



CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING, Hamilton, was the scene of the impressive conferring of the priesthood on seven young men Saturday morning including Rev. Michael Bennett from Acton. (Staff Photo)



SEVEN PRIESTS were ordained in the two hour ceremony at the cathedral, Bishop J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton, conferring the sacrament of Holy Orders. To show the continuity of the priesthood all the priests in the sanctuary laid hands on the new priests. (Staff Photo)



FATHER MICHAEL BENNETT, flanked by Rev. Lou Grebenic, deacon, left and Rev. Patrick Cavanagh, arch-priest at the first mass, voices his thanks to the large congregation which filled St. Joseph's church here for his first mass Sunday at noon. Two presentations were made, one on behalf of parishioners, the other for altar boys. (Staff Photo)

Free Press

Feature Page

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1968

### Songs highlight program May 21 Golden Age Club

The program for the regular evening meeting of the Acton Golden Age Club on May 21 was exceptionally enjoyable. Mrs. Shortill and her daughter sang a couple of duets "O What a Beautiful Morning" and "Whispering Hope" accompanied on the piano by Miss Sinclair.

A men's trio, consisting of Ernie McEnery, Lloyd Shortill and Ed Smith, sang two humorous numbers attired in appropriate costumes. Mrs. Ernie McEnery accompanied them.

Allan and Mrs. R. Brown were given the usual birthday serenade.

The business consisted mostly of dealing with plans for a bus trip to Hamilton, the up-coming zone picnic at Hidden Valley, June 20 and an invitation from the Presbyterian Church for the Rhythm Band to perform at their Strawberry Festival on June 21.

### Grade 8 banquet

The grade VIII banquet is being planned for Wednesday, June 26. Working with convener Mrs. H. H. Hinton is a committee of mothers from both public schools.



MRS. HENRY DEVEAU was among the hundreds who received Father Michael Bennett's blessing after a history-making first Mass at St. Joseph's church, Sunday.

# "Father Mike" Bennett celebrates First Mass

Pentecost Sunday - the day the church commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles - was one the Rev. Michael Bennett will always remember.

The young priest, affectionately dubbed "Father Mike" by his seminary professors and fellow students, came back to Acton to celebrate his First Mass in his parish church of St. Joseph's.

Ordained in a colorful and moving ceremony at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton, by Bishop J. F. Ryan along with six other priests and seven deacons, Father Bennett culminated years of study at St. Peter's Seminary, London, Saturday.

The beautiful Gothic cathedral was almost filled as the candidates for the priesthood, prostrate in the sanctuary, took the final step into the full priesthood of the Roman Catholic church. Several from Acton attended.

Bishop Ryan was assisted by Auxiliary Bishop P. Roding and dozens of clergy participated in the ceremonies. The bishop celebrated mass with the new priests, the oils of Holy Orders, a sacrament of the church, conferred minutes before.

Twenty-five years ago, Father Bennett is the first member of St. Joseph's parish to enter the priesthood for many years. Old timers remember other priests from the area but not one who was brought up in Acton.

There was a special pride for Father V. J. Morgan who nurtured Michael's vocation as an altar boy at St. Joseph's and encouraged him in his studies.

"I owe a lot to many people," the new priest told the overflow congregation after being eulogized by Father Cavanagh, who preached the sermon. He named his mother, Mrs. Kay Bennett, who sat in a place of honor in the front pew, his spiritual director and other teachers, Father Morgan and a host of well-wishers.

In his sermon Father Cavanagh referred to the present ferment in the church, comparing it to someone renovating a house and having to put up with much disorder and confusion before things are completed. Although the church's work will never be finished, he predicted it will be renewed and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Father Cavanagh said "Father Mike" will make a good bridge between the old and the new in the church because he cherishes tradition and is a respecter of persons. A small town background, he suggested, where persons of various faiths learn to respect and like each other, can be nothing but an influence for good in his priestly work.

Mayor and Mrs. Les Doby were among the well-wishers, nostalgically recalling experiences when their son Laurie, was ordained an Anglican priest last fall.

Father Mike, a little abashed by all this attention, does not know where his first appointment will be. He's anxiously awaiting a letter from the bishop with the news. It hadn't arrived when The Free Press went to bed.

Two hundred people attended a reception in a Guelph restaurant Sunday afternoon where further honors were shown the new priest.

Sunday evening St. Joseph's held another informal reception for Father Mike in the church hall where parishioners and friends dropped in to convey best wishes to him. Rev. Bill Fortuna of Sudbury, a seminary friend, also came for the reception where ladies of the parish served tea, coffee, cookies and cakes.

Another brother Paul, 21, was unable to come for the ceremonies since he graduated from Trent University, Peterborough, on the same weekend.

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SERVING TEA AND LUNCH at a parish reception for Father Michael Bennett were left to right, Mrs. Henry Arbic, Mrs. Mike McMillan, Delaine Gibbons, Mary Papillon, Mrs. Pat Kenney, Elma Braida, Mrs. Kay Bennett, Michael's mother; Father Mike, Mrs. G. Pargeter, Mrs. John Tyers, Mrs. C. McCristall, Mrs. W. Sanford, Mrs. Ed McGiloway, Mrs. R. Arbic, Mrs. E. Marks, Mrs. E. Heffernan, Mrs. I. Marzo and Michael's aunt, Margaret Bennett. (Staff Photo)

### Will present marathon \$

The public school students involved in the walk for the Red Cross have raised to date \$758.90.

Mrs. Kenny is coming to the Robert Little school Thursday afternoon to speak on the work of the Red Cross, show a film and officially receive the donation.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

On Saturday, June 1, a large number of Wolf Cubs chartered several buses from an operator in this area to Buffalo, N.Y.

At the border these buses went through a routine check and some inconvenience was experienced by a long delay in departure time.

Rumors have been circulating through this part of the county that another charter bus operator, Tyler Transport Ltd., of Acton, Ont., was the person who caused the inconvenience of the delay.

We wish to inform the general public that in no way whatsoever was Tyler Transport Ltd. responsible for the long delay or inconvenience we may have encountered.

Mr. NORM HERBERT, District Commissioner of Scouts  
MR. GEORGE COZENS, President, District Council of Boy Scouts

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