



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

No decision has been made yet as to the ultimate fate of the church.

CHURCHES

St. Patrick's Church spires coming down

By JAMIE MARKS
Sentinel staff writer

11-1-89

WATSONVILLE — A small handful of the faithful came to say good-bye Tuesday as the first of four spires from the landmark St. Patrick's Catholic church was pulled off by a huge crane.

More media than townsfolk stood outside the sanctuary to watch the demolition begin on the building, built in 1901-03 by architect William Weeks.

"I used to be an altar boy there," said Paul Milladin, a City Council candidate who watched the demolition. "I was baptized there and my father and mother were married there. This is history. It's very sad we have to tear it down."

Father Mike Miller, the pastor of St. Patrick's, said no decision has been made yet on the fate of the church, which was badly damaged in the Oct. 17 earthquake.

"The diocese is waiting for someone to come through with a miracle proposal," he said.

Many of the statues that were inside the church have been removed to a

neighboring building. They've sustained heavy damage, and many have lost their heads. However, the 14 ornately carved stations of the cross, depicting Christ's last hours, were not hurt.

The spires and steeple of the church will be removed over the next few days and brought to a ranch in Corralitos, Miller said.

The diocese hopes to rebuild a Catholic church in the same spot as St. Patrick's, if the church cannot be saved.

Just taking down the spires and steeple costs \$35,000, he said.

"We're liable to end up broke just tearing down the church," Miller said.

Despite the adversity, Miller said St. Patrick's is still holding Mass at neighboring Parish Hall at Notre Dame school.

"Right after the quake, people went back into the sanctuary to light candles. We had to ask them to leave because it wasn't safe," Miller said. "Many people have strong feelings about this church. It will be rebuilt."