

Orthodox Cathedral ground breaking held

Ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Innocent Orthodox Church in Anchorage, were held Sunday.

Ceremonies followed the Vigil of the Resurrection on Saturday evening and the celebration of Hierarchial Divine Liturgy on Sunday and preceded a picnic celebration on the church lawn.

Participating in the ground breaking were chief benefactors for the building, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zamarello who

pledged complete financial support for all of the architectural work, excavation, permits, cement foundation work including floor, walls and complete framing with finishing materials for the roof and exterior siding.

Other special benefactors are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Huebsch, the original homesteaders of the Elmrich subdivision where the church is now located, who donated an additional lot to the church to make it possible to expand the church.

Among the special benefactors were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wheeler who contributed \$50,000 to initiate the building fund of the Cathedral.

The Zamarellos and Huebsch's helped turn the first ceremonial spade with the Right Reverend Bishop Gregory, Bishop of Alaska of the Orthodox Church in America, and Father Nicholas Harris.

The first ground breaking was followed by each member present turning a piece of soil as the sun broke through the

overcast cloudy sky over Anchorage.

Architects for the building are the W.F. Gene Kizer architectural firm.

A model of the cathedral and artistic painting also were shown at the ceremony.

The new edifice, the first Orthodox Cathedral of Anchorage will exceed 17,500 square feet on two levels. The lower level will consist of lounge area, a fellowship hall with complete kitchen facilities able to seat more than 300 people, six classrooms, stage, rest rooms, printing room and additional space for offices.

The main level will feature the nave with seating for 350 and two chapels without conventional seating. The Sanctuary areas will be arranged in both the main and chapel areas.

Vestry and Sacristy will be to the right and left of the Sanctuary areas with appointed space for the Kleros or Choir areas on the nave side.

A special room is being built for infants with rest room facilities, a choir loft on a third level with room for a full voiced choir of 50 members.

The entrance to the cathe-

dral will feature a large high vaulted ceiling with clear wall windows with access to the pastor's study and receptionist's office. A sales department for religious goods will be located on the lower level. The church grounds will be landscaped with greenery and parking facilities for 85 vehicles.

Saint Innocent's Cathedral was founded as a Mission in September, 1967 as a "Parish for all Alaska." Because of the unique location of this parish in the hub City of Anchorage, Saint Innocent's serves the Native people all over the state through hospital visitations, administering of the Sacraments, counseling, and in providing a Temple of God and clergy for those who in many remote areas of Alaska are deprived.

This parish is made up of people representative of various ethnic groups such as Aleuts, Eskimos, Indians all of Alaska and people of Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, Serbian, as well as a great number who have converted to Orthodoxy.

English for the most part is used in the services with portions in the Native languages and Greek and Church Slavonic (Mother of Slavic languages including Russian).