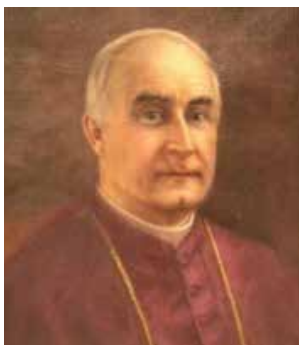


IN THE BEGINNING...



Bishop Matthew Harkins

Providence College and St. Pius Church were, from the start, joined in the mind of Bishop Matthew Harkins, D.D., Bishop of Providence. After thirty years as shepherd of the diocese of Providence, he believed the time was right to turn his attention to this undertaking. He foresaw the greatest project of his episcopacy to be a seat of learning and a parish for preaching.

In 1913 the Diocese of Providence bought 17 acres in the Elmhurst section, a large enough area for ten buildings. The initial fundraising was led by Bishop Harkins himself and over \$300,000 was raised from parishes throughout the state, enough for the first classroom building and dormitories. With other large donations following from prominent laypeople and from the Bishop himself, the college could start life debt-free in its first year of operations.



Rev. Raymond Meagher, O.P.
Provincial
Province of St. Joseph

In 1916, construction of the college began. Bishop Harkins invited the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O.P., Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph, to send his friars to what was to be Providence College. Their mission was to teach and to preach. The preaching would benefit a new parish to be carved out of three existing parishes in the northwest area of the city: St. Patrick's, Blessed Sacrament, and St. Edward's. Father Meagher agreed and construction continued.

The college was originally scheduled to open in September of 1917. However, as the nation entered the Great War in April 1917, young men were now in training camps and off to fight in the war. Thus registrations were limited. In September 1918, the Corporation of Providence College voted unanimously in support of the war effort "to adjourn indefinitely the opening of the college." With the signing of the Armistice of November 11, 1918, the opening was set for September 1919.

In March 1918 Bishop Harkins asked the Dominicans at Providence College to care for the religious needs of the people living in the college area. By April 3rd, Fr. Meagher wrote to Fr. McNichols in Rome to inform him the Provincial Council had voted unanimously to accept Bishop Harkins' invitation to found Saint Pius Parish.

The Providence Sunday Tribune article from April 14, 1918, describes

While Providence College is ready to receive the furnishings that are requisite for the full operation of that institution on Smith's Hill, the corporation, through the Treasurer, Rev. Albert Casey, O.P., announces that the Commencement has been postponed until next September.

Late in August, 1918 the college was brought to the present condition, and it was anticipated that it would be formally opened in September. Every arrangement had been made for this function. Bishop Shahan, rector of the Catholic University at Washington, D.C., was to have delivered the dedicatory address, the bishops of Hartford, Springfield and Fall River and the priests of this diocese were to have attended, and Bishop Harkins was to have blessed the building.

This was to have been on Sunday, Sept 1 and on the following Monday and Tuesday entrance examinations were to have been made and students registered for the academic year.

Before this programme could be fully arranged came the intervention of the war. Therefore, Providence College was not opened, and it will not be until, as already stated, it is fully equipped to receive and register students next September for the full academic course.

Providence Sunday Journal, March 9, 1919

On May 31, 1918, an *Apostolic Beneplacitum* was requested from the Holy See for the establishment of the new parish of St. Pius. This was granted on June 3, 1918. In a letter dated October 16th, Father Albert Casey, O.P., was appointed first pastor by Bishop Harkins. Father Casey was the President of Providence College and would keep both positions. His assignment as pastor of St. Pius became effective on Saturday, October 19, 1918. The

Two weeks later more happy news arrived as the Armistice of November 11th was announced, ending the First World War. The parish had much to celebrate.

NEW PARISH MAY SOON BE FOUNDED

A new Catholic parish is to be formed in the Elmhurst section of the city within the next few months, according to a persistent rumor in Catholic circles. It would be made up of parts of St. Patrick's parish, St. Thomas's parish, Manton, and St. Laurence parish, North Providence.

According to the story the Dominican fathers would be placed in charge of the new parish. They would also give up their present church, St. Raymond's on North Main street, which would then be placed in charge of the secular clergy.

It is said that the church for the new parish would be erected on Eaton street, almost adjoining the convent which is now in process of erection in that vicinity—a district which is fast becoming known as Dominican hill. The Dominican fathers will be in charge of this college, and, according to the plans said to be in the making, they would use the chapel of the college for parish purposes until the church had been built.

St. Patrick's parish now includes all that district on the north side of the city between North Main street and the North Providence city line, just the other side of the academy of the Sacred Heart, better known as Elmhurst. St. Thomas takes in the Manton section of this city and the Lymanville section of North Providence while St. Laurence parish includes Fruit Hill, Centredale, Allendale and Greystone. It is said that when the new parish is formed St. Patrick's will give up that section around Elmhurst. St. Thomas's parish that portion of it which is in North Providence and that Fruit Hill would be taken from the jurisdiction of St. Laurence parish.

4/14/1918

Baptizatum in Ecclesia		Dioecesis
A. B. Die Mensis	REGISTRUM BAPTISMORUM	Curia
Oct 24 1918	Expo infansque baptizati. Carolus Barton Redican, natus 1 Octobris, 1918 a Joanne Redican Catholicus a Rob. Providence, Rhode Island a Regina Barton Catholicus a Rob. Providence, R. I. Conjuges Parenti parati, Bernardus Redican et Maria Rich Albertus Casey, PP. Carolus Redican Matrimonio contraxit per 12 & Janis, 1918. n. Charles Oliver Peas a Rob. Providence, R. I. a Providence - Dr. Walter, Danston Divorces Louis W. Ryan, Hart Excoha Dr. Walter, Danston natus 16 Janis, 1918 Patrick J. Brady, P.P.	



Photo of Harkins Hall from 1921

located. The chapel in Harkins Hall continued to serve as the parish church for a decade.

In March 1919 the first celebration of the sacrament of marriage took place in this new parish when William J. Furly married Winifred Burke.

The photo to the right, from 1919, shows the first St. Pius Choir, directed by William Harrington (front left), outside Harkins Hall.



In 1921, St. Pius parish held its first confirmation class. Providence College students who were studying for the priesthood taught the confirmation candidates.

1921 was also the year that Fr. Casey had to step down because of ill health. Fr. Casey was feted by the parish, which had grown to love its first pastor. On this occasion, he was presented with a watch on which was inscribed: "To Our First Pastor, Rev. Albert Casey, O.P., A Token of Love and Esteem from the People of St. Pius Parish, Providence, R.I., Sept. 26, 1921.



William Dominic Noon, O.P.
1921 - 1926

Fr. William Dominic Noon, O.P. took over as both President of the college and Pastor of the parish.

In 1923, Fr. Bernard Kenney started a Boy Scout Troop at St. Pius. Scouting had come to Rhode Island in 1910 and Fr. Kenney saw the value of this program for boys in the parish. When the

Rhode Island Scouts joined with Boy Scouts of America in 1935, Father Kenney asked to be Troop 35 but that number was taken. He settled for transposing the numbers and the St. Pius troop became Troop 53. Troop 53 continues to be involved in the parish and the community today. Father Kenny remained active in Boy Scouting for many years.

HARKINS HALL CROWDED

Communicants at St. Pius Church
Bid Farewell to Their First
Pastor at Exercises Held
In His Honor

Parishioners of St. Pius Church crowded the assembly hall of Providence College last evening to bid farewell to Rev. Albert Casey, O.P. who is leaving the office of President of that institution because of ill health. At the same time they presented him with a silver watch and fob and a purse of gold as testimonials of their appreciation of his work as head of the parish.

Harkins Hall was filled with the well-wishers of the veteran educator when he, unaware of the gathering in his honor, entered the assembly hall. A musical programme preceded the presentation. Joseph Farley sang several solos, accompanied by William Harrington, the organist at the church.

M. P. McLaughlin was in charge of the exercises and introduced James Curran, who made the presentation on behalf of the parishioners, saying that there was a feeling of regret that Rev. Fr. Casey was leaving the parish, but that the hearts of his people would always be with him wherever he went. In presenting the watch to Fr. Casey Mr. Curran expressed the hope that when the priest heard the ticking of the watch he would recall the days he spent in St. Pius parish and the many parishioners who would ever cherish him.

Excerpt from the Providence Journal
September 26, 1921

FIERY CROSSES ARE LIGHTED BY CELEBRATING KLANSMEN

Erected in East Providence, Norwood, Neutaconkanut Hill and at East Greenwich. — Police
Get Some Auto Numbers

The Ku Klux Klan of Rhode Island last night celebrated the political victory, won with its help, on Tuesday, by setting fire to crosses erected on several hills throughout many parts of the State.

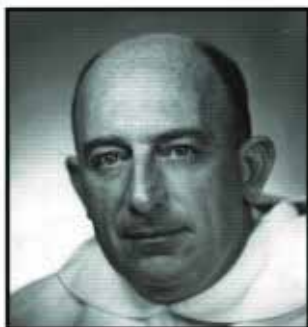
On Fort Hill in East Providence within sight of the spot where Roger Williams first landed after crossing the Seekonk in search of religious liberty; on Neutaconkanut hill in the western section of this city; on the Providence college campus off Smith street; in the Norwood section of Warwick and in East Green-

The cross erected and burned on Providence College campus was only five or six feet high but was the second one to be burned there by the members of the night shirt brigade within the past 10 days. The men who erected it came in an automobile and wore no regalia but as soon as the torch was applied, left the scene in their machine heading toward the down town section of the city.

Professors of the college who were in their study shortly after 8 o'clock were

Things were sometimes eventful for Catholics in Rhode Island. On November 7, 1924, the Evening Tribune ran an article about the Klu Klux Klan lighting crosses throughout the state in celebration of election results. Some were even lit on the Providence College campus. This was the second cross to be burned on campus by the Night Shirt Brigade in ten days.

IN SEARCH OF A NEW HOME...



George Innocent Smith, O.P.
Temporary Pastor 1926



William Augustine Sullivan, O.P.
1926 - 1929

By 1926 the parish had become large enough for a full-time pastor. Fr. George Innocent Smith, O.P., served both Providence College and the parish as its temporary pastor until the first full-time pastor, Fr. William A. Sullivan, O.P., was appointed in November 1926. Fr. Sullivan immediately began planning to build a parish church. On September 7, 1927, the parish purchased a piece of land from the diocese. A letter from the time shows that this land, formerly part of the Hogan farm, was the first choice of the pastor and provincial. However, Bishop William A. Hickey, representing the Diocese of Providence as the owner of the land, was reluctant to part with it. Eaton Street, Roslyn Avenue, Fair Oaks Street, and Elmhurst Avenue formed the land's boundary. Bishop Hickey permitted Fr. Sullivan to announce the purchase of the land to the parish on Sunday, September 11th. Parishioners would

have preferred a grand church, but in discussions with the pastor and Bishop Hickey, the decision for a church-school combination would make more sense in those economically hard times.

In June 1928 a construction contract was awarded, and John Hogan—no relation to the land's original owners—was named architect. St. Pius' planned building would be used as a church, school, and residence for religious who would teach there. It would be designed in the Tudor revival style of Harkins Hall featuring brick and limestone and gothic entrances. This building would serve as the parish church for over 35 years. Today, many renovations later, it is still in use as our elementary school serving students in Pre-K through 8th grade.

In January 1929, as the church-school building neared its completion, Fr. Sullivan reached out to his provincial, Fr. Meagher, regarding which congregation should be approached to staff the school. The Blauvelt Dominicans of New York were their first choice, but there was a need to present this request to the Bishop. An excerpt from a letter on February 20th from Fr. Sullivan to Fr. Meagher shows the Bishop readily agreed.

Had a talk with the Bishop the other day and am glad to be able to report that he was favorable to my request to have the Dominican Sisters from Blauvelt teach in St. Pius school.

Providence Visitor June 1, 1928

WORK TO BEGIN ON NEW CHURCH

St. Pius Structure Will
Contain School and
Convent

TO MATCH COLLEGE

Edifice, of Unique Type,
Expected to Cost
\$125,000

Work on the \$125,000 combination church, school, and convent for St. Pius' parish is expected to begin within two weeks, the building permit for same having been issued this week by Inspector of Buildings, Michael J. Higgins.

The new structure, said to be one of the first buildings of its type in the diocese, is to be located near Providence College at 45 Elmhurst Avenue. The architecture is of a type that will conform to and harmonize with the buildings of the larger institution.

To Be Two Stories

The building will be two stories high, of brick, and will be 146x78 feet. The basement will contain a large assembly hall, meeting rooms, kitchen, and a number of smaller accessories.

The Church or chapel, which in itself will be 32x64 feet, is on the first floor. On the same floor will be the vestries, which will adjoin the altar and one class room. On the second floor will be five classrooms, sleeping quarters for the nuns who will teach in the school, recreations rooms, a dining room, kitchen and other rooms arranged in a monastic type.

Will Cost \$125,000

John Hogan is the architect, and it is understood that the contract for the erection of the building may be let within the next two weeks.

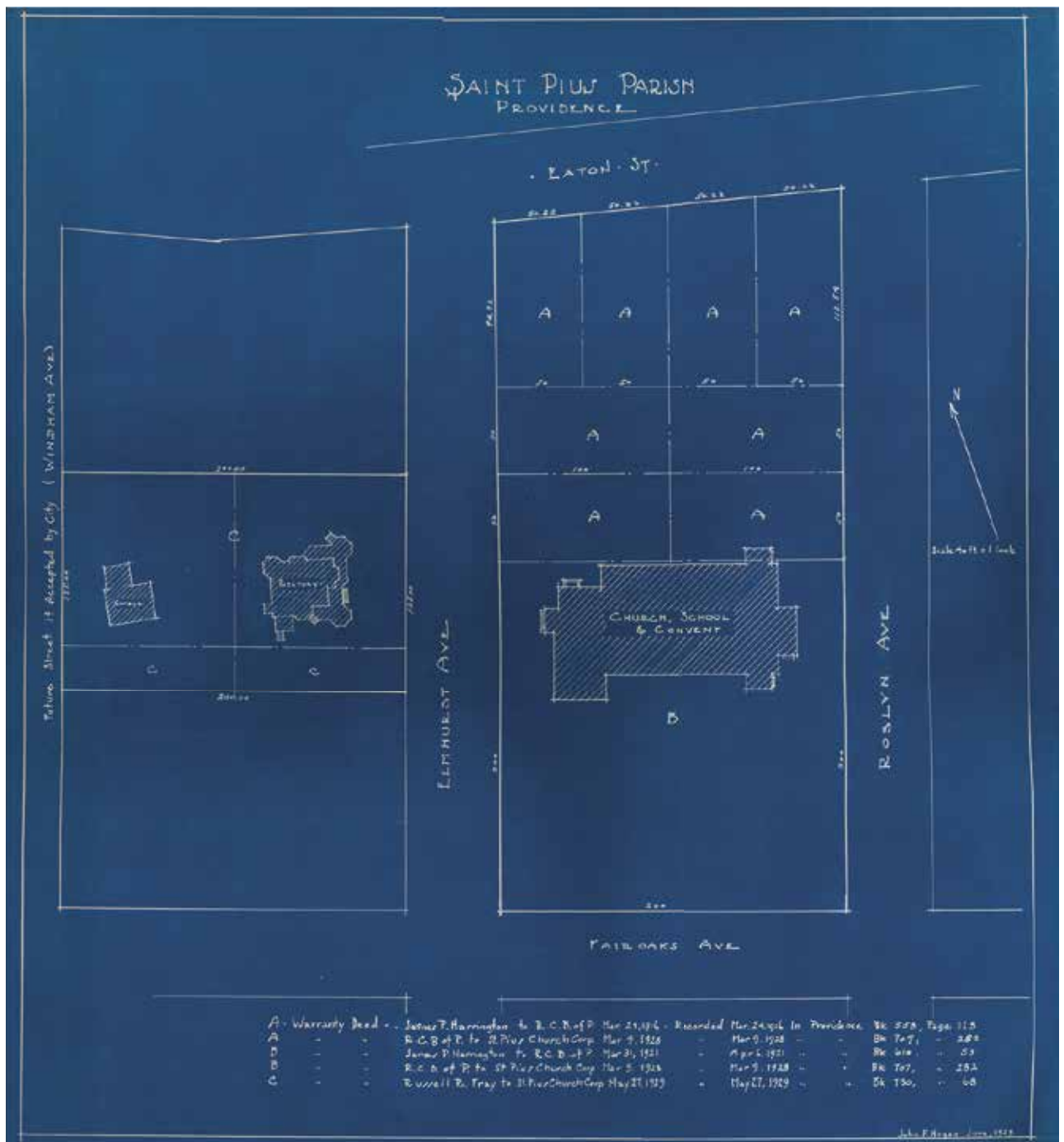
According to the records of the Inspector of Building the estimated cost of the building is placed at \$125,000.



The first rectory, the Hogan mansion is pictured above. It was these stately elms that gave our neighborhood its name.

This blueprint reflects parish property and buildings in 1929. Note that Wyndham Avenue is only a planned street but does not exist yet. Fair Oaks also only existed up to Elmhurst Avenue.

The J. Hogan Farm was located on River Avenue and enclosed by a stone wall along River between Smith and Eaton. The wall was modeled after Irish stone walls which Mr. Hogan admired. He also built portions of the walls on Eaton and Elmhurst where the Hogan mansion was situated. In between River and Elmhurst was open land covered with Jack-in-the Pulpit and Lady's Slipper.



It also noted that the building was far from complete since the school portion was still under construction. The college chapel's cramped quarters prompted Fr. Sullivan to use the church portion sooner than anticipated. The formal dedication was planned for late summer or fall when the Bishop of Providence would return from Rome.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 1929, saw the parish celebrate the first Mass in this new building. Parishioners were so pleased to be in their spacious new church.

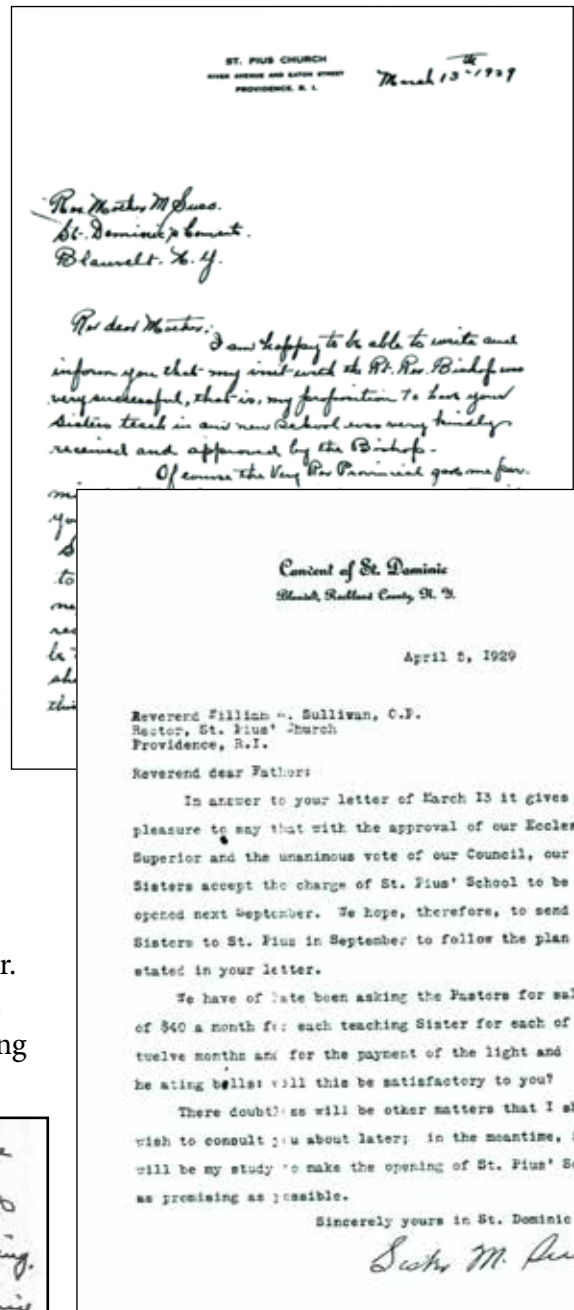
April correspondence attests that the Blauvelt Dominican Sisters would indeed be taking charge of St. Pius School. Formal letters were exchanged between Fr. Sullivan and Mother M. Suso. This collaboration would last until the year 2000.

In April 1929 the parish decided to purchase Mr. Frey's home, opposite the new church, for use as a rectory. The third house in the neighborhood considered for this purpose, it appeared to meet the needs for a priory best. After some improvements and repairs, the former Hogan homestead was ready to receive the pastor and a new assistant on September 1, 1929.

Below is an excerpt of the April 16th letter from Fr. Sullivan to Fr. Meagher describing the house. A photo of this new rectory is on the opposite page. This house occupied the location of the existing school playground and parking lot.

this will be the final and most acceptable one; There is a very fine house with beautiful surroundings immediately in front of our Church-School building. It is the old Frey estate. The owner is willing to sell as he wishes to go to California. His wife died recently and no doubt he wishes to make a change - There are five lots - two and a half facing Blauvelt Ave - two and a half facing Wyndham Ave which is not yet cut through. It is a fine house - Two story and basement - plenty of rooms and nice porches - also a garage - It seems to be the house we should have as it would make a good rectory - and later on the Sisters could use it if we decided to build a rectory later on -

for the September 1929 school opening, four Dominican sisters from the Blauvelt community in New York took charge of the new school. There were 110 elementary



A few weeks after occupying this new priory with Rev. John J. Hartnett, O.P., his new assistant, Fr. Sullivan was reassigned to a New Jersey parish. Fr. Joseph R. Clark, O.P., succeeded Fr. Sullivan as pastor. Fr. Clark would shepherd his parish of 2,000 people through the trials of the Great Depression.

In preparation



Joseph Richard Clark, O.P.
1929 - 1936

**Excerpts of Bishop William Hickey's Address
on the occasion on the Dedication of St. Pius Church-School
October 6, 1929, as recorded by the Providence Visitor:**



"I wish to take a few minutes of your time, dearly beloved brethren, clergy and laity, to offer you a word of sincere congratulation on your new church and school convent. I am sure you much feel without undue pride that you have deserved congratulations. You have had courage, you have shown extraordinary zeal for the house of God and all this has manifested your faith and your love or your faith.

"You have wanted a church for many years. The appeal has rung in my ears almost from the first days of my administration as Bishop, and although you desired to have particularly a monumental church, still when it was proposed to have a combination school and church, you welcomed the proposal like devoted, loyal and docile children and members of the Church. Here you have the church, here you have the school, combined in as beautiful a form as I have ever seen take shape anywhere in my travels or in my experiences. Credit is due to everyone who has had hand or part in it, but the spirit of the parish is the great thing that must give joy to the heart of Our Lord, as it gives consolation to us who are striving to do his work.

"You have the altar, the confessional, the pulpit in your church, a place to congregate at the holy Sacrifice, which is the chief thing in our religion. The foremost purpose in the ordination of the priest is that he may offer sacrifice to God for the people, that he may draw down the blessing of God, and pray there as a sacrificial priest for the souls of men.

"For a right understanding of these three great purposes of the Church in the minds of the future generations, you have the nursery of the faith in the parochial school, and the devoted sisters who are mothers of the children, their leaders, guides and inspiration, all under the direction of the priest and bishop. You have a complete parish, something to be proud of in a spiritual and material way.

"I wish to give credit for this splendid consummation of hopes and ambition and desire of St. Pius' parish not only to the people, who, I know, are the strong right arm of the priests, but to the priests who have enabled you to rise to the heights of this occasion to the demands of parochial life."



**Opening Remarks of the Sermon on October 6, 1929
Delivered by Fr. Lorenzo C. McCarthy, President of Providence College
at the Solemn High Mass Following the Dedication**

"The ceremony which we have just witnessed marks a very singular event in the history of this parish. Regarded in the light of the past it is the seal of approval, which the ecclesiastical authority places upon the serious efforts of pastors and the devotion of the people of this parish. Regarded in the light of the future, it is an assurance of an increase in Christian life in the community. It is a memorial to the past, a presage of future achievements. This edifice, a combination church and school, has been erected through the wise direction of your ecclesiastical superiors, and through your own generous efforts. To the worldly mind, this edifice is merely another building in this section of the city, but to the minds that interpret events in the light of faith, this is another dwelling place for the Eucharistic Christ. It is another place wherein will be generated and fostered the spirit of true piety and true devotion."

students enrolled in grades one through four that inaugural year. The four Dominican sisters — Sr. Catherine, Principal, Sr. M. Blanche, Sr. M. Clarissa, and Sr. Gabriel—worked and lived in the church school building until September 1932 when they moved into the second floor of a rental house at 44 Hilltop Avenue. The move allowed the sisters

Providence Visitor
October 11, 1929

ST. PIUS CHURCH, SCHOOL, CONVENT BLESSED SUNDAY

**Ceremony, With Bishop
Officiating, is Preceded
by a Procession**

DOMINICANS ATTEND

**High Mass Celebrated by
Very Rev. Stephen Mc-
Dermott, O.P.**

The blessing of the new combination church and school and convent of St. Pius' parish took place last Sunday morning, Rt. Rev. Bishop Hickey officiating

A procession of altar boys and clergy, escorting Bishop Hickey, left the rectory at 10:20 o'clock, and crossed to the new building. The bishop blessed the interior and exterior, and then presided at a Solemn High Mass.

Very Rev. Stephen McDermott, O.P., Vicar Provincial of Washington,

to add grades five through eight at the rate of one per year, beginning with 5th grade in 1932. The additional grades meant welcoming four more teaching sisters to the staff. The photo above right, from 1934, shows the principal, Sr. Catherine, to the left of the pastor.

On October 6, 1929, the Most Reverend William A. Hickey, Bishop of Providence, dedicated the newly completed church and school.

This dedication ceremony was

followed by a Solemn High Mass, celebrated by the Very Rev. Stephen McDermott, O.P., Vicar Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph. The two former pastors, Father Casey and Father Sullivan, served as deacon and sub-deacon. Bishop Hickey's address is found on the facing page.



Front Row: Sr. Bernard Joseph Larkin, Sr. Catherine Healy, Principal, Rev. Joseph Clark, Pastor, Sr. Clarissa Doyle, Sr. Marita Heaton
Back Row: Sr. Rosarita Duggan, Sr. Rose Marie Rooney, Sr. Immaculata McGowan, Sr. Dominica Brophy





ST. PIUS CHURCH
50 ELMHURST AVENUE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Jan. 15-1931

Mr. Rev. T. S. McDermott A.P.,
869 Lexington Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Father McDermott,

Enclosed find check for \$35.00. It may be that I can send on more later but this is about all I can spare now.

I am afraid that our auto proposition is about to get into a jam.

The committee decided to give a Minstrel to raise the money to buy the car. I did not, and do not, favor that plan much myself, but when people offer to give for something, you cannot insist on ways & means too much.

The Minstrel was presented Tues. & Wed. evenings of this week. Artistically it was very good. Financially it was poor. I doubt if they will have much more



ST. PIUS CHURCH
50 ELMHURST AVENUE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

than \$200.00 when all expenses are paid. We had practically decided on a Chevrolet sedan at \$600.00 - worked down from \$829.00

Would you be willing that I pay the difference out of the House funds? The Committee says that they will raise the remainder as soon as they can. I do not feel any to care about that, but I should like to have the car. We really need a car as we have quite a few night sick calls from two hospitals in the parish. Then too, (here is where the smile comes in) a fellow does not get to play much golf if he has not some way to get out to the links.

Kindly let me know your wishes as regards convenience because as soon as returns are in on the Minstrel, I shall have to decide who to do.

Yours sincerely in St. Dominic
J. Richard Clark A.P.

TOP O' THE MORNING

Lyrics by JOHNNY BURKE • Music by JAMES VAN HEUSEN

Rev. John J. Murphy, A.P.
58 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, R. I.

TOP O' THE MORNING
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE

SPECIAL
PICTURE EDITION



From the Paramount Picture
"Top O' the Morning"
starring

SING
CROSBY • BLYTH
AND
BARRY HUME
FITZGERALD • CROWNN

We'll need someone painted with
limous paint for New England Town no.
We will have to build up the
chorus on most numbers because
we're so short of soloists other
than singers. - Have a nice
arrangement for those old fashioned
numbers.

1. Evening Cap.
2. Bluebird Op. Your Window will - Soloist & Chs.
3. Specially for - Tap Dance. Traps Carpenter??
4. Top O' the Morning - John Kelly?
5. I Never See Ragtime Done - Tiny
6. Accordion Solo - John Goffler
7. Dreamy Old New England Town - T. Hagelhurst?
8. What Lucky Old Sun - John McKeown
9. Andrews Sisters
10. Choral Ensemble? - Alabama Band
11. Johnson Rag - Robert & Ken
12. Tip Dance - Joe McKeown
13. Beautiful Ball - Chorus & P. McDuff
14. Dream Solo - Ronald Kravitz
15. Way Back Home - Soloist & Chs.
16. There's Hearts & Gentle People - John Kelly?
17. Tip Dance?? - Triville & Andrews Sisters
18. I'll be home - Soloist
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Fr. Clark was a dynamic leader with a strong sense of community. He gained renown throughout the community as is evidenced by this article published in 1931 in the directory, **Rhode Island - Three Centuries of Democracy**: *"The spiritual life of the parish has been greatly stimulated by Father Clark, who takes a keen personal interest in every phase of the work... Though he has been in charge of St. Pius parish for only about a year, Father Clark has already won the confidence and esteem of its people and the high regard of the community."*

The Providence Visitor

November 28, 1930

St. Vincent de Paul Society is Extended

TEN MORE CONFERENCES ORGANIZED IN DIOCESE DURING WEEK -- SEVERAL OTHERS BEING FORMED

Ten new conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul were organized in the Diocese of Providence during the past week.

St. Pius Conference, Providence, was organized with the following officers and members: Spiritual Director, Rev. J. R. Clarke, O.P.; President, Frank J. McCaffrey; Vice President, Dr. Charles Carroll; Secretary, James E. Downing; Treasurer, James Rawdon; members, William F. Geaty, Edward Mikutt, John T. Walsh, William F. Leonard, Frank T. Degnan. The Central Council of Providence was represented by Joseph M. Tally, William J. Keenan and Frank Degnan.

St. Pius Parish Solves Poor Problem With "Five-Cent Plan"

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Pius Church has solved the problem of caring for the parish poor, adopting a "five-cent plan."

Like other parishes throughout the diocese, St. Pius' has had its worries in obtaining sufficient funds to care for the parish poor during the current stringent times. There was trouble making income balance outgo, that is, until President Frank McCaffrey of the St. Vincent de Paul Society had a bright idea.

Mr. McCaffrey figured it out that if each of the 2000 persons in the parish paying weekly seat money were also to drop a nickel regularly in a special box placed at the door, sufficient funds would be obtained to handle expenses. The plan was explained from the altar, the parishioners responded heartily to an appeal for so small a weekly amount, and the results were astonishing. Every week at least \$50 has been found in the box, and occasionally has even totalled as high as \$72. These funds go a long way in assisting workers of the society in meeting expenses.

Providence Visitor
March 10, 1933

Here are a few articles in the early 1930s about the various ways the parish was both reaching out and having fun together. The articles about the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society anticipate how our present parish chapter still reaches out to those in need.

The St. Pius Holy Name Club, a baseball team, was formed in the early 1930s. A newspaper article tells of a baseball game against St. Mary's Club of Mansfield played at the LaSalle Academy field.

In letters to his provincial, Fr. Clark relates a rather funny story from the early 1930s. The parishioners of St. Pius, aware of the frequent evening hospital calls the priests had to make, approached Fr. Clark with an offer to buy the priests a car. In a letter from January 15, 1931, we hear about the eventual plan and outcome. The parishioners decided to put on a musical show to raise the money. It was a very good show, but it was also quite involved. Notes and memorabilia from a later performance, in the 1950s, show a tentative song list, some sheet music, lists including a request for luminous paint for a moon background, tambourines, and more. If the 1931 production was similar, it is understandable why not much money was raised! The letter and notes are on the opposite page.

The Dramatic Society was very active, staging multiple well-attended shows each year. We have many of their programs shown on the following page. You may recognize some of the actors and actresses' names.

The Providence Visitor
May 19, 1935

MANY ACTIVE PARISH SOCIETIES

Few parishes have more active parochial organizations than are to be found in St. Pius'. The pastor takes charge of the Rosary and Altar Society which meets the first Sunday and the junior and senior Holy Name Societies which meet on the second Sunday. Father Cull is moderator of the St. Thomas Sodality and the Third Order of St. Dominic, both of which meet the fourth Sunday. The St. Thomas Sodality is for boys and girls in grade school who have made their first Holy Communion and the Third Order is for men and women. Father O'Leary is director of the Blessed Virgin Sodality and the Children of Mary Sodality. The former is for married women and the latter for girls of high school age. Each meets on the third Sunday.

Other organizations include the St. Pius' Mothers Club and the St. Pius' Dramatic Society. Believed to be the first of its kind in the diocese, the mother's club cooperates with the pastor and the sisters for the welfare of the school. The dramatic society, which stages numerous shows during the year, is an outgrowth of the Black and White Club which was formed in the days when the parish was identified with the college.

The parish conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society also is well organized under the presidency of Frank McCaffrey. Mr. McCaffrey and W. Fred Russell are the lay trustees of the church.

One of the latest undertakings in the parish under the direction of Father Clark is a plan for the formation of a Junior Holy Name baseball league. Young though the parish is, it has made definite strides in its brief history with a cooperative people whose spirit and pride in their parish the pastor attributes much of its successful growth.

Under Direction of Faldorago

"THE RETURN OF HI JINKS"

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, New York, N. Y.

CHARACTERS
(In order of appearance)

Davis	Gerald Keefe
Hotter	William Doyle
Hodge	Francis Reavey
Boynier Jinks	Milton Lacy
Layflower	Louise Sullivan
Bloomer	Lawrence DeCourcy
Norris	Eleanor Howard
ngsky	Norma McCullough
ne Slater	Helen Hodnett
Judson	Florence Berrigan
odgrass	Gertrude Farrell
gers	Mary Grimes
Graham	Mary Kearns
Jinks	Lawrence DeCourcy

semble: Robert Schiffman, Thomas Trainor, John Keating,
Way McDonald, Henry Ledoux

A READY-MADE FAMILY

Produced by special arrangement with Walter H. Baker Co., Boston, Mass.
Directed by RICHARD PIERCE

CHARACTERS
(In order of their appearance)

Begonia Washington	Catherine Hodnett
Nicodemus Pipp	Thomas Trainor
Miss Lydia Martin	Rita Walsh
Gracie Martin	Mary Higgins
Marilee Martin	Louise C. Sullivan
Bob Martin	Gerald J. Keefe
Doris Turner	Gertrude Farrell
Sammie Turner	Frank J. Reavey

"Climbing Roses"

A Comedy in Three Acts
by EUGENE G. HAFER

Presented by
St. Pius Dramatic Club

ST. PIUS AUDITORIUM
FRIDAY EVENING MARCH 17, 1933

Principals in St. Pius Dramatic Club's Play



—Photo by Staff Photographer.

Cast of "Climbing Roses," play to be given by St. Pius Dramatic club Friday evening in the assembly hall on Elmhurst avenue. Seated, left to right, Miss Margaret M. Brothers, Miss Mary M. McAndrews, Miss Margaret Kelleher, Miss Louise Sullivan, Milton Lacey. Standing Frank J. Reavey, Thomas Lambert, William Sullivan, Jr., Miss Mary T. McCaffrey, Miss Helen M. Hodnett, Miss H. Norma McCullough and Gerald J. Keefe.

ater.
ute in Act III to indicate lapse of fifteen minutes.

.....George Charon
.....Marie Guenther Hoey

oy Joseph Devenish and the Collegians.
Furniture by Joseph Marcus Co.
Lighting effects—Thomas L. Darby.
Electrical Fixtures—Providence Elect
Co.

Students in the eighth grade class pose to commemorate their final school performance
The group below is the Class of 1934, the first class to graduate from St. Pius.



Plays or musical performances were a part of student life at St. Pius School. A large stage in the basement room of the school served as the backdrop for these performances. This was also the site of the Dramatic Club performances. A photo on the following page shows the first eighth grade class posed at their last performance.

1934 saw the first class graduate from St. Pius School. Little could people imagine that one of the graduates would someday become pastor of this parish! The future pastor is found in the back row, second from the left: Charles Farrell.



There were now two assistants to the pastor, and they were able to expand the spiritual activities that the parish offered. Some included the St. Thomas Sodality, for boys and girls in grade school, the Third Order of St. Dominic for men and women, a Blessed Virgin Sodality for married women and the Children of Mary Sodality that was for high school age girls.



Charles Matthew Mulvey, O.P.
1936 - 1947

In 1936, Fr. Clark was succeeded by Fr. Charles Mulvey, O.P. Fr. Mulvey was a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and had attended LaSalle Academy for two years before entering the Dominican Order

in Somerset, Ohio. He shepherded the parish through World War II.

After enough practice, by December 1936 the parish had a Boy's Choir able to sing at the Christmas Midnight Mass under the direction of Rev. John J. H. Hartnett, O.P.



ST. PIUS CHURCH HAS NEW PASTOR

Rev. Charles M. Mulvey, O. P.,
Replaces Rev. Joseph R.
Clark.

IS PROVIDENCE NATIVE

Dominican Transferred Here from
Parish Fr. Clark Is Sent to
Serve in Philadelphia

Rev. Charles M. Mulvey, O. P., a native of this city, has been appointed pastor of St. Pius Church, Elmhurst avenue, succeeding Rev. Joseph R. Clark, O. P., who leaves today to become pastor of the

Fr. Mulvey is the son of the late Daniel and Margaret (Blessing) Mulvey, 88 Goddard street, in St. Patrick's parish, where a sister, Mrs. Joseph H. Hickey, now resides. He was graduated from Branch avenue grammar school and attended La Salle Academy two years before entering the Order of Preachers at St. Joseph's Convent, Somerset, O.

He went from Somerset to the Dominican house of studies in Washington, D. C., where he completed his studies for the priesthood and was ordained in June, 1918. He celebrated his first solemn mass in St. Patrick's Church, Smith street.

Fr. Mulvey's first assignment was to the faculty of Aquinas College high school, Columbus, O., where he taught for about nine years and was director of athletics for seven. He was then made a member of the Dominicans' Southern mission band with headquarters in Louisville, Ky. After three years there he was transferred to the Philadelphia mission band, where he has been for the past six years.

Fr. Mulvey is a cousin of Sister Christine of the House of the Good Shepherd, Eaton street.

A native of Kentucky, Fr. Clark has served in numerous institutions and parishes in charge of the Dominican order. Following a term as novice master in Washington he was engaged in mission work in the South until assigned to found a parish in Madison, Wis., where he was stationed when appointed pastor of St. Pius six years ago last September.



Another milestone graduating class was the Class of 1937. This class was the first to go to St. Pius School for all eight grades. Long-time parishioner Jimmy Egan was part of this graduating class as his diploma shows.



The hurricane of '38 tore through the area with full force but Fr. Sullivan felt it spared St. Pius. His letter to Fr. McDermott, the Provincial, related that some glass was broken and most of the trees spread throughout the neighborhood were lost. He also relayed how the storm surge wave waxed and waned over an eight hour period, seriously affecting the downtown area. A handwritten note on the Lying In Hospital (now Elmhurst Extended Care) annual report shared memories of the hurricane's effect on the hospital and why St. Pius was listed as donating candles. On hearing of the hospital being without power, parishioner Joe Cavanaugh approached the pastor regarding the hospital's needs. Fr. Mulvey willingly gave boxes and boxes of candles. Some of the tall candles were used to light an emergency operation!

There was no lights of any kind, No flash lights, candles or emergency power generators. They use three tall candles in the operating room as a emergency op. was needed on a patient. Used them in the nursery, patients rooms, kitchen to get meals. Three nights without power.



In 1942 two new buildings were added to the parish.



At 30 Elmhurst Avenue, workers remodeled a house into a convent able to accommodate eight sisters. This spacious house gave the sisters a comfortable and appropriate space for community and prayers.

The other addition was a new priory built next to the church school. In this aerial photo, before the priory was built, you can see the first rectory at the upper left corner.

St. Pius—Grammar School Leaders in C. Y. O. League



Front row left to right: Demoe, Bouncevello, Casserly, Egan, Lennon, Mahoney, McGettrick, Back row: Rev. Charles Mulvey, O.P.; Elroy, Mgr. Pugliese, Cusick, Coach Milton Lacy, Kenny, Paolilli, McHenry, Cummings, Mgr.; Rev. William M. Delaney CYO Diocesan Director

We hope you are enjoying the early history of our parish. Please continue reading the story of St. Pius V Church for the next 25 years.

ST. PIUS PASTOR HAS ANNIVERSARY

Officers of Rev. Charles Mulvey's First Mass Present for Today's Ceremony.

Rev. Charles M. Mulvey, O. P., pastor of St. Pius Church, today found his 25th anniversary mass a great deal like his first.

There was war then as there is today, but the similarity he noted was in the officers of the mass.

Twenty-five years ago in St. Patrick's Church when Fr. Mulvey sang his first mass, Rev. C. G. Moore, O. P., of Summit, N. J., was deacon; Rev. F. D. Newman, O. P., of Louisville, Ky., was sub-deacon; Very Rev. V. B. Burnell, O. P., P. G., of Detroit, Mich., was preacher.

Today all three were present and held the same offices.

In addition, there was Rev. Ralph McCaffrey, O. P., of Sommerset, O., who in 1917 served as Fr. Mulvey's altar boy. This morning he was an acolyte, with Rev. J. A. McFadden, O. P., of Providence.

Rev. John Dominic Walsh, O. P., of Washington, D. C., was another altar boy in 1917, who attended the priest, but he was unable to come here because of illness.

Throng Sees Procession

By 10 o'clock St. Pius Church pews were filled, as a colorful procession of choir boys and priests from various parts of the country marched up and down the aisles.

There were many parishioners, school children from St. Pius, members of the Rosary and Altar Society, the Mothers' Club, the Holy Name Society, Blessed Virgin Sodality and Children of Mary Sodality. In addition, there were Dominican sisters from St. Pius, St. Raymond's, Providence College, and nuns from Elmhurst, the House of Good Shepherd and other religious communities throughout the State.

Reception Is Held

Among those attending were Fr. Mulvey's three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of Montclair, N. J., Mrs. Margaret Donovan of Providence and Mrs. Joseph Hickey of Providence; and his brothers, T. J. Mulvey of West Orange, N. J., and T. A. Mulvey of Washington, D. C.

After the mass, a reception was held in the church rectory.

Fr. Mulvey, a native of Providence, is the son of the late Daniel and Margaret (Blessing) Mulvey. He is an alumnus of La Salle Academy. He entered the Order of Preachers at St. Joseph's Convent, Sommerset, O., and was ordained in Washington, D. C., in 1917. He taught at Aquinas College high school in Columbus, O., for nine years before his appointment to the Dominican Mission at Louisville, Ky. He later served in Philadelphia.



This certificate refers to the indulgence that may be obtained by praying the Stations of the Cross in the old church.