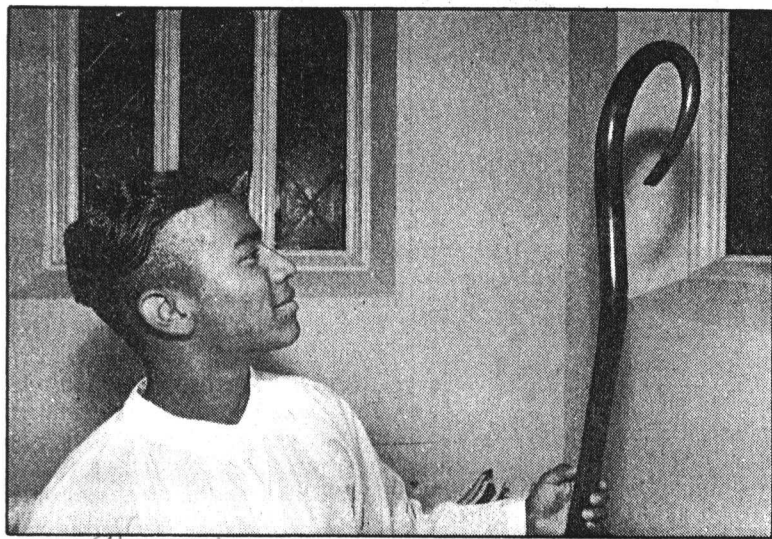




Great day for St. Patrick's



The Rev. Mike Miller held a Bible for Bishop Sylvester to kiss last night during the solemn dedication of the new St. Patrick's Church. Before the ceremonies, altar boy David Patino, left, inspected Bishop Ryan's staff in the sacristy.

Photos by Mike McCollum

THE LOMA PRIETA earthquake may have destroyed the building that housed St. Patrick's Church, but the church's spirit burned brighter than ever last night at a mass dedicating the new church.

Exactly five years after the 7.1 earthquake devastated the church, a special mass was conducted by Bishop Sylvester Ryan, of the Monterey diocese. Between 700 and 800 people attended the ceremony in which Bishop Ryan blessed St. Patrick's with holy water and blessed the altar with holy oil.

The church was built in 1903. It was designed by architect William Weeks, who de-

signed several buildings and homes in Watsonville.

After the earthquake, the church was razed and a new one built. A total of \$2.5 million was raised for the new church, said the Rev. Michael Miller, pastor at the church. Another \$500,000 is pledged, he said.

The church still needs another \$900,000. Miller said contributions can be made to the church's general rebuilding fund or donations can be made for specific items, such as the altar, the pulpit, or for stained-glass windows.

Contributions may be made to St. Patrick's Church, 721 Main St., Watsonville 95076.