

Local

Church needs larger home

By STEPHANIE WILLIAMS
Battalion Reporter
After 25 years of existence, St. Mary's Catholic Church is experiencing growing pains.
"We estimate there's probably 800 people per Sunday," said the Rev. Bill Brooks, St. Mary's assistant pastor. Church capacity is about 800 people a service.
Brooks said Texas A&M University's increasing enrollment has led to even more parishioners attending the already overcrowded church services.
Having to stand in the aisles during the service makes it difficult for families and students to worship, Brooks said.
The Rev. Al Palermo, St. Mary's pastor, said, "It's getting to the point where they (parishioners) don't want to come because

they're standing outside."
In an effort to ease the overcrowded conditions, St. Mary's added a 10:30 a.m. service at the A&M Consolidated High School auditorium.
Brooks said, "It's like an annex of St. Mary's to grab the overflow of people." The first Sunday service at the high school had a turnout of almost 400 people, he said.
To ease St. Mary's growing pains, plans for a new church are in progress.
A census was taken at all St. Mary's services Sept. 13 to receive comments from the parishioners about the possibility and need for a new parish.
Palermo said the census, directed at both families and students, requested information such as how many parishioners would stay

at St. Mary's and how many would use the new church.
Several questions referred to family and individual income, Palermo said, to discover if students and families could afford and would be willing to help finance a new parish.
The results of the census have not been calculated, he said, but funding, land and approval from the bishop all must be acquired before final decisions can be made.
"If there is a need for a new parish," Palermo said, "the next step is to find a way to raise the money for the parish."
Five acres of land near Highway

6 have been donated to St. Mary's and the parish is in the process of purchasing five more acres.
"We don't want to give the impression that it's definite," Palermo said, "we haven't got the land yet but we're reasonably certain we will."
After all the information is collected about the establishment of the church, the bishop must approve the building of the new parish in Bryan, Palermo said.
And, of course, a new parish will need a new name. One possibility Palermo thinks would be appropriate is St. Agatha. The church could then be called St. Aggie for short.

Poisoned ducks edible, prof says

A Texas A&M University wildlife scientist says the pesticide found in ducks in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Colorado presents little danger and plans to hunt and eat ducks just as before.
"Based on the amounts of pesticide found, an average adult would have to eat 15 pounds of duck meat a day to feel the effects of the poison," said Dr. Wallace Klussman, head of the department of wildlife and fisheries sciences. The pesticide has a half-life of three days in laboratory rats, he said.
State and federal officials have found endrin at three times the maximum safe level for human consumption in fatty tissue of ducks and geese in the four states located along the Central Flyway. About half the birds that use the flyway, which extends down to Texas from Western Canada, winter in Texas.
"I don't feel there is any real problem for Texas at all," Klussman said. "The news has blown

the episode out of proportion as relatively few ducks have been sampled. The probability of killing a duck in Texas that had picked up the pesticide in the western states is extremely low."
While almost all use of the pesticide is restricted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, it was cleared for battle against an army worm infestation in four western states.
Klussman said hunters concerned about levels of the pesticide found in ducks killed this year can reduce the amount simply by skinning the fowl rather than picking them.
He said most of the poison would be found in fatty tissue that would come off with the skin. He added that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Department of Health will be monitoring the situation and will let people in Texas know of any danger.
"As for myself," he said, "I plan to hunt and eat the ducks just as I have before."

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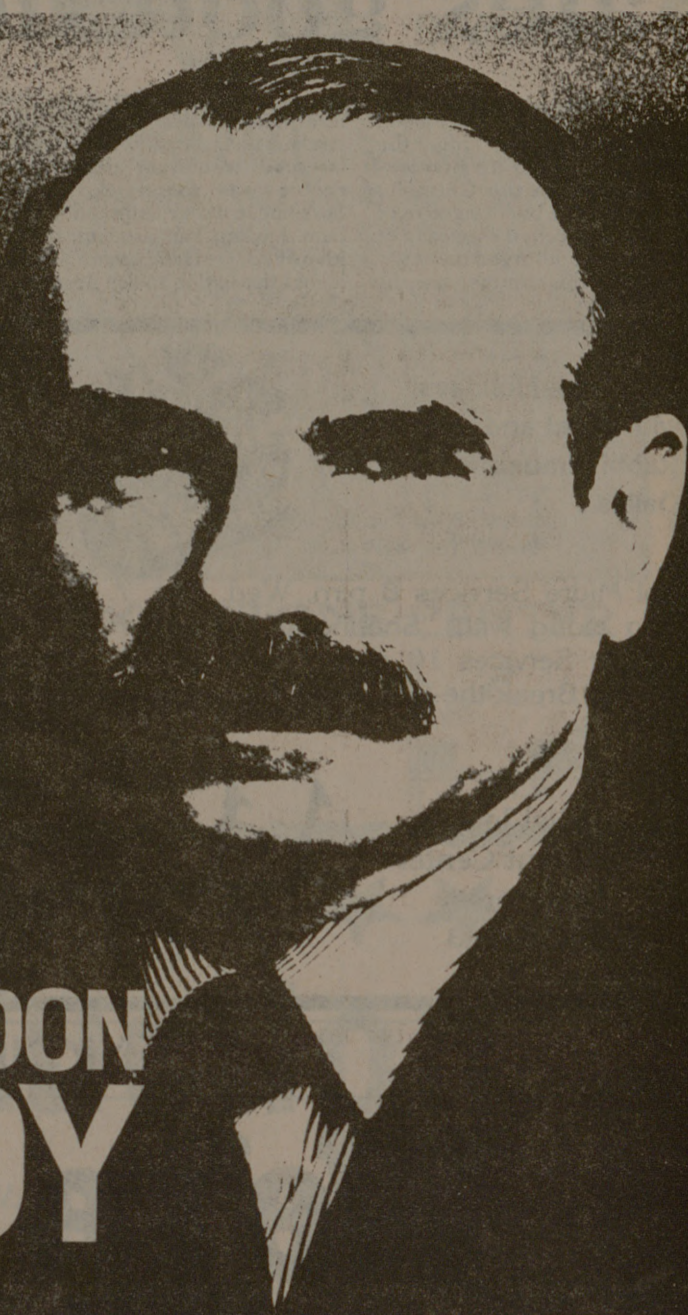
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