was given by James B. Fitzpatrick to Rev. Father Louis Brisson following which the priest responded thanking his congregation for this welcome.

The last speaker was Rev. Mr. R. N. Mitchell, pastor of the Peru M. E. Church, who welcomed Father Brisson to Peru.

The Ladies Guild of St. Augustine's church prepared a fine luncheon.

Among the Plattsburgh people present were Rev. E. J. Brown, Rev. T. W. Cleary, John J. O'Neill and Lawrence Farrell.

Press Republican—August 31, 1934—Peru Church to Celebrate on Labor Day—Plans for Jubilee Event Announced; Many Will Take Part

Opening with a pontifical mass Monday morning at 10:00 (Standard Time) St. Augustine's parish, Peru, and the villagers of that prosperous community will devote the entire day to an auspicious observance of the golden jubilee of the erection of the Catholic church at Peru. The pontifical mass will be celebrated by Most Rev. Albee Desmarais, P.Q., designated by Most Rev. J. H. Conroy, Bishop of Ogdensburg, as the latter's representative at the celebration.

(Lines omitted as article is from a scrapbook and some words illegible.)

One hundred years ago, Peru was not the thriving community that it is today. The country was yet undeveloped, though its pioneers, who....Those Catholics who lived in the Keeseville district encountered many difficulties in attending divine services, being obliged to drive horses or go afoot to Keeseville where Fathers Rogers, Drummond and Rooney, of Plattsburgh conducted the Immaculate Conception mission. The mission in those days was the mecca of Catholics from many miles around, some also coming from AuSable Forks and other communities.

Masses were often celebrated in the Michael Keenan home in Chesterfield, also in the homes of Hugh McCarthy, Hugh Sheridan and others, also in the school house at the rear of the present Immaculate Conception church, Keeseville.

Roads from Peru to Keeseville were narrow, dirt thoroughfares that were nearly impossible in spring and fall, drifted throughout the winter months and not inviting to horse and carriage traffic, even in summer. Yet, Peruvian Catholics were faithful from the first, and rarely missed opportunities to attend divine worship.

In 1848 Ausable Forks and Peru were formed into one church and Father Macdonald was named pastor. The parish edifice was continued at Keeseville. He remained for three years, and his successors, Father McLaughlin, Father Hackett, Father Keveny and others spread their work to various missions, one including the district that is the town of Peru.

Father Guilbault of Keeseville was the first to promote the motion of erecting a church at Peru. This was accomplished through the generous response of Catholics and others in the town and in 1884 the first mass was celebrated in St. Augustine's.

During the past three years the edifice has been newly decorated in preparation for the golden jubilee. The parish house has also undergone renovations that have added much to its modernization.

The church decorations include a large painting at the rear of the sanctuary, recently completed by an accomplished artist. The painting portrays Michael driving the dragon out of heaven and another biblical emblem of the angel sounding his trumpet on judgment day. Above the altar is painted a large host with its rays of light spreading in all directions, symbolic of the redemption and the vivid presence of the Lord in the Church.

The present appearance of St. Augustine's church is indication of the pride its parishioners take in their edifice. The parish has grown since the early days, grown in faith as well as maintaining pace with the agricultural and commercial growth of the town.

Monday will be a banner event for these parishioners who, with people of every denomination from that community, extend invitations to all friends of Peru and Peruvians to attend and participate in the event.

Press Republican—September 7, 1934—Peru Church Celebration is Colorful—Event at St. Augustine's is Huge Success; Many Hundreds Attend

Favored by bright sunshine and clear skies, yesterday's golden jubilee celebration of St. Augustine's Catholic church of Peru was turned into a county-wide event that will remain for many years a unique part of the history of Peru. With nearly 1,000 persons visiting Peru and participating in the ceremonies there is none but the highest appreciation on the part of the parishioners of St. Augustine's for the fine support and tributes accorded by residents from all parts of northern New York.

It was estimated that more than 600 persons were present during the celebration of the pontifical mass that opened the jubilee observance. Most Rev. Albee Desmarais, auxiliary bishop of St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., was celebrant. Officers of the mass were as follows: Rev. J. Hervieux, Dannemora, deacon; Rev. George Brisson, Glenfield, N.Y., deacon of honor; Rev. H. Brisson, Black Brook, sub-deacon of honor; Rev. E.J. Brown, of Plattsburgh, dean of Clinton county, arch-priest; Rev. T.W. Cleary, master of ceremonies; Rt. Rev. Monsignor J.F.R. Pierce, Port Henry, representative of Most Rev. J.H. Conroy, Bishop of Ogdensburg, was guest of honor.

One of the happy features of yesterday's celebration was a most pleasing one for Rev. Louis Brisson, pastor of St. Augustine's, whose efforts have been tireless to make the event a success. The occasion for him will be a memorable one. It was the occasion of a reunion of the immediate members of the Brisson family, a reunion of an 80 year-old mother with her six sons, four of them priests of the Catholic church. For the first time in many years Mrs. Joseph Brisson of Ste. Bridgid, P.Q., was united with her family. Those present were Rev. Fathers Louis Brisson, Peru, H. Brisson, Black Brook, George Brisson, Glenfield, N.Y., Napoleon Brisson, Keene, N.Y., Arthur and Dollard Brisson and their wives, of Ste. Bridgid.

Four hundred dinners were served by the members of the Ladies Guild of the Parish in Peru Grange hall at noon.

Plattsburgh Daily Republican—April 26, 1939—Miraculous Medal Society Organized at Church in Peru

Corporate Communion of the newly organized society of the Miraculous Medal for the ladies of St. Augustine's Church in Peru, was held on Sunday morning, April 23, 1939, at the 8:30 Mass. Approximately 50 ladies received communion.

At 7:30 o'clock in the evening installation services were held at which time about

75 members were received into the society. A short interesting talk was given by Rev. Father Sweeney after which miraculous medals were presented to the members. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed the ceremony.

At a meeting held in the Church Hall, Friday, April 21 at 7 o'clock the following officers of the Society were elected:

President-Mrs. Herbert Sanders, Jr., vice-pres.-Mrs. Herbert Darrah, sec.-Mrs. Francis Young and treasurer-Mrs. Ray McGee.

Plattsburgh Daily Press—December 24, 1941—**Parish Children of Peru Given a Party**

St. Augustine's parish, under the direction of their pastor, Rev. Arthur Trudel were hosts to approximately 275 parish children at a Christmas party, Sunday afternoon. Dec. 21st in the parish hall.

The program consisted of carol singing under the direction of Mr. Leroy McGee, musical numbers and recitations, and of course a visit from Santa, who presented the children with candy, fruit, games and books.

The men of the Holy Name Society furnished transportation for many of the children.

Plattsburgh Daily Press—October 20, 1942—**Advertisement**

Grand Bazaar

Benefit of St. Augustine's Church

Peru, NY

Tuesday & Thursday, Oct. 20 & 22

Annual Harvest Supper Tuesday, Oct. 20th, 5:30 'til

All are Served Adults, 50 cents; Children, 35 cents

Both nites: Music, attractive booths, games, refreshments

Free admission to Hall

Memorandum of Understanding—June 26, 1944

The Pastor of St. Augustine's Church, Peru, N.Y., and the Dominican Sisters of Fall River, Mass., have agreed to the following conditions for the establishment of a Dominican Convent in St. Augustine's Parish, Peru, N.Y.

A. The Church of St. Augustine, Peru, N.Y., shall provide:

1. The spiritual ministrations for the Dominican Sisters of Fall River, Mass., in keeping with their state of life and in accordance with their constitutions;
2. A salary of \$25.00 a month for eleven months of their active work for three Sisters engaged in teaching catechism and doing other work in the parish;
3. A suitably furnished house, with heat, light, water, fuel for kitchen, altar supplies, in short, all household expense, except the Sisters' food,

clothing and personal expenses.

B. The Dominican Sisters of Fall River, Mass., shall:

1. Furnish three competent teachers of catechism;
2. According to the direction of the Reverend Pastor, superintend the care of the sacristy, take care of the altar boys, of the Sodality of Young Girls, of the Junior Choir when possible, and use all reasonable efforts to advance the interest of our religion by any other means in accordance with their constitutions and the approval of the Pastor;
3. Retain the privilege during one of the summer months of either closing their convent or keeping it open according to what is found best each year.

C. It is further understood that the provisions of Canon Law and the Constitutions of the Dominican Sisters of Fall River, Mass., shall at all times govern the Dominican Convent at Peru, N.Y., its work and its relations with the parish, as well as its continued existence.

Given at Peru, N.Y., on this the 26 day of June, 1944.

Rev. Arthur Trudel (signed)

Pastor, St. Augustine's Church

Sister Jn. Joseph, O.P.(signed).

Prioress General, Dominican Sisters

Of Fall River, Mass.

Approved by:

Bryan J. McEntegart (signed)

Bishop of Ogdensburg

Plattsburgh Daily Republican—July 13, 1944—Convent will Open in Peru-Bishop McEntegart to Preside at Inaugural Ceremonies Sunday, July 16

A new convent which has been established in connection with St. Augustine's church, Peru, will be opened and blessed on Sunday, July 16. The Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, Bishop of Ogdensburg, will preside at the ceremonies, which will commence at three o'clock in the afternoon. Rev. Joseph Doyle of Cadyville will deliver the sermon.

The former McCann home opposite St. Augustine's church has been taken over and prepared for use as a convent for the three Dominican Sisters who will come from Fall River, Mass., to carry on social work in the community. Mother Albert, superior, will be assisted by Sister Peter and Sister Mary of the Annunciation.

On Sunday, July 2, a linen and dish shower was held for the benefit of the new convent. A large group of people was escorted through the building by Rev. Father Trudel, assisted by Mrs. H. T. Sanders, Jr., Mrs. Charles Parrotte and Mrs. Joesphine Collins.

After the inspection, they assembled in the parish hall where the gifts were opened and displayed. Luncheon was served by a committee of ladies of the Holy Rosary society.

Plattsburgh Republican—March, 1945—Rev. Arthur Trudel, Peru, Celebrates Silver

Jubilee

On Tuesday, March 20, Rev. Arthur Trudel, pastor of St. Augustine's church, Peru, was celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Parishioners, relatives and friends of the Jubilarian wanted this occasion to be marked with as grand a celebration as possible, and to this end all interested parties worked with untiring efforts.

On Monday evening, March 19, a family dinner was given at the rectory at which 17 guests, the brothers and sisters and other relatives of the Jubilarian, were present. A substantial burse was offered to Rev. Father Trudel by the members of his family.

On Tuesday morning at 7:30, the Jubilarian distributed Communion to his relatives and parishioners who wanted to receive for the occasion. At 10:30 Father Trudel celebrated a solemn high mass of thanksgiving, assisted by Rev. Edward Bernier of Churbusco as deacon and by Rev. Ed. Burns of Mooers as subdeacon, Rev. Father Eugene Sweeney, O.M.I., acted as master of ceremonies. The other officers of the mass were: acolytes-Donald Hanlon and James Downs; thurifer-Walter Green; cross-bearer-Rodney Good; torch-bearers-Donald Frenia and Herbert Sanders Jr.

Present at the mass were about 40 members of the clergy, the family of Father Trudel, his seventeen altar boys, a delegation of children from Peru Central School, the Dominican Sisters of St. Augustine's convent, Peru; a few representatives of the Dominican Sisters of D'Youville Academy, Plattsburgh; and other guests, among them the Rev. R. Thomas, minister of the Community Church, Peru; and Ernest Allen, superintendent of schools; and Mrs. Allen occupied a place of honor in the church.

A large congregation of parishioners was also in attendance. The choir under the direction of Mrs. Cyril Sharron, organist, rendered the beautiful "Missa Solemnis" of Sorin, Rev. Father J. Doyle, pastor of St. James church, delivered an inspiring sermon on the dignity of the priesthood, and made a fervent appeal for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

At 1 p.m. a testimonial dinner was served at "The Tavern," Peru, to the Jubilarian and about 65 guests. Rev. Ed. Bernier, acting as toastmaster, introduced the following speakers: Msgr. D. Breault, the Clinton deanery; Rev. Father J. Hammill, the parish; Rev. R. Thomas, the community; Mr. Nap Trudel, the family; Msgr. E. Brown, V.F., the diocese. During the dinner a few selections were beautifully rendered by Mrs. Dana Weeks, harpist, and Leroy McGee, accompanied by Mrs. Victor Sharron, pianist, sang a few appropriate numbers. The toastmaster, Rev. Ed. Bernier, at the end of the banquet, presented to the Jubilarian in the name of the clergy present and friends, a burse of over three hundred dollars. The Jubilarian expressed to all his heartfelt thanks.

In the evening, the Grange Hall was packed with parishioners who had gathered there to convey their esteem and love to their pastor on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. Edgar Downs, trustee, acted as master of ceremonies. After greeting the pastor and expressing the good wishes of the entire parish, Mr. Downs introduced the artists who, under the direction of Leroy McGee and the Reverend Dominican Sisters, presented a fine program of song, music and recitations.

A quartet composed of Leroy McGee Sr., Leroy McGee Jr., Victor Sharron and Jay McGee opened the program. Mrs. Dana Weeks charmed the audience with beautiful harp solos. A trio of three little parishioners, Marilyn McGee, Carolyn McGee and Bonnie Sharron sang themselves right into the hearts of everyone present. A very interesting dialogue followed: "25 Years from Now" with Charles Carte as Father and Donald Frenia. A recitation, "The Beautiful Hands of a Priest," rendered by Herbert Sanders Jr. was followed by a presentation of a purse from the religious classes of the Peru Central School by Judy

Repcher and Wayne Taylor. A one act play "Hannah Gives Notice," which drew many laughs from the audience, concluded the program of entertainment. The characters of the play were Carolyn Carte as Aunt Julia; Shirley Sanders as Isabel; Agnes Bashaw as Sallie; Beulah as Hannah.

Then Patrick F. Fitzpatrick, in an interesting address, passed in review the accomplishments of Rev. Father Trudell during his six years as pastor of St. Augustine's church, Peru. Inviting Father Trudel to stand and face the audience, the two trustees, Frank Bombard and Edgar Downs, presented to Rev. Father Trudel, as a token of love and loyalty from every member of the parish, a very generous burse. The pastor, describing himself as deeply touched by all these marks of esteem and affection on the part of his flock, expressed his deep gratitude for all the joys that had come to his priestly heart on the day of his jubilee and promised, with God's help, to give the best in him to the cause of Christ and the souls in his beloved parish of St. Augustine.

After the entertainment the Jubilarian and his guests and the entire assembly were invited downstairs, to the Grange Hall dining hall where refreshments had been prepared by the ladies of the Altar-Rosary sodality under the direction of the President, Mrs. Herbert Sanders Jr. A beautiful white four-layer cake, artistically decorated with the dates 1920-1945 and the inscription "Silver Jubilee," another gift of the parishioners, adorned the table.

At the testimonial dinner, the cost of which was entirely paid by the parishioners, the following leaders of the Altar Rosary society were elected to serve as waitresses: Mrs. Herbert Sanders, Jr.; Mrs. Walter Green; Mrs. Charles Parrotte; Mrs. Fred Christian; Mrs. Leighton Bartlett; Mrs. Kenneth Dubuque; Mrs. Leon Edward Hanlon.

Notes Regarding Parish History, by Msgr. Francis White

1949—New parish hall constructed across road from St. Augustine's Church for \$13,500.

North Country Catholic—May 15, 1955—Peru Shrine to Our Lady

The shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes was blessed by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg, Wednesday evening, May 11. The parishioners of St. Augustine's Church, Peru, erected the shrine during the Marian Year of 1954, under the sponsorship of the Holy Name Society.

The Essex County Republican—June 7, 1957—Peru News

The Holy Name Society of St. Augustine's Church will hold its annual father and son breakfast Sunday, June 9, at Peru Tavern at 9:30 a.m. and the officers for the coming year will be installed. They are Mr. Gabriel Hebert, president; Peter Lacey, vice-president; Frank Russell, secretary; Clinton Lozier, treasurer. John Clute will be guest speaker and Lynn Wilke will be in charge of the entertainment.

Invitation to the Ordination of Reverend Philip Thomas Allen—May 16, 1959

The Reverend Philip Thomas Allen

Joins with his parents
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Allen
In announcing his
Ordination to the Holy Priesthood
To be conferred by His Excellency
The Most Reverend James J. Navagh, D.D.
Saturday morning, the sixteenth of May
Nineteen hundred and fifty-nine
At eleven o'clock
St. Mary's Cathedral
Ogdensburg, New York
And in cordially inviting you
To offer with him his
First Solemn Mass
Sunday morning, the seventeenth of May
At ten thirty
St. Augustine's Church
Peru, New York

Solemn Benedicton – 2:30 P.M.

Reception at the Parish Hall, 3:00 to 5:00

The Essex County Republican—October 30, 1959—**St. Augustine' School**

St. Augustine's School at Peru will cost from \$125,000 to \$130,000 when completed and furnished according to information received from the Rev. Arthur Trudel, pastor of St. Augustine's Church. \$90,586 was pledged three months ago by parishioners of that church to be paid over a period of three years of which approximately \$16,000 has been paid.

The school will contain eight classrooms, a library, a principal's office and a teachers' room and will accommodate over 300 students. It will be constructed back of the church in close proximity to the parish hall which houses the cafeteria and the convent where dwell the Dominican Sisters who compose the faculty of the school.

The date for completion is set as September 1 of 1960 which will give ample time for occupancy for the start of the new school year.

The breaking of ground ceremonies will be held at three o'clock Sunday afternoon, November 8, to be followed by the regular four o'clock mass that afternoon.

Letter from Bishop's House, Ogdensburg, New York—May 5, 1961

Reverend Arthur J. Trudel

St. Augustine's Rectory
Peru, New York

Dear Father Trudel:

Because of the shortage of priests in the diocese the mission church of St. Patrick, West Peru is being transferred into your care. Effective Wednesday, May 10th it will be a mission of church of Peru.

This is necessary because Clintonville has been made a mission church of Immaculate Conception, Keeseville.

I know that you, with the help of your Assistant, will do your best for the zealous care of the souls in West Peru.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Signed

Most Reverend James. J. Navagh, D.D.

Bishop of Ogdensburg

North Country Catholic—November 19, 1961—**Peru News**

At a meeting held by the men of St. Augustine's Parish last week, the long planned St. Vincent de Paul Society was organized with the following elected as officers:

President—Edsel Welch, Vice-Pres—Bernard Dwyer, Assist. Secretary—Peter Lacey, Treasurer—Paul Calkins, Wardrobe Keepers—Gabriel Hebert and Roger Bromley, Spiritual Advisor—Rev. Father A. J. Trudel, pastor. A large room in back of the Peru Launder Ease with a private back entrance has been offered to the Society for which they are most grateful to the owners.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—February 15, 1963—**New Convent**

St. Augustine's Catholic church in Peru has purchased the house, the property of Dr. George Malouf. It will become a convent in the fall, according to the Rev. Arthur Trudel, pastor. The present convent can accommodate six nuns. Fr. Trudel said that is not enough for the Catholic school's present expansion plan. St. Augustine's School will add the sixth grade next September, and more teachers will be needed each year as the school continues to grow, the pastor said. The new convent, which will hold 10 to 12 sisters, cost the parish \$35,000.

North Country Catholic—May 5, 1963—**New Convent for Sisters Is Acquired**

Peru—Rev. Arthur Trudel, pastor of St. Augustine's Parish here, has announced a parish campaign fund to pay for a convent recently acquired by the parish and to reduce the debt on the new school. Minimum goal of the campaign is \$60,000, Father Trudel stated.

The campaign will be a six-week effort by the Thomas R. Finn Associates under the direction of Mr. Robert Barnett.

The new convent acquired for the Dominican Sisters who staff the new school was formerly the home of Dr. George Malouf. Purchase price was \$35,000.

Three years ago the new St. Augustine's Parochial School was built after a highly successful campaign conducted in the parish. At the present time there are two hundred students in five grades.

Father Trudel in making the announcement said, "I have every confidence that the people of St. Augustine's will support this drive with their accustomed generosity for everything that concerns the welfare of the Dominican Sisters and the children of our parish. Our children have a wonderful school and we are all anxious to see it paid for. It goes without saying that our sisters deserve a good convent. No sacrifice is too great in a campaign such as this."

First organizational meetings are scheduled for this week.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—November 25, 1963—**Rev. Louis Brisson Dies at Age 83**

A solemn High Mass of Requiem will be celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Church Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock for the Rev. Louis Brisson, brother of the pastor the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George H. Brisson.

Monsignor Brisson will be celebrant of the Mass. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Father Louis Brisson's grave will be next to that of another brother, the late Rev. Napoleon Brisson.

Father Louis died Saturday in Hull, Que., where he had lived in retirement the last seven years. His age was 83.

He had served parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for nearly 40 years. His last pastorate in the Diocese was that of St. Augustine's, North Bangor.

Besides Monsignor Brisson, Father Louis' survivors include two other brothers, Arthur and Dollard Brisson and two sisters, Sisters St. Gilbert and St. Hermanagilde.

They are members of a family that originally numbered 10 children and were born at St. Bridgid, Que. Of them, four sons became priests and two sisters became nuns.

North Country Catholic—January, 1964—**Peru News**

Trudel was the guest of honor Saturday evening at a party held in the Peru Central School cafetorium by the parishioners of St. Augustine's Church.

The occasion was in observance of his 69th birthday, which was Monday, Jan. 20,

and in honor of his 44th year in the Holy Priesthood having been ordained on March 20, 1920, also his 25th anniversary, on May 1 as pastor of St. Augustine's in Peru and St. Patrick's at West Peru, having come here on May 1, 1939.

The party which was sponsored by the ladies of the Altar-Rosary Society opened with supper attended by about 400 persons and put on by a committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Isabelle Fountain and Mrs. Barbara Matott. The Catholic Youth Council did the serving.

A huge birthday cake presented to Father Trudel and shared by all present was made by Mrs. Anna Hanlon. All joined in singing "Happy Birthday Dear Father Trudel" with piano accompaniment by Mrs. Earle Cate.

Roy McGee Sr., master of ceremonies, welcomed those attending the party and introduced the guest of honor, and his assistant, Rev. Father Joseph Sestito, also Mrs. Anne Torrance, president of the Altar-Rosary Society and Frederick Curtis, president of the Holy Name Society. In turn, Mr. Curtis spoke admirably of the capabilities of Mr. McGee and introduced Mrs. McGee, all of whom were seated at the table of honor. Father Trudel obliged a request by singing his favorite "Alouette."

Following the supper the children of St. Augustine's Parochial School sang "Dominique" in French followed by "God Bless This Church" and obliged with an encore of "Dominique," under the direction of the Dominican Sisters of Peru. The following presentations were made to Father Trudel: a Val-et-Seat from the Altar Rosary Society; a gift certificate from the Holy Name Society, and a spiritual bouquet from the parochial school children.

The Plattsburgh Barber-shop chorus under the direction of Lucien Bernard entertained with several numbers.

Father Trudel was congratulated by Mr. Bernard on behalf of the men of the Chorus. Father Trudel, in turn, congratulated them on their singing. He thanked all who had taken part in the most enjoyable evening.

Press Republican—July 21, 1967—**Rev. Arthur Trudel Obituary**

Peru-Funeral services for the Rev. Arthur J. Trudel, former pastor at St. Augustine's Church, will be held at 11 a.m. Monday.

Father Trudel died at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy on July 19.

He served 26 years as pastor of St. Augustine's Church, retiring because of illness in 1963.

He was born in Ottawa, Canada on Jan. 20, 1895, the son of Napoleon and Elizabeth (Gallagher) Trudel.

He is survived by three sisters. One, a nun, Sister Elizabeth lives in St. Juvetter, Que. The others are Mrs. Raymond Delfonse of Laurelton, L.I. and Mrs. Grace Dumoulin of Montreal.

A brother, Napoleon Trudel, lives in Montréal.

Father Trudel was ordained in the priesthood at the Cathedral in Ottawa in 1929.

He was for 12 years a member of the Company of Mary, a religious order sometimes called the Montfort Fathers.

He was then assigned for six months at Our Lady of Lourdes in Schroon Lake.

Following this assignment, he became assistant at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg during which time he served as teacher at both Wadhams Hall College and St. Mary's High School.

He then served for five years as pastor at the Church of the Holy Cross in Hopkinton, N.Y.

His next assignment was as pastor at St. Augustine's where he remained for the next 26 years.

He retired in August, 1963 in Troy, N.Y. where he remained until his death.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. July 24 by the Most Rev. Thomas A. Donnellan, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

His body will be in the St. Augustine's rectory today and Saturday, where calling hours will be from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m..

The rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. today by the women of the parish and at 6 p.m. Saturday by the men of the parish.

On Sunday at 3:00 p.m., his body will be taken to St. Augustine's Church where it will be in state until the time of the Funeral Mass Monday.

Burial will be in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

The Essex County Republican—July 5, 1968—**Peru News** column

The Dominican Sisters of St. Augustine's Parochial School were called home to the Mother House at Fall River, Mass. The reason for being called home is because the Dominican Order is very short of teachers. They will be replaced in Peru by the Sisters of St. Joseph, who will assume their duties in September. A farewell party was given the Dominican Sisters in the Parish Hall recently, where over 200 parishioners and friends attended. Two beautiful cakes, cookies and coffee were served following the program which was directed by Dr. Charles Dilzer, local dentist, who acted as chairman. As a member of the Plattsburgh Barbershoppers, Dr. Dilzer was instrumental in obtaining the Barbershoppers to entertain, about 30 in number. They sang several appropriate songs including "The Lord's Prayer." A purse totaling \$400 was presented to them for the Mother House in Fall River.

Mrs. Alyce Cate

The Essex County Republican—December 5, 1969—**Peru News**

The Rosary-Altar Society has generously given new vestments to St. Augustine's Church. The gift includes sets of white, green and purple stoles. The Society also sees that the sacristy and sanctuary are cleaned weekly and that the altar linens are laundered. These are just a few of the invaluable services which the Rosary-Altar Society performs for the benefit of the whole parish.

The Essex County Republican—January 22, 1971—**Peru News**

Bingo was well attended on the opening night at St. Augustine's Church Hall. It will be held every Saturday night at 8:15 p.m. following the 7 p.m. Mass.

Essex County Republican—June 8, 1973—**St. Augustine's Altar Rosary Installs New Officers**

The Altar Rosary Society of St. Augustine's Church in Peru recently installed a new slate of officers at a banquet held at the Elks Club in Plattsburgh.

The Rev. Francis White, pastor, administered the oath of office to Barbara Matott, president; Peg Jackson, vice president; Madalyn L'Heureux, secretary; and Marjorie McCarty, treasurer.

Retiring officers were Beverly Uliva, president; Betty Thompson, vice president and Pat DeVito, secretary.

The guest speaker was Rev. Douglas Comstock, who talked on Wadhams Hall. About 80 members and friends attended the affair, including several charter members.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—February 9, 1974—**St. Augustine's "debt free in '73"**

Peru-St. Augustine's Church, which realized its goal of being "debt free in '73," is the Press-Republican's church of the month for February.

St. Augustine's Parish, which was established on Aug. 23, 1883 as St. Fabian's but shortly after renamed St. Augustine's Parish, was successful in removing a long standing parish debt through an intensive fund drive conducted last year.

St. Augustine's Parish, located on property donated by Mrs. Franklin Elmore, was established by Bishop Wadhams in 1883. St. Augustine's Church was blessed on July 22, 1891.

The parish was at first served by the priests of Morrisonville, Keeseville and Plattsburgh. Through the years, it has grown from serving just a few early settlers to serving more than 800 families of the Peru area.

The 91 year-old parish has undergone many changes over the years. In 1944, The Sisters of St. Dominic from Fall River came to St. Augustine's to help with the catechetical program of the young people.

The present Sexton's House was purchased on Oct. 1, 1943 for a convent to house the Dominican Sisters.

The parish hall was built in 1949 and in 1954, the Shrine in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes was built near the cemetery.

On Sept. 7, 1960, Bishop Navagh dedicated St. Augustine's Elementary School which today has 156 students taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph and three lay teachers.

In February of 1963, the present convent was purchased and in June of 1968 the Sisters of St. Joseph replaced the Dominican Sisters.

Serving the parish at present are the Rev. Francis A. White as pastor and the Rev. Joseph W. Elliot as assistant pastor.

The Rev. George Burque was first pastor of St. Augustine's Church from 1883 to 1887. He was followed by the Rev. Alpee Perron, 1897-1904, the Rev. John Simard, 1904-1910, and the Rev. Benedict Granottier, 1910-1931.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—November 29, 1980—**Peru Parish to Dedicate New Hall to Paul Calkins**

A proposed new community hall, included in the current plans for the St. Augustine's Parish construction program, will be named the Paul W. Calkins Memorial Hall.

The announcement was made by the Rev. Clyde A. Lewis, pastor of St. Augustine's, and Paul Green, chairman of the building fund program.

At the time of his death, Calkins was co-chairman of the new church building fund.

"We feel it is entirely fitting and appropriate to recognize and honor the memory of Paul Calkins in this manner," Lewis and Green said.

"Paul's dedication to the best interests of the town of Peru and St. Augustine's Parish are well known to the entire community. A life-long resident of Peru and parishioner of St. Augustine's, Paul Calkin's intimate and personal involvement on all community and church programs are well documented and this memory is in itself a testament to his dedicated service. The new community hall will stand as tangible evidence of the high regard in which he was held by all who knew him," they added.

The Paul Calkins Memorial Hall is part of an overall construction program being undertaken by the people of St. Augustine's Parish. The program, estimated to cost a total of \$800,000, included the memorial hall as well as construction of a new church.

The financing of the program will be provided through the application of \$200,000 now in reserve funds, which have been earmarked for the new church. A capital building fund program, now underway among the parishioners, is expected to provide funds in excess of \$325,000. The campaign, with a minimum goal of \$250,000, had a total of \$293,000 in gifts and subscriptions at the close of the Memorial Phase Wednesday night. More than 100 volunteer workers will continue their personal home visits to all parishioners during the next two weeks, seeking as much of the needed funds as possible.

The Paul W. Calkins Memorial Hall is designed as a multi-purpose building and will be available to the entire community for cultural, social, educational, musical and athletic functions. To be built adjacent and contiguous to St. Augustine's School, the building will accommodate about 350 people.

Green and Lewis say construction is expected to be started in the early spring, with a planned completion within two months. The new hall will be utilized for masses and other religious services while the present 100-year-old church is razed and the new church completed.

A Paul W. Calkins Memorial Fund has been established and funds are presently being received in his memory to provide for the construction of the new hall. The formation of a formal fund-raising committee is presently under way. Its purpose will be to offer opportunities to businesses, fraternal, financial and personal friends and associates of Paul Calkins to contribute to the hall. The scope of the efforts will be the entire northeast area of New York State, in recognition of Calkins' wide-spread reputation and influence.

North Country Catholic—January 14, 1981—**Plans Set for New Church**

One sign of a healthy parish is its growth record. For the 1,140 presently registered families in the St. Augustine's parish, Peru, the last 25 years of growth means that their 100 year old white clapboard church is inadequate for their needs.

In the Spring of 1979 a parish planning committee began studying those needs in terms of physical facilities. A new church building became the goal of that committee. The selected architect, Teitsch and Kent, designed a building according to the parishioners' requirements. The modern church will seat 500 in an open, many-windowed central area. There will also be a separately heated small chapel for daily Mass and to house the Blessed Sacrament.

The architect's mock-up shows a foyer, closet and offices outside the main worshipping areas.

The entire project includes the new church building, a parish hall adjacent to the St. Augustine's elementary school and a new garage for the cemetery vehicles and a workshop.

It is estimated that the buildings will cost \$800,000. The parish expects to raise most of the money and borrow the balance from the diocese. There is presently \$200,000 in reserve funds and an additional capital building fund program to provide nearly \$325,000.

One unique feature of the St. Augustine's project is that parish member Mike Trombley, a local contractor, has offered to construct the buildings on a cost basis. The parish hall will be built in the spring of 1981 and used for Mass while the old church is torn down and the new built.

Another unique characteristic of the plan was the effort by Paul Calkins and Paul Green as fund raisers. Their special efforts were prime forces in the success of the fund drive. The parish hall will be named after Calkins who was the victim of a recent fatal heart attack. The Paul Calkins memorial fund makes it possible to donate to the building fund in his memory.

Father Clyde Lewis, pastor, commented on how smoothly the plans have progressed since the conception of the idea for a new church and parish hall. The planning committee shows great enthusiasm, according to the priest, and the community has approved the plans. Diocesan support has also been noteworthy not only financially but with the practical advice from the Art and Architecture Committee.

It is expected that the new church will be ready for its parishioners in the fall of 1981.

Cathy Supple

North Country Catholic—January 20, 1982—New St. Augustine's Church Open for Christmas Mass

The parishioners of St. Augustine's, as they expected, celebrated Christmas in their new church. The ground breaking took place in June and on December 24 the 1,000 families congregated in the modern cedar, oak and split face concrete block building.

The open, bright church has a spacious altar with a multitude of plants growing in large indoor beds. The altar, podium and baptismal font are made of local granite. Some of the oak comes from the parish's own property.

New to the parish is a reconditioned Wicks pipe organ which pastor Father Clyde Lewis says is an American classic.

Furnishings for the church were selected by Montreal decorators Demarais and Rotaille. These furnishings include the woven tapestry above the altar, the plants and the

ceramic tabernacle that resembles the arc of the covenant.

There is a small chapel used for daily Mass where a terracotta –looking (but fiberglass in reality) Madonna stands. At the moment the familiar 100 year old St. Augustine statue resides there too, but after refurbishing it will be removed to an outdoor pedestal.

Social activities, meetings and pre-nuptial gatherings will take place in a large multi-purpose room that sits at the front of the church. In this room is also the kitchenette.

Inside the central foyer is the narthex, where according to the U.S. bishops' national guidelines for building and renovating Catholic churches, there will be seasonal shrines. During the Christmas season it held an undecorated but full fir tree.

According to Father Lewis, the parishioners worked extra hours and worked other jobs than contracted for in their determination to have the church finished. The Tracy Trombley Construction Co. built the church and employs many of the St. Augustine parishioners.

The dedication for the church will be in August of this year.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—January 28, 1982—**St. Augustine's Parish Builds a Church**

Peru—After 99 years of service, St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in Peru fell beneath the wrecking ball to make way for a larger, more modern structure.

The Rev. Clyde Lewis, pastor, explained that the old church, built in 1883 when the parish was founded and then added on to, was not structurally sound or architecturally fitting for another addition.

The parish, he said, had grown from 250 families to 1,000 families and the seating capacity was about 360 people, really squeezed in.

Monsignor George Phillips had looked into building a new church as the parish began to grow in the 1960's, Lewis said, but the parish was then shouldering the burden of the debt from building the new St. Augustine's School.

In 1973, the school debt was paid and the parish began saving to build a new church, under the direction of the Rev. Francis White.

When Lewis came to the parish in 1979, a committee was formed to begin planning for the new church. By this time, he said, the balcony of the old church was unsafe and the building actually swayed when the wind blew hard.

Lewis said it was decided, by the parish and diocese, that the first step would have to be a new church hall. The old hall only sat 100 and a place was necessary for holding masses while the new church was being built.

The old hall, which was also the cafeteria for the school, and the old convent were torn down in late May. The new hall, which seats 400, is the new school cafeteria and will have a plastic floor for sports, was completed in late April.

This was paid for with \$150,000 which the parish had saved toward the new church.

The hall is a real benefit to the parish, he said, because it also provides a place for dinners, meetings of such organizations as the Knights of Columbus, and allows bingo to be held in one location rather than stringing people throughout the classrooms of the

school.

The old church came down in June, the ground was prepared and the new structure began to rise.

Along with this, he said, came the fund drive among parishoners to raise \$250,000 toward the \$1 million building project. That drive which meant pledges over a three-year period from those who attend St. Augustine's has so far raised \$415,000.

This, combined with the \$150,000 savings and an anticipated \$50,000 from property sales of lots on the Laphams Mills Road and LaFleur lane, will reduce the parish's debt to about \$400,000.

The money needed for the project was borrowed from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Lewis said, at a low interest rate.

The church was essentially completed on time. The first mass was a memorial mass for the late Paul W. Calkins, a parishioner for whom the new hall was named. That was at 8 a.m. Dec. 24. The Christmas Eve masses for the parish were held in the new structure, as planned.

Lewis said there are some minor mechanical items to be finished and a few things to be completed in the multi-purpose room, which includes a kitchenette for after-service coffee. Also, some statues have not arrived.

Lewis said the new church has numerous windows on the south side, which allow the sun to light and heat the structure. It has a lot of plants inside, which make the atmosphere warmer. There is a large vestibule to provide a place for parishioners to gather to chat before and after masses. It is also built with the new liturgy in mind—not long and thin so it allows the congregation to be as close as possible to the altar.

There is also a chapel for daily masses, which allows the heat to be turned down in the main church between Sunday masses.

Dedication of the new church is planned for Aug. 22. This date was picked for several reasons, Lewis said. First, the building and its interior will be finished and landscaping done. Secondly, it is close to the Feast of St. Augustine and is also a convenient date for the bishop. And, he said, it is the date, in 1883, the parish was incorporated.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—August 23, 1982—St. Augustine's Parish in Peru Dedicates Church, Parish Center

A congregation now in its 100th year, the parishioners of St. Augustine's in Peru paved the way for a second century Sunday with the dedication of a new church and parish center.

As more than 750 parishioners and friends of the church looked on, the Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, blessed the new facilities, saying "the church will stand for 100 years and more."

The afternoon dedication took place on the parish's 99th birthday. Immediately following the two-hour ceremony in church, Brzana led a congregation of hundreds across the street to the new parish center, named after Paul W. Calkins, a well-known auctioneer, parishioner and Peru resident, who died in November 1980.

Brzana was assisted by scores of priests, ministers, deacons and acolytes, including church pastor, the Rev. Clyde Lewis. The diocese head termed the new church a

house of salvation.

"Salvation comes to this house today and will remain so throughout its life," Brzana told the congregation.

He urged parishioners to be generous in their financial support of the new church, even though many are touched by the nation's recession and unemployment. The new church was built through contributions and a diocese loan. Brzana said the debt must be repaid on schedule so other parishes may benefit from similar financial help.

"People who are generous toward God and toward the church always seem to do well even though they have problems," Brzana said.

The bishop then presented Lewis with a "gift" from the diocese. He did not disclose the nature of the gift but it appeared to be a financial contribution. Brzana said it would be up to Lewis to announce details of the gift.

Former St. Augustine's Church pastor, the Rev. Francis A. White, first conceived the idea of a new church more than eight years ago. The old church, built in 1883, was no longer structurally sound and had to be replaced.

Fundraising began under White's direction and the planning committee for the new church was formed in May 1979. Groundbreaking for the new church was held June 2, 1981 and the first mass was held in the new church on Christmas Eve.

Between the time the old church was demolished and the new church built, masses were held in the parish center. The new church seats 750 people. The parish center will serve as St. Augustine School cafeteria and can seat 400. It has a plastic floor for sports events.

Lewis called the double dedication "a great event, a great occasion."

Plaques commemorating Calkins' contribution to the parish—he was chairman of the parish building fund at the time of death—were unveiled in the new parish center. During a brief ceremony, Brzana blessed this structure, then urged the crowd "have fun."

The clergy mingled with parishioners during the reception. A dedicatory recital was held later that evening in the new church. Lynn H. Wilke, church organist and choir master, offered the recital, assisted by his wife Joanne on piano and son Kirk on trumpet.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—February 24, 1984—**Peru Rosary Society Formed in '39**

Peru-St. Augustine's Altar Rosary Society of Peru was established in May of 1939 when Father Trudel became pastor of St. Augustine's Church.

Prior to that time, there were a variety of organizations for the women of the parish such as the Society of the Miraculous Medal. The Altar Rosary Society today is for all the women of the parishes of St. Augustine and St. Patrick.

Members meet the second Wednesday of each month, September through June at St. Augustine's.

Officers are Marjorie McCarty, president; Barbara Matott, vice president; Rose Marie Baughn, secretary; and the Rev. Joseph Morgan, chaplain. Other committee leaders are Joanne Hughes, publicity; Wilma Laramie, sunshine; Sherry Barber and Dawn LaBombard, special activities; and Barbara Martin, Jo Drapeau, Marjorie Hughes, Beatrice Kelly, Eva Furnia and Theresa Curtis, honor guard.

Responsibilities of members include care of the altar and chapel at St. Augustine's

Church as well as assisting with various parish activities and special needs of the pastor. With the Blessed Virgin as their patron, each member strives to live her life as Mary would have. Members also attend the annual retreat.

This year will be the 100th year of St. Augustine's Parish. With that in mind, the society planned the annual holiday bazaar on a centennial theme and introduced the country kitchen.

Each year members take an active part in the Applefest, sponsor a USO dinner and staff the concessions of the parish and Knights of Columbus bingo. From the bingo concession proceeds, the society has donated \$30,000 to the St. Augustine's Church Building Fund for the black marble altar which was built in 1981.

Members of the Altar Rosary Society and the Ladies Guild of the Peru Community Church get together once a year for a dinner and an evening of fellowship with the organizations alternating as hostesses.

Plattsburgh Press Republican—May 6, 1985—**Ordination Ceremony Held in Peru Church**

Ordinations to the priesthood are usually held in the pomp and circumstances of the main diocesan cathedral—in this diocese, St. Mary's in Ogdensburg.

But Saturday, two deacons, one originally from Peru, were welcomed into the priesthood at St. Augustine's Church in this small town by Stanislaus J. Brzana, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The Rev. Guy "Bill" Edwards and Raymond J. Moreau took their final steps toward priesthood in a ceremony that included more than 25 of their fellow clergymen from the diocese, and before a standing-room-only group of family and friends.

The 30-year-old Moreau smiled as he walked next to fellow deacon Edwards, 31, in the opening procession. "Is this really happening? Is this really, finally happening?" Moreau asked the priests that followed behind.

"Yes, it's really happening," one priest said.

"I can't believe it," Moreau replied.

Edwards smiled. "Neither can I," he said.

Edwards, the son of Harold and Rita Edwards of Peru, was ordained a deacon Dec. 8, 1984, and was assigned to Notre Dame Church in Malone. Moreau, of Dover, N.H., is the son of Raymond and Rachael Moreau. He was also ordained a deacon Dec., 8, 1984. He has been working at the Catholic Community of Keeseville.

Gerianne Wright

North Country Catholic—May 7, 1986—**Anniversary Celebration**

Peru—The celebration of the 25th anniversary of St. Augustine's School began April 20 with a special Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. A number of priests, many of them past parochial vicars, were present to concelebrate the Mass with Father Clyde Lewis, pastor. The school was dedicated April 21, 1961 by Bishop James J. Navagh.

St. Joseph Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, the principal of St. Augustine's, greeted the congregation and read the theme. In the entrance procession was a representative from

each graduating class, carrying lighted candles. Banners representing the Dominican Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph were also carried in procession. Sister Marie Germaine and Sister Mary of the Cross, former teachers at St. Augustine's School, carried the Dominican banner while Sister Mary Ellen Brett, major superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Sister John Matha carried the banner for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

After the entrance procession, Father Lewis invited everyone to greet those nearby and tell what his/her association with the school was. The Gregorian Kyrie from the Mass of the Angels was directed by Joanne Wilke and accompanied on the organ by Lynne Wilke. The Gloria of the Bells, featuring the student Handbell Choir, added to the festival tone of the day.

Scripture readings were proclaimed by Charles Light, a member of the first school board, and Steve Woodruff, a former faculty member. Norman Votraw, President of the First Home & School Club, and Kay Votraw, first kindergarten teacher at St. Augustine's, read the General Intercessions.

Kristie Jozwiak, graduating class of 1979, was the soloist for the Offertory Hymn, "If the Lord Does Not Build." During Communion time, Elizabeth Gorevic played a violin solo accompanied by Joanne Wilke.

The Communion Meditation Prayer was read by Dominican Sister Clair Marie, a former teacher at St. Augustine's. It was written by Faye Fitzgerald, a parent of St. Augustine's students.

Altar servers included five graduates of St. Augustine's –Steve Garrant, Jeff Hughes, Nick Tyrell, Larry Cassidy, and Jeff Halstead.

The Mass was followed by a turkey dinner in the Paul Calkins Memorial Hall. Approximately 400 guests attended including two former pastors-Msgr. George Phillips from Norwood and Father Francis White from Elizabethtown.

Recognition was given to those who had served St. Augustine's for 10 years or more. These included: Emery Ezero-21 years, Marie Soucia-15 years, Betty Ewald-13 years, Nancy Fegan-11 years., Rose Wood-12 years, Lucille Light-12 years, and Sister John Matha-10 years. Sister Sharon was recognized for her leadership in the planning, coordinating and organizing of the anniversary celebration.

On Monday, April 21, anniversary cake and ice cream were served to the student body.

North Country Catholic—February 15, 1995—Knights Express Their Esteem for Clergy and Religious

Peru-Knights of Columbus Councils in the Clinton, Essex, and Adirondack Deaneries honored their clergy and religious at an appreciation dinner held Jan. 27 at St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council.

Ninety priests, deacons, nuns, and brothers were in attendance as Knights and their wives representing 20 councils gathered to express their love and respect for the clergy and religious. "The evening was one of joy, good spirit and unity," said John Ryan, one of the organizers of the event.

Expressing a reaction to the evening, Brother Louis St. LaPierre, Superior of the Brothers of Christian Instruction at Seton Catholic High School, said he was "energized" by the love and support by the Knights and their families.

The main speaker for the evening was K of C State Deputy Robert Fallon who traveled from Brooklyn for the occasion. State Deputy Fallon expressed the Knights' loyalty to the Holy Father, the bishops, the priests, and religious. At a time when the Church stands at odds with much of society, and especially the media, Fallon pointed out that the Knights of Columbus stands "in solidarity with our priests and religious."

Remarks on behalf of the clergy and religious were made by Msgr. Francis White, Dean of Essex County; Atonement Sister Ellen Donoghue of St. Peter's Religious Education Program; Deacon Gerald Savage, President of the St. Lawrence Society; and Brother Louis St. Pierre, Superior of the Brothers of Religious Instruction.

The clergy and religious were welcomed by Past State Warden and current Evangelization Auxiliary Chairman Carlton Gilroy of Dannemora Council 2166. The Lord's Prayer was sung by Edith Seiferth of St. Augustine's Choir. The Invocation was led by Msgr. Peter Riani, Chaplain of St. Augustine's Council 7273; The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Roger Miner, master of the 5th New York District Fourth Degree and the Fourth Degree Color Corps.

North Country Catholic—August 18, 1999—K of C Council Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Its Founding

Peru-This past spring the Peru chapter of the Knights of Columbus celebrated their twentieth anniversary with a gala banquet and awards presentation.

The event which was attended by over 100 members and their wives, and all but two of the past Peru Grand Knights, was organized by Associate Grand Knight Pete Grobecker. The banquet focused its attention on both the past accomplishments of the Peru K of C, as well their continuing commitment to their community.

As Master of Ceremonies, Grand Knight Jim McCarthy and Monsignor Peter Riani presented a special Grand Knight's award to Peru's first Grand Knight, Donald Chauvin, and his wife Dorothy, for the work they have done for the parish and Chapter over the past 20 years.

"Donald was one of the main driving forces behind getting a chapter in Peru. It if wasn't for him we probably wouldn't be here today," remembered McCarthy.

Also honored at the event were Knights of Year Jon Votraw and Bob Patnode, as well as Family of the Year Jon and Pat Votraw.

After the Peru K of C was established in 1979 by members of both the Plattsburgh and Keeseville Chapters who lived in the Peru area, the Peru K of C set as their primary goal the building of a council home.

Since completing the project and paying it off well ahead of schedule, the Peru K of C has had a place for meetings, to host parties, and for their biggest event, weekly bingo. They are also kept busy catering parties and meals, as well as renting their hall out for weddings and other special events;

History of Altar Rosary Society of St. Augustine's Church—Notes from Stella Dienst, August, 2000

First organized in April, 1939 as the Society of the Miraculous Medal, later that year after Father Arthur Trudel came as pastor of St. Augustine's Church (May 1, 1939), the name was changed to Altar Rosary Society.

Originally 75 ladies of the parish joined on Sunday morning, April 23, 1939, and installation services were held that evening for all members and the first slate of officers, namely: President-Mrs. Herbert (Beatrice) Saunders; Vice-president-Mrs. Herbert (Margaret) Darrah; Secretary-Mrs. Francis (Mildred) Young; Treasurer-Mrs. Raymond (Blanche) McGee.

The Society has been very active ever since, not only as pertaining to the altar and church but the parish community as a whole, wherever and whenever the members could be of service. At present (June, 1983) the main fund raising project is the operating of concession stands at bingo games.

Addendum by Stella Dienst in August, 2000:

As of August, 2000, over \$90,000 was turned over to the Debt Reduction Fund by the Altar-Rosary Society from concession sales at bingo.

The Georgia Bulletin, The Newspaper of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, May 4, 2006—Excerpt from article, **Jubilee Celebration for Sisters Inspires Gratefulness**

Those sisters celebrating their golden jubilees include:

Sister Pierrette Remillard, GNSH

Originally from northern New York—a town named Peru—Sister Pierrette was raised in that part of the country and attended a three-year nursing school in Plattsburgh, N.Y., after completing high school. She worked mainly as an operating nurse until 1980, serving in Plattsburgh, N.Y., Actonburg, N.Y., and Kodiak, Ala., as well as working in the infirmary at the motherhouse. She came to Atlanta in the summer of 1980 to work at the Catholic Center in a new career with the finance department. "It was time for a change," said Sister Pierrette. She had come to the city for a month-long visit and was offered a job. She worked in this position for 10 years and then moved to Saint Joseph's Hospital, where she worked in admissions for 15 years. Sister Pierrette is retired now, one of the many Grey Nuns who have served the archdiocese.

Clinton Today, August 19, 2006—**Twenty-two Years of Faith-Filled Service**

In 1984 when Sister Helen Hermann was appointed as a sixth grade teacher at St. Augustine's School, the Watertown area native didn't know much about Peru.

When she arrived, several of her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph told her "You'll love the people in Peru." Today, 22 years later, Hermann says the sentiments of her fellow sisters have been reinforced. She had a wonderful 22 years in Peru and although St. Augustine's School closed in June, she has many wonderful memories.

"I think the students left us well prepared academically, spiritually and socially," Hermann said when asked what she considers the strongest aspect of St. Augustine's school over the years. "We consistently worked on those areas and I think we did well at it."

Even though Hermann became St. Augustine's School principal in 1986, she never left the classroom and continued to teach sixth grade religion, math and science every afternoon.

Hermann summarized her view of Catholic education saying, "Catholic schools offer the opportunity to impart spiritual values to children and to teach academic subjects in the context of the Catholic faith."

"The home is the stronger influence on the child, but if you have the strong influences of the home plus the strong influence of the Catholic School that's a wonderful situation for a child to thrive in," Hermann said.

She said that she's very pleased that a number of St. Augustine's students have transferred to Seton Academy in Plattsburgh and Holy Name School in AuSable Forks.

St. Augustine's students received one-half hour of religious instruction every school day. Their voices filled the church with song when they attended Mass as a group each month and each week during Lent. Students also participated in prayer services, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Christmas play, a Passion play, the May Crowning and took part in special Sunday liturgies.

Asked to describe her greatest accomplishment, Hermann responded, "I stayed with it" explaining that the school's uncertain future over the past five years made things rough at times. "I continued to work with the children and the families and didn't give up."

Hermann also recalled St. Augustine's School's spirit of hard work and cooperation between the administration, faculty, parents and students.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the parish for having supported St. Augustine's School for 46 years and for giving me the opportunity to work with the children and their families." Hermann said. "it was wonderful to be able to plant the seeds of faith. The future is in the Lord's hands. The people of Peru will always hold a very special place in my heart."

In September Hermann will become a sixth grade teacher at Seton Academy.

Plattsburgh Press Republican, December, 2007—**Excerpt from Obituary, Sister Carolyn Carte**

Queensbury, N.Y.—Sister Carolyn Carte, 78, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007, at Eden Park Health Care Facility in the presence of her family.

Born in Peru, N.Y. on July 6, 1929, she was the daughter of the late Noah and Essa Carte.

On March 12, 1956, Sister Carolyn took her vows to become a missionary sister with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Community based in Belgium. She led a very dedicated and fulfilling life as a missionary and served in missions around the world including the West Indies, the Virgin Islands, St. Croix and Dominica. She obtained a bachelor's degree from Marymount College.

Sister Carolyn spent several years at her convent in New York City, ministering at prisons as well as starting the Valentine House residence for unwed mothers in the Bronx. In 1987, her congregation started a new mission along the Mexican border in southern Texas and she ministered there for nine years. She returned to New York State in 1996 and began pastoral ministry at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Edward. She facilitated a bereavement group there as well as ministering to the homebound individuals in the parish.