

House of God
and
Gate of Heaven

THE NEW CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

DEDICATION BOOK

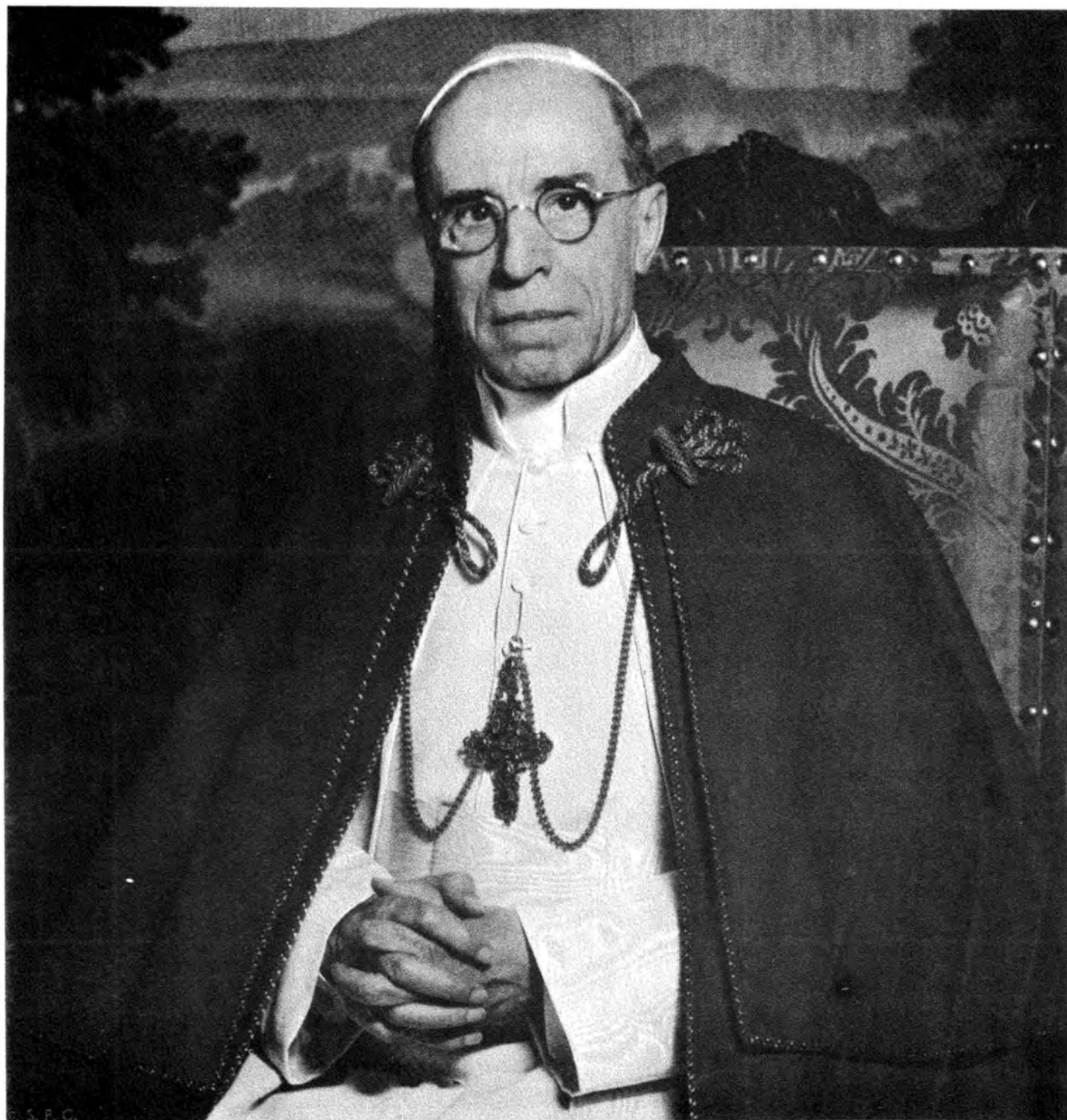
December, 1958



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

O God who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, didst make her a worthy habitation for Thy Son, and didst, by His foreseen death, preserve her from all stain of sin; grant we beseech Thee, that through her intercession we may be cleansed from sin and come with pure hearts to Thee.

(Prayer from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8)



TO
OUR FOND MEMORY OF
POPE PIUS XII
WHO GAVE ALL OF HIMSELF
FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH
WE DEDICATE THIS WORK





Telegram

Dec. 5, 1958

On the joyous occasion of the Blessing of the new church of the Immaculate Conception in Minneapolis, I am pleased to inform you that the Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, has Graciously deigned to impart his apostolic Benediction to the Pastor, the clergy and religious associated with him, Parishioners and all who join in the observance. I add personal congratulations and good wishes.

Archbishop Cicognani

Apostolic Delegate





WILLIAM O. BRADY
Archbishop of Saint Paul



244 DAYTON AVENUE
SAINT PAUL 2, MINNESOTA

November 18, 1958

TO THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE
OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS:

The Archbishop is delighted to know that we shall shortly have the privilege of praying together on the dedication day of your new parish church.

One by one, the essential parish buildings have grown through the dedication of the priests who have served in this parish and through the generosity and interest of the people there.

In our modern day, the demands and needs of a parish are various...for education, for social activities, for all the affairs which religion sponsors and our catholic people expect.

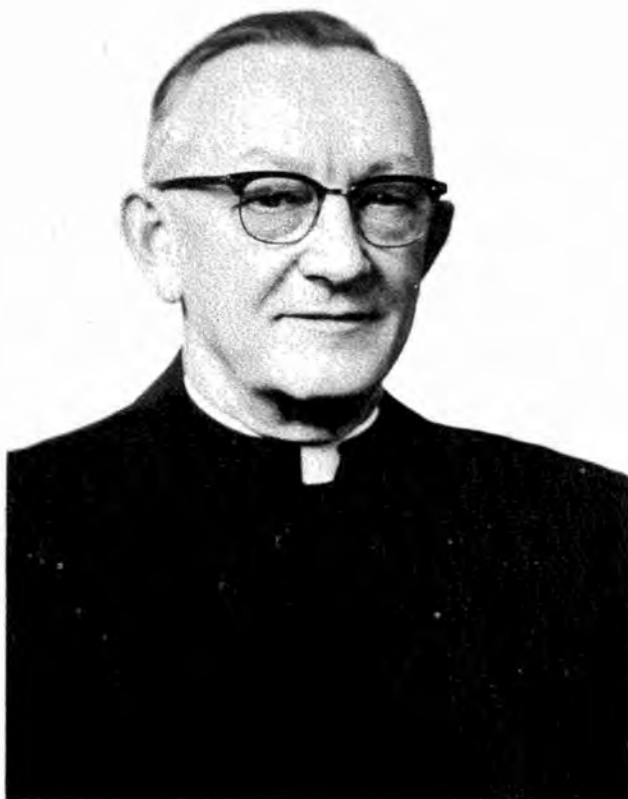
But the crown of any parish is the Church where God will be worshipped in a setting fitted to His Majesty and suited to inspire the love and devotion of God's people. Often, we must wait years before such a fitting edifice can be prepared. This parish of yours has waited. And now it sees the fulfillment of many dreams and the true glory of the people who, through united efforts, have done so much under the guidance of their priests.

The Archbishop, therefore, congratulates all of you and feels sure that this new place of worship will be a new bond of affection to hold the families of the parish together and to bind them to Almighty God.

With every blessing on your accomplishments, I remain,

Devotedly in Christ,

William O. Brady
Archbishop of St. Paul

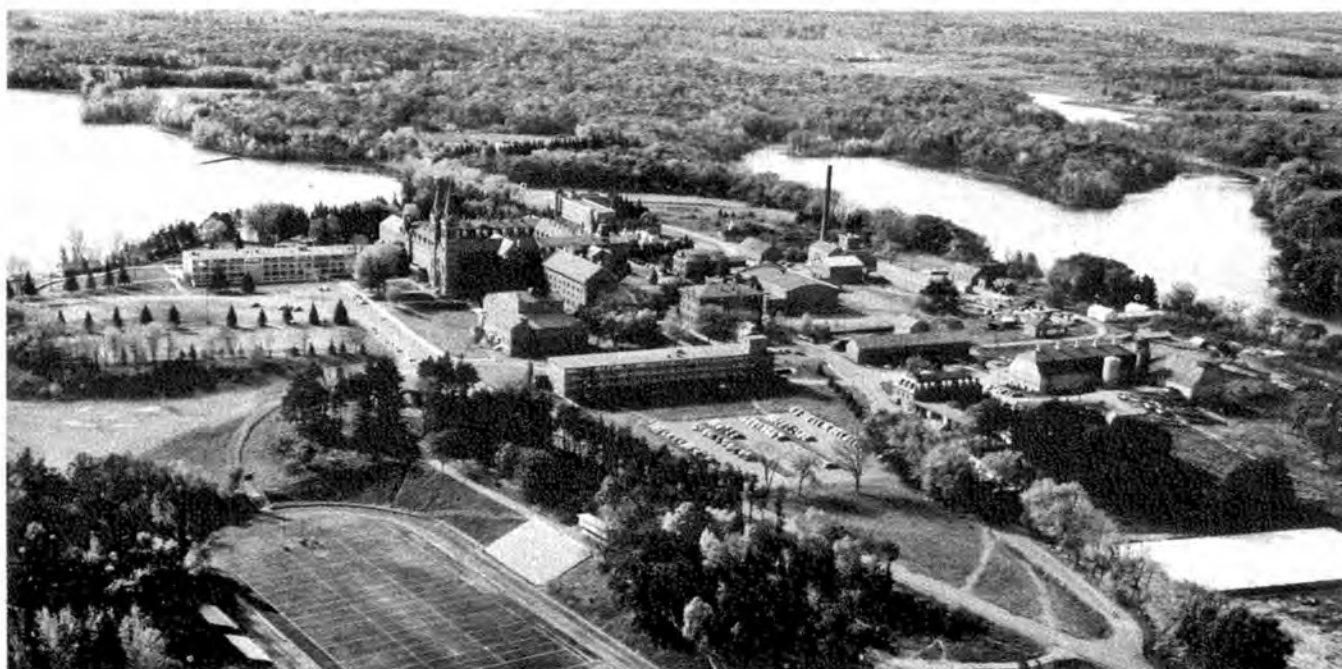


Father Joseph F. Lapinski

Pastor, since Jan. 1939

Father Roger J. Hermes
Assistant, since June, 1953





St. John's Abbey and University, Collegeville, Minnesota

Since February, 1953, a Benedictine priest has been able to come to us on week-ends to help serve the needs of the parish.



Father Paul Bussard
Assisting here since 1943

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Early settlers in the Village of Columbia Heights found that there was no Catholic Church in their Village. To attend Sunday and Holyday Mass, considerable hardships had to be undergone. In most families it meant that the husband rose early to catch an early streetcar so that they could return home in time for their wives and children to reach a later Mass. Families generally attended Mass at various Catholic churches, depending for the most part on their nationality, traveling to St. Clement, St. Boniface, St. Anthony, or Our Lady of Lourdes. Meeting on the streetcar every Sunday and considering their plight, four men, Fred Lucier, James McKenna, Anthony Netkow, and Barney O'Toole, decided they would try to do something for the Catholics in Columbia Heights. They did the only thing they could do, they went to see Archbishop Dowling. Their purpose was to see if they could at least get a Mission Church in the Heights. This happened in the later part of 1918. The Archbishop was not despairing, for he sent them away to bring him further information about the area. A census of the area revealed that there were 60 Catholic families here, but for the Archbishop that was not enough.

The people here wanted a church, and in 1920 two organizations were founded: the ladies sewing society with Mrs. Ben Hawkins as president; and the Catholic League of Columbia Heights. Working together they put on bazaars, dinners, etc., to raise money so they could better approach the Archbishop. By 1923 they had netted \$1,700.00 thru these activities.

1923

A CHURCH

During the past four or five years, there were at least a dozen visits made to Archbishop Dowling asking him for a church in this area. Finally when the Archbishop was told of the sum of money that had been raised for the church, he sent, on Thanksgiving Day, 1923, a young priest, the Rev. George Rowles, to begin a parish in Columbia Heights. Arriving here Father Rowles took up residence in the Joseph De Marsh home on Madison Avenue, where the first Mass was said, and where he stayed until June of 1924 when he bought a home on Quincy street. The first public services were held Dec. 8, 1923, in the unused dance hall at the old Forrest Park amusement grounds on 40th Avenue and 7th Street, thanks to an offer by its owner, Mr. Kamm. The men of the parish made the necessary changes. Services were held in the Dance Hall until April, at which time they were held in the movie house which was also on the Park grounds.



Archbishop Dowling

Using the exact sum which had been raised by the Heights Catholics, Father Rowles bought 14 lots, bounded by 41st Ave., Quincy and Jackson Streets, where the building began for the church in the Spring of '24.



Archbishop Dowling at the cornerstone laying, June, 1924

Once the corner stone for the church was in, the building advanced quickly. By July services were held in the basement of the uncompleted church. Costing \$41,000, the building was completed, and then on December 8th, 1924, it was dedicated by Archbishop Austin Dowling. The first mass was read by Rev. L. S. Sledz, while the Archbishop preached the dedication sermon. The upper hall, with a seating capacity of 400, was used for church services, and the basement for Sunday school and society meetings. The building was planned to allow the addition in the future of several classrooms in the front.



Picture showing the completed church at the time of dedication, December 8, 1924. The insert shows Father Rowles, the first priest and first pastor to be sent to Columbia Heights.



Another view of the first church.

1939

THE SCHOOL

For fourteen years the parish grew and expanded, and by 1938 there were approximately 450 families in the parish. During this period about \$20,000 had been paid off on the church debt. Having considered the financial status of the parish, and its growth, and realizing the need for Catholic education, Archbishop Murray asked Father Rowles to build a school for the children of Columbia Heights. However, Father Rowles felt that the condition of his health did not warrant such an undertaking, and so Archbishop Murray transferred him and in his place appointed on Jan. 9, 1938, the Rev. J. F. Lapinski.

After adjusting himself in a new position as a pastor, Father Lapinski began plans for a school. Then in the following year, 1939, on May 25, Father Lapinski broke ground for the school. Once under way the building advanced quickly. Next in order came the laying of the corner stone on Aug. 14th. Colorful ceremonies marked the day. The Veterans of Foreign Wars with their band, the American Legion, 1000 people and 35 priests were all on hand. Archbishop Murray performed the ceremonies, after which Father Lapinski celebrated a Solemn High Mass. When the building was completed that fall, school opened with 224 students occupying six of the nine classrooms. Seven Sisters of the Order of St. Francis, one of whom was a housekeeper, staffed the school and lived in three rooms on the south end of the school.



Father Lapinski, standing in front of the original church, blesses the site where the school was to be built.



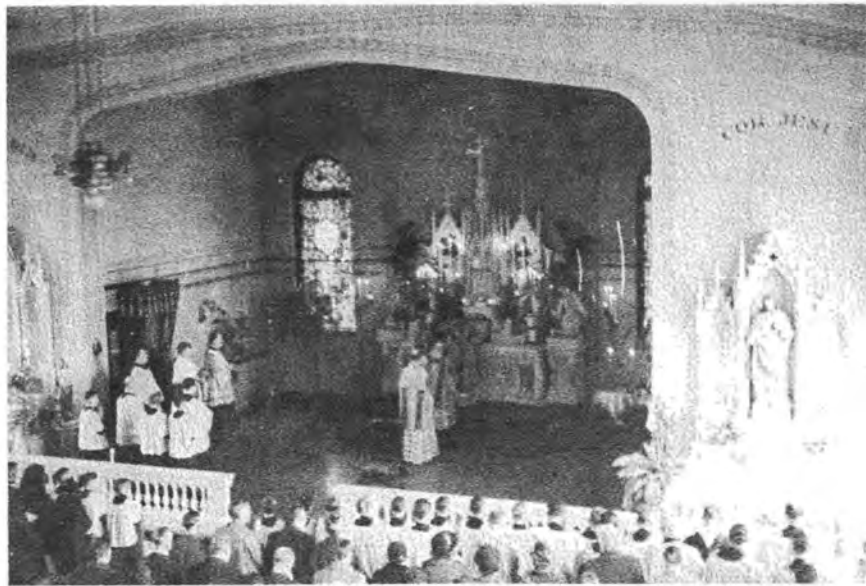
May 25, 1939 was the day Father Lapinski broke ground for the school.



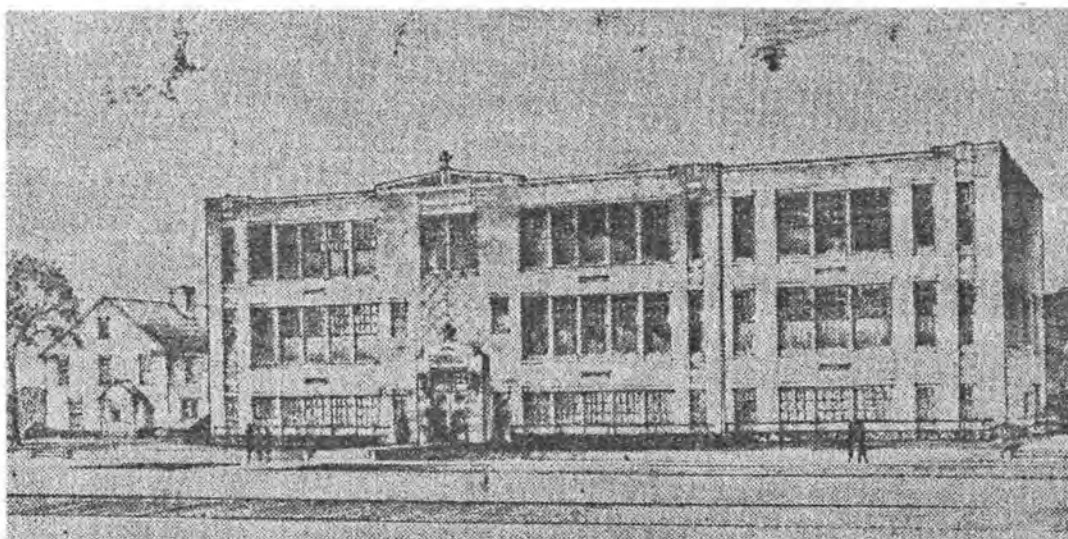
The old church begins to receive a new front, the school



Archbishop Murray lay the cornerstone on the school August 14, 1939



Father Lapinski celebrating a Solemn High Mass following the laying of the corner stone. The picture also shows how the interior of the church looked in 1939.



An architects plan of the Immaculate Conception school



Some of the 224 children who attended the school the first year



1948

NEW CONVENT and RECTORY

In March of 1948 construction began on the erection of a permanent convent for the Sisters and a permanent rectory for the priests. Prior to the building of the convent the Sisters occupied three rooms in the school. The growing number of students and hence the necessity of more class rooms, plus the fact that larger quarters were needed to accommodate the increased number of Sisters, made the production of a convent a certainty. At the present there are 16 Sisters occupying the convent which was built to accommodate 24 Sisters.

As the parish grew and expanded, so also did the business and needs of the rectory. Necessary office space and proper accommodations for more than one priest and a housekeeper demanded a new rectory. The present rectory now can house three permanent priests. It has two guests rooms, the housekeeper's quarters, and ample office space. The completion of the rectory and the convent came in the fall of 1948. Both were blessed on the same day, December 12, 1948, which came during the celebration of the parish's 25th Anniversary.



The present Convent built in 1948



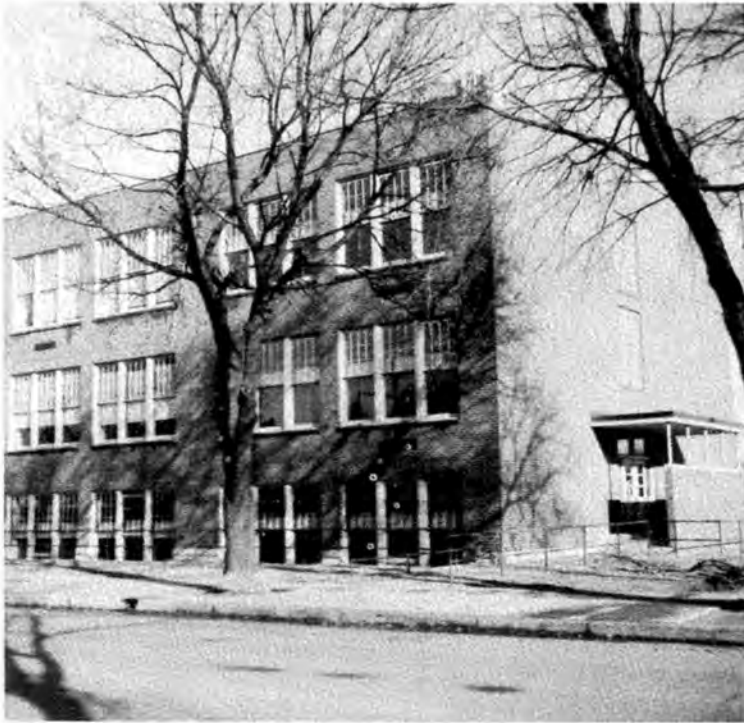
The Rectory completed in 1948



Convent Chapel



The Sisters



The addition to the school
1953 - 1954



The school without the new addition.



The entire school as it is today with the new wing.



1955

1958

***A
New
Church***



The old rectory across from the school.
Used from 1924 - 1948



The new Rectory

1953 - 1954

SCHOOL ADDITION

The reality that we were an expanding parish was brought to light by the fact that the school became so crowded that no further registration could be taken. By 1949 the school had reached its capacity with slightly over 600 children in attendance. At this time there were twelve class rooms in use, which meant about fifty children per room. To relieve the situation the kindergarten grade was dropped in 1950. With the building of new homes and many young families moving into the parish the relief of the situation did not last very long. By 1953 the school was overflowing with 659 students.

The large enrollment of the 1952 - 1953 school year made it evident that an addition to the school was necessary in order to bring to our children a Catholic education. At this point plans were begun for the school addition. And when fall of '53 had arrived, the building of the addition was under way. At the cost of \$286,000 the school was finished by May, 1954. The new wing on the school added eight more class rooms for a total of twenty. It also added a library, an office, and lavatory facilities on every floor.

At the present the school is staffed by 16 Sisters of the Order of Saint Francis and 5 lay teachers. The ideal of 40 students per class room would be 800, but in our case there are 1,123 students, plus an additional 555 who are attending Saturday Religion classes.

THE NEED

The idea of starting or building a new church was not one of those on the spur of the moment ideas. The conviction that we needed a new church belonged to one in particular. It was rather something that was felt by all. Attendance at Mass on Sunday proved to all that the old church was by far too small. Hence in the Spring of 1955 Father Lapinski approached Archbishop Murray to see what could be done about this need. The result of this meeting between Archbishop Murray and Father Lapinski was simply that no new church could be built in the near future. The Archbishop pointed out that since the parish was still in debt to the total of \$250,000 because of the recent addition to the school, he could not see how he could possibly permit a new church to be built at this time.

As Spring and Summer came the need for a new church did not diminish, but rather increased. In the parish rectory the registration rate of new families into the parish ran as high as eight a week for this period. With this large increase presenting more and more of a problem, Father Lapinski again turned to the Archbishop. Explaining to Archbishop Murray the greater need, Father Lapinski asked his permission to conduct a campaign to obtain funds to build a new church. Seeing the great need of this parish and the great possibilities in a campaign such as this, Archbishop Murray immediately gave his approval to this fund appeal program.



John Gregory Murray
Archbishop of Saint Paul
1931 - 1956

ARCHBISHOP MURRAY APPROVES NEW CHURCH

"To conduct a campaign to obtain funds to build a new church for the accommodation of the people of your parish is worthy of the highest commendation. We congratulate all the members of the parish on undertaking a project that will intensify their spirit of faith and sacrifice for the glory of God. the sanctification of themselves and the edification of all who associate with each other in such a worthy cause."

THE PROMISE

On September 12, 1955, the campaign to which Archbishop Murray gave his approval began. Since our aim was to eventually build a new church, the campaign's official title became known as the New Church Building Fund Appeal. For the next five weeks plans were made for the Parish Appeal. Much time went into organizing the program. There was the problem of selecting and finding the leaders and workers who could do the job. There were speeches of indoctrination and instruction, and speeches covering the need of a new church and the necessity of making the Appeal a success. For six weeks campaign bulletins were received by every family in the parish. It contained campaign news, the general progress of the campaign, the enlistment of men and women, articles on the Church, and articles on the duties and obligations falling upon all to support the New Church Appeal.

The immediate result of the campaign became evident on October 26. Four days prior to this date an army of workers went out into the parish to make the general solicitation, the financial promises, the signing of pledges to obtain a new church. The amount pledged varied with each wage earner. The amount requested was a day's wage a month over a period of 30 months. Just as the campaign had started, it also ended, with enthusiasm and encouragement. The minimum sought through the New Church Building Fund Appeal was \$250,000. The amount pledged was \$406,739.

Immaculate Conception Church Building Fund Appeal

Honorary Chairman REV. J. F. LAPINSKI, Pastor

Honorary Vice-Chairman REV. ROGER HERMES, Assistant

Co-General Chairmen
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JOHN YENCHO

Co-Big Gift Chairmen
STAN ZDON
GEORGE MORLEY

Co-Survey Chairmen
JOS. W. LUBANSKY
CLIFF MURPHY

Dom Herbynski
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Earl Duffy

Stan Pacyga
Ben Sicard
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Richard Meyers
Rudy Wachter

Ray Renner
Cliff Wyckgram
Omar Aasen

Chairman of Division Leaders FRANK BREEN

Arnold Bonifas

Wallace Miller
Louis Gaetke
Charles Briscoe
Joseph Medlo

Joseph Havelak
Dame De Lorne
Ernest Petrangelo
Frank Pacyga

Joe Chesla
Cletus Nei
Thomas Brennan
Jerome Graslweitz

Ed Leach
Ed Pestka
Zigmund Zdon
Joseph Kowal

John Kudak
Donald Savelkoul
Ralph White
Fred Harwood

Arthur Koch
George Haluska
George Spencer
Jack Downey

Paul Matula
Robert Buckley
Robert Bard
John Bednar

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Gordon K. Andrews
Norman Arcement
Frank Ascher
John F. Banaszak
Leonard W. Bayer
Clarence Belisle
John Bednar
Lloyd Berner
Frederic Berry
Robert Blalke
Roy Blalke
Ted Bernat
Paul Bona
Harold Braegemann
Donald Brouillard
Wayne Brouillard
Elias Brown
Herbert Burback
Ralph Burkholder
Russell Burris
Frank Caliquite
John Callaghan

Fred Cardinal
Gerald E. Carlson
Daniel Carmichael
Nick Charchenko
Clayton Charley
James Clarkin
Lawrence Coulombe
Gerald Courteau
James Dahl
Floyd Dallman
H. R. Lindsey
Edward Machowicz
George De Bruin
Maddie Decheine
Frank Decker
Carl Dietz
Rex Dillow
Edward Doberstein
Clyde Doyle
Lewis Doyle
Thomas Drapela
Richard Duston
Raymond Dziuk
Maurice Fournier

Emery Gale
Roman Gallus
Andrew Gawel
Lawrence Gebeck
Arthur Graczyk
Stanley Grande
George Green
Walter Grineski
Donald Guzik
Walter Guzik
Joseph Guzik
Lawrence Halek
Stanley Halek
Donald Hall
Harvey Hanggi
Michael Harding
Thomas Harding
William Hayes
Clyde Hawthorn
Wilfred Provost
Raymond Hebynski
Joseph Hogan
George Horan

Lawrence Hosch
Henry Igelsrud
Clemens Janisch
Everett Jarnot
Burt Jewison
William Johannes
Warren Jolly
John J. Jordan
Armond Jorgenson
Anthony Jullowski
Joseph Kluk
Albert Kordiak
Paul Kordiak, Jr.
Frank Kostick
Alexander Kroll
Lloyd Kruse
Walter Krystoflak
Michael Kudak
Richard Kudak
Edward Kuppe
Edward Kutynsky
Michael Laconic
Walter Latawiec

Chester Latawiec
Louis LeDuc
William LeDuc
Henry Lemm
Edmund LeVair
Nick Fiecht
Gerald Fleigaur
Donald Kroll
Elmer Gabrelcik
Anthony Macaszek
Gayne Maloney
Leo Marcolte
Thomas Margotto
Darrell Marquette
George Metro
William Misarek
Howard Milne
Brunis Miskowic
John Miskowic
Joseph Montague
John Murzyn
Florian Nalezny
Anthony Neltow

Harold Neltow
Ambrose Neumann
Virgil Nickloro
Francis Niznick
Peter O'Donnell
James O'Malley
George Padula
Dominic Paone
Alfred Paquette
Stanley Partyka
Lawrence Palsch
James Pierro
Ralph Pineault
Chester Plante
Arthur Porter
John Rak
Alex Ratke
Lester Rehaume
Michael Reichenberger
Aurelius Robidoux
George Rozek
Martin Rosmark
Vincent Rozycki

Michael Schafer
Nicholas Schmitz
Benedict Shasky
William Sinnott
Alfred Snyder
Samuel Spano
Roy Spensley
Alex Sperl
LeRoy Stanek
Joseph Sullivan
Raymond T. Sullivan
Thomas Tomaszewski
Francis Von Dell
George Walsh
Wallace Wasik
Aloysius Wermerskirchen
Armond White
Henry Zimba
James Spence
Chester Marciaszek
Raymond Bierch
Art Shasky
Stanley Barta
Raymond Carlson

Raymond Brouillard
Chester Burns
James N. Burns
James Buzzelli

Maurice Chevalier
Earl Cleland
Miguel Custodie
Dennis De Mars

S. Dierling
Frank Feeney
Ernest Freyberger
George Furlong

Edward Hazel
Robert Janick
Thomas Kiljoren
Paul Kordiak, Sr.

Julius Kozial
James L. Kuskey
Gordon Reganauer
Thomas Thomalla

Eugene T. Lane
Donald Lundholm
Oliver Maas
Edward Mergenthaler

Edward Miller
Oliver Olson

Team Workers



STAN DANIEWICZ
Co-General Chairman



JOHN YENCHO
Co-General Chairman



GEORGE MORLEY
Co-Big Gift Chairman



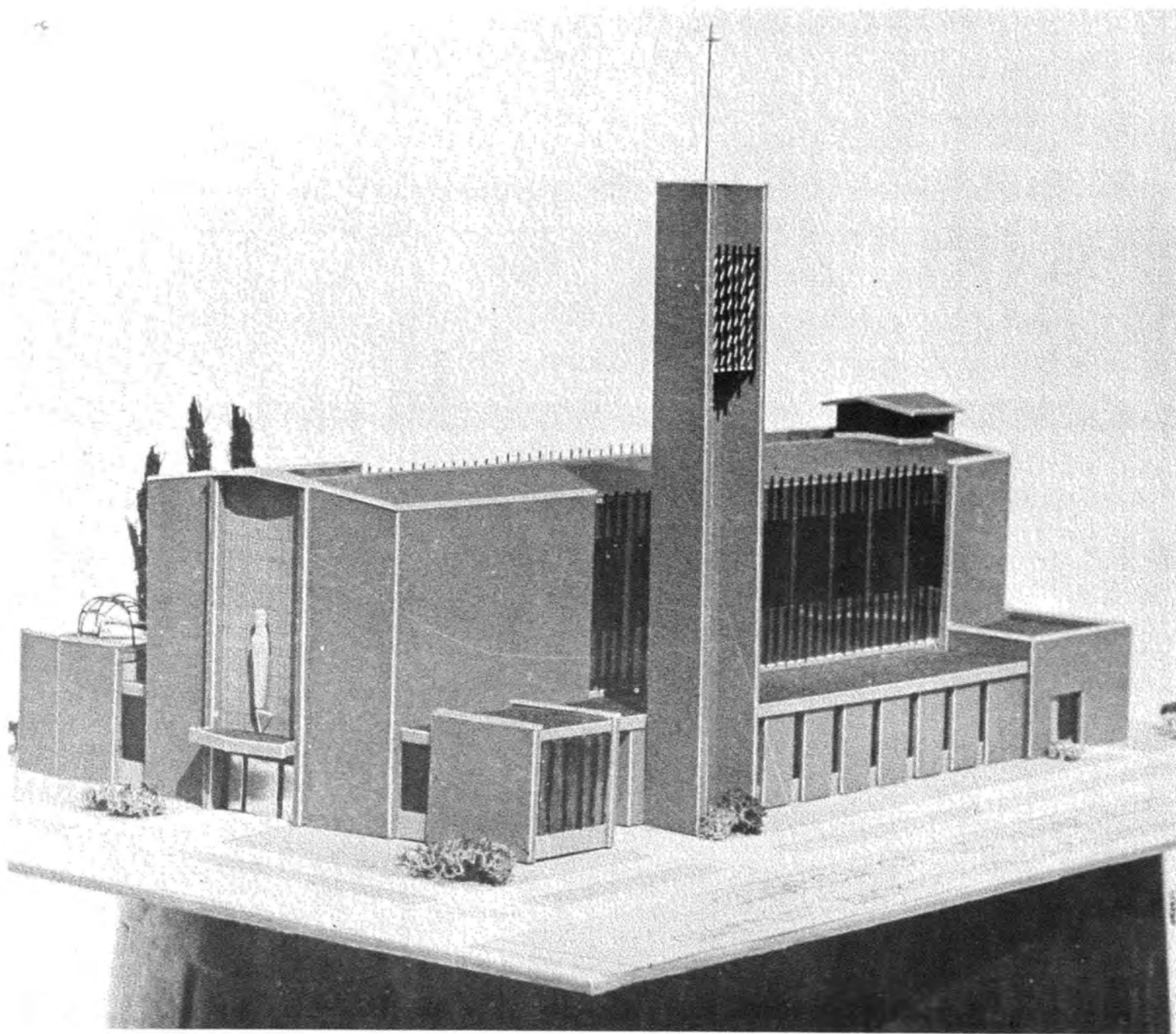
STAN ZDON
Co-Big Gift Chairman



JOSEPH W. LUBANSKY
Co-Survey Chairman



CLIFF MURPHY
Co-Survey Chairman



THE CHURCH

As the New Church Building Fund Appeal got under way, our dreams of a new church were enormously increased. These dreams, however, did not last very long, for no sooner had the campaign started than the architects were called in by Father Lapinski to start on the plans for the new church. From the Fall of '55 to the Fall of '56 many plans, sketches, and ideas were discussed by Father Lapinski and the architects. The planning of a new church is no easy matter. Much time and study are required to correctly lay out a new church. Gradually though, plans for the new church were forming, and while many plans and ideas had to be discarded, there were on the other hand many plans and ideas decided upon and many details taken into account.

For a time it looked as though the church could be started in the Spring of 1957, but the returns on the pledges fell short of the necessary goal of \$250,000.00, which Archbishop Murray set as a must before the church could be started.

As Summer, however, turned to Fall, it became evident that the goal would soon be reached. At this point bids were taken on the construction of the new church. The lowest bid submitted was \$429,995.00 by the Rauenhorst Construction Company, which was officially awarded the contract on November 8, 1957.

The day that all had been anxiously awaiting was finally here. Our hopes and prayers, and financial sacrifices, were soon to find their results. The day was November 11, 1957. The day began on a spiritual note, a Solemn High Mass to entreat our Blessed Savior to inspire and assist us in our sublime project, the building of a new church. Following the Mass, the ground breaking ceremonies took place, at which Father Lapinski officiated.



Ground-breaking ceremony
Prayers by Father Lapinski
November 11, 1957

Father Lapinski giving the
blessing of the ceremony





Father Lapinski breaking the
ground with the first shovel
of earth.



The second shovel full
Fr. Paul Koscielniak



Another shovel full
Father Hermes

MANY HELPING HANDS



Representing the Altar Boys
James Hakanson



Representing the school children
Wayne Brouillard



For the women
Mrs. Rose Totino digging in



One of the parish founders
Mr. Anthony Netkow digs deep

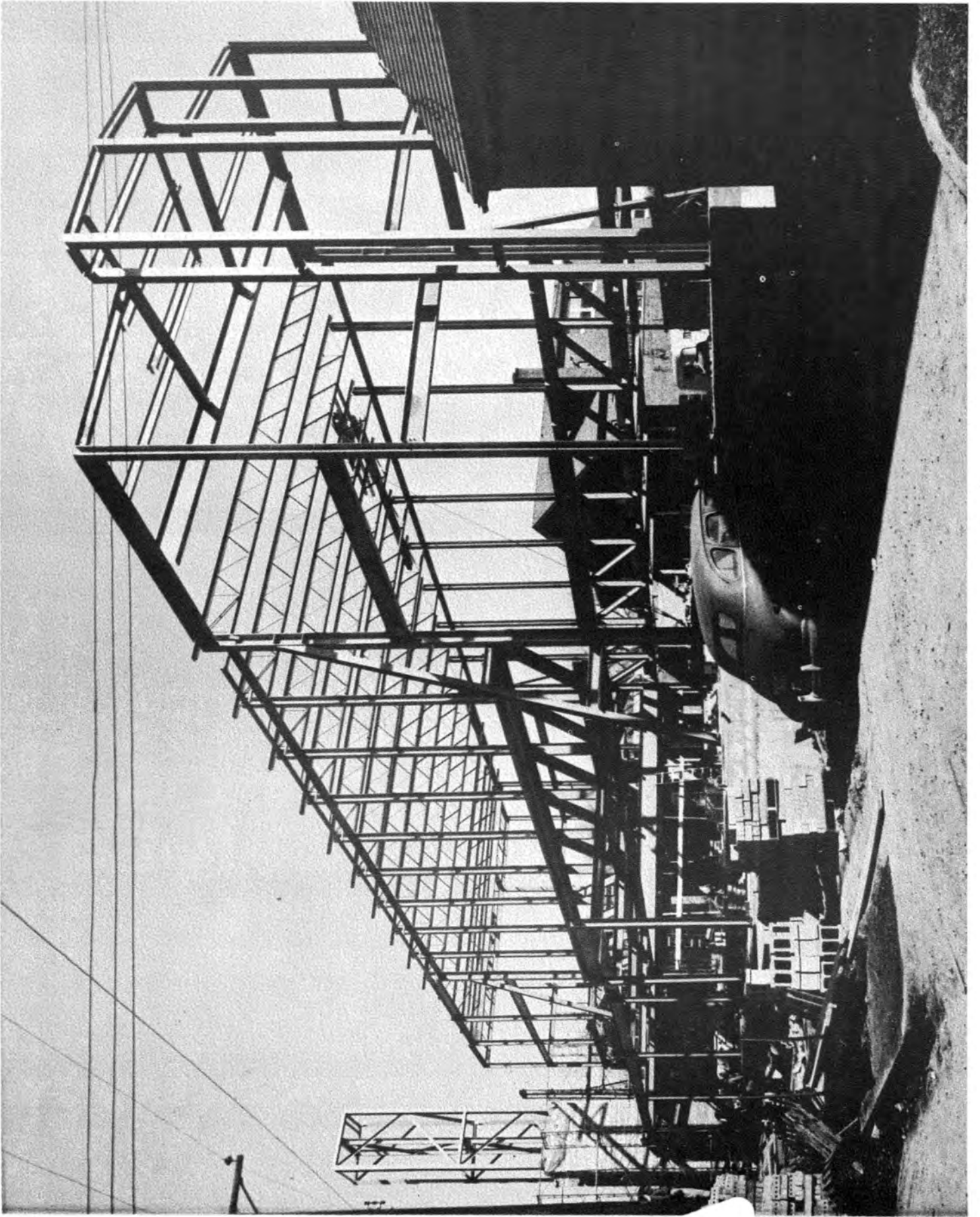


The site upon which the church
is to be built, looking from
the rectory to the convent.

The real business of building
a church moves in.



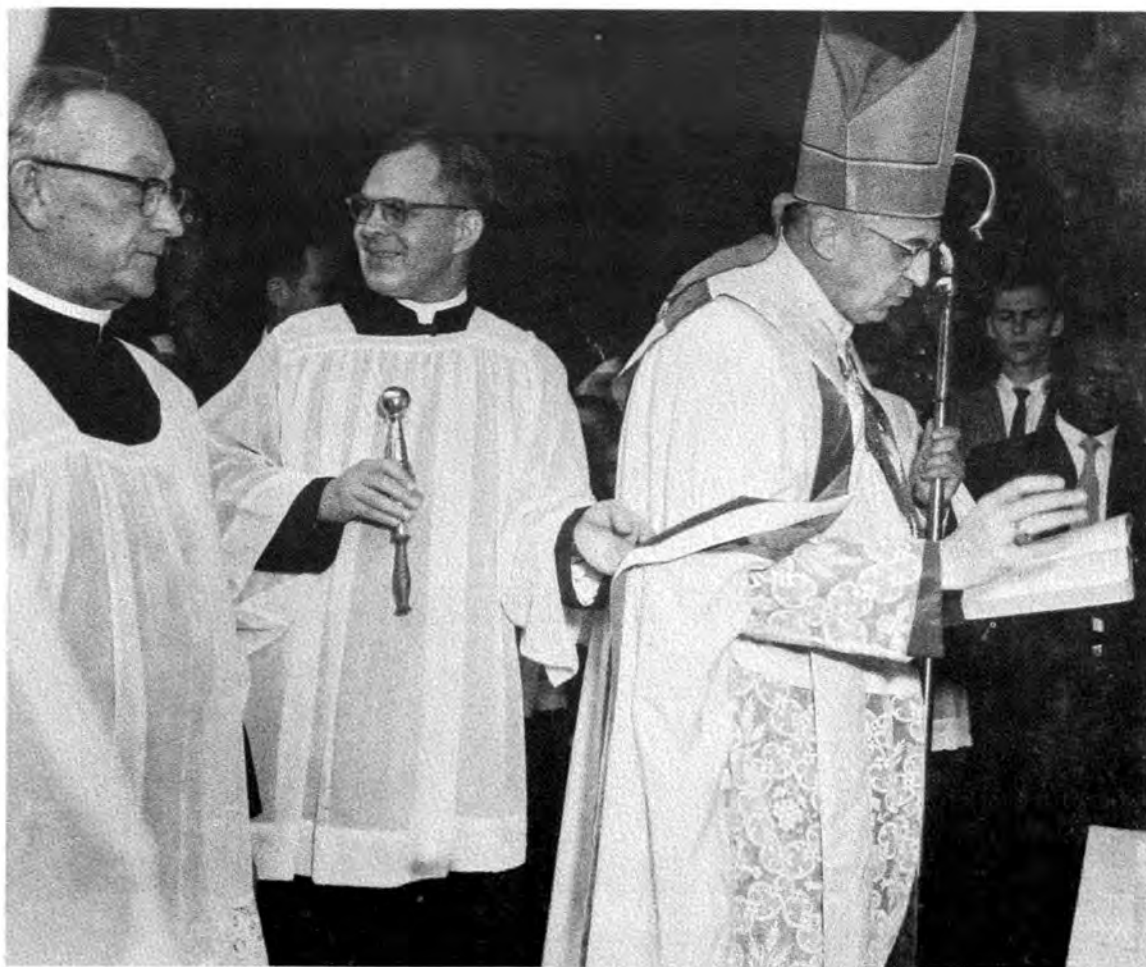
The genuine beginning.



PICTURE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION ON PREVIOUS PAGE

This picture, taken in April, 1958, shows the structural steel used in the church. The tonnage of steel is believed to be the greatest ever used in a church of this size. Included in the steel are two 85-foot trusses weighing 10 tons each. One of these trusses with its angled steel supports can be seen on the picture where the upper section of the convent forms a background to the picture. The tower on the left side of the picture shows that the stone work has been begun.

On June 8th, the blessing and laying of the corner stone took place. Bishop Cowley, as seen below, officiated at the ceremonies. Assisting the bishop are the Rev. Vincent Tegeder, O.S.B., and Father Lapinski. June 8th was also commemorated as the 20th year of Father Lapinski as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church and his 30th year in the priesthood.



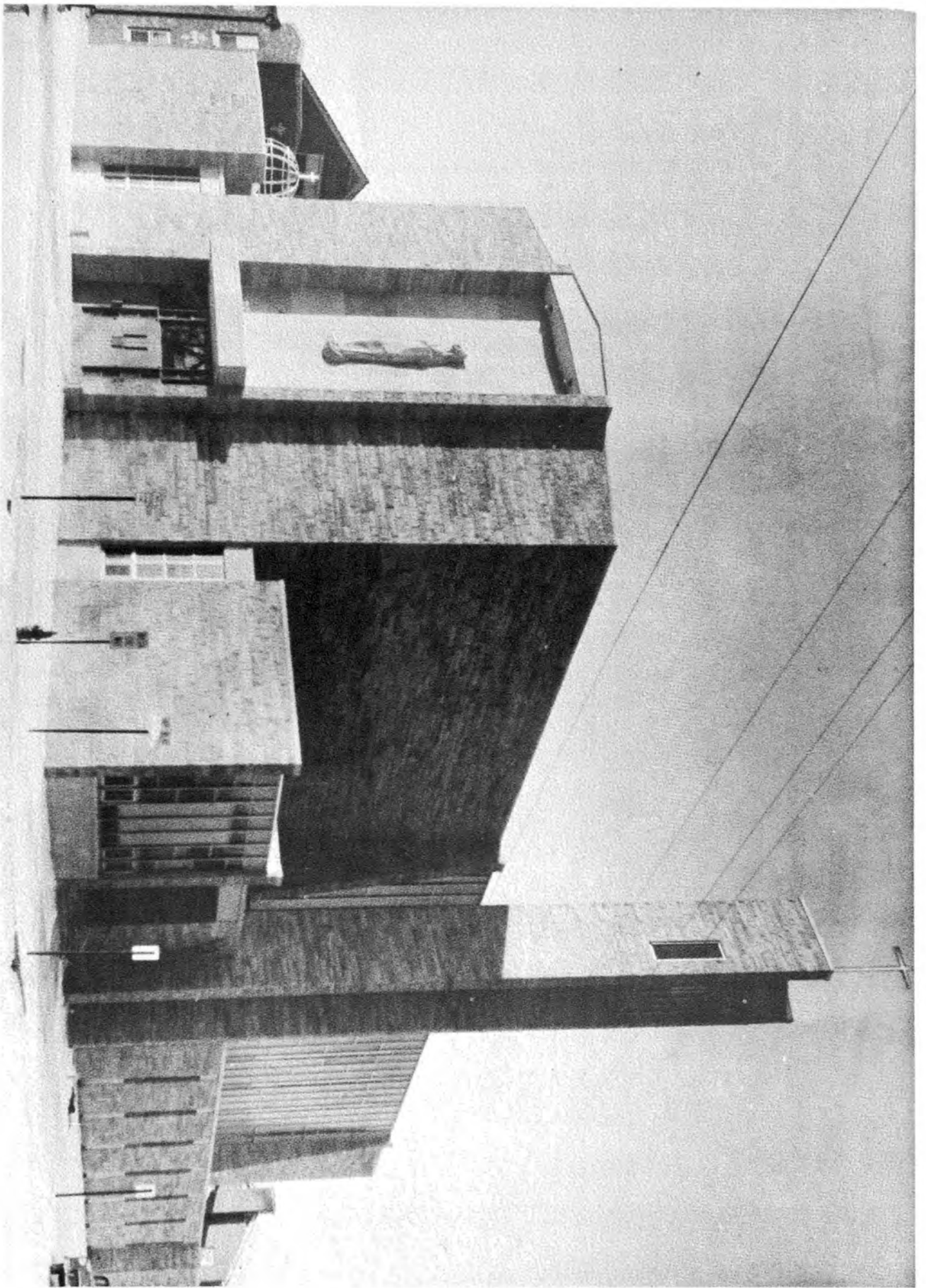


Bishop Cowley

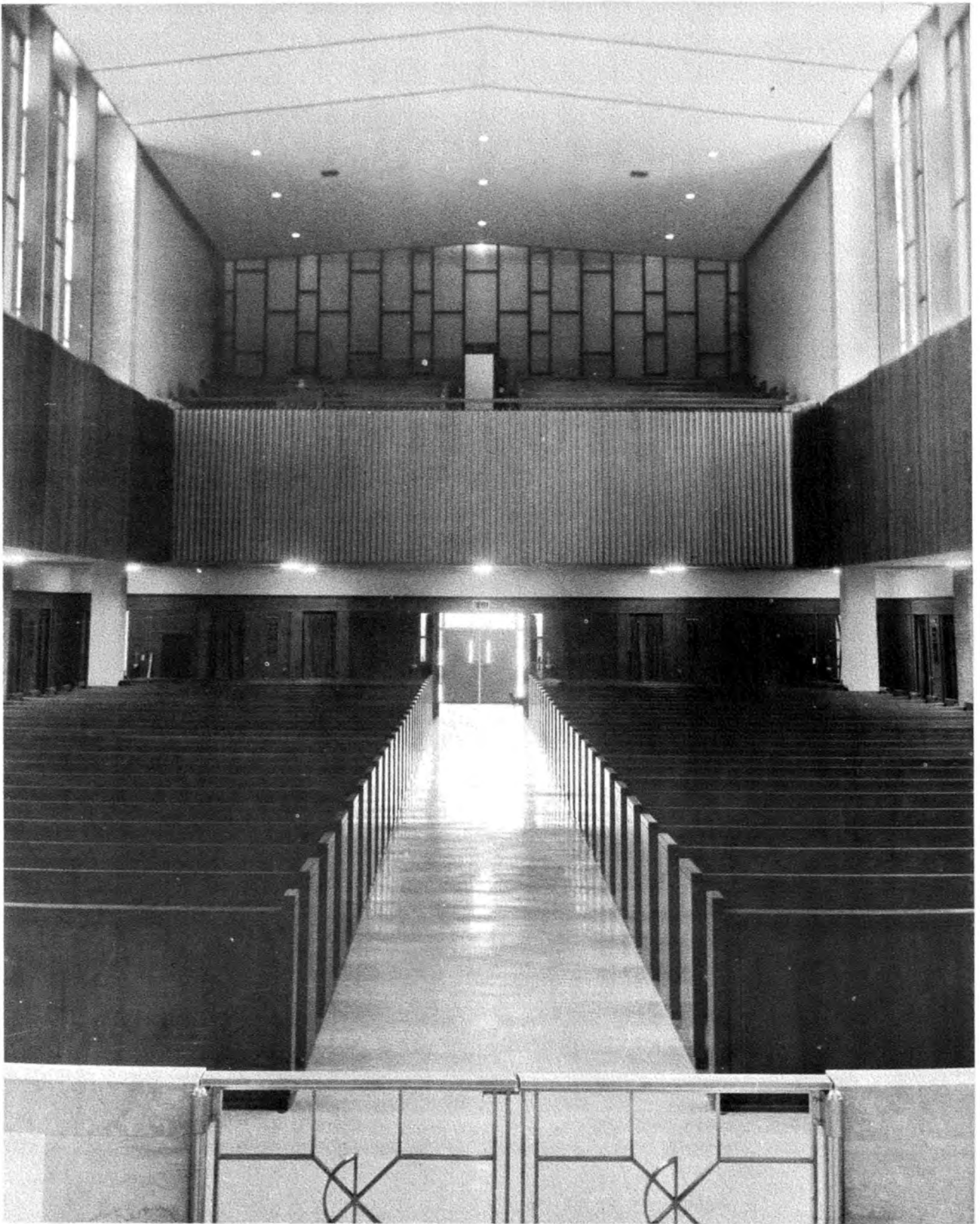
Laying of The Corner Stone June 8, 1958



Bishop Cowley



The New Church



Interior of New Church



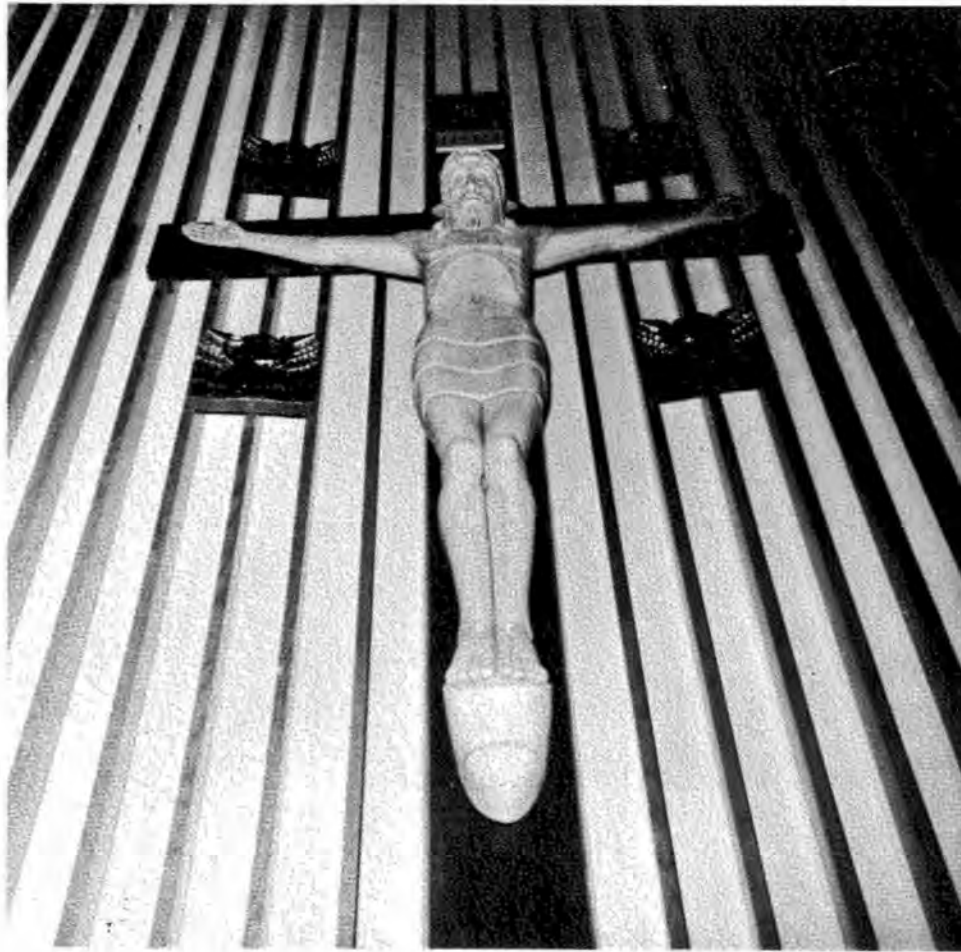
Interior of New Church



Main Altar

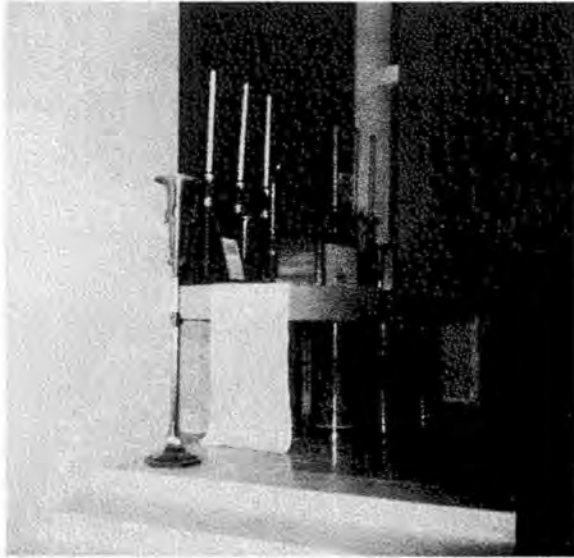
Consisting entirely of marble, the main altar is 10 feet long and 3½ feet wide. The top and the back side of the altar are made of Botticino marble from Italy. The four columns supporting the front of the altar are made of Red Alberato marble, also from Italy. The top slab, called the mensa, weighs in itself two ton. The weight of the whole altar is approximately four ton. Situated and imbedded in the center of the altar are the relics. They consist of fragments from the bones of two martyrs, Saint Dignus and Saint Felicissimus.

The tabernacle is made of bronze with a gold plated finish. It measures 24" by 19". The cost of the tabernacle was \$1,865.00. Also on the altar are six 30" and two 15" candlesticks. They are made of gold plated brass and black walnut. Matching the candlesticks and made out of the same material are the sanctuary lamp, the candelabra, the altar cards and the missal stand.



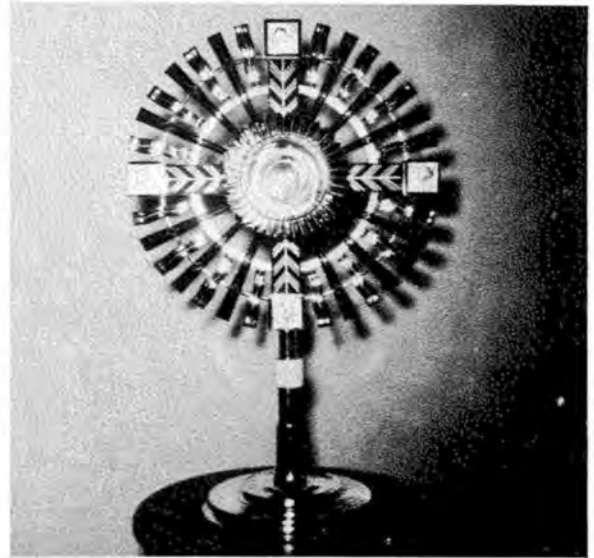
Crucifix above main altar

The huge crucifix pictured here measures 15 feet in length and 7 feet in width. The corpus on the cross is human-size. The cross itself is made of oak and the corpus is hand-carved Lindenwood. Positioned near the cross beam are four reliefs carved in a spirited manner and gold leafed. The four reliefs depict the four Evangelists. Not seen on this picture are four other reliefs which represent four of the Doctors of the Church. The background of the crucifix and the reliefs is the reredos. It consists of 23 white oak boards, spaced six inches apart and extending six inches from the back wall. The reredos extends from the ceiling, where the canopy is located, down to the back of the altar, a distance of 33 feet. The canopy or tester above the altar extends not from the ceiling but from an elevated section of the roof, from which there is indirect lighting.



Side view of main altar

Seen at the side of the picture is the stone that covers the back wall of the sanctuary. It is polished Mankato stone.



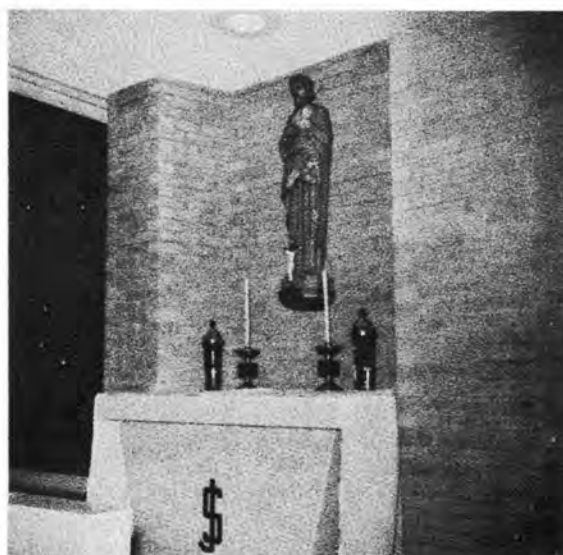
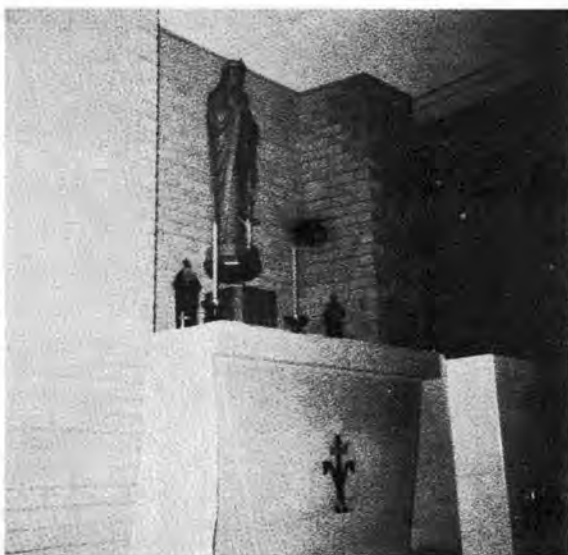
Monstrance

Used at benediction, Forty Hours, Holy Hours, etc., is the Monstrance. It is made entirely of sterling silver with gold plating. Made in Germany, it is worth \$1,543.50.



Communion railing

Both Botticino and Red Alberato marble go to make up the 60 foot communion railing. The gates at the center are in a bronze satin finish. Engraved in the lighter marble are gold leafed liturgical emblems.



The side altars in the new church are dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to Saint Joseph. Both are made of Botticino marble and have inlays of colored marble. The relics in all the altars are the same as the main altar. The statues above the altars are in hand-carved white oak. The figures are four feet tall.

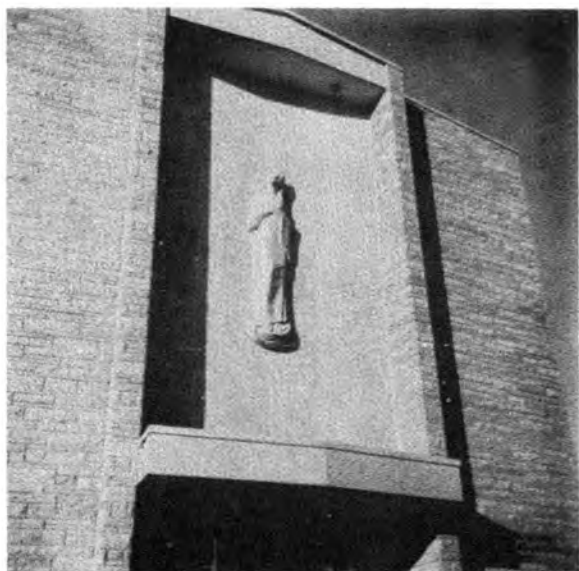


Shrine Altars

On each side of the church there is a shrine altar, one to the Sacred Heart and one to Saint Francis. They stand 4½ feet, and are hand-carved white oak.



The Stations of the cross are as typical as the one seen here in their beauty and workmanship. The white oak figures are twenty inches long.



Over the front entrance is the statue of the Immaculate Conception. Sculptured by Anthony Caponi out of Mankato stone, the statue is 12 feet tall, and weighs five ton.

In the vestibule of the church is the baptistry. The font itself is Botticino marble with a bronze top. Beyond the font is the Guardian angel and child statue. Above the font is a glass skylight dome. On the other side of the vestibule there is a small chapel, the altar of which is made of Brazilian Rose wood and a crucifix to match.



FINANCIAL PAGE

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Rauenhorst Construction Company\$429,995.00

ARCHITECTS

Shifflet, Backstrom, Hutchinson, & Dickey, Inc.\$31,800.00

PLUMBING CONTRACT

J. McClure Kelly and Company\$56,640.00

ELECTRICAL CONTRACT

Parsons Electric Company\$24,790.00

VENTILATION SYSTEM

Yale Engineers, Inc.\$20,713.00

ALTARS, PEWS, STATUES, ETC.

The E. Hackner Company\$62,805.00

LOWER CHURCH FURNISHINGS

The E. Hackner Company\$5,000.00

ORGAN AND EQUIPMENT

McGinnis Piano Company\$9,559.74

VESTMENTS, MONSTRANCE, ETC.

The E. M. Lohman Company\$8,664.70

BELLS AND CHIMES

Schulmerick, Carillons, Inc.\$6,914.40

STONE CARVED STATUE

Anthony Caponi\$5,500.00

MISCELLANEOUS

.....\$239.00

APPROXIMATE TOTAL

.....\$662,630.84

DEDICATION PROGRAM

December 8, 1958, 5:00 P.M.

Blessing Ceremonies Archbishop Brady

Dedication of Church

Consecration of Altars

Blessing of Stations of the Cross

Solemn High MASS

Sermon Archbishop Brady

Celebrant Rev. J. F. Lapinski

Deacon Rev. Paul Bussard

Subdeacon Rev. J. M. Kasel

Assistant Priest Rev. Walter LeBeau

Assistant Deacon Rev. Robert Vashro

Assistant Deacon Rev. W. W. Weiers

Master of Ceremonies Rev. Roger J. Hermes

1st Master Robert Hazel

2nd Master Charles Rusnacko

Censer-bearer James Hakanson

Mitre-bearer Edwin Sufka

Crozier-bearer Ernest Freyberger

Book-bearer Thomas Kudak

Candle-bearer Joseph Matula

Metropolitan Cross Thomas Yencho

Acolyte Roger Shasky

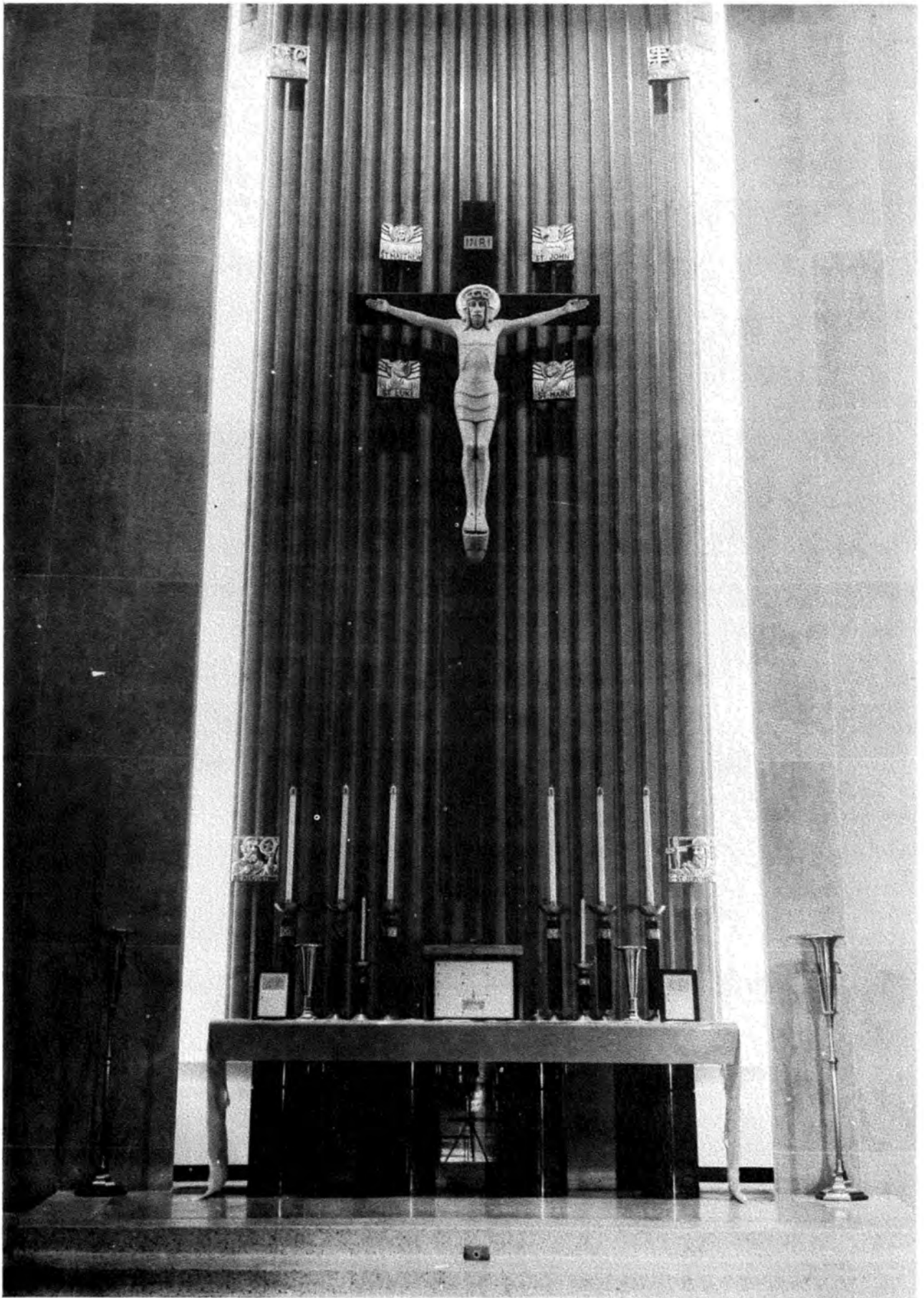
Acolyte Steven Mason

Train-bearer Raymond Sowada

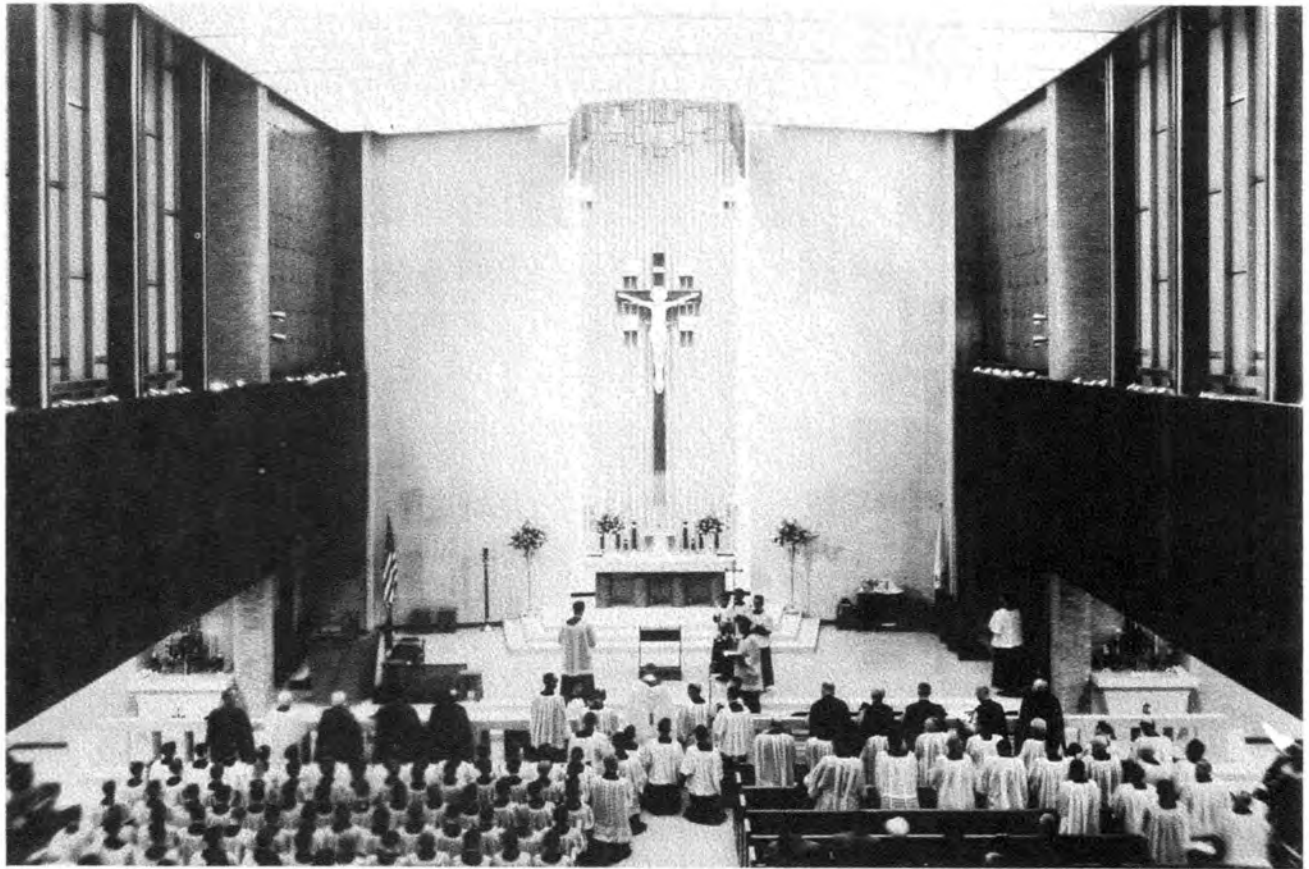
Sprinkler-bearer Thomas Bach

Processional Cross Robert Shull

Acolytes Wm. Bierden and James Montague



View of Altar, Crucifix, and reredos

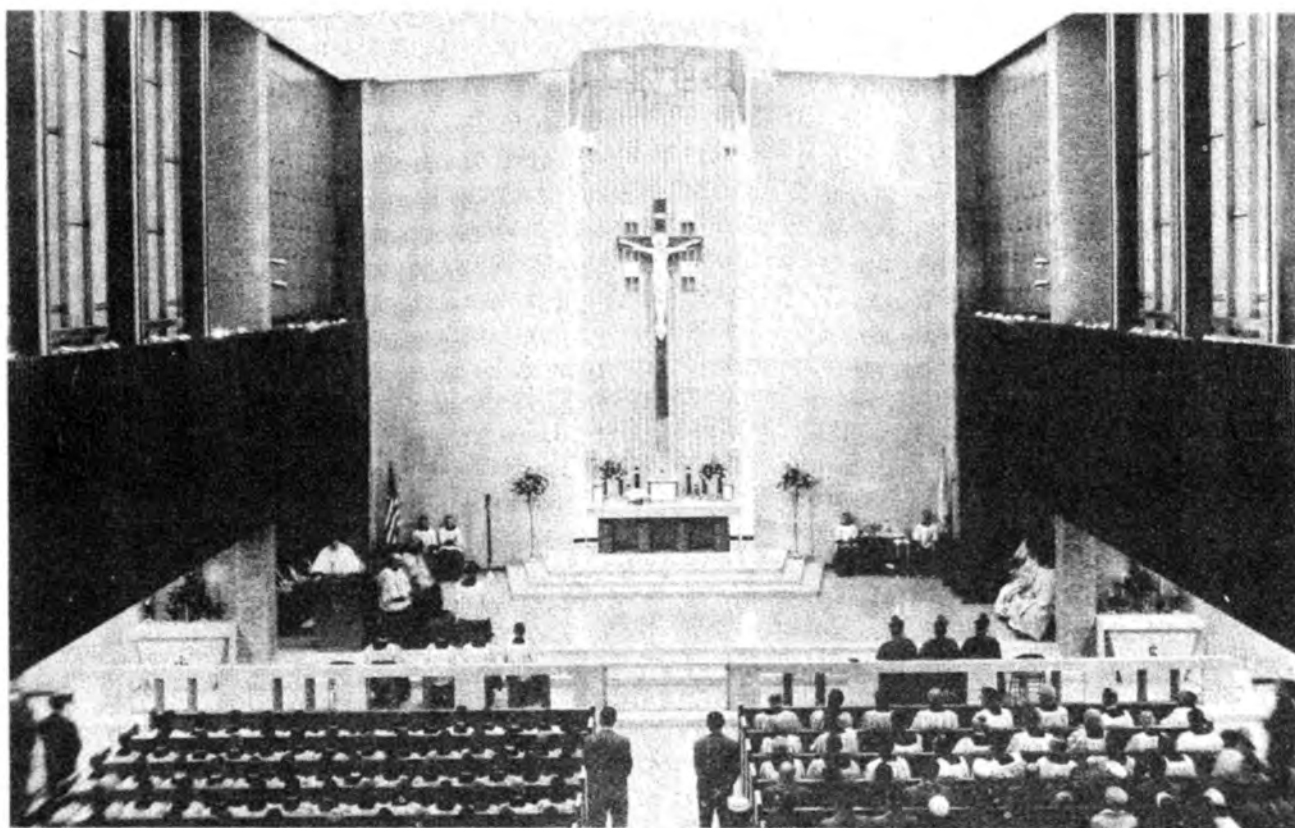


The Blessing of The Church — The Dedication





Solemn High Mass — Dec. 8, 1958



Archbishop Brady — Dedication Sermon

**SERMON PREACHED BY ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM O. BRADY
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH DECEMBER 8, 1958**

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

My Reverend Monsignori, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, my dear Sisters in Religion, and beloved Brethren in Christ. What has happened here within the hour is the consummation of something long dreamed and the beginning, we may confidently hope, of a degree of piety and spirituality in this parish, all of which three things, taken together, should be, if understood, more than an adequate sermon for this occasion on this holyday of obligation and on the day of dedication of this church. What has happened within the hour was briefly explained to you as the Archbishop and his assistants first blessed the exterior and then the interior walls of the church, as he prepared the altars for sacrifice, and as he blessed the station monuments which are meant to remind us all that this is a life of tears and suffering and eventually death. What was explained to you step by step really only was a summary, sometimes in symbol, of sacrifices and plans long postponed and of spiritual hopes soon to be realized.

Thirty-five years have passed since the foundation of this parish. Fifteen of them were years of struggle of a peculiar sort. For the expansion of the cities had not then yet begun to run as quickly as these later days have seen. The parish was a young and struggling one, and suddenly, as people came to Columbia Heights to fill up the vacant territories that had been here, the parish began to outstrip itself. And in the last twenty years under the leadership and guidance of your pastor together with the assistants which the Archbishop from time to time was able to send him, it has galloped quickly until what once had been bare ground, now sees a completed parish plant. None of this could have been done without the help of God. None of this could have been done without the imagination and the inspiration which comes from a devoted clergy. None of it could have been done without the prayers, sacrifices and co-operation of the Religious who serve our school and by so doing serve Almighty God and serve you and your homes. None of this could have been done without the unity and co-operation of the people. Consequently, for the past, one can only say a great word of thanks to Almighty God that He allowed this parish dedicated in honor of His Bless-

ed Mother to flourish as it has grown and to come to this moment when, by deliberate planning, we could pick out Her glorious feastday, the feastday which commemorates her greatest privilege and equivalently, say to Almighty God: we remember today, what you did for the Blessed Mother, and in token of our remembrance, we sum up the offerings of thirty-five years.

We beautify them by the addition of this extraordinary church and we give them to You in Your honor as a gift, as a form of worship, in thanksgiving for the graces to her and Your graces to us.

Such is, of course, an inadequate summary of thirty-five years, such cannot count the pennies that were pinched in the beginning and the dollars that were stretched in the end. Such, of course, cannot count the inconveniences, the prayers which were done under difficulties; the homes which grew so rapidly that the walls of the school had to be expanded to take care of the wonderful children of God who will make the parents of tomorrow. We cannot summarize the past except in terms of time and accomplishment. But here it is, a full-grown parish whose people tell the Archbishop that their priests lead them well in the ways of God, and whose priests tell the Archbishop that their people are wonderful men and women of sacrifice, willingness, whose priests tell the Archbishop that not only are their families devoted, but in this district, the men are particularly foremost in the practice of religion and in the evidences of example of Catholic life to the whole community. In view of such a past and such confidence given by one another in the community what can one do, except express another act of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

So we arrive at the present. We have this evening a striking coincidence, which perhaps most of you did not notice, that the blessing of the church and the altars was done in approximately fifty minutes, and it was just about ten minutes later, at six-o'clock, at the traditional hour when Catholics stand and bow their heads to recite the Angelus Prayer, that your Pastor at the altar, began to sing the prayer of the angels connected with Christmas which expresses the worship of men toward God, "Glory be to God on High" and the bells rang. Had we been outside we could have stopped to say a word of salute to the Blessed Mother. Those two songs and prayers are so interwoven into today's jubilation, into today's blessing that the coincidence in time must join our song of praise to God with the typical offering of prayers in honor of the Blessed Mother. The joining of those two is a symbol of what can happen in a soul as it has happened in a territory where the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary is strong and the worship of Almighty God is open and evident.

What is done here tonight in this public prayer, the people gathered around their pastor, united with the neighboring priests, is a promise for the future. Already the cities are exploding again. Someday to the north and to the west of you other parishes such as this must spring up, a wonderful tribute to the growth of the church of God and a challenge to the people of the next generation to accomplish what you have done in this. There have been times and places where people have waited fifty or one hundred years.

But a final dedication of a church which would be adequate to express their love of God and both the simplicity and depth of their faith, you have come to this much more quickly, and in coming to it as the compliments have been said of you. In an interesting way, Almighty God had blessed so many of your homes. There have been vocations sparked here by the example of the Sister and of the priests, so that more than a few are here to take part in this family and parish party. If so much has been done in the past when worship of God was done under circumstances more difficult, what almost unlimited blessings we can expect from this congregation when the worship of God will be carried out as it ought to be in the majesty of the Sanctuary and in the hearts of the people whose love for God will be better expressed because it is better surrounded.

The future we cannot count except to know that no man who put his trust in the Blessed Mother ever found that she failed him. No man who bent his knee continually, without failure, before his God was ever unhappy. It is as if this congregation had been building up to the present in the expectation of a flower of tomorrow and that flower will certainly be more than pledged to the people of Immaculate Conception Parish. We can anticipate that Almighty God will never be less generous than are the children of God. We can expect that the Mother of God will have a hearty and intimate affection for those who have tried so much in her name and done so much for her honour and renown.

The Archbishop sums up the compliments and congratulations of the archdiocese of all our priests of our neighboring parishes, of every parish in the archdiocese, and turns them on this feastday of our Blessed Mother toward you, toward this spiritual home and says to you simply in the Name of God, this has been well done, in the Name of God, go into the next thirty-five years with the expectation that even better things will be accomplished. On each one of your homes the Archbishop knows, that both the blessed Mother and Her Divine Son will bring a special favor. That you will cherish Him there first and Her concomitantly, that Her praises will be spoken, that His name will be revered. And if from this open fire of worship of God which we have dedicated tonight, there can spread sparks of fire to all the streets

of this district, then we can hope that what has been accomplished in the past with so little, will be doubled now that we have so much.

The Archbishop expresses a special word of thanks to the Sisters for the manner in which they have worked with the parish priests in carrying on the Apostolate among the young. For the old we have little concern, they have been grounded in a way that perhaps we cannot ground the second generation of today. They were grounded in the faith of Almighty God under difficulties. We must live in circumstances where we must mix discipline with affection, and understanding with love so as to hold the hearts and souls of the young not merely in the simple way the modern world provides. We are grateful to you Sisters and we hope that from these homes many more girls will come to share your habits and way of life, so that what you have accomplished here will begin elsewhere, and new foundations of churches and schools be made. We compliment the parents and especially this group of boys that stand before me. I would hope that Almighty God will give me the strength and length of years to see them ordained, some of them to the Holy Priesthood. It is a wonderful and great vocation. It is one the Blessed Mother has very close to her heart because her Divine Son, Jesus Christ, was a priest, the first of us all, boys. If you have love and affection for the priests who serve you in the parish, it is really not for them, it is because of what they represent. It is Almighty God. And to you, the beloved Pastor of this parish and priests that serve you, the Archbishop expresses again a special word of compliment and gratitude that you carried on here the work, and have helped share the burden which has been placed upon the Archbishop in the government of this diocese and the management of our parishes. It is by such intimate unity of priests with people, priests and people with the Archbishop, and such depth of faith the priests plant in the people because they have it first from Almighty God, that we expect "almost Miracles" as almost miracles have occurred in the last generation and a half, here.

Finally, on the generation of the future we lay a burden of appreciation of what the generation of today has accomplished. The building of a parish plant such as this involves staggering debts, economic burdens, the carrying of which, by our people is not always measured at its true weight. But we do know, we priests know, and we assure your people, that we know, and we shall do our best to teach the generation of the future, the gratitude which they owe to those of the present for the accomplishments which are crowned today. May God bless you all.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

SOME PARISH STATISTICS

BAPTISMS

1924 - 1928	148
1929 - 1933	199
1934 - 1938	221
1939 - 1943	372
1944 - 1948	524
1949 - 1953	934
1954 - 1958	1,507

MARRIAGES

1924 - 1928	57
1929 - 1933	62
1934 - 1938	86
1939 - 1943	142
1944 - 1948	114
1949 - 1953	146
1954 - 1958	157

First COMMUNIONS

1924 - 1928	247
1929 - 1933	301
1934 - 1938	252
1939 - 1943	210
1944 - 1948	334
1949 - 1953	599
1954 - 1958	880

DEATHS

1924 - 1928	51
1929 - 1933	44
1934 - 1938	52
1939 - 1943	34
1944 - 1948	64
1949 - 1953	84
1954 - 1958	102

VOCATIONS (Since the school opened, 1939)

Brothers
2
Seminarians
7

Sisters
23
Candidates
5

Priests
1
Candidates
2