

Bishop Of Basutoland Visits Dresden Church

DRESDEN (Staff) — The first native African to become a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church was greeted here last night at a reception in St. Michael's Church rectory by parishioners and a group of 50 or 60 colored persons from the Dresden-Chatham area.

Most Rev. Emmanuel Mabathoana, OMI, Bishop of Leribe in Basutoland, South Africa, is visiting Canada and western Ontario to personally thank Canadians whose contributions to missionary funds made possible his education and ordination to the priesthood.

"I am a priest and a bishop because of the kindness of Canadians," His Excellency said. "Following my consecration as a bishop last year I wanted to visit Canada and thank the people."

ORBLATE FATHERS

Taught by the Oblate Fathers who went to Basutoland from Canada, he was ordained and became a member of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is the first of his race, the Sesutos, to become a bishop.

Following the informal reception last night, Hugh Burnette, secretary of the National Unity Association, said meeting the bishop, and the high rank he has attained in the church, constituted "a good hunk of (racial tolerance) education".

Mr. Burnette is a key figure in a drive by district Negroes for equality of treatment in local barbershops and restaurants. He said he did not discuss local prob-

lems of racial discrimination with the bishop.

SURPRISED

"He did express surprise at meeting so many colored people in Canada," Mr. Burnett said, "and there were people of many religious denominations present to meet His Excellency."

Bishop Mabathoana addressed the congregation in closing the Forty Hours Devotion which was being held at St. Michael's. At the reception which followed, he was introduced by Fr. A. N. Page, pastor of the church.

Two films were shown: the first was a documentary of native life and the natural beauty of Basutoland, a British Protectorate about 800 miles north of Capetown; the second movie showed the building of churches, schools and hospitals in the county by Catholic missionaries.

Lunch was served by members of the Catholic Women's League of the parish.

Bldg. Permits Pass 3 Million

In spite of a below average month for building in Chatham, value of permits issued topped 3,000,000 to give the highest month total in four years. Value of two months yet to go in 1954, so far, \$3,030,500 in permits have been issued, building inspector Ed Moore said today.

Value of permits issued so far this year is almost twice that of 1951, and well over a million dollars more than that of 1952 and 1953 at this point in those years.

Permits for new dwellings issued in October totalled \$57,000, including additions, repairs and garage \$3,150; for new commercial buildings and remodelling and repairs \$20,750; and for new industrial and addition to industrial buildings, \$10,500.

Only permits of large value issued during the month went to Joe De Decker, 110 Indian Circle, for moving a building making a dwelling, \$5,000, and Lucien Tourlous for construction of three new dwellings, at 55-63 Allen street and 34 Do-