St. Michael's Parish, Palmer, celebrated its golden jubilee on Sunday, June 9. The parish was founded at the time of the establishment of the Matanuska Colony in 1935.

Archbishop Francis T. Hurley was the principal celebrant of the jubilee Mass. Msgr. Francis A. Murphy, pastor of St. Benedict's Church, Anchorage, and pastor of St. Michael's from 1967-70, preached the homily. Cocelebrating the Mass with Archbishop Hurley and Msgr. Murphy was Father Gerard T. Ryan, the parish pastor; Father Harry W. Lunney, now pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Anchorage. Msgr. Lunney also built the church at Big Lake in the summer of 1966.

The church in the past two years has undergone renovations which include a new entrance, rest rooms, kitchen and belfry.


Other priests currently serving in the Archdiocese of Anchorage who were pastors of St. Michael's include Father Ernest H. Muellerleile, 1972-74, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Anchorage; and Father John Marx, 1974-77, living in Seattle.

Continued on page 25