

DEDICATION OF SLAV CHURCH

**Prelate From South Dakota Is
in Attendance and Officiates
at the Opening Mass.**

**BISHOP AND PRIEST
SPEAK IN DIALECT**

**Father Bontempo, Who Organ-
ized the New Congregation,
and Bishop Montgomery,
Participate in Ceremonies.**

The dedication of the **Church of the Nativity** yesterday was a prominent event in the history of the Catholic Slavonic people of this city in particular, and of the State in general. It was to them, a planting more sacredly and more firmly of home and citizenship on this Coast. At the new church on Fell street, between Franklin and Gough, at the ceremonies which began yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, a large and earnest congregation assembled. Many members were willing to stand or kneel throughout the long service. They were assembled to worship for the first time in their national church and they rejoiced.

The dedication took place before the celebration of the mass. Then the mass was begun. The celebrant was Bishop Starha of South Dakota. The assistant priest, Rev. D. O. Crowley of the Youths' Directory; deacon, Rev. W. H. Morgan; sub-deacon, Charles Carroll, S. J.; master of ceremony, Rev. P. E. Mulligan. Other priests attending within the sanctuary were: The pastor, Rev. F. Turk; Rev. Henry Bontempo of the Jesuit order, who organized the congregation; Rev. J. J. Ford, S. J.; Rev. Robert Sesnon, Rev. Philip Byrne, Rev. Raphael Fuhr and Rev. Father Vincent of the Franciscan order; C. H. Buckley, S. J.; P. J. Madden, S. J., and R. A. Drathman, S. J.

In the choir J. Concone's mass in F was given by Miss Antoinette Draghicevich, Miss Josephine Russell, Mrs. C. Michl, Miss Cecilia Treanor, T. J. Swift and J. Kentro, with Miss Charlotte Russell presiding at the organ. At the offertory Miss Draghicevich sang Millard's "Ave Maria." The St. Joseph's Society, organized in connection with the church, marched into the sacred edifice in procession and stood in line throughout the service, just outside the sanctuary. The United States and Slavonian flags were carried by the society, and the officers wore their regalia.

PREACHERS SPEAK DIALECT.

The sermon was preached by Bishop Starha and he was followed by Father Bontempo, both speaking a Slav dialect. Father Bontempo spoke of the unity and co-operation that should exist between the people organizing the church. At the conclusion of his remarks he asked the congregation to rise and make a "Profession of Faith." He then announced the mission which is to open in the new church next Sunday.

Archbishop Montgomery made a short address at the close of the services. He said he had received a letter the day previous from Archbishop Riordan, who is in New York, and who remembered the day of the dedication and sent his congratulations. He told the people that as a congregation they should be grateful first to Almighty God, from whom all good comes; then to Archbishop Riordan, who was so anxious to advance the interest of their church life; to the Bishop of South Dakota, who had come on to this city simply to officiate at the dedication of their new house of worship; to Father Bontempo, who had organized the congregation; to their pastor, Father Turk, who had given up an opportunity of spending a long time in the seminary in study to which he was devoted, to come and labor among them; to the Jesuit fathers, who had so zealously advanced the interest of the new congregation, and to Father Crowley, who had aided the cause. Above all he urged them to be faithful to their church.