

St. Agatha Organ Dedication Sunday

By Helen McClave

A rare cultural event will take place at St. Agatha Church Sunday, April 3, at 3 p.m., when a Sacred Concert will be held at the dedication of the church's new pipe organ, described as one of the best in the Midwest.

Dr. William Haller of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Capital University, will play the organ, which was installed partially in time for Christmas services at St. Agatha. Installation was completed Jan. 27, and final fine tuning is being done this

week, according to Monsignor George Kennedy, in preparation for Sunday's concert.

The monsignor has been pastor of St. Agatha for 37 years. He will offer greetings and a prayer of dedication.

Dr. Haller will play a program of great sacred music, and the St. Agatha Choir under Mrs. Harry Montavon, director, will sing two anthems. Mrs. Paul Warnick, church organist at St. Agatha, also will play a portion of the concert.

Immediately following the concert, a reception will be

held by the St. Agatha Women's Club in St. Agatha School. Mrs. William Ensign is president of the women's organization, which was a major fund-raising group for the new organ, donating profits from an annual party. Contributions from private estates and donations from parish members -- plus some from residents who do not belong to St. Agatha but who heard about the effort to get a new organ -- also helped raise the needed \$66,000, Monsignor Kennedy said.

Dr. Haller was the consultant who wrote the

specifications for the organ. Several organ companies were considered, and the Delaware Organ Company of Tonawanda, N.Y., was chosen to build the St. Agatha instrument. Dr. Haller designed the stoplist in consultation with Robert Colby, president of Delaware Organ.

The instrument has two keyboards and pedals which play 30 stops. There are 32 ranks of pipes, five of which are extended or duplexed. The total number of pipes is 1744. The longest pipe in the organ, and the lowest pitched, is over 18 feet high.

Today's instrument descends from a tradition of organ building which stretches back over 2000 years.

Dr. Haller earned the Bachelor of Music and the Master of Music Degrees at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y., and his Doctor of Musical Arts from North Texas State University in Denton, Texas.

In 1965 he won the National Organ Playing Competition at Fort Wayne, Ind., and in 1973 made a concert tour of Finland, performing nine recitals. Dr. Haller won Honorable Mention in In-

ternational Organ Playing Competition: Grand Prix de Chartres, in 1974. He also made a concert tour of Scandinavia in 1976, performing in Stockholm, Copenhagen, Oslo, and Helsinki.

Dr. Haller has recorded "Sounds of Nations" for the Delaware Organ Company. He is a former dean of the Central Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and currently is organist for the Columbus Symphony as well as associate professor of organ and music history at Capital University.