

Bishop Francis Gleeson to Celebrate His 25th Jubilee

A man loved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike, Bishop Francis Doyle Gleeson, the last Bishop of Alaska as a diocese, will celebrate his 25th jubilee as a Bishop the week of June 17th.

It is also the occasion of the centenary of the first bishop to visit Alaska. Archbishop Charles John Seghers.

One of the first acts of Bishop Gleeson in Alaska was to borrow money and have the boarding home school, which is still standing, built at St. Mary's.

Eskimo people in the area constructed it and the Bishop cooked for all the workers during most of the 3 years of construction.

The Catholic grade school in Fairbanks was built in 1951. Before its construction, classes were held in the basement of the Immaculate Conception church, fondly called "the little church" by parishioners.

When students were graduated from the 8th grade, they began high school in the "little church" basement and moved to the present Monroe High School upon its completion in 1956.

In between the building of these schools, in 1954, Bishop



BISHOP GLEESON — The Bishop, center, is enjoying a visit with two young Copper Valley boys. Much beloved Catholic Bishop is to celebrate his 25th Jubilee on June 17.

Gleeson began construction of Copper Valley boarding school with material begged and borrowed and built by volunteers.

It was 2 to 3 years before construction was completed and students came from all over and as far away as Kenya.

During Bishop Gleeson's 25 years of loving work in Alaska, practically every mission in Alas-

ka had been rebuilt and new ones added.

From Barrow on the Arctic Ocean, to Copper Valley; from Northway to Dillingham on the Bering Sea coast.

One area after another received his care and attention: from St. Mary's, Turanak, Alakanak, Emmonak, Nenana, Suntrana, Delta, Glenallen,

Toksook, Unkumute, Chefnork, Nightmute, Galena, Nulato, Kaltag, Bethel, Stebbins, Kalskag and to enumerate them all would be to write the list of missions scattered across the Tundra, along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and the shores of the Bering Sea.

After the second vatican council, Bishop Gleeson enthusiastically embraced ecumenism, which he has already been practising, and encouraged his people to be more active in all areas of the church.

He gave the first lay school board in Fairbanks its charter with full responsibility. Voluntarily, Bishop Gleeson turned over the leadership to a younger man, his successor, Bishop Robert Whelan.

Many Alaskans have benefited from Bishop Gleeson's concern and gentleness and enjoyed his delightful cooking and great wit. One of the spanish classes at Monroe were fortunate to have him as their teacher last year.

All Alaskans are invited to honor Bishop Gleeson and celebrate with him in the week-long activities.

Sunday, June 17, the Elson choir will sing at the jubilee noon mass at the sacred heart cathedral.

The Bishop of Victoria, Most Rev. Remi J. De Roo will give the homily. The same day a reception will be held at the Gold Room of the Traveler's from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19, there will be a banquet (the entertainment is being kept a secret from the the Bishop) of the Gold Room of the Traveler's. Reservations must be made by June 13th and can be made by calling 456-4956 or 456-4118.

No-host cocktails are at 7p.m. the price of dinner is \$7.50 each.

There will be over 70 guests from out of town — from Canada, the lower 48 and all over Alaska. Coffees, sightseeing, and other activities are planned for them for that week.

Don Pruhs is handling housing for the out-of-towners; June Ulz is in charge of transportation Mr. and Mrs. Lee Linck, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Ribar and Mr. and Mrs. Hadjukovich are organizing the banquet; Ms. Mary Cook and Ms. Kate Ringstad are planning the reception.

Ms. Helen Mikautsch and Ms. Joyce Burglin will be hostesses

for the out-of-town ladies; Cliff Burglin is in charge of events for guests; Cliff Wenzlick will be the photographer for the week of activities and Ms. Matilda Stepovich is the overall chairman of Bishop Gleeson's Jubilee.