

Star of Sea parish to mark 40th anniversary



SANTA CRUZ — Early parishioners of Star of the Sea Church, Santa Cruz, pose for a picture in 1949 after inspecting the progress of the new building. At far left in back row is Father Joseph Losada, pastor from 1947 to 1953.

SANTA CRUZ — Star of the Sea Parish in Santa Cruz is 40-years-old. Marking the anniversary, parishioners will celebrate an outdoor Mass at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Star of the Sea Park.

After the Mass, members of the parish will prepare a barbecue. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Those who wish may bring their own picnic lunch. The Salesian Penny Club will provide entertainment.

Parish historian Irene Tracy is preparing a display of pictures and historical notes. Persons with pictures or other historical data from the early days of Star of the Sea Parish should phone her at 426-1136.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27, Bishop Thaddeus Shubsda will join the parishioners to continue the anniversary celebration. A dinner-dance will be held on Sept. 26. Ticket information is available by calling the parish office, 429-1018. Bishop Shubsda will celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Mass with the parishioners that Sunday. A reception at the parish hall will follow.

Bishop A.J. Willinger founded Star of the Sea Parish on Sept. 28, 1947. Father Joseph Losada was pastor from 1947 to 1953. Parishioner Frances Ross remembers the first Mass at the



SANTA CRUZ — Interior of Star of the Sea Church is devotional yet well-suited to today's liturgy. (Photo by Trini Contreras Photography)

old Seabright Hotel as well as other parish activities held there. Commenting on construction of the parish church in 1949, she recalls that Father Losada watched it very closely. In fact, Father Losada didn't believe that the niche in front of the church was big enough to hold the statue of Our Lady, so he had to climb up and stand in it himself to be sure it was big enough.

The parish hall was built in 1951.

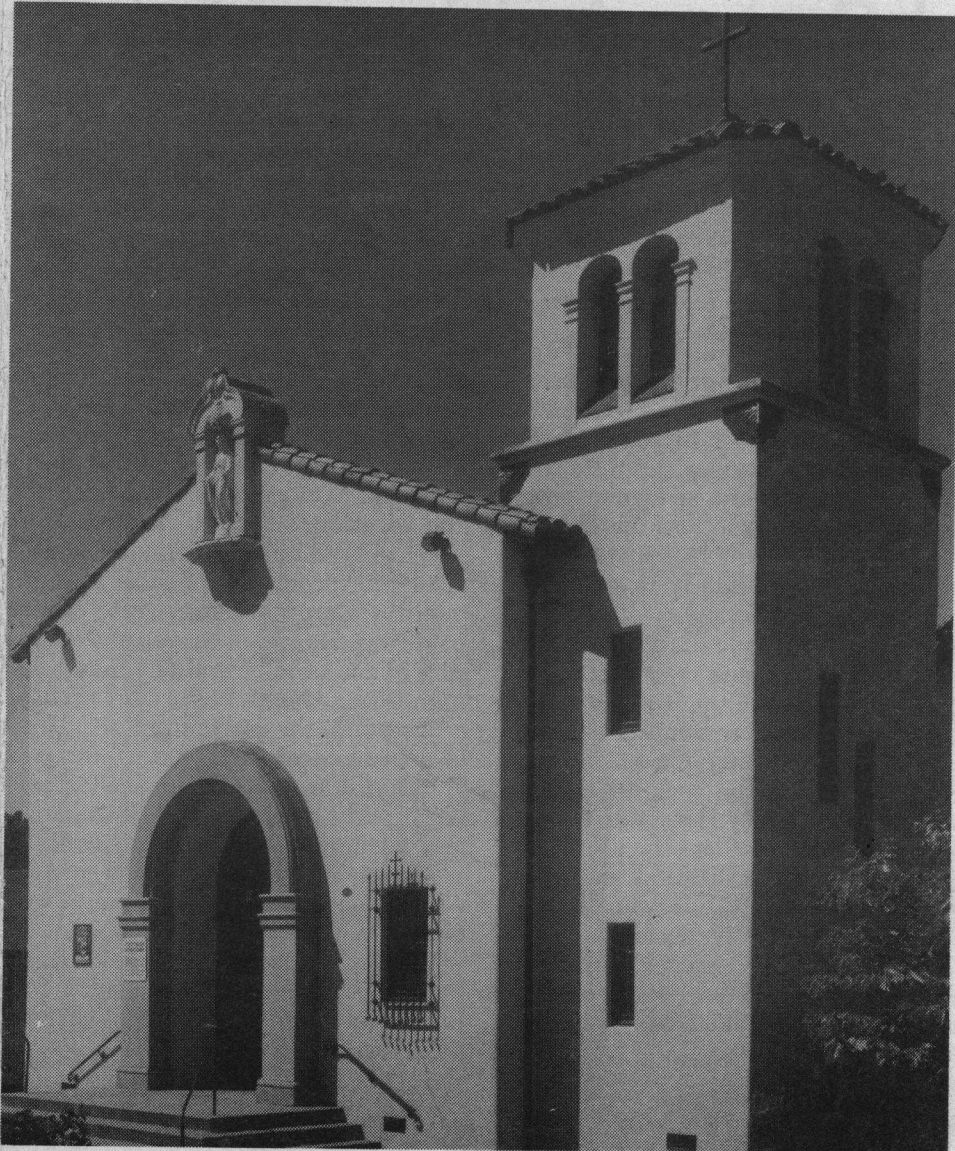
The late Msgr. Michael Mangan was pastor from 1953 to 1974. While he was pastor the parish continued to grow and classrooms were built for religious education. In 1967 the convent was built for the Sisters of The Holy Family. The church survived a fire in 1969 that caused \$12,000 damage.

Msgr. William Lane was pastor from 1974 until his retirement in 1984. He still assists at the parish as pastor emeritus. The people of the parish are grateful that he has remained here to continue his priestly ministry.

Father Ken Laverone has been pastor since 1984. He has seen a substantial growth in the number of families in the parish and has expanded services to keep up with this growth. Since Father Laverone has been pastor he has added new ministries to the parish: Father Dick Basso came to the parish as religious education director; Sister Joseph Fogarty, O.P., R.N., directs Star Outreach to the elderly; Sister Anne Doherty, Ph.D., does individual and family counseling; Ann Kreyche is director of liturgy for the parish; Andy Darrow and Jonathon Dexter are music coordinators. Villa Maria del Mar chapel is in Star of the Sea Parish.

Except for one year, the Sisters of the Holy Family have taught at Star of the Sea since 1947. At one time Sister Carole Pesce of the Sisters of the Holy Family was religious education director here. As a young girl she had been queen of the May procession at Star of the Sea.

In 1967, the Sisters moved into the new convent adjacent to Star of the Sea Parish. Sister Brigid Cullen was the most recent member of the Holy Family Sisters to be religious education director here. Sister Joan Derry, also a Holy Family Sister, will be religious education director beginning this month.



SANTA CRUZ — A statue of Our Lady looks down on the church that is dedicated to her title as "Star of the Sea." The 40th anniversary of the parish will be celebrated at several events this month, starting with a Mass and barbecue/picnic on Sept. 13 and continuing with a dinner dance on Sept. 26 and a Mass on Sept. 22. (Photo by Trini Contreras Photography)