

BEST WISHES

*to Father Lani and the St. Stephen's Parish
on the 25th Anniversary*

MR. and MRS. JOHN SCHLEIFER



ST. STEPHEN'S

Roman Catholic

CHURCH

25th Anniversary

June 14, 1953

SILVER JUBILEE

ALBUM

Compiled by
FATHER MATHIAS LANI
Pastor of St. Stephen's Church

QD 50.620



2008

THIS MEMORIAL ALBUM IS DEDICATED TO THE PIONEERS OF
THE ST. STEPHEN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH LIVING OR
DECEASED BY THE GRATEFUL PASTOR, REV. MATHIAS LANI



HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII.



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
1531 WEST NINTH STREET
LOS ANGELES 15, CALIFORNIA
DUnkirk 8-8101

May Sixth
1953

Reverend Mathias Lani
ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
3705 Woodlawn
Los Angeles 11, California

My dear Father Lani:

I am pleased to learn that you and your parishioners will soon commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of St. Stephen's Parish.

This marks a milestone of accomplishment, and I wish to congratulate you and your people upon the splendid work you have done.

It is obvious that God's blessings have been upon you. It is our prayer that these gifts, under the inspiration of Our Lady, will continue to abide with you.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

James Francis Cardinal McIntyre
ARCHBISHOP
of
Los Angeles

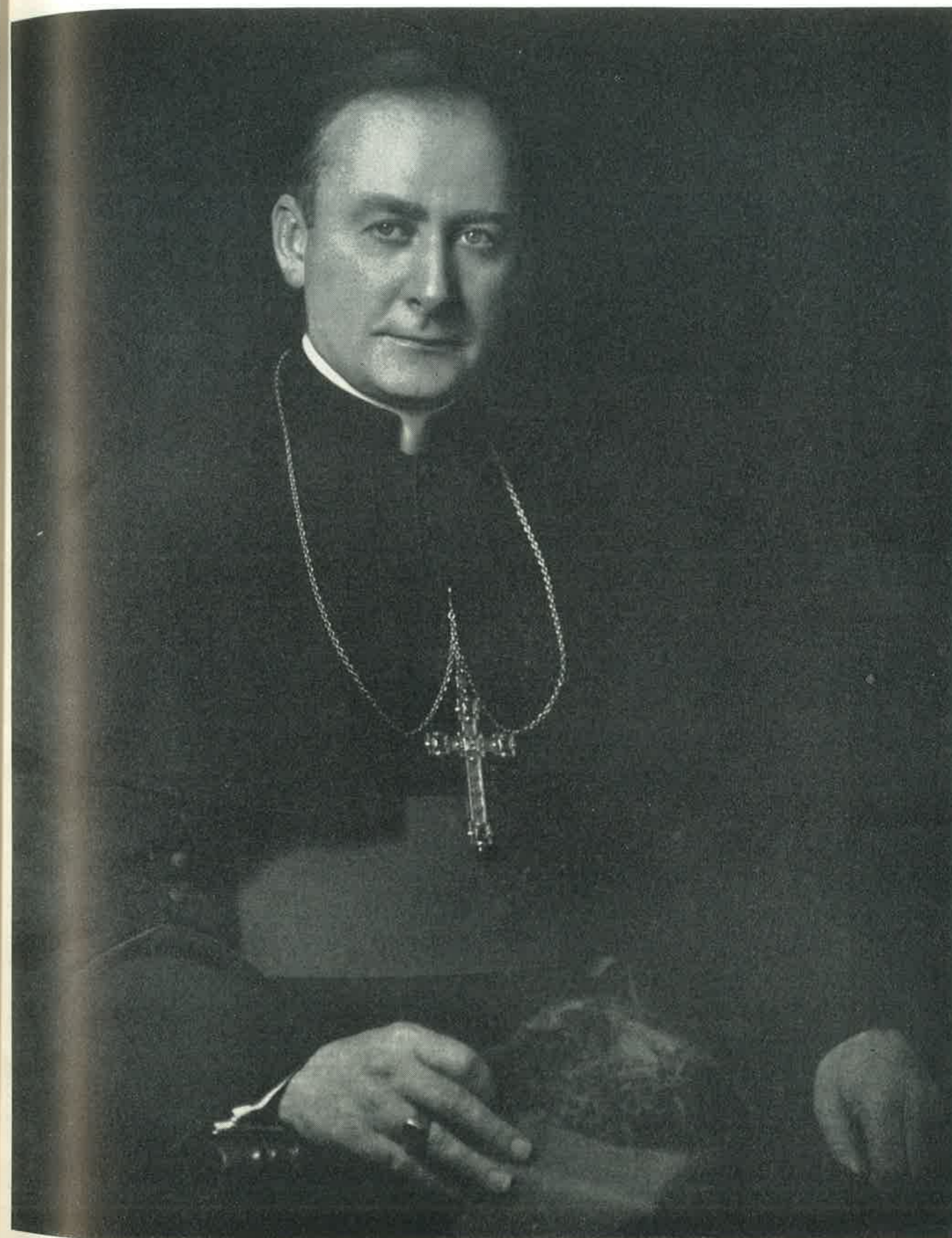
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His Eminence James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, D.D., Archbishop of Los Angeles

The St. Stephen's Sick Benefit Society extends heartfelt greetings. As we stood faithfully at the side of our Pastor in the past, so shall we do in the future. - We earnestly pray God's blessing upon the work of the Church.

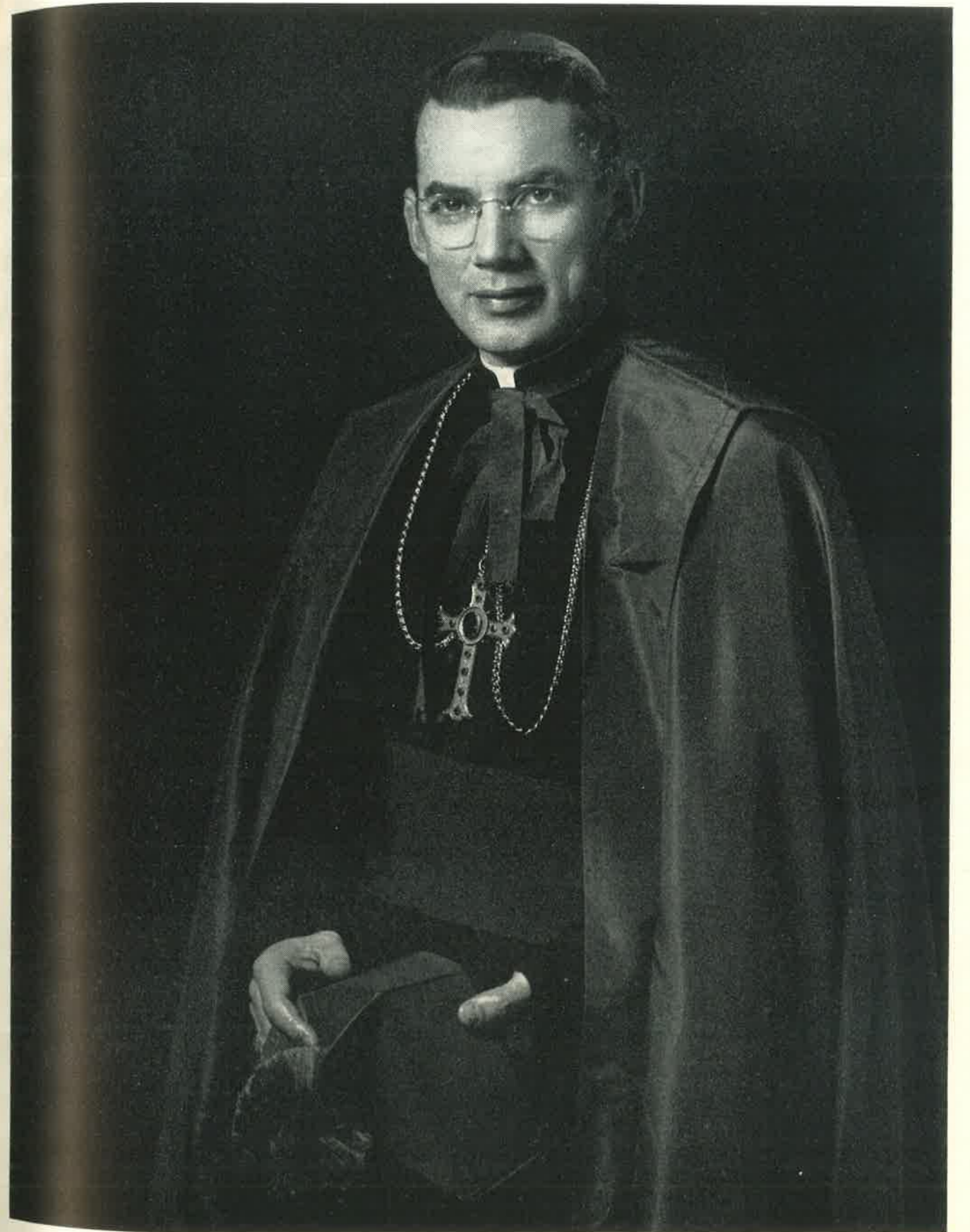
*The Officers and Members of the
ST. STEPHEN'S SOCIETY*



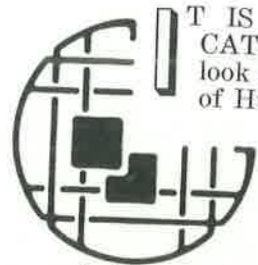
Most Reverend Joseph T. McGucken, S.T.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles

*To our Pastor and Congregation we offer our
congratulations and best wishes on the occasion
of this Silver Jubilee. Our organization will
continue the support of God's Church.*

*The Officers and Members of the
ST. EMERY SOCIETY*



Most Reverend Timothy Manning, D.D., J.C.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles



IT IS WITH SATISFACTION THE BISHOP AND THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE GENERALLY look forward to the dedication of a church for the Catholics of Hungarian birth and extraction in our city. A church stabilizes and anchors a community and is a powerful factor for the development of the best type of citizens. The good priest who is in charge of the church will emphasize in season and out of season, the importance of the doctrines of obedience, of mercy and justice, of kindness and love. And these virtues are most desirable.

No race has overcome successfully more difficulties in this country than the Hungarian people. The Hungarian language is so different from all other languages that the early immigrants found it hard to get their place in the community. It is now a long time since Count Beldy and his three companions, Boloni, Wesselenyi and Balogh arrived in this country. They were pioneers, personifying in themselves the noble traditions of the Hungarian race. The great patriot, Louis Kossuth, whose name is honored wherever liberty is loved, came to this country as far back as 1851. It was not until the decade between 1899 and 1909 that immigration from Hungary developed and reached its highest peak. Hungary has now given to the United States honorable citizens of over three-quarters of a million. The Hungarians gave, as did other immigrants of this country, labor and toil and sweat in the great Eastern and Middlewest cities, in factories, in iron works and in mines. The names of many an Hungarian child of American birth is found on the honor-roll of those who fought under the Stars and Stripes in the World War.

The United States expects that those who come to its shores from abroad will bring with them the finest characteristics of their race and contribute a mighty share to the development of this Western Republic. The Hungarian people adown the ages, yield to none in their love of patriotism and in their desire for freedom. They cherish their homes; they respect their women, and they govern their children in discipline and in love. Hungary has given to us a great literature, and a fine appreciation for music and poetry and art. Its houses of parliament at Budapest are evidences of a great architectural achievement, as is also the great Cathedral of Kaschau. Numerous monasteries dot plain and mountain, reminding us that Hungary was once governed by a king who was also a saint. Saint Stephen received the venerable crown that he passed down to a long line of successors, from Pope Sylvester the II. No wonder, knowing these things, that we of Los Angeles rejoice when the Hungarian people come together to do as their forefathers often did, to dedicate a church to the glory of God that will perpetuate among us the noblest traditions of a noble and historic race. We are confident that this new church will grow in numbers and they who come in and out of its portals will be models of Christian virtue and practice, and exemplars of the highest type of American patriotism.

JOHN J. CANTWELL,
Bishop of Los Angeles and San Diego



His Excellency Most Reverend John J. Cantwell, former Archbishop of Los Angeles

The Saint Stephen's parish prayerfully remembers Archbishop John J. Cantwell for his generosity and assistance in establishing the Hungarian Mission in the City of the Angels.

Under his fatherly care, we grew and prospered.

Archbishop Cantwell visited Hungary in 1934 and in 1938 during the Eucharistic Congress. His letter from Budapest expressed his joy over the reception he received in Hungary. "The weather is warm, but not warmer than the reception I received from your countrymen."

Archbishop Cantwell's guiding hand helped us to our 25th Anniversary and we gratefully remember him in our prayers.

*The Altar Society join in salutations to our Pastor
on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Parish.
We pledge our continued cooperation in the
service of God.*

*The Officers and Members of the
ALTAR SOCIETY*



Right Reverend Monsignor John Cawley, P.A., Vicar General of Los Angeles

The former Vicar-General demonstrated a great sympathy and understanding of the problems of the newly established Saint Stephen's Parish. Among his acts of kindness was the offer of the use of the Cathedral Hall for meetings for our organizations. In later years, he graciously celebrated Solemn High Mass on the Feast Day of Saint Stephen and always evidenced a deep interest in the welfare of our Parish.

His memory will always be revered in the hearts of our members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH AND FATHER LANI.
I gratefully acknowledge the spiritual support I received
from Father Lani especially in days of grave sorrows, and
the enjoyment of many interesting discussions and pleasant
memories. He was a true friend of my late dear mother and
my beloved sister. With best wishes,

Cordially,

THEODORE von KARMAN



Rev. Father Mathias Lani, Pastor of St. Stephen's Church





A SZENVEDŐ MAGYARSÁG
MEGSEGÍTŐJÉNEK

LANI

MATYÁSNAK

A MEGMENTETT ÉLETEK,
FELSZÁRITOTT KÖNNYEK,
HALÁS EMLÉKEZETÉÜL.
BUDAPEST, 1948. JÚL. 16.

Handwritten signature: Mindszenty József

Testimonial to Father Lani given by Cardinal Mindszenty.
Anerkennungs Urkunde von Kardinal Mindszenty für Vater Lani. — Mindszenty bíboros elismerő oklevele Father Láninak.



Az ezer sebből vérző szülőhazának s otthonélő testvéreinknek minden reménye bennünk, amerikai magyarokban volt, hogy a szükség nehéz óráiban ott fogunk mellettük állani. És reménységükben nem csalódtak. Ott volt szeretetünk minden melege és dollárjaink segítsége...

BLESSED VIRGIN CHILDREN'S HOME
FOR PRETUBERCULOTIC CHILDREN,
CALLED TO LIFE BY CONTRIBUTIONS
OF WAR RELIEF SERVICES N.C.W.C.,
CARITAS CATHOLICA BELGICA,
SCHWEIZERISCHER CARITAS VERBAND,
CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF ABROAD,
AND FATHER MATTHEW LANI,
CONSECRATED BY HIS EMINENCE
CARDINAL PRINCE PRIMATE
JOSEPH MINDSZENTY

Signature: Sigismund Mihalovits
PROTOKOTARIUS
GENERAL LEADER OF ACTIO CATHOLICA

TESTVÉRSEGÍTÉS-MAGYARSEGÍTÉS
BETEG MAGYAR GYERMEKSEGÍTÉS
Nagyboldogasszony üdülő los angelesi dollárjai

Közel negyedmillió dollárt tett ki az összeg, melyet pénzben s gyógyszerekben gyűjtött a helyi akció. Büszkén regisztráljuk e sikert, hála a magyar akarásnak...

1946 a katolikus intézmények kritikus esztendeje volt. Az Actio Catolica akkori vezetője, Mihalovits Zsigmond kanonok emberfeletti energiával kísérelte meg a lerombolt intézményeket talpra állítani. Ezek között volt a pretuberkulotikus gyermekszanatórium.

Kérő szava eljutott a nagy intézményekhez, akik szívesen siettek segítségére. Plébánosunkhoz is írt, kérve a segítségét. Így a világot átfogó intézmények adományához ő is hozzájárult az intézmény üzembe helyezéséhez és neve a fenti okmányban van megörökítve.

A Nagyboldogasszony Gyermeeküdülő gyengetűdejü gyermekeknek ad lehetőséget, kellemes és egészséges környezetben lerongyolt egészségüket helyreállítani. Nővérek vezetése mellett iskolájuk van, képzett ápolónők pedig ügyelnek a kicsinyekre. A gondozottak legnagyobb része elvesztette szüleit és otthontalanul járta az utcákat, jószívü emberek adományaiból tengetve életüket. Itt új otthont találtak, szerető és gondos nővéreket, akik szüleiket pótolva nevelik őket az életre. És ezt az intézményt is segítették a los angelesi akció összegyűjtött dollárjai a plébános révén.



Children's Home rebuilt through the help of our Parish.
Kinderheim errichtet durch die Hilfe unserer Kirche. Fenti képünk az otthon előtt játszó gyermekeket ábrázolja.



Cardinal Mindszenty speaks to the children.
Kardinal Mindszenty spricht zu den Kindern. Az otthon megáld Mindszenty bíboros beszél a gyermekekhez.



KÁPLÁNJAINK...

Dr. Gerencsér István piarista tanár volt az egyházközség első káplánja. Az összeomlás után Németországba menekült, ahol agilisán beállt a menekültek gondozásába. Szervező képessége hamarosan a lelki gondozás élére állította, főleg lelkigyakorlatai maradtak szép emlékei azoknak, akik végighallgatták.

A piarista rend hivatása az ifjúság nevelése és lelképásztori munkája csak ideiglenes volt. A kimenukült rendtagok Buffalóban piarista rendházat alapítottak és így Father Gerencsér is csatlakozott keleten élő rendtársaihoz, hogy ott középiskolát alapítsanak.

Az egyházközségben a spanyol hívek lelki gondozása, valamint magyar szentbeszédei voltak kiemelkedők.



Father Armando Salazar lett Father Gerencsér utóda. Los angelesi születésű fiatal pap, aki folytatta a megkezdett spanyol munkát és átvette az angol egyháztalagok gondozását. Megnyerő modora hamarosan kapcsolatba hozta az egyházközség fiatalságával. Sajnálattal kellett tudomásul vennünk az érseki intézkedést, amely központi jótékonyági intézményekhez osztotta be.



Az egyháztalagok kérésére Father Láni magyar papot kért az érsekségtől. A körünkben már ismert Father Nagy József angol plébánián működött, honnan az érsek áthelyezte a mi egyházközségünkhöz.

Father Nagy látja el a magyar és spanyol hívek lelki szükségleteit. Mint nyelvész, vasárnaponként rendszeresen három nyelven beszél a templomban.

Father Nagyt a világegés szintén menekülésre kényszerítette hazájából és így jobban megérti a menekültek gondolkozását és érzésvilágát.

SILVER JUBILEE

AT

ST. STEPHEN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

3705 Woodlawn Avenue

Los Angeles, California

* * *

SOLEMN HIGH MASS OF THANKSGIVING

JUNE 14, 1953, 10:00 A.M.

* * *

HIS EMINENCE J. FRANCIS CARDINAL McINTYRE,
Presiding

* * *

RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR THOMAS J. O'DWYER,
Celebrant

REVEREND JOSEPH NAGY,
Deacon

REVEREND ARMANDO SALAZAR,
Subdeacon

Sermon by

REVEREND MATHIAS LANI,
Pastor

MISSA IN HONOREM B.M.V. OF MARIA ZELL
by Josef Gruber

4 Voices Mixed Choir

by

St. Stephen's Parish Choir - Rev. Mathias Lani, Conductor

Olga M. Lindner, Organist



EVENING PROGRAM WILSHIRE EBELL THEATRE

4401 West Eighth Street

Los Angeles, California

JUNE 14, 1953, 8:30 P.M.

HIS EXCELLENCY
MOST REVEREND TIMOTHY MANNING, AUXILIARY BISHOP
Guest of Honor

Presentation of Flags.....
"The Star Splanged Banner".....*Francis Scott Key*
St. Stephen's Parish Junior Orchestra - Rev. Mathias Lani, Director
Greeting in English, German, Spanish and Hungarian.....*Rev. Mathias Lani*
"Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 15".....*Frank Kunszabo, Pianist*
Address in Hungarian.....*Alex Jubasz*
President, St. Stephen's Society
"Kyrie", "Gloria", "Sanctus", "Agnus Dei".....*Joseph Gruber*
St. Stephen's Parish Choir - Rev. Mathias Lani, Director
Olga M. Lindner, Organist
Address in German.....*John Kramer*
Secretary, St. Emmerly's Society

NATIONAL DANCES

"Minuet" from Don Juan.....*Wolfgang A. Mozart*
Joanne Gray and Paul Rusnak
"Charrevias".....*Spanish Folk Dance*
K. Mathews & Barbara Sinclair
"Chiapanecas".....*Spanish Folk Dance*
Perlita Rios, Catherine & Barbara Jean Bozowich
German Folk Dances.....
Stefanie Leth, Liesl Volltrauer, Helen Perenz, Werner Kubn,
George Merliand, Josef Thuer
"Hungarian Dance No. 5".....*Brahms*
"Csardas".....*Hungarian Folk Dance*
Josef Filian, Erna Eisl, Franz Seifert, Maria Kucharek, Josef Thuer,
Helen Perenz, Werner Kubn, Stefi Leth, Georg Merli, Liesl Volltrauer
Address in Spanish.....*Gilbert Bernal*
"O, Morning Star! How Fair and Bright" A Capella.....*Johann Sebastian Bach*
"Praise the Lord" Choral Motette, A Capella.....*Diestler*
"Since by Man Came Death" from The Messiah.....*George Handel*
St. Stephen's Parish Choir - Rev. Mathias Lani, Director
Olga M. Lindner, Pianist
Address by His Excellency, Most Reverend Timothy Manning, Auxiliary Bishop
"Schwabian National Anthem".....*St. Stephen's Parish Junior Orchestra*
"Hungarian National Anthem".....*St. Stephen's Parish Junior Orchestra*
Reverend Mathias Lani, Director

The Ladies' Sodality is pleased to extend greetings to our Pastor and our Congregation on this happy occasion. That the Parish will continue to enjoy the blessing of God is our heartfelt prayer.

*The Officers and Members of the
LADIES' SODALITY*



OUR BRIEF HISTORY

The Church of St. Stephen, dedicated to the first saint of Hungary, King Stephen, was founded in Los Angeles, the City of the Angels, also known as the motion picture capital of America. This fact has induced us to write this History of the Church after the style of a film script, recording in chronological order the most important events in the life of the parish.

Characters and Persons: Any similarity to living persons is not accidental, but a true statement of facts. As in the life of a human being, it is impossible to record all the events, only fragments can be registered and only snapshots and pictures shown.

The story of St. Stephen's is filled with the joy and sadness of incredible triumphs and failures from the beginning until today. If our simple narrative should sound uninteresting to the reader, it is only due to our poor literary ability and expression.

This memory book is the projector of the film showing the life of St. Stephen's Church in Los Angeles.

We do not believe that anything in God's world is accidental. It is our firm belief that events seemingly having no connection or premeditated significance are well planned by God even though we cannot penetrate through the veil of secrecy over God's mind.

Was it accidental that because of illness a Hungarian Sister came to Southern California, and being inspired by the love of God and souls, began visiting the Hungarian friends urging them to gather at the Cathedral Hall for community prayers and singing. As a result of these meetings, this small group became the nucleus of the future Church.

Was it accidental that just at this time a Hungarian Missionary on his way to China made a stop-over in Los Angeles and at the invitation of



Die ersten Mitglieder der Kirche, 1928.

The first congregation in 1928.

Az Egyházközség első tagjai 1928-ban.

The Silver Jubilee of St. Stephen's Parish is an occasion of great joy to the Holy Name Society. We extend our heartfelt greetings to our beloved Pastor and the Congregation.

*The Officers and Members of the
HOLY NAME SOCIETY*



this small group gave a mission for the Hungarians at the Cathedral. The fruit of this mission was the desire and determination to organize a Hungarian Parish in this great city with so many Hungarians and to have their own priest, who speaks their language and is able to attend all their spiritual needs. The St. Stephen's Benevolent Society was organized for the purpose of mutual assistance in the work and for procuring a parish priest. This Society remained the backbone of the Hungarian Parish during its existence.

Sister Fredericka Horvath, the present Superior of the Social Service Sisters of Los Angeles is the good Sister who helped the people in their organization and Father Gaspar Lischerong, S. J. who is still in China as a Missionary, is the good Father who gave the first Mission for the Hungarians in Los Angeles.

Was it accidental that just at this time, a retired priest from Canada, who had learned the Hungarian language from antiquated books, was

Father Lani and Sister Clothild plant tree in front of the Rectory, 1929.
Vater Lani und Schwester Klotild pflanzen Palme vor dem Pfarrhause, 1929.
Father Láni és Klotild nővér pálmát ültetnek az új magyar plébánia előtt, 1929-ben.



Die Erste Kommunion Klasse, 1929 The First Holy Communion Class, 1928 Az első szentáldozási osztály, 1928-ban

Tempломunk tervező építésének
FELLEGI EMILNEK EMLÉKÉRE

szeretettel köszöntik a jubiláló

Egyházközséget

és az egyházalapító plébánost,

Father Láni Mátyást

FELLEGI EMILNÉ és LÁSZLÓ ALADÁR
CSALÁDJÁVAL



in Los Angeles. Listening to him one thought of a fairy stepping out of a hundred-year-old story-book. He accepted the task of organizing the new parish. The initial difficulties of the new parish proved too heavy a task for the old gentleman, who notwithstanding his love for souls did not feel competent to undertake the job of organizing the work, with all the problems. So the young congregation was orphaned after a few weeks.

Could it be accidental that another Jesuit visiting in Los Angeles, giving another Mission, met the present pastor in Bridgeport, Conn., knew of his desire to return to his native land and might be persuaded to accept the task of establishing the Hungarian parish in Los Angeles.

Was it accidental that the question of Bishop Cantwell:

"My dear Father Raile, if you name a priest who is willing to accept this difficult assignment, organizing a Hungarian parish, I will gladly give permission to have a Hungarian parish here in Los Angeles." The challenge was accepted and Father Raile mentioned the name of Father Mathias Lani of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

On February 24, 1928, the following telegram was sent to Father Lani:



Provincial Superior of the California Province of the Sisters of Social Service.
Fredericka Horvath, Sociale Schwester
Horváth Frederika, szociális testvér



Erste Firmung, 1928

The First Confirmation Class, 1928

Első bérmálási osztály

A

Californiai Magyarság

a távolnyugati magyarság érdekeiért harminc esztendeje küzd. Ott volt sok magyar intézmény megszületésénél és ott volt a Szent István Egyházközség és templomának megvalósulásánál is. A negyedszázados jubileum alkalmával büszke örömmel állapítja meg az Egyházközség gyönyörű fejlődését és az eredménydus munkálkodásért őszinte szívvvel köszönti az áldozatkész tagságot és fáradhatatlan plébánosukat, Father Láni Mátyást, kinek munkája nélkül nem lehetett volna ilyen teljes siker egyházi életünkben.

SABADOS V. ZOLTÁN, szerkesztő-tulajdonos
és neje, valamint fiai: Zoltán Vilmos, Ronald
Victor és Richard Gyula



"I invite you to Los Angeles to take care of my Hungarian people."

Bishop Cantwell

Father Lani arrived on April 19, 1928 and was met by Sister Fredericka of the Social Service Order. Deeply impressed by the California sunshine and the warm reception, Father Lani decided to get busy without any delay and start the work of organizing a parish. With the permission of the Bishop, he dedicated it to St. Stephen, King of Hungary.

The transportation problem was the most urgent, since the Hungarian people were scattered all over this wide-spread city and in order to enable the newly appointed pastor to visit the parishioners, transportation was provided through the generosity of the Bishop. Then permission was obtained and through the kindness of Father Krzeminsky, the Polish Priest, a Hungarian Mass was said every Sunday at the Polish Church on 52nd Street and Towne Avenue.

The attention of the new pastor was focused on the children and their urgent need for religious instruction. The first Summer School was held in the garage at the Presentation Church. The number of children grew rapidly and larger quarters had to be procured. Monsignor O'Gorman of Holy Cross Parish kindly gave permission to use his school during the summer months to teach the children. Again, the transportation problem was the main difficulty. So, the pastor after an early Mass, started his rounds to pick up the children from all parts of the city. A daily distance of 250 miles had to be made in order to transport these children to school and home. There were as many as 18 children in a four passenger car, but in spite of being packed in like sardines in a can, they sang joyously the Hungarian Folk melodies they had learned.

Father Lani at first was a guest at Our Lady of Sorrows Rectory and when quarters were needed for parish purposes he accepted the hospitality of the Smith family where he lived until the new parish house was opened on Woodlawn Avenue. Here we wish to record our gratitude to the Smith Family for their kindness, praying upon them God Almighty's blessing.

Learning of Father Lani's talent and ability as a fine musician, Monsignor John Cawley, rector of the Cathedral, invited him to teach the children's choir so that they might partake in all the



Sister Klotild Meleg, Sister of Social Service
Klotild, Sociale Schwester - Klotild szociális testvér



Sister Mercedes Jackson, Sister of Social Service
Mercedes, Sociale Schwester - Mercedes szociális testvér



GREETINGS
FROM THE
APOSTOLADO



services. Monsignor Cawley always had a warm heart and a deep interest in this struggling young parish and its many problems. The old Cathedral Hall became the center of all Hungarian Parish activities. A Young Ladies' Sodality under the leadership of Sister Fredericka, assisted greatly in raising funds for parish needs. The Knights of Columbus, Council No. 621, helped us with our first Bazaar in the Old Council Building on Sixth and Flower Streets. Later, they donated their organ to the parish, which was in use for many years.

At the suggestion of Monsignor Cawley, we were on the alert for a proper, centrally located place to build a Church for the Hungarian people. Since these people were living all over the city, the geographical center of the city with good public transportation had to be found. Father Lani took the map of the City, pointed with his finger to the center of the map, saying:

"This is where our Church should be."

The point was Santa Barbara Avenue and Broadway.

Was it accidental that just at this time a family estate, the present site of the parish, was for sale? Three family dwellings were bought, the first



May Procession.
Mái ProzeSSION.
Májusi körmenet.

Children in the Procession.
Kinder in der ProzeSSION.
Gyermekek a körmenetben.

designated for the parish house, the center one for the church and the third for a social hall. Busy hands started the work of remodeling. The pastor leading the crew, knew very little about building and his crew knew even less. The only furniture



Weihnachts Spiel in der Neuen Halle, 1938

Christmas Pageant in the New Parish Hall, 1931

Karácsonyi ünnepély hallunkban 1931-ben

*Hol hit, ott szeretet,
Hol szeretet, ott áldás,
Hol áldás, ott béke,
Hol béke, ott Isten,
Hol Isten, ott szükség nincsen*

*DR. & MRS. JOSEPH KOVÁTS
and
DR. JULIUS JOSEPH KOVÁTS*



Hungarian Pageant. Church Float, Hungarian Day, 1935 - Ungarischer Blumenwagen bei dem Ungarischen Tag, 1935 - Egyházi díszkocsi a Magyar Napon, 1935

GREETINGS

from

**EUGENE CHERPIN
WINERY**

1152 SO. POPLAR STREET

FONTANA, CALIF.

Telephone: 4913

A Szent István Egyházközség huszonöt éves jubileuma alkalmával az tagságot és egyházalapító plébánosát, Father Láni Mátyást, őszinte magyar szeretettel köszönti és további sikereket

kíván

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Compliments and Best Wishes to Father Mathias Lani
and St. Stephen's Congregation



in the new parish house was an old bed and a piano left by the family when they moved out. The first resident of the house, was the famous cat of the Social Service Sisters, who moved in with the pastor, causing quite a disturbance every night after a busy day.

Kind-hearted parishioners, visiting the parish house for the first time, brought their little gifts in furnishings and other necessities of housekeeping for the parish.

The work completed, the dedication of the Church took place on the sixth of April, 1930. The pastor as foreman and his crew would never have been able to get ready if Mr. Jakob Jordan, Father Lani's cousin, an expert carpenter and cabinet maker, would not have come to his rescue from Chicago. To him also a sincere and hearty thanks.

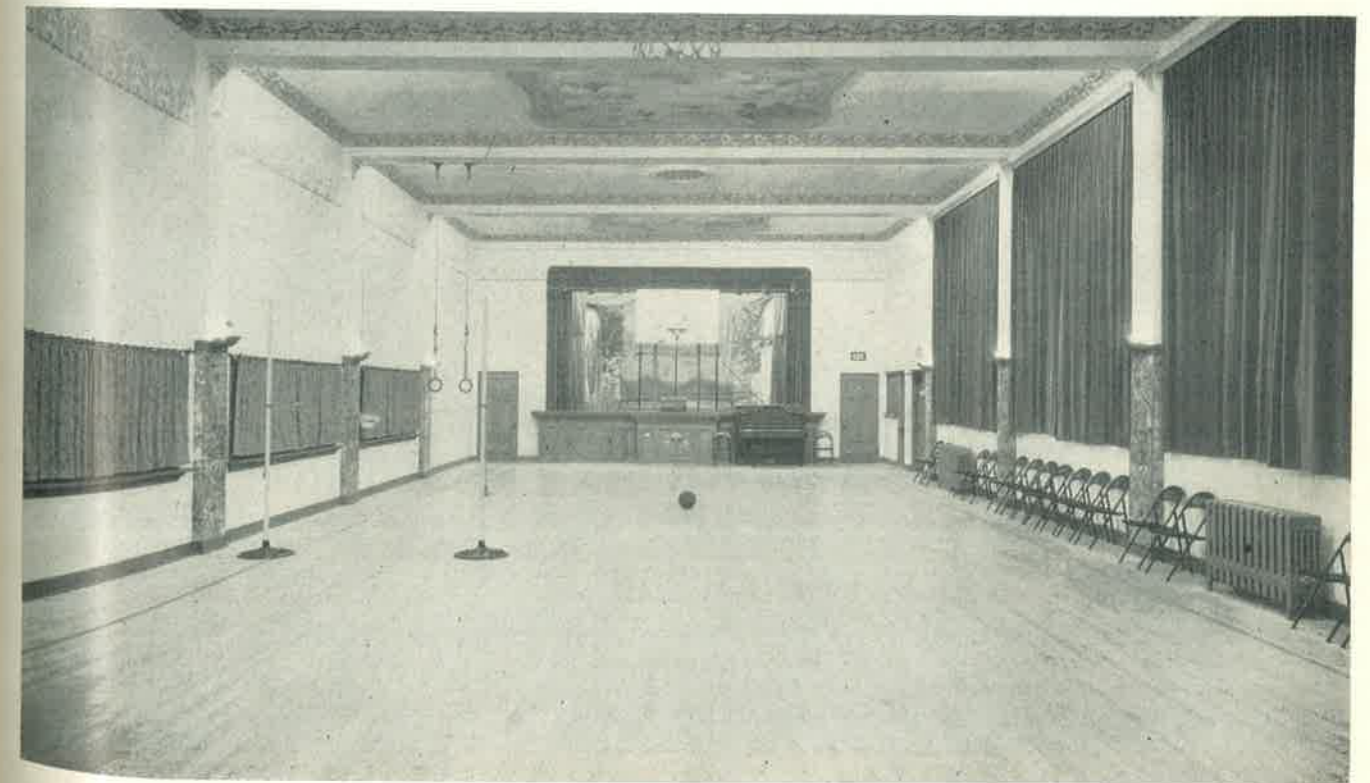
In 1929, through Mr. Philip Lenhardt, Father Lani learned about another group of Los Angeles, who emigrated from the same part of Europe where Father was born. They are German-speaking people, who were also without a Church or a priest. They begged Father Lani to help them in their spiritual needs and to set aside a Mass on Sundays with a German sermon. On the day of the Dedication, this group was well represented at



May procession
Mai Procession Mójusi körmenet

the Church and at the banquet in the Knights of Columbus Hall on Manchester Avenue. To this day they are staunch and faithful members of the Church.

In our cultural life, the youth group took the leadership, with American-born German and Hun-



Turnsaal

Gymnasium

Tornaterem

*Szeretettel köszöntjük az Egyházközséget alapító
és 25 esztendőöt szolgáló plébánost, Főtisztelendő
Láni Mátyást és a boldogan ünneplő tagokat*

**DR. PUSKÁS ZOLTÁN
MRS HELEN Z. PUSKÁS
HELEN PUSKÁS**



garian members. The need for an adequate place for all the social activities became so acute that in 1931 permission had to be obtained to build an auditorium with a regular modern stage and athletic facilities. Operettas and legitimate stage shows were the principal projects of this group. We still recall those glorious days in the past, when under the able direction of our Alex Gubanyi, they sang the famous theme song:

"I don't see how you do it . . . Neither do I! Neither do I!"

We have often wondered how we could build and progress in our parish work.

These young people contributed greatly to our material and cultural progress.

Not to be outdone in their contribution of work for the parish and in true European pride of an orderly, immaculately clean and shining house, the women worked together in the Ladies' Sodality and Altar Society, performing the many duties that add to the comfort and beauty of life.

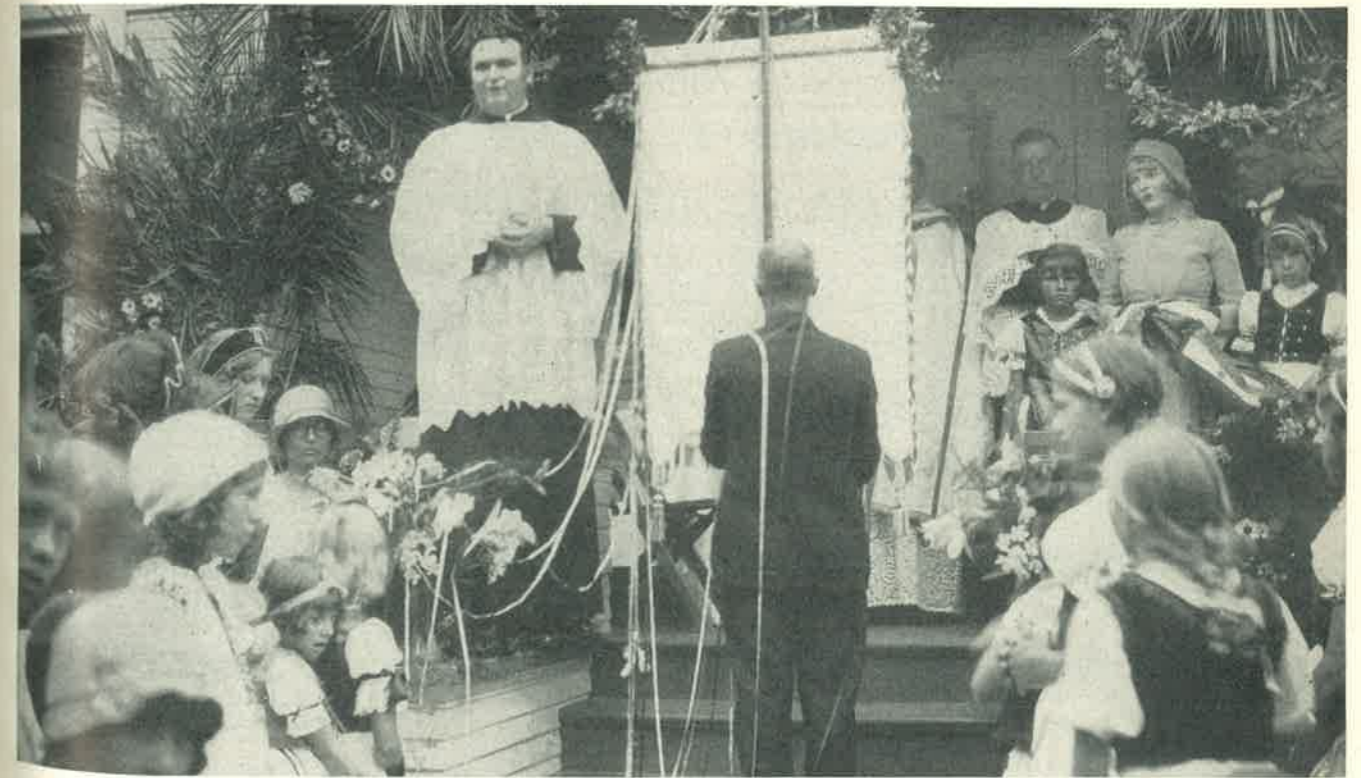
We cannot be forgetful of the initial donation for the establishment of our parish from the Extension Society in Chicago of \$1,000, enabling us to remodel our first chapel which served us for



Queen of May in the Procession. — Maienkenigin in der Procession. — Május királynője a körmenetben

12 years until the auditorium was remodeled for Church use.

The Hungarian government, being informed of this new Hungarian settlement on the Pacific Coast lent assistance by sending Hungarian school



Father Lani speaks at Dedication of Hungarian Flag, 1931.

Father Láni a magyar zászlószentelésnél beszél, 1931.

*Sziből köszöntjük az ünneplő Egyházközség
közszeretett plébánosát, Ft. Láni Mátyást
és minden egyes tagját a 25 éves jubileum
alkalmából és további sikereket kívánnak*

DR. JOHN MAJOROS
MRS. SUSAN MAJOROS
SUSAN MAJOROS
ROSEMARY JUDITH MAJOROS



books and a small library for the use of the parishioners. The Ladies of Budapest embroidered a beautiful Hungarian banner, which was dedicated in a solemn manner according to old Hungarian custom. Laura Nemeth was elected as Mother of the Flag and Monsignor Cawley blessed the flag. This flag was the tie which held this congregation together for all these years because the Blessed Mother in whose honor the flag was made, protected her people.

1933 was an important year in the spiritual life of the Church. Two visiting Dominican Fathers, Cornel Bole of blessed memory and Bertalan Badalik, the present Bishop of Veszprem, in Hungary, stayed with us for six weeks, giving Missions in Hungarian and German, with a great spiritual revival and benefit. Their memory and their inspired words are still living among us.

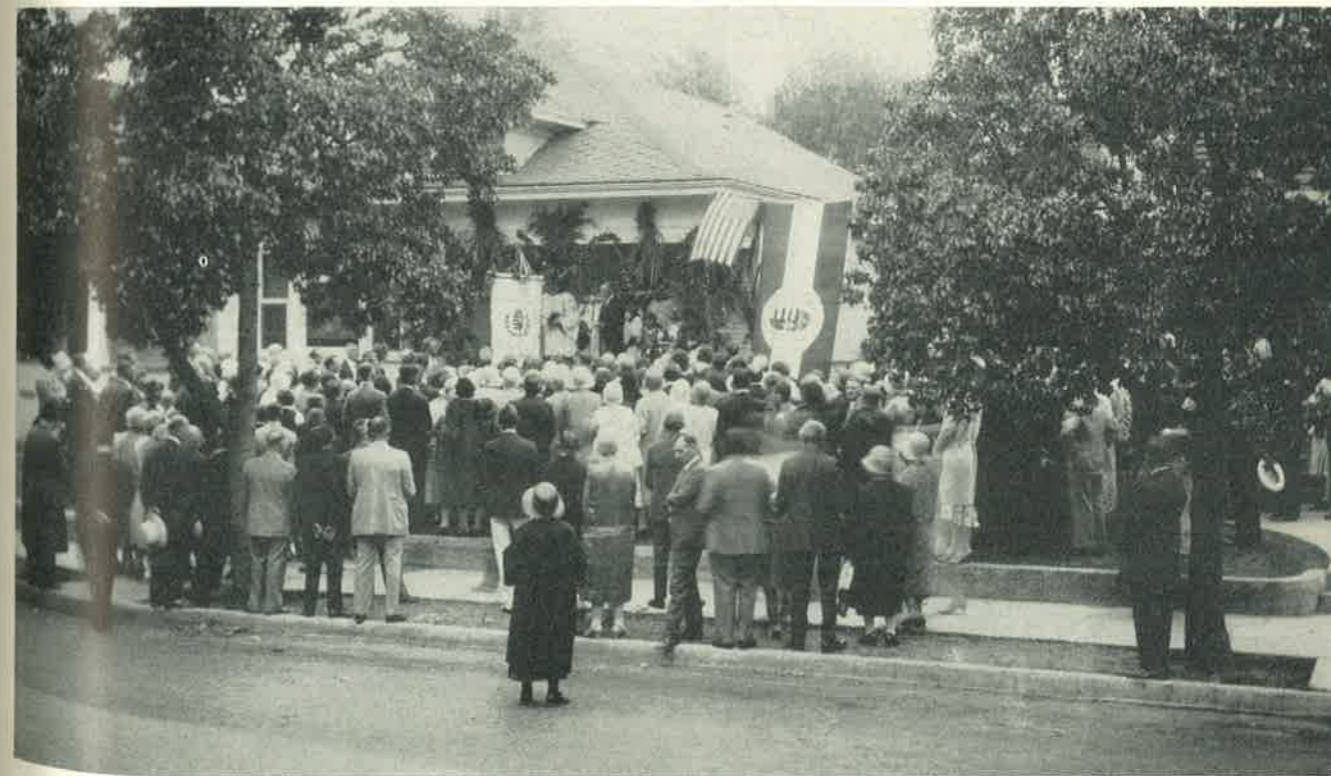
The great economic depression could not leave us without a struggle for existence.

The individuals being distressed could not support the Church, and consequently, no progress could be made in the development of the parish for a time. These bleak years of struggle, as time moves on, fades in our memory and we do not wish to revive their bitterness.



The First Girls Club
Der Erste Maedchen Verein — Az első leányklub

1937 marks a memorable time for our parish. Bishop Lajos Shvoy of Szekesfehervar, Hungary, honored our parish with a visit. His mission to the United States was to invite the hierarchy, as well as the clergy and the faithful, to the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Budapest, in 1938.



Ungarische Fahnenweihe, 1931.

Dedication of Hungarian Flag, 1931

Magyar zászlószentelés, 1931.

Igaz magyar szeretettel köszöntjük az ünneplő Szent István Egyházközséget és annak alapító plébánosát, Father Láni Mátyást és további sikerekben gazdag évfordulókat kívánnak

DR. & MRS. GEORGE T. BAKÁCS



His presence in our midst was a great spiritual influence because he was the first Bishop from Hungary to visit an outpost of Hungarian culture and Catholic faith. It seems that the spiritual blessing was followed by material well-being, so that the original small chapel proved inadequate and plans were made to remodel our auditorium into the present church.

The clouds of war already hovered over Europe and soon the storm broke loose, sweeping our country into World War II. Our own sons and daughters soon appeared in uniform of military service, leaving for the dangerous missions in war zones. The worry and anxiety for our own, was added to the deep concern for our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters still living in Europe. The prayer for Peace, recited after Mass, became the most fervently recited prayer. Our minds and hearts yearned for nothing else but peace. Communications broken with our relatives tortured us day and night, in a horrible nightmare of troubled thoughts. Realization of the work of gearing resources and workers for the saddest and still most glorious chapter of our parish life became our new purpose.

"Relief, Relief!" was the battle cry and the



Children in the Summer School, 1930. — Kinder in der Sommerschule, 1930. — Gyermek a nyári iskolában, 1930.

American-Hungarian Relief, Incorporated, was born in our parish office with organizations represented in the meeting of August 15, 1944. The purpose of the organization was to extend the greatest possible relief in the fastest manner to



Banquet in the Parish Auditorium, Bon Voyage, to Father Lani, 1933.
Bankett im Auditorium zu Ehren des Vater Lani, 1933.

Bucsubanquet Father Láni tiszteletére, európai utja előtt.

In Memory of
THOMAS EDWARD BOYLE
and
ROBERT ARTHUR BOYLE

Compliments of
**BOYLE SCHOOL FOR
 EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**
Mrs. Emma Florence Boyle



our stricken homeland. In our own city, St. Stephen's parish took the lead and the first donations poured in from the generous priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. In three short weeks, \$12,000.00 were collected. The first aid to Hungary was given by our local Relief Organization, the most needed medicine for \$10,000.00 was sent through Switzerland through the Red Cross. The harmonious collaboration—churches of all denominations, labor and civic—under the leadership of Father Lani, our pastor, resulted in over a quarter of a million dollars worth of money and goods sent to Hungary.

The Prince Primate, Cardinal Archbishop, Josef Mindszenty, now imprisoned, sent in recognition of our pastor's service to Hungary, a commemorative plaque with the inscription:

"TO THE REVEREND MATHIAS LANI IN MEMORY FOR THE MANY LIVES SAVED, FOR THE MANY TEARS DRIED, . . . GRATEFULLY, JOSEF MINDSZENTY."

The inroads made by Communism forced a great number of Hungarians to flee their country and to take refuge in Austria and Germany. In Tito's land in Yugoslavia, the German people, the



Sister Klotild and Parish Women on Retreat.
 Schwester Klotild und Frauen der Kirchengemeinde.
 Klotild nővér a lelkigyakorlatozó hitközségi asszonyokkal.

blood relatives of our own parishioners, were herded into concentration camps with the purpose of exterminating them all. Over 250,000 men, women and children starved to death and only the mass graves bear testimony to their torture, suf-



Firmung mit Erzbischoff Cantwell, 1937.

Confirmation Class with Archbishop Cantwell, 1937

Bérmálási osztály és Cantwell érsek, 1937.

1928

1953

SOK SZERENCSE

és boldog ünneplést kíván Father Láninak és az Egyházközség minden egyes tagjának a 25 éves jubileum alkalmával őszinte nagyrabecsüléssel

DEUTSCH HERMAN



fering and starvation. Many of the concentration camp inmates realizing their end in the camp, undertook the risky flight and escaped to Austria and Germany. A second relief movement became imperative and the German members of our parish undertook the task of feeding and clothing these German refugees from Yugoslavia, Hungary and Rumania. No work was too heavy or too much—no sacrifice was too great. They shared all their wealth and poured their hearts into every crate and box which the St. Stephen's Church sent across the ocean to these refugee camps.

The relief work was closely followed by the immigration of displaced persons from Hungary and all other European countries. His Eminence entrusted Father Lani, with this gigantic task and the doors of St. Stephen's Church became the Ellis Island of Los Angeles and the gateway to a new life in security and happiness. Our parish office was the heart of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, through which the generous help was flowing not only to Hungarians and Germans, but a large number of Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Ukranian, Czech, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatia, Slovenian, Slovak, Italian, Russian, Armenian and Greek nationals. Homes and jobs



Monsignor O'Gorman and the Holy Name Society.
Msgr. O'Gorman und the Hl. Name Gesellschaft.
Msgr. O'Gorman és a Szent Név Társulat.

found—children placed in schools, legal, medical, social, and economic problems were all handled through our Church which housed the Archdiocesan Catholic Resettlement Committee.

The initial expenses for the new arrivals were



Ungarischer Ausflug auf der Lugo Ranch, 1931. — Hungarian Picnic at Lugo Ranch — Magyar kirándulás a Lugo Ranchre, 1931.

With Compliments of
JULIUS POLLOCK TRAVEL BUREAU

*With Best Wishes to Father Mathias Lani
and His Congregation*

**UNION FEDERAL SAVINGS
AND LOAN ASSOCIATION**

441 SOUTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



furnished by our office through the generosity and help of our beloved Cardinal Archbishop, who watched with fatherly concern over his children, anxiously observing their progress and welfare. Most of the assurances, giving opportunities for these immigrants, were given by Monsignor Thomas J. O'Dwyer, Director of Hospitals and Institutions of the Archdiocese.

The original Displaced Persons Law did not provide for the immigration of the German Ethnic, our German speaking friends and relatives from Yugoslavia, Hungary, Rumania and Czechoslovakia. Only two years later, in 1950, after an amended law, relief was brought for these people, permitting us to extend again a helping hand to a destitute, homeless people.

Father Lani, while visiting in Europe in 1948, saw the hopeless misery of these hardworking people and upon his return, provided over 1200 opportunities for these people to emigrate. Limited quota numbers did not permit all to come—many of them were left behind and families were separated again.

These new Americans adjusted themselves very quickly, joined their respective national churches and found their place in our societies. They



Guards of Honor at the Tomb of Christ.
Ehrengarde bei dem Hl. Grabe. A Szentsir őrei.

brought new life to many parishes, but their problems still had to be solved in our Resettlement Office. Hospitalization, medical care, legal advice, insurance problems, schooling, income tax and numerous questions made continuation of this work mandatory.



Firmung, 1939. — Confirmation, 1939. — Bérmlás, 1939.

COMPLIMENTS
of
UTTER-McKINLEY MORTUARIES

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Convenient to Family and Friends

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444 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE

DUnkirk 8-2481



Returning to our own parish, the number of families increased with 800 which meant naturally increased activities and services to be rendered to the new members.

Our Benevolent Societies, St. Stephen's and St. Emmerich's provide sick and burial benefits and arrange all their socials so that the parish is for these "Delayed Pilgrims" the social and spiritual home.

Increased number of parishioners' needs could not be fulfilled with one priest in charge and another was requested to come and assist in the work. Our first permanent assistant was Reverend Stephen Gerencser of the Piarist Order, who stayed with us for two years until the Order called him to their newly established institute in Buffalo, New York. Father Armando Salazar succeeded Father Gerencser, who served faithfully for over a year and endeared himself to young and old in our parish until he was transferred by an assignment in another parish.

At the request of Father Lani, the Reverend Father Joseph Nagy was sent to our parish to take care of the European born members of the parish.

Our present activities include social gatherings for the children every week, religious instruction



German Theatre Group.
Deutsche Theater Gruppe. Német színházi csoport.

day and evening classes, orchestra practice for the children, numbering 60, special music classes for the various instruments, choirs, altar societies for German and Hungarian women, sports for the young people, cultural lectures, Holy Name Society for the men, St. Stephen and St. Emmerich



ST. EMMERICH'S VEREIN.
ST. STEPHAN'S JUGENDVEREIN.

St. Stephen's Jugendverein.

St. Stephen's Youth Society.

Szent István ifjúság.

*Gratefully we greet our Pastor,
Father Mathias Lani*



*MR. and MRS. STEVE SZATLOCZKY
MARGIE and BETTY*



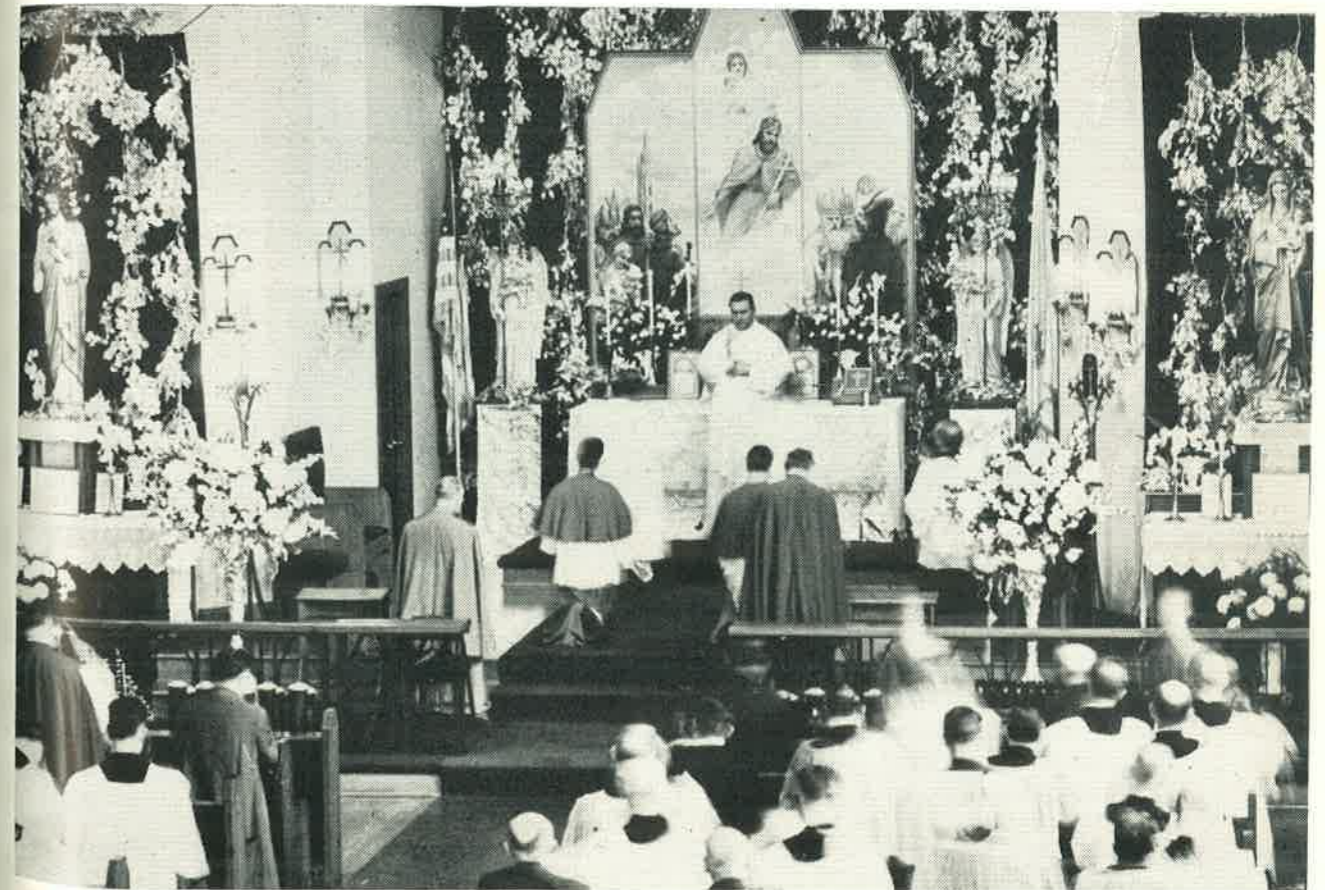
Sick Benefit Societies. In subsequent pages we will briefly record the history and activities of the individual groups and societies.

While our past history gives you a picture of the struggle, the joys and sorrows, successes and failures, our present encourages us to make even greater plans for the future. New properties acquired already for the purpose of building a beautiful new church in thanksgiving for our 25 years of existence and for many of our members in memory of the many benefits they have received through the Church upon their arrival and the initial stages of their life in the United States.

We hope and pray that Almighty God Who Blessed our efforts so abundantly will help us to erect a new house of God in honor of St. Stephen and the Blessed Mother Mary.



Altar Boys and Guards of Honor. — Ministranten und Ehren Wache. — Ministránsok és gárdisták.

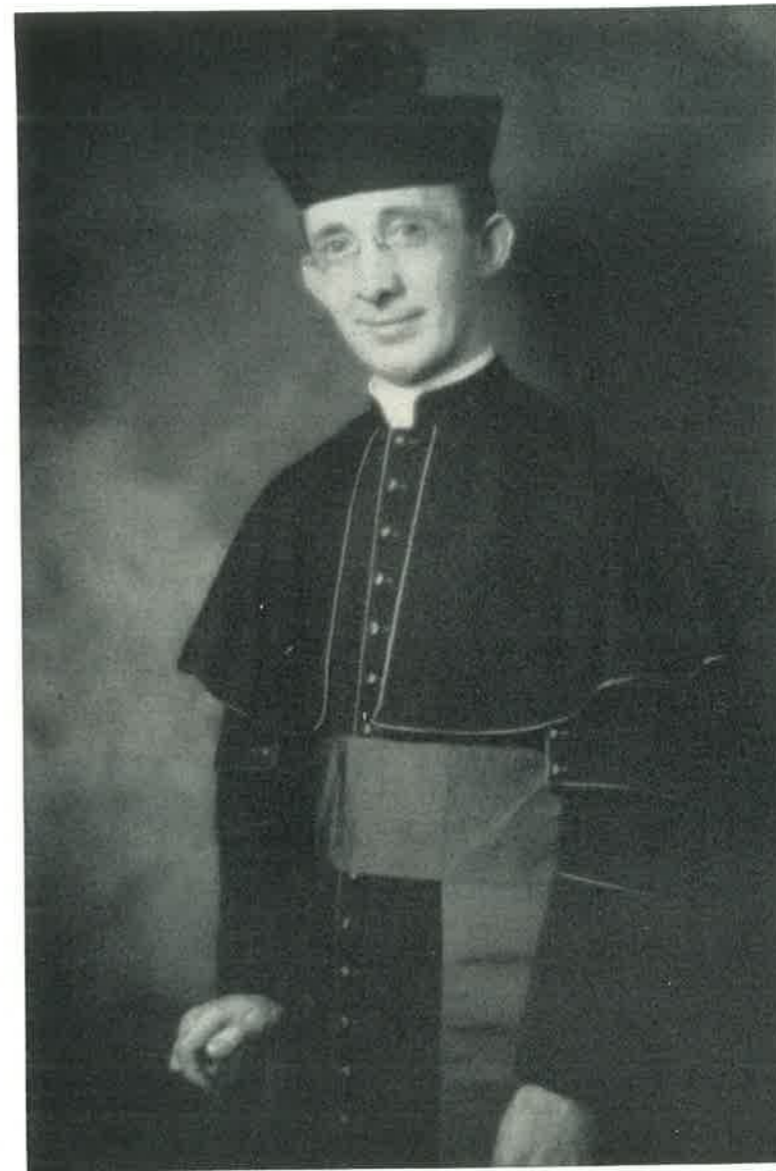


The Church on Father Lani's Silver Jubilee, 1946.
Die Kirche bei dem 25. Jubileum des Pfarrers, 1946.
A templom a plébános 25. éves jubileumán, 1946.

*In memory of our beloved parents
with heartfelt compliments
Father Mathias Lani
and the whole Congregation*



**GEORGE AND ROSE SZATLOCZKY
AND GEORGE STEPHEN, JR.**



RT. REV. MSGR. THOMAS J. O'DWYER, S.T.B.

Msgr. O'Dwyer is Director of Hospitals and Institutions of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

As Director of the Catholic Resettlement Committee of the Archdiocese, Msgr. O'Dwyer has shown himself to be an untiring friend of the Displaced Persons. He has taken a deep interest in the program of resettlement and has given to the cause his inspiration and guidance.