

*A History of the Parish of Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Middlebury, Vermont

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Middlebury was first settled in 1773 and had to undergo numerous trials and tribulations in the early years. Middlebury ultimately prospered and grew into what became the Shire Town of Addison County. Throughout these growing years, religion played a role in the formation and deliberations of town and community: "The doctrines respecting religious liberty and toleration, and the relations of "Church and State", which revealed in the States, from which the immigrants came, were imported and established here." (Swift, page 402) The early settlers in Middlebury and surrounding communities were strongly independent in their religious beliefs and political views. "The Congregational was almost the only denomination known to the first immigrants, and was at first almost the only one established in this State." (Swift, page 403) However, Catholics began migrating to the area from countries that were predominately Catholic.

While there is no record of the first Catholic settlement in Middlebury, according to Swift's History of Middlebury, one of the first Missionary Catholic Priests that came to Middlebury was Father James McQuade who arrived in 1822 and remained until the following year. Prior to 1822, Father Pierre Mignault was sent by Bishop Joseph-Ocave Plessis of Quebec (appx. A) to be a Missionary Priest covering a large portion of the State. Catholics in Middlebury and surrounding areas would only see him perhaps once or twice a year. Middlebury did not see a Priest on a regular basis until 1830 when Bishop Benedict Joseph Fenwick of Boston (appx. A) sent Father Jeremiah O' Callaghan, a native of Cork, Ireland and a Priest of the Diocese of Cloyne, Ireland to Vermont as a Missionary for the entire State. He continued this Missionary work until 1834, at which time the State was divided into two religious territorial missions and Father James Walsh was assigned to the half that included Middlebury. He left in 1835 and Middlebury and the outlying areas only saw a Catholic Priest periodically. The early records, that were stored in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington, made reference to Fathers Burns and Fitton, who periodically came through the State and perhaps visited the Catholics in Middlebury as well as neighboring towns. Unfortunately many records were lost when the Cathedral was destroyed to a devastating fire in 1972.

In 1836 or 1837, Father John B. Daley O. F. M. was assigned to Vermont to assist Father O'Callaghan throughout the southern half of the state because of the increasing numbers of Catholics. Although Father Daley ministered to Catholic settlements throughout the southern half of Vermont, he used Middlebury as his headquarters: "It is told of Father Daley that he hardly ever stayed in the same place more than one night. He was constantly on the move, traveling from place to place, either on horseback or on foot. He carried with him the Sacred Vessels, vestments, the accessories for the celebration of the Holy Mass and the administration of the Sacraments." (Hannon, Walsh, page 2)

According to the Town Records of Middlebury, dated April 24, 1838, " Alfred B. Allen of Colchester conveyed, by deed, to Bishop Fenwick of Boston, Massachusetts, a plot of land on Weybridge Street for the explicit purpose of building a Catholic Church." (Town of Middlebury

Land Records, April 24, 1838, Vol. 32, page 243) Church records indicated that Father Daley received permission from Bishop Fenwick of Boston to begin raising funds in order to construct a church. The Bishop of Boston gave this order because the Diocese of Burlington did not yet exist and the Catholic communities in Vermont were under the jurisdiction of Boston or Montreal. In 1839 Father Daley travelled around the state with several of his parishioners, trying to raise the necessary funds that would be sufficient to construct a Church which would be 60 feet by 40 feet. The Church would be built on the property that had been deeded to the Catholic Church in 1838. This small brick Church (appx. F & G) was completed in 1840 and Father Daley remained in Middlebury until October 3, 1854 when he left Vermont and moved to New York City. Father Daley became the chaplain of the "Girls Female Orphanage" located at Mott and Prince Streets. The archival records of The Arch Diocese of Boston state that Father John Daley died December 11, 1872 at this orphanage.

On July 29, 1853 the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington was established and on October 30, 1853, Father Louis Joseph Mary Theodore de Goesbriand (appx. E) of Cleveland, Ohio was consecrated in New York City as the first Bishop of this Diocese (1853-1899) which covered the entire State of Vermont. He arrived in Burlington on November 5, 1853 and was installed as Bishop by Bishop Fitzpatrick of Boston. From this point on, all ecclesiastical matters were handled in Burlington, not Boston or Montreal. After Father Daley left Middlebury, the Catholic community again relied upon visiting Priests who would periodically pass through. In 1855, Father Francis Picard arrived in Middlebury as Pastor but only stayed a very brief time. Bishop de Goesbriand ultimately had to take charge of the Parish and as one of his endeavors completed the interior of the brick Catholic Church. At this time, according to parish records, the Catholic population was estimated at four hundred persons. In 1857, Father Jean Duglue (appx. B) and Father Pierre LeCalvez (appx. B) were assigned to minister to Middlebury, Brandon, Vergennes, Bristol, and other towns.

Since Middlebury now had a Catholic Church the Bishop felt it was necessary for the Priests to have a Rectory. Therefore, "On June 15, 1858, Bishop de Goesbriand purchased for \$1,000 the Anna Wilcox house, also called the Callender house, which was located on Weybridge Street just down the street from the the Catholic Church." (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 22, page 350) The records are not clear but it would seem plausible that this house was used as the Rectory until it was sold for \$1,950 to a local minister by the name of Rev. Mr. Ladd. (appx. F) Father LeCalvez returned to France in 1860, and Father Duglue was transferred to Burlington where he died on June 8, 1897. Father Picard again returned to Middlebury to minister to the spiritual needs of Middlebury and neighboring towns.

In 1866 Father Picard ordered a bell for the Church from the Naylor and Vickers Bell Company from Sheffield, England. The bell, numbered 1731, was cast from patented cast steel and weighed 1,600 pounds. The diameter of the bell was four feet and was tuned to the pitch of G flat. It was quite unique because of its casting in steel instead of bronze or other metals. As a side note: this is the same bell that rings from the present Catholic Church bell tower. By 1866, Father Picard was transferred and while en route to France, he died on June 22, 1870. Father Patrick Cunningham (appx. B) was named Pastor in 1868 and added a Sacristy, a

Chancel, and a Choir Gallery to the Church due to the increased size of the congregation. While Pastor in Middlebury, Father Cunningham built St. Peter's Church in Vergennes in 1871 and in 1877 built St. Ambrose Church in Bristol.

"Nathan and Harriet Myrick (appx. F) , on July 17, 1869, conveyed by warranty deed to Bishop Louis de Goesbriand, for the Parish of St. Mary's in Middlebury, the house (appx. N) on Green Street (326 College Street) along with slightly over thirteen acres of land which abutted the "old Catholic Church" for consideration of \$5,750." (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 31, page 411) This house would eventually become the "new Rectory". "In addition, Peter Champagne conveyed to Bishop de Goesbriand a parcel of land which joins with the Myrick property." (appx. F) (Town of Middlebury And Records, Vol. 27, page 127, May 1, 1882) "John M. Morcombe and Abigail A. Morcombe conveyed to Bishop de Goesbriand a tract of land plus buildings." This land is located on College Street and is part of the tract of land that was conveyed by the Myrick's, and Champagne's. (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 27, page 619, dated January 27, 1896)

Early in 1881, Father Cunningham was transferred to Brattleboro and after serving the Diocese in other parishes he died August 10, 1904. Father Edward R. Moloney was named Pastor in Middlebury in May of 1881, and was responsible for purchasing the land that bordered the Town (West) Cemetery and the College land in order to establish a Catholic Cemetery. He consecrated the land, had it fenced in, and immediately bodies of Catholics were disinterred from other cemeteries and reburied in the the St. Mary's cemetery. Father Moloney was transferred in 1886 and died on October 27, 1913. Father Henry Lane was named Pastor of Middlebury with Bristol as a Mission in 1886 and was responsible for renovations to the "new" Rectory as well as paying off the Parish debt. In 1892 he was transferred to Poultney as Pastor and served there until unexpectedly dying on April 15, 1907.

Father Jerome M. Gelot (appx. B) was assigned as Pastor in 1892 and faced a church building that was again too small. With permission from Bishop de Goesbriand, Father Gelot had plans drawn up for a "new" Marble Church on land that was just west to the house deeded to the Parish by the Myricks. Father Gelot hired George W. Guernsey of Montpelier to be the architect and Napoleon Dubue of Montpelier was chosen to be the builder. After raising funds, work began on the "new" church building. The building was dug out as far as the water-table when the blue marble corner-stone, donated by Mr. James A. Smith of the Smith and Brainard Marble Company of Beldens Falls, was blessed by Bishop John S. Michaud, (appx. E) Second Bishop of Burlington (1899-1908) on Sunday, July 28, 1895. "The formal ceremony of laying the corner-stone took place shortly after 4 o'clock in the afternoon". "The corner-stone bears the inscription St. Mary's Church, Middlebury, Vermont 1895 and on the south side bears the words : Beatae Maria Assumptae". (Middlebury Register, April 2, 1895) It was estimated there were between 1,000 and 1,500 people from all over the county present for this special occasion. "The dimensions of the new church were to be 127 feet by 57 feet with a 57 foot by 37 foot chapel on the south end. The Chapel will be only one story high and the auditorium will be open with no columns and a horse-shoe shaped gallery. The tower is to be 97 feet tall and the estimated cost will be around \$30,000." (Middlebury Register, April 2, 1895)

Funds unfortunately started dropping off and construction work had to stop. In September of 1899, Father Gelot was transferred to Underhill Center where he served until his untimely death on December 4, 1904. Father James. D. Shannon (appx. C) was transferred from St. Thomas Church in Underhill and named Pastor of Middlebury on October 1, 1899. "Father Shannon faced a Parish debt of over \$4,200 and, remarkably, by October 1, 1901 had completely paid off this amount. In fact, by the end of December of 1901 the Parish had over \$1,300 in the bank earmarked for a new church." (Leonard. T. ,The 100th. Anniversary of the establishment of the Parish, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, page 13)

Early in May of 1902 there was enough money to resume work on the "new" church. George Guernsey, the architect who began the plans in 1892, had recently died and left only ground plans and unfinished sketches for the main church building. Therefore, the architectural firm of Hopkins and Casey from Troy, New York was hired to complete the work. After the new architectural plans were submitted and adopted, work was to begin in the early spring. However, it was discovered that the open walls that had been constructed in 1895 were severely damaged due to harsh winter weathers throughout the seven years waiting for construction work to resume. The decision was made to demolish what had been done up to that point and start again. Father Shannon made the determination that the building should be enlarged so to face future expansion of the Catholic population. Thus, for a nominal amount, the building was expanded by eighteen feet. However, one major obstacle needed resolution. The church building had to be built on ledge and its topography precluded a lower hall or basement under the building.

Thomas Burns and John McTierney, parishioners and executives of the Brandon Italian Marble Company came up with a way to remedy the situation. They arranged that the Brandon Italian Marble Company would let the church use a special channelling machine and a steam powered drill that was used in the marble quarries. Their plan was successful and after several weeks there was a shelf of ledge twenty-five feet wide by upwards of six and a half feet deep which extended the entire length of the foundation. This channelling and boring allowed deeper blasting which produced a basement that would be ten feet tall. In addition, the large amounts of stone that were blasted from the ledge were used in the shoring up of the foundation walls. This process saved a tremendous amount of money, labor and construction time. An immense portion of the physical labor was donated by Irish marble quarry workers, French Canadian farmers, and laborers from the entire Addison County community.

Bishop Michaud had requested that Fr. Shannon engage the services of a contractor from Worcester, Massachusetts who had worked for the Bishop in the past. The man's name was J. T. Shannon and, due to his experience and building expertise, he became the "clerk of the works" for the entire project. One interesting facet of the project was Father Shannon's insistence that each area of work be performed under separate contracts as well as utilizing parishioners and local laborers as much as possible. "The list of separate business contractors who were contracted is: rough marble and mill work- Brandon Italian Marble Co., the Granite Construction Co. of Montpelier did the stone cutting and mason work, Noah Lathrop of Bristol provided all the dimension lumber, Shepard and Morse Lumber Co. of Burlington and W. S.

Huntley of Ripton furnished the construction lumber, A.C. Hathorn Co of Burlington did the slate and metal work, the Champlain Manufacturing Co. of Burlington furnished the inside finish, J. B. Hughes of Middlebury plastered the basement, tower, and sacristy while Peter Ritchie of Burlington plastered the church. The pews and confessionals were produced at the shops of the Globe Manufacturing Co. of Michigan while the main altar, chancel rail, and chancel wainscoting were produced at the Brandon Italian Marble Co. from marble taken from the High Street quarries in Brandon. The main altar used white statuary marble from Rutland. The heating and plumbing was done by Allen Calhoun and Son of Middlebury." (75th. Anniversary booklet of the Church of the Blessed Assumption., page 25) Besides the businesses listed above there were dozens of others that required separate contracts along with multi meetings in order to complete this multi faceted building project.

Due to inclement weather, the stone work was not completed until the end of the summer of 1903. However, the basement (lower hall) was fitted for use. On December 13, 1903 Mass was said for the last time in the "old" church. The following week, all of the furniture, pews, altar, pump organ, the bell in the tower, and the large wooden cross that was on top of the tower were removed from the old church and brought to the basement of the "new" church where Mass was sung for the first time on Sunday, December 20, 1903. (Leonard, T.,J., 100th Anniversary booklet for the Parish of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, page19) The basement was totally completed on December 31, 1903. The old brick church was no longer of any use to the parish, so it was abandoned and placed up for sale. "On Easter Sunday, April 3, 1904, the Middlebury Graded School (The Village School) burned down and within a couple of hours, the old church and the Federation Building were "loaned" free of charge by the Catholic Church to be used temporarily for school purposes." (Middlebury Register- Vol. LXIX dated April 8, 1904) Therefore, for about a year, the old church again served people in the entire community by becoming a school for the town housing grades 4,6, and High School. No purchaser came forward until December 9, 1907 when the building and land were sold by "Bishop Michaud to H. D. Bacon and W .N. Bacon for the sum of \$1,025." (Middlebury Land Records- Vol. 34, page 430). "The Bacon's sold the property to Amos Attwood by warranty deed who in turn immediately sold it to John M. Thomas." (November 10, 1909, Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 34, page 549) "Thomas then sold the property to Middlebury College on February 10, 1910." (appx. G) (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 34, page 549) " Middlebury College converted and used the old church building as their Theater/ Play House until it burned to the ground, early Thursday morning, December 30, 1954 of undetermined origins." (appx. H) (Addison Independent pages 1 and 12, December 30, 1954 edition) Thus the chapter of the first St. Mary's Church ended at the age of one hundred and fifteen years old.

Requiescat in Pace.

Once the basement of the "new" church began being used full time, fund raising had to begin in earnest but money did not come in quickly. Therefore, work on the church was discontinued until June 1, 1906. "On February 6, 1906, Bishop Michaud sold some building lots from the property owned by St. Mary's in order to raise money. "Benjamin McCue bought lot number 10 on what is now the upper part of Shannon Street."(Town of Middlebury Land

Records, Vol. 34, page 324 dated February 10, 1906) and "Joseph Riquet purchased lot number five". (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 34, page 368, dated December 14, 1906) Finally, Mass was said in the upstairs of the completed church on Sunday, September 1, 1907. Father Shannon had raised enough funds by collections, hosting fairs, and obtaining funds from community persons including a \$1,000 contribution from Joseph Battell, to almost pay off the debt of the project, slightly over \$70,000. The end result was a magnificent edifice which was 145 feet long, 68 feet wide, the roof ridge elevation was 62 feet, and the bell tower was 100 feet tall. (appx. I & K) The seating capacity of the inside was between 700 and 800 persons and the entire structure was built in the Renaissance style of architecture. The slate roof was strongly trussed so as to be totally self supporting thus eliminating the need for columns throughout the upper church.

Additionally, there were special features added to the building that made it unique. The Porte Cochere (covered carriage entrance) was aesthetically attractive and very functional. Horse drawn carriages could drive through the Porte Cochere and lower a bottom portion of the carriage door which would align with an indentation that was cut into the marble floor of the entrance. This prevented anyone falling between the carriage and the driveway. The skylight on the far edge of the roof was designed to let natural light come through the round stained glass window over the chancel and sanctuary. The room which houses the stained glass window and the skylight is a fully finished room covered in oak wains-coating. Originally there was a small trap door in this room that opened into the sanctuary so that someone could raise or lower the silver sanctuary lamp in order to refill it with lamp oil.

The Liturgical Art and Decoration company of F. G. Necker of New York City began the work of the interior decoration. On either side of the chancel were alcoved chapels each having a "Rigalico" altar that was finished in white and gold. The Church interior color scheme was light olive green trimmed with a cream tint. The chancel walls were in Tuscan red with the frieze done in stencil. The dome was gilded and the chancel lunettes were hand painted on a blue background. The center chancel lunette represented the Lamb and the seven sealed books of the Apocalypse while the other four chancel lunettes contained symbolic representations: St. Matthew - a man, St. Mark - a lion, St. Luke - an ox, and St. John - an eagle.

Early in 1909 the stained glass art windows were created and installed in the church by the studios of George Hardy Payne of Patterson, New Jersey. These windows are in the unique style of American opalescent drapery glass and are unusual because the vivid colors are achieved by layering leaded glass that is in different sizes ranging from pieces that are the size of a pencil top to several inches, thicknesses, and colors. The only painted surfaces are the flesh colors. There are fifteen large windows with eight of them containing full length representations of the following: Our Lord in Gethsemane, The Assumption, The Annunciation, Christ calling to St. Peter, Christ commissioning St. Peter, The Prodigal Son's Return, and The Apparition of the Sacred Heart. The other seven are double medallion windows representing in bust St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, St. Gregory the Great, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Jerome, St. Theresa, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Agnes of Rome and St. Rose of Lima. At the top of each double medallion window are circle windows containing the following

emblems: the Chalice, the anchor, the cross and fish with the acrostic made from the initials of the five Greek words that form the word fish (Ichthys or Ichthus). The five Greek words are: Iesous Kristu The Uios Soter (Jesus Christ Son of God, Savior). The other emblems in the top circle windows are: The cross and crown, the dove, star, lily, heart, monogram of Mary, tiara, pelican, Crown of Thorns, Alpha and Omega, Agnus Dei, and the monogram of Christ- the Chrismon or Chi rho. The small window over the chancel depicts cherubic angels and the large Rose window behind the Pipe Organ depicts St. Cecilia (Patroness of music) along with harp, trumpets, lyre and other music instruments.

Discussions about an organ for the new church began in June 1905 between Father Shannon, parishioners, and the Diocese. "On July 17, 1905, J. J. Kennedy from the Estey Organ Co. of Brattleboro met with Father Shannon and had him fill in an inquiry sheet that began the formal process of determining the specifics of what the new church would need regarding a pipe organ." (Estey Co. - J.J. Kennedy - July 17, 1905) On the back of this form Kennedy wrote that Father Shannon would not be open to a serious discussion regarding obtaining an organ until the Church interior was completed and the Parish debt was sizably less. The debt load at that time was slightly more than \$ 12,000. On May 15, 1907 Father Shannon went by train to Brattleboro to discuss again the feasibility of obtaining an organ for the Church. He met with J.J. Kennedy and J. P. Estey and told them that he would only be able to spend \$ 1,500. He also informed them he wouldn't be able to sign a contract for a year until the debt load of the Parish was much lower. Father Shannon did ask if the Estey Co. would be willing to "loan" a reed organ, in good faith and without cost, until a new pipe organ could be installed. Father Shannon selected a Tubular Pneumatic Pipe Organ Style number A 1. (appx. P) Both Father Shannon and the Estey Co. were willing to consider this request to be an "object of intent" and both parties agreed to this. "The Estey Co. reiterated this verbal proposal in writing and offered to "loan" an Estey Reed Organ, style H 38 but suggested that the Pipe Organ be somewhat larger than what Father Shannon selected." (Estey letter to Shannon, initialed A M L for the Estey Co. May 16, 1907)

There were numerous letters between Father Shannon and the Estey Company through the remainder of 1907 and the middle of 1908, all regarding many aspects of the acquisition of a new pipe organ. Father Shannon held his ground regarding costs, size of the organ, and reiterated that before installing an organ, he must lower the debt load and wait until the inside of the church was completed. During the early part of 1909, fund raising for the organ was going well, and Father Shannon notified the Estey Co. that they could start building the organ that he selected. Therefore, final discussions between Shannon and Estey regarding the exact design of the organ, the specifications of the pipes, the case, the Kinetic blower, when shipments would begin, and other building details took place. On March 8, 1910 the bill for \$1,500 came from the Estey Co. to the Parish with the balance to be paid within the next six months. The total price for the organ, installation and shipping costs was \$1,957.57. Father Shannon agreed and Estey notified him that Pipe Organ # 755 would be shipped to Middlebury by train immediately. (J. G. Estey to Shannon, March 8, 1910, page 138).

Within a few days, parts of the new organ started arriving at the train depot and were transported to the Church by horse and wagon. J. G. Estey informed Father Shannon that the balance could be paid in installments and that the reed organ, that was "loaned" to the Parish, could be purchased for \$105 minus 25% (\$78.75). "Father Shannon deemed that to purchase the small reed organ was prudent and it would be located in the choir loft in case of power failure or if the pipe organ malfunctioned." (Parish report page 78 and also repeated in Father Shannon's journal) The small reed organ was paid for on March 31, 1910. (Estey invoice R 38 / No. 36036) That reed organ is presently (2022) in the choir loft and used whenever the power goes off. Once the component parts were in the loft, a large crew from Estey took several days to re-assemble the pipe organ, tune it and make any last adjustments. The Estey Organ Co. had an operational feature that made them unique in the organ building trade throughout the United States. They had an immense work force, mammoth buildings that included assembly rooms, their own rail cars for shipping, and large crews that would travel to each church just to re-assemble, tune, and adjust the new organ. Thus the installation of Estey # 755 was rapid.

The congregation was ecstatic by the installation of the new organ. During an explanation about the organ, Father Shannon told his flock about the high quality of materials that Estey used, the superior workmanship of the Estey Co. and that the " organ was made to fit the style, size, and requirements of the Church". (Parish report and Journal of Fr Shannon - page 78) [a complete specification sheet is at appx. R] The organ was dedicated by Father Shannon on Sunday evening April 3, 1910. A sacred concert by the choir was performed, followed by an organ recital by John H. Daley of Bennington and Miss Mary E. Flynn, Parish Organist, as well as Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The church was filled to over capacity and the concert was thought to be one of the finest musical performances that the community had ever heard. [copy of the dedicatory program is at appx. R]

"On Sunday, May 22, 1910, Bishop Joseph J. Rice, Third Bishop of Burlington (1910-1938) administered the sacrament of Confirmation and it was his first visit to Middlebury as well as his second public appearance in the Diocese, outside of the Cathedral." (Souvenir booklet of the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Parish of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Seymour Press, Middlebury, VT) April 7, 1911 saw the installation of the beautiful Stations of The Cross which Father Shannon blessed and consecrated. "On Monday, June 26, 1911, Father Shannon and the Parish of St. Mary's of Middlebury conveyed by deed to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, for the perpetual use of the Middlebury Parish, the house and lot on Main Street, known as the Sayre place" originally built by John Warren in 1804. (appx. O) (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Book 36, page 117) The Parish assumed the \$2,000 mortgage and the building was to be used as an assembly hall for the K. of C., the C. O. F., housing for the poor, and other parish needs. The building's name changed from the Warren House, to the Sayre Place, to the Federation Building. [note: Father Leonard and Bishop Edward Ryan sold the Federation Building to Middlebury College on November 5, 1945.] (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 48, page 617) In 1912, the St. Cecilia Guild, a musical society of girls from the Parish, donated the beautiful Christmas Creche and figurines (appx. J) that are still used today. On Sunday September 15, 1912, Bishop Joseph J. Rice again came to

Middlebury to formally dedicate the church, consecrate the altar, place the relics of St. Felix and St. Maximus Martyrs in the consecrated top of the altar, and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. In 1912, the estimated value of the Church was \$58,500.00 which converts to approximately 1.8 million in 2022.

In the later part of 1913, Father Shannon negotiated several other land transactions: "quit claim deed from Joseph Ringuet to the Diocese (Bishop Rice) regarding Lot number 9, Weybridge Street;" (Middlebury Town Land Records, Vol. 36, pages 452-453, dated September 13, 1913); "quit claim deed from Edla and Clarence Phillips to the Diocese regarding lot number 10 on September 24, 1913" (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 36, pages 453-454). Both of these were sold back to the Ringuet and Phillips families (Land Records, Vol. 36, pages 455-457, dated September 30, 1913) "The Diocese (Bishop Rice) sold a parcel of land to the Town of Middlebury by warranty deed." (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 36, pages 468-470, dated September 30, 1913)

On November 10, 1913, to the sorrow of the Parish and Middlebury community, Father Shannon announced that he was being transferred to Bellows Falls. As an award in great appreciation for his dedicated work, Bishop J.J. Rice named Father Shannon a Monsignor. A massive farewell reception was held for him at the town hall which included an orchestra and many speakers. He was given a substantial purse of money by Dr. P. L. Dorey, chairman of the reception. In addition, it was announced that Father Shannon's household would also be leaving: "This included his housekeeper and Miss. Mary E. Flynn, organist and choir leader. She was given a silver toilet set and \$10 in gold." (Middlebury Register, Friday, November 14, 1913) Eventually, the Town of Middlebury honored him by naming the newly constructed street that bordered College Street, Shannon Street. Rev. Msgr. Shannon "retired" on November 14, 1913 and died in Bennington on December 9, 1936. He is buried in St. John The Baptist Cemetery in Enosburg Falls, Vermont.

The new Pastor, Father Thomas J. Leonard (appx. C) born in 1871, came to the United States from County Limerick, Ireland in 1888. He was ordained in Montreal and in 1913 was sent to Middlebury as Pastor. One of his first accomplishments was to pay off the parish debt as well as being ordered by Bishop Rice to fully complete the interior decorations of the Church. He hired the same Liturgical Art Company that Father Shannon had used and the Necker Company of New York City completed the task beautifully. It was very apparent Father Leonard was an astute business person along with being a dedicated Priest. He had saved enough money that the Church had a sizable sum of money in the bank that was earmarked for future building expenses as well as "sending money back to Ireland for the victims of the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War." (O'Brien, page 5) In 1937, for the Parish Centennial, Fr. Leonard had the interior of the church repainted and liturgically redecorated.

Within a few years, Father Leonard purchased the "Eddy" House at 8 Weybridge Street (present day Villa Maria / Parish Office) (appx. F & N) plus the land associated with it: "This home was built by Samuel Boardman who in turn sold it to Dr. Merritt and Louise Eddy." "They in turn sold the house and land to the [Middlebury] Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Corporation on April 4, 1924." (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 37, page 547) "On July 5, 1934, Sigma

Phi sold the house and about two acres to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington.” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 43, page 272, July 5, 1934) Was this purchase a “divine” premonition of Father Leonard’s? It was well documented that one of his most important goals was to establish a Catholic Elementary School staffed by teaching Nuns. He was frequently quoted as saying” that he wanted a Catholic School, where the children of the Parish could be taught to know, love, and serve God and to be always loyal to the good old U.S.A.” (Clifford, D., Parish Directory 1988, pages 14 &15)

Father Leonard saw this dream come to fruition in the spring of 1940. St. Mary’s Catholic School (appx. N) was built and staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. By the end of the summer of 1940, the yellow brick Catholic School was ready to open. It was dedicated on August 25, 1940 by Bishop Matthew Brady, Fourth Bishop of Burlington (1938-1944) and Father Leonard. Classes began on September 3, 1940 with almost 200 students being taught by six Sisters of Mercy.

Father Leonard was proactive in other property transactions throughout the later years of his Pastorate. “On December 31, 1937, the Diocese (St. Mary’s) purchased the small gas station,(appx. O) built c.1920, on Main street (present day Otter Creek Bakery), and leased it to the Colonial Beacon Oil Company of Massachusetts for an annual rent of \$1,200.”(Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 46, pages. 252-255, signed by Bishop Joseph Rice) The renewal of extension leases between The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington (St. Mary’s) and the Colonial Beacon Oil Company (eventually known as - Esso Standard Oil Company) continued through the Pastorates of Fathers Leonard, Barrett, Mahoney, and Shortill. These extension leases were signed by Bishops Rice, Brady, Ryan and Joyce during each of their tenures as Bishop of the Diocese. (Town of Middlebury Land Records: Vol. 47, July 11, 1940, pages 137-139; Nov. 5, 1945, Vol. 48, page 617; August 2, 1949, Vol. 51, page71; June 16, 1952, Vol. 52, page 340; June 8, 1955, Vol. 54, pages 324-325) “The building (gas station and land) was sold to Samuel Emilo by the Diocese (Bishop Joyce) on May 20, 1971.” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 68, pages 311-313)

Additionally, there were many other property transactions made during this same time frame. Warranty deeds were signed by the Diocese (Bishops Brady and Ryan) for the following: “Edward and Mae Jo Gerow for lot # 5 - Shannon Street” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, May 14, 1941); May 17, “1941 Lot # 11”, (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 47, page 266), “Helen Frost Reynolds”; “Lot # 8 - June 17, 1941 - Clyde & Yvette Gee”, (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 47, pages 366-367); “Lots 9 & 10 - Feb. 21, 1947 - Clyde & Yvette Gee” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 49, page 396); Feb. 21, 1947 - “two parcels of land previously owned by Mrs. Albert Charron- bought by the Diocese and sold to Samuel and Lillian Emilo” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 49, page 395); “Lots 12 & 13- June 10, 1952 - Bertrand Andrews” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 53, page 209); “Warranty deed dated Aug. 5, 1953- Ruth M. Humphrey Perkins - lands on Hillcrest Road leading into St. Mary’s Cemetery” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Land Records, Oct. 10, 1953 & Oct. 26, 1953), “quit claim deeds from Middlebury College to Diocese and then Diocese to Middlebury College - establishing boundary lines” (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 53

pages 348 and 349); "quit claim deed with Anne Voter- establishing boundary line-" dated October 26, 1953." (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 53, page 350.) These transactions greatly reduced the land holdings of the Parish (Diocese).

Father Leonard retired in November of 1947 after serving St. Mary's faithfully and devotedly for thirty-four years. During all those years, his older sister, Mary who had never married, had been his housekeeper and cook. She died at age eighty-five on February 19, 1951 and Father Leonard died seven months later on September 2, 1951 at the age of 80. He is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Burlington, Vermont. His legacy to St. Mary's was impressive and the Parish still benefits from his zealous work.

Father Harold Barrett (appx. C) (b. 12/26/1900 - ordained 6/11/1927 - d. 8/23/1956) came to Middlebury as Pastor in 1949 and made some modifications to the interior of the Church as well as greatly promoting the St. Mary's Catholic School. Father Barrett received a letter on November 13, 1952 from Carroll Rickert Jr., Business Manager for Middlebury College, inquiring whether the Parish would be interested in selling all of the land north of the Rectory and east of the Chateau. Numerous letters went back and forth between the Diocese, Father Barrett and Middlebury College. Bishop Edward F. Ryan (appx. E) Fifth Bishop of Burlington, (1944-1956) warned Father Barrett to "not be hasty" in selling the land. However, Father Barrett needed the money for immediate repairs to the Church, School, and Rectory. The Parish was land rich but cash poor. On one of the letters he penciled in the following: " Church boiler - \$3,000, Church, Rectory, School and Convent roofs- \$3,000 to \$4,000, then sidewalks, repair belfry, Convent cellar wall". "This transaction of land was completed by Father Barrett's successor, Father John Mahoney on June 12, 1957." "The warranty deed for all of this land was delivered to Father Mahoney by Attorney Bernard J. Leddy of the law office of Leary and Leddy from Burlington as well as the check in the amount of \$10,000 was deposited in the St. Mary's bank account." (multiple letters -archives at St. Mary's Parish) (Town of Middlebury Land Records, Vol. 55, pages 370 -371, May 28, 1957) Father Barrett transferred from Middlebury in early 1956 due to severe health issues. He died on August 23, 1956 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Burlington, Vermont.

Father John P. Mahoney (appx. C) (b. 1/21/1913 - ordained 1939 - d. 6/5/1971) was transferred to Middlebury from Hinesburg in 1956. Father Mahoney had health issues: "He had been an Army Chaplain with the 172nd. Regiment of the 43rd. Infantry Division during the war in the Philippines. He was on board the troop ship Coolidge when it hit mines and sunk. It was reported that Father Mahoney was one of the last to leave the ship. He stayed aboard to rescue a group of soldiers who were trapped below decks. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Legion of Merit by General Wing and was cited by General Douglas MacArthur for exceptionally meritorious service." (Coffin, H., page 80) In addition, Father Mahoney was wounded twice in battle as well as having contracted malaria. Prior to coming to Middlebury, Father Mahoney built St. Jude's Church in Hinesburg in 1947 as fulfillment of a promise he made to God for protecting the lives of the soldiers under his pastoral care.

Father Mahoney was extremely popular with both parishioners and people from all walks of life. During his pastorate, the interior of the church was repainted as well as

refurbishment of the Rectory. One of the attributes that endeared Father Mahoney to the Parish was that every year he took all of the altar boys and choir girls to Lake George for a ride on one of the tour boats as well as feeding everyone who came. He also hosted a festive dinner and party once a year for all of the ushers, their wives, the area clergy, and others. "Failing health forced him to retire in 1966, to again become a chaplain, this time at Burlington's St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly. He died at age 57, on June 6, 1971." (Coffin, H., page 84) He is buried in St. Raphael Cemetery in Poultney, Vermont.

In 1966 the Diocese transferred Father James Ryan, who was Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese and Pastor of St. Anthony's in Hartford, to the position of Administrator of Middlebury. Two curates were assigned to Middlebury to help Father Ryan minister to the Parish, School, Mission Church and College, at this juncture. During his time as administrator, the old Rectory barn, which was located where the present garage is, burned to the ground on July 13, 1968. Not only did the Priests lose their cars, but the Parish lost many precious artifacts that were stored upstairs. Many of these artifacts were from the original building of St. Mary's, through several renovations, as well as a large amount of Church papers. In addition, the Parish lost lawn equipment, machinery used in the cemetery, as well as a large supply of tools and hardware. The Middlebury Fire Department official report stated that the cause of the fire was "a short in wiring of Father Ryan's car and it started in the garage (barn). The official damage in this report was listed as \$3,000 and was insured." (Middlebury Fire Department Alarm # 25- full report) Thanks to the rapid response, the Middlebury Fire Department did not allow the fire to damage the Rectory or the Church. Deo Gratias!

The 1960s saw large amounts of unrest and turbulence throughout the country as well as in the Church. Pope John XXIII had convened a Vatican Council on October 11, 1962 which ended on December 8, 1965. The purpose of Vatican II was to address relations between the Catholic Church and the modern world. Ultimately, there were over 9,000 proposals on the Council's agenda and at the end of the four sessions a total of sixteen documents were produced. One of the sixteen documents that had an immediate effect on the world's Catholics was the document on Liturgical Reform. This document dealt with how church ceremonies were to be practiced and how the many languages of the world would be used for Mass. Bishop Robert F. Joyce (appx. E) (1956-1971), Sixth Bishop of Burlington participated in all four sessions and when he arrived home to Vermont in 1965, he started implementing some of the liturgical reforms immediately. Mass was to be said in English, the Priest faced the people, all the readings were in English, there would be congregational singing, folk music, guitars, the usage of Gregorian Chant was severely limited, and many other aspects of liturgical change.

These changes were perceived in many ways: happiness, anger, frustration and confusion. Bishop Joyce formed a Liturgical Commission that began working on how to renovate churches in order to bring them into compliance conducive with the Liturgical Reforms dictated by Vatican II. Along with dealing with the Liturgical Reforms, Bishop Joyce was dealing with an exodus of priests and nuns, declining enrollment in the Catholic schools around the Diocese, serious financial problems plaguing many Parishes and a myriad of other issues.

In 1969, Father John M. Shortill (appx. C) was transferred from St. Norbert's Church in Hardwick to become the Pastor in Middlebury. Father Shortill, born in 1914, was a quiet, reserved, exceptionally spiritual Priest who immediately exuded a prayer like composure. It was learned that he had Tuberculosis in his early years of ministry and this had left him with health issues, but it didn't stop him from his ministerial duties as Pastor. In 1970, Bishop Joyce and the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese had set in motion a selection of Parishes (Churches) that would undergo Liturgical renovation in order to conform with the "new" Liturgical Reforms. St. Mary's in Middlebury was one of those selected. Father Shortill formed a renovation committee from a diverse segment of the Parish population to begin the process of engaging a Liturgical Art Restoration / Renovation Company to "renovate" St. Mary's. In order to pay for the renovation, a sizable capital campaign was launched. Aesthetics and Sacred Arts Ltd. from Montreal, Quebec was awarded the bid and work began. (appx. L & M)

There were serious divisions within the Parish regarding the removal and reconstruction of the altars, most especially the main altar which was made out of white Rutland Marble and was the focal point of the chancel. Although the parishioners were informed that as much as possible of the white marble would be reused in the reconstruction of the "new" altar and the tabernacle, there was considerable hostility. The coup d'etat came when parishioners heard that the renovation committee was giving serious consideration to the removal of all the stained glass art windows and replacing them with plain glass. Many parishioners and local towns people expressed their disapproval and frustration directly to Father Shortill and Bishop Joyce. While, ultimately, the windows were left untouched, the original statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and the two Angels that were on the high altar were removed and stored in the attic above the sacristy. They were replaced with wooden wall mounted statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Risen Christ from the Cross.

In 1970 Father Shortill, the Parish Council, and the School Board had to make the difficult decision to close St. Mary's School. The reasons for this decision were: 1. an immense shortage of teaching Nuns, 2. the enrollment was seriously declining, and 3. the expenditures of the school were escalating at an incredible rate. Contributions for the renovation project were not forth coming as hoped, as well as general parish contributions largely declined. The financial picture was so bleak that Father Shortill refused his salary for many months in order to help pay the parish bills.

Father Shortill's health began to falter and he had to convalesce for several months in order to regain his health. Upon the return of Father Shortill, and once the renovation was completed, the newly consecrated Sixth Bishop of Burlington, John A. Marshall, (1972-1991) came down on February 27, 1972 and blessed the renovated Church. Parishioners slowly adjusted to the new reforms and tempers eventually diminished.

Father Shortill had a very special concern as Pastor: it was in the caring for the poor of the Parish. An Outreach Program was created in 1975 to serve the poor, the elderly, the ill and house bound, as well as people who had little contact with the Parish. Father Shortill established the "Shortill Trust Fund" (which exists today) out of his own funds for the specific purpose of helping the poor. In 1981, this outreach expanded when the Villa Maria Convent

was leased to the State Office on Elderly Services for the operation of a senior citizen / adult day care program. That program continues today in a new facility and is known as Project Independence. Additionally, the former St. Mary's School was leased to the State as a school for the mentally challenged and was named "The Shannon Street School". After the State of Vermont mainstreamed all students into the public school, St. Mary's School again stood empty. Meanwhile, during 1981-1982, Father Shortill had Lexan Polycarbonate installed on the outside of all the stained glass windows. The reason for this was several youngsters were playing in the church driveway and, by accident, threw a rock and it broke a solid blue piece in the Annunciation window. A company out of Maine repaired the blue glass and installed all of the Lexan thus making the outside of each window impervious to breaking. Additionally, Father Shortill had the one large church bathroom, located at the bottom of the tower stairs, converted into two separate bathrooms.

Father Shortill spearheaded one more major project at St. Mary's. The seventy-two year old organ, by 1981, had become mechanically unreliable and repair costs were escalating at an alarming rate. It was determined that the only financially feasible solution was to totally renovate or replace the Estey. Therefore, Father Shortill, Dr. Kevin Parizo, a committee comprised of parishioners, and several professional organists: Mr. John Grady, Organist and Director of Music of St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC, Mr. Pierre Grandmaison - Titular Organist of Notre Dame in Montreal, Dr. Jack Davis, Organist of the Westpoint Military Academy, Mr. John Rose, Senior Organist of Trinity College in Hartford Ct., Dr. Emory Fanning, Organist and Choir Director of Middlebury College, and Dr. William Tortolano, Organist and Professor of Music at St. Michael's College. They undertook the task of obtaining proposals and bids from eight Pipe Organ Companies and three Electronic Organ firms. After thorough review of all bids submitted, the contract was awarded to Mr. John Wessel of Brattleboro to renovate and enlarge the organ to fit the liturgical and musical needs of St. Mary's Church. The bid was for \$68,000 and fund raising began immediately with work beginning in 1983. The organ was completed by mid March 1984 and was debt free thanks to fund raising, proceeds from numerous concerts, and many generous financial gifts from parishioners and people from the Middlebury Community. The Wessel Organ was blessed on April 1, 1984 by Father Shortill and attended by Bishop John Marshall, Bishop Emeritus Robert Joyce, Rev. Msgr. Paul Bresnehan, all deanery clergy, parishioners, and community members. A Sacred Concert of Choral and Organ selections were performed after the Blessing Ceremony by the Parish Choir and Parish Music Director and Organist, Dr. Kevin D. Parizo. The Church was packed to capacity. [the specification sheet for the Wessel Organ and a concert program are found appx. P, T, U]

Monsignor Paul M. Bresnehan (appx. C) was sent to Middlebury in 1983 as the successor to Father Shortill. The two of them co-pastored until Father Shortill retired on June 17, 1984 after a Pastorate of sixteen years. Upon retirement, Father Shortill became the Chaplain at the Loretto Home For The Aged in Rutland for almost eleven years. He died in South Portland, Maine on October 26, 1995 after a series of strokes and is buried in the Shortill Family lot in Calvary Cemetery, South Portland, Maine.

Monsignor Paul M. Bresnehan was born in Proctor, Vermont on July 11, 1928 and ordained into the priesthood on June 5, 1954. He served in many capacities throughout the Diocese and was named a Monsignor in 1967 by Bishop Joyce. He served as a Parochial Vicar (Co-Pastor) with Father Shortill from 1983-1984 and was named Pastor of Middlebury on June 20, 1984 when Father Shortill officially retired. Monsignor Bresnehan oversaw the redecorating of the church interior from 1987 to 1988. This project was in honor of the 150th. Anniversary of Fr. Daley's appointment as Pastor to St. Mary's. In the early 1990s, Monsignor Bresnehan spearheaded the total renovation of all the marble steps in the front of St. Mary's. In addition, he had several of the stained glass art window panels re-lead as well as having the bell in the tower checked and turned so that the clapper, which had been electrified in the early 1950s, would strike another place on the outside of the bell.

Monsignor Bresnehan felt strongly that the Parish should have a pictorial directory. Therefore, he had directories produced in 1988 and in 1993. He also had all of the original altar candle sticks, several of the antique chalices, patens, and ciborium's refurbished and re-plated in gold. This work was done at the shops of Desmarais et Robitaille in Montreal, Quebec during 1994. Monsignor Bresnehan was transferred to St. Dominic's Church in Proctor, Vermont on June 26, 1996. He served as Pastor there until his retirement in 2002. He died July 23, 2003 and is buried in the family lot at St. Dominic's Cemetery in Proctor, Vermont.

Father John McDermott, (appx. D) born March 19, 1963 in New Jersey, was the seventh of ten children. He was named Administrator of St. Mary's on June 26, 1996 and named Pastor on June 23, 1999. Although Father McDermott was only at St. Mary's until 2001, he accomplished an impressive amount. In 1997-1998, he formed a feasibility committee to study the idea of re-opening St. Mary's School. The school re-opened in 1999 for several grade levels and was staffed by licensed lay teachers. Over the next few years the school expanded the grade levels until it had reached Pre-School through grade 8. The Villa Maria Convent was used for the Pre-School with Kindergarten through grade eight in the main school.

Additionally, Father McDermott undertook a capital campaign in August 1999 entitled "Preserving Our Legacy". The purpose of this \$600,000 campaign was to raise funds for the re-pointing and sealing of the outside of the entire Church, a new furnace for the Church, painting and plaster work in the interior of the Church, and parish hall upgrades. The pointing on the outside of the building was completed, as was the furnace for the Church and there was some plastering and painting of the inside of the Church. However, other projects slated to be completed were not because the \$600,000 goal was not reached. Father McDermott worked closely with Middlebury College and negotiated with them for repairs to the Church parking lot in exchange for allowing College employees from the Sunderland Language Building to park in the Church lot. In August of 1999, Father McDermott had repairs done on the inside of the bell tower as well as reconstructing the carriage entrance which was deteriorating. Father McDermott was transferred in 2001 and served several other parishes until 2004 when he began serving, full time, in the Diocesan Chancery Office. He was named a Monsignor in 2008 and then Prelate of Honor in 2012. He is presently (2022) Vicar General for the Diocese of Burlington and Pastor of the Newman Center at the University of Vermont.

In 2001, Father Denis Breton, coming from the Holy Cross Church in Morrisville, Vermont, became the Pastor of St. Mary's. While he was Pastor in Middlebury, Father Breton indicated that he would be celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination. He had mentioned that he thought that the original statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph (appx. L) were very attractive and should be used. Therefore, as a gift from the Parish in celebration of his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination, both statues were refurbished and put in the chancel, behind the baptismal font, replacing the wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This area became a shrine to the Holy Family and the wooden statue was placed on the wall of the vestibule. Father Breton left in 2002 for personal reasons.

Father Peter Williams was named Pastor in 2002, and resigned after a few months for health reasons. During the balance of 2002 and into early 2003 a Curate was at the helm of the Parish. In 2003, the Diocese sent Father Charles Davignon, a retired Senior Priest of the Diocese, as the Administrator. Father Davignon's pleasant nature and pastoral experience helped to bring a sense of calm to the Parish. Father Davignon "retired" from St. Mary's in late 2003 and will be fondly remembered as the Priest who had the locks changed on every door of the Church, Rectory, School, and Convent so that one key opened everything instead of having to carry more than twenty-five keys every where one went.

Essex Junction native Father Justin Baker (appx. D) replaced Father Davignon and became became Pastor of St. Mary's in 2004. He immediately went to work in rebuilding the confidence and stability of the Parish. Father Baker's warm and jovial personality created an effervescent quality that spread quickly through the Parish community and the Catholic School. He came into the Priesthood with a knowledge of business, having owned and operated his own business for several years prior to entering the seminary. His business prowess proved to be beneficial in getting the parish financials back on the correct path. Father Baker's hard working ethic and dedication to Parish and School, mixed with humor and his "down to earth" nature brought the Parish and School back from the uncertain future that preceded his arrival in Middlebury. During his Pastorate, St. Mary's School student population reached almost one hundred. However there were indications that a decline in school population was surfacing throughout the county and the State.

Father Baker decided that the original high altar angels that had been stored in the Church attic should be on display in the front of the chancel area. After having the two altar Angels restored, he placed them at each end of the chancel or on either side of the chancel cross. Eventually, the angels were placed on the wings of the choir loft where they are presently (2022) located. In his tenure as Pastor, Father Baker received the donation of the crucified body of Christ which hangs on the large chancel cross. He addressed the serious problem of having to re-point sections of the church building as well as re-mortaring portions of the church chimneys after several sections of the chimneys fell to the ground. On September 23, 2007 Father Baker invited Bishop Salvatore Matano, (appx. E) (2005-2013) Ninth Bishop of Burlington, to a Parish celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the present St. Mary's Church building. This celebration consisted of Mass, a short concert of organ and choral music, and a

reception in the Parish hall. Father Baker was transferred to Rutland and became Pastor of Christ the King Church and School in Rutland in late June of 2008.

Father William R. Beaudin,(appx. D) was transferred from Holy Cross Church in Morrisville and was named Pastor of St. Mary's in July 2008. He realized one of the challenges facing the Parish was the escalating costs and the rapid declining enrollment at the school. He worked tirelessly with the School Board, the Parish Council, the Finance Board and the Diocese trying to find ways of keeping St. Mary's School open. In addition to the costs and declining enrollment, Father Beaudin faced a constant "revolving door" of school principals and teachers. After numerous meetings with all the entities, the decision was made to close the school on June of 2016.

Unfortunately, the organ console (appx. P) which had been installed in 1982-1983 was deteriorating at an alarming rate. It was found out that the Klann Organ Company, which made the console for St. Mary's, was bankrupt and out of business. Therefore, the organ technician, Mr. Robert Waters, informed the Parish that we should seriously think about replacing the console since locating parts for the Klann console were very difficult to find as well as extremely costly. Father Beaudin, Dr. Kevin Parizo, and the Parish Council were very concerned that the organ console would quit and leave the parish in a precarious predicament. Therefore, discussions ensued about the best course of action in order to rectify this problem.

Dr. Parizo shared this problem with Dr. Charles Callahan, who was Executive Director and Founder of the Vermont Conservatory of Music. One of the Conservatory's main objectives was to help any church that was facing serious problems with their organ. By January 17, 2009, Callahan and the Vermont Conservatory of Music started working with Parizo on the possibility of finding a replacement console. In early March, the Vermont Conservatory of Music made a generous offer of an organ console as well as digital upgrades. (appx. Q) This offer included all parts and labor and the only expense to the Parish was to pay for a licensed electrician to connect the power sources. Following review and acceptance by the Parish and Finance Councils, along with the permission of Bishop Matano and the Diocesan Administration Board, the Parish accepted this magnanimous offer which had a financial value of approximately \$150,000. The Walker Technical Company from Ziionsville, Pennsylvania, supplied the "new" three manual console and all of the digital upgrades. Mr. Alan E. Sterner of Sterner Pipe Organs from Pennsylvania was hired by the Vermont Conservatory of Music to oversee the installation. The installation was completed by April 2009 and St. Mary's had one of the finest organs in the State of Vermont. [specification sheet is on appx. V] The Parish owed a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dr. Charles Callahan, the Vermont Conservatory of Music, and Mr. Maynard McLaughlin and Bread Loaf Construction, who donated their services in providing a lift and man power to hoist the old console out of the loft and put the new one in. (appx. Q)

In 2014, Father Beaudin launched a capital campaign entitled "Grateful For Our Past" in order to address many issues that the Parish was facing. This financial capital campaign's goal was set at \$775,000 and was the largest to ever face the Parish. Due to the extreme generosity of parishioners, community, and Middlebury College, the goal was surpassed and the final total raised was slightly over \$940,000.

The list of completed projects were:

- a) new Vermont Slate roof for the entire Church,
- b) heating system for the Villa Maria,
- c) painting / redecorating the inside of the church, vestibule, sacristy, and Stations of the Cross
- d) installation of new safety flood lights on the outside of the church and garage,
- e) new carpeting through the interior of the church
- f) painting of the exterior of the Villa Maria Convent
- g) new lighting installed in the Church Sanctuary and Choir Loft

Additionally, Father Beaudin had a new digital control panel installed that operates the Angelus Bell in the tower, accepted the gift of the Steinway Grand Piano, worked out negotiations with the College so that they paid for the repaving of the Church and Rectory parking lots, and oversaw the sale of the Rectory and Parish Hall at the Parish's mission Church, St. Bernadette's in Bridport. Father Beaudin was transferred in June of 2017 to become Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Colchester and Holy Cross Church in Mallets Bay.

Rutland native, Father Luke Austin (appx. D) became Pastor of Middlebury in July 2017 coming from the Churches of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Louis Parish in Swanton and Highgate. He completed his Law Degree from George Washington University Law School in 2002, graduated from North American College in Rome, and was ordained in 2010. After ordination, the Diocese sent Father Austin to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in order to earn a Doctorate in Canon Law Degree. He is presently the Judicial Vicar of the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese. Father Austin oversaw the project of rectifying the water leakage problem in the Parish hall. After successfully completing this Father Austin had the entire Parish hall and adjoining rooms repainted. He purchased new hardcover "Credo" hymnals and separate missals for each pew. These liturgical resource books replaced the paperback style of missals / hymnals that had previously been used for many years and whose costs had risen tremendously. This purchase was part of the Diocesan Campaign called "Christ Our Hope". Father Austin installed a new bathroom at the mission Church, St. Bernadette's in Bridport and a new side entrance door equipped with an electric opener at St. Mary's.

The history of a Parish and Church is fascinating, educational, exciting, and humbling especially when looking "through the eyes" of those who were an integral part of it. While the history of Church of the Blessed Assumption (St. Mary's) in Middlebury, Vermont is limited from 1822 to present day, one realizes that the "history" of this Parish is but a microcosm of the history of the State of Vermont, its earliest settlers up through present day Parishioners, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, Vermont. Through toil, labor, hardships, uncertainties, good times, and most especially faith in God, one can walk side by side with those individuals, past and present, who have brought us to this present day of 2022. The Episcopal motto of The Most Reverend Bishop, Louis de Goesbriand, First Catholic Bishop of Vermont (1853-1899) is as applicable today as it was decades ago: **"Deus Providebit - God Will Provide"**

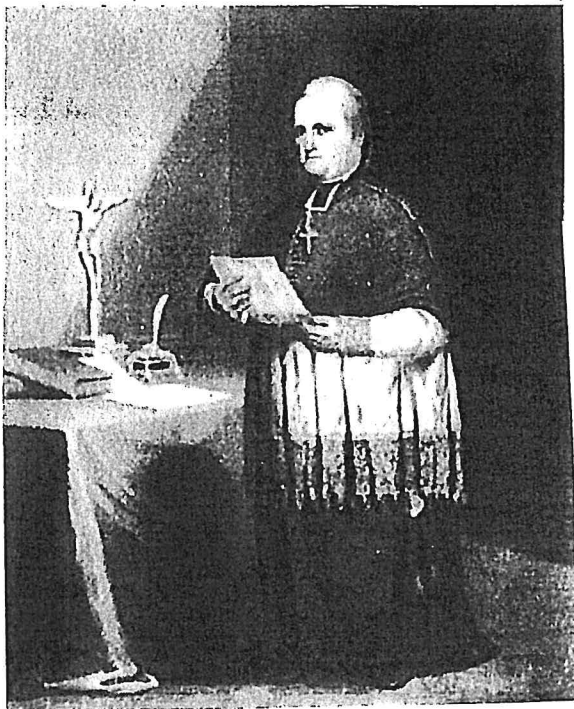
Dr. Kevin D. Parizo Ph.D.

April 2022 - Middlebury, Vermont

PICTORIAL APPENDIX

Joseph-Octave Plessis

Archbishop of Quebec



Benedict Joseph Fenwick S.J.

Bishop of Boston



Early Missionary Priests who Pastored in Middlebury



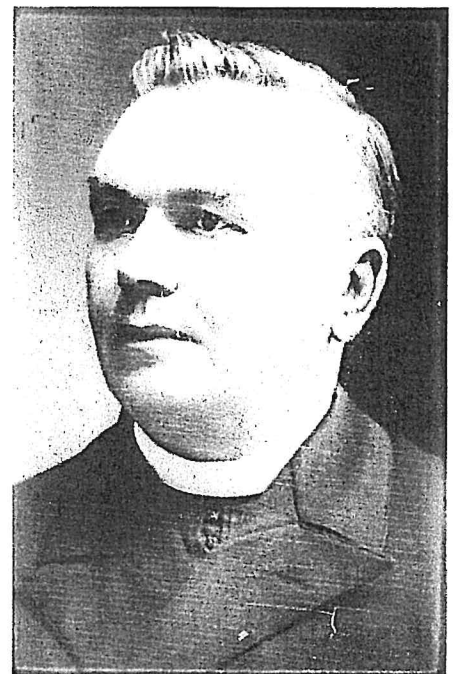
Fr. Peter DeCalvez

1857-1860



Fr. J.M.P. Duglue

1858-1860



Fr. Patrick Cunningham

1866-1881



Fr. Edward Maloney

1881-1886



Fr. Henry Lane

1887-1892



Fr. Jerome Gelot

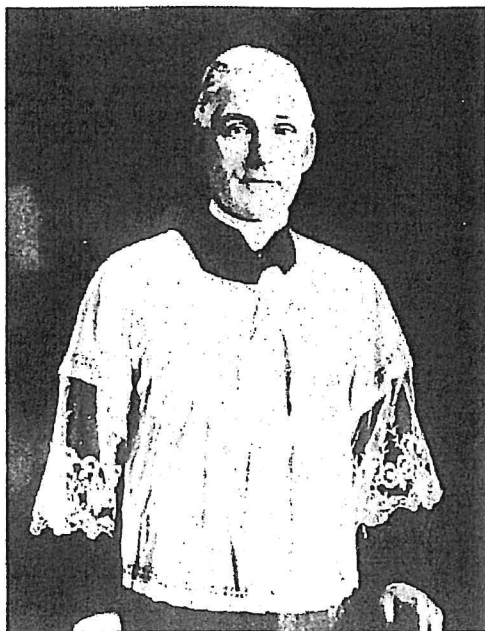
1892-1899

The Pastors of St. Mary's Church



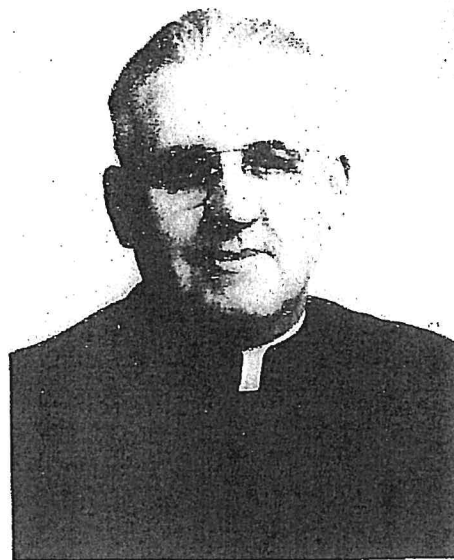
Fr. James Shannon

1899-1913



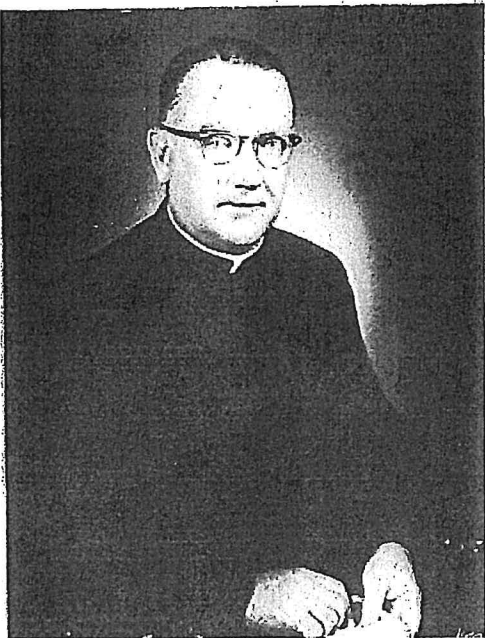
Fr. Thomas Leonard

1913-1947



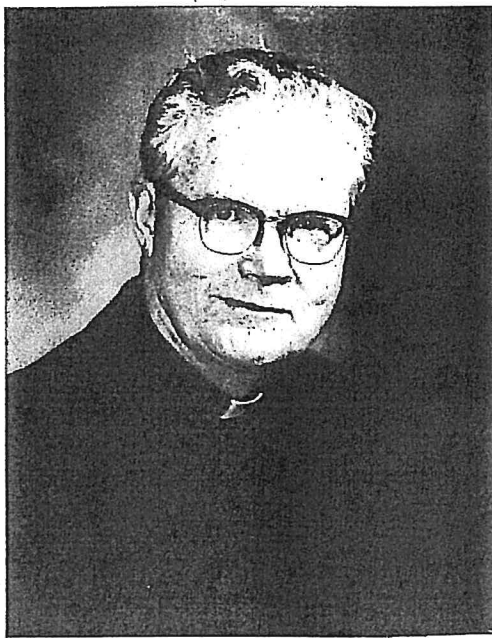
Fr. Harold Barrett

1949-1956



Fr. John Mahoney

1956-1966



Fr. John Shortill

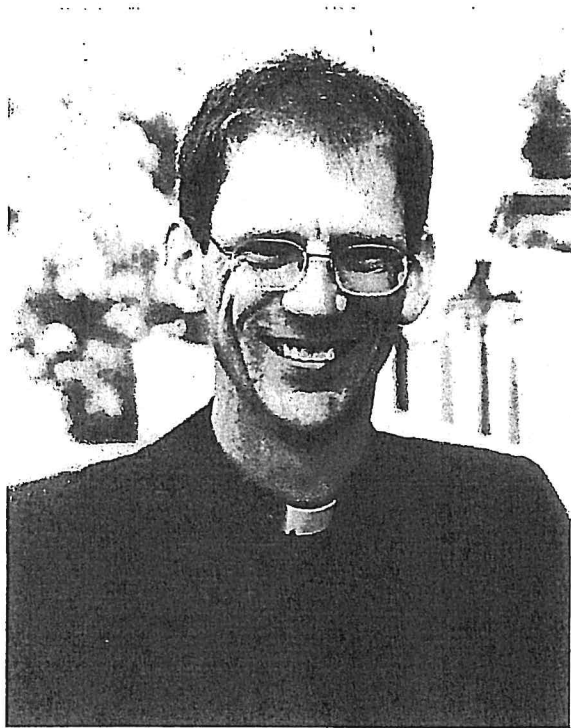
1968-1984



Msgr. Paul Bresnehan

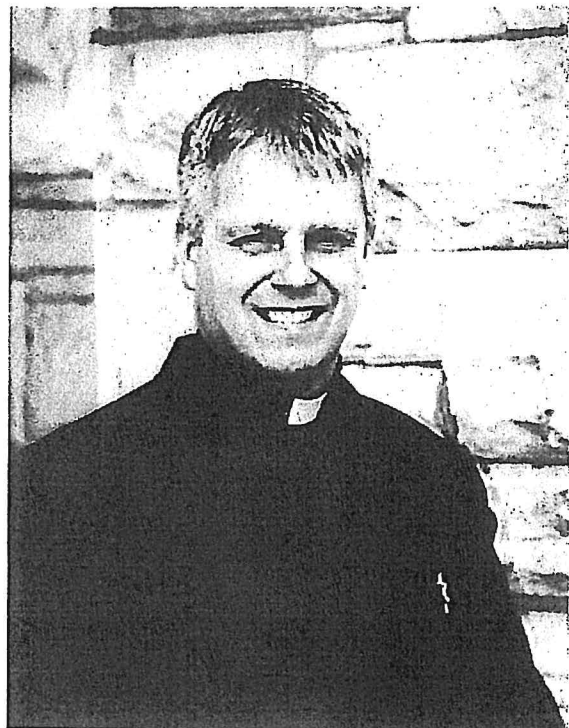
1984-1996

The Pastors of St. Mary's Church



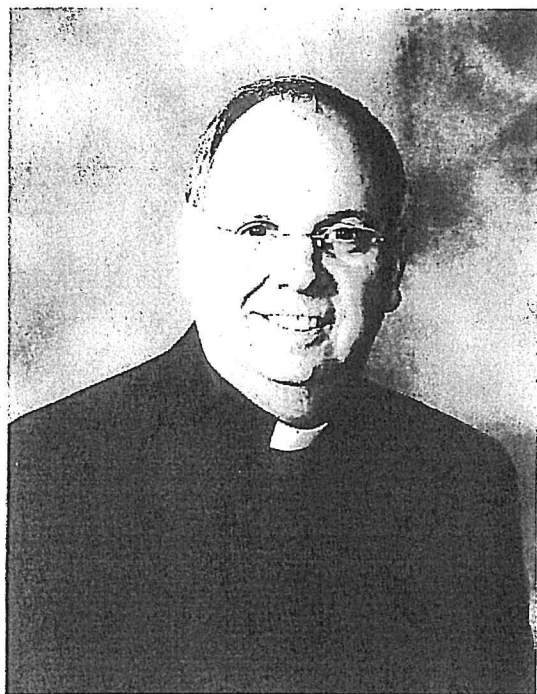
Fr. John McDermont

1996-2001



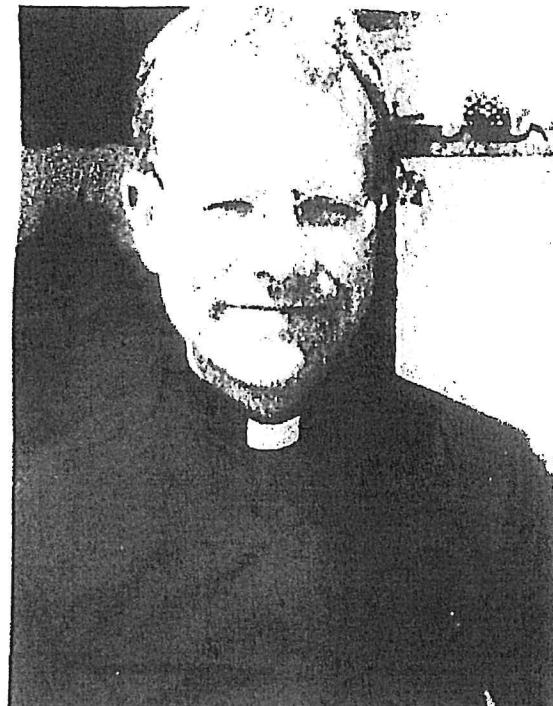
Fr. Justin Baker

2002-2017



Fr. William Beaudin

2008-2017



Fr. Luke Austin

2017-

The Bishops of the Diocese of Burlington

taken from Vermont Catholic Tribune



Bishop Louis deGoesbriand

First Bishop of Burlington
1853–1899

"the founding bishop"



Bishop John Stephen Mitchard

Second Bishop of Burlington
1899–1908

"the builder bishop"



Bishop Joseph John Rice

Third Bishop of Burlington
1910–1938

"the education bishop"



Bishop Matthew Francis Brady

Fourth Bishop of Burlington
1938–1944

"the short-term bishop"



Bishop Edward Francis Ryan

Fifth Bishop of Burlington
1944–1956

"champion of rural churches"



Bishop Robert Francis Joyce

Sixth Bishop of Burlington
1956–1971

"the Vatican II bishop"



Bishop John Aloysius Marshall

Seventh Bishop of Burlington
1972–1991

"the quintessential teacher-bishop"



Bishop Kenneth Anthony Angell

Eighth Bishop of Burlington
1992–2005

"the respect life bishop"



Bishop Salvatore Ronald Matano

Ninth Bishop of Burlington
2005–2013

"bishop of authenticity"



Bishop Christopher James Coyne

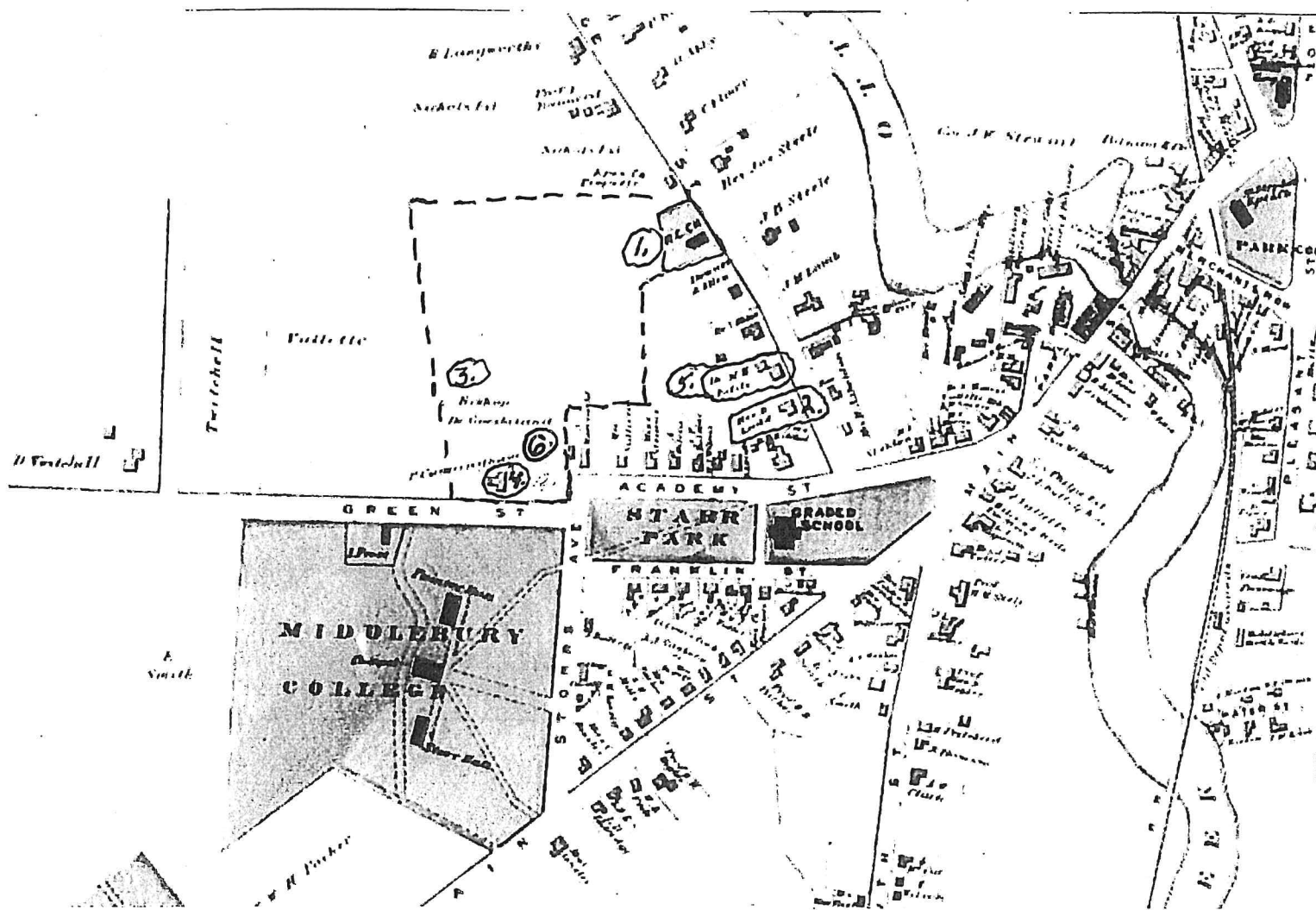
Tenth Bishop of Burlington
2015–present

"the blogging bishop"

1871 Map of Middlebury, Vermont in Addison County

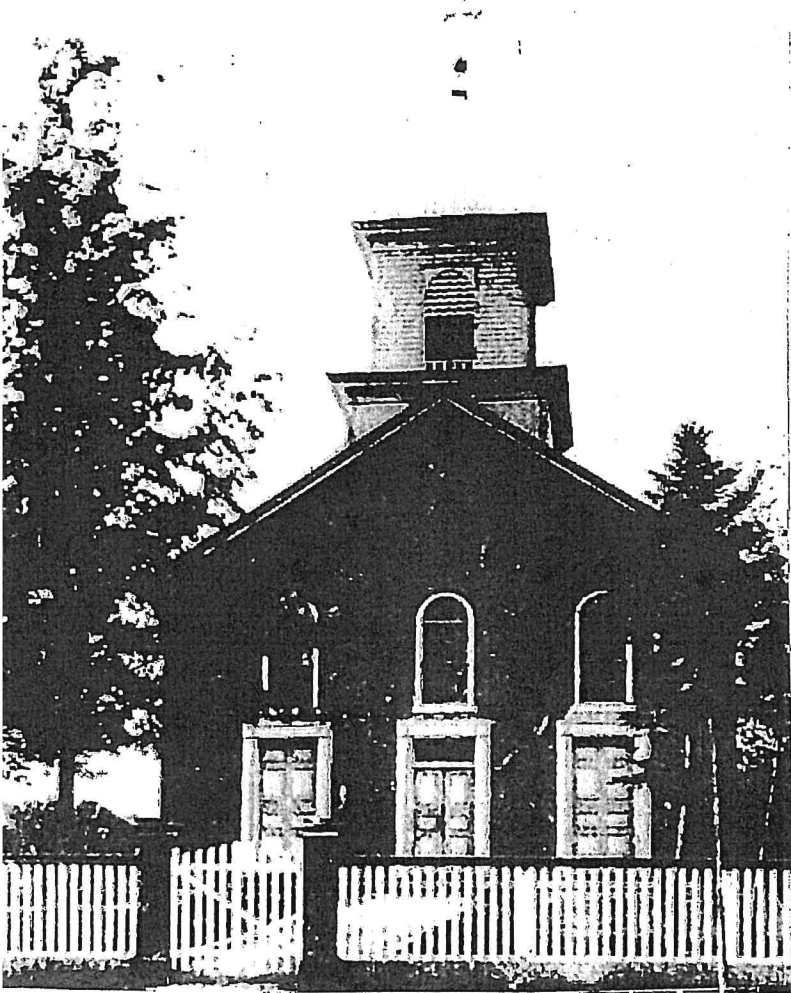
Published by F. W. Beers & Co. in 1871

Historic Map Works Residential Genealogy

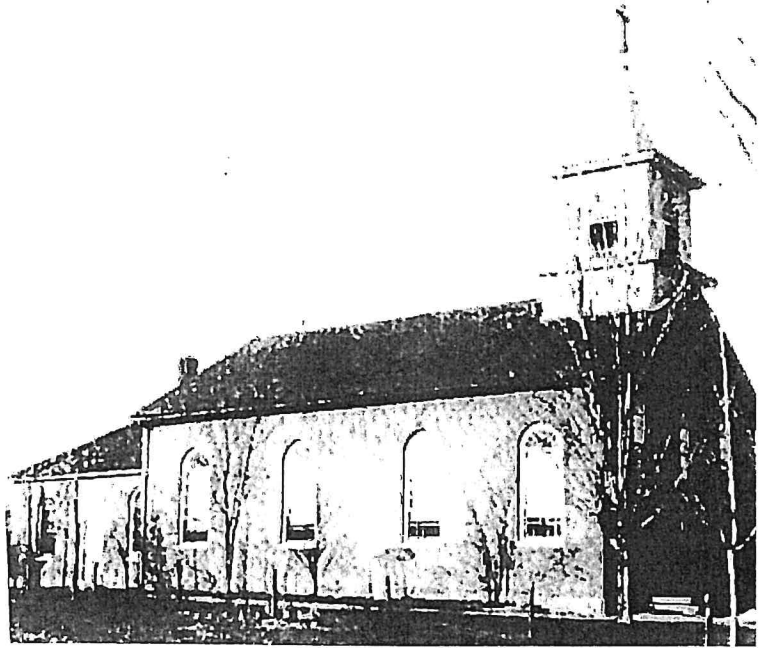


1. First Catholic Church built 1839-1840
2. First Rectory purchased in 1858 then sold to Rev. Ladd in early 1880's.
3. Tract of land deeded to Bishop de Goesbriand in 1882 from Morcombe's, Myrick's, and Cunningham's.
4. Myrick's deed buildings and land to Bishop de Goesbriand - 1896 (present day Rectory)
5. Eddy House purchased 1934. (present day Villa Maria / parish offices)
6. Present day (2022) St. Mary's Church - corner-stone laid 1895

The Original St. Mary's Church



c. 1900

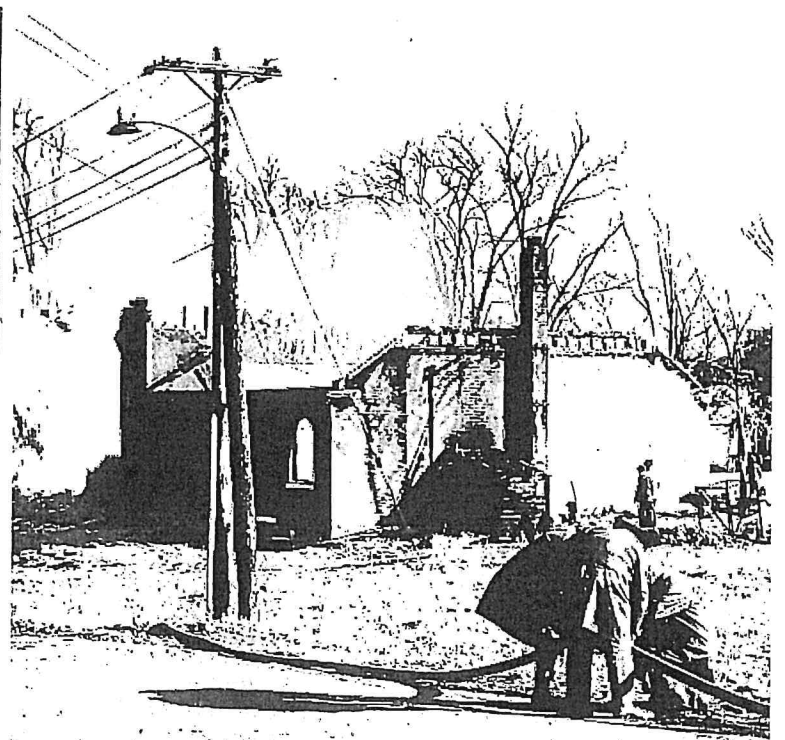


c. 1880's

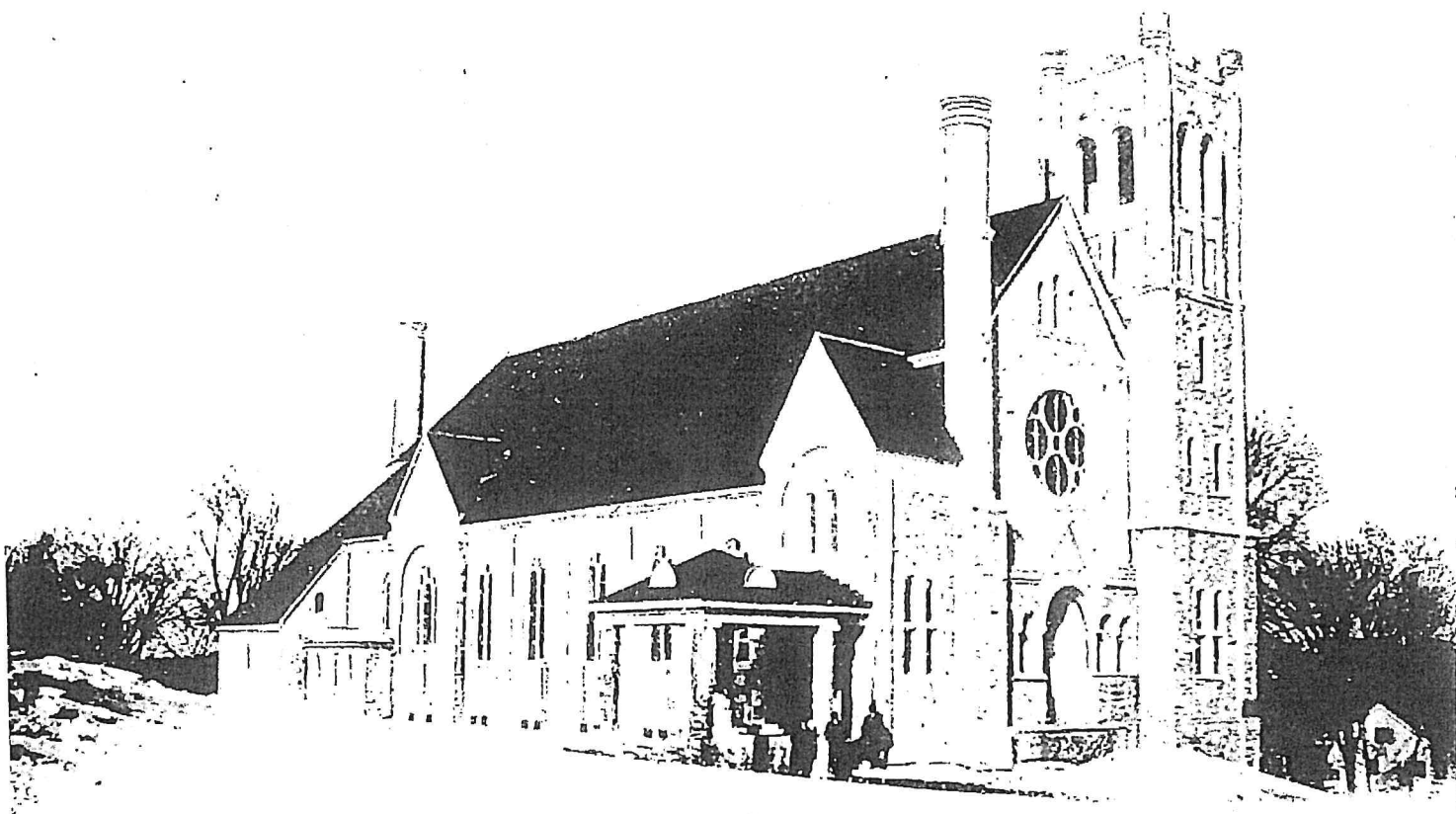
Middlebury College
Play House 1940



Middlebury College Play House - Original St. Mary's Church
Fire - December, 1954



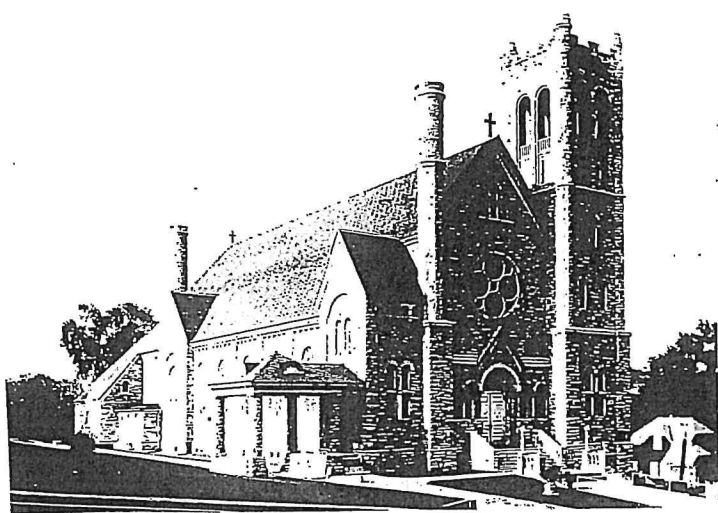
Church of the Assumption B.V.M. - St. Mary's



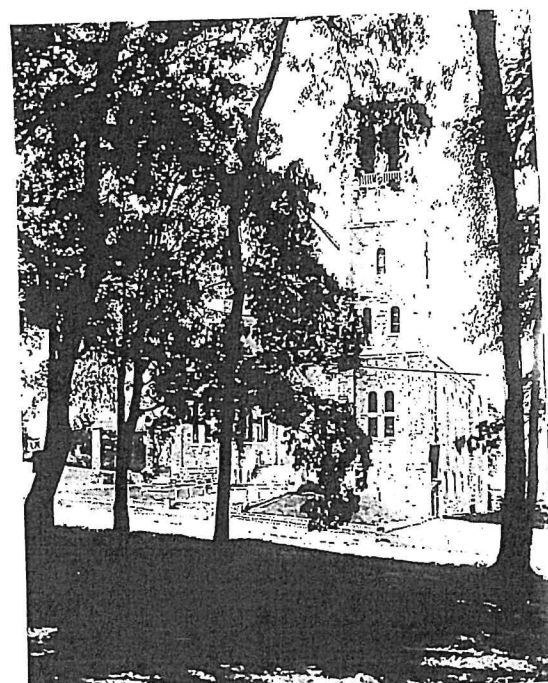
c. 1900

This is one of the very few photos of Church during construction

Note: workmen outdoors of carriage entrance - no steps in front of Church



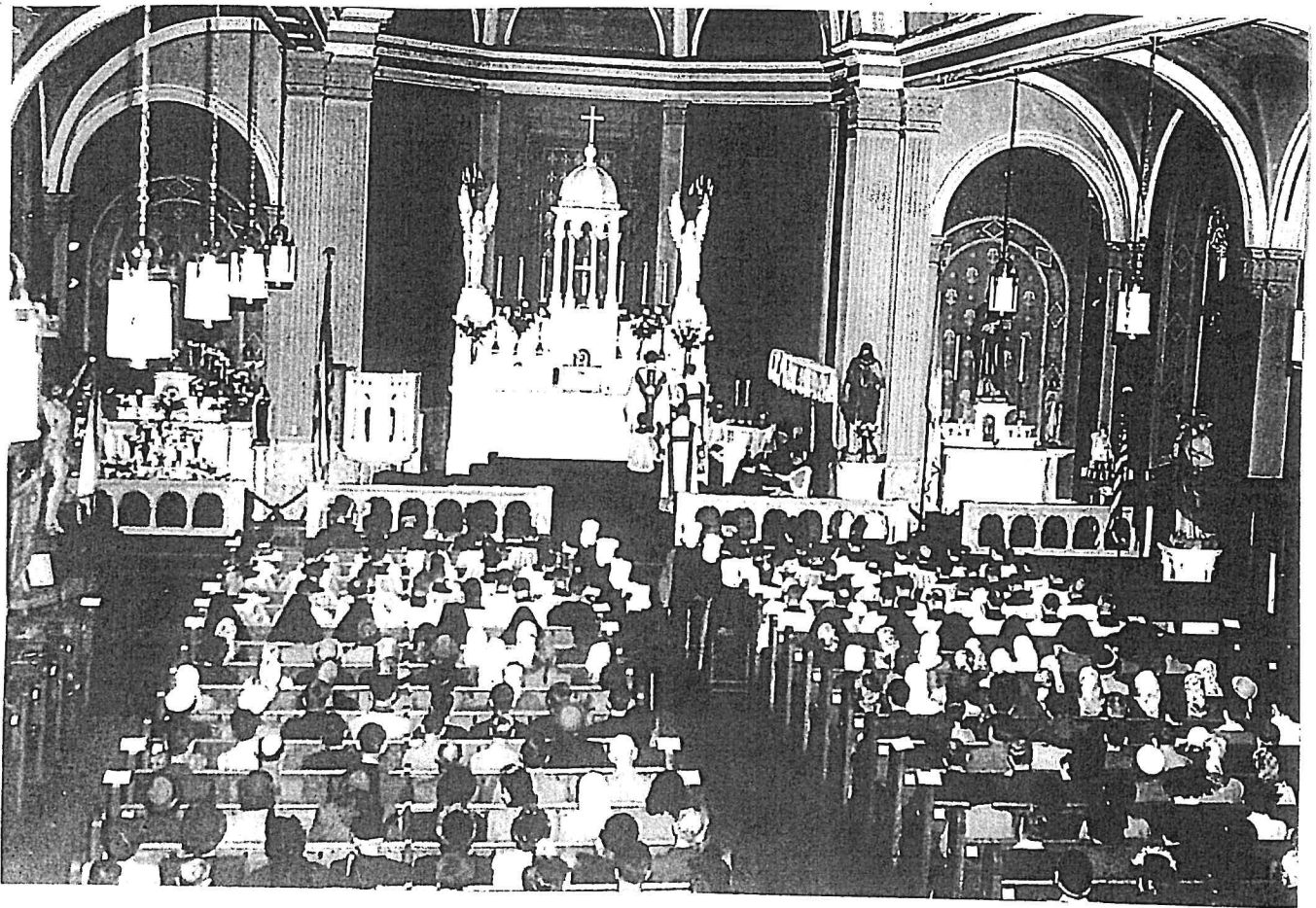
c. 1940's



c. 1930's

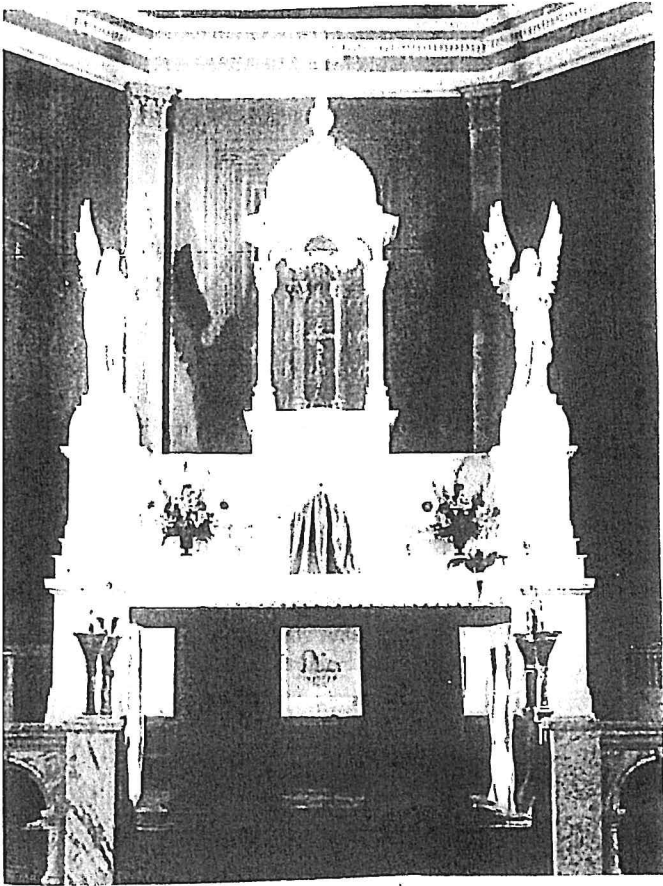


This photograph is taken around Christmas c. 1914. Please note the pulpit is raised and is located on the right side of the chancel. The pulpit was moved to the left side and lowered to floor level in the 1940s. The angels on the high altar are holding candelabras and directly in the center of the chancel, you will see the elaborate silver sanctuary lamp hanging from the ceiling. It is holding the garland that is draped from it. This sanctuary lamp was removed in the 1950s and replaced with a wall mounted lamp. The original was stored along with other church artifacts upstairs in the old barn / garage that burned to the ground in 1968. Please note that there are no hanging lights throughout the church. Lights were recessed along the two main carrying support beams and shown up into the ceiling. The light then reflected down from the ceiling into the body of the church. The crucifixion scene statuary on the left front was moved in the 1940s to the floor next to the confessional. It was destroyed and discarded during 1967-1968. The dome was gilded and the chancel lunettes were a combination of hand painted mosaics. The crèche seen on the far right was donated by the girls of the St. Cecilia Guild in 1912. Note the "Gloria Angel" that hangs over the holy family. This angel was either stolen or lost many years ago. You will notice that the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Child Jesus and the statue of St. Joseph are painted in very light colors. The heavy velvet (dark green) cords that are on the marble altar rail that lead into the chancel are visible.



This photograph was taken from the choir loft in 1950 during the ceremony of the proclamation of the "Dogma of the Assumption". This dogma is the "Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII, Munificentissimus Deus, defining the Dogma of the Assumption, proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in Rome on November 1, 1950". The ceremony is presided over by His Excellency, Bishop Edward Francis Ryan, fifth Bishop of Burlington. He is seated under the canopy on the right side of the front of the chancel. Note how the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is heavily decorated with candles and flowers. You will note that the raised pulpit has been moved to the left front of the chancel and that there are hanging lights throughout the church. In this photograph, please note that the statuary of the Crucifixion scene has been placed on the floor (front-left). The statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is on the right hand side front of the chancel (behind the Bishop's throne) and the Good Shepherd statue is on the floor- far right hand side next to the confessional. All of these statues were destroyed and discarded in 1967-1968. Please note that by the time that this photograph was taken, the wall coverings in the chancel and the chancel lunettes have all been changed (renovation during the 1940's). Since this Mass was a Diocesan celebration, please note that the white vested clergy are in the front six pews followed directly behind in the next pew on both sides by the Sisters of Mercy.

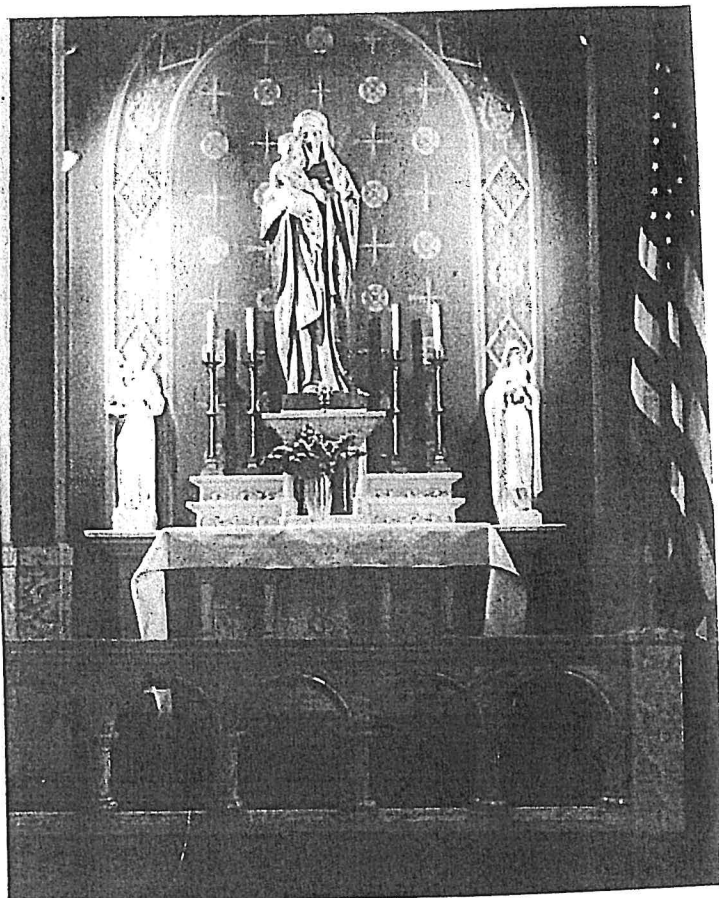
These pictures were taken by Richard Cole the day before the altars were dismantled.



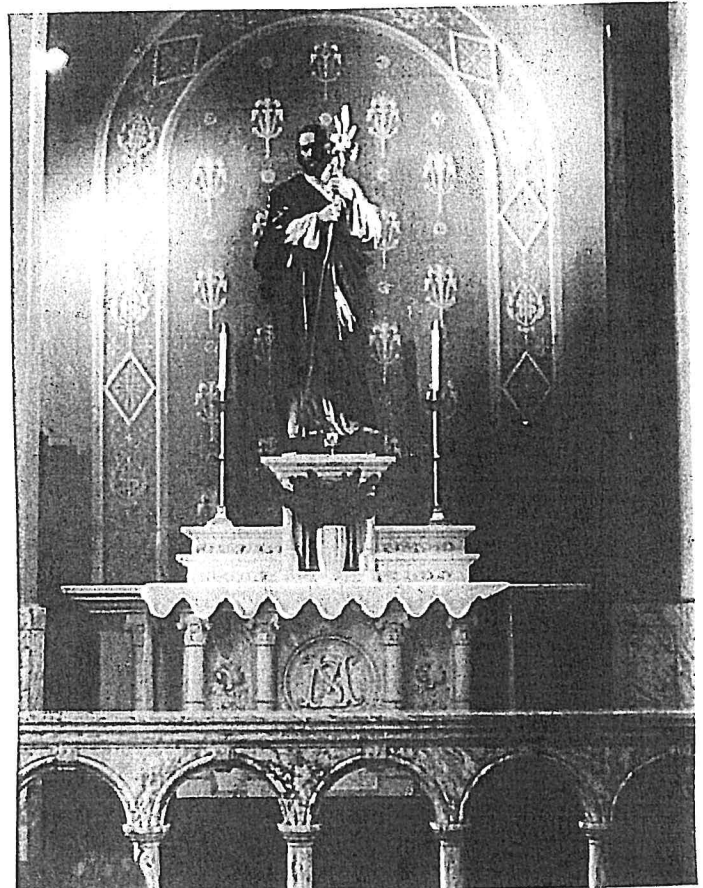
Main Altar



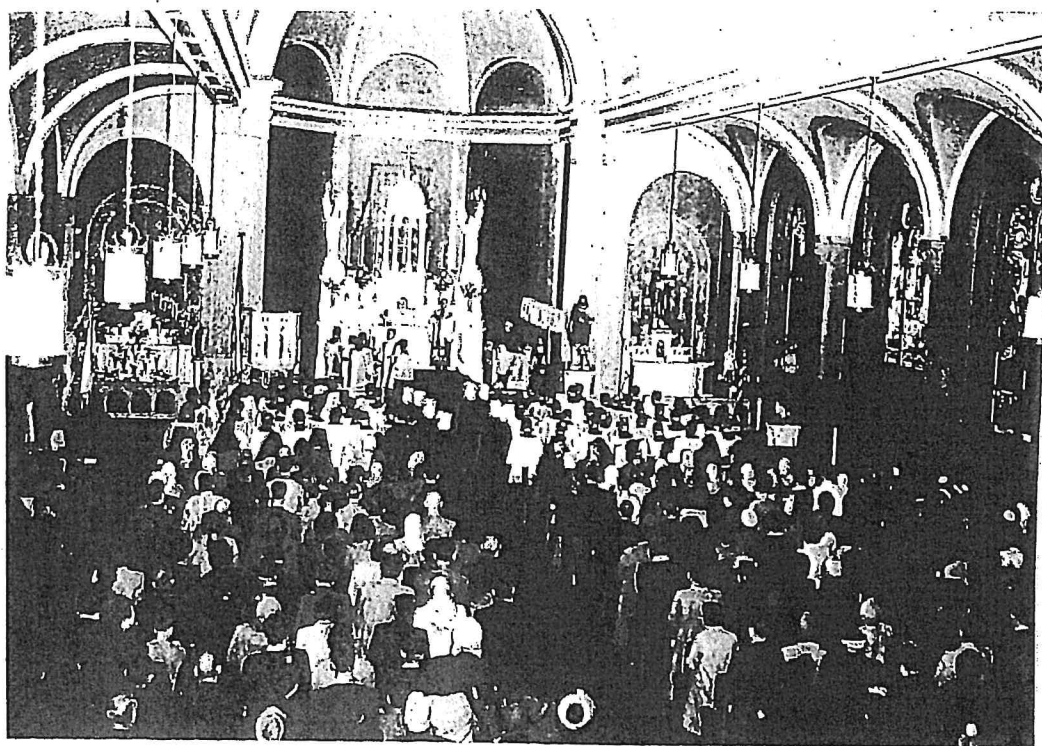
Front of St. Mary's - Three Altars



Blessed Virgin Mary Altar



St. Joseph Altar

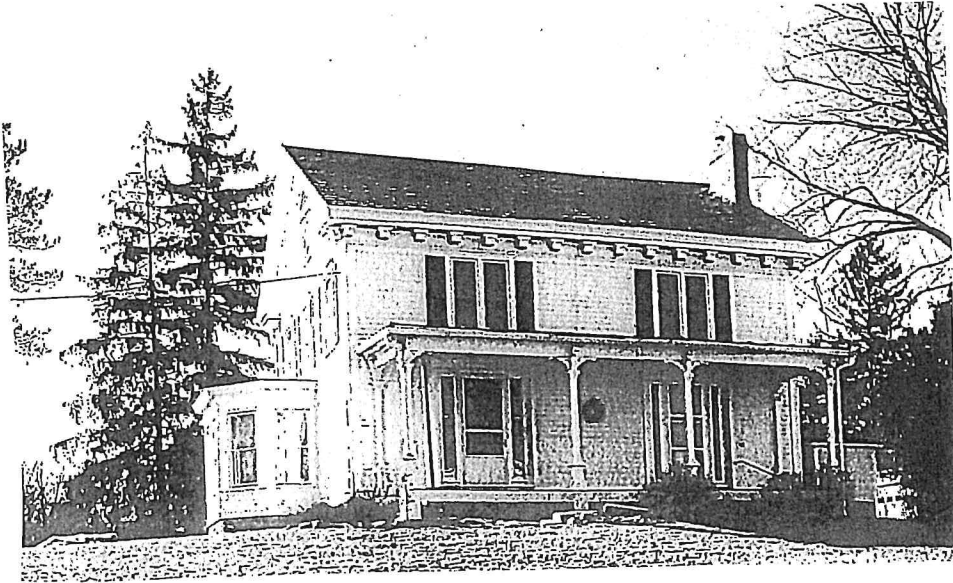
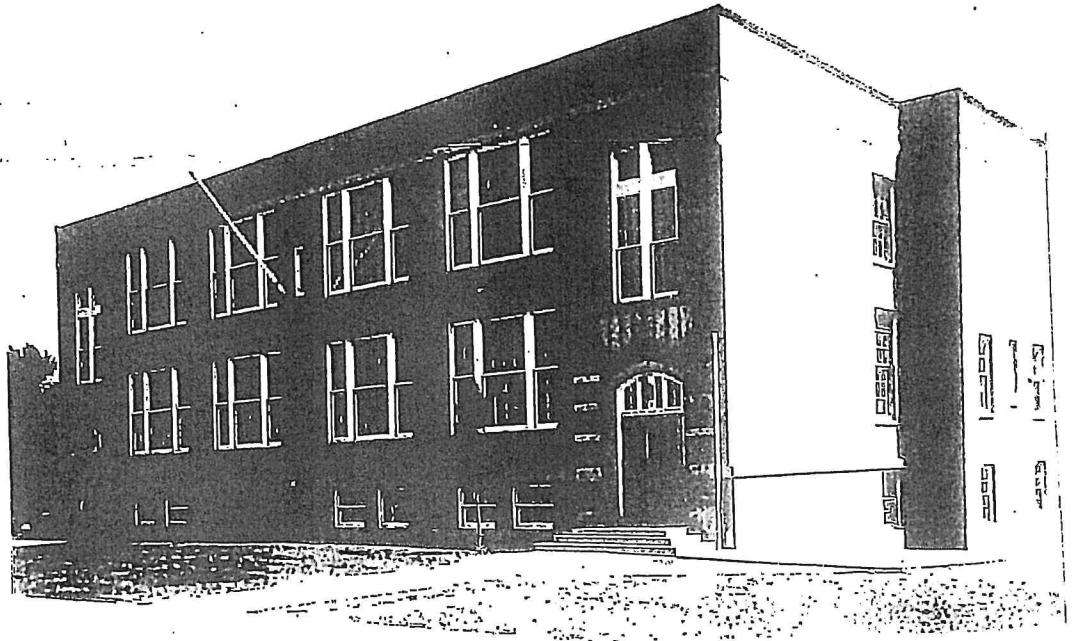


**Saint Mary's Church
Prior to 2nd Vatican Council**



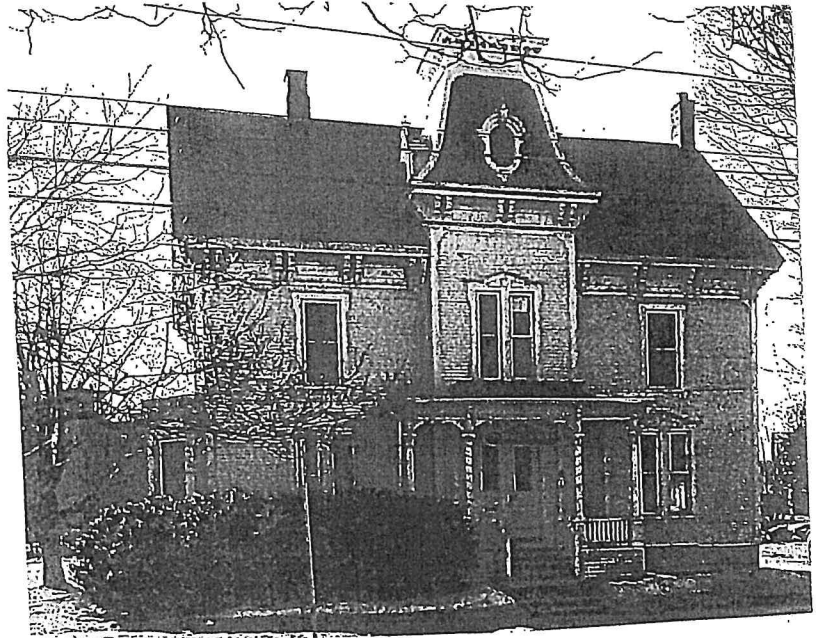
**Saint Mary's Church
after the Liturgical Reforms**

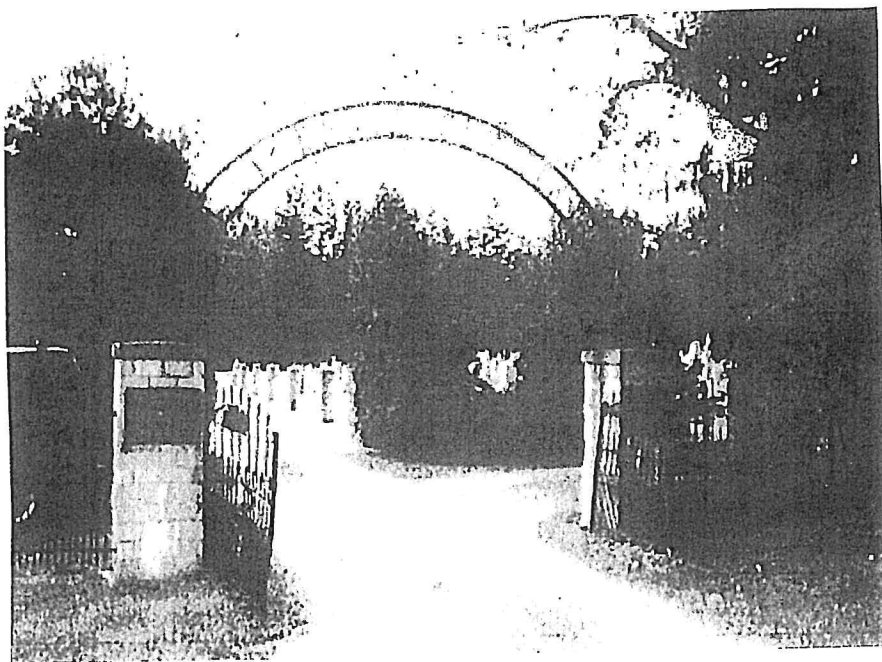
St. Mary's Catholic School
Opened in 1940



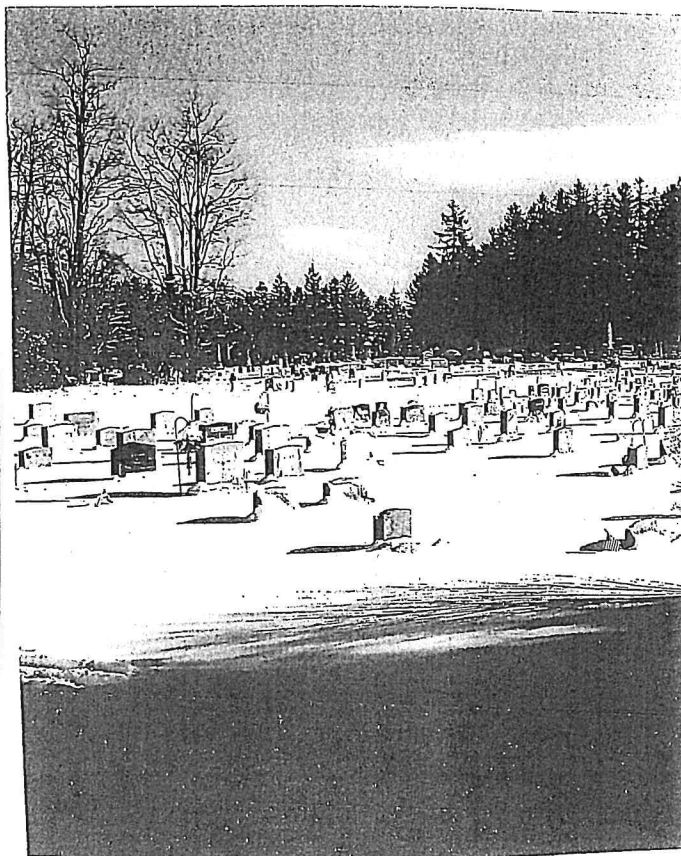
St. Mary's Church Rectory
Acquired in 1896

Villa Maria Convent
Bought in 1934





St. Mary's Cemetery
Land Purchased in 1881

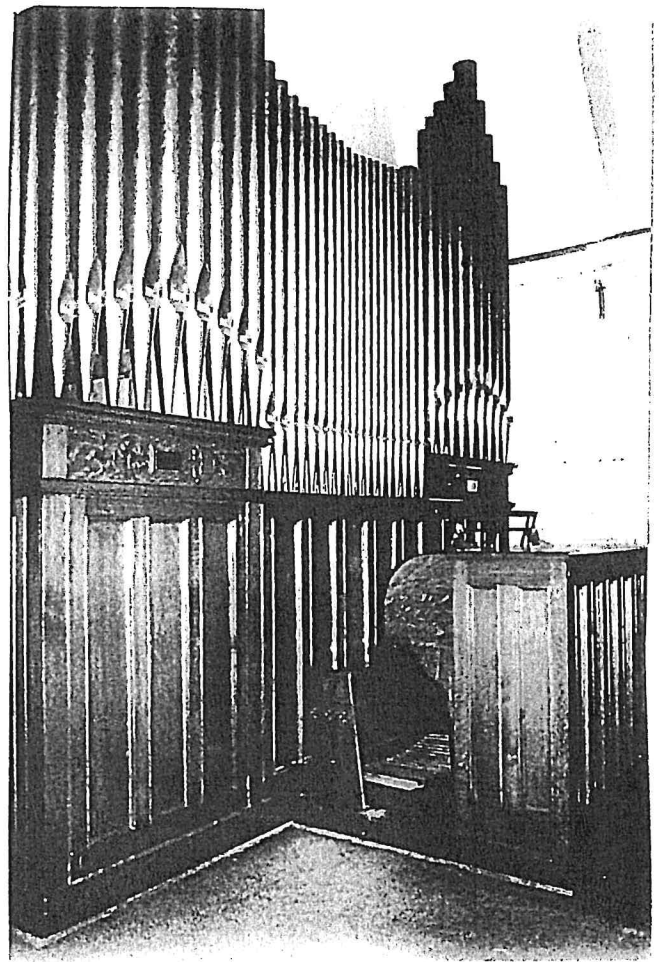
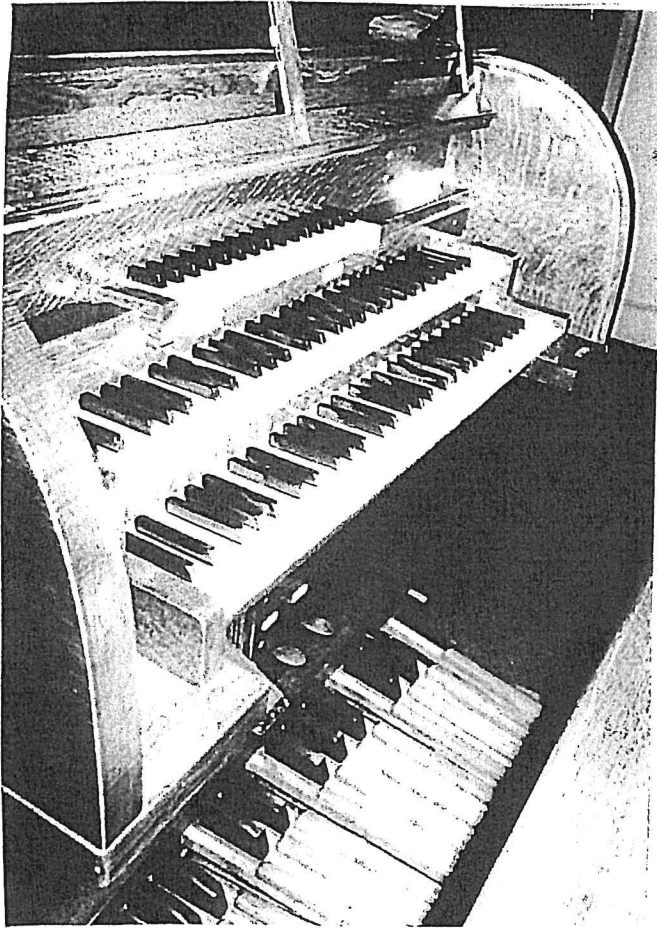


Small Gas Station on Main Street
Bought - 1937 / Sold - 1971

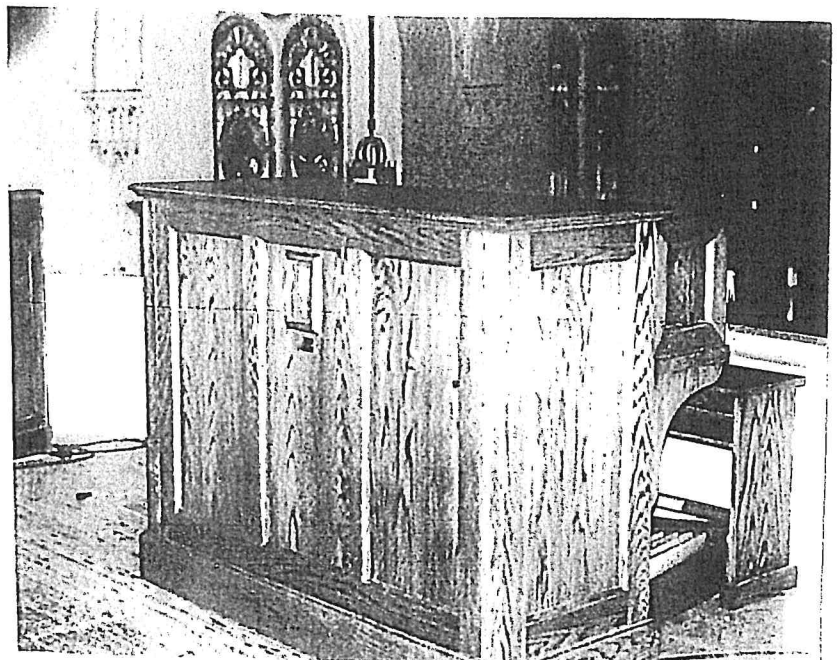


Warren House - Sayre Place - Federation Building
Bought - 1911 / Sold - 1945

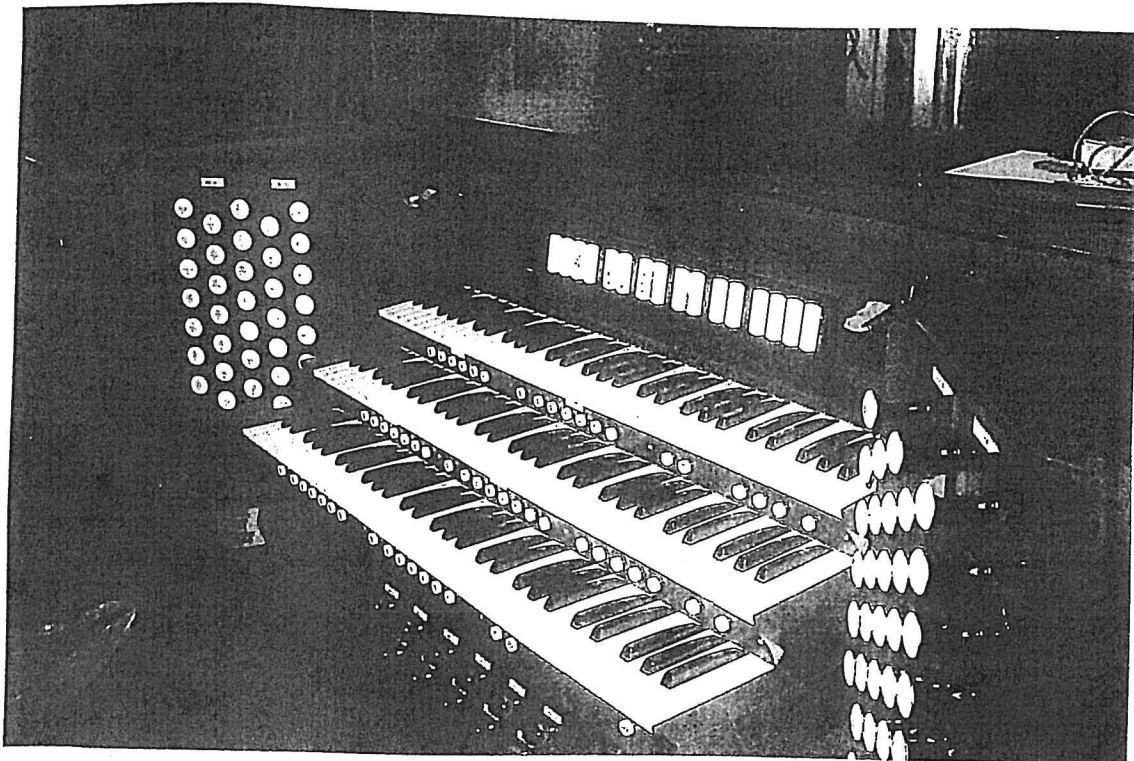
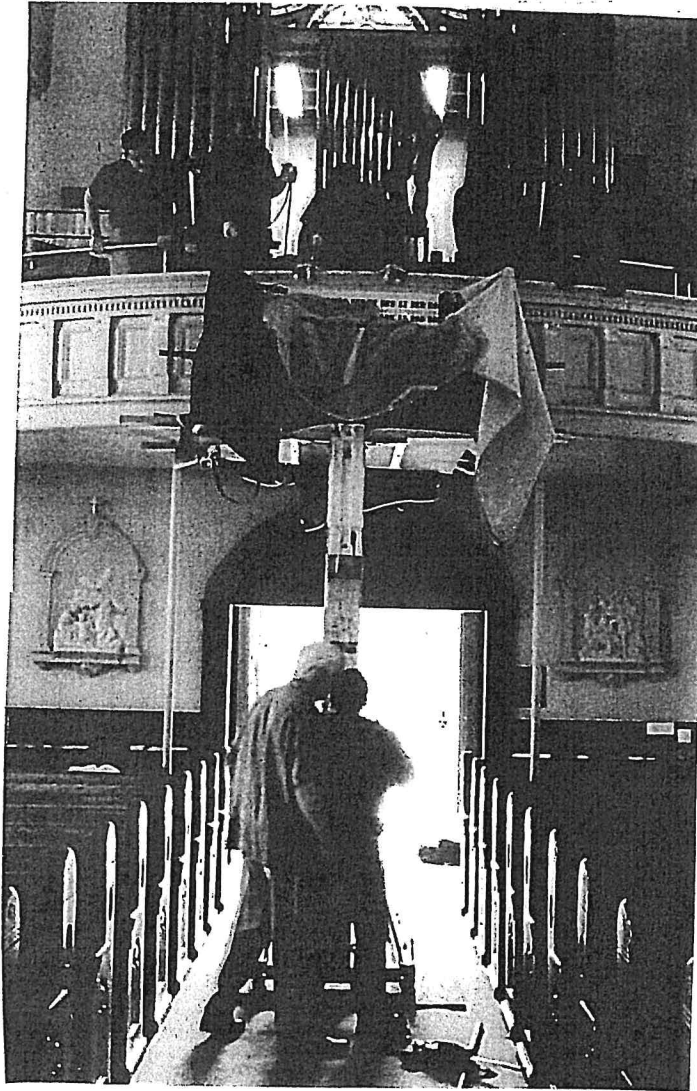
Estey Organ # 755 1909



Wessel Organ 1983-1984



Breadloaf Construction lifting the new console. 2009



Estey / Wessel / Walker Organ 2009

Q

ESTEY PIPE ORGAN # 755 - CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION B.V.M.
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT - DEDICATED APRIL 3, 1910

" The organ is strongly built on extra heavy grounds sill, the upright frame rigidly built and firmly put together, the sell box is of heavy material framed together with vertical slats, brushed with felt, so constructed as to be tight closing and noises in operation. The bellows is of ample size to supply wind for the greater possible demand. It, also, is framed with panels screwed on, is double leathered with the best alum tanned sheep skin. The wind closet is "pneumatic:" each pipe having its separate supply of wind, so there can be no robbing, or unsteadiness of speech. The compressed air, through pneumatic brass tubes, operates each individual valve and obviates all use of complicated levers or "trackers" and insures easy and instantaneous operation. It is fits with the Haskell patent key stop-action, which consists of an abridged keyboard just over the top manual, each white key when depressed brings on the pipes or couplers indicated on front of key; depressing the companion black key closes the same. The action, including manuals, pedals and stop action, is what as known as the "Tubular Pneumatic." The wood pipes are of select pine stock, air seasoned to insure tone. The metal pipes used in construction of organ, non-speaking, are of zinc. All speaking metal pipes are made of 45% tin and 55% lead. The scale of all pipes is in accordance with the best approved standards and the voicing is of the highest order of excellence, with proper volume throughout. It is equipped with double manual with compass cc to c4, 61 notes, compass of pedals ccc to f, 30 notes. A Kinetic Blower run by electric motor supplies the bellows. The keyboard and console are reversed so as to face the altar. It is fitted the all the latest improved accessories such as Haskell's reedless reed etc."

ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

<u>Stops</u>	<u>Pitch</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Pipes</u>
<u>GREAT ORGAN</u>			
Open Diapason	8 ft.	metal	61
Dulciana	8 ft.	metal	61
Octave	4 ft.	metal	61
<u>SWELL ORGAN</u>			
Bourdon	16 ft.	wood	61
Salicional	8 ft.	metal	61
Aeoline	8 ft.	metal	61
Stopped Diapason	8 ft.	wood	61
<u>PEDAL ORGAN</u>			
Bourdon	16 ft.	wood	30
Lieblich Gedackt	16 ft.	wood	61

COUPLERS AND ACCESORIES

Swell to Great, Swell to Pedal, Swell to Great 8va., Great to Pedal, Great Organ Forte (adj.), Swell organ Forte (adj.), Great organ Piano (adj.), Swell organ Piano (adj.), Great to Pedal (reversible), balanced swell pedal, Bellows signal, tremulant, wind indicator, organ bench with music compartment

Information taken from "A Souvenir Booklet of the 75th. Anniversary of the Establishment of the Parish of Assumption off the Blessed Virgin Mary. Middlebury, Vermont , April 24th, 1838 - April 24th. 1913, pages 29-31 as well as Estey Organ Company letters to Father Shannon.

**DEDICATION PROGRAM AND CONCERT FOR THE ESTEY PIPE ORGAN # 755 - ST.
MARY'S CHURCH - APRIL 3, 1910 - MIDDLEBURY VERMONT**

(The Middlebury Register Vol LXXV, No. 13, dated April 1, 1910, published the following article and Order of Music:)

"The new organ recently installed in St. Mary's church will be formally dedicated and an organ recital held next Sunday evening, April 3 at 7:30 o'clock, when the following program will be carried out:" "Dedication of Organ,"

Rev. J. D. Shannon

ORDER OF MUSIC

Part I

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Marche Pontificale | - | Lemmens | Miss Mary E. Flynn |
| 2. | Prelude, "Parsifal" | - | Wagner-Lemare | Mr. John Daley |
| 3. | Regina Coeli, (English version) | - | Melvil | Church Choir |

Sermon - The Rev, P. J. Moran C. S. P.

Part II

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| 4. | In Paradisum | - | Dubois | Miss Mary E. Flynn |
| 5. | a) Toccata - Opus 67 | - | George MacMaster | Mr. John H. Daley |
| | b) Ave Maria | - | Harry Rowe Shelley | " " |
| | c) Arabasque | - | Basil Wrangell | " " |
| | d) Prelude in B flat minor | - | J. S. Bach | " " |
| | e) Easter Morning | - | Otto Malling | " " |
| 6. | Easter Oratorio | - | Lamillotte | Church Choir |
- Soloists - Soprano, Mrs. P. E. Dillon, Tenor, Mr. R. E. Shea, Bass, Mr. Hubert Daley
- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| 7. | Benediction, "O Salutaris" - A flat | - | C. C. Sterns | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--|
- Mr. Hubert Daley / Mr. John H. Daley, accompanist
- | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| | "Cor Jesu" | - | Henry M. Dunham | Mrs. P. E. Dillon |
| | "Tantum Ergo" - A flat | - | Melvill | Male Chorus |
| | "Holy God" | - | German Choral | Congregation |
| 8. | a) Prayer | - | Enrico Bossi | Mr. John H. Daley |
| | b) Prelude - Finale | - | Hands Heidler | Mr. John H. Daley |

"The organ was dedicated by the rector on Sunday evening, April 3, 1910. A masterly sermon was preached, on this occasion, by Rev. P. J. Moran, C.S.P., of New York, a sacred concert was rendered by the choir, with organ recital by John H. Daley, of Bennington and Mary E. Flynn, organist. The church was filled to over flow, an hour before the ceremony began, and standing room was at a premium when the concert opened. This was voted by to be the most brilliant musicale ever listened to in this music-loving town. The organ was free from debt the next day. It cost about \$ 2000."

(A Souvenir of the 75th. Anniversary of the Establishment of the Parish "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" Middlebury Vermont, April 24th., 1838 - April 24, 1913, page 31)

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE WESSEL PIPE ORGAN - 1983-1984

John Wessel - Organ Builder from Brattleboro, Vermont

Pedale

1. Bourdon 16'
2. Soubasse 16' *
3. Octavebasse 8'
4. Flute a Cheminee 8'
5. Bourdon 8' *
6. Bourdon 4'
7. Octavin 4'
8. Flute Conique 4'
9. Prestant 2'
10. Fourniture III
11. Trompette 8'
12. Clarion 4'
13. Hautbois 2'
14. G.O. / PED 8'
15. G.O. / PED 4'
16. R / PED 8'
17. R / PED 4'

Recit Expressif

18. Bourdon Doux 16' *
19. Bourdon 8' *
20. Salicionale 8' *
21. Voix Celeste 8' *
22. Flute Conique 4'
23. Flute d'Amour 4'
24. Nasard 2 2/3'
25. Octavos 2'
26. Flute a Bec 2'
27. Tierce 1 3/5 '(TC)
28. Larigot 1 1/3'
29. Hautbois 8' (TC) *
30. Trompette 8'
31. Tremblant
32. R / R 16'
33. R / Unison Off
34. R / R 4'

Grand-Orgue

35. Montre 8'
36. Flute a Cheminee 8'
37. Bourdon 8'
38. Dulciane 8' *
39. Voix Angelique 8' (TC)
40. Prestant 4' *
41. Bourdon 4'
42. Doublette 2'
43. Plein Jeu III
44. Trompette 8'
45. R / G.O. 16'
46. R / G.O. 8'
47. R / G.O. 4'
48. G. O. / G. O. 4'

The Computerized Dual Memory System for the Combination Action consists of 4 Recit pistons, 4 G. O. pistons, 6 general pistons, 4 Ped. toe studs, 6 general toe studs, and 2 reversibles. The manual compass is 61 notes and the pedal compass is 32 notes. Both the manuals and the pedals conform to the standardized specifications of the American Guild of Organists. The Console is built by the Klann Company. *= pipes reused from original Estey # 755. Bench with music storage, music rack with light.

**EVENING PRAYER SERVICE AND THER BLESSING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE WESSEL PIPE
ORGAN**

Sunday, April 1, 1984 at 7:30 p.m.

Participants

Most Reverend Bishop John A. Marshall
Reverend Monsignor Paul M. Bresnehan
Reverend Father John M. Shortill
Reverend Father George O. Murtaugh
Dr. Kevin D. Parizo
St. Mary's Choir

Programme

1. Processional - Rigaudon - Andre Campra (1660-1744) [Organ]
2. Opening Prayer
3. Hymn - The Old Hundreth - R. Vaughn Williams
4. Antiphon and Psalm 66
5. Psalm 99
6. Praise Ye The Lord (Psalm 150) - C. Franck (1822-1890) [Choir]
7. Meditative Chorale - How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place - J. Brahms (1833-1897) [Choir]
8. Blessing Ceremony - Father John Shortill
9. Magnificat - Bishop Marshall and Choir
10. Antiphon
11. The Lord's Prayer
12. Closing Prayer and Blessing - Bishop Marshall

Programme of Organ Selections - Dr. Kevin D. Parizo - Organist

1. Concerto in G Major - J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
 - a) Allegro
 - b) Grave
 - c) Presto
 2. Ave Maria von Arcadelt - F. Liszt (1811-1886)
 3. Rhapsodie no. 1 op. 7 - C. Saint-Saens (1835-1921)
 4. Toccata from Organ Symphony no. 5 op. 42 - Ch. M. Widor (1844-1937)
- ~~~~~

ORGAN DEDICATION MASS - EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1984 at 10 a.m.

PROGRAMME

Concert Prelude of Organ and Choral Works, 9:30 a.m.

1. Toccata and Fugue in d minor BWV 564 - J. S. Bach (Organ)
 2. Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place - G. Young (Choir)
 3. Wesley's Psalm 150 - A. Lovelace (Choir)
 4. Hallelujah, Amen - G. F. Handel (Choir)
 5. Come, Christians Join To Sing - C. Young (Choir)
- MASS
1. Opening Hymn- Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
 2. Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei - Mass of the Blessed Assumption - K.D. Parizo (Choir) **
 3. Res. Ps.- Psalm 100 / Gospel Acclamation - Hallelujah Chorus - G. F. Handel (Choir)
 4. Offertory - Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring - J. S. Bach / Dona Nobis Pacem (Choir)
 5. Communion- O Divine Redeemer - C. Gounod / Ave Verum Corpus - W. A. Mozart (Choir)
 6. Closing Hymn - Alleluia, The Strife Is O'er
 7. Postlude - Toccata in D Major - F. Peeters (Organ)

** - Mass of The Blessed Assumption was composed in 1983 by Kevin D. Parizo for the Organ Dedication and is dedicated to Fr. Shortill & Parish

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ESTEY / WESSEL / WALKER ORGAN
St. Mary's Church - Middlebury, Vermont - March 2009

PEDAL

Ophicleide 8'
Ophicleide 16'
 Mixture III
 Choral Basse 4'
Viole 4'
 Bourdon Doux 8'
 Bourdon 16'
Bombarde 16'
Contra Bombarde 32'
 Flute Harmonique 4'
 Flute a Cheminee 8'
 Octave Basse 16'
 Soubasse 16'
Contre Basse 16'
 Resultant 32'

SWELL

Sw/Sw 4, Unison off
 Trompette de Fete 8'
 Flute a Bec 2'
 Flute d'Amour 4'
 Bourdon 8'
 Trompette 8'
 Tierce 1 3/5 (TC)
 Nazard 2 2/3
 Oboe Gamba 8' (TC)
 Salicional 8'
 Bourdon Doux 16'
 Tuba 8'
 Tremulant
 Larigot 1 1/3
 Octavin 2'
 Gemshorn 4'
 Voix Celeste 8'

GREAT

Cymbelstern
 Trompette de Fete 8'
 Doublette 2'
 Prestant 4'
 Viole Celeste II 8'
 Dulciana 8'
Chimes
 Fourniture III
 Bourdon 4'
 Montre 8'
Flute Harmonique 8'
 Flute a Cheminee 8'
Flute Celeste II 8'

CHOIR (digital in italics)

Chimes
Tremulant
Cromorne
Bombarde 16'
Flute Octaviante 4'
Octave 4'
Diapason 8'
Choir Unison Off
Voix Humaine 8'
Trompette Harmonique 8'
Plein Jeu III
Flauto Dolce 8'
Viole de Gambe 8'
Tuba 8'
Full Tremulant
Clarion 4'
Hautbois 8'
Flute Celeste 8'
Viole Celeste 8'
Flute Harmonique 8'

COUPLERS

Gt / Ped 8'
 Sw / Ped 8'
 Ch / Ped 8'
 Sw / Ped 4'
 Sw / Gt 8'
 Ch / Gt 8'
 Sw / Ch 8'
 Ch / Sw 8'
 Sw / Gt 16'
 Sw / Gt 4'
 Sw / Ch 16'
 Sw / Ch 4'
 Sanctuary Choir Off
 Gallery Choir Off
 Gt / Ch Transfer
 Choir Celestes Off
 24 Pistons (12 manual & 12
 toe studs- all independent
 4 pedal pistons on Manuals
 4 toe studs for pedals

Multi level memory
 combinations and
 transposer
 3 reversibles
 piston & toe stud for next
 tutti
 Sw / Midi A & B
 Solo Tuba Sub.
 Tremulant Full
 Orchestral Crescendo
 Cymbelstern
 Piston for previous
 Gt / Midi A & B
 Bass (pedal to manual)
 Ch / Melody
 Ch Midi / A & B
 Walker Audio System

SOURCES

The following is a list of sources and references consulted in the preparation and writing of this history.

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 2. St. Raphael Cemetery – Poultney, Vermont [Mahoney]
 3. St. Joseph Cemetery – Burlington, Vermont [Leonard, Barrett]
 4. St. Dominic Cemetery – Proctor, Vermont [Bresnehan]
 5. Calvary Cemetery – South Portland, Maine [Shortill]
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REMINISCENCES and RECOLLECTIONS

The story goes that during the dedication of St. Mary's Church, Fr. Shannon was explaining to the congregation many of the liturgical features of the "new" church. When he was explaining about the saints that are depicted on the stained glass windows, he got to the Rose window (the one behind the organ) and quickly pointed out that St. Cecilia, Patroness of Music, was at the bottom of the window and a harp was at the top. The reason, he emphatically explained, was that he would rather burn in hell than to see any Saint take priority over the harp of Ireland !!! [as repeated from parishioners whose family members had been there]

During the Pastorate of Fr. Leonard, if anyone came into Church after Mass started, he would stop, turn around and loudly tell the person or people to come and sit in the front of the church for the rest of Mass. [as repeated from parishioners who were there]

Fr. Shortill loved to be outdoors trimming all of the bushes around the Church, Rectory, and Convent. He would have a tape recorder playing the Gospels being read out loud by himself. One day, Fr. Shortill was trimming the bushes along front of the Convent. He was not in clerical garb but rather in grubby old work clothes. A gentleman approached him and inquired if he knew who the Pastor of the Catholic Church was and how could he be reached. Fr. Shortill turned to the man, and in his "Maine Accent" quietly said "the last time I looked, it was me!!!"

Fr. Shortill was quite tall (over 6 foot), lanky, and slender. He drove used cars and one of them that he had while in Middlebury was a rusty old Buick which had been converted from a convertible into a two door hard top. Therefore, the rear window sloped very sharply down and was very difficult to see out of. He was headed out on a call and had entered the garage through another door. He got into his car and proceeded to back out -never turning around or using mirrors to help back out. The only problem was that he forgot to open the garage door and proceeded to back the Buick through the door so that half the car was in the garage and the other half was out. He came down to the Church where several of us were working and said that he thought that there was something wrong with the car. We went up and one of the people in our group said: "Father, I don't think that there is anything wrong with the car, but there may be something wrong with your driving !!" He had Rita Fallon, the long time Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper, call Jimmy D'Avignon from Weybridge Garage to come up and get the car out. Jim did and Fr. Shortill took off with the car. The garage door was replaced and two weeks after the door was replaced, Fr. Shortill did the same thing again. It was then that Jim D'Avignon suggested to Father that perhaps he should get a different car. And he did - another used one !!

During the organ renovation in 1983-1984, John Wessel and his crew were removing the pipes from the organ and discovered that there were two missing. No one could figure out

where they were or for how long they had been missing. Then one day a call came to Kevin Parizo from a custodian at Middlebury College. She said that the custodial staff were cleaning out the basements in several of the fraternities that had been closed down and there were a number of these "tubes" in the corner of the basement of Chi Psi as well as at Delta Upsilon. She wondered if I could come up and take a look at these since one of the other custodians said that they looked like organ pipes. Parizo went up and sure enough they were all organ pipes. He started to look closely at them and two of them were numbered 755. These two pipes went to the original Estey Organ in St. Mary's because the Estey Company always numbered every part of their organs. The organ built for St. Mary's was number 755 !! Parizo took all of the other pipes and traced the other pipes to three other church organs in Middlebury: Episcopal, Congregational, and Methodist. After doing some research, Parizo discovered that in the 1950s and 1960s, the fraternities, as part of their initiation rites, would have the pledges go into churches and "take" a couple of organ pipes.

From the 1870s to 2022 only four organists have served the Parish

1. Mrs. Clara Margaret Rivers Dillon (b. 1866 - d. 1935) wife of Patrick E. Dillon was an organist at the first Catholic Church. The date she began as Organist is unknown but, according to her Granddaughter, Anne Baldwin of our Parish, it could have been sometime in the 1880's. It would seem plausible that both Mrs. Dillon and Miss Flynn could have "shared" the organ bench for a number of years. The organ used at that time would have been an Estey pump organ. Furthermore, Mrs. Dillon is listed as a Soprano soloist who sang with the St. Mary's Choir. She is buried in Mount St. Joseph's Cemetery in Bristol, Vermont.
2. Miss Mary E. Flynn (b. 1887 - d. 1938) was named the Organist and Choir director at some point during the pastorate of Father Shannon (1899-1913). She is listed as Parish Organist on the program for the Estey Pipe Organ dedication in 1911 at St. Mary's. Little is known about her except she is listed in the 1910 United States Census as a music teacher, wage earner, and boarder in Middlebury. In addition, Ellen J. McCoy is listed as housekeeper /servant and both McCoy and Flynn are listed in this census with James S. Shannon as head of household. Presumably, she must have been quite competent due to the complexity of the music she performed on the organ for the 1911 Organ dedication. She left when Father Shannon was transferred in 1913. She is buried in St. Thomas Cemetery in Underhill, Vermont.
3. Miss M. Irene Burns (b. 1895 - d. 1975) attended the Villa Maria School in Montreal which was staffed by the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal. While there, Burns majored in Organ and French at the Montreal Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Eugene Lapierre. She furthered her music studies by being a diplomatist of the Gregorian Institute of Music in Montreal. Irene became the Organist of St. Mary's during Father Leonard's Pastorate (1913-1947) and retired in 1975. She was awarded the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Paul VI in November of 1972 for her long service to the Parish. (over 50 years) She is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Middlebury.
4. Dr. Kevin D. Parizo (b. 1952) studied organ and piano with Irene Burns and "shared" the organ bench with her beginning his freshman year of High School. Parizo holds degrees in

Organ and Sacred Music from the Conservatoire de Musique de Montreal, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Concordia University of Montreal. Additionally, Parizo was awarded the understudy Organist position at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City where he studied with the world renown Organist, John Grady. As part of his duties at St. Patrick's, Parizo would be Organist at the United States Military Academy at Westpoint when their Organist, Dr. Jack Davis was unavailable. Upon returning to Middlebury, Parizo was named Organist and Music Director at St. Mary's as well as becoming a member of the music faculty at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. He was awarded the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Francis on September 22, 2019 for his long and dedicated service to the Parish and Diocese. (over 50 years). Parizo has concertized in the United States, Canada, and many parts of Europe. Presently, (2022) along with his duties at St. Mary's, he is also the Organist and Music Minister at the United Methodist Church in Middlebury as well as teaching music privately. He lives in Middlebury with his wife Garreth. They have two adult children and three Granddaughters.

Fascinating Facts

You will notice in the very early photographs of the inside of St. Mary's that the pulpit is raised and on the right side of the chancel. It was moved to the left side sometime in the 1940's and lowered. The raised base is now the base of the Baptismal Font that is on the left side of the chancel and the stairs that used to go to the raised pulpit are outdoors next to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Originally, the Baptismal Font was located in the sacristy under one of the small stained glass windows and all baptisms were celebrated there. There are a couple of early pictures of the inside of St. Mary's that show that the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue was on the right hand side of the chancel and the St. Joseph Statue was on the left. This was changed again the 1940s. In the late 1940s there was only one speaker for the entire inside of the Church. It was located in front of the circular angel window above the chancel and was in the shape of a flower and painted gold. Originally, the floor under the pews and down the aisles were oak hardwood. The renovation during the 1940s or 1950s covered the aisle floors with a red and cream colored linoleum tile. The present carpeting, which has been changed three times since the 1972 renovation, sits on either the hardwood or the tiled floors.

Have you ever wondered why there are two chimneys on the Church? The reason is that originally the Church had two coal burning steam furnaces - one in the back of the building and the other in the front. There were coal chutes in each of these furnace rooms. The coal burners were consolidated into one large oil burning furnace during the 1950's. That furnace was replaced in 1999-2000 and was converted to natural gas a few years ago.

Have you ever noticed the mural that is painted on the walls outside of the Church kitchen / bathroom area? It was painted by and a gift of Pamela Quiranale Von Baumbaugh in

1999. You will note the St. Mary's Church, Convent, Rectory, St. Bernadette's, and a glimpse of the town of Shoreham with St. Genevieve's Church.

It is interesting that Curates, also referred to as Assistant Pastors, Parochial Vicars, and Associates were not present until the pastorate of Father Barrett (1949-1956). From his Pastorate through early 2002, St. Mary's usually had two Priests in residence. Here is a list of previous Curates:

Rev. Paul Bouffard	Rev. Joseph Campbell	Rev. Francis Candon	Rev. John Conrick
Rev. Robert Deforge	Rev. Vincent Dwyer	Rev. Sean Fitsimmons	Rev. Francis Gately
Rev. Chalres Durham	Rev. John Hackett	Rev. Jay Haskin	Rev. Wilfred (Andy) Houle
Rev. Ronald Lawson	Rev. James Mattison	Rev. John Milanese	Rev. George Murtagh
Rev. Richard Pinard	Rev. Christopher McHugh	Rev. Robert Powers	Rev. Peter Routhier
Rev. Raymond Walsh	Rev. Donal Ward	Rev. Frederick Wilson	Rev. Brian O'Donnell

[Apologies if any Curates were inadvertently left off.]

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Robert Emilo - information about the "small gas station" and his Dad who bought the station.

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