

St. Augustine's

Corner Stone Laid December 23, 1906

Dedicated July 28, 1907



Rev. Jno. H. O'Brien, Rector

This parish had its inception in the establishing of a mission chapel in 1898. The work was carried on as a mission from St. Patrick's Cathedral and had been attended by priests from that church.

Among the priests who labored for the cause of Holy Mother Church in the little mission field, was Rev. John H. O'Brien and through his indefatigable zeal the parish developed rapidly, besides, St. Augustine is located in one of the most rapidly growing districts of the city, contiguous to Lincoln Park and in proximity to that great industrial center, tended to augment the congregation who worshipped at St. Augustine.

The first church building was little more than just a plain chapel. This building was, during October of 1906, partially destroyed by fire. Instead of repairing the chapel it was decided to build a new church, consequently a few weeks after the fire which considerably damaged the old chapel, Rev. John H. O'Brien, the rector, made application of the Bureau of Buildings for a permit to erect a new church—the building to be located in Chili Avenue, near Hobart street, to be known as St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church.

The plans which were prepared by Architect Joseph H. Oberlies, specified a combination church and school building, dimensions as follows: forty-four feet wide, one hundred and sixteen feet long and twenty-eight feet in height—and including costs of furniture was approximated at \$35,000.

The first floor of the building was designed as a school and subdivided into six large school rooms. To be given special attention was the lighting and ventilation of these rooms, the most

modern and up-to-date methods and appliances were to be used.

On the second floor was to be located the chapel or church auditory which were to be approached by four large staircases, two in the front from the right and left and two in the rear in the same way.

The auditorium was constructed to give a seating capacity to six hundred and fifty persons.

The building was to be of brick—mottled buff clay, with white Medina stone trimmings—and in appearance show off to a decided advantage the renaissance style of architecture—the style of building and decoration that arose during the early fifteenth century in Italy.

The corner stone of the new church was laid December 23, 1906, by Bishop Hickey, assisted by Rev. Michael J. Nolan, D. D., chancellor of the diocese; Rev. John H. O'Brien, rector of St. Augustine's; Rev. C. R. Fischer and Rev. Geo. V. Burns of the Cathedral and Rev. Orestes Canali rector of St. Anthony of Padua, and students of St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary also assisted.

Despite the inclement weather which prevailed on this occasion—the weather was not near as bad as on the day of the laying of the first corner stone of the little wooden chapel, eight years prior in 1898, for at that time a regular blizzard swept the city. But even the elements had no influence on the deep interest of the people of St. Augustine's, for practically all the members of the parish were out in force, as well as an immense number of others—all bent on witnessing the ceremonies.

The priests, who had been in charge of St. Augustine's chapel building at various times were Rev. George V. Burns of the Cathedral, at present rector of the Church of the Sacred Heart, also Rev. Phillip Golding and Rev. J. F. O'Hern.

The trustees of the new church were James E. Martin and J. J. Thorne. The building committee consisted of Rev. J. H. O'Brien, George C. Schaefer chairman, M. W. O'Brien Secretary, J. J. Thorne, W. E. O'Brien, Albert Hayes, Charles Mertz, James Keenan, Nicholas O'Neil and William Hahn.

The dedication of St. Augustine's new church took place Sunday, July 28, 1907. The right reverend bishop of the diocese officiated.

The blessing of the new edifice was at 10.30 o'clock in the morning. Rev. Dr. E. J. Hanna—then a member of the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary—officiated at solemn high mass assisted by Rev. G. V. Burns of the Cathedral as deacon and Rev. Daniel J. Quigley of Canandaigua as sub-deacon.

The sermon was preached by Bishop McQuaid. It was a stirring appeal to the people and pastor to work together for the common good. He also com-

plimented the people on the erection of such a beautiful building.

There were present in the sanctuary Rev. John H. O'Brien, Rev. A. M. O'Neil of Immaculate Conception church, Rev. J. T. Dougherty of Canandaigua, and Rev. O'Canalli of the Cathedral.

The choir of the church, under the direction of Charles Biesenbach, furnished special music. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion and both morning and evening services were attended by large numbers of people.

In the evening at 7.30 o'clock there were solemn vespers. Rev. J. F. O'Hern of the Cathedral was celebrant, with Rev. A. A. Hughes of Geneseo as deacon and Rev. D. J. Quigley of Canandaigua as sub-deacon. Those in the sanctuary were the late Rev. F. H. Sinclair, also Rev. M. J. Nolan, D. D., Rev. G. V. Burns, Rev. M. J. Krieg, Rev. John B. Sullivan, Rev. George J. Jones and Rev. Lewis O'Hern, O. P. of Nashville, Tenn. Bishop Hickey preached the sermon, during which he said:

"I place high on a pedestal that man who does God's work most perfectly. Such a man was born more than 1,500 years ago, and His name has always been interesting, but it should be of special interest to the members of this church, for it was St. Augustine.

"The work of education and religious instruction will be carried on here under the guidance of God, and will be watched over during all of the coming years by St. Augustine. Do you not see more than display in all of the beautiful ceremonies of the Catholic reli-

gion? The first church was founded on a rock. It was hollowed out in the city of Bethlehem.

"For nearly three centuries the church of God was almost hidden from sight, but it was the same church that it is today. It has not always been under the sunshine. More often it has been like the frail bark at sea, expected every moment to be submerged. But Jesus has been with the church all of these years.

"The church of today is more elegant; but the church itself has never changed. Like the tree that years and time have made larger the church has changed in appearance, but it is the same church as of old.

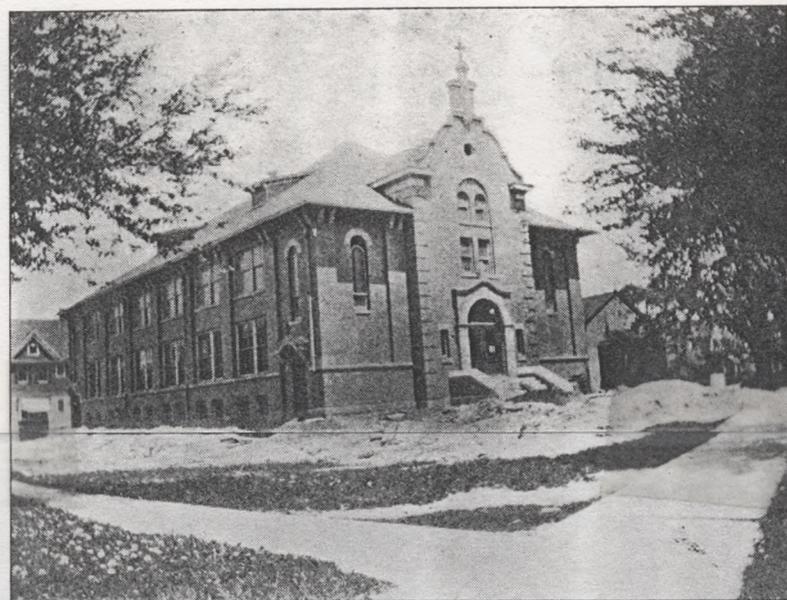
"Man's one work in this world is to develop his spiritual self. The history of the church should be an inspiration on this most inspiring occasion. The material part of the church is beautiful, but it is not as beautiful as the spiritual. This building will be a nursery for your children. Every time they come here their young minds will be filled with truth of God.

"May God bless both pastor and people, and may St. Augustine guide every one to the home that has been prepared for you."

The ushers on the occasion of the vesper service were G. C. Shafer, Albert Hayes, James F. Martin, John N. LaChander and John DePiez.

The trustees of St. Augustine's church at the time the church was dedicated were Messrs. James Martin and John I. Thorne.

Rev. J. H. O'Brien is the present rector.



St. Augustine's Church and School Building