

# New phase begins in church rebuilding

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STAFF WRITER **MAR 4 1993**

The second and most ambitious phase in the St. Patrick's Catholic Church rebuilding saga is officially under way.

Yesterday afternoon, surrounded by the cement foundation where the 90-year-old Watsonville landmark once stood, Bishop Sylvester Ryan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey signed the contract for construction to begin.

The original brick building, designed by architect William Weeks, was destroyed in the October 1989 earthquake. It will be replicated using materials from the Gothic-style structure. The 7.1-magnitude earthquake collapsed the columns and cracked the walls, rendering the Main Street church unusable.

Contractor George Davis, of G.W. Davis Inc., has begun preliminary work on the project,

scheduled for completion in March 1994.

"We're very interested in it," Davis said of the endeavor. Other rebuilding efforts undertaken by the 45-year-old company include the Watsonville Library and Santa Cruz High School.

For the initial phase, architectural and engineering tasks, as well as soil analysis and seismic testing were done.

The second phase, which comes with a price tag of \$2.5 million, involves construction of the basic building and the plaza, and refitting of the stained-glass windows.

The steeple, organ, altar, pulpit, pews and other furnishings will be installed in the final phase.

Monterey architect Russ Haisley designed the new plan, with interior and exterior fea-

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Mike McCollum

From left, building contractor George Davis; his wife and president of the company, Millie Davis; Bishop Sylvester Ryan; and the Rev. Michael Miller, pastor at St. Patrick's.

## CHURCH

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tures intended to be consistent with the old edifice.

Of the \$3.8 million needed to fund the venture, \$2 million in cash and pledges has been raised. Officials originally estimated the total cost of the project to be \$2.5 million, a figure the Rev. Michael Miller of St. Patrick's Church said was based on preliminary information.

The diocese operates on a very tight budget and was unable to contribute funds for the effort, Miller said, but it did direct \$200,000 in national relief funds to the project.

St. Patrick's, attended by 4,000

parishioners, should be built with contributions from local residents, Miller maintains.

"Local communities have always built their own churches," he said. "It is up to those living in the community to provide the funding necessary to build, maintain and operate the churches. St. Patrick's is no exception."

Members and supporters have embraced that responsibility. Last year's "Steeple for the People" campaign, with 12 fundraising events, generated \$80,000.

Even the late rock promoter Bill Graham who, along with Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, toured the devastated downtown area a month after the earthquake, donated \$100,000 to the rebuilding cause.