



Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Gift of Mrs. W. Greif.

The work progressed rapidly and with the work, the enthusiasm of the people grew day by day. To raise funds a series of house parties was inaugurated, and these were so marvelously successful both from a social and financial standpoint that St. Clement's parish soon received all the advertising that was needed to make it an assured success. The parish will ever owe a debt of gratitude to those early pioneers whose zeal for the house of God prompted so many unselfish personal sacrifices.

Work on the church was pushed with a view to preparing the basement for a Grand Opening Bazaar, and here again the men of the parish showed their zeal for the good cause by coming after working hours to put down a temporary floor and to build the booths that were necessary for the disposal of the hundreds and hundreds of articles gathered by the men, women and children of the parish. Everyone constituted a committee to work for the Bazaar and naturally it was another grand success, for without a trained parish organization it netted \$8,250.00. It was held December 4th to 9th, 1922.

Two weeks remained till Christmas and they were spent in preparing the basement for the opening service on Christmas Day. The December letter of the pastor to the people contained the following announcement: "There is a special reason for the pastor and people of St. Clement's to give expression to the joy that fills their hearts during this hallowed season, for like the Shepherds of old they have received tidings of great joy. In the basement of the new church, which will very soon be dedicated to the exclusive service of God and the welfare of souls there will be offered up for the first time the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Christmas Day. The Babe of Bethlehem has not knocked at the doors of St. Clement's Church in vain. The work of the last few days has transformed an ordinary basement into an inviting chapel, and the loving hands and hearts of all the Clementines will offer the new-born Babe of Bethlehem a royal welcome."

Christmas Day, 1922, was therefore another red-letter day in the history of St. Clement's Parish for it marked the beginning of uninterrupted services and the continued presence of our Lord in the Tabernacle. The Sunday Masses were at 8 and 10 o'clock—the week-day Mass at 7 o'clock. Before long the need was felt for a third Mass on Sunday and so beginning Sunday, March 4, the present schedule of Masses went into effect: 7, 9 and 11 o'clock. The Franciscan Fathers from the Monastery on Riverside Avenue assist the pastor on Sundays. It might be of interest to mention here that beginning with the first Sunday in January, 1923, the Every-Sunday-Envelope system of collections was introduced for the financial support of the church. Our slogan was: We must pay for our church—we must build a school. Help us do it by giving 2% of your weekly income every Sunday and 2% of your monthly income on the third Sunday of every month. What a comparatively easy burden the pastor would have in caring for the material interests of the parish, if every wage-earner would honestly strive to give the suggested 2% every Sunday—approximately one hour's wage. The monthly collections are an absolute necessity as long as a parish has a building program unfinished or unpaid for. It might be mentioned that an accurate account of every person's contribution placed in their envelope is kept on the parish records and once a year a statement rendered.

Occasions of special interest and added help to the parish naturally call for some extraordinary sacrifice, and to the credit of the Clementines be it said that they have ever been prompt and generous in answering the various appeals that were made either for their own church or for the church at large. Those who will take the time to read the list of church furnishings donated in answer to the appeal of the pastor made in January will readily agree with this statement.

At last the long-looked-for day arrived when everything was in readiness for the official opening of the upper-church. It was on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1923, that we entered in triumphal procession into the new church, singing allelujahs of joy and thanksgiving for the privilege of giving this new home to God, where He would establish His throne of mercy and of grace and where we



*Altar of St. Joseph.
Gift of Mr. John N. Hahn.*

might come and go as children in their father's home. The church was blessed privately by the pastor—the official dedication by the Rt. Rev. Bishop was to follow later.

It seemed opportune at this time to give the people the extraordinary grace of a mission so that spiritually they might renew their fervor and their faith, and therefore the well-known Missionary Fathers, the Vincentians, were asked to conduct a two-weeks mission beginning April 29th and ending May 6th. The Rev. P. F. Flanigan and Robert A. Gillard conducted the mission, and their eloquence and zeal were the means of bringing back to the fold many of the careless Catholics who on account of the great distance to their church had grown cold in faith.

Trinity Sunday, May 27th, was the next event of importance, for on that day the first class of children to receive their First Holy Communion in the new church were welcomed by a crowded house of worshipers. There were 57 in the class.

At last came the day of the official dedication by our Rt. Rev. Bishop, September 16, 1923. That day had been postponed because of the impaired health of His Lordship, and a happy coincidence made of it a real anniversary, for it was just a year since the Bishop had laid the cornerstone of the church. It was an added pleasure for all of the parishoners to see our Rt. Rev. Bishop on that occasion, for it was he who created the parish, named it after the great Pope and Martyr, St. Clement, laid the cornerstone and now accepted the task of presenting our gift officially to God. His eloquent sermon on what the church means to the individual and to the community will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of hearing it.

St. Clement's Parish, though one of the youngest of the parishes in the diocese, is growing rapidly—in fact has doubled its membership since April, 1922. There are now approximately 510 families within the limits of the parish and we extend the hand of welcome to all who contemplate making the heart of Lakewood their home.