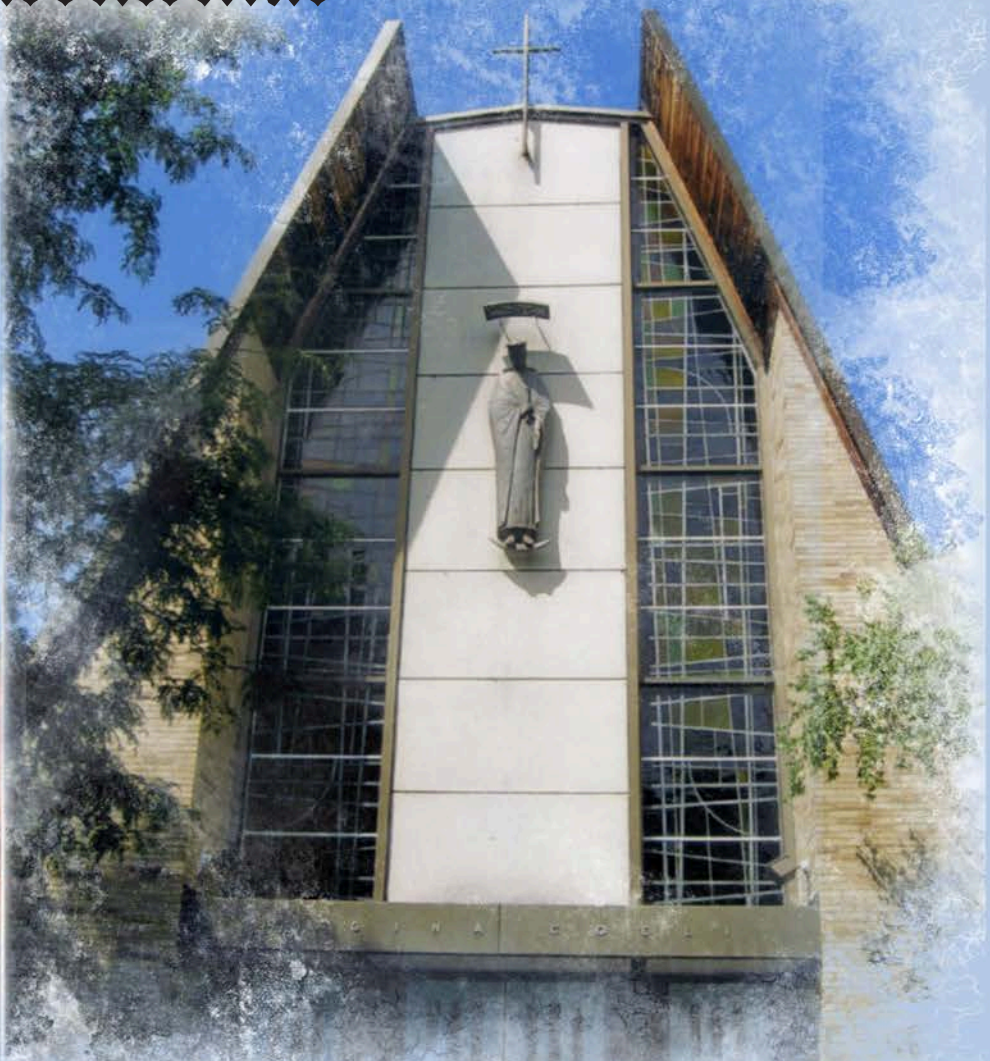
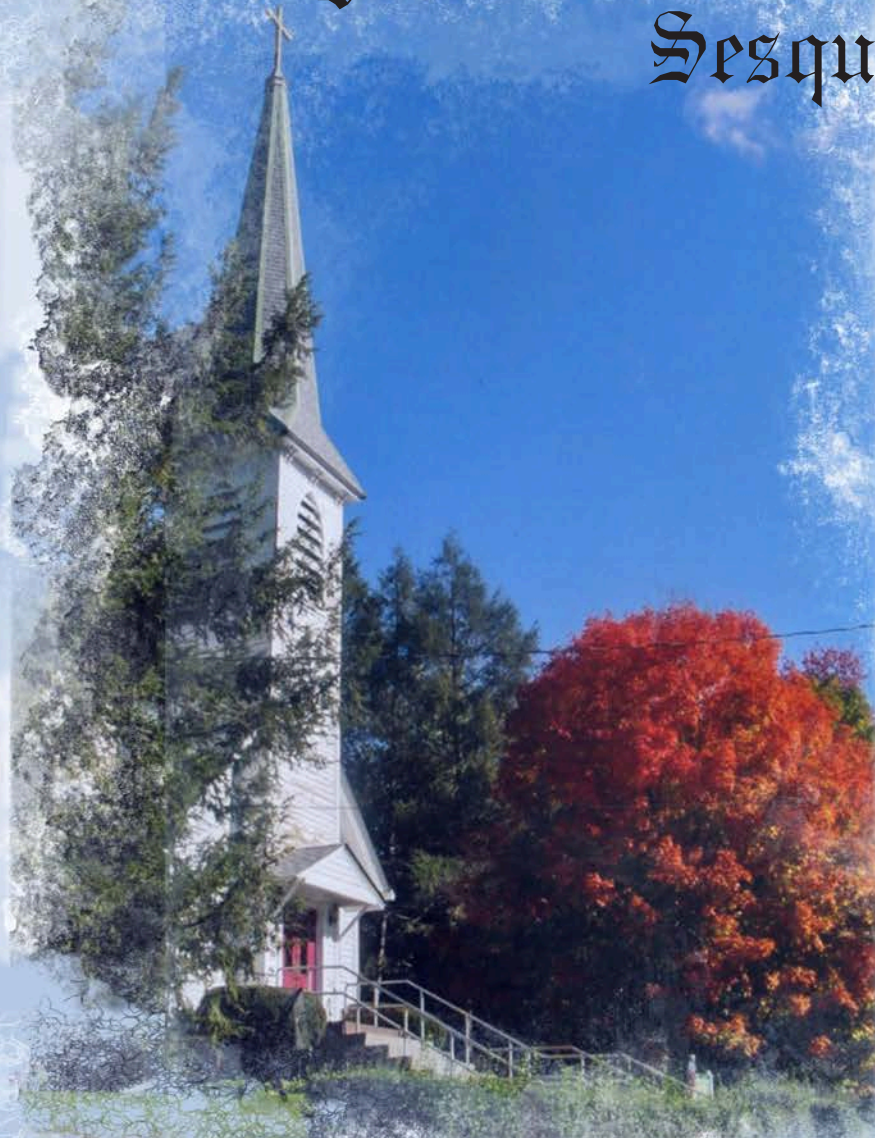


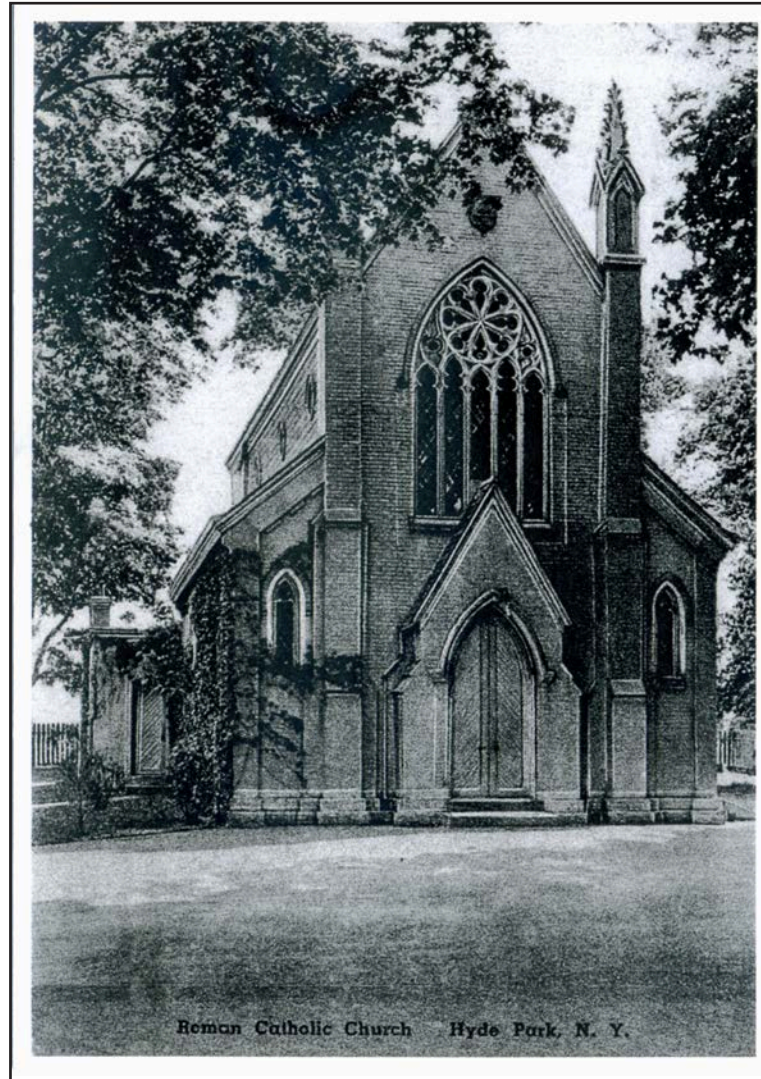


Regina Coeli St. Pauls Parish Sesquicentennial



1864 TO 2014

Cover Photo of St. Pauls Church
by Anne Jordan



Roman Catholic Church Hyde Park, N. Y.

Photo of "The Little Church" 1864



Cardinal Dolan



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

September 21, 2014

Regina Coeli Parish
2 Harvey Street
Hyde Park, NY 12536

Dear friends in the Lord:

It is a joy to greet you as you gather to celebrate so many significant milestones in the life of your parish! For 150 years, Regina Coeli Parish has been an integral part of the Hyde Park community. Building upon the vision of the parish founders, Regina Coeli has grown and expanded to meet the religious and spiritual needs of its parishioners.

This year also marks the 125th anniversary of the mission Church of Saint Paul, the 60th anniversary of the parish school, and the 50th anniversary of the "new" Regina Coeli Church, which was built to replace the original church that had served this parish for a century. This vibrant parish life reflects the active faith of the people of God here in Hyde Park.

Please know of my sincere appreciation for all that Regina Coeli and Saint Paul do, here in Dutchess County and as part of the Archdiocese of New York. You will have a special place in my prayers today, that God will continue to bless you abundantly now and in the years to come.

With prayerfully best wishes, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



Father Brendan Fitzgerald

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF REGINA COELI REGINA COELI/ST. PAUL PARISH

Introduction

On April 18, 1964, Regina Coeli/St. Paul parish of Hyde Park, NY held a centennial ball at the Poughkeepsie Armory to celebrate a century of the “little church,” the original church of Regina Coeli. At the same time, the initial step in building a new church was being taken with ground breaking having taken place on March 15, 1964. Thus began the next 50 years of Regina Coeli/St. Paul parish.

The first 100 years of the parish history is recorded in REGINA COELI CENTENNIAL, published in 1964. What follows is a redaction of that history, followed by the highlights of the last 50 years.

The history of a parish can hope to do no more than present an accurate and reasonable account of the major and some of the minor events in its life. The parish exists to serve its members in developing a loving relationship with God. Thus the parish’s real history is known to Him alone. At best we can have no more than a superficial knowledge of part of the story, and even on that level there is much that cannot be chronicled.

It is fitting that, after thanking our Lord and our Lady for all the blessings of the past century and a half, we recall the pioneers who laid the foundations on which others have built so well, and we express our gratitude to those whose heritage we enjoy today. Let us pray for those to whom we owe so much and let us continually dedicate ourselves with renewed fever to the tasks that remain.

It is impossible to give appropriate credit to all those whose loyal, generous, and even heroic service has made possible the good work done since 1862. To appreciate what they have done requires us to place what we know of their labor against the background of the times in which they lived.

The Beginning

Precisely when and where the first Catholics appeared in Dutchess County is unknown. Father Farmer, S.J., the famous Pennsylvania missionary, visited Fishkill, October 5-7, 1781, and baptized 14 Acadians. He returned in 1783. As early as 1810 some Irish Catholics were residing in Wappinger Falls and by 1820 there were some Catholics in Poughkeepsie. In 1830, Bishop John Dubois assigned Father Philip O'Reilly, O.P., to found missions and build churches on the banks of the Hudson River wherever the number of Catholics made it possible. He visited Rondout, Cold Spring, Saugerties, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie regularly and celebrated Mass occasionally in smaller places like Wappinger Falls.



Tentatively identified as
REV. MICHAEL RIORDAN
Pastor of St. Peter's when Hyde
Park was part of that parish
before 1862.

At first, Mass was celebrated in a private home and later in a hall. Gradually funds were put aside for a church. St. Peter's was the first Catholic church in Dutchess County, the second church between New York City and Albany, and the ninth in the present limits of the Archdiocese.

Shortly after the dedication of St. Peter's, Bishop John Hughes was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of New York. This was a significant event in the history of the Catholic Church in New York State in the XIX century. He became the Archbishop of New York in July, 1850. Until his death on January 3, 1864, he was the undisputed leader of New York Catholics whom he led through a very difficult period.

When Bishop Hughes arrived, there were twenty-two churches in the diocese, ten of which had been erected in 1837. There were forty priests and 200,000 Catholics in a total population of about 2,700,000. The population was increasing rapidly, and New York City was increasing five

times the national rate. While the increased population accentuated existing problems, it also improved the financial position of Catholics. It led also to the reduction of the diocese to more manageable limits. The dioceses of Albany and Buffalo were created in 1847. In 1853, Newark and Brooklyn dioceses followed and New York was reduced to its present limits.

The improved conditions of the diocese made possible a more rapid multiplication of churches. In 1837, St. Peter's was the only Catholic church in Dutchess County. By 1860, there were seven. Churches were opened in Wappinger Falls in 1841, in Dover Plains in 1849, in Staatsburg and Fishkill in 1851, in Poughkeepsie in 1852, and in Pawling in 1854.

The First Resident Priests/Pastors

Father Michael Riordan may be considered the real founder of St. Peter's. He enlarged the church and built the school, convent, and rectory. He was responsible for most of the new churches built in Dutchess County from 1844 to 1870. Born in Limerick in 1817, he arrived in this country as a clerical student in 1843. He was ordained at Fordham on April 14, 1844. After serving as a curate at St. Mary's, Rondout, he was appointed pastor of St. Peter's in September, 1844. He remained at St. Peter's until he died of TB on June 13, 1870

The first attempt to found a mission in Hyde Park took place in 1849-1850 and failed. William Emmet, a cousin of Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot, offered Father Riordan a plot of ground about two miles from Staatsburg. A small church dedicated to St. Mary was erected. It was entrusted to Father Augustine P. Anderson, O.P., a New Jersey born convert, who, according to the Catholic Directory 1850, "also visits several stations in Sullivan and Ulster Counties." He was an itinerant missionary who served in a number of parishes in Kentucky and on the eastern seaboard. He left Hyde Park in July, 1850, and went to California where he died in November, 1850, of cholera contracted from a victim of the gold rush.

In 1850 or 1851, the Hyde Park church was abandoned and a small one with the same name was erected in Staatsburg. It was listed as being under the care of Father Hyacinth Pozzo, O.P. He left Staatsburg in 1852 and ultimately returned to Italy where he died in 1862. From his departure until 1862 Staatsburg was attended from St. Peter's.

The boundary lines for the mission churches were not rigidly defined. The Archbishop was trying to see which areas would be more easily accessible if grouped together. Transportation using horse and buggy by priests and parishioners between St. Peter's, Rhinecliff, Hyde Park, Clinton Corners, Poughkeepsie, or Staatsburg was a major concern. For various reasons Dutchess County did not keep pace with the growth of New York State and the country. In 1790, Dutchess County had 45,266 inhabitants and the State's population was 340,120. By 1860 the County's population grew only to 64,941 while the State's population grew to 3,880,735.



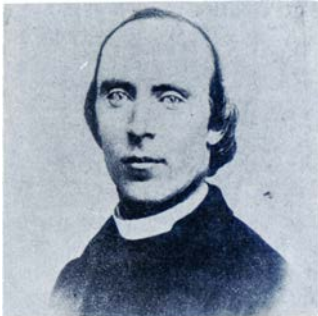
The Little Church ca.1950



Interior of the original Church

The Church in Hyde Park—the First 100 Years

The slow growth of the population in Hyde Park was similar to the rest of the County. In fact Hyde Park's population decreased from 1860 to 1870. The reason for building in Hyde Park instead of in a more populous place was that a parishioner offered to build and help maintain a church. Mrs. Sylvia Livingston Drayton (later Kirkpatrick) was a convert and was anxious to have a church near her home. She was reluctant to go regularly to Poughkeepsie or Staatsburg for Mass or to rely on the occasional visits of the priest to celebrate Mass in a private home in Hyde Park. She built and furnished the church and until her death on November 16, 1882, was its chief supporter. She left an annuity to help it and provided a rectory. She required that it be used only for that purpose and that it would revert back to her estate if the pastor became non-resident. When the church, renamed Regina Coeli, was finished, it was the finest Catholic Church in the county. Its size was adequate for many years. One most exceptional feature of the church was that it was used as a burial vault not only for the donor but also for several of her non-Catholic relatives. The date of the dedication of the church is unknown.



Rev. Michael Scully

The first pastor of the new church was Father Michael Scully, a native of Kerry, Ireland. He lived in Rhinecliff and had Hyde Park and Staatsburg under his care until his death in 1872 at the age of 38. On October 14, 1877, Hyde Park and Staatsburg were cut off from Rhinecliff and received its first resident pastor, Father Tobias M. Fitzpatrick. He was a native New Yorker and was in poor health. He arrived to shepherd a small flock, surely fewer than four hundred parishioners. Circumstances made substantial growth nearly impossible. With the exception of Mrs. Kirkpatrick most of the wealthy people were Protestants who belonged to

long and well-established churches, namely the Quaker Meeting House in 1780, Dutch Reformed in 1793, the Episcopal Church of St. James in 1811, the Methodists in 1823, and the Baptists in 1847.

In many parts of the country, the story of the Catholic Church in America was one of steady progress and in many areas, it was even spectacular. None of this was



Post Card of St. Pauls
ca. 1925 (see Letter this page)

occurring in Regina Coeli parish and the population remained practically stationary. Thus the parish's history was rather uneventful. But it would be unjust to underestimate the good work accomplished by both priests and people in Hyde Park and Staatsburg.

When Father Fitzpatrick died of "malaria and bronchitis" in January, 1881, Hyde Park and Staatsburg were reunited to Rhinecliff. Father

March 23, 2012

Pastor
St. Paul's Catholic Church
23 Mulford Ave.
Staatsburg NY 12580

Good Morning:

I sure hope this letter brightens your day.

I was at an antique shop here and found this old circa 1925 picture card of your beautiful church. How it got to Arizona we'll never know.

It's an old time classic, for sure. I thought to myself, "By golly, I'll send it home where it can be appreciated." Our heritage is valuable to all of us. Lots of changes over the years, I'm sure.

Well, I gave 4.00 for it so if you want it for 5.00 or 6.00 or so why that's sure o.k. Throw in a little postage if you want, too.

And my wife says if I hear from you I'll have to take her to lunch. I am eighty-three years old and still going strong.

I like to call my little hobby, "A re-distribution of happiness." Our world sure needs it.

Thank you, and Godspeed in your work. Have a wonderful and progressive year.

Lowell Joerg
6120 W. Rafter Circle
Tucson AZ 85713

PS: Send along a little about your place today if you want. I enjoy souvenirs, too, if it's o.k. with you.

James Fitzsimmons, the successor of Father Scully, was the pastor at Rhinecliff.

In 1881, Hyde Park and Staatsburg became independent again and Father Terence F. Kelly arrived as the pastor. He was ordained in Montreal in 1878 and was a man with a flare for building and practical matters. He was responsible for building St. Paul's Church in Staatsburg. It was erected in 1887 at a cost of \$5,552. Prior to attending to St. Paul's Church, Father Kelly built St. Joseph's in Clinton Corners in 1883 at a cost of \$1,700.



REV. TOBIAS M. FITZPATRICK

In 1887, Father Kelly became pastor of Rhinecliff as well. Possibly his superiors hoped that he would duplicate there the wonders that he had performed in Hyde Park. In 1888, Father David T. Leahy was ordained in Troy and arrived as the pastor of Hyde Park and Clinton Corners. Staatsburg remained attached to Rhinecliff. Father Leahy was an invalid and was unable to cope with the job. In early 1889, Father Kelly was again in charge of the two parishes on a temporary basis.



REV. TERENCE F. KELLY

On December 9, 1889, Archbishop Corrigan wrote a letter to Father Kelly that outlines very clearly the problem of Hyde Park as he saw it. "I have under consideration the following plan: First, to annex Clinton Corners to one of the out-missions of Amenia forming both into a separate mission. Secondly, to devise some means by which Hyde Park could be properly attended. If you could possibly spare Staatsburg, I would appoint a new rector to Staatsburg and Hyde Park, whose residence would be the latter place. If this would not be feasible, I will be willing to send you an assistant, once more putting Hyde Park under your charge, but I do not like to take a step backward and to deprive Hyde Park of a resident pastor. All the more that the pension guild is dependent on a priest residing there, and expenses have been incurred for the putting up of the house, all of which would create difficulty in case Hyde Park would be reduced once more to the condition of an out-mission."

Father Kelly asked the Archbishop to leave the two parishes united for a year or two. Hyde Park remained attached to Rhinecliff until 1892 when Father Richard T. Burns, who was ordained in 1885, was appointed pastor of Hyde Park and Staatsburg. From that time on Regina Coeli and St. Paul's shared a pastor who would reside in Hyde Park.

The pastorate of Father Burns was uneventful. On January 18, 1889, he left for Port Jervis and was succeeded by Father John P. Lonargan. Father Lonargan was ordained in Troy in 1884. He was interested in social activities on a parochial basis. He founded a baseball team, called the Robin Hoods, which played on Sunday afternoons.



REV. RICHARD T. BURNS

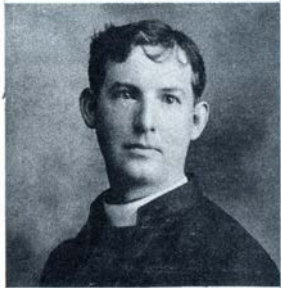
Probably the most significant event of his pastorate was the opening of the Jesuit Novitiate, St. Andrew's (the current Culinary Institute of America). The parishioners soon realized that the parish was the beneficiary of the seminarians and priests from St. Andrew's. The seminarians taught Sunday school and the priests were willing collaborators of the pastor.

On December 7, 1909, Father Lonargan left for Mt. Kisco. He was succeeded by Father John J. Harrington, ordained in Troy in 1895. On December 1, 1911, he was transferred to Piermont and was succeeded by Father Henry T. Newey. He was ordained in Rome in 1890. Father Newey was an excellent speaker and was a notably gifted linguist. Unfortunately, he



The Robin Hoods Baseball Team

was an invalid and lasted only three months.



REV. JOHN P. LONARGAN

The next pastor, Father Samuel P. MacPherson, had an unusual background. He was born in Scotland in 1863 and was brought up as a Presbyterian. He became an Anglican in early manhood, became a deacon in 1897, and worked as a missionary in Copenhagen for a year. He was ordained in the Anglican ministry in 1898 and served as rector in Auburn, NY. He was received into the Catholic Church at St. Andrew's Novitiate on March 26, 1903, and was ordained at Dunwoodie in 1905. He was gravely ill with heart disease when he was appointed to Hyde Park but he threw himself into the work with energy and enthusiasm. He completely

renovated both churches and contemplated moving the parochial residence to Staatsburg. Cardinal Farley refused to allow this, mindful of Mrs. Kirkpatrick's wishes. In 1914, Father MacPherson took a leave of absence due to his health and in February, 1915, he asked to be replaced because he was terminally ill. He died on August 16, 1915.



REV. SAMUEL P. MACPHERSON

In the early years of the rural parishes, the quick turnover of pastors was significant. Many of these men were not well. The Archdiocese would send them to the country because the thought was that the country air would be good for them. The parishes were smaller than in the cities and there would be less responsibility. Another reason was that Catholic churches were being built so rapidly that as soon as a newly ordained priest was able to show administrative abilities, he would be moved to a new or larger parish.

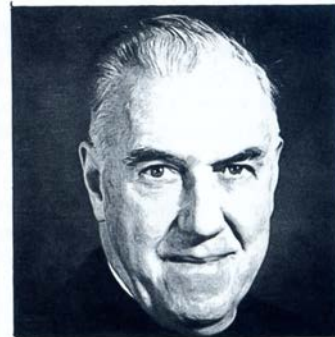
On February 13, 1915, Father David Morley was appointed pastor of Hyde Park and St. Paul's. He left a recorded accolade of his predecessor: "Found conditions, spiritual and material, in superb shape, the result of the untiring efforts of my predecessor." The first mention of telephone expenses was in 1915 and automobile expenses

was an item of a 1922 report. In September, 1916, there was an epidemic of infantile paralysis in Staatsburg that soon spread to Hyde Park. The Town Board ordered all churches to close on September 10. A large number of parishioners showed up anyway. Father Morley decided to celebrate Mass with them. As he was vesting, the President of the Town Board and the Sheriff showed up and forbade him to do so. He refused to obey them and he was assured later when he had a chance to get legal advice that the Town Board had exceeded its authority. In 1923, Father Morley was assigned to St. Paul's in Yonkers. His departure was deeply regretted by all segments of the community. Edward Pearsons Newton, Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. James, wrote a tribute to Archbishop Hayes upon Father Morley's departure in which he said: "He has been one of us, yet has stood always as a Catholic priest. His breadth of human sympathy has led him to take an active part in every village movement for the well being of the community, and he had endeared himself to us all thereby. Modest and faithful he has ministered to his people with a devotion which has stimulated the other clergymen here."

World War I had little direct effect on Hyde Park. In the twenty-one years between the end of World War I and the beginning of World War II, Hyde Park/Staatsburg had six pastors, three of whom served in a single year. It was the first pastorate for all six men, which was the same for all the pastors here to date. Father Morley was succeeded by Father James A. Collins who left in



REV. DAVID J. MORLEY



REV. STANISLAUS J. McGOVERN

September of 1923 for Croton-on-Hudson. He was followed by Father Terence E. McNulty. In October of 1926 he left for Dongan Hills, Staten Island. Father Patrick F. Mackin arrived in 1926 and left on June 30, 1929 for Our Lady of Sorrows, White Plains. Father William J. Noonan became the pastor and his pastorate coincided with the Great Depression. (Although the acute phase of the Depression ended in 1934, many of the basic problems remained unsolved until the outbreak of the war in Europe in 1939. There was a noticeable decline in income during the Depression but nothing like what could have been expected. When Father Noonan left for Suffern in September of 1938, he left the physical plant in good order and money in the bank. Father Patrick J. Mee arrived in September of 1938. He was transferred to St. Bartholomew's, Yonkers, on January 14, 1943. Father Stanislaus J. McGovern arrived and was quickly transferred on April 29, 1943, to Spring Valley. Father John J. Corrigan arrived in April, 1943, and on August 21, 1943, he was transferred to the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, Mt. Loretto, Staten Island. These two men barely had time to unpack before they were transferred. Father John J. Harney was the next pastor until he was transferred to Christ the King parish in the Bronx on January 14, 1950.



REV. PATRICK F. MACKIN



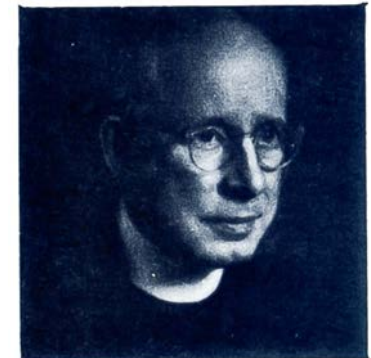
REV. TERENCE F. McNULTY



REV. JOHN J. CORRIGAN



REV. PATRICK J. MEE



REV. WILLIAM J. NOONAN



REV. JOHN J. HARNEY



RT. REV. JOHN A. RIGO

A New Chapter

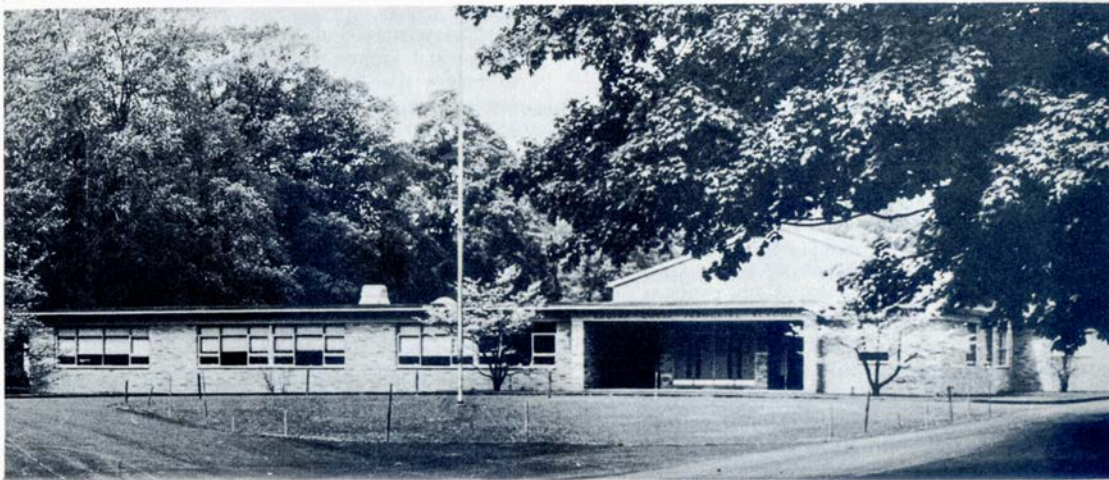
Father John A. Rigo, ordained at Dunwoodie in 1924, arrived as the pastor in January of 1950. His tenure coincided with the post-war flight to the suburbs. Transportation was much improved. Throughout the Hudson Valley the impact of IBM was felt. These situations created the possibility of a new and important chapter in the history of Regina Coeli/St. Paul. A few figures tell the story. The population of Hyde Park increased by half, to 6,136, between 1940 and 1950, but it doubled between 1950 and 1960, to 12,686. In 1950 the parish had grown from 390 in 1899 to 530; by 1963 it had grown to 2,225. From 1878 to 1949 there were 708 baptisms; from 1950 to 1963 there were 1359 baptisms. The increase in population led to the appointment of the first resident curate in September, 1951, Father John L. McCann.

There was another welcome addition to the parish in 1951. The Blessed Sacrament Fathers acquired the former residence of Archibald Rogers, once President of the New York Central Railroad. It was one of the great estates so typical of Hyde Park and the Hudson Valley area. The 1951 sale included the house and 110 of the original 742 acres. In 1942, the US Army 24th MP Battalion established a camp there for the troops who guarded President Roosevelt and the Roosevelt estate. When the Army left in 1947, the Roosevelt School, a private school for Jewish students, occupied the premises until 1951. Eymard Preparatory

Seminary of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers was moved from Suffern to Hyde Park in September of 1952. The new arrivals soon established friendly relations with all their neighbors and were very helpful to the parish clergy. Eymard Seminary was closed and was sold to a private investor in 1979.

Regina Coeli School—the Beginning

The sudden growth of the parish presented serious problems, but it also brought great opportunities. Father Rigo saw that a school would soon be an urgent necessity. He was able to acquire the Kaminski property. The house on the property was built in 1926 and was purchased by John Kaminski of Staten Island and was used by the Kaminski family as a summer residence. The property adjoined the church and rectory and the house provided ample room. The cost was \$50,000. The interior was then completely remodeled to suit the needs of the order of Dominican Sisters who would use it as their convent.



Ground breaking for the first school took place in March 1955. On June 19, 1955, Most Rev. Joseph M. Pernicone, D.D., laid the cornerstone. On June 3, 1956, Cardinal Spellman solemnly dedicated the school and announced Father Rigo's elevation to the Domestic Prelacy. First graduation Class in June, 1961, numbered 33.

A school fund was started and supported with enthusiastic generosity. Father Rigo was able to secure the services of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh to staff the school, with Sister Jean Matthew serving as the first principal. He had the site, a small army of pupils,

and a faculty. He needed a building and the funds it required. Francis Cardinal Spellman gave him approval and encouragement and arranged for the Archdiocese to advance the necessary funds.

It was decided to build nine classrooms first and to plan for eight more later, with all the necessary offices. The ground-breaking took place in March, 1955, and on June 19, 1955, Bishop Pernicone came to lay the cornerstone. The school was ready for occupancy in September, 1955 and opened with the kindergarten and first three grades. A class was added each year until the capacity of the building was reached. The convent was established in a large house on the Kaminski property that was renovated to suit the needs of the Dominican Sisters. (This building has been used, and still is used, for a variety of purposes since the departure of the Dominican Sisters. A section on this building appears later.) The overall cost of the site, school, and convent was \$450,000. On June 3, 1956, Cardinal Spellman performed the solemn dedication and announced Father Rigo's elevation to the Domestic Prelacy. By the time the first class was graduated, 33 strong, in June of 1961, Monsignor Rigo was preparing to double the school. The unfailing generosity of the parishioners made it possible to operate the school and to reduce the debt substantially.

A New Church

Monsignor Rigo acquired the Russell house on the corner of Harvey Street and Albany Post Road (Route 9) as the site for a future church. The need for such was obvious as reflected in an article that appeared in HYDE PARK TOWNSMAN on May 19, 1960, entitled "Growth of Regina Coeli Brings 8 Sunday Masses." The article pointed out that when Monsignor Rigo came to Hyde Park, two Masses were celebrated at Regina Coeli and one at St. Paul's in Staatsburg. At that

Growth Of Regina Coeli Brings 8 Sunday Masses

By ELIZABETH DOWLING
Townsmen Staff Writer

When Msgr John A. Rigo first arrived at Regina Coeli 10 years ago to take over as pastor, there were two Sunday masses said in the church in Hyde Park and one in Staatsburg. Today there are six Sunday masses in Hyde Park and two at St. Paul's in Staatsburg. Only the 7 a.m. mass on Sunday is said in the church proper now. Because of the crowds, the remainder are held in the auditorium of the Regina Coeli School.

The Regina Coeli church was founded in 1853, at which time it was a mission to Rhinecliff just as St. Paul's in Staatsburg is currently a mission church to Hyde Park. Because Hyde Park did not have a resident pastor, there are no records in the parish prior to 1877, when Father Tobias Fitzpatrick was apparently pastor. The first full year of record is 1878, during which there were 13 baptisms. In contrast, during 1959 there were 131 baptisms performed in the parish.

Built during the Civil War, the semi-Gothic church was financed by Mrs. Sylvia Livingston Kirkpatrick, who is buried in the vault beneath the church. Of the eight there buried, only Mrs. Kirkpatrick was a Catholic, the remaining seven being non-Catholic relatives.

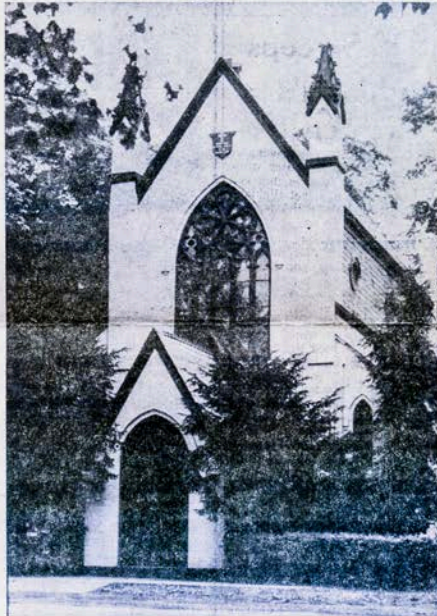
When the church was redecorated during the 1940's, Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt presented the two statuettes flanking the altar and Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt presented the painting of the Madonna to the right of the altar.

Great Growth in Decade

The greatest growth in the parish has been within the past 10 years, as is also the base with the Town. An average Sunday will see upwards of 1,500 attending Mass either in Staatsburg or in Hyde Park. Of these, approximately 400 are children. Only last week 246 children were confirmed.

Monsignor Rigo came to Hyde Park, the first parish of which he was actually a pastor, direct from Our Lady of Loretta in Cold Spring, N.Y., where he was engaged in administrative work. Ordained on June 14, 1924, Monsignor Rigo had the distinction of being the first priest ordained by Patrick Cardinal Hayes after his elevation to the cardinalship. This came about because the Monsignor was deacon of his class and hence first in line. His first assignment was St. Boniface in New York City, a far cry, he feels, from the rural peace of Hyde Park.

Father Raymond John Hill came in Regina Coeli in September, 1957, from St. Aloysius in Livingston Manor, N.Y., where he had a summer assigned. He was ordained by Francis Cardinal Spellman in St. Patrick's Cathedral in June of



CHURCH OF THE REGINA COELI

upper New York, and Monsignor Rigo credits him with starting a local CYO group, which now numbers some 170 members.

300 Students In School

Indicative of the parish's rapid growth was the opening in 1955 of Regina Coeli School. Starting with grades Kindergarten through third, a grade has been added each year and the 1960-1961 academic year will find the full elementary area covered. Currently there are better than 300 students attending the parochial school, a number which will increase next year. The school under the principalship of Sister Jean Matthews is staffed by six Dominican Sisters from Newburgh and two lay teachers. At the time of the founding of the school, there were only three sisters in the convent, which was also started in 1955.

In June of 1956 Francis Cardinal Spellman came to Hyde Park to dedicate Regina Coeli School. At the time of the formal ceremonies he announced the elevation of the then Father Rigo to the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Rigo.

As the parish of Regina Coeli

ger church, thus removing religious services from the school auditorium. The parish now owns the house and lot on the southwest corner of Route 9 and Harvey St. and that will someday, when funds are available, be the site for a new Church of the Regina Coeli.



The TOWNSMAN

Serving The Fast-Growing Suburban Areas Of Dutchess County

Vol. 3 No. 6 Hyde Park, New York February 7, 1963 Ten Cents

Plan New Church, School



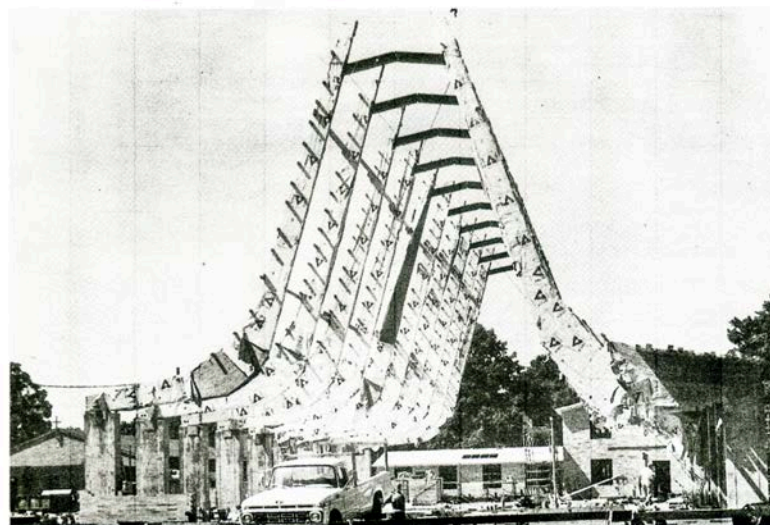
Shown observing the sign outside of Regina Coeli school which symbolizes the parish fund drive are, l-r, The Very Rev. Monsignor McMahon, general chairman Bernard Schamberg and the administrative chairman, Father Gallagher. Townsman Staff Photo

time only one Mass was celebrated in the church and the remainder were held in the school auditorium because of the crowds. The new church would have to await a new pastor, however.

Monsignor Rigo was transferred to Nanuet in September, 1962. His tenure was exceptionally fruitful and he will always be remembered as a zealous and devoted pastor and a prudent and faithful steward.



Father Thomas A. Gallagher aids in Ground-Breaking.



A stage in construction: Laminated Arches outline a new landmark on an old road.

Monsignor Thomas V. McMahon, ordained at Dunwoodie in 1934, arrived as the new pastor in September, 1962. He was transferred from Cathedral College where he taught English. One of his first projects was to conduct a census. This was done by the parishioners in November, 1962. The census tallied 1,073 Catholic families. The growing parish needed more room to worship. The Sunday Masses were crowded and most were celebrated in the school auditorium. A larger church was needed. And the school needed eight more classrooms.



Msgr. Thomas McMahon

\$700,000 Goal Set By Regina Coeli Parish

Hyde Park--A new church and an eight-classroom addition to the Regina Coeli school costing in the neighborhood of \$700,000 are the goals of a fund drive opening here on February 18.

His Excellency, Joseph M. Pernicone, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, will preside at ceremonies opening the school construction program. General chairman of the drive is Bernard Schamberg. Memorial gifts are being handled by Emmett C. Murphy while the Rev. Thomas Gallagher is the administrative chairman. John H. Clark, Poughkeepsie, is the architect for the project.

An inadvertent error in news story published last week in the Townsman called attention to a new cafeteria as being part of the construction program. Church officials this week announced that a new cafeteria is not part of the program.

The Very Rev. Monsignor Thomas V. McMahon, in announcing the construction of the new church, emphasized that 1963 is the centennial of the

Regina Coeli Parish and an important milestone in the history of the parish. He noted that the new church would have a capacity of 600, nearly six times that of the present church. The site of the new structure is the corner of Harvey Street and Route 9.

Under the banner of "sacrifice means success" the campaign asks for at least a day's wage a month for thirty months from parishioners. The goal is to raise as much of the total cost as possible.



View of newly built Church from Choir

for the new structure were opened at the chancery on March 5, 1964 and the contracts for the new church, school addition, and the rectory were awarded to the low bidder, Eugene Ossie Co. of Highland, NY. Ground-

In February, 1963, an Expansion Fund Drive was conducted in the parish. Each worker in the parish was asked to give a day's wage a month for thirty months. The pledge total for the drive was \$170,333. Many of the contributors are acknowledged on the wall opposite the entrance to Our Lady Chapel.

John Clark, a zealous and devoted parishioner, of the Clark and Warren architectural firm in Poughkeepsie was the architect for the project. Bids



View of Mary Chapel now called Adoration Chapel

breaking took place on Sunday, March 15, 1964, just a hundred years after the “little church” was built.

A few of the highlights of the new church follow. The main altar is made of statuary limestone and is designed suitable for the restored liturgy by Mr. Fred H. Christian of Rambusch Studios. The aluminum sculpture of Christ the King, Risen in Glory, crowning Mary, Queen of Heaven is suspended in the front of the new church. The sculpture was designed by V. K. Jonynas and Shepherd Art Studio and its inspiration is the Mass of August 22, the feast of the Queenship of Mary. High on the rear wall of the



View from Altar towards Entrance



nave and providing a link between the old church and the new church hangs the oil portrait of Madonna and Child presented to the parish many years ago by Sara Delano Roosevelt, the mother of President Roosevelt. The portrait is a copy of a famous seventeenth century painting by the Spaniard, Bartolomeo Murillo. It hung for many years over the main altar of the old church. The baptismal font, like the main altar, is made of statuary limestone and designed by Fred M. Christian of Rambusch Studios. Its location inside

the main doors symbolizes and proclaims that Baptism is the Sacrament of Initiation, of entrance into the Body of Christ. The stained glass windows were designed by the artist, David Wilson, and executed in the Rambusch Studios. Our Lady Chapel, now referred to as the Adoration Chapel, has as its focal point a bronze statue of Our Lady, holding the Infant Jesus. At the entrance to the chapel is a crucifix of walnut with a bronze corpus. Both the statue and the corpus were executed by Carl Moser Studio in Italy. On the façade of the church, facing Route 9, is an aluminum statue of Mary, Queen of Heaven, patroness of the parish. It was designed by the sculptress, Aliza Mandel, and modeled by Professor Franco Miozzi in Pietrasanta, Italy.



Francis Cardinal Spellman Blesses the New Regina Coeli Church 1966

On May 8, 1966, Francis Cardinal Spellman dedicated the new Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) Church, the rectory, and the school addition.

Pastors of the 70's and 80's

Father Vincent Scanlon arrived as the new pastor (1969-1972) when Msgr. McMahon was transferred to the Resurrection parish in Rye in 1969. During Father Scanlon's pastorate the "little church" on Harvey Street was taken

down. This was due to a fire in the "little church" and the renovations would have been too costly. The location of the "little church" is to this day marked by the burial vault of Mrs. Livingston and

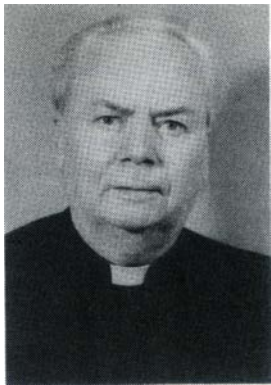


A final look at the "Little Church" Picture of Mr. and Mrs. Borquist's Wedding

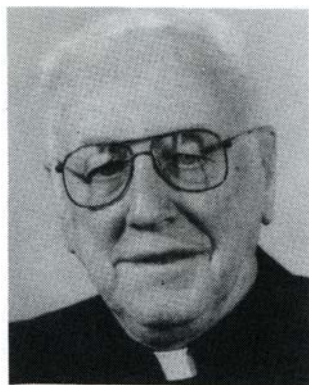
several of her relatives. On this site in the past an outdoor Mass was occasionally celebrated.

Monsignor Harold E. Hicks arrived as pastor in 1972. In an earlier assignment he served as the District Superintendent of Schools in Sullivan and Ulster Counties. During his tenure at Regina Coeli/St. Paul he received transitory deacons for their deaconate training—Father Carl Johnson, Father Ronald Lemmert, Msgr. Desmond O'Connor, Father William Sweeney, Father Joseph Bisignano, Father Joseph McAndrew, and Father Kieran Mandato.

(Monsignor Hicks was the homilist at the 100 Anniversary Mass of St. Paul's in 1987. The text of his homily is included in an addendum, leaving us with a memento of his wit in his preaching.)



Rev. Vincent Scanlon



Msgr. Harold E. Hicks

In 1983 he was transferred to St. Mary's, Poughkeepsie. After retiring he returned to Regina Coeli as pastor emeritus where he maintained his residence until his death.

Father William J. Collins, born in Kerry, Ireland, succeeded Monsignor Hicks in 1983 as pastor. During his tenure the parish celebrated the 100 year anniversary of St. Paul's in Staatsburg. Also, during his tenure Eucharistic Adoration began in 1986 in the parish at the behest of Jack

Maxwell, Bob Hohmann and Albert Stritt. In 1992, Father Collins was transferred to St. Peter's parish in Kingston.



Rev. William J. Collins
z

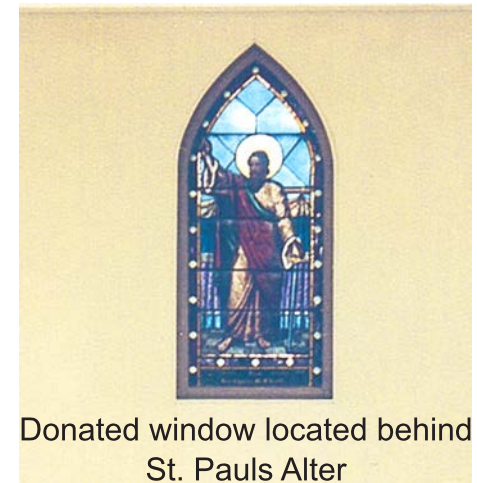
100 Year Anniversary of St. Paul's Church in Staatsburg (1887-1987)

On April 6, 1887, Archbishop Michael A. Corrigan purchased lot # 7 from the Mulford Estate in Staatsburg. Father Terence F. Kelly, pastor of Regina Coeli Church, had the church of St. Paul built at a cost of \$5,552, and the corner stone for the new church was laid on May 8, 1887. Information of the early days of the church only comes to us orally by Eileen Hayes, as recorded by Betty Leary. "Eileen could also tell me why

we were so fortunate in obtaining the beautiful stained glass window which is high on the north wall of the church behind the altar. Mary Hayes (sister of Eileen's father, James) worked for a wealthy family in New Hamburg. She learned that they wanted to donate a memorial in honor of a dear friend of theirs. Since Mary knew that a new Catholic church was being planned for Staatsburg, she made her employers aware of the need at St. Paul's. The family donated the excellent stained glass window depicting Our Lord (sic. St. Paul) as a young man in memory of Rev. Charles M. O'Keefe," (Pastor of St. Mary's



A wedding ceremony at St. Pauls Church



Donated window located behind St. Pauls Alter

Church in Wappinger Falls from 1876 to 1885). Refer to Addendum "Additional Oral History provided by: Eileen Hayes"

During Monsignor McMahon's tenure St. Paul's Church was remodeled to conform to the standards of the new liturgy as required by the Second Vatican Council. Beautiful tapestries that



St. Pauls Centennial Mass and Reception



were on the wall behind the altar were discarded, as well as the altar, the altar rail, and the statues.

On May 8, 1987, the parishioners celebrated 100 year anniversary of St. Paul's. This event began with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided by Bishop Anthony F. Mestice, with



MR. AND MRS. JAMES HAYES AND THEIR FAMILY
2nd Couple married in St. Paul's Church
Back Row: William, Julia, John, Mary, James
Middle Row: James Hayes and Mary Fogarty Hayes
Standing (with doll) Eileen Hayes
Front Row: Edward, Catherine, Martin

concelebrants, Father William Collins, pastor, Monsignor Harold Hicks, former pastor, Monsignor Thomas McMahan, former pastor, Father James LeBar, Father John Backes, assistant pastor, and Father James McLucas, a Staatsburg native. Deacon William Biskup served as deacon. Monsignor Hicks, the former pastor, gave the homily (See addendum B: "The Text of Msgr. Hicks Homily"). The celebration continued with a catered reception at the Norrie Point Environmental Center.

Shortly thereafter the corner stone was removed, eagerly looking for information from 1887. Other than a newspaper from that date, there was nothing of significance in it. The corner stone was resealed with the prospect that it will be opened in 2087.

The history of St. Paul's is recorded in the anniversary booklet, "One Hundred Years—May 8, 1887-May 8, 1987," as well as what was recorded by Betty Leary in an interview with Eileen Hayes. (This can be found as Addendum C to this book.)

Pastors of the 90's and 00's

Father Peter J. Vianney, ordained in 1965 in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Saigon and who came permanently to the United States in 1975, came to Regina Coeli as pastor in 1993 from across town, St. Peter's parish. In 1999, Father Peter initiated a capital fund campaign entitled, "Honoring Our Past and Preparing for the Future in the New Millenium." The primary purpose was to retire the 34 year old debt on the church. The goal of \$625,000 was set to be raised over three



Fr. Peter Vianney

years. As of March 31, 1999, \$631,845 was pledged. Many of the contributors to this campaign are acknowledged on the “Tree of Life, “ located in the rear of the church. There was a burning of the mortgage at Sunday Mass.

In 1999, Father Peter was transferred to the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Port Ewen, where he retired in 2008.



Fr. Richard LaMorte

Father Richard LaMorte, well known in the parish since he celebrated Mass frequently in the parish, arrived as pastor in 1999. He returned to Marist College in the chaplaincy program in 2000.

Father Michael L. Palazzo came north from St. Columba Parish in Hopewell Junction, where he served with his good friend, Bishop Dominick Lagonegro, to become pastor of Regina Coeli in 2000.



Fr. Michael Palazzo

Father Palazzo announced a capital campaign, the Bicentennial Campaign, in coordination with the archdiocesan wide campaign, in 2008. The goal was \$800,000. As of March 16, 2008, \$676,944.68 had been pledged. The purpose of the campaign was to raise funds to address the maintenance needs of the parish facilities. During Father Palazzo’s tenure, with the funds available from the capital campaign, renovations took place both at Regina Coeli Church and St. Paul’s Church.

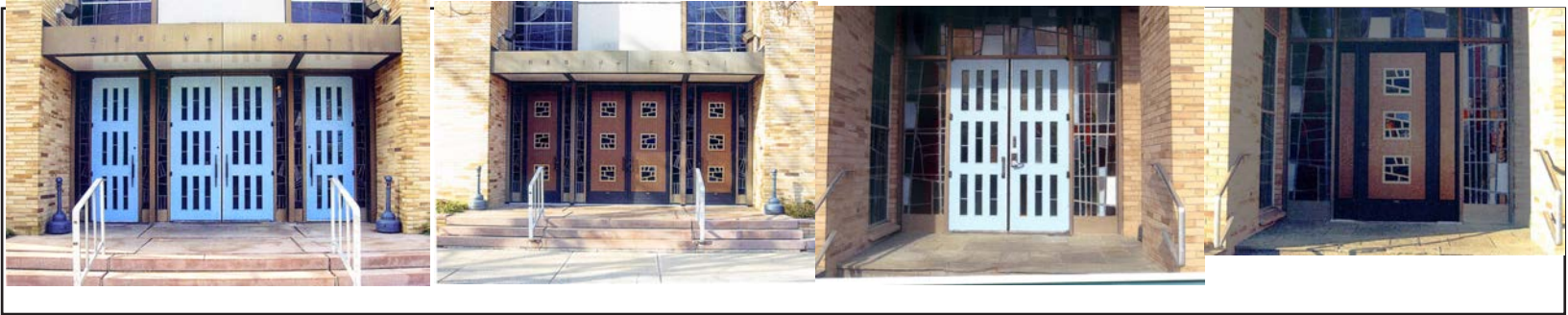
Father Palazzo began planning for the sesquicentennial celebration of the parish in 2014 but was transferred in 2012 to the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Otisville.

Renovations of Regina Coeli Church

In early 2009 the renovations of the church began with the removal of all the benches and kneelers. These were refinished before re-installing them in the church. The extent of the renovations can be seen from the pictures taken at that time, comparing the old to the new. At a later date the doors to the main entry and the side entries were replaced and added a brightness upon one's entry into the church.

During this time the





Main Entrance to the Church Before and After Renovations

South Doors Before and After Renovations



North Doors Before and After Renovations

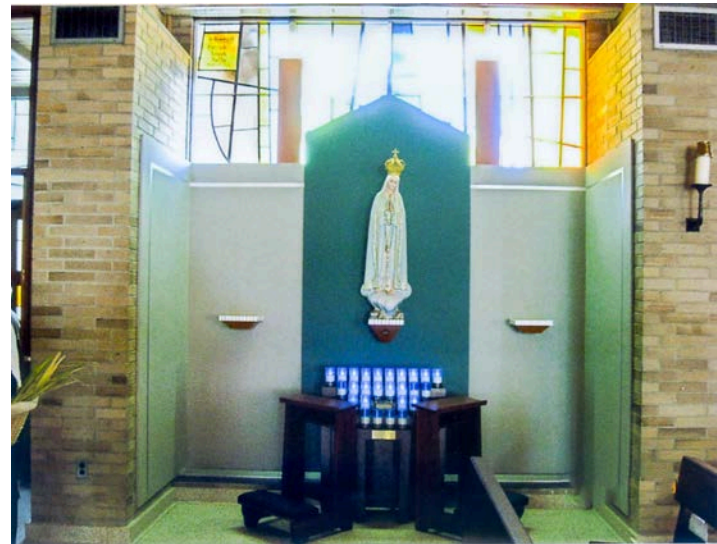




church was unavailable for services. Daily Mass was held in what was the chapel of the convent in the rear of the property. (This area of this building is now occupied by the Hyde Park Food Pantry.) Sunday Masses were held in the school auditorium/gymnasium and, as usual, at St. Paul's Church in Staatsburg.



During Renovations the School Auditorium was used for Masses



Renovations of St. Paul's Church

During Father Peter Vianney's tenure as pastor St. Paul's received a much needed face-lift. There was a mold problem caused by moisture that seeped in from the roof before it was repaired. The mold problem was addressed. The entire interior of the church was covered with new sheetrock and then painted. Mike Coluccio spear-headed the work on the interior of the church. All the benches and kneelers were moved to accomplish the work. This revealed how buckled the tile flooring was and so new flooring was laid.

Additional renovations of St. Paul's Church were also carried out during Father Palazzo's tenure.

In the early part of the new millenium the steeple of St. Paul's was extensively renewed and the roof was repaired. The pictures of this work show the extent of the renovations and the Lord was watching over these workers as they performed their work on the questionable scaffolding.



Various Stages of the Renovations to St. Pauls

time repairs to the roof were also made.



More recently, due to the generosity of the extended Kennett family, new carpeting was installed in the aisles and sanctuary of the church. This work was also done by the same family.



Although much has been done to the physical maintenance of St. Paul's, the care of St. Paul's over the past 100 plus years has largely been carried out by the ladies of St. Paul's Altar and Rosary Society, an organization that is still active to this day.

Father Brendan Fitzgerald was appointed as parish administrator in 2012 and continues to serve in that capacity.

The Associate Pastors

The parochial vicars following Father McCann were Fathers Eugene Hicks, Edward McKaharay, Raymond Hill (credited for starting CYO according to Monsignor Rigo), Thomas Gallagher, Francis Sample, Donald Timone, Joseph Campo, John Backes, Michael Keane, Arthur Walsh, and James Huvane. In the year 2001 the parish received its first African priest as a parochial vicar in the person of Father Philip Mbeta from Mali, Africa. After Father Philip until 2012, the parish was

assisted by priests from Ghana. Currently the parochial vicar is Father Joseph A. Gaspar, a native of India.

The Permanent Deacons

The permanent deacons who have served at Regina Coeli and are now deceased were Deacons John Kuhn, William Biskup, and Joseph Bonnano. Deacon George Stewart has moved from the area. The deacons currently serving in the parish are Deacons James Hayes, Frank Gohl, Gerard Lindley, Mark O'Sullivan, and Peter Dalmer (and a current deacon in training is Kenneth Briskey).

Priests in Residence

The parish has also enjoyed the presence and assistance of several priests in residence: Monsignor William Gallagher, Monsignor Harold Hicks, Father James LeBar, and Father John Lagiovane. Father Leo Prince, a retired priest who lives nearby in Hyde Park, offers his assistance to the parish.

Regina Coeli/St. Paul's Parish Outreach to Ghana

From 2000 to 2012 Regina Coeli/St. Paul's Parish had priests from Ghana as parochial vicars—Father Augustine Twum (2000-2004), Father Stephen Kow Bosomafi (2004-2008), and Father Raphael Amoaka Tawiah (2008-2012). There were also a number of Ghanaian priests who came to the parish to help during the summer. In order to strengthen the bond of friendship and spiritual connection that arose from the services of the priests of the Catholic Diocese of Sunyani over the years, the parish established an outreach to Ghana. The parish raised over \$10,000.00

to help Father Augustine's parish and St. Theresa's Parish, Berekum, Ghana, to construct kindergarten classrooms. The parish, in association with Marist College, also assisted in collecting and shipping school supplies and computers to help educate children. The connection with Ghana continues to be maintained by Marist College with Christine Vertullo, a faculty member and a parishioner, currently spearheading a fund drive to build a birthing center in Sampa, Ghana.

The Parish Center

As already noted, the large house on the Kaminski property was renovated to serve as a convent for the Dominican Sisters who were staffing the school. Eventually the use of this house as a convent was no longer necessary.

On June 23, 1979, what was once the convent, was dedicated by Terence Cardinal Cooke as the Pope John Paul I Residence. This residence was intended to be a residence for young men wishing to prepare for the priesthood without attending a seminary. Father Herbert D'Argenio was appointed the director of this program, a program named in remembrance of Pope John Paul I who served for only 34 days as the pope between Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II.

The Residence could accommodate nine candidates. Life at the Residence was structured so as to provide the students with a daily schedule of morning and evening prayer, Mass, and a community of life with other men aspiring to the priesthood. The men were free to major in a variety of areas at a college of their choice.

Once this purpose of the Residence was out-lived, the Residence became a temporary residence for a variety of people. It was used as a residence for the family of a caretaker of the parish, a temporary home for a family whose home was damaged by fire, a part-time residence for James Corrigan, a principal of Regina Coeli School, and a residence for priests who had ministries

other than at the parish, most notably, Father James LeBar, a recognized exorcist for the Archdiocese of New York.

Most recently the Residence has become the parish center. It is also the current location of the Hyde Park Food Pantry.

Perpetual Adoration at Regina Coeli Church

In 1978, a prayer group was formed at the parish by Albert Stritt. At that time the seminary at Eymard was home to the Blessed Sacrament Fathers. The order was founded by St. Peter Julian Eymard and their mandate was Eucharistic Adoration. For that purpose they held perpetual adoration at the small chapel on the site. The prayer group occasionally met at the Eymard Seminary chapel. On one such occasion one of the members of the prayer group received an inspiration on how Regina Coeli and Eymard would somehow be linked.

Shortly afterwards Eymard Seminary closed.

The prayer group felt that they were being called to do something, but they did not know what. In 1983, a member received an inspiration, based on John 21:4-6, calling the group to cast their net on the other side of the boat. It was at this time that the prayer group made a week-end retreat in Saugerties under the direction of Father Francis Bagan, OMI. On the last day, after hearing everyone's confession, Father Bagan told them that he felt that their calling was to be an intercessory group—to pray for others.

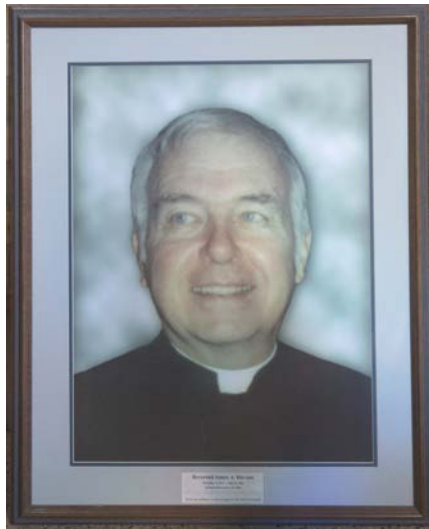


Adoration Chapel as it looks Today

In 1986, Jack Maxwell saw Father Bagan on TBN talking about Eucharistic Adoration. Jack approached Bob Hohmann and said that he thought that this was the direction that the prayer group should take. Together they went to the pastor, Father William Collins, with the idea of starting Eucharistic Adoration at Regina Coeli. Father Collins agreed.

On Monday, October 6, 1986, Eucharistic Adoration began at Regina Coeli following the 9:15 A.M. Mass. This was the daily routine with the reposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9:00 P.M.

Around 1990, the parish received the donation of the statue of St. Peter Julian Eymard. The statue was placed for many years in the back hall of Regina Coeli School. During this time the stone monstrance was broken off the statue. When Father Peter Vianney came as pastor, he had the statue repaired and had it placed outside the church in front of the Adoration Chapel where it stands today. It was then that members of the original prayer group saw the realization of that inspiration received many years before. The link between Eymard and Regina Coeli was complete, Eymard Seminary's Eucharistic Adoration continues at Regina Coeli.



Fr. James Huvane

Eucharistic Adoration continued to grow and expand at Regina Coeli. In 1999, Father James Huvane, a newly ordained priest, who also was a late vocation, arrived at Regina Coeli as associate pastor. It was his inspiration to have adoration 24 hours a day for 5 days a week. Thus, today adoration begins after the 9:00 A.M. Mass on Monday and concludes prior to the 9:00 A.M. Mass on Saturday. Father Huvane died while in residence at Regina Coeli. He is memorialized with his picture placed in the adoration chapel.



Regina Coeli's first Graduating Class

Regina Coeli School – Part 2

In 2006, Regina Coeli School celebrated its 50th anniversary, commemorated with the booklet, “Celebrating 50 Years—Regina Coeli School.” A few excerpts from that booklet follow.

“In February of 1963, the new pastor, Very Reverend Monsignor Thomas McMahon started an ‘Expansion Fund Drive’ to put an addition

onto the school which would accommodate four hundred children. The building project also included a new church and rectory. The parish had grown so that Masses were celebrated simultaneously in the existing ‘little church’ on Harvey Street and the school auditorium. The new school wing containing eight new classrooms was completed in 1964. With the expansion, several classrooms in the original part of the school were converted to other uses, one as a library and one as a science lab/music room.”

“The Regina Coeli School Board was formed in 1974 under the direction of Monsignor Harold Hicks and Sister Barbara Deigan. Mr. James Monks served as the first president with seven elected members of the parish. The purpose of the School Board is to develop and define policies that govern the operation of the school and to promote implementation of said policies along with advising the principal.”

“The next twenty five years of Regina Coeli School saw many changes.” A pre-K school was



Oliver the Play Performed by RC Students

added, computers were introduced, art and music became a regular part of the curriculum, many different fund raisers were implemented, the school newspaper and yearbook were started, and school productions ranged from the Christmas pageants to full-blown musical theater.

Since 2006 the physical facility has been continuously upgraded from the addition of security doors and camera to

state of the art computer systems including a LAN and computer lab recently upgraded and dedicated to Claudio Coppola.



The health and safety of the students have been enhanced with automated bathroom facilities and a state of the art water station. Several Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are now located in the building with nearly 100% of the faculty and staff certified in CPR training. The handicapped accessibility to the building has also been improved.

Improvements have been made to curriculum by adding Regents level classes in Math and Science. Reading and literature programs have been improved and are present in all grade levels. A modernized Science Lab, dedicated in memory of Patricia A. Decker, graces our middle school wing.

Volunteers are still an intricate part of the Regina Coeli School experience, in the cafeteria, on

the playground, and as leaders and participants in fund raisers for the school.

RCS truly is “the place to be.”

Religious Education Program

The Faith Formation programs of Regina Coeli/St. Paul Parish have provided education and sacramental preparation for thousands of children during the past 150 years. Initially the nuns were the primary teachers for both the parochial school and after school religious education classes for children attending public schools. It was during this time that members of the parish came forward to help with office work, phone calling and special projects that were necessary to help the program grow and expand. Before long, the laity was responsible for the classroom instruction and the overall coordinating of registration, attendance, structure and curriculum formats.

In the recent past, Jane Widas, Kay Kendall, Eileen Andros and Maureen Donnelly have all had a long tenure of leadership in the Religious Education program for children from grades 1 thru 8 and in some cases even high school aged students. Assisted by volunteer catechists these programs provided overall catechesis in accordance with the Arch-diocesan mandates. Catechists themselves are encouraged to attend special training workshops and to become certified teachers on the subject of faith formation for children.

Most recently, our program has undergone a change of format which included moving the elementary school program to Sunday mornings following the regularly scheduled Family Mass. While at first this met with some concerns about scheduling, the program has been highly successful and has had a positive influence on Mass attendance. In addition to this format, Family Catechesis which was mandated by Cardinal Eagan about 10 years ago has had a beneficial impact on the life of the parish. An Advent celebration of All Saints and a Lenten re-enactment of

the Living Stations of the Cross resulted in enthusiastic participation by students, families, guests and parishioners.

The program for middle school students has evolved through the years. In 2013, a team teaching approach was organized and called FAST Team, which means Faith and Service Together. This format works well with young people by providing a variety of learning experiences and encourages active participation. Students meet monthly with their catechetical team in an effort to live their faith by sharing fellowship and community with each other in classroom instruction, service projects, field trips, games, discussion groups, guest speakers, lunch, confession and Mass. Students and parents have responded very positively to this program.

Faith Formation programs also include RCIA which is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with a sub-group for children, which helps adults inquire and explore the Catholic Faith and if desired receive the sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation or to complete study for those sacraments. We use a team teaching approach under the leadership of Deacon Mark O'Sullivan, incorporating other clergy and laity as speaker presenters, Godparents, sponsors and hospitality ministers.

The parish family of Regina Coeli/St. Paul, believes that lifelong faith formation is essential to grow in love and service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage all families; children, teens and adults to grow in knowledge of Jesus and the holy, Catholic Church by participation in a wide variety of programs designed to deepen our faith and spirituality. With lives centered on the Mass and sacraments, we find unity when we recognize Christ alive in the hearts and minds of all who are called to witness the Gospel.

Religious Vocations from the Parish

Priests: Robert McKeon, James McLucas, William McIntyre, Philip Tran, David Rider

Nuns: Patricia Sullivan, OP, Nancy Erts, OP, Sister John Janet Alessandrello of Mother Teresa's order

Various Ministries/Organizations in the Parish

The life-blood of the parish is the dedication of parishioners who step forward to volunteer for various ministries and organizations. While the volunteers feed, cloth, house, teach, or comfort others in need, they realize that they do make a difference. The following is simply a listing of the ministries and organizations in which volunteers serve to make a difference in the parish.

Parish Pastoral Council—The council consists of twelve elected and three appointed parishioners who serve a three year term. The council is advisory to the pastor. Each member of the council take an area of parish life in which they have a special interest and represent these on the council.

Liturgical: lectors
extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist
music
altar servers
altar care
Eucharistic adoration



Father Ryder's First Mass Celebrated at Regina Coeli May, 2014

Social Action: shelter for the homeless
holiday food baskets
Hyde Park food pantry
The Giving Tree
various social action by students of
Regina Coeli School and the
Religious Education Program
Good Counsel home

Prayer Life: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Bible study
Legion of Mary
Men's Fellowship
Bereavement

Activities: grounds ministry
Coeli Fest
steak booth at county fair
Christmas craft fair
Right to Life
Knights of Columbus
CYO basketball
Youth group
(Bingo—although no longer held at Regina
Coeli, bingo was conducted on

Thursday evening for many years, staffed by volunteers under the
direction of Stan Browy and Pat Hunter.)



CYO Basketball with Fr. Sample



Knights in the 4th of July Parade

Addendum

Regina Coeli Church St. Paul's Church



RT. REV. MSGR. JOHN A. RIGO, PASTOR

REV. RAYMOND J. HILL, Assistant

RECTORY: 24 Harvey Street, Hyde Park — Telephone: Capital 9-2134

CONVENT: Harvey Street — Telephone: Capital 9-2728

SCHOOL: Albany Post Road — Telephone: Capital 9-6009

MASSSES: Sunday-Hyde Park: 7:00, in Church: 8:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12 in Auditorium (benefaction after 12:00); Staatsburg: 8:00, 10:00.

WEEKDAYS: Regina Coeli Church: 4-4:45

FIRST FRIDAY: Hyde Park 6:45 — Staatsburg: 7:00.

HOLY DAYS: Hyde Park: 6, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30; Staatsburg: 6:00, 9:30.

NOVENA in honor of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help—Monday, 7:30, Regina Coeli Church. BAPTISMS: On Appointment, Sunday Afternoon or Anytime. Parents must be residents of the Parish.

CONFESSIONS: Hyde Park—Saturdays, 4:00 - 6:00 and 7:30 - 9:00; Even of First Fridays, 4:00-5:00; Staatsburg—Saturdays, 7:30-8:30 and on the Saturdays before the First Sunday, 4:00-5:00 and 7:30-8:30.

MARRIAGE AND WEDDING arrangements are to be made two months before Nuptial Mass or Ceremony date and hour of Wedding Ceremony must be arranged by the contracting couple. Recent copies (within 6 months) of records of Baptisms, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are always required. Catholic Marriage is before a Catholic Priest and two Catholic witnesses. SICK CALLS: Any time, day or night. Notify the Priest, as soon as possible. Prayers, on table or dresser near bedside, Crucifix, two Blessed Candles, Holy Water, glass of water, teaspoon, and napkin. If Priest brings the Blessed Sacrament, someone should meet him with a lighted candle at the door, and conduct him to the sick person.

FUNERALS: Arrangements by family and undertaker with the Priest at Rectory before publication in newspaper. Phone immediately for appointment for arrangements.

REGISTRATION: Of all New Parishioners is to be made within a week or at the first opportunity. Homes blessed as soon as possible. Each wage earner should have and use his or her own envelope. Envelopes may be applied for after Masses, at Parish office or showing the residence.

PARKING LINES: West Drive lane and East Drive lane on Cream Street, North on Cream Street to East Park Road, East Park Road to Four Corners, North on Quaker Lane to Whitehook town line.

RELEASE TIME CLASSES: Handwriting—1:30—Staatsburg Elementary; 2:30—Staatsburg High, Wednesday; 7:00—Jocovanni and Hayward High, Thursday; 2:00—Ralph Smith and Hyde Park Elementary.

Transportation is arranged to Regina Coeli School. Staatsburg has classes in Firehouse.

REGINA COELI CHURCH HYDE PARK, N.Y. 12538

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH STAATSBURG, N.Y. 12580

PASTOR:
REV. WILLIAM J. COLLINS

ASSOCIATES:
REV. JOHN J. BACKES
WILLIAM E. BISHOP, Deacon
REV. JAMES LE BAR in residence
Chaplain - Hudson River Psychiatric Center

RECTORY:
2 HARVEY STREET
HYDE PARK, N.Y. 12538
PHONE: (914) 229-2134



MASS SCHEDULE AT
REGINA COELI
Sunday — 7:00 P.M. (Full Mass)
Sunday — 7:00 A.M., 9:15 A.M., 10:30
A.M. and 12:30 Noon
CCC — Children's Library — 9:30 in the
Auditorium

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE AT
REGINA COELI
Schedule will be announced for each Feat.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE
At Regina Coeli — 8:15

MASS SCHEDULE
At St. Paul's — Sunday — 8:30 and 10 A.M.

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

— Thursday from 8 - 9 P.M.
Saturday from 3 - 4 P.M.
At St. Paul's before Sunday Mass

BAPTISMS

— 2nd Sunday of the month and
4th Sunday of the month.
A Baptismal instruction for parents is required.
Call the rectory for the necessary appointment.

MARRIAGES

— Couples contemplating marriage should register and reserve the
date as early as possible, preferably 6 months in advance. Pre-
Cana and Sacrament preparation are required.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

— brings the healing love of Christ. In case of illness do not hesitate
to call the rectory. Please do not wait until the last moment. Call
when the illness begins so that the person may receive the full
benefit of the sacrament.

REGINA COELI PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

(Pre-K - 8)
Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York
Telephone: (914) 229-8558
Principal - Sister Marie Murphy, O.P.
School Secretary - Mrs. Jane Semecis

REGINA COELI SCHOOL OF RELIGION

— Telephone: (914) 229-9138
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
CCC Classes:
a) First Year Grades: (K-5) Sunday mornings as scheduled
Classes run from 8:15 - 11:15 A.M. which includes liturgy for children.
b) Generosity Grades: (6-8) Monday evenings as scheduled from
7:15 - 8:30 P.M.
c) High School Discussion Groups: Sunday evenings in the Rectory

NEW PARISHIONERS

New Parishioners should register at the Rectory. They are invited to partici-
pate in parish affairs through:
Parish Choir - Parish Fair Group
School Board (2nd Wednesday at 7:30 PM)
School Parents Association (1st Sunday evening)
Men's Club (1st & 3rd Sunday evenings)
Rosary Altar Society at St. Paul's
Regina Coeli Rosary Altar Society
Girl and Boy Scouts, Altar Boys, Commentators, Readers, Song
Leaders, and Eucharistic Ministers at Liturgical Services, CCD Program
and Volunteer Parish Secretaries.
Bingo workers on Sunday and Thursday

CHURCH SUPPORT

— Regina Coeli Parish is completely dependent on the generosity of its
people. The use of the envelope system and the monthly debt reduc-
tion donation is totally necessary for the day to day running opera-
tions of this parish, as well as the assisting in reducing the very large
debt which exists. Your financial contribution is appreciated, need-
ed, and most necessary.

REGINA COELI BINGO

— Thursday 7:30 P.M.
K of C - Sunday 6:30 P.M.

PARISH OF REGINA COELI/ST. PAUL



Regina Coeli
"Queen of Heaven"

2 Harvey Street, Hyde Park, NY 12538
Phone: (845) 229-2134
Fax: (845) 229-1668
Web: www.reginacoeli-hydepark-ny.org
Email: fr Fitzgerald@reginacoeli.org

Served by

Rev. Brendan Fitzgerald ext. 103
Administrator
fr.Fitzgerald@reginacoeli.org

Rev. Joseph A. Gaspar ext. 108
Parochial Vicar
fr.jgaspar@reginacoeli.org

Rev. John Lagione, Principal, OLLCHS
ext. 150
deaconfrank@reginacoeli.org

Deacon Gerard T. Lindley ext. 151
deacongerard@reginacoeli.org

Deacon Mark P. O'Sullivan ext. 152
deaconmark@reginacoeli.org

Deacon Peter Dalmer ext. 153
deaconpeter@reginacoeli.org

Deacon James Hayes

Parish Staff

Angela Garretta, ext. 100
Parish Secretary
frontdesk@reginacoeli.org

Joan Greene, Bookkeeper, ext. 114
joan@reginacoeli.org

Slawomir Lisiecki, Music Director
slaw@reginacoeli.org



Mass Times

Regina Coeli, Hyde Park
Saturday — 5:00 pm
Sunday — 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am
Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am
Holy Days — 6:30, 9:00 am,
12:00 noon & 7:30 pm
St. Paul's Mission Church, Staatsburg
Sunday — 9:00 am
Holy Day Vigil — 7:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Please contact the rectory in the event of an emergency, or prior to Hospital admission for illness or surgery, or to arrange for a visit to the home-bound on First Fridays.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION:

Please contact the rectory about completing your Sacraments or becoming a member of the Catholic Faith.

DEVOTIONS TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER:

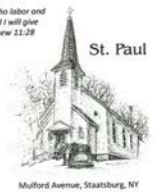
Rosary for Life: First Saturday, 8:15 am
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1:15 pm. Parents are asked to call the rectory before the child is born.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arrangements are to be made with the priest or deacon SIX MONTHS or more before wedding plans are made.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 4:00 - 4:45 pm & anytime upon request.
EUCARISTIC ADORATION AT REGINA COELI: Monday, 7:00 am through Saturday, 9:00 am



St. Paul

Mufford Avenue, Staatsburg, NY



Regina Coeli Parochial School

Pre-K-8th Grade
4337 Albany Post Road,
Hyde Park, NY 12538
Phone: (845) 229-8589
Fax: (845) 229-4179
Email: coeli@optimum.net

Miss Ellen Kerins, Principal
Mrs. Kathy Swenson, School Secretary

Faith Formation & CCD
Phone: (845) 229-9119
Mrs. Maureen Donnelly, Coordinator

Front Cover of Parish Bulletin over the past 50 years

HOMILY ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY
of the Church of Saint Paul

STAATSBURG, NEW YORK, 1887-1987

May 3, 1987

REVEREND MONSIGNOR HAROLD EDWARD HICKS
(former pastor - July 1972-August 1983)

TRULY, THE LORD IS IN THIS SPOT, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW IT!
IN SOLEMN WONDER HE CRIED OUT: HOW AWESOME IS THIS SHRINE!
THIS IS NOTHING ELSE BUT AN ABODE OF GOD, AND THAT IS THE
GATEWAY TO HEAVEN! (Genesis 28:17-18)

In reviewing the history of the church in the area, one thing stands out - prior to the 1920's, all the pastors died in their 30's. Either they were in ill health and worked themselves to death or the area was unhealthy. Thank God I did not know this prior to July 1972 when I arrived. However, somewhere in all this I detect the hand of destiny or fate.

As I perused the list of names - Riordan, Fitzpatrick, Terrence Kelly (who built this church), Burns, Lomargan, Macpherson, Morley, McNulty, Mackin - there I stopped. Fr. Patrick Mackin packed his bags in 1929 to become pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in White Plains. I delivered mail to him while working during the vacations from the seminary, until 1943. That was a historic year. You had 4 pastors beginning in January. The first was Fr. Stanislaus J. McGovern. He and my father were school-mates in White Plains. On April 28, Fr. John J. Corrigan of St. Bernard's in White Plains arrived. Because of this he could not attend my ordination and Solemn Mass on May 1, and 2nd. I was his third altar boy serving him since January 1, 1929. Msgr. John A. Rigo took over in 1950 and remained for about 12 years and nine months. Msgr. Thomas McMahon and Fr. Vincent Scanlon filled in the years until July 1972. My tenure was 11 years and a month or so. So Msgr. Rigo holds the record. Anyway, we all know what transpired between July 1, 1972 and August 16, 1983. In any event, how could anyone measure up to the pioneers and builders of the last 100 years?

Msnr. Hicks' Homily-100 Year Celebration Mass

I mentioned in beginning the Fickle Finger of Fate or Destiny. Fr. Terence McNulty left here for St. Ann's in Dongan Hills on Staten Island. What do you think my first assignment was in May 1943? You guessed correctly. Now how about this for another coincidence! again tying me to St. Paul's. One day while driving up Route 9 with my mother she noticed a ruined old house. It had been abandoned and partially burned. "What is that?" she said. I replied, "That is or was Stone's Farm." This prompted her to tell me the story. It seems that just prior to or shortly after World War I, my grand-father and grand-mother would sail up the river to Staatsburg Landing where they would disembark and take a carriage to Stone's Farm where they would spend their 2 week's vacation. One of the sons, who evidently thought that Staatsburg was the "pits" as the modern jargon has it, loved the bright lights of Broadway and Fun City. So he would occasionally take the boat to New York and stay at 51st street with the Giblin family - my mother's home. So now you know the rest of the story as Paul Harvey would say. No wonder Fate or Destiny, but more probably the Holy Spirit, brought me north to Hyde Park and Staatsburg.

Sometime between 1899 and 1909, during the tenure of Fr. John Lonargon, the debt on St. Paul's was liquidated. Presumably then the Church was officially dedicated. By whom - Archbishop Corrigan? - we do not know.

In the dedication ceremony, the Bishop says in one of the opening prayers -

FATHER IN HEAVEN, SOURCE OF HOLINESS AND TRUE PURPOSE,
IT IS RIGHT THAT WE PRAISE AND GLORIFY YOUR NAME,
FOR TODAY WE COME BEFORE YOU
TO DEDICATE TO YOUR LASTING SERVICE
THIS HOUSE OF PRAJER,
THIS TEMPLE OF WORSHIP
THIS HOME IN WHICH WE ARE NOURISHED
By YOUR WORD AND YOUR SACRAMENTS.

So we echo the words of Jacob, "This truly is an awesome place."

The dedicatory prayer continues: HERE IS REFLECTED THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH.

That is what we celebrate today. For 100 years God has communicated with you in this Church of St. Paul. He has fed you with His Word and With His Body and Blood. On my first visit here, a little girl received her First Communion from one of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers. The People of God grew with every baptism. Sins were forgiven. Couples bound themselves together in the service of God's Kingdom. Pundits used to query, "Is God dead?" "Never at St. Paul's," we can boast. However, if it is a time to look back, it is also a time to look forward in hope and trust for the next 100 years.

For this, we turn to the 1 Kings 8:27-30. We hear Solomon praying before the altar at the dedication of the Temple -

CAN IT INDEED BE THAT GOD DWELLS AMONG MEN ON EARTH? IF THE HEAVENS AND THE HIGHEST HEAVENS CANNOT CONTAIN YOU, HOW MUCH LESS THIS TEMPLE WHICH I HAVE BUILT!

And we conclude with him:

LOOK KINDLY ON THE PRAJER AND PETITION OF YOUR SERVANT, O LORD, MY GOD, AND LISTEN TO THE CRY OF SUPPLICATION WHICH I, YOUR SERVANT, UTTER BEFORE YOU THIS DAY.
MAY YOUR EYES WATCH NIGHT AND DAY OVER THIS TEMPLE, THE PLACE WHERE YOU HAVE DECREED YOU SHALL BE HONORED:
MAY YOU HEED THE PRAJER WHICH I, YOUR SERVANT, OFFER IN THIS PLACE.
LISTEN TO THE PETITIONS OF YOUR SERVANT AND OF YOUR PEOPLE WHICH THEY OFFER IN THIS PLACE..... Amen }

After our booklet was printed Eileen Hayes recalled a few things that I felt were worthy of a postscript. (After all there is no one else around that can tell us about these things that occurred close to one hundred years ago.)

I often wondered how certain people decided to settle in Staatsburg. I found out one of the reasons when I questioned Eileen. Mr. Herrick who was the Superintendent of the Dinsmore Estate would go to Ellis Island. Right there he would interview people who were just arriving in America from other lands. He needed good, hard working people to help him run the big estate which not only had huge vegetable gardens, flower gardens and hot houses, but also large herds of horses, cows, sheep, chickens etc. These people just arriving in America would come to Staatsburg to work for him. They would decide that Staatsburg was a good place for them to settle and raise their families.

James Hayes, Eileens' father came to America from Ireland with other members of his family after his Mother died. He was only ten years old. His Sister, Mary had come to America a few years before them and it was only natural that they would like to settle near her. There had been a potato famine in Ireland and conditions were very bad so many of the Irish people were coming to this country to try to better themselves. At that time it took a month to cross the Atlantic and Eileen said they had large trunks that resembled wooden coffins that they would bring their clothes and worldly possessions in. Eileens' family settled in Staatsburg - staying when they first arrived with cousins by the same name.

Eileen could also tell me why we were so fortunate in obtaining the beautiful stained glass window which is high on the North wall of the Church behind the Altar. Mary Hayes worked for a wealthy family in New Hamburg. She learned that they wanted to donate a memorial in honor of a dear friend of theirs. Since Mary knew a new Catholic Church was being planned for Staatsburg she made her employers aware of the need at St. Pauls'. The family donated the excellent stained glass window depicting Our Lord as a young man in memory of Rev. Charles M. O'Keefe. Our Church family has derived much pleasure over the last century from their generous and beautiful gift.

Many things in the Church have been changed when re-decorating. Beautiful tapestries that were on the walls behind the Altar were discarded. The Altar itself and the Altar Rail were disposed of. However, the stained glass windows throughout the church have managed to hold their own. Imagine the stories they could tell!

During the early years of St. Pauls' wages were very small. Many of the employees on the big estates received milk and sometimes eggs as part of their salary. On Sunday Joe Maher, who was also one of the Trustees of the Church would sit at the Church entrance and the head of each family would give him 10¢ as a seat donation. When the collection plate was passed the head of each family would donate 5¢. At Christmas each family that could afford it would donate \$5.00. You would wonder how the Church could operate on these small donations but of course their expenses were small. The big Estate owners like the Mills and Dinsmores would donate \$50.00 at Christmas time.

There was always a High Mass at Easter and Christmas. Priests from St. Andrews On The Hudson (Now the Culinary Institute) would often assist the local Pastor.

Mrs. James Horan who operated a hotel on the corner of Mulford Ave. and Old Post Road (Many of us remember it as The Cardinal Inn and just recently reopened as Luigi's) would run a Fair every Summer on August 15th. It was held in the Town Hall which was almost across the Street from St. Paul's Church at that time. The Town Hall later burned down. In the evening when the Fair was over they would have a dance upstairs where there was a beautiful dance floor. This was a great way of raising money for the Church.

Writing this little booklet gave me much pleasure and insight to the History of our little Church. I hope it will be enjoyed by many when this Corner Stone is removed One Hundred years from now.

May Gods' Love and Blessings continue to shine abundantly upon the Church of St. Paul and the Parishioners who dedicate themselves to sustaining it.

Sincerely

Betty Leary
Betty Leary

Postscript to Anniversary Book by Betty Leary





Regina Coeli Church 2014