

Church breaks ground

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GENEVA — Instead of breaking bread Sunday afternoon, parishioners at St. Peter Catholic Church gathered as their pastor and bishop broke ground for an expanded education center.

Bishop Thomas G. Doran offered prayers at the church before taking up a shovel with Monsignor Joseph F. Jarmoluk, the pastor of St. Peter.

"We ask you to bless this ground that is dedicated to a new education facility," Doran prayed, adding a request that the construction workers be kept safe as well.

Seven years ago, a committee began looking at the expected growth in the area, said Mark Meszaros, the chairman of the church's expansion committee. At the time, nothing was located west of Randall Road, he said.

Taking such a long time to plan the project was advantageous, he said.

"It gave use time to do it right," Meszaros said.



Bob Gerrard — Chronicle photo staff

Monsignor Joseph F. Jarmoluk, left, and Rockford Bishop Thomas G. Doran break ground for a new addition to St. Peter Catholic Church and School in Geneva.

When the \$7.5 million project is completed in 2003, the school will have a new second floor, a new gymnasium and a new library, said . Also, the existing classrooms will be remodeled, and choir and art rooms will be located below the gymnasium, he said.

Although the parish currently includes 2,700 families, it's expected to grow to 3,300, Meszaros said.