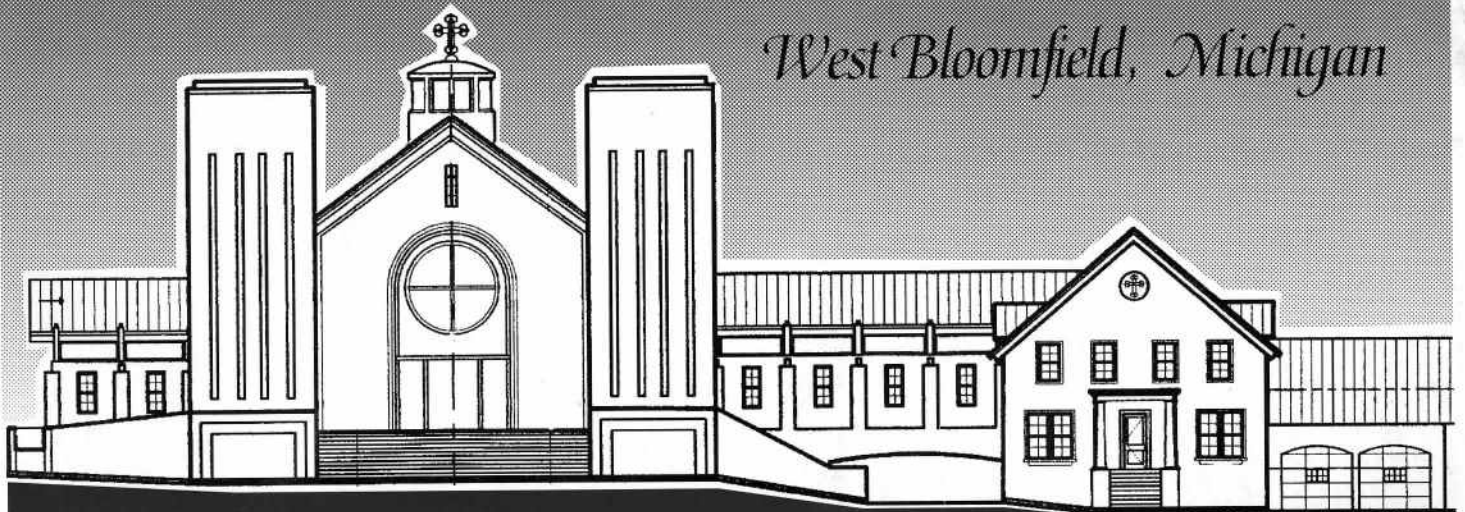


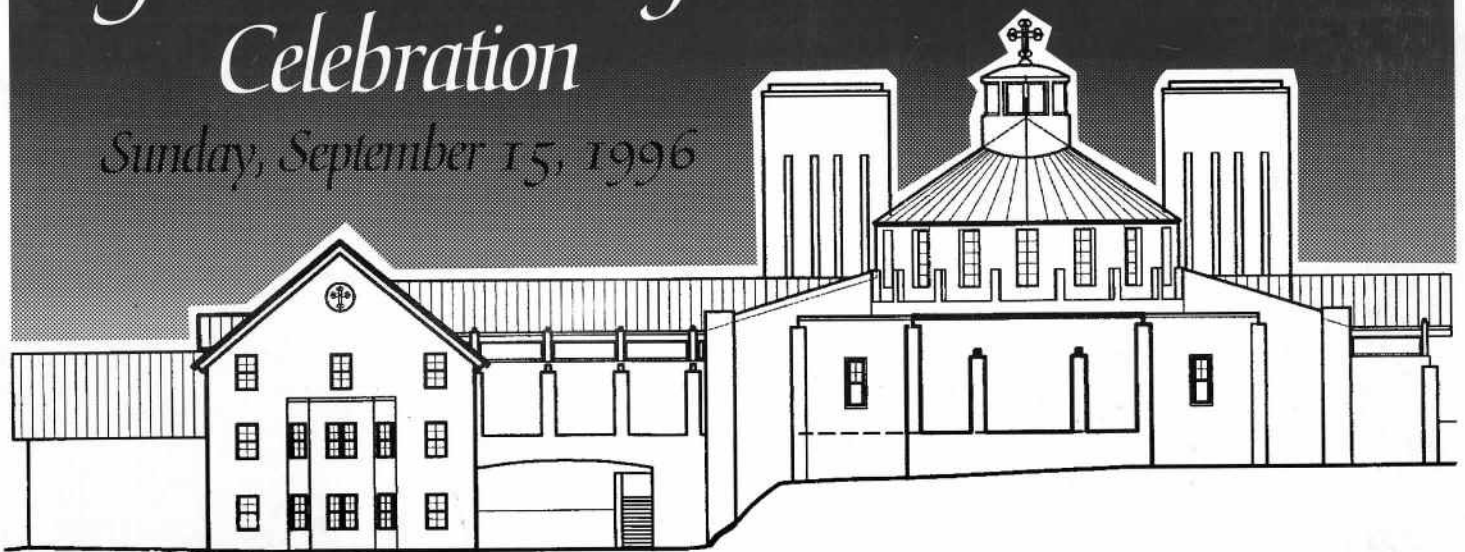
# *St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church*

*West Bloomfield, Michigan*



## *Ground Breaking Celebration*

*Sunday, September 15, 1996*



*Compliments of:*

*Theresa and Ramzi George*

*and their sons*

*Vincent, Valair, Van, Victor, Vernon and Valiant*

*May God's Blessings  
be bestowed on all present and  
future members of the  
St. Thomas Chaldean  
Catholic Parish Community*

*Compliments of*  
**Dhafir Nona  
Isam Yaldo**

*N & Y Properties, Inc.*  
*Land Development and Real Estate Investments*

*26699 Twelve Mile Road—Suite 200  
Southfield, Michigan  
Telephone (810) 208-1606  
Fax (810) 208-0923*

*St. Thomas  
Chaldean  
Catholic Church*

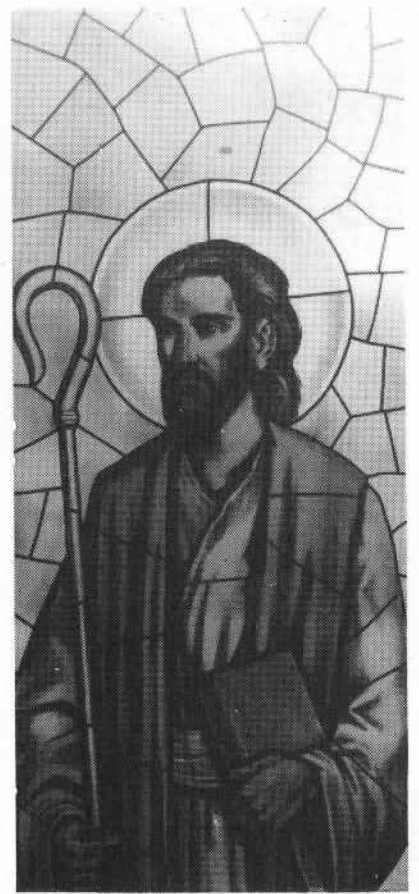
*Ground Breaking  
Celebration*

*Sunday, September 15, 1996*

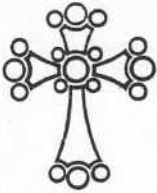
*6900 Maple Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322*

*Phone (810) 788-2460*

*Fax (810) 788-2153*



*St. Thomas the Apostle,  
Patron of Our Parish*

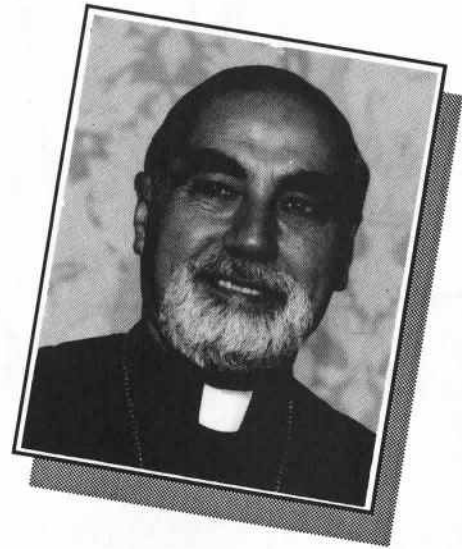


## Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle

Chaldean Catholic Diocese of the U.S.A.

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Message from Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim  
Bishop of St. Thomas The Apostle  
Chaldean Catholic Diocese in the U.S.A.



Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas Chaldean Parish:  
West Bloomfield, Michigan,

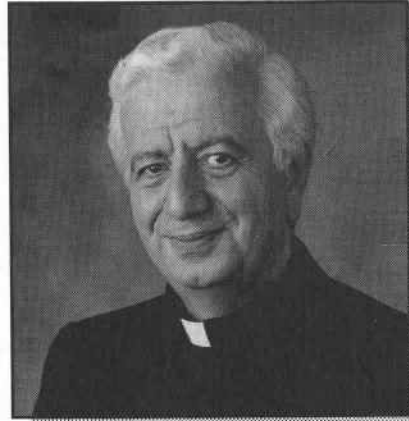
It is my great pleasure to congratulate you and your Pastor, Rev. Hanna Cheikho, for the tremendous effort you have made during the first three years of the establishment of your Parish. You have selected and purchased a very nice piece of land in the beautiful city of West Bloomfield, located at 6900 Maple Road. You have paid it off in a very short period of time. At this occasion I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Rev. Hanna Cheikho, the Parish Council, and to all those who helped to make this dream a reality. Also, my sincere gratitude goes to those who donated for this project with generosity and dedication; may God bestow on them all His Blessings. At the same time, I would like to remind all those who did not have the opportunity to make their donation, to do so at this occasion of the Ground Breaking on Sunday, September 15, 1996. God has given us everything; let us give Him back in return part of it. Building a church is building a home for God. Indeed, it is building a world of values. Therefore, let us show our children the right way to build this world based upon Christian values and moral principles. Thank you and may God Bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Ibrahim N. Ibrahim*

Ibrahim N. Ibrahim  
Chaldean Bishop of the U.S.A.

Acknowledgement from Fr. Hanna Cheikho,  
Pastor of St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church  
West Bloomfield, Michigan



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is the fundamental responsibility of the Church to reach out to her children, and it is the goal of our Parish to serve all members of the Chaldean community in West Bloomfield and neighboring regions. To reach this goal we are providing a place of worship and a center for activities, including pastoral services, religious education and First Communion preparations, sodalities and groups, as well as social and sports programs. This major project will be completed in two phases: The first phase includes the new church, parking lot, a social hall and a rectory. The second phase will include a community center and gym.

We arrived at this happy Ground Breaking day with the help of God, the intercession of our Patron St. Thomas, and with your cooperation and generosity. You have expressed your love and support for your Parish by your attendance and participation in the services and activities of the Parish and by your financial contributions to make the building project possible today.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and respect to His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim for his support and encouragement. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to our Parish Council and Parish Groups, Shamashe and Teachers, Sodalities, and all the volunteers and dedicated individuals who diligently worked for the building project. My sincere gratitude is extended to all contributors who shared in making this project a reality. I also thank the advertisers in this book and I urge our community to support these fine business people. I would like to extend my sincere and special appreciation to our architect Victor Saroki and Associates who worked hard in preparing the building plans for today's Parish project.

May God reward all of you and bestow His blessings upon you, your families, your businesses and your children. I am proud of and grateful to all who have been part of the Parish community for the last four years and who have been active in bringing the building project to fruition. You are in my prayers and in my heart.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Hanna Cheikho". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of "Fr.", "Hanna", and "Cheikho" being capitalized and prominent.

Fr. Hanna Cheikho

# **St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Parish Schedule of Masses and Activities**

## **Sunday Masses at St. Mary's Shrine Chapel**

9:30 a.m. —English Mass

12:30 p.m.—Chaldean Mass

## **Daily Mass at St. Thomas Church**

10:00 a.m.—Chaldean Mass

## **Baptism at St. Mary's Shrine Chapel**

1:30 p.m. every Sunday

## **Baptism at St. Thomas Church**

at any time by arrangement with Fr. Hanna

## **Weddings are performed at St. Mary's Shrine Chapel**

Call (810) 788-2460

## **First Thursday of the month at St. Thomas Church**

10:00 a.m.—Holy Hour and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

11:00 a.m.—Chaldean Mass

## **First Friday of the month at St. Thomas Church**

10:00 a.m.—Prayer by Sacred Heart Sodality

11:00 a.m.—Chaldean Mass and Sacred Heart Procession

followed by a social gathering of Akhawya

St. Thomas Church is located at 6900 Maple Road,  
between Drake and Halsted Roads.

Telephone (810) 788-2460; Fax (810) 788-2153

St. Mary's Shrine Chapel of Orchard Lake is located at 3535 Indian Trail,  
East of Indian Trail on the Lake, or South of Commerce Road  
and West of Orchard Lake Road.

# St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church PARISH COUNCIL 1995-1997



**SEATED (left to right):**

**Najib Jamil, Ramzi George, Sabri Garmo and Faraj Abro.**

**STANDING (left to right):**

**Zuhair Karmo, Thamer Gasso, Issam Acho, Riyadh Sheena,  
Fr. Hanna Cheikho, Nabil Namou, Jehad Mansour,  
Nabil Yako Cholagh and Wissam Najor.**

**PARISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 1992-1995**

**Joseph Nadhir, Ramzi George, Sabri Garmo, Albert Abbo,  
Nabil Namou, Zuhair Karmo and Wissam Najor.**

# Brief History of St. Thomas Chaldean Parish

## 1992

The number of Chaldeans in West Bloomfield and neighboring areas has been growing for the last several years. It is the duty and concern of the Church to provide pastoral services and spiritual guidance for its members and to



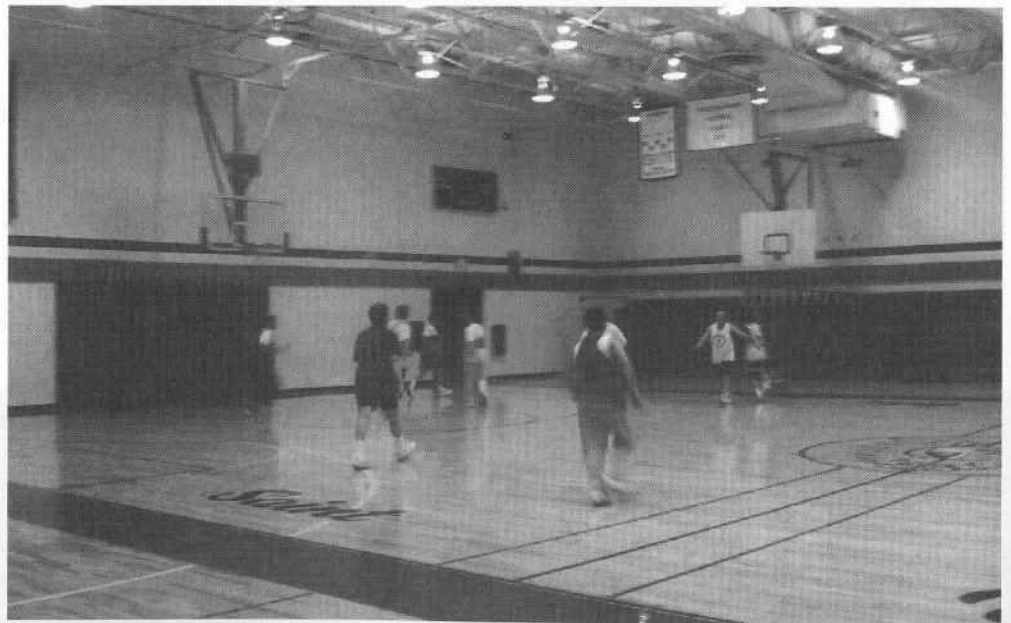
reach-out to them in order to serve and fulfill their spiritual needs. Out of this concern His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim designated Fr. Hanna Cheikho, in his letter dated July 24, 1992, to establish a Chaldean Parish in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Fr. Hanna immediately approached many churches in the area to find a good location to provide Liturgical functions, spiritual services and activities needed for the community. Since many of these churches have a full schedule on Sunday, the Chancellor of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake accepted in mid-August, to use their

Shrine Chapel and other facilities for pastoral purposes of the Parish.

On Sunday, September 13, 1992, the first Mass of the Parish was celebrated by Fr. Hanna Cheikho at 9:30 a.m. in English and the second Mass in Chaldean at 12:30 p.m. at the Shrine Chapel of Orchard Lake. After both masses, the community gathered in the dining hall for coffee and donuts. Over 400 people attended services on the first day and everyone was very happy to have this opportunity to participate in this historical event of the inauguration of the new Parish.

A Parish Advisory Committee was formed by Fr. Hanna on August 20, 1992 to help and advise him in Parish affairs. The members of this first Committee were: Albert Abbo, Sabri Garmo, Ramzi George, Zuhair Garmo, Joseph Nadhir and Nabil Namou, in whose offices the Committee met for over two years until September 28, 1994.

On September 20, 1992, the English Mass Choir started to perform hymns and songs in English. The Shamashe (Sub-deacons), the lectors and the Altar boys also started their Litur-







gical services and functions with zeal and active participation every Sunday. Around that time the Sunday Offering envelopes for the year 1992 were mailed. The name of the Patron of the Parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, was given by His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim on September 22, 1992.

On October 3, 1992 we started a Religious Education and First Communion program for 62 children, which quickly increased to 148 children. The teachers for the program were: Shatha Namou (First Communion), Fay Najor, Ghalia Thomas, Nahla Najor and Aghaneen Zoma. The first party for the children in the program was held on Halloween day, October 31, 1992, and was attended by over 200 children.

The first issue of St. Thomas Parish Bulletin was published on November 1992. On November 6, 1992 we celebrated the First Friday of the month with prayers by the Sacred Heart Sodality followed by Holy Hour and Mass. On November 13, 1992 the first meeting of St. Thomas Adults Group was held at the Academic Center. On November 18, 1992 the Chaldean language classes started at the same Center. On December 19, 1992 the Catechism teachers team organized a Christmas party for over 200 children at the Old Gym.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we celebrated with Liturgical prayers, songs by the English Mass Choir, the High Mass with a procession and a Christmas play performed by the children. These celebrations were attended by about 650 people. After Mass, we gathered with Santa Claus at the dining hall for Coffee and Kullaiche. On December 27, 1992, His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim visited our Parish and celebrated for the first time the 12:30 Mass which was followed by a social gathering with coffee and donuts at the dining hall.

## 1993

We celebrated the beginning of the year on January 1, 1993, and the Epiphany (Baptism of Our Lord) on January 6, 1993. We performed the Liturgical Three Days prayer of Baoutha Fasting, for the first time in our Parish, during February 1 to 3, 1993 and many attended these services. On April 3, 1993, Palm Sunday celebrations included a procession in four lan-



guages from outside to the inside of the Church. After the High Mass, a Chaldean luncheon was served for 460 people at the Old Gym which was decorated in a beautiful manner. Full Liturgical celebrations were performed during Holy Week and Easter with the Gayyassa and Easter play enacted by the Catechism children.

On April 18, 1993, our Parish celebrated, for the first time, the First Communion of 43 children prepared for this day by their teacher Shatha Namou. The Mass was very organized and about 900 attendants followed the children, after the Mass, to the Old Gym where the parents had prepared a reception for all. There, the children received gifts provided by the Religious Education Program.

A special program was performed by the chil-



dren for Mother's Day and Father's Day. On Monday, May 10, 1993, the first meeting of St. Thomas ladies Group was held at our Parish. Over 70 members participated in the prayers, Mass and luncheon. On May 15, 1993 the Catechism program was concluded with a big party for the children which included outside games and lunch.

During the annual four-day fair held on May 28-31, 1993 at St. Mary's College grounds, our Parish occupied a tent which presented different Chaldean foods, folklore items, T-Shirts, as well as books, paintings, and brochures about



the Chaldean Community. The spirit of the cooperation and team work prevailed among the volunteers and a happy atmosphere pleased the over 4000 visitors who stopped at our Tent. On St. Thomas Day, July 4, 1993, His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim celebrated Mass at our Parish and promulgated the decree of the establishment of the Parish. After the Mass, a delicious breakfast was served for over 400 people at the dining hall. The Sacred Heart Sodality organized the following trips and pilgrimages during the summer of 1993:

1. a pilgrimage to St. Joseph Shrine in the Irish Hills on May 14, 1993.
2. a trip for families to Cedar Point on Saturday, June 12, 1993.

3. a pilgrimage to the Shrines of St. Sharbel and Our Lady of Lebanon in Canada on June 14, 1993.

4. a pilgrimage to the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio on July 1, 1993.

5. a visit to St. Anne Church in downtown Detroit for Mass on July 26, 1993.

6. a trip to Wisconsin Dells and Chicago on August 23-25, 1993 which included: a pilgrimage to the Monastery of Holly Hills, four hour tour at the River of Wisconsin Dells, visit of the Biblical garden, visit of St. Clemens Church and shopping in Chicago.



that His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim, in his letter dated September 22, 1993 (on the

occasion of the 25th anniversary of the priesthood of Fr. Hanna), designated him officially the Pastor of St. Thomas Chaldean Parish of West Bloomfield.

The Parish Men's Group started its activities on Monday, October 18, 1993 at the New Gym of the College. Another group for teenagers was also organized for sporting activities at the Old Gym.

During Sunday English Mass, November 21, 1993 we celebrated, for the first time,

the "Choir Day", during which Fr. Hanna presented Choir pins as tokens of appreciation for two directors (Mervet Nafso and Nora Hindo)



7. a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes in Euclid, Ohio on September 8, 1993.

8. a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Holy Relics (500 relics of the saints) in Maria Stein, Ohio and St. Augustine Parish Church on October 8, 1993.

On October 2, 1993, the Religious Education and First Communion Program for the year started under the guidance and the commitment of Fr. Hanna and seven teachers. The number of children in the program grew to over 220 children. The Program also included regular parties and activities for children.

On October 3, 1993 Fr. Hanna announced



and 9 members of the Choir. Choir Day will be celebrated every year at our Parish.

Full Liturgical Christmas celebrations were performed on Christmas Eve and Day and attended by one thousand and three hundred people. The first Christmas-New Year party was held at Southfield Manor on December 27, 1993. The party was attended by 580 people.

## 1994

All Liturgical celebrations were performed at our Parish and Parish groups continued their activities. These included the Ladies group meetings on every first Monday of the month, Sacred Heart Sodality meetings on the first Friday of the month, Men Group Basketball on every Monday, Teenage Group activities on every Saturday, Religious Education teaching on every Saturday, and regular parties and activities for Catechism children.

On Sunday, March 6, 1994 Fr. Hanna announced the good news of purchasing a property for our Parish, a parcel of 10 acres with a small building located at 6900 Maple Road. A Fundraising Committee of 22 members was established on March 24, 1994 to raise money for the down payment (\$300,000.00) of the

property due on August 1, 1994.

On April 5, 1994 our Parish held an Easter party at Southfield Manor which was attended by over 400 people. At that party, pledges were announced totaling \$69,000 for the purchase of the Parish property for the new church.

On Sunday, April 10, 1994 His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim celebrated the 12:30 p.m. High Mass at our Parish. He urged all parishioners to make contributions towards the project of the Parish.

On Sunday, May 8, 1994 (Mother's Day), we celebrated First Communion for 37 of our dear children. The attendants of over one thousand people were very pleased with the fine preparation and good organization of the celebration.

Our Parish participated for the second time in the annual St. Mary's May Fair by occupying a tent with a variety of Chaldean foods. The tent was visited by a large number of people.

The Sacred Heart Sodality organized the following trips and pilgrimages during the summer of 1994:

1. a pilgrimage to St. Joseph Shrine in Irish Hills on April 29, 1994.
2. a three-day trip to the Shrine of Mio, Traverse City, The Cross in the Woods, Mackinaw Island and Frankenmouth on May 22-24, 1994.
3. a three-day trip to the Shrine of Holly Hills, Wisconsin Dells, cheese factory in Wisconsin and shopping in Chicago on June 22-24, 1994.
4. pilgrimage to the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio on July 1, 1994.
5. a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Weeping Madonna of Mariapoch in Burton, Ohio on July 14, 1994.
6. a visit to St. Anne Church in





downtown Detroit on July 26, 1994.

7. a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and St. Paul in Euclid, Ohio on September 8, 1994.

On Monday, August 1, 1994, our Parish paid the down payment and His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim and the sellers signed



the closing document for the property. Present were: Transamerica Title Company, attorneys, Fr. Hanna and members of the Parish Committee. During the event of that day we had a party at the Southfield Manor to celebrate the happy occasion of closing on the property and to draw the big raffle organized by our Parish for fundraising.

Our Parish opened its new rectory on the property on Sunday, September 25, 1994 and

started programs and activities such as: daily Mass, Virgin Mary Sodality (with a Board consisting of: Aliza Najor, Shammamta Barash, Naima Hesano and Suad Konja), Chaldean language classes, celebrations of the First Thursday and first Friday of the month, Ladies Group meeting which included prayers followed by Mass and luncheon.

Our Parish participated in the first annual



Bavarian Festival organized by St. Mary's College on September 28-30, 1994. We started the Religious Education Program on October 8, 1994.

Our Parish organized the first Exhibition of Chaldean Art in which several Chaldean artists from Detroit participated in different fields including: painting, drawing, photography and graphic art. This exhibition was held on December 8-11, 1994 at the St. Thomas Parish.



## 1995

Parish activities of this year included: Catechism, Sacred Heart and Legion of Mary Societies, Ladies group, Men's group, Baoutha Fasting and other devotions and Liturgical occasions. Most of these activities were held at St. Thomas Chapel at 6900 Maple Road. At St. Mary's Shrine Chapel and College, we continued to have Sunday masses, Stations of the Cross, Christmas and Easter celebrations, baptisms and weddings and the Religious Education Program.

On Tuesday, February 28, 1995, the new first Parish Council had its first meeting at the Parish Rectory. The members of the Council were: Faraj Abro, Issam Acho, Nabil Yako Cholagh, Sabri Garmo, Thamer Gasso, Ramzi George, Zuhair Garmo, Najib Jamil, Jihad Mansour, Wissam Najor, Nabil Namou and Ryadh

Sheena.

On April 23, 1995 His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim celebrated the First Communion Mass which was attended by more than one thousand people. He spoke to the 65 children and addressed an appeal to those who had not donated to do their share for this needed project.

Our Parish again participated in the annual St. Mary's Fair on May 28-31, 1995 and held a party for Mother's Day and Father's Day on Tuesday, May 30, 1995.

The Sacred Heart and Legion of Mary Societies organized several trips and pilgrimages during this year which included:

1. a pilgrimage to Carey, Ohio on February, 18, 1995.
2. a pilgrimage to St. Joseph Shrine in Irish Hills on March 19, 1995.



3. a pilgrimage to the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio on July 1, 1995.

4. a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Mar Sharbel and Our Lady of Lebanon in Canada and St. Anne in downtown Detroit on July 26, 1995.



by music performed by the Spring Band and its singer Raad Kizi, and DJ Wilson Sarkis. The Parish Council and volunteers worked hard to organize the festival and make it into a happy and successful event for our Parish.

5. a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Our Lady of Rosary and St. Steven Church in Toledo, Ohio on August 22, 1995.

6. a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Manistee, Ohio on September 20, 1995.

On Sunday, September 10, 1995 our Parish organized, for the first time, an open-air Mass and Festival on the Parish grounds. His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim celebrated the High Mass. Hundreds of people attended this Festival. Many munched on good food, and participated in Chaldean dance, accompanied

Our Parish began to sponsor a Bingo Night every Monday at Shenandoah Club on September 25, 1995.

We started the Religious Education Program for the year on October 14, 1995.

On Tuesday, December 19, 1995 our Parish held a Christmas party at Southfield Manor. The party included a delicious dinner and a Christmas gift for everyone.





## 1996

Parish Liturgical services and activities were held at both St. Mary's Shrine Chapel and at St. Thomas Church.

On Friday, January 26, 1996, the Parish Youth Group held its first party at Southfield Manor. This group organized a Youth Mass on Wednesday, February 21, 1996 which was followed by a social gathering at St. Thomas Church.

A Fundraising Committee called "Committee of 2000" was formed for the months of February and March with the goal of collecting minimum individual contributions of \$2,000.00 towards the Parish project. Many parishioners participated in this Committee and worked very hard collecting over \$100,000.00 on February and March of 1996.

The picture of Our Lady of Guadeloupe,

called by Pope Pius XII the Empress of the Americas, was brought to our Parish by the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, March 17, 1996 and honored by the attendants at the Mass at St. Mary's Shrine Chapel.

On Sunday, April 28, 1996, sixty-four children advanced to the Table of the Lord for the first time and to celebrate their First Communion. Their teacher Shatha Namou had prepared them well for this day and directed them for a memorable celebration of that happy day. The Parish Council and other volunteers helped to insure good organization of the celebration and



assisted in the social gathering that followed at the Old Gym.

On Sunday, June 2, 1996, our Parish organized the celebration of an open-air Mass followed by Luncheon and Festival for the whole







and the Parish attorney Salman Sesi and the sellers and their attorney transferred the deed in the presence of Transnation Title Company. This good news was announced by Fr. Hanna at the open-air Mass and Festival Day on Sunday, August 4, 1996.

Our Architect Victor Saroki and his team has prepared the plans for the first phase of the Project which includes a church for over 800 people, a social hall, parking lot and the Parish Rectory.

day. On July 7, 1996, we celebrated St. Thomas Day, in the same manner. The celebration included Mass and a Festival prepared and organized by volunteers and groups of the Parish.

The Sacred Heart Sodality organized several trips and pilgrimages during the summer of 1996, which included:

1. a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes on in Euclid, Ohio on June 5, 1996.
2. a trip to Oscoda, Michigan and visit of the Virgin Mary Church on June 21, 1996.
3. a pilgrimage to the Sorrowful Mother in Bellevue, Ohio on July 1, 1996.
4. a trip to Bay City and a visit to St. Anne Church in downtown Detroit on July 26, 1996.

On Wednesday, July 31, 1996 we paid the balance of the Parish property and obtained deed to the property. At 4:30 p.m. Fr. Hanna





*On these grounds our new church is being built.  
May God bless our efforts.*



# Parish Groups & Activities

The goal of a parish is to serve its people by many ways, spiritually and socially. Since the start of our parish we have provided needed services and various groups and activities. Today we have groups and sodalities that are very active in the daily life of the parish. These groups, along with many vol-



unteers, dedicate their efforts and time for the benefit and service of the parish project and activities. They participate actively in all events and volunteer work for the good of our Parish.

Others offer for free their services to help the Parish such as: Salman Sesi and his office who offer all legal services for the Parish. Roumel Sheena and his office who offer financial services for the Parish. Committed members of the Parish including Joseph Nadhir, Victor Saroki, Jamal Shallal, Dhafir Nona, Hani Sarafa, Issam Yaldo, and many others provided and helped with advising the pastor about matters relating to the church building project and fundraising. The groups of the Parish are:

## Parish Council

The Parish Council has the mission of serving the church and the people under the direction of the pastor. Its role is to provide assistance to Sunday services and Parish activities. The members do their best to satisfy both spiritual and physical needs of the parishioners by giving their time and

resources for this purpose. They do encourage the community to participate in the realization of the Parish Project for building the new church which is presently a very important project for the Parish. The present Parish Council has 12 members who are: Faraj Abro, Issam Acho, Nabil Yako Cholagh, Sabri Garmo, Zuhair Garmo, Thamer Gasso, Ramzi George, Najib Jamil, Jihad Mansour, Wisam Najor, Nabil Namou, and Ryadh Sheena.

## Shamashe (Sub-deacons)

Our Parish enjoys having the Shamashe (Sub-deacons) who are the right hand of the pastor for liturgical services. Their role is essential on every Sunday and other liturgical occasions in guiding the prayerful community and in their display of brotherly assistance and service to the parishioners. They provide guidance to the servers (we have over 10 servers of the English Mass who could become Shamashe one day), the Choir, the Altar Boys (we have about 20 Altar Boys) and the community. Our Shamashe are: Louie Abbo, Jalal Haddad, Basil Najor, Wisam Najor, Ayad Nakkash, and Nozad.

We have many servers for the English Mass: Sam Gasso, Chris Hindo, Jason Hindo, Alan Mukhtar, Jimmy Nafso, Timmy Nafso, Andrew Namou, Danny Samona, and Rondy Samona.



## English Mass Choir

Our English Mass Choir is faithfully and elegantly performing its role on Sunday masses at 9:30 a.m. and on Holidays and other occasions. This helps the attendants to participate in the liturgical celebrations of our Parish. Choir directors are: Mervet Nafso and Nora Hindo.

Choir members are: Tamara Al-Saeegh, Sally Barbat, Devon Dallo, Veronica Dallo, Amy Esho, Jillian Hindo, Farah Issa, Vera Karana, Jessica Katty, Amanda Nafso, Melanie Nafsu, Melissa Nafsu, Rand Putrus, Mariane Shanen, Valerie Yako, Candice Yono, and Melissa Yono.



(1995-present), Iva Kassab (1993-present), Aghaneen Zoma (1992-present); Past years teachers: Dalcy Garmo (1993-94), Pauline Jaber (1993-95), Raja Kassab (1995-96), Fay Najor (1992-95), and Ghalia Thomas (1992-94).



## Sacred Heart Sodality

This group, devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, participates in many celebrations and activities of the Parish: daily Mass, devotions, prayers and Sunday services. All 140 members have been helping in the fundraising programs for the Parish building project. They volunteer their time and donations to help. The group has a monthly meeting on the first Friday for prayer and lunch. Its board is made of: Aliza Najor, Naima Hesano, Shammamta Barash and Suad Konja.

## Religious Education Teachers

Our Parish is proud to have a well prepared team of volunteer Catechists who teach and assist the yearly Religious Education Program which includes Catechism classes and First Communion preparation for over 200 children. This program includes also various activities, such as: parties, trips, Christmas and Easter plays, fundraising programs for the Parish Project. These programs are held on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the College Academic Center of St. Mary's College. The deep experience and knowledge of the teachers along with their dedicated efforts make these programs successful and well attended. The teachers are: First Communion teacher, Shatha Namou; Catechism teachers, Nahla Asmar (1992-present), Vera Karana



## Legion of Mary

This group is devoted to the Virgin Mary and consists of over 40 members who are very active in participating in liturgical services and Parish activities. They prepare for the daily Mass and take care of the Parish Rectory. Their efforts in fundraising programs for the building project have been very effective. They meet on a weekly basis on every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. The board of this group is made of: Aliza Najor, Naima Hesano, Latifa Seman and Suad Konja.



## St. Thomas Ladies Group

Formed in 1993, this group has over 100 members from all ages. They meet on a monthly basis for prayer and luncheon. The group also plans other activities for fundraising for the Parish Project, such as Ladies dinner, volunteering in festivals, and preparing luncheon for the Parish.

## St. Thomas Men Group

This group started its activities on Monday, October 18, 1993. It was founded for men of 35 years and older for a social gathering with a weekly sporting activity (Basketball and Volleyball) at the new or old Gym of St. Mary's College.

## St. Thomas Youth Group

The first activity of this group was the youth party held at Southfield Manor on Friday, January 26,

1996. Other activities are: regular meetings and Youth masses. The first Youth Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, February 21, 1996 and followed by a social gathering at St. Thomas Parish Rectory.



## Bingo Committee

Our Parish is sponsoring a Bingo Night every Monday (from September to April) at the Shenandoah Club. This program started on September 25, 1995. Bingo Committee consists of: Kamal Garmo, Nahil Kassab, Faiza Nafso, Nabil Namou, Shatha Namou, Ayad Nakkash, Wiam Samona, Wilson Sarkis, Nibal Sheena, and Ban Zoma. From first year members were: Niran Allos, Sabri Garmo, Ramzi George, and Raja Kassab.

## Parish Bulletin

The Parish Bulletin first issue was published on November 1992. This monthly Bulletin is mailed to the families of West Bloomfield and neighboring regions to provide information about the Parish events and activities, Parish news and monthly schedule. The Parish Bulletin is actually published in two languages: Arabic and English, and illustrated by pictures of various occasions and celebrations of the Parish.

# St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church Building Project Contributors

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Abbo, Badi & Judith ..... 500.00	Atty, Yelda ..... 2,500.00	Dabish, Inam ..... 500.00
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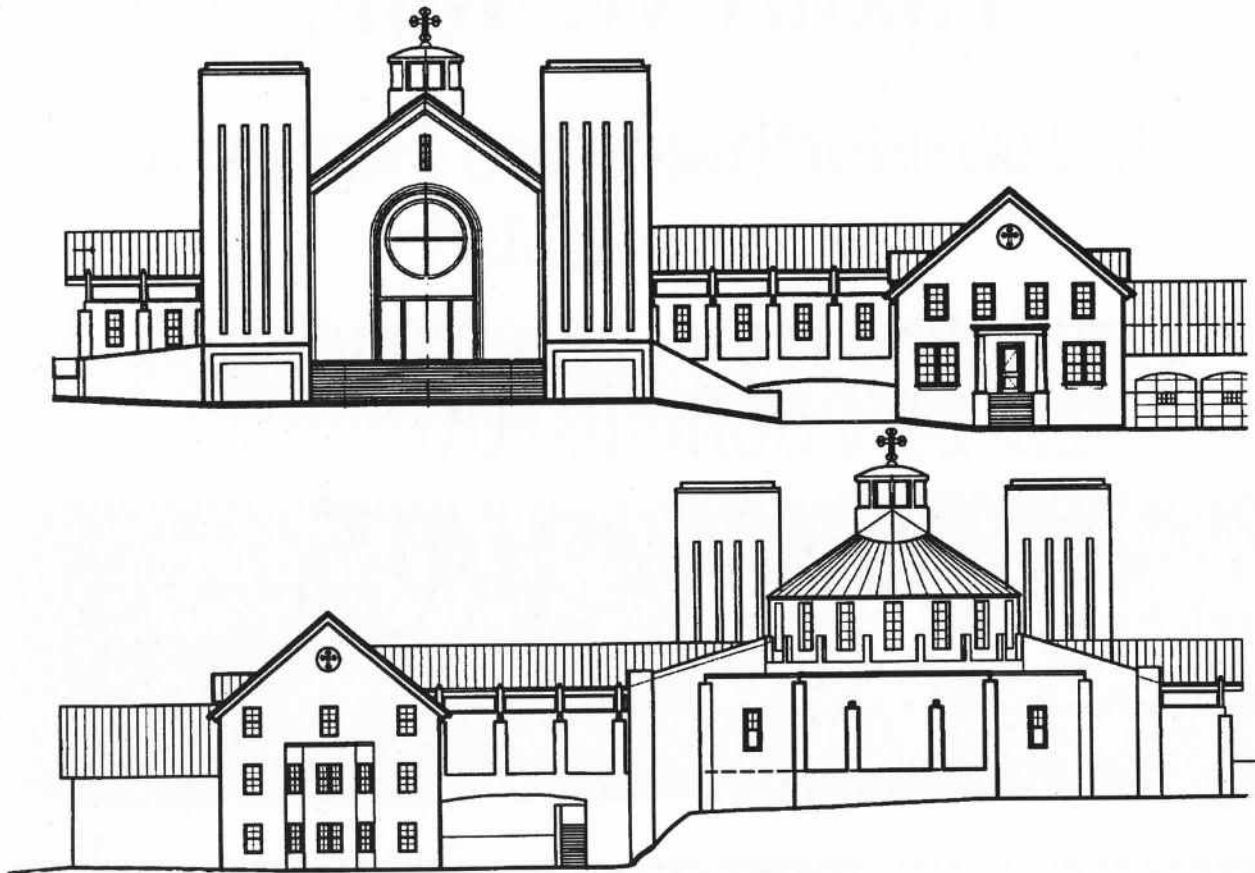
Sesi, Salman and sons ..... 3,500.00	Somo, Sami ..... 250.00	Yono, Fakhri ..... 1,000.00
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the Parish Council and Congregation of  
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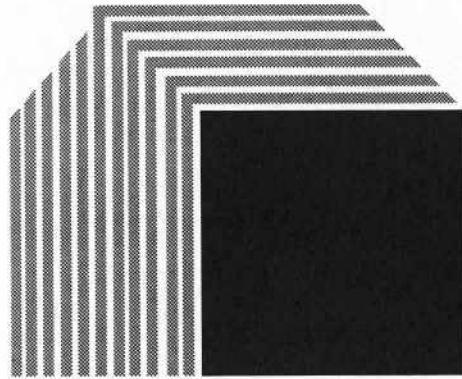
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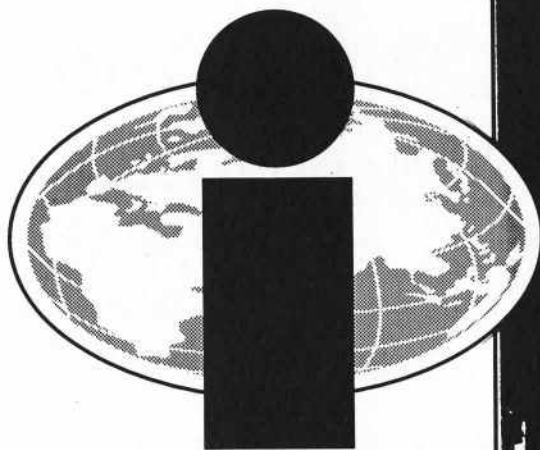
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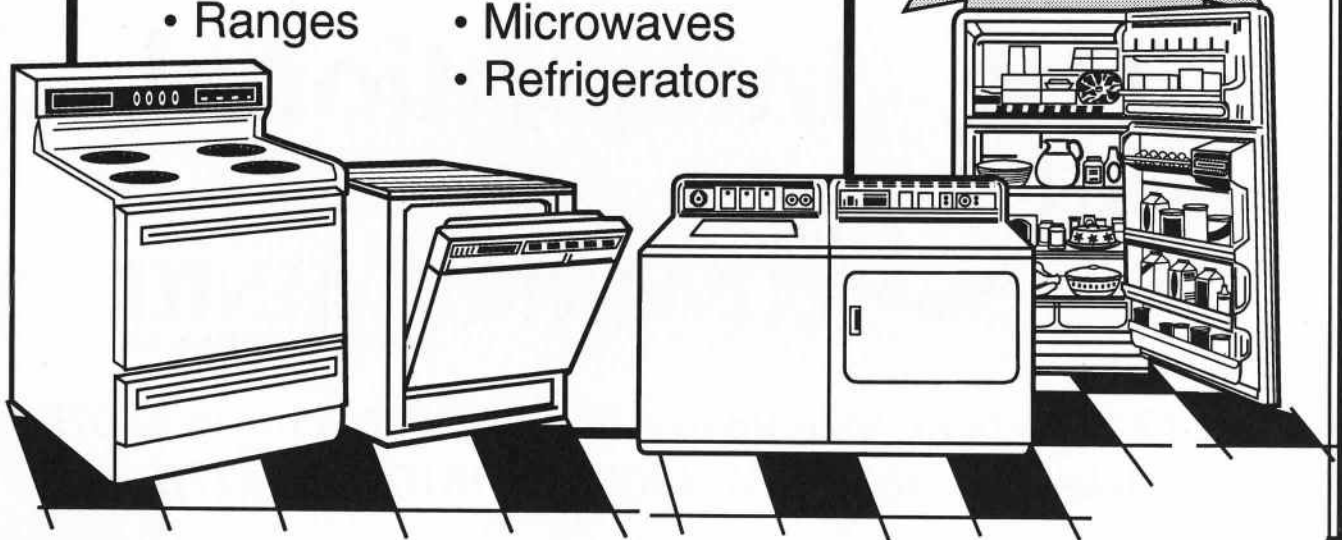
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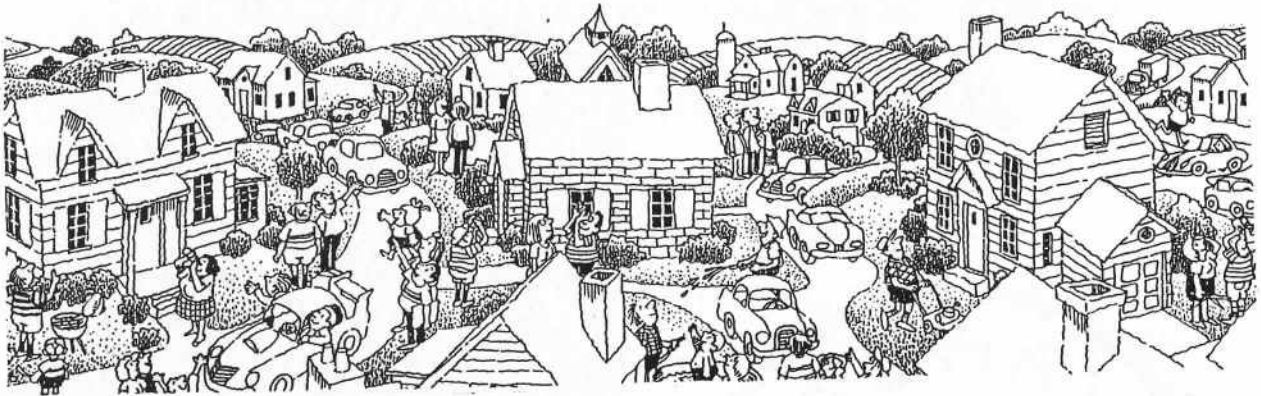
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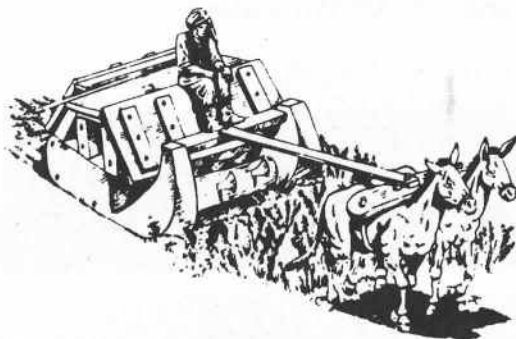
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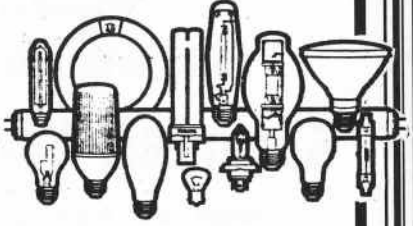
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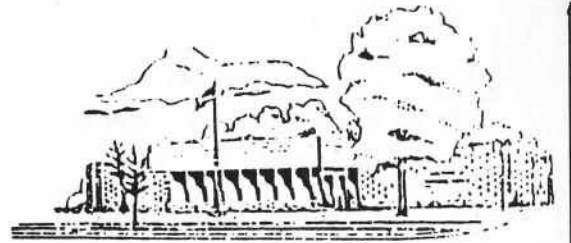
*On behalf of Mar Ibrahim Ibrahim, Chaldean Bishop of the U.S.A., Fr. Hanna Cheikho, Pastor of St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church and the entire Chaldean Community in Metropolitan Detroit, we offer sincere congratulations and gratitude to all of the donors and advertisers that have made this building drive and the Ground Breaking Celebration a resounding success. We encourage you to patronize these advertisers, and continue to support our community, today . . . and into the future.*



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