

# **DEDICATED**

## **BEAUTIFUL NEW ALTAR FOR ST. MARY'S CHURCH BLESSED ON WEDNESDAY**

### **RT. REV. BISHOP TROBEC AND TEN VISITING PRIESTS TAKE PART IN SERVICES**

Seldom it is that an opportunity is offered the citizens of this community to watch as solemn and impressive ceremony as that which took place on Wednesday morning when Rt. Rev. Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud assisted by ten visiting clergymen blessed the beautiful, new, high altar in St. Mary's church, in the presence of over 1500 people. The beautiful church building was crowded with people to witness the most impressive ceremony.

The procession to the church formed at the parsonage with members of the St. John's Society and the Catholic order of Foresters on each side of the walk, the acolytes, the visiting priests and the Rt. Rev. Archbishop passed between and entered in the rear door of the church. Passing up the aisle they gathered to the sanctuary and altar to the intoning of the Litany by the priests, the bishop blessed the altar. Immediately after Pontifical High Mass was sung, Bishop Trobec being celebrant, Rev. F. Gorres archdeacon, Revs. Rant and Goergen deacons of Mass, Revs. Stuckel and Paulinus deacons of honor, and Revs. Schalk and Schirmers masters of ceremonies. The celebration of a Pontifical High Mass is one of the most impressive and solemn services of the Catholic Church and is only sung by bishops and other high dignitaries of the church.

Rev. Wurst delivered the sermon and in a most forceful and eloquent speech dwelt at length on the significances of the Catholic altar. After the sermon by Father Wurst, Bishop Trobec took an opportunity of expressing his praise of the work done by the people of St. Mary's parish in the past three years. Three times, he said he had been called upon to be present to assist in the celebration of the work completed each year by the congregation. The fame of St. Mary's parishioners as builders of this magnificent church edifice was not only the talk of nearby cities and villages but had spread far and wide. He wished success in all their undertakings and prayed God would bless them for all they had done in beautifying a house erected for His greater honor and glory.

It would be almost impossible to give a fair description of the altar and at the same time do justice to it. Suffice to say that as a work of art, it is undoubtedly one of the finest of its kind ever erected. It was designed and built by E. Hackner of La Crosse, celebrated throughout the United States as the best builders of church furniture. It is 40 feet high and 26 feet wide

at the base, of pure Gothic style and is made up of three different kinds of woods. The statues making up the central group of figures and placed directly over the tabernacle are of wood and all hand carved. They represent the Virgin Mary, to whom the altar is dedicated, holding in her arms the Christ child. On each side are figures kneeling in adoration. Above is an angel with a golden crown about to be placed on the head of the Virgin Mother. Hand painted figures of angels in the most delicate colors and a hand carved center piece representing the Last Supper may be seen below the table.

In the evening at 7:30 came the service of solemn benediction. It was at this service that the true artistic beauty of the altar is shown when over one hundred lights are illuminated producing a grand effect.

The following was the program of music rendered by the choir under the direction of the Prof. J. M. Beck: Ecce Sanerdos by Witt sung while the procession entered the church, Rink's Mass in D with Ave Verum for the offertory. Special mention should be made of the work done by the choir. They have under the direction of Prof. Beck attained a high degree of perfection.

Including Rt. Rev. Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud, the following clergymen were present to assist in the services: Revs. Schalk of New Ulm, Polasek of Lamberton, Stuckel of Wabasso, Wurst of Wabasha, Gorres of St. Paul, Funke, chaplain of the German Catholic orphan asylum St. Paul, Paulinus OSB of Stillwater, F. S. Rant of Arlington and Goergen of Fairfax.

The different societies of the parish held a fair at the church hall. Meals and ice cream were served throughout the day. The lady Foresters in charge of the booths had a large sale of fancy needlework and various other articles of a useful variety. The total receipts will aggregate closely to the \$800 mark.

To the pastor, Rev. W. M. Stulz, is due the credit of the magnificent showing which the parishioners of St. Mary's have made within the past four years. Since his appointment here as pastor of that parish, the erection of the church edifice, a handsome new parsonage and the new altar aggregating a total of nearly \$200,000 has been completed and nearly all paid for, a record which speaks very highly of that reverend gentleman's business ability and untiring efforts for the welfare of his parish.

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