



THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Diocese of Amarillo



806-414-1076 + Fax 806-383-8452

P. O. Box 5644 + Amarillo, TX 79117-5644

4512 N. E. 24th Avenue

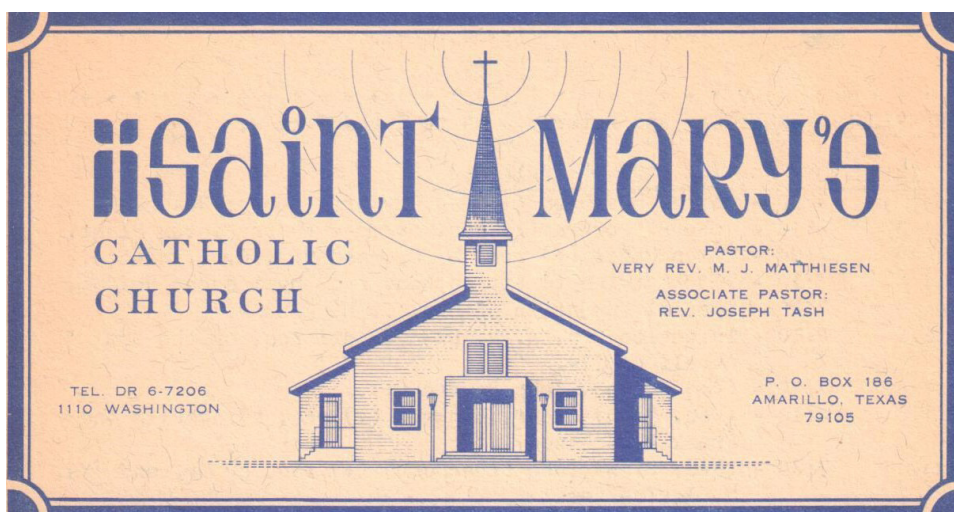
Email: sgarner@dioama.org NEW

VOLUME TWO

SPRING

2023

Barracks Chapel to Cathedral



The year was 1914. President Wilson officially opened the Panama Canal, and amid the congratulations which flowed into Washington, was a letter from Czar Nicholas II in Moscow. Workers at Henry Ford's automobile factory celebrated their pay raise--\$5.00 for an eight-hour day.

In New York, tourists gaped at the Woolworth Building, the tallest on the earth, and took in Victor Gebert's new opera *Madeline*.

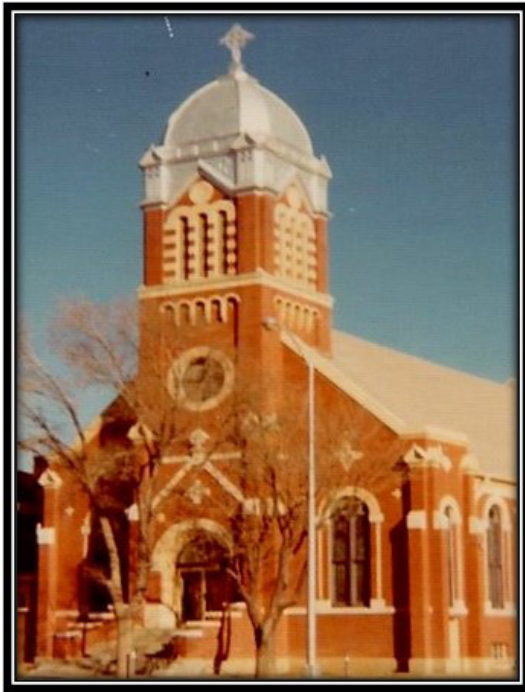
The Catholic world mourned the passing of Pope St. Pius X and waited in suspense while the college of Cardinals selected Benedict XV to take his place. We had a young Assistant Secretary of the Navy that year—his name was Franklin D. Roosevelt. In England, young, unknown Robert Frost had two of his books published, and in a remote town called Sarajevo, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated. The first World War had begun.

Though Amarillo still retained its Cow-town character (cowboys still poured into Polk Street's saloons on Saturday night) the future indeed looked bright. The future was bright in a supernatural way also, for in 1914 the first Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word came to Amarillo and established St. Mary's Academy.

If the world of 1914, with its war and chief figures, seems remote from an historical viewpoint, it was also radically different in a religious way. In sharp contrast to the tolerance of today, the little pioneering band of Catholics met only bigotry and prejudice.

A combination of Divine guidance and physical courage sustained Father Dunn, the Sisters and the little Catholic flock during those early years; what such trust and courage can accomplish is evident today. The Sisters' school is no longer a private home, but a thriving, vital parish school, bursting with students. The mission territory is a diocese, the town which once hated and flared Catholics is now divided into six parishes; the Sisters, who struggled to establish a school, staff a hospital as well.

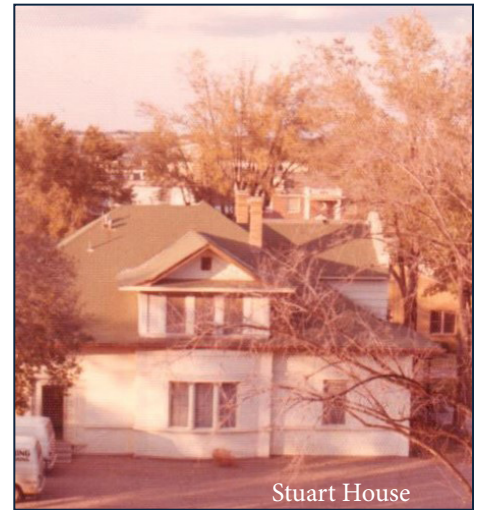
Only the vision of heroes could foresee all of this plenty in the midst of a desert of bigotry, and only courage of heroic proportions could work for the vision's fulfillment. The courage, and the dream was there in the hearts of those first priests, sisters and lay people who built St. Mary's and ultimately, the Catholic life of Amarillo.



March 17, 1903, the ground was broken for the first Catholic Church in Amarillo: Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The plain white frame wood church was located on North Polk Street between the Rock Island Railroad depot and St. Anthony's Sanatorium Hospital. In the spring of 1916, the ground was broken for a new church to be built on two lots of land at 9th Street and Taylor in downtown Amarillo. The purchase price of the property was \$5,000. Over the next seven years, funds were raised to complete the building project at the cost of \$18,000. The new Sacred Heart Church on Taylor was dedicated on April 13, 1918. The small white frame church was then moved to the Mexican-American barrio on the corner of Cleveland Street and 11th and became the first church for the Our Lady of Guadalupe faith family.

April 28, 1927, brought the installation of Bishop Rudolph Gerken as the first ordinary of the newly created Diocese of Amarillo and the elevation of Sacred Heart Church to the status of the Cathedral Church. In 1937, the Cathedral Hall was built on the property of St. Mary's Academy to provide auditorium and gymnasium facilities for Mary's students by members of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish. The dedication cornerstone for Cathedral Hall 1937 is now located in the north wall of the entrance walkway of the present St. Mary's Cathedral gathering area. Cathedral Hall stood until 2002-2003, when the present St. Mary's Monsignor Smyer Activity Center was built and completed.

On Washington Street at the 1100 numbered block stood the Stuart House, which served as the first Chancery Office for the Diocese of Amarillo. The Stuart House remained as the Chancery until 1953, when the present Chancery Office was built by Bishop Laurence Fitzsimon and then continued on as the parish house for priests in residence. By 1944, the Diocese of Amarillo, under the patronage of Sacred Heart Cathedral, purchased St. Mary's Catholic Academy School from the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, making it the Cathedral School. The purchase



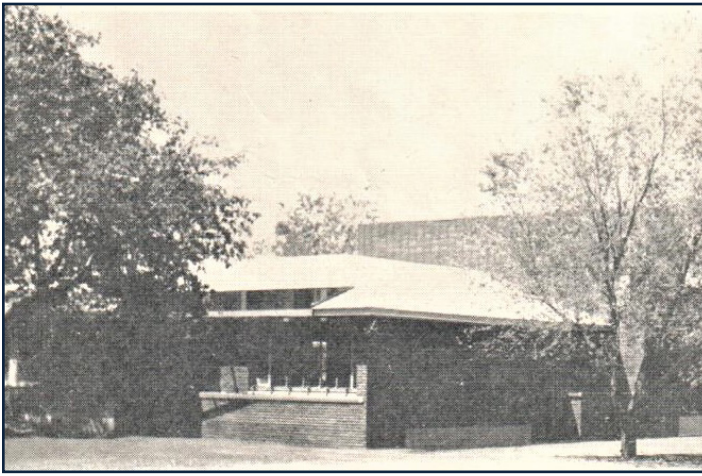
Stuart House

price of the school was \$85,000. In 1947, the Diocese purchased an Air Force Base chapel that was moved to the St. Mary's Academy property to become a chapel of convenience for the downtown Cathedral, allowing it to stretch and room. In 1950, Sacred Heart Cathedral built a new convent for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, still teaching at St. Mary's Academy.



During the years it became apparent that the quarters the Sisters had occupied at a great sacrifice in the attic of the three story original building were no longer adequate. It was decided to build a separate home for them. In making the plans, future needs were considered.

With every indication that Amarillo



would continue its phenomenal growth, those responsible for the parish in Amarillo and Catholic education in particular, visualized a central high school for the city. It was recommended the expansion of the high school to accommodate graduates of future grade schools in the city could be most economically accomplished by adding a wing to the north end of the present building. Present needs for additional space would be obtained by remodeling the school and moving the Sisters to a new home. Early in 1950 the decision came to build a convent which would be large enough to house the teachers needed for a double grade school, music and art teachers, domestic help, and a complete high school faculty. The conclusion was drawn that accommodations for about thirty sisters would answer these needs for all time.

While plans were being made for the convent, it became apparent that the old part of the school needed some attention. Once the work was under way, we soon learned that the supports and walls in the old building were so weak, that only the mercy of God could have kept it from crumbling in on the children. It became necessary to reinforce it with steel from the basement to the roof. The third floor which had a very low ceiling was raised to standard height, so that it is now useful for classroom space. On the second floor, a connection was made between the old and new building. In the basement of the new building a spacious cafeteria was provided for the use of students.

St. Mary's became a separate entity from Sacred Heart Cathedral after members who resided near the campus decided it was a waste of time to traverse downtown for Mass when they had a chapel located so closely.

In 1960 it was discovered that the majority of Amarillo's Catholics (647 families) lived in St. Mary's Parish. The northwestern section of the parish was broken off and christened St. Hyacinth's Parish.

In 1966 a waning interest in Catholic education made it financially infeasible to keep the doors of the all-girls high school and junior high school open for the small number of students. Since Price College, an all-male Catholic high school was in operation on the north side of town, it was decided to merge the two institutions into one co-educational high school -- hence Alamo Catholic High School .

In a letter to the parishioners of St. Mary's, Father Matthiesen explained, "The decision to close the Junior and Senior High was a drastic one, one that will affect all of us. Let me assure, though, that it was not hastily made...We have to face reality...The standard of education is becoming so high today that the school with a small enrollment (and hence a limited budget) finds it very difficult, if not impossible, to reach and maintain that standard. The latest equipment and teaching aids, in textbooks, reference libraries, varied programs and highly skilled teachers are necessary to have a top quality school..."

In 1973, the rectory referred to as "the old Stuart Place" for many years, was demolished to make room for more parking. The rectory built as a home in the early 1900's served the diocese as the Chancery Office from - 1950 until 1959 when the diocesan headquarters were moved to the Alamo High School Campus at 1800 N. Spring St.

Presently, the former convent is used as the parish office and ministry center and the parish house for priests in residence. Finally, in 1959, St. Mary's itself emerged as an independent parish.



When the decision was made to take down Sacred Heart Cathedral, the largest parish church at the time in 1974 was St. Laurence Church which seated 500 people. The parish churches at the time were Our Lady of Guadalupe with seating for 300, St. Mary's with seating for 300, St. Joseph's with seating for 300, St. Martin's with seating for 150, St. Hyacinth's with seating for 300, and Blessed Sacrament with seating for 250. It made sense. Monsignor Francis Smyer, long-term pastor of St. Mary's Church (1970-2001) and former Chancellor of the Diocese and as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, was known for collecting books and reading them. He was also a collector of things that would be taken out of the old cathedral church prior to demolition. All these "treasures" were carefully stored away at St. Mary's with great care.

St. Mary's Parish Family



St. Mary's Church since its beginning has been inextricably connected with its school, St. Mary's Academy. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word first built their school in Clarendon, sixty miles southeast of Amarillo, in 1899.

The few Catholics at that time began to center in Amarillo and so the Sisters moved their school to the present site in 1913. For many years it served as the only Catholic school in the City of Amarillo. St. Mary's Parish owes its vigor and very existence to the scores of Sisters of the Incarnate Word who have given of themselves so indefatigably these many years. In 1945, St. Mary's Academy became the parochial school of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish. It was soon apparent that the small chapel in the school was completely inadequate. The Catholic chapel at Amarillo Air Force Base was purchased and moved to St. Mary's property. The building was extended west by twenty feet and brick veneered--all for the total cost of \$28,000. It was dedicated by Bishop Lawrence J. Fitzsimon in May of 1948. The immediate plans were to use the chapel for St. Mary's student body. But immediately St. Mary's neighbors requested Mass on Sunday. St. Mary's Church opened as a "chapel of ease" on Sunday, July 4, 1948. The priests in resident at the Chancery on Sunday, July 4, 1948, Msgr. A. M. Bottoms, Msgr. Leroy Matthiesen and Rev. J. Arnold Carlson, took care of the Sunday

Masses for the next two years. In August of 1950, Father Edmund Hartigan was named rector, “priest in charge.”

In May of 1963, Father Hartigan left St. Mary’s to establish a new parish of St. Joseph’s in southwest Amarillo taking with him many of the families who were coming to St. Mary’s. Father Kevin Hand, who had come in January of 1953, continued to care for the church until January of 1954 when the Chancery Office moved to a site near Alamo Catholic High School. Then 1110 Washington became officially “St. Mary’s Rectory.” Father Hand was joined by Father Hubert Halfmann, who moved from the Sacred Heart Cathedral to St. Mary’s rectory as the priest in charge.

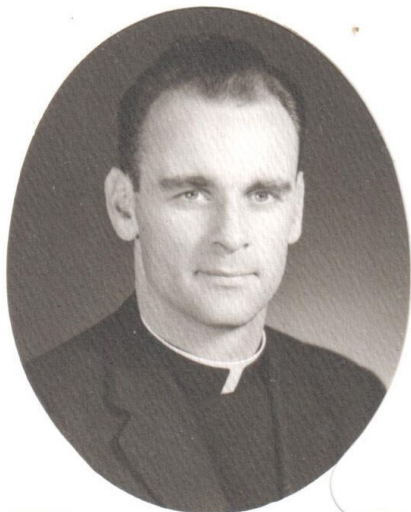


Stuart House

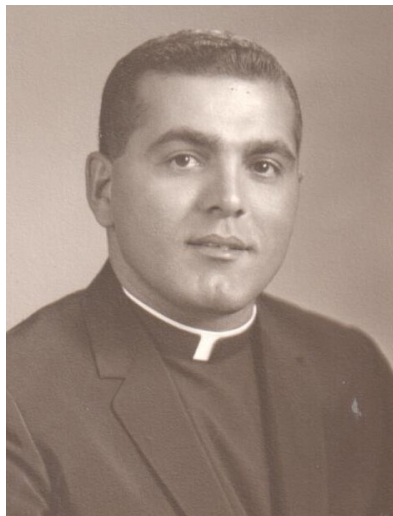
Msgr. Francis A. Smyer, the present pastor, came during the summer of 1955 as rector and served for three years until he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese by the newly appointed Ordinary, Bishop John Morkovsky. Father Bernard J. Binversie was rector. Father Kevin Hand ably assisted at St. Mary’s all through the six and one-half years prior to the erection of St. Mary’s as a canonical parish on July 1, 1959.

Father Monroe J. Matthiesen was the first pastor. He was assisted by Father Francis X. Frey.

In August Father Michael Heneghan arrived to be an assistant.



REV. M. HENEGHAN



Rev. Joe Tash



Rev. Monroe Matthiesen



In 1962 Father Joseph Tash came in place of Father Michael Heneghan and continued as associate until 1967. Fathers Heneghan and Tash still feel at home at St. Mary's and frequently come to help out.

When Father Monroe Matthiesen came to St. Mary's, there was a \$93,000 debt. Before he left in September, 1967, the debt had been erased and many improvements on the parish property had been made. One that was dearly needed was the \$35,000 refurbishing and refurnishing of the Convent in August of 1966.

In the fall of 1966 it was announced that the senior and junior high departments of St. Mary's School would be moved to Alamo Catholic High in northeast Amarillo. St. Mary's School continued as a grade school-kindegarten through sixth grade.

On September 1, 1967 Father Matthiesen was called to do another big job--filling the shoes of Msgr. John A. Steinlage, who had just died, as pastor of St. Theresa's church in Panhandle, the Diocesan Children's Home and St. Ann's Home for the aged.

He was succeeded by Msgr. Wilfred F. Bosen who had been pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Umbarger. Msgr. Bosen witnessed the first election by the parishioners of the Parish Board and the School Board in the spring of 1968. Under his direction in the summer of 1968 the Church and Hall and the first floor of the school underwent extensive remodeling at the cost of \$52,000. He also built a double garage for use of the parish priests. Msgr. Bosen began to experience problems with eye cataracts and decided to take the smaller parish of Immaculate Conception in Vega, January 24, 1969.

Father James Sonderman, who had been pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, became pastor. Father Kenneth Keller came July 11, 1969 and continues as associate pastor. Father Sonderman remained a year. During this time he worked hard to bring the parish indebtedness to the point where it was tolerable.

In January of 1970 Father Sonderman was asked to be the pastor of St. John's parish in Borger. Msgr. Francis A. Smyer took his place at St. Mary's; this is the second time around for Msgr. Smyer. He and Father Keller have spent a great deal of time and effort to make the St. Mary's Parish Family a community more conscious and alive to the message of the Liturgy.

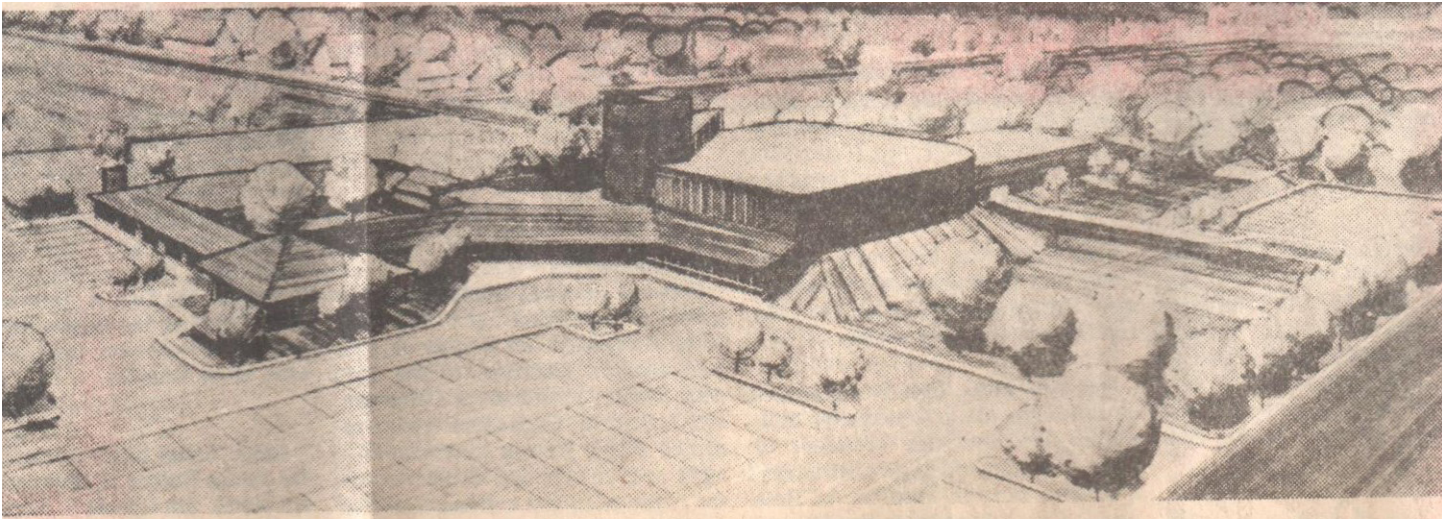
Parish Embarks on \$1.5 Million Faith Journey

St. Mary's Catholic Church is outgrowing its facilities.

Members of the parish presently find the church and school complex located at 1200 S. Washington inadequate to handle a rapidly expanding program of activities.

To accommodate the growing membership, six weekend Masses are presently being conducted, one on Saturday evening and five on Sunday morning. And still the small church is regularly filled to overflowing.

Parish Embarks on \$1.5 Million Faith Journey



Artist's drawing of proposed restructured church and educational facility

For two years, parishioners have been examining building alternatives and consulting with advisors on a variety of proposals for expansion.

The final decision announced recently is to reclaim the land now occupied by the church and day school, build a new church and educational facility and remodel the present Parish Family Center and Cathedral Hall.

Restructuring plans were unveiled to members of the parish, and during the week a \$1.5 million fundraising campaign was launched. Immediate goal of the campaign is to raise \$400,000 by January 1, 1979.

Seating in the new church is designed in five sections to accommodate twice as many worshipers as before.

A seven-rank pipe organ, formerly used in Sacred Heart Cathedral will be combined with the 4 1/2 rank instrument from St. Mary's new church.

Stained glass windows on the southern exposure of the proposed church building will be another legacy of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Mary's Chapel, which adjoins the new church and education facility, will be used for daily liturgy and services specifically adapted to children.

The proposed education facility is designed to accommodate both religious education classes for children and youth and day school classes for children and youth and day school classes for kindergarten through grade six. Cafeteria-auditorium-gymnasium facilities will be housed in the remodeled Cathedral Hall.

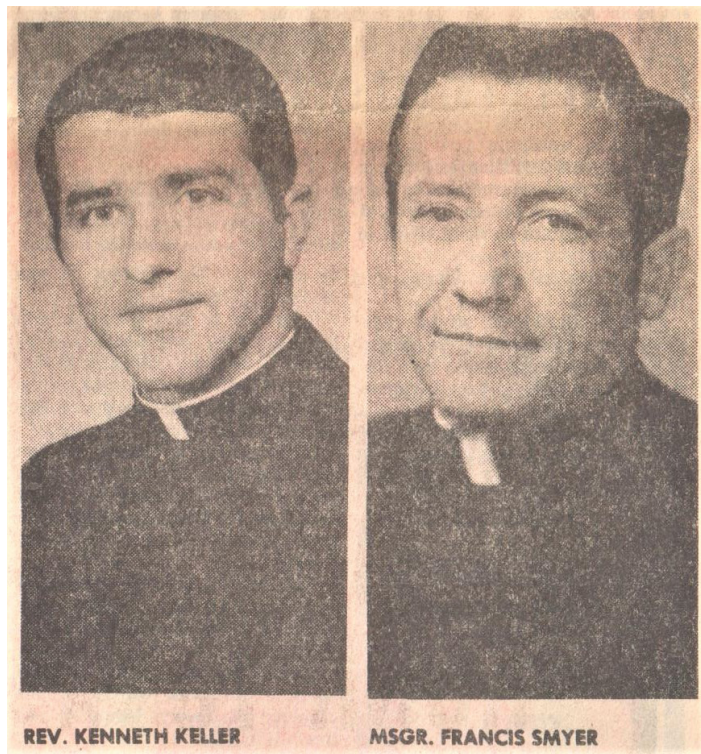
The present Parish Family Center is scheduled for remodeling to house administrative offices, adult education classes, study and committee groups, nursery, kitchen and reception facilities.

A grassy outdoor gathering area will be used for outdoor liturgy and fellowship.

Monsignor Francis A. Smyer has been pastor of the parish since 1970, and the Rev. Kenneth Keller is associate pastor.

In a recent letter to parishioners regarding the upcoming building program, Msgr. Smyer quoted from the king's prayer at the dedication of Solomon's Temple in the Old Testament: "Behold heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built."

"We realize that buildings do not make a parish," Msgr. Smyer continued, "but what we do with buildings -- their use and care -- is a commentary on a congregation's love and sense of responsibility."



Msgr. Francis Smyer Pastor of St. Mary's



The barracks chapel goes down to make room for the building of the new church.



Blue Pews

St. Mary's To Dedicate New Facility Sunday 'A Journey in Faith'

"But when they finished building...those who returned...from the exile...celebrated the dedication of this house of God...The Lord filled them with joy in giving them help in their work." (Ezra 5:6, 6:14-16, 19-22)e

"A Journey In Faith" will be the theme for the dedication services Sunday of the newly constructed St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Bishop L. T. Matthiesen, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo, will be the principal celebrant at the 4 p.m. dedication Mass.

Monsignor Francis A. Smyer, pastor and Rev. Ken Keller, associate pastor, will con-celebrate the Mass, along with Monsignor Monroe Matthiesen of Panhandle and Father James Sonderman of Umbarger, former pastors.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church were conducted January 1, 1980, with parish families bringing soil from their own home grounds to be placed beneath the foundation of the present sanctuary.

The design of the new church is of contemporary southwest architect, with a bell tower that has the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in its base.

Five cast bronze bells, which were blessed on October 31, are located in the bell tower. The bells were named in honor of Mary, Mother of the Church, and the four evangelists -- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The altar furniture and pews in the new church are made of solid oak and are balanced to the proportion of the sanctuary, which has a 20 foot ceiling and wood beams.

During liturgy and Sunday service visuals are projected on the sanctuary wall, to better assist individuals who are participating in the services.

A cast bronze sculpture of the Virgin Mary is located at the entrance of the church. The sculpture is by Amarillo artist Jim Thomas. In addition, 12 dedication crosses in bronze and a processional cross for the sanctuary were made by Thomas.

Two tapestries from Belgium, one of which is an original design for Amarillo's St. Mary's -- Mother of the Church" --hang on the sanctuary wall. They depict the risen Christ and the Blessed Mother, creating an atmosphere of peace and prayer in the sanctuary and sacrament Chapel.

A mezzanine is located in the back of the new church. In addition, auxiliary rooms are available for priests' and acolytes' vesting area, liturgical work room, brides' and grooms' areas and two organ rooms complete the sanctuary area.

Seating capacity in the new church sanctuary is 750, with addition over flow space to accommodate 1,000.

Music for the liturgy will be presented by St. Mary's choir and assembled musicians, under the direction of James Wolden, parish music director.

A special musical piece, written by Willard Jabusch and arranged by Robert Kreutz, was commissioned for the dedication.

In addition to the dedication service, children of the parish will have a special service. The service will include the placing of a time capsule.

Included in the new project is a connecting hallway from the sanctuary area to the gymnasium and the St. Mary's Parish Family Center.

A bronze commemorative tablet, affixed to the new church edifice, notes the personal sacrifice and individual commitments the people of St. Mary's have made to their "Journey in Faith."

It reads "St. Mary's Church became a reality through the untiring determination and extraordinary generosity of the St. Mary's Parish Family.



The hour for the Solemn Dedication drew near and with guests arriving, bishop, priests, and deacons vesting, the air was charged with excitement. A grander moment in our history as a parish will seldom be known. The main doors of the church were swung open to greet Bishop Matthiesen and concelebrants; the keys of the church were presented, and the Bishop processed into the church to the jubilant sung praise of God, "All Creatures of Our God and King."

At the baptismal font, the Bishop blessed water, and began "baptizing" the walls of the church, sprinkling the people as a reminder of their Baptism. A haunting hymn was sung; "Let all toil...who are weary...who are poor, come to the water, come to the Lord." As the Lord himself is open to all, so this church will be."

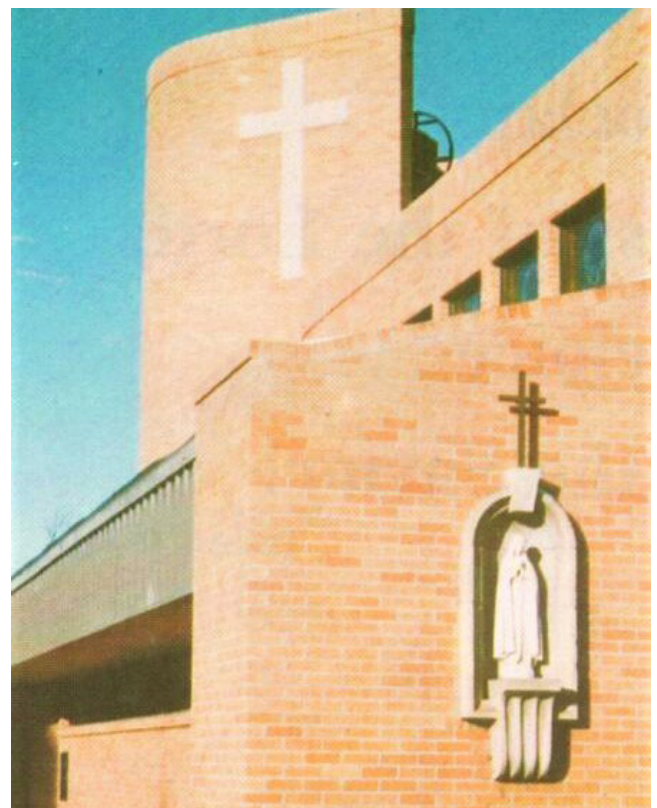
During the dedication, the altar and walls of the church were anointed with sacred chrism, incensed in blessing, and candles were lit.

The bishop summarized all our feelings in prayer: "Today we dedicate to your lasting service this house of prayer." Small bronze crosses with candles salute the places where the walls were signed with chrism. These will be re-lit on special days and anniversaries of the Dedication.

As only God can do, and as only St. Mary's Parish Family can respond, we celebrated the dedication of our new church with a spirit never to be forgotten. The theme of the day, "God brings us home again" was echoed in word, worship, and praise--and then re-echoed in our hearts, minds, and spirits.

We are proud to be a part of this parish and its tremendous life. Thank you all for your patient support and loving kindness. Msgr. Smyer and Fr. Ken.

The day began on the subdued notes of the Sunday liturgy as Paul tells us that if we have anything to boast about, "let it be to boast about the Lord." We had said all along that his was the Lord's doing--He was the builder in whom we would boast.



St. Mary's fire

Sanctuary charred



“The firewall held, and the other parts of the building only have smoke and water damage,” he said.

The fire was extinguished by about 7 a.m. No one was injured.

Firefighters removed five bells from the church's bell tower at about 10:30 a.m. to prevent the structure from toppling.

Amarillo firefighters spent three hours battling a fire at St. Mary's Catholic Church early Monday morning.

The blaze ravaged the church's sanctuary, ripped through the roof and scorched exterior walls.

Some onlookers had been heading to 7 a.m. Mass when they first saw road blockades and fire trucks diverting traffic around the 1200 block of South Washington Street.

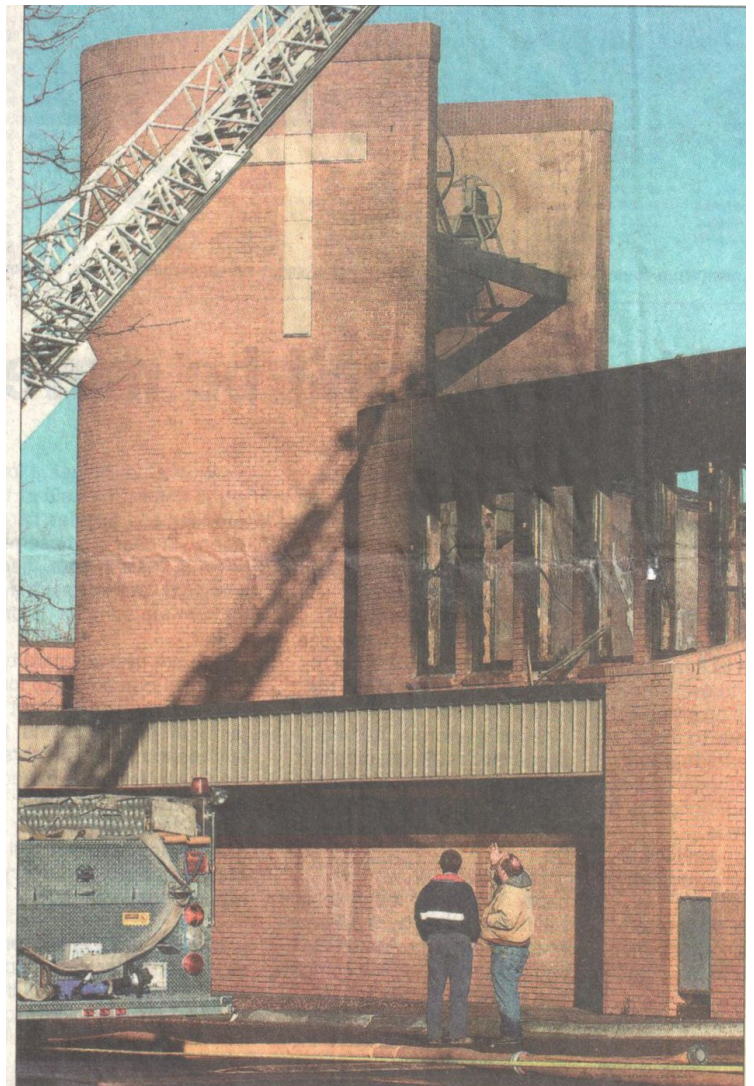
Smoke filled the sanctuary when fire crews arrived about 3:45 a.m.

“Flames broke through the ceiling before the source of the blaze could be found,” said Captain Bob Johnson, of the Amarillo Fire Department.

The sanctuary roof collapsed within one hour.

Firefighters contained the flames in the sanctuary; the room and its contents are considered a total loss.

“The attached rooms and neighboring school building were not singed, Johnson said.



SCOTT BRAUCHER / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

Smoke and steam rise from the gutted sanctuary of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Monday after an early-morning fire.

Mass attended by over 1,000 on the day of fire



Monsignor Harold Waldow arrived at the church about 4 a.m. Monday. He alerted church staff of the blaze after unlocking the church for fire-fighters.

At a Mass held in the parking lot, Waldow comforted the hundreds in attendance that though the building burned, the church lives on.

Fire investigators continued to search for the cause of the blaze Monday afternoon. "Crews could spend several days clearing out rubble before a cause is found, Johnson said."

"It is horrible, but look at all that wasn't damaged," church member Martha Babb said. "That's what I'm thinking. Look at what we have left."



MICHAEL SCHUMACHER / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS
St Mary's Catholic Church held an evening Mass on the church property Monday, after an early-morning fire ravaged the church sanctuary. Monsignor Harold Waldow celebrated the Mass saying: "The sanctuary was lost but the church is alive and well. This church will rise again." Monsignor Waldow describes the discovery of the only thing remaining from the sanctuary, an Easter Candle held during the Mass by Deacon John Peters.



Crane Lifts Collapsed Roof Investigators search St. Mary's for cause of fire

A heavy crane lifted sections of the collapsed roof of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Wednesday to make it safe for federal, state and Amarillo fire investigators to look for clues into a fire that destroyed the church's sanctuary Monday.

Twenty-five Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents, who are members of one the ATF's National Response Teams, were at the church Wednesday, helping local and state fire investigators determine the cause of Monday morning fire at the church.

"This is not an ATF investigation," said Jeff Fulton, assistant special agent in charge of the St. Louis office of the ATF. "The primary investigative agency is the local fire marshals office. We won't walk out of here until we all agree on origin and cause."

As the investigation progressed Wednesday, Fulton said "there were no signs of a hate crime against the church."

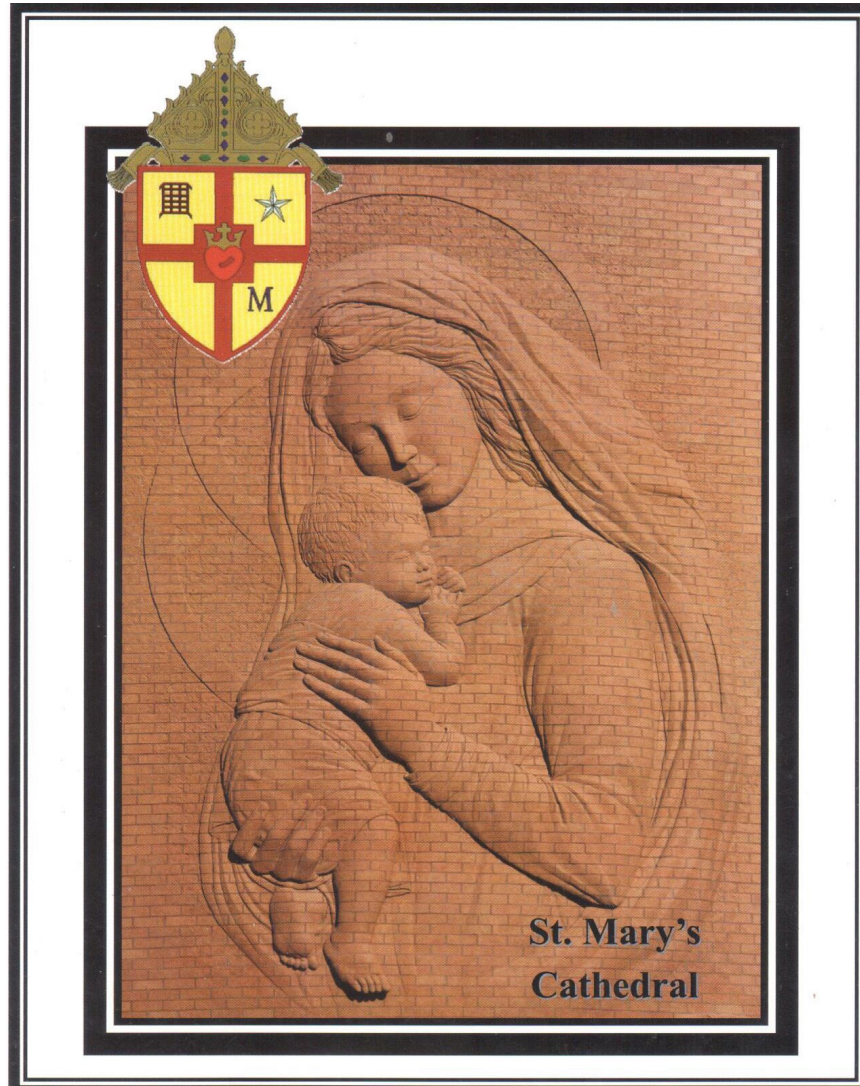
"God does give us signs" - Msgr. Harold Waldow speaking of the Easter candle, made of 100% beeswax, which was the only thing in the sanctuary that survived the fire.

Since Thursday, four days after the fire, because of the diligent, scientific, and methodic work of the ATF and fire marshals, there was never any doubt about the origin of the fire. No trace of incendiary or accelerate was found nor any evidence of a hate crime or vandalism nor sign of premeditation.

The conclusion was that someone had been locked in the church and that person caused the fire to begin on the mezzanine with an electric light and socket placed near or on a piece of furniture that became incendiary.

That someone accidentally caused the blaze was always the number one theory.

New Dream, A New Generation



Parishioners at St. Mary's Church have been watching the progress for months as their new parish home rose from the ashes from their former house of worship.

After 30 months of calling the parish gymnasium their temporary home, the wait for the new church ends in a solemn Mass of Dedication.

The new church seats 900 and features the first closed circuit capability in the Diocese of Amarillo for overflow crowds. The new church also includes a new chapel, which will seat 100. The current chapel, which has served the parish for more than 50 years will be converted to a rehearsal room for St. Mary's Choir.



St. Mary's is the first parish in the Diocese of Amarillo to have a Baptismal pool for immersion. Those being baptized will have the option of immersion or the traditional rite, but Easter baptisms will be full immersion.

The technology in this church is going to be extraordinarily good. The sound system, the lighting. High dollar, high tech--and this parish is worthy of that.

But not everything in the new St. Mary's Church is "new"

The Parish will also be using stained glass windows from the former Sacred Heart Cathedral that have not been seen since the former Cathedral was closed in 1975.

"Before Monsignor Francis Smyer (longtime St. Mary's pastor) died, (Benedictine) Sister Rosemary Ruffer (longtime parish coordinator) came back and asked me if I'd ever seen the other windows, " She took me to where they were kept at the time and we're honored to be able to use them in our new church." said Msgr. Harold Waldow.

The Gethsemane window from the former Cathedral is featured in the new chapel. Other windows from the former Cathedral seeing the light of day for first time since 1975 include the Immaculate Heart of Mary window and Sacred Heart of Jesus. The angels' window from the gymnasium has been hung in the north entrance of the new church.

Two new windows have been designed: one to honor the Incarnate Word sisters, the first religious order to serve the Texas Panhandle and another to honor the former St. Mary's Academy.

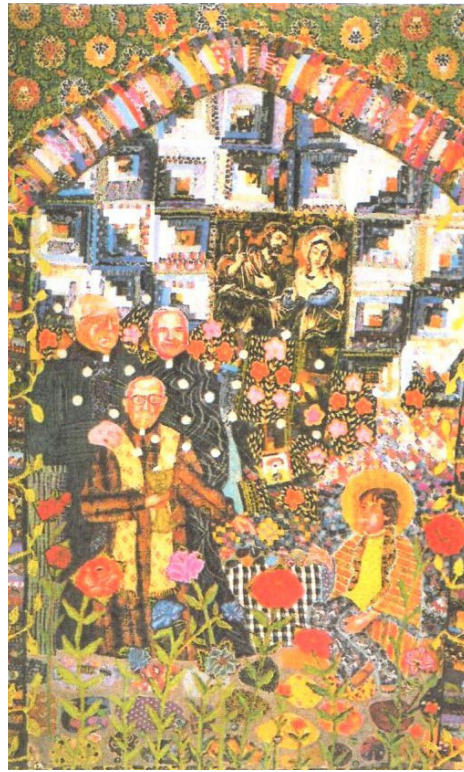
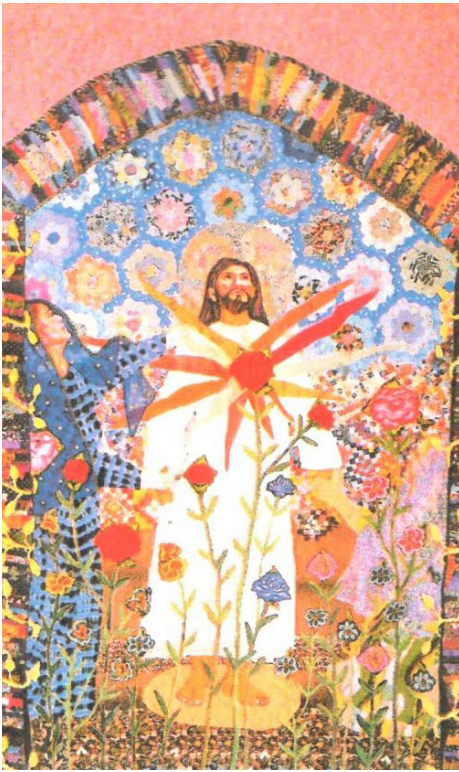
The parish will also feature reproduction of stained

glass windows from the former Cathedral lost in the 2007 fire



"Conrad Schmidt designed and executed the original windows in the downtown cathedral," said Monsignor Waldow. "We had the specs for those windows and called them. They had the files and rebuilt them."

The stained glass window that was in the gathering area in the old church - it's now behind the altar. The Sacred Heart window is centered in the middle of the inside bell tower wall as well as flanked by two round Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart windows. This area in modern times is called the relic chapel, where the reliquary is located. The original baptismal font in the 1980 church is refinished and will be the Holy Water Font in the gathering area.



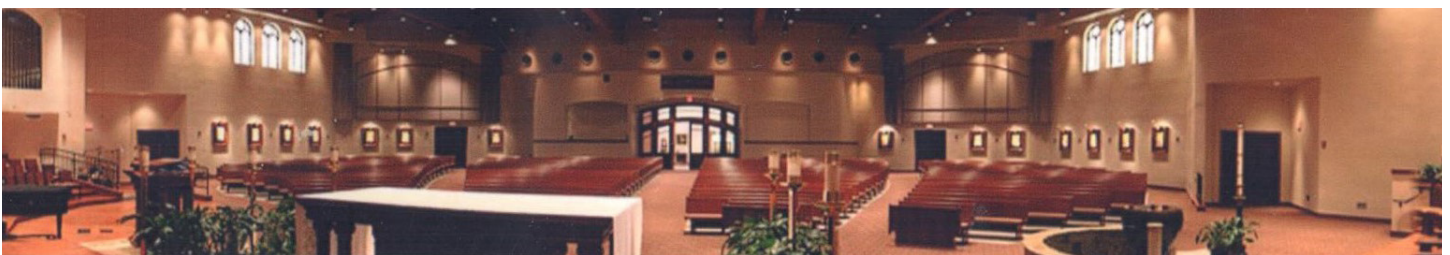
Each tapestry required more than 4,000 hours of hand-stitching

The new church will also feature several new pieces of art, thanks to a generous gift from parishioner John Marmaduke.

“Mr. Marmaduke made a gift offering to the parish of some sort of art,” said Monsignor Waldow. “The three tapestries are absolutely beautiful and each one represents our parish well.”



Msgr. Harold Waldow, Pastor during elevation of St. Mary's



St. Mary's Catholic church to be elevated to cathedral



Bishop Patrick J. Zurek will preside at a Vespers Service, with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Sillier of San Antonio offering the homily. The Mass of Elevation will begin with the blessing of the cathedra. Father Phu T. Phan, JCL Vicar General of the Diocese of Amarillo will explain the importance of the episcopal chair as a symbol of the teaching and governance authority of the bishop, then the chair will be blessed.

After the blessing of the cathedra, Monsignor Harold Waldow, Vicar of Clergy for the Diocese of Amarillo, will describe the significance of the cathedral in a diocese. Following Monsignor Waldow's presentation, Father Francisco Perez, Chancellor of the Diocese of Amarillo, will read the Decree from Rome. After the Decree is read, St. Mary's becomes the Cathedral and St. Laurence ceases to be the Cathedral, according to Bishop Zurek.

Prior to the end of the Mass of Elevation, a new image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the people of the Diocese will be blessed and official documents will be signed, which will be returned to Rome.

Historic Day for the Diocese of Amarillo

Many people may not realize how complex, complicated and prolonged this process is. It is initiated by the local Diocese. It is the local Bishop who requests this change. The petition must go to Rome, to the Congregation of Bishops. However the Diocesan Bishop cannot do that until he has the overwhelming support of his Presbyteral Council, the affirmative vote of the metropolitan archbishop of the Province, and the affirmative vote of the Papal Nuncio to the particular country.

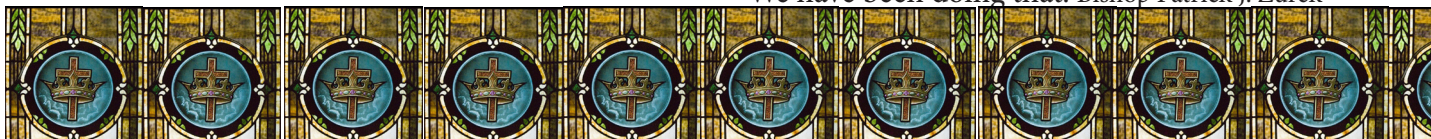
After being here two years as the Bishop of Amarillo, it became clear to me that St. Laurence, as beautiful as it is, is not large enough for the crowds who gather for diocesan liturgical functions. So I began the process.

I met with the Presbyteral Council who unanimously agreed. Archbishop Jose Gomez was very affirming of it also. The Papal Nuncio said he could only say yes after the affirmations of the other two groups. I then took another step and asked the Rector of St. Laurence to give his vote for clarity; he was very affirming also. The Papal Nuncio sent the petition to the Holy See. The response came rather quickly, possibly because we had a new Prefect of the Congregation of Bishops, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, and he may have wanted to do something very positive, very early.

The answer not only was affirmative, but so quickly. I think part of it is the Church's understanding that the participation of the laity in the Liturgy should be "full and active."

With a small cathedral the bishop has two options. He can celebrate Liturgies in the Cathedral with a small seating capacity, accommodating only a small portion of the faithful of the diocese, or the celebration can be moved to a larger church to accommodate a large portion of the Laity who wish to celebrate with the bishop.

We have been doing that. Bishop Patrick J. Zurek



Vespers



WTC

Following the Vespers, the Cathedra, which has served Bishop Zurek, John Yanta, Leroy T. Matthiesen and Lawrence M. DeFalco, will be removed from St. Laurence Cathedral.

(The cathedra - The bishop's official and ceremonial seat. It is also known as the cathedra, from the Latin for chair. It is typically located in the cathedral of the diocese.)



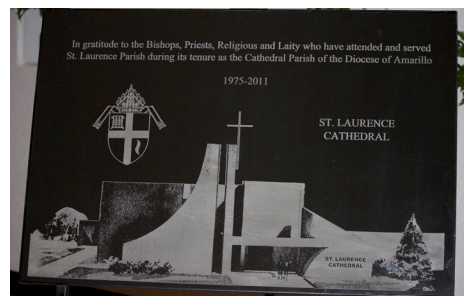
WTC

Last time for a Bishop to sit in this cathedra at a St. Laurence Mass before it is retired and placed in the Diocesan Museum.

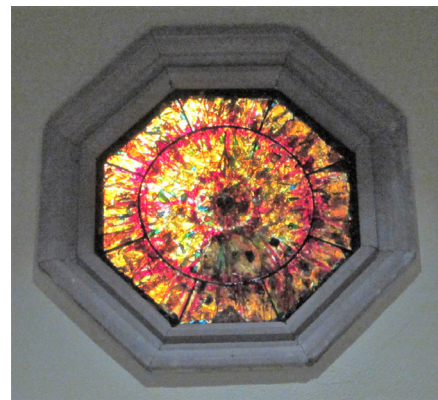


WTC

Last Mass to be said in St. Laurence as the Cathedral.



During the Vespers, a granite plaque honoring St. Laurence Cathedral for its 36 years of service as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Amarillo will be blessed by Bishop Zurek.





It is also important to thank St. Laurence Parish, its priests, and people for their many years of being the Cathedral parish for the diocese. Like St. Laurence himself, the parish was a genuine deacon of service and hospitality. To the parish of St. Laurence much praise and thanks is to be given for being the scene of so many diocesan ordinations and liturgies since 1975. I know that the people of the Amarillo Diocese will remain mindful of this service, and grateful for the attention that you of St. Laurence parish, those of you who are here, gave to the mission of this local church as its Cathedral. In all our name, thank you very much. *Daniel Cardinal DiNardo*

St. Laurence



Tony Neusch's Ordination Mass



Msgr. Kuehler was pastor of St. Laurence for 22 years and first rector when it became the Cathedral

Erection of St. Mary's Church as the Diocesan Cathedral

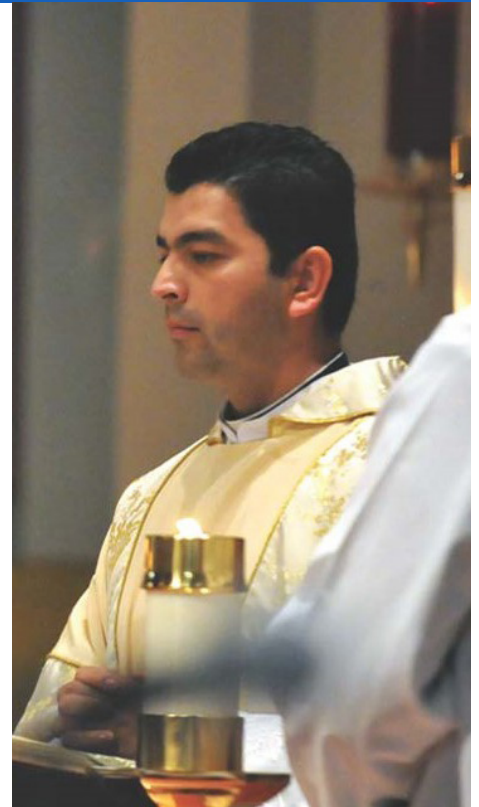


DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

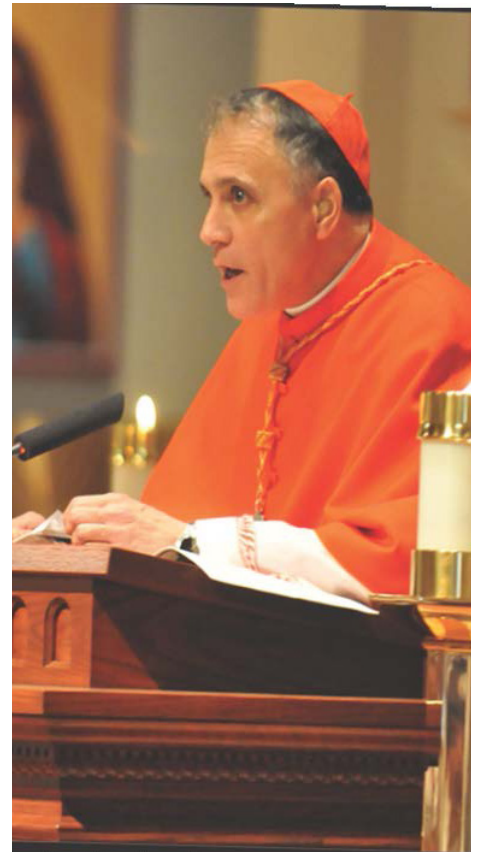
Certificate of Dedication St. Mary's Catholic Church Amarillo, Texas

Let it be known that on Friday the 11th of September in the Year of Our Lord, 2009, at 6:30 o'clock in the evening I, the Most Reverend Patrick J. Zurek, Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo, presided over the Dedication Mass and dedicated St. Mary's Catholic Church building located at 1200 South Washington Street in the City of Amarillo, Texas to the glory and honor of God and at the service of His Kingdom, in the presence of the Most Reverend Leroy T. Matthiesen, Bishop Emeritus, the Reverend Monsignor Harold L. Waldow, Pastor of St. Mary's, diocesan and religious priests working in the Diocese of Amarillo, deacons, religious, invited guests, and the People of God of St. Mary's and elsewhere, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

May God continue to shower His blessings abundantly on the Pastor and people at St. Mary's and may the Blessed Virgin Mary ever intercede with her Son, Jesus Christ, for us.



Transitional Deacon Haider Quintero



Daniel Cardinal DiNardo



The New Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Amarillo

The upper left field of the shield has the gridiron of St. Laurence, remembering our second Cathedral. St. Laurence and Our Lady of Guadalupe are the patrons of the Diocese of Amarillo.

El campo superior izquierdo del escudo contiene la parrilla de San Lorenzo, en recuerdo de nuestra segunda Catedral. San Lorenzo y Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe son los patronos de la Diócesis de Amarillo.

The background fields of the shield are gold, as it was in the original.

Los campos de fondo del escudo son dorados, como lo era el original.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus with a gold crown represents the original design of the 1927 heraldry for Sacred Heart Cathedral. This heart reminds us our first Cathedral.

El Sagrado Corazón de Jesús con una corona de oro representa el diseño original de la heráldica de 1927 de la Catedral Sacred Heart. Este corazón nos recuerda a nuestra primera Catedral.

The Bishop's miter at the top is in gold.

La mitra del Obispo en la parte superior es dorada.

The shield itself is in dark red and the inner cross is in red.

El escudo es rojo oscuro y la cruz interior es roja.

The upper right field has a silver star, representing the State of Texas.

El campo superior derecho contiene una estrella plateada que representa el Estado de Texas.

The lower right field has a blue M for Mary, mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

El campo inferior derecho contiene una M azul por María, la madre del Señor Jesucristo.

Hence the new heraldry is a historical record of all three cathedral churches.

Así la heráldica nueva es un récord histórico de las tres iglesias catedrales.

El Nuevo Escudo de la Diócesis de Amarillo

A new set of pipes



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN SPILLMAN / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS
Jim Rauscher plays the new organ in the sanctuary at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Installation of the \$600,000 organ completed the last major step of the church's rebuilding process, said the church's pastor, Harold Waldow.

Organ notes

A pipe organ is a musical instrument that uses pressurized air flowing through pipes to create sound.

PIPES — Provide the vehicle for sound in a pipe organ. An individual pipe is necessary for every pitch.

RANKS — Sixty-one pipes generally make a rank. St. Mary's Church has a 21-rank organ.

MANUAL — A keyboard. St. Mary's organ has three manuals, each with 61 keys.

PEDALS — Sometimes called pedal keyboards. They are played with the feet.

STOPS — Activate a rank of pipes such as trumpet, oboe or strings.

How to go

- **WHO:** St. Mary's Catholic Church
- **WHAT:** Concert by Bradley Welch
- **WHEN:** 2 p.m. Sunday
- **WHERE:** 1200 S. Washington St.
- **HOW MUCH:** Free
- **INFORMATION:** 806-376-7204

St. Mary's dedicating organ

The blast of the trumpet, the soul of the oboe and the peel of bells cap a journey of restoration that returned parishioners of St. Mary's to their sanctuary and now surround them with the sounds of worship.

"We lost a historic organ that was originally part of the Sacred Heart Cathedral that was downtown. It was important that we replace that with a really fine instrument because of the heritage," said the church's music director, Jim Rauscher.

Installation of the \$600,000 organ completed the last major step of the rebuilding process, said Monsignor Harold Waldow, church pastor.

"Worship without music is really incomplete," he said.



Rauscher looks at the pipes in the upper chamber of the sanctuary. There are 21 ranks of pipes made in Padua, Italy, with another 90 digital ranks in the chambers.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THIS YEAR'S

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

This year's Night at the Museum will feature a new round of artwork for you to vote on. Voting begins at 6:00 and ends at 7:30, when the votes will be collected and counted, with the winners announced that evening.

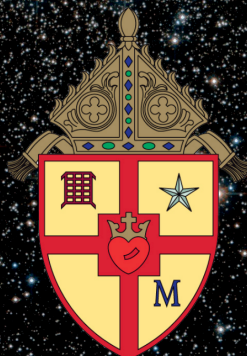
While you're waiting to hear about the winners, you are encouraged to visit the Museum and see what's new, while visiting with the other guests and artists. There will be delectable refreshments, compliments of the museum. Please come and join us, vote for your favorite painting and see the memorabilia of your ancestors in Faith.

THURSDAY | JULY 13 | 6:00 TO 8:00

DIOCESAN MUSEUM

(Inside the Diocesan Pastoral Center)

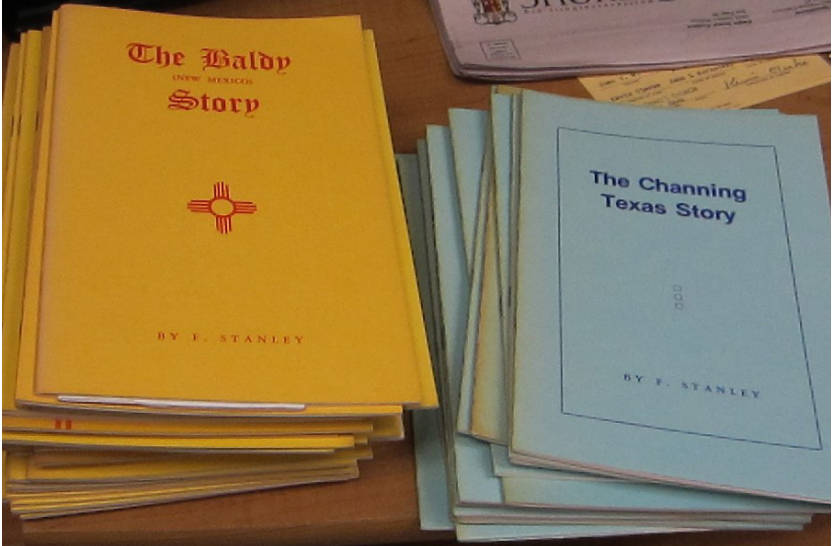
AT 4512 NE 24 TH AVE. IN AMARILLO



Donations to Museum



Included with several other items were certificates from our parents, Charles & Susan Wilhelm, a First Communion Certificate from 1916 written in German for Charles Wilhelm, & a Marian Congregation Certificate from 1912 also in German for Susan Sieger Wilhelm, both from Nazareth, TX, & a First Communion & First Confirmation Certificate written in English for Susan Sieger Wilhelm from 1914 Rupert, Idaho. They are beautiful certificates, even the handwriting is artistic.
Helen Wilhelm Ruffini



Pearl and Sherri Acker from Nazareth donated their paintings and books painted and written by Fr. Stanley Crocchiola



From the Catholic Children's Home in Panhandle, Sister Valentina used to play these full length 16 mm religious movies for the children in the home. I have ordered a movie projector for these films so I can watch them and see what we have.



The parishioners of St. Theresa's Panhandle donated these Stations of the Cross. These stations were used in the church until they began to crumble several years ago.



First Graduate of St. Mary's - 1914

Miss Mary Berg, later Mrs. John Detten, entered St. Mary's Academy in 1913. She had preciously attend-ed St. Mary's academy in Clarendon. Mrs Detten was a boarder for two years at St. Mary's and during that time she lived in what is now the rectory. There was a small chapel on the first floor, two or three small classrooms and a dormitory up-stairs.

Soon after the school was built and in a year's time the enrollment rose from three to nineteen student; the faculty was increased to eight Sisters of the Incarnate Word.

The typical St. Mary's uniform consisted of a black and white checked blouse and black skirt--minus the S.M.A. emblem. There were very few activities, but the few programs that were presented, were given at the City Opera House on Polk street.

The girls attended daily Mass, and walks through the park were frequent even though the trees were

still young saplings. T+he subjects remain the same today: History, Religion, English, Algebra, Geom-etry and Music. There were two graduations from St. Mary's for Mrs. Detten. In 1914 she graduated from literary course and in 1915 she com-pleted her business course. 1964



March - May

CONTRIBUTIONS

Thomas Albracht	30
Enrique Aguirre	20
Cathleen A. Dresser	75
Joe Artho	100
Marlene Casasanta	50
Paul Engler	200
Richard Groninger	100
Joseph&AngelaHochstein	100
Bill Homer	25
James Honea Jr	75
Alice Kuehler	100
Jim Lummas	100
Rammona Parra	25
Howard & JoAnn Raef	50
Dee Ramirez	50
Jane Roberts	50
Dnc. Robert Smith	25
Roxann Schwertner	50
Don White	50
	1225

Catholic History Society Board Members

Bishop Patrick Zurek - Honorary Chair

Susan Garner - President/Editor/
Museum Curator

Natalie Barrett - Vice-President

Kathryn Brown - Secretary

Carl Looten -Treasurer
Board Members

Jim Jordan

Ruth Ann Keller

Peggy Newcomb

Rev. Tony Neusch

Rev. Francisco Perez

Rev. Scott Raef

Roxann Schwertner

Doris Smith

Don White



You may stop by daily (Monday through Thursday to view the mu-seum; for a guided tour it is recom-mended that you make an appoint-ment. The museum is open by appointment for church and school groups. This includes evenings and weekends.

Susan: (806) 414-1076
sgarner@dioama.org

Did You Know?

This Newsletter and all the displays in the museum are made possible solely by your donations!