Cardinal dedicates new Catholic church

BY REMA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

Members of St. Jerome
Catholic Church in Detroit
began their search for a new
apiritual home in Oakland
County in 1991.

But when war broke out in
their homelands of Creatia and
Bosania-Herzegovina, parishioners began funneling their
much-needed dollars toward
medical and financial aid for
those suffering abroad.

"We all knew those people
needed help," said the Rev.
Jöseph Galic, pastor of the forseven years.

For parishioners, the dream
for a new church seemed years
sway— until former Bloomfield
fills resident Lucille Drazick
Prepuble, who now resides in
Florida, pledged S1 million to
that the new church be named
after St. Lucy on behalf of her that the new church be named after St. Lucy on behalf of her grandmother.
; With the forming of the build-

lot of praying on Eight Mile.'

Surgery

Lorraine Drozdowski St. Lucy of Troy parishioner

ing committee in 1992 came plans for a new structure that would reflect the heritage and culture of its people. When rezoning approval came from the city of Troy on the Feast of the Holy Cross, Galic requested that the city's fifth Roman Catholic church take on a cross-shaped design. The theme soon dominated the white brick building, as Jerusalem crosses appeared on circular windows and wooden entrance doors.

Built in a Mediterranean style at a cost of \$3.2 million, the facility houses a 450-sent sanctury, social hall, classrooms, offices, a library, a rectory, and a special chaple for perpetual adoration. The church was designed by Brown and Associates

St. Lucy of Troy parishioner

Architects, Inc. in Bloomfield Itilis and constructed by Jonna Construction Cq., which has offices in Bloomfield Ilils, Troy and West Bloomfield.

The transition from the old to the new was made by parishioners when St. Jerome Church was closed on June 30 and St. Lucy Church was officially opened on July 1.

"It's a new church, but the community has stayed the same," said Galic.

Once inside the copper-roofed church, longtime members are reminded of their Detroit roots by the altar, tabernacle, Baptismal font, statues and Stations of the Cross, which once stood inside St. Jerome Church on Eight Mile and Woodward.

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Sentimental sculptures, artwork and paintings of their homeland tow adorn the new foyers and social hall.

"The whole complex is so peaceful, so beautiful," said Galie, who hails from war-torn Besnia-Herzegovina.

Ben and Lorraine Drozdowski of Troy were among a crowd of 550 individuals who attended the dedication of 51. Lucy Catholic Church and the installation of the Rev. Joseph Galie, OFM, as pastor by Cardinal Adam Maida on Sept. 8. The cremony featured a Croatian choir from St. Francis Catholic Church in Windsor, Canada, and an English choir from St. Lucy Catholic Church in Windsor, Canada, and an English choir from St. Lucy Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores, and first expansions.

Church in Windsor, Canada, and an English choir from St. Lucy Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores.

"It was my first experience with a dedication of a church and I found everything so meaningful," said Lorraine Drozdowski.

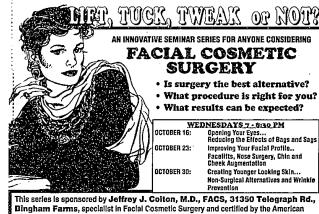
The Drozdowskis, who are of Polish descent, joined the St. Jeromo/St. Lucy congregation three years ago after visiting the Medjugorje shrine in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where apparitions of the Blessed Mother are said to be taking place.
"The apparitions led us to St. Jerome, and we did a lot of praying on Eight Mile," said Lorraine Drozdowski, who is a nurse.
Today, Drozdowski is a pro-life representative on the parish council. She is also active in the Wodnesday evening prayer group, which begins with the praying of the rosary and continues with Mass, perpetual adoration and confession.
St. JeromeSt. Lucy parish was founded by Creation immigrants in 1924, and made its home in two Detroit locations before moving to Oxkland County.
Today, a Croatian or Bosnia to 1924 and made its home in two Detroit locations before moving to Oxkland County.
There, in this community, we are praying and hoping that we are able to respond to every need, which we couldn't defered and find the praying and hoping that we are able to respond to every need, which we couldn't defered and find the satisfied and find



A dream fulfilled: The Rev. Joseph Galic sits in the cross-shaped sanctuary of St. Lucy Catholic Church, surrounded by Croatian artifacts from the 72-year-old parish's former Detroit home.

parish's former Detroit hom what they are looking for.
Since the Croatian-American church opened in Troy, Sunday attendance has doubled at the 11:30 a.m. English liturgy. The church also offers a Greatian liturgy at 10 a.m. Sundays and English liturgy, 6 p.m. Sundays and Church members held their first Croatian festival on parish grounds in August, and hope to

e. eventually begin classes to teach the culture of the Creatian people. But the priest of 30 years is quick to point out that the opportunities at St. Lucy Church are open to all people. The gifts of God are given not for us to keep, but to share with others," added Galic. "We're at a stage where can extend our hands to everyone."



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