

Parish History

The town of Hartford, Vermont, home of St. Anthony's church, antedates the Revolutionary War. Granted its charter on July 4, 1761, by Benning Wentworth, governor of the Province of New Hampshire for King George III of England, the township was organized in the fall of 1761. Its first permanent settlers were farmers and a few tradesmen, although there had been hunters and trappers in the area earlier.

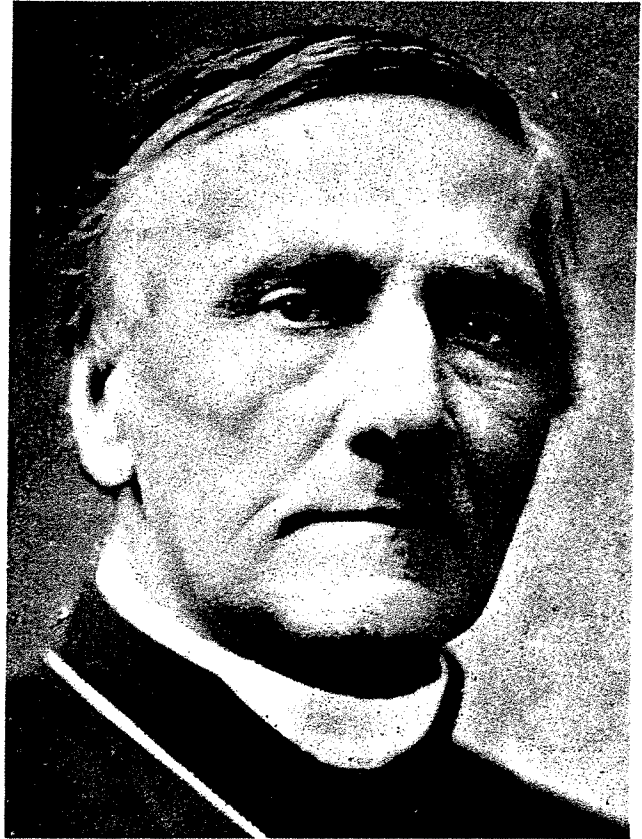
As the town grew in numbers and prosperity, various churches sprang up, but it was not until the middle of the nineteenth century, when the construction of railways brought a good number of Irish to Vermont, that sufficient Catholics lived here to form a parish. Until the establishment of St. Anthony's in 1869, the Catholic settlers in the town of Hartford had no permanent priest but were visited by missionaries.

Because documents from those days are scanty, we do not know for certain when Mass was first offered in this area. It is recorded in Bishop Fitzpatrick's diary, however, that in 1847 a priest named Father Hilary Tucker came to Lebanon, N. H., on a sick call, stayed there for three days, and during that time offered Mass, heard confessions, preached, and gave Holy Communion to 130 laborers in the vicinity. It is likely that some of the Catholic people of the town of Hartford went to Lebanon to attend divine services during Father Tucker's visit. Shortly thereafter, also in 1847, the Reverend John Daley, O.F.M., a traveling missionary priest in Vermont, offered Mass in a White River Junction railroad shanty.

On July 25, 1853, the Holy See established the diocese of Burlington, naming the Right Reverend Louis De Goesbriand, then chancellor of the Cleveland, Ohio, diocese, as its first bishop. Consecrated on October 30, 1853, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, Bishop De Goesbriand immediately traveled to Vermont. He was accompanied on the last stage of his journey, from Rutland to Burlington, by Father Daley, and was installed as Bishop of Burlington on November 6, 1853, by the Most Reverend John B. Fitzpatrick of Boston.

The new bishop visited White River Junction, fast becoming the chief village in the town of Hartford, on January 1, 1854. Since there was no church building, he probably said Mass in the home of one of the local Catholic families. It is known that Mass was offered as early as 1853, during Father Daley's time, in the homes of Thomas Gleason, Sr., and John Ginty (or Garrity). Doubtless other homes were used, as well as halls, as the Catholic population in the area grew.

In 1858, according to the annual report of St. Charles parish in Bellows Falls, Vermont, the Reverend Charles O'Reilly began to make regular trips to White River Junction in order to minister to the faithful here. At that time, Father O'Reilly reported, there were about a dozen families in the village, mostly residing near South Main Street. In succeeding years, this number grew, so that in 1860 there were thirty families, and in 1861, forty to fifty families. In 1865, according



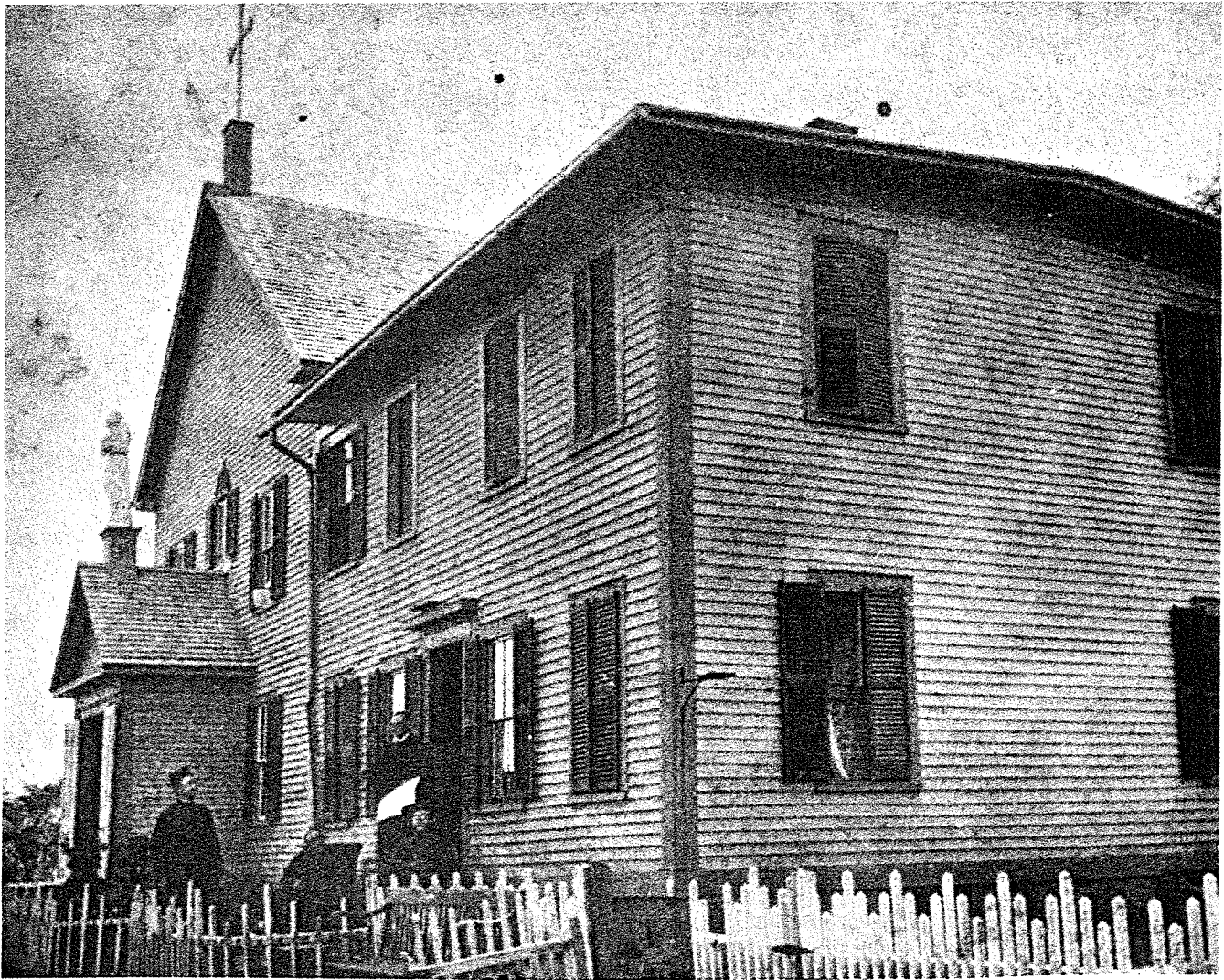
Most Reverend Louis De Goesbriand

to the St. Charles report, there were 100 Catholics to be served, and in 1868, sixty families, numbering about 150 souls.

Such numbers of people of course imposed a severe burden on Father O'Reilly, whose duties in the southeastern part of the diocese were also growing. In an attempt to relieve him, Bishop De Goesbriand directed, on November 3, 1868, that the Reverend Magloire Pigeon, then pastor of St. Ann's parish, Milton, Vermont, visit White River Junction and Woodstock on Sundays once a month.

The bishop became personally aware of the growth in the Catholic population of the town of Hartford when he came to White River Junction on August 8, 1869. In his diary for that day occurs the following entry: "I visited White River Junction and said Mass in a large hall in the Junction Hotel. There were present about 700 persons. They had come from all directions. They need a church and are willing to contribute to it. They will very likely buy immediately about 4 acres of ground with a house. I confirmed 50."

Because of the size of his congregation on that Sunday in August, 1869, Bishop De Goesbriand began to think more and more about sending a priest here. Finally he entered in his diary a decision: "Father Pigeon takes charge of White River Junction, Woodstock, Windsor, and Vershire (Ely)."



One of the houses on the Mosely property was converted into a chapel, the other into a rectory.



Rev. Magloire Pigeon

REV. MAGLOIRE PIGEON

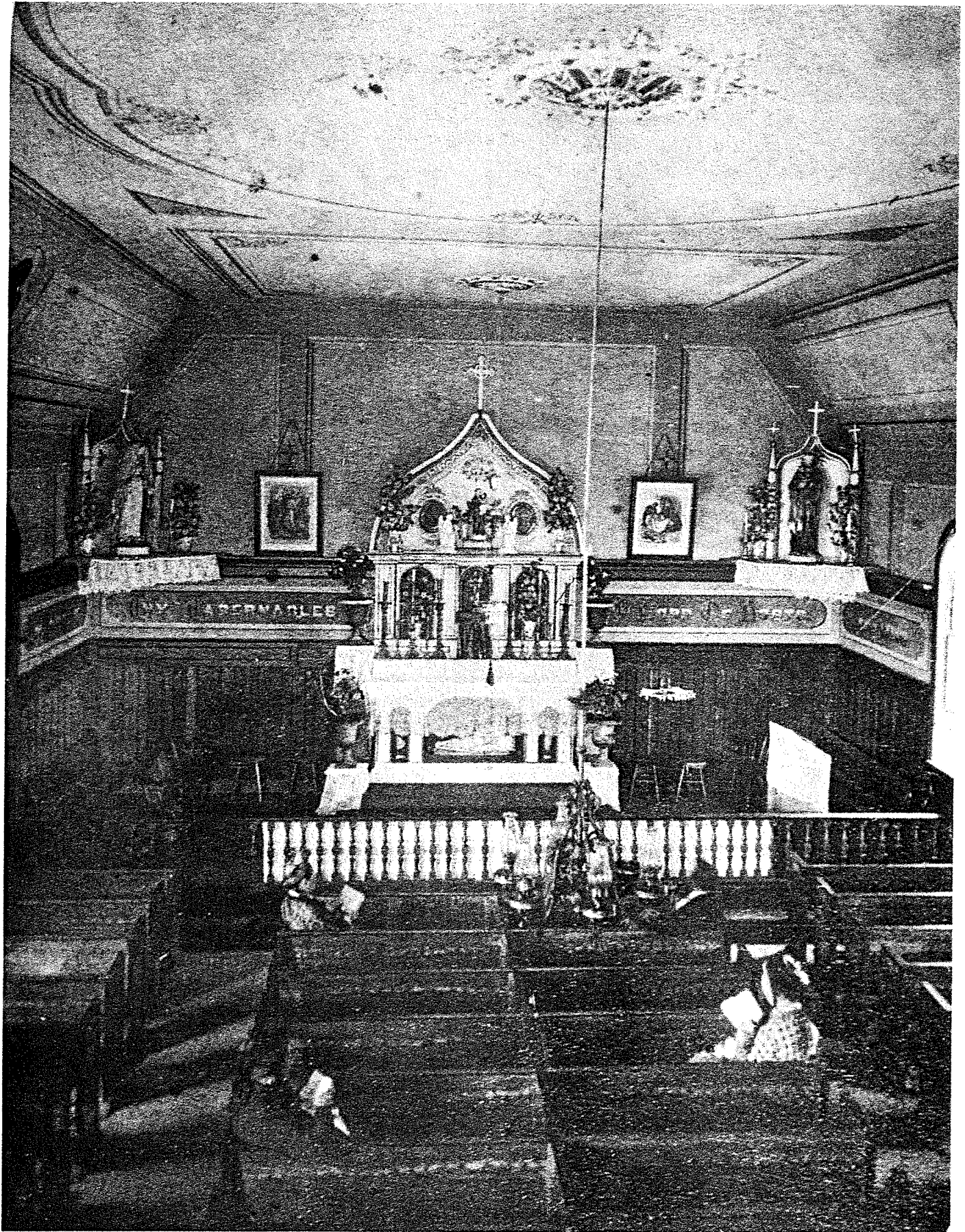
Nov. 1869 - Jan. 1881

With the transfer of Father Pigeon to White River Junction, on November 27, 1869, St. Anthony's parish got its start. He remained pastor here until January 4, 1881, when he was assigned to St. Thomas parish in Underhill, Vermont.

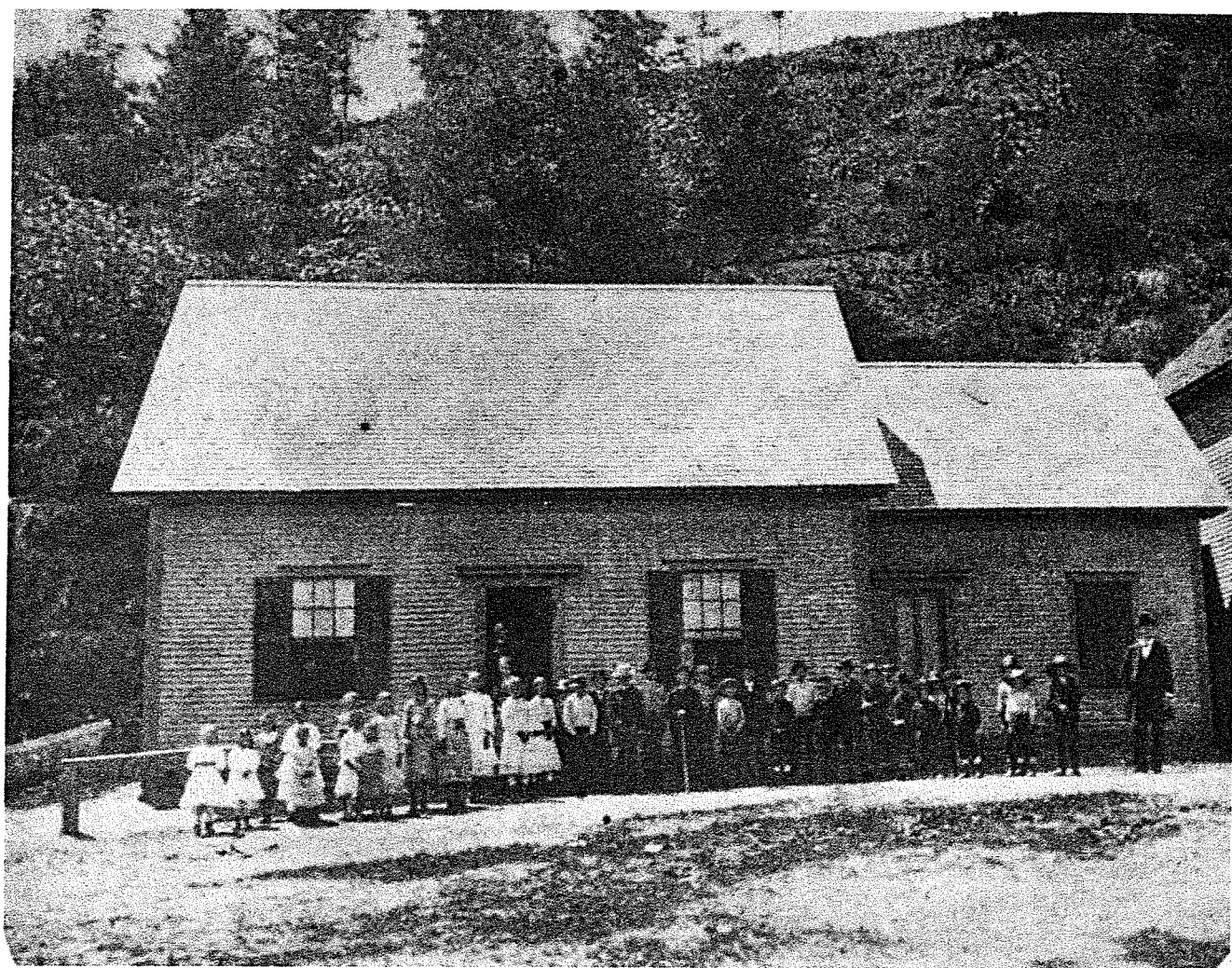
His appointment as the first pastor of St. Anthony's must have caused Father Pigeon some anxiety, for the parish began with nothing—no church building, no rectory, no property of any kind. There was no place for the priest to live. Until accommodations could be arranged, in fact, he evidently stayed in Woodstock and boarded with one of the families in that village.

On Sundays, of course, Father Pigeon was a traveler, for he continued to serve a large area of the state, just as he had served earlier while stationed in Milton. On the first Sunday of the month, he ordinarily said Mass at 9 A.M. in Woodstock (for twenty-two families in 1865) and then journeyed the fourteen miles to White River Junction for a 12 noon Mass, by team before 1875, and probably by the newly opened Woodstock Railroad thereafter. On the second Sunday of the month, he alternated between Windsor and Springfield, and he also visited these towns once a month on weekdays.

On the third Sunday, Father Pigeon's first Mass was in White River Junction at 9 A.M., his second in



A new church was constructed in 1873.



The first parish school was located in a large room on South Main Street

Woodstock at noon. On the fourth Sunday, he went to the copper mines at Ely; and when there was a fifth Sunday in the month, he said Mass at 9 A.M. in Quechee and at 11 A.M. in White River Junction. On holy days, the busy priest alternated between White River Junction and Woodstock for Mass. At White River Junction, he also conducted devotions, consisting of benediction and/or vespers, at least twice a month.

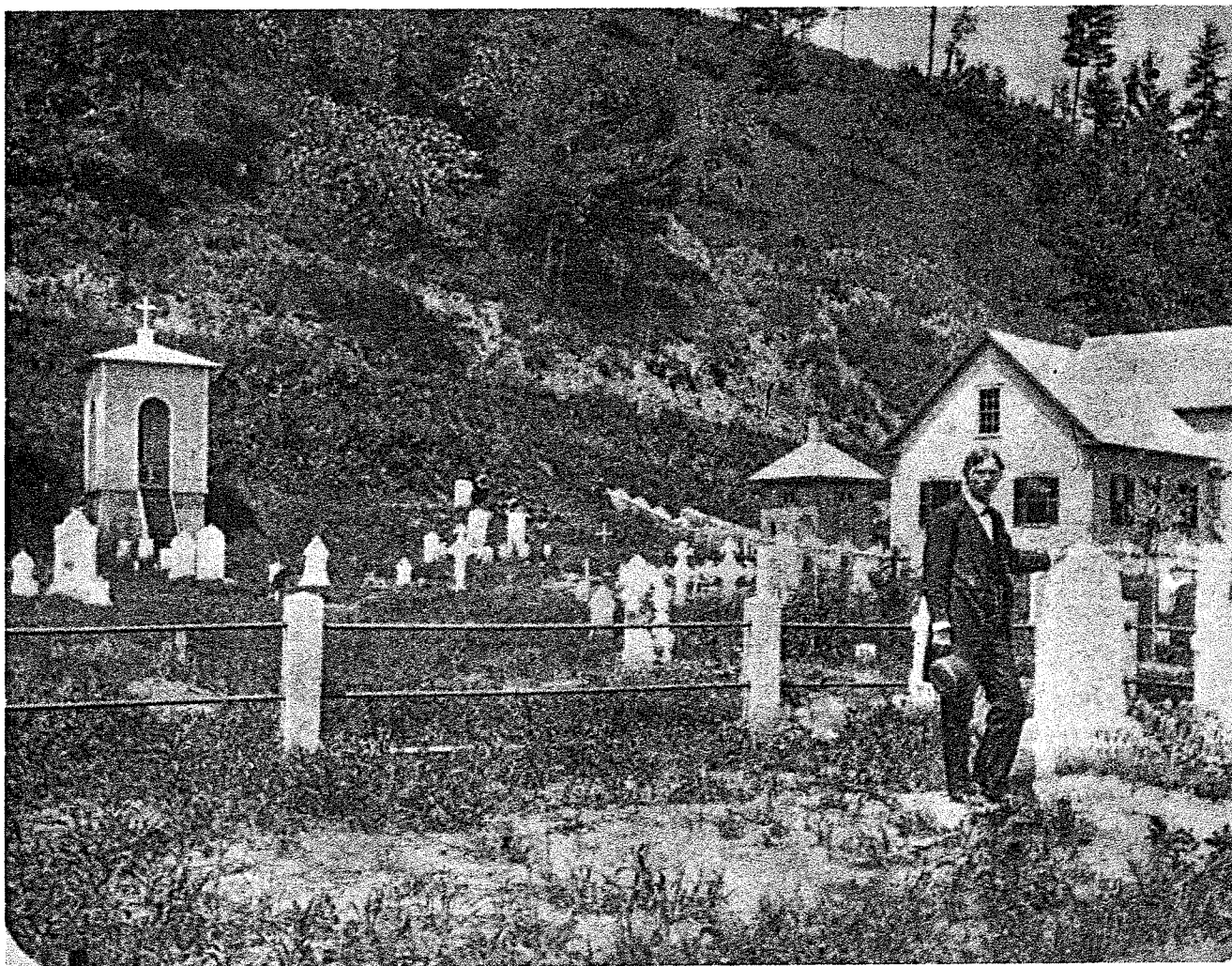
In the midst of this active schedule, Father Pigeon set about organizing St. Anthony's parish. One of his first acts was to purchase a parcel of land on South Main Street, already selected by parishioners, as a site for the church. This property, belonging to Henry J. Mosely and deeded "to Magloire Pigeon of Woodstock," contained at least two acres, and probably four, and included two houses. One of these was converted into a chapel, the other into a rectory, after which Father Pigeon took up residence in White River Junction. The property was bought on March 1, 1870, and its renovation was completed by October 1, 1870. Thus Father Pigeon was able to send his first annual report to Bishop De Goesbriand from permanent residence at St. Anthony's in White River Junction.

The Mosely property, located adjacent to the old cemetery on South Main Street, cost the parish \$1,800.00. This money was raised by special subscrip-

tion, each family contributing perhaps as much as twenty-five or fifty dollars to the cause. To appreciate what an enormous sacrifice such gifts meant to poor Catholics in 1870, one need only consider that total receipts at St. Anthony's that first year of its existence (apart from the property subscription) amounted to just \$871.00, pew rent and plate offerings making up \$221.00 of that sum. Parish expenses, excluding purchase of the Mosely property, were \$585.00, counting in the priest's salary of \$300.00.

The makeshift chapel of St. Anthony, blessed by Bishop De Goesbriand on October 4, 1870, proved before long to be too small for a growing congregation. In 1873, there were some sixty-five Catholic families in White River Junction; and in that year Father Pigeon undertook construction of a new church, more commodious than the original chapel, on the same grounds. Apparently the rectory was demolished to make room for the new church, which very likely was built in the main by members of the parish after their regular long working hours. After the church was completed, at a cost of \$1,350.00, the former chapel was made into a house for the priest.

The new church was a wooden frame building, described in William Howard Tucker's *History of Hartford, Vermont*, as "a neat and pretty structure containing 128 pews, with a seating capacity for at



Land between the church and old existing cemetery was set apart to provide the first parish cemetery

least 400 persons." It was lighted by a cluster of kerosene lamps suspended from the high ceiling on an iron rod ending just above the heads of the parishioners in the pews, the lamps held firm on a bracket at the end of the rod. There was a balcony over the front entrance, two side aisles, and no middle aisle. Each pew held four people, and there were apparently thirty-two pews on each side of the church and sixty-four in the middle. For Christmas, 1874, Father Pigeon bought an organ, and the church was complete.

Still Father Pigeon was not done building. During the 1860's and 1870's, many Catholic parishes in Vermont established parochial schools, and St. Anthony's was no exception. Soon after the beginning of the parish, in 1872, at the request of the bishop, Father Pigeon began a school in a large room on South Main Street. By 1875 or 1876, however, when there were probably seventy-four families in the parish, the need for a separate school building became pressing. Consequently Father Pigeon built it.

St. Anthony's School, located next to the church, was doubtless a one-room structure, accommodating children of all ages and grades together. Like the other one-room schools of New England in those days, it probably was furnished with benches and desks along three of its walls, where the older pupils sat, and with other benches and desks in the center for the

younger pupils. The teacher's desk stood at the front of the room, and behind it, on two nails driven into the wall, in prominent view, lay a "twig of the wilderness." This sylvan piece of equipment was used for the correction of the unruly.

Maintaining the school, as may well be imagined, was a great hardship on both the parishioners of St. Anthony's and their pastor. A working man's wage in White River Junction in 1876 was about 90c a day, or \$23.00 a month, and wages were customarily paid once a month. Most wage earners had large families, and of course there was no work for young boys and girls outside the home that might bring in extra money. As for the pastor, he found it necessary sometimes to report to the bishop that ordinary expenses of the parish and the school ate up all revenues and that, consequently, he was unable to take all of his salary.

Yet if finances were weak in these early days, the spirit and faith of the people of St. Anthony's were strong. Attendance at religious exercises was good, and Father Pigeon had founded at least two special societies in the parish, the "Bona Mors" (Happy Death) Association in 1870, and the Society of the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 1877. Bishop De Goesbriand, coming to White River Junction to administer the sacrament of confirmation,

confirmed five persons in 1869, forty-seven in 1872, twenty-eight in 1875, and fifty in 1877.

Whenever the bishop came to town, as he did for these confirmations, for example, or to bless a statue of St. Anthony in 1877, it was a great day for the people of the parish, proud to have their bishop among them, and a great occasion for Catholics in the neighborhood. At such times, people from West Lebanon, N. H., and probably Lebanon also swelled the Vermont congregation.

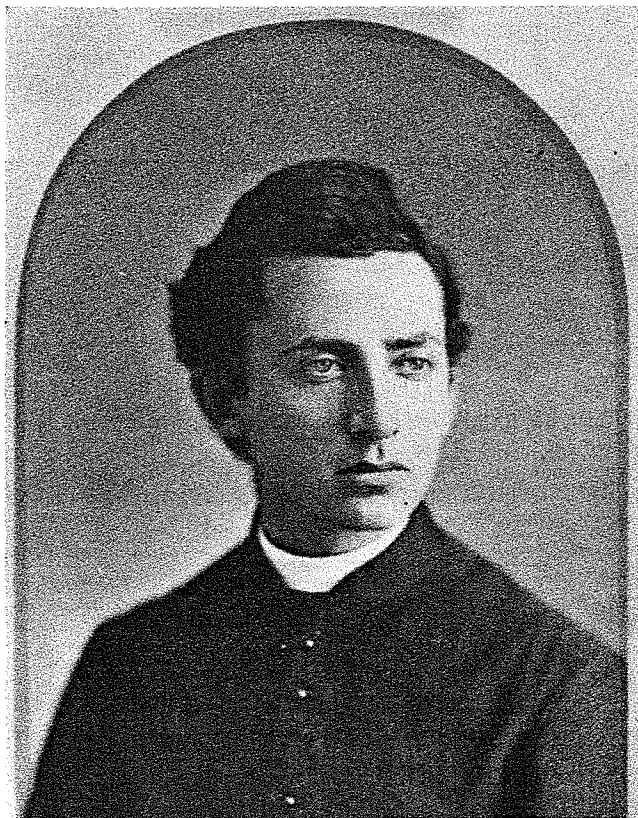
A final accomplishment that needs to be credited to St. Anthony's first pastor is his provision of land for a parish cemetery. Previous to the purchase of the Mosely property and Father Pigeon's arrival in White River Junction in 1870, Catholics who died here were buried in the town cemetery. With the acquisition of the South Main Street land, however, Father Pigeon set apart a portion between the church and an old existing cemetery to become a special place for burials of members of the Catholic community.

This first cemetery was blessed by Bishop De Goesbriand, along with the original chapel, on October 4, 1870. Later, the cemetery was expanded when Father Pigeon suggested to the bishop that the land behind it "to the top of the hill" might be obtained, terraced, and used for burials. On April 12, 1878, Bishop De Goesbriand purchased this slope of the hill from Noah B. Safford for \$250.00, and it was added to St. Anthony's cemetery.

REV. DANIEL O'SULLIVAN

Jan. 1881 - Aug. 1862

With the transfer of Father Pigeon to Underhill, Vermont, in January, 1881, St. Anthony's lost its first



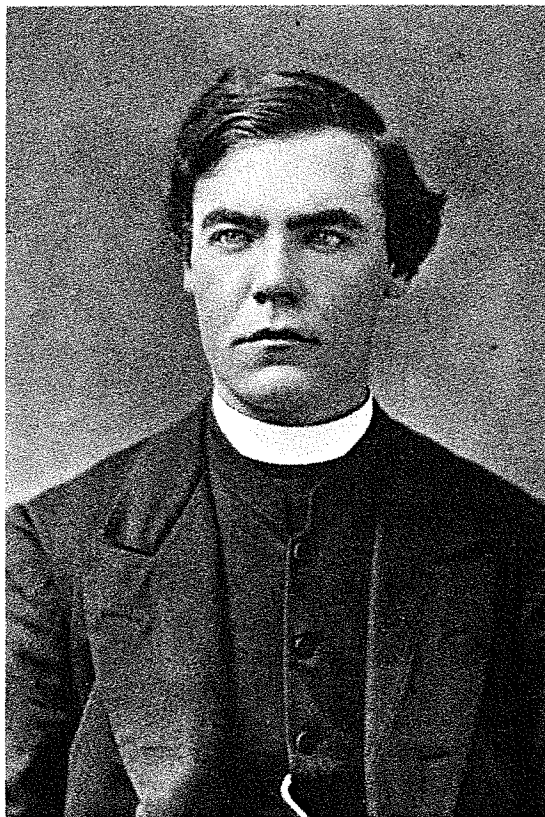
Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan

pastor. He was succeeded by the Reverend Daniel O'Sullivan, reportedly from Burlington, whose pastorate, though lasting only about eighteen months, was full of good works. Part of his energies were devoted to renovation of the parish school, which he had painted and provided with new furniture.

REV. JOHN M. COATHUEL

Aug. 1882 - Dec. 1882

Following Father O'Sullivan, the Reverend John M. Coathuel served briefly at St. Anthony's from August 24, 1882, to December 29, 1882.



Rev. John M. Coathuel

REV. DENNIS LYNCH

Dec. 1882 - Aug. 1884

From December 30, 1882, until August of 1884, the Reverend Dennis Lynch was pastor. His appointment also included missions in Woodstock, Ely, Wells River, Barnard, and Sharon, indicating that a priest in nineteenth-century Vermont usually had extensive responsibilities beyond those in his home church.

REV. JAMES B. WHITTAKER

Sept. 1884 - Jan. 1892

The next pastor, Father James Whittaker, remained at St. Anthony's for a longer time than his three immediate predecessors and therefore was able to carry out a number of improvements to the church property, including construction of a new rectory, enlargement and repair of the church, and erection of a steeple. Father Whittaker was pastor from September 30, 1884, to January, 1892.

Prior to his time, the rectory had been located on the north side of the church. Now this building was demolished, leaving the church to stand alone, and the new rectory constructed south of the cemetery. Work began in September, 1888, and was completed in February, 1889. Father Whittaker prepared for the project by conducting a subscription drive which produced \$685.00. He borrowed \$800.00 from sources in Woodstock and \$1,500.00 from the National Life Insurance Company in Montpelier. Thus the total cost of \$2,975.00 for the building and furnishings was met.

When Father Whittaker came to White River Junction, there were about 100 families in the parish; by the time he left, there were 135. Gradually, of course, all of the facilities on South Main Street were getting crowded, including even the graveyard, where the last lots were sold about 1892, at the end of Father Whittaker's pastorate. Twenty years earlier, planning his new church, Father Pigeon had no doubt thought a seating capacity of 400 more than adequate for many years to come. Now Father Whittaker found it too small by perhaps fifty seats.

Doing the best he could, he enlarged the church, had repairs made, and simultaneously erected a small steeple, to mark the building as a church, on the roof over the entranceway. Thus the South Main Street property continued to accommodate the congregation until 1898. Father Whittaker, like his predecessors, had his residence at St. Anthony's but also served the Catholic population over a considerable territory. In 1889, for example, he reported to the bishop: "On the first three Sundays of the month, I am at White River Junction. On the fourth Sunday of the month, at Woodstock. On the second and third Sundays, I go to Quechee and North Hartland. On weekdays, I go to Barnard, and am in Ely when I can steal a Sunday for that purpose."

REV. DANIEL E. COFFEY

Jan. 1892 - Apr. 1894

The date of Father Whittaker's departure from St. Anthony's and the arrival of his successor, the Reverend Daniel E. Coffey, is not absolutely sure. By the spring of 1892, however, he was certainly in charge, for on May 3, 1892, he purchased what was called "the boarding house lot," measuring 60 feet by 208 feet, on the corner of North Main Street and Church Street in White River Junction, from Everett J. Wallace for \$1,235.00. He had heard, soon after coming to town, that this property might be obtained. Recognizing that a new church would eventually be needed and a move from South Main Street would be necessary, Father Coffey consulted with Bishop De Goesbriand and bought the Wallace property in the name of the Burlington diocese.

Father Coffey is remembered as a lively, outgoing man who sponsored popular entertainments in the parish, especially on St. Patrick's Day. His purchase of the Church Street property was surely foresighted. In one area, however, he had to retrench. Because of the small number of children attending (perhaps only eight or ten), he found it necessary to close St. Anthony's parochial school for good.

Why the number of pupils attending the parochial school decreased, we do not know. Perhaps the decline had to do with improved public education. In any case, there has never been a parochial school in White River Junction since Father Coffey's time. According to residents of South Main Street, a remnant of the old school building still stands next to the cemetery grounds, serving now as a garage next to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hebert at 119 South Main Street. Stretching toward the cemetery from the garage is the foundation work of what probably was the remainder of the school.

REV. WILLIAM NICHOLAS LONERGAN

Apr. 1894 - Jan. 1907

On April 26, 1894, the Reverend William N. Lonergan was transferred to White River Junction, his appointment as pastor of St. Anthony's taking effect on May 5, 1894. He remained as pastor until January 6, 1907.



Rev. William Nicholas Lonergan

To Father Lonergan fell the task of building the new church foreseen as necessary for some time. This was to be an edifice more commodious and imposing than the wooden frame building on South Main Street, and its planning and construction were enormously complicated and taxing enterprises. But in Father Lonergan, the parish had the perfect man for the job. Energetic,



The Tewksbury property was secured in 1896 for the site of the new St. Anthony's Church

diplomatic, genial, a friend equally to Protestants and Catholics in the town, he carried on the project with persistence and tact that brought him credit from all sides.

The first step was to settle upon and obtain a building site. Since the property already purchased on the corner of North Main and Church Streets was insufficiently wide for the building Father Lonergan wished to construct, he immediately sought to obtain additional property farther along Church Street to the south, in order to have a site big enough for the church.

This land was opposite the Episcopal Church at the corner of Gates and Church Streets and was owned by Jacob and Julia Tewksbury, who had bought it in 1885 from H. H. Blanchette. On February 12, 1896, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fitzpatrick purchased this property for \$3,100 and on April 10 of that year they sold it to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington for \$2,900. Thus on the following Sunday, April 12, 1896, Father Lonergan was able to announce that land for the new St. Anthony's had been procured.

Then the design of the church had to be settled upon. With the approval of the bishop, Father Lonergan hired A. J. Lawrence of Berlin, N. H., as architect; plans were drawn for a building to fit the dimensions of the lot; and the bishop approved the plans. By September, 1896, all was in readiness to start, and a contractor was hired. On September 6, Father Lonergan announced a subscription drive to finance the new church, then described as promising to "the most beautiful architectural structure in Windsor County."

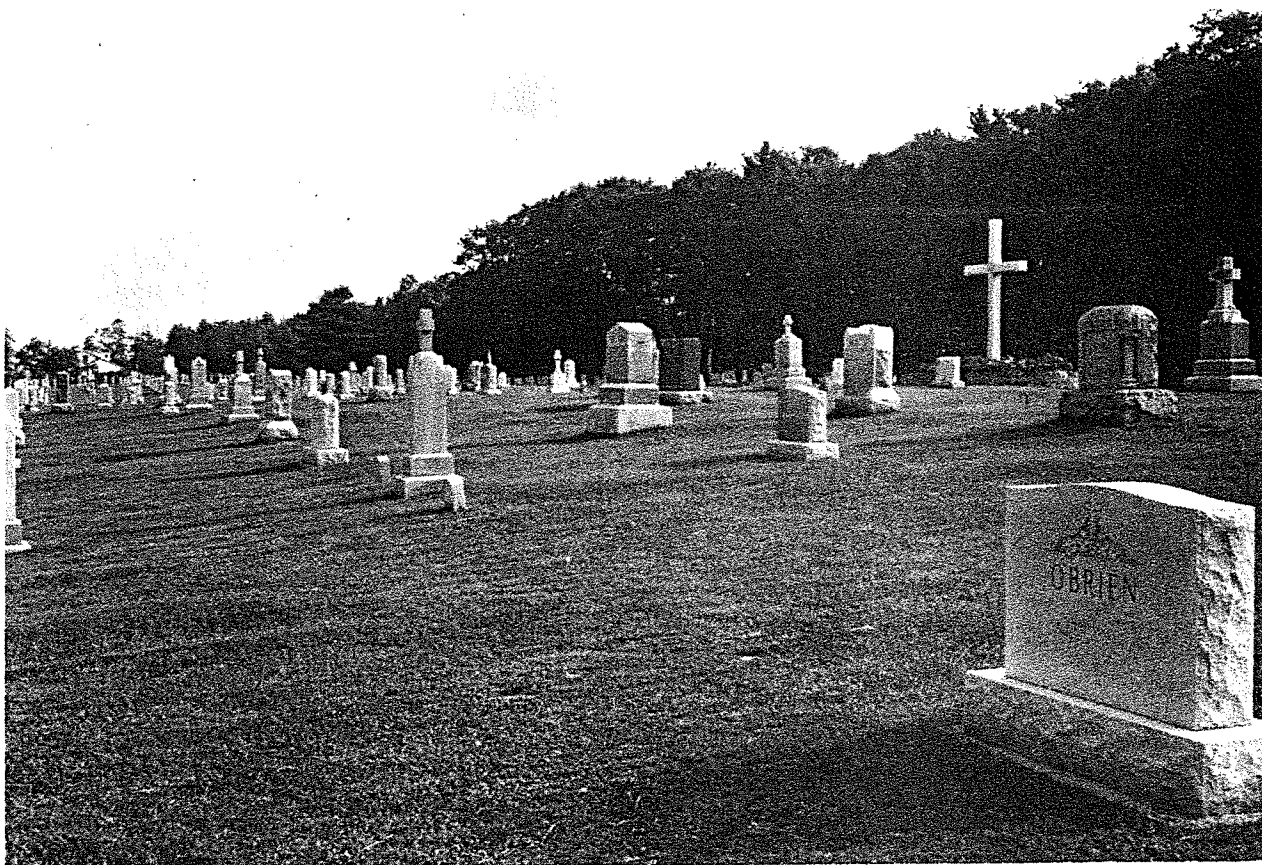
Work went on apace. Soon the foundation walls were laid, and on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1897, the cornerstone was put in place. The subscription drive among the parishioners continued and proved very successful. Yet despite splendid work by the drive committee, not enough money could be raised by subscription to pay the entire cost of the new building. Fairs and festivals were held for the benefit of the building fund. In 1898, for example, \$1,730.00 was realized through such activities. The Sunday collections contributed their bit, and special gifts were received. Father Lonergan himself donated \$2,000.00 to the cause. Finally, the parish had to borrow

\$10,700.00 from the National Life Insurance Company of Montpelier, giving the company a mortgage on the church property.

At last the new church was completed and paid for. On October 30, 1898, it was dedicated. Records show that a collection taken up at the ceremony of dedication amounted to \$205.00, while the expense of the ceremony was \$38.00. So St. Anthony's parish was already on the way to paying off its mortgage. By this time there were about 150 families in the parish,



The new church, dedicated October 30, 1898



Mt. Olivet Cemetery

almost evenly divided between those who spoke French and those who spoke English. One can well imagine the pride which both the pastor and the parishioners took in the new church that all had worked so hard to build.

With the dedication of the new St. Anthony's, the earlier building ceased to be used as a church. Since Father Lonergan had moved his residence to the house on the recently acquired Tewksbury-Fitzpatrick land, converting it to a rectory, in 1897, and the parochial school had been closed, there was no further use for the South Main Street property; therefore the old church buildings and rectory were sold at auction on June 29, 1899, the parish retaining only the cemetery.

Another problem faced by Father Lonergan was that of finding land for a new cemetery, since space for additional lots in the old one had been exhausted. In 1900, after reconnoitering for some years, he located what seemed suitable land. After advising with Bishop Michaud (the successor to Bishop De Goesbriand) about his plan, he purchased the land, approximately ten acres located on Taft's Avenue, from Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Dutille, on October 27, 1900.

This piece of land, bought in the name of the Burlington diocese for a price of \$800.00 became Mt. Olivet cemetery. Alluding to the Mt. Olivet outside Jerusalem from which Our Lord ascended into

heaven, the name of the cemetery signifies our theological belief that bodies buried in it will be resurrected at the end of the world, and that those of the saints among them will be assumed, or carried up, from this burial place into heaven. At the present time, owing to Father Lonergan's foresight and the careful administration of following pastors, Mt. Olivet cemetery is in good condition and contains sufficient land to provide burial space for many years to come.

As St. Anthony's grew, a number of spiritual societies were formed to undertake works of prayer and charity in the parish. The Catholic Order of Foresters, the League of the Sacred Heart, the Altar Society, and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary all flourished during Father Lonergan's pastorate. The Sodality, in particular, was popular among the young ladies of the parish, and sponsored a crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother and a May procession for a number of years.

In 1907, the year of Father Lonergan's departure from St. Anthony's, the census listed seventy-nine English-speaking, sixty French-speaking, twelve Italian-speaking, and four Polish-speaking families in the parish. The years of his pastorate were years of expansion, accomplishment, and spiritual vitality. At the time of the dedication of the new church, the bishop had written accurately in his diary: "Father Lonergan has done well and zealously for his people."



REV. CORNELIUS C. DELANY, D.D.
Jan. 1907 - Mar. 1928

On January 6, 1907, the Reverend Cornelius Delany was appointed pastor of St. Anthony's. The older generation here still remembers this gentle, saintly man and holds his name in benediction. For more than twenty-one years he served the people of this parish, an example of kindness, goodness, and charity, dying here on March 14, 1928.

When he first came to White River Junction, Father Delany evidently conceived a rather ambitious program for the development of the parish, for he wrote in the 1907 parish report: "I am desirous of having a church in Wilder, but the price of land is too high. I would like to have a gymnasium and a reading room for the men and young fellows. Many trainmen come here and stop at the hotel."

Although apparently neither of these projects was brought into execution, Father Delany scored a great advance for the parish by securing the services of the Sisters of Mercy to staff a convent in White River



**The rectory at Church and Gates Streets
becomes St. John's Convent**



Rev. Cornelius C. Delany, D.D.

Junction. Because he had been their pupil himself when growing up in Burlington, he naturally thought of this order of nuns when he considered requesting sisters for St. Anthony's.

Having been assured by the Sisters of Mercy that three nuns would be sent to run a kindergarten and to teach catechism to the children, Father Delany set about preparing quarters for them in the spring of 1907. He had the rectory, at the corner of Church and Gates Streets, painted, repaired, and renovated to become a convent, named St. John's Convent. At the other end of Church Street, he remodeled the old boarding house property to serve as a rectory.

In the late summer or early fall of 1907, the Sisters of Mercy arrived to take up residence at St. John's. They began that fall to hold catechism classes in the church hall after the 8:00 A.M. Sunday Mass, and again at 3:00 P.M.; and they held other classes in the convent on weekday afternoons. In 1910, ninety children attended these classes. The sisters also opened a kindergarten for five-year-old children in the convent. Eleven boys and ten girls comprised the first kindergarten graduating class that had its picture taken in June, 1908.

Gradually, St. Anthony's parish continued to grow. In 1910, the Catholic population was 812. Although Father Delany could not build a church in Wilder, he recognized the special needs of the village by arranging to have catechism classes there, beginning in 1921. In 1913, he organized the Holy Name Society, with a membership of 130 men. Somewhat later, the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of America joined the list of parish societies.



The First Kindergarten

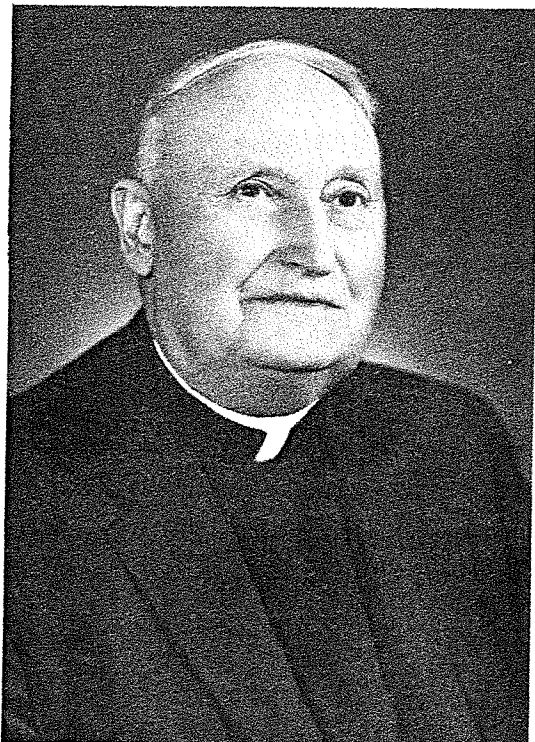
Noella Trahan, Francis St. John, Rod McDonald, Ted Maher, Angela O'Brien, Helen Maher, William Dupont
 Francis Greenough
 Louise Mann, Isabell Brais, Bernard Salvo, Albert Tomkinson
 Regis Aher, Helen Damien, Paul McDonald, Maurice Hebert, Teddy Greenough, Helen Henderson



Redecorated interior of church, 1929

REV. JOHN M. KENNEDY
Mar. 1928 - Apr. 1932

After Father Delany's death, the Reverend John M. Kennedy became pastor of St. Anthony's. It was his job to consolidate the work of his predecessors and to lead the parish during the beginning of the Great Depression.



Rev. John M. Kennedy

Following the dedication of the new St. Anthony's in 1898, each year had seen some improvements or changes in the church building. But of course by Father Kennedy's time deterioration had also progressed. The severe Vermont winter weather took its toll on the exterior walls of the church. Because White River Junction was a railroad town, soot from coal-burning locomotives created a special cleaning problem. Thus Father Kennedy found it necessary, in 1929, to redecorate the interior of the church, soiled by years of smoke and dust. At the same time, he made repairs on the roof and to the foundation. This special maintenance cost \$2,019.00. As a result of Father Kennedy's care, St. Anthony's church entered the period of economic hard times in good physical condition.

REV. JOHN A. LYNCH
Apr. 1932 - Oct. 1943

Named pastor of St. Anthony's on April 30, 1932, the Reverend John A. Lynch, a scholarly and somewhat austere man, served the people of the town of Hartford with dedication and distinction during the 1930's. He remained here until his death on October 9, 1943, and was helped by assistant pastors.



Rev. John A. Lynch

Education was given emphasis throughout Father Lynch's pastorate. In 1937, religious education classes for high school pupils began, taught by the assistant pastor. The next year, ninety-four high school pupils attended these classes, and two priests taught. At about this time, too, Father Spears, Father Lynch's assistant, organized a boys' club, the Knights of St. Anthony, which had club rooms on Pine Street, near the high school, and was of enormous benefit to the upbringing of the parish youth.

Father Spears's club reflected renewed emphasis in the diocese on the religious education of teenagers and adults. In 1939, Bishop Brady organized the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and twenty-nine discussion groups were formed in St. Anthony's parish to encourage increased knowledge of religion among adults. By 1938, two priests, five sisters, and seven lay persons were teaching catechism and religious education classes.

A severe setback to Father Lynch's program occurred in 1939. The superior of the Sisters of Mercy, sadly, found it necessary, because of a shortage of nuns, to recall the five sisters who had been staffing St. John's Convent. This event was distressing to everyone, since the Sisters had served St. Anthony's with energy and zeal for over thirty years. It is said that a delegation of parishioners called on Bishop Brady in Burlington to seek his help in persuading the Sisters of Mercy to stay in White River Junction. All efforts were unavailing. Thus the good Sisters of Mercy departed, accompanied by the good will and thanks of a whole generation of parishioners at St. Anthony's who had benefited from their countless good works and varied ministration.

REV. JOHN W. DWYER

Oct. 1943 - May 1944

Father Lynch's successor was the Reverend John W. Dwyer, who came to St. Anthony's in October, 1943, and died here on May 17, 1944.



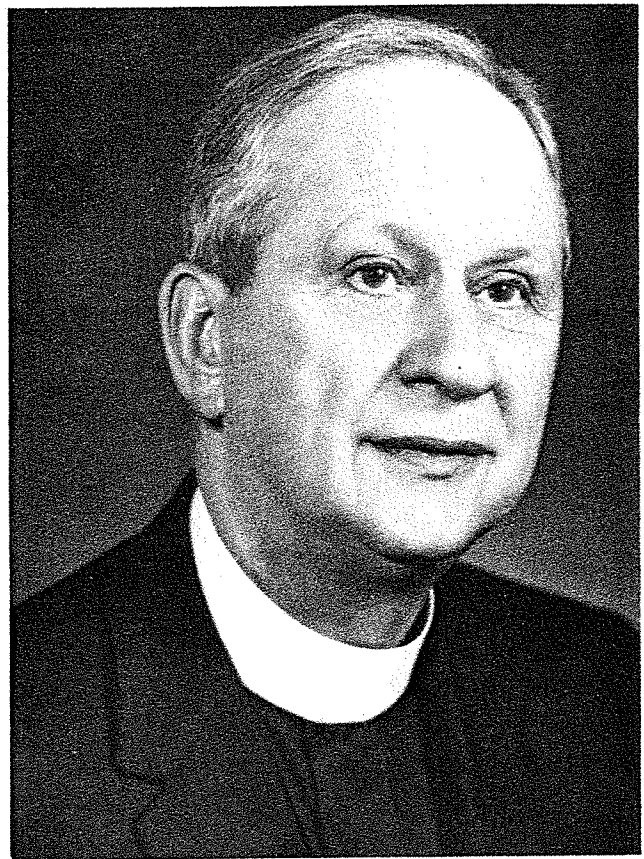
Rev. John W. Dwyer

REV. PATRICK A. BARRY

June 1944 - May 1953

On June 24, 1944, the Reverend Patrick A. Barry became pastor. During his pastorate, nuns returned to the parish. The order supplying them, however, was now the Sisters of St. Joseph, and they came from Rutland.

With the arrival of the sisters, in response to Father Barry's petitions, St. Anthony's kindergarten was reopened. The kindergarten has been of great practical service to parents who wish sound pre-school training for their children. Today, some fifty children, including a few non-Catholic children, attend classes, for which their parents pay a weekly fee of \$3.00. School bus service, if required, costs another \$2.00 per week and utilizes a parish bus bought after Father Barry's time, by Father Edwin Buckley. Classes are held from nine to eleven o'clock in the morning.



Rev. Patrick A. Barry

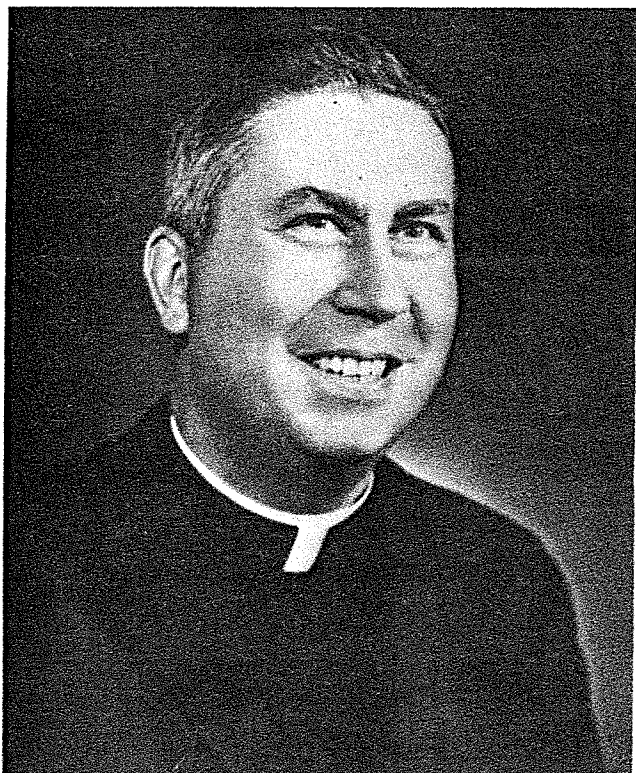
REV. FREDERICK CROWLEY

May 1953 - May 1956

The Reverend Frederick Crowley, succeeding Father Barry, came to St. Anthony's from Woodstock. Poor health, against which he strove valiantly, cut short his pastorate.



Rev. Frederick Crowley



Rev. Edwin Buckley

REV. EDWIN BUCKLEY

May 1956 - Jan. 1963

On May 6, 1956, the Reverend Edwin T. Buckley, S.T.D., became pastor. It was not long before he began to think of cleaning and beautifying the house of God. Since Father Kennedy's time, deterioration had kept up its relentless attack on the church buildings. Although Fathers Lynch and Barry had made what repairs seemed possible, requirements had by now got out of hand. The exterior walls and roof of the church again needed attention; the paint on the inside walls was again soiled and faded.

Seeing the building in such condition, Father Buckley realized that a complete renovation of both the church and its downstairs hall was imperative. With permission from the bishop, therefore, he began consultations with an architect from Burlington, Mr. Warren Goodrich, who provided estimates of what would be required to restore the church to first-class condition.

When he learned the probable cost of reconstruction (about \$180,000.00), Father Buckley decided that it could be financed only by a special fund drive. Therefore he opened such a drive, mobilizing the parish to action with all his considerable powers of organization, persistence, and zealous dedication. Teams of workers on the drive solicited special gifts and pledges to purchase particular pieces of furniture or equipment. Many parishioners, wish to give sizable amounts of money, arranged to pay the total over a thirty-month period of time.

The drive succeeding, Father Buckley let the construction work out for bids, hired a contractor, and supervised the project from start to finish. Among the

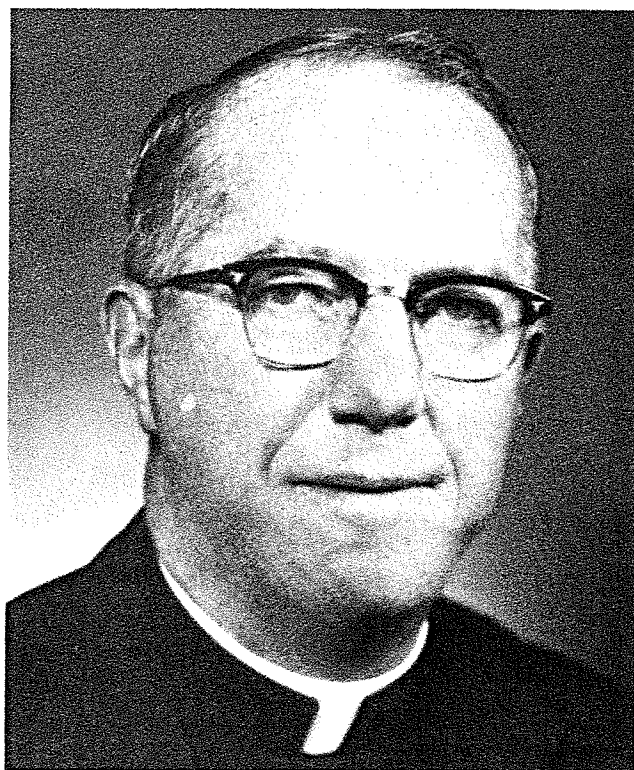
many changes in the interior of the church were a reredos blocking off the windows at the back of the sanctuary, new marble altars, a new altar rail, new pews, and redecoration. The parish hall, downstairs, was completely done over, kitchen equipment and a new stage added, and dividers installed so that it could be converted quickly into seven classrooms for religious instruction.

The church, thus renovated, was rededicated on August 5, 1959.

REV. JAMES RYAN

Jan. 1963 - Oct. 1966

When the Reverend James Ryan came to St. Anthony's as Father Buckley's successor, he found a beautiful church but a badly run-down priests' house. Father Buckley had given thought to renovating the house along with the church, but had found the cost of doing both jobs at once prohibitive.



Rev. James Ryan

Each pastor, from the time of Father Delany, had made some repairs to or improvements in the rectory, but by the 1950's the old building had become impossibly shabby and antiquated. The expense of a complete renovation, ripping out the inside walls and creating an entirely new interior, might run to as much as \$38,000.00, Father Buckley found. Having consulted an architect for advice and estimates, he decided the parish could not bear such an additional expense, and therefore gave up any idea of doing more than painting the old rectory.

Father Ryan took up the project upon his arrival and started long-range planning for both a new rectory and a modern catechetical center. He did not remain long enough in the parish, however, to carry any of his ideas to fruition.

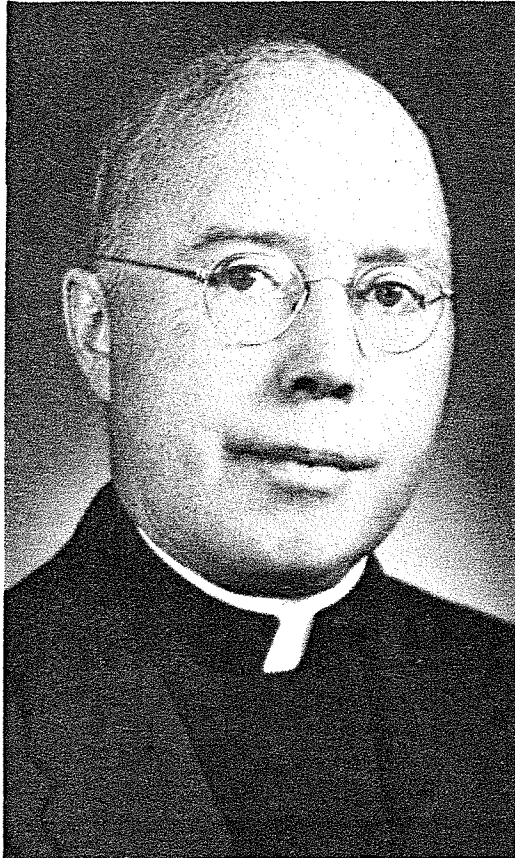


The renovated church was rededicated in August, 1959

REV. PATRICK HANNON

Oct. 1966 - Jan. 1969

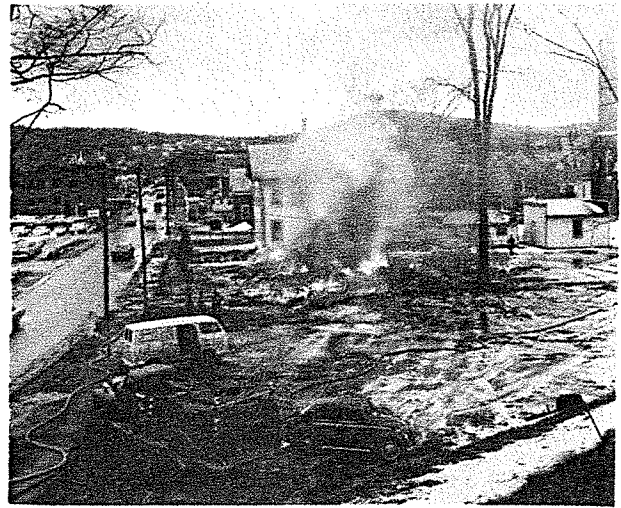
Much of the work of Father Hannon concerned the building of the new rectory and catechical center foreseen by Fathers Buckley and Ryan. The first bids for the proposed buildings were opened in April of 1967 and the lowest one was \$196,000.



Rev. Patrick Hannon

The Parish Committee decided that only one building, namely the rectory, could be afforded, and using previous plans drawn by Dirs and Lampron of Manchester, N. H., the committee solicited bids on a single building from three contractors. The lowest bid submitted by Neil H. Daniels, Inc. of Springfield, Vt., was for \$88,737. After considerable negotiation with the Diocesan Building Commission and certain adjustments in the plans by the contractor, a rectory of the size and general quality desired was planned for approximately \$80,000. The actual bid, \$80,624, was approved in May of 1968, by the Diocesan Building Committee and by Bishop Joyce.

Since the plan called for building the new rectory on almost the same spot where the old one was located, the old rectory had to be demolished before construction could commence. On May 22, 1968, the priests moved out of the rectory, what could be salvaged from



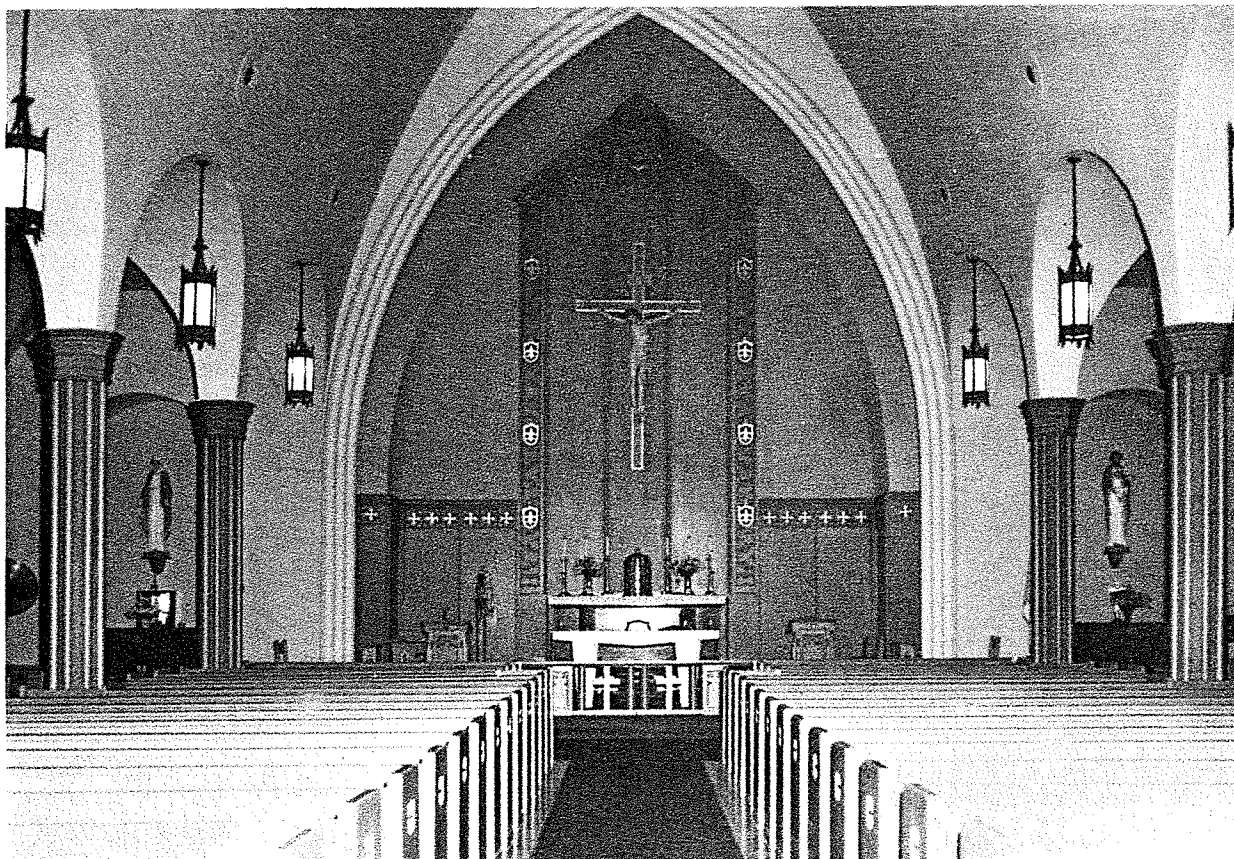
The old rectory was burned to the ground by the White River Junction fire department

the building was removed, and then, on May 25, it was burned to the ground by the White River Junction fire department. The old furniture, sold at auction, brought in \$1,027.74. Cost of the demolition was about \$400.00.

Construction of the new rectory began on May 27, 1968, and it was completed and ready for occupancy in late November of the same year. It is a two-story building with a hip roof. The first floor consists of the housekeeper's quarters, a kitchen and dining room, two offices, and a sitting room. Upstairs are a bedroom and sitting room for each of the two priests, and two rooms with a bath between them for guests. Entirely new furniture was bought for the house.

In planning this new residence for the priests' Father Hannon had the regular assistance and counsel of the parish pastoral committee, which held many meetings to consult on the work, its members giving their time, energy, and knowledge to the service of St. Anthony's. The committee also approved and directed the pointing of the brickwork on the whole exterior of the church in September, 1968, and the painting of the outside woodwork. This project cost the parish \$9,885.

During Father Hannon's pastorate, about 200 high school pupils of sophomore, junior, and senior rank were eligible for religious instruction. The teaching program for these young people was under the direction of the assistant pastor, Father DesLauriers, and classes for them were held in the Memorial School, mostly conducted by laymen. The freshmen pupils had classes in the parish hall, given by the Sisters of St. Joseph at Father Hannon's request in the spring of 1968.



Interior redecoration of the church was completed in September of 1969

REV. JAMES T. ENGLE
Jan. 1969 - Present

In January of 1969 Father Engle succeeded Father Hannon as pastor of St. Anthony's. Within a few weeks three new members were added to the Pastoral Committee, bringing it up to full strength. As a result of regular meetings each month, many projects were planned and have been accomplished.

An Open House for the new rectory was held on Sunday, April 27, 1969, from 2 to 4 p.m., with Benediction and the Blessed Sacrament at 4 p.m.

Although the new rectory was completed in November of 1968 the surrounding property had to be landscaped. This was accomplished in the early summer at a cost of approximately \$3100.

The pastor and the committee recognized the need for a new school bus. The old one, which was second-hand in the beginning, had been in use for approximately 10 years. A new bus was purchased at a cost of approximately \$6800.

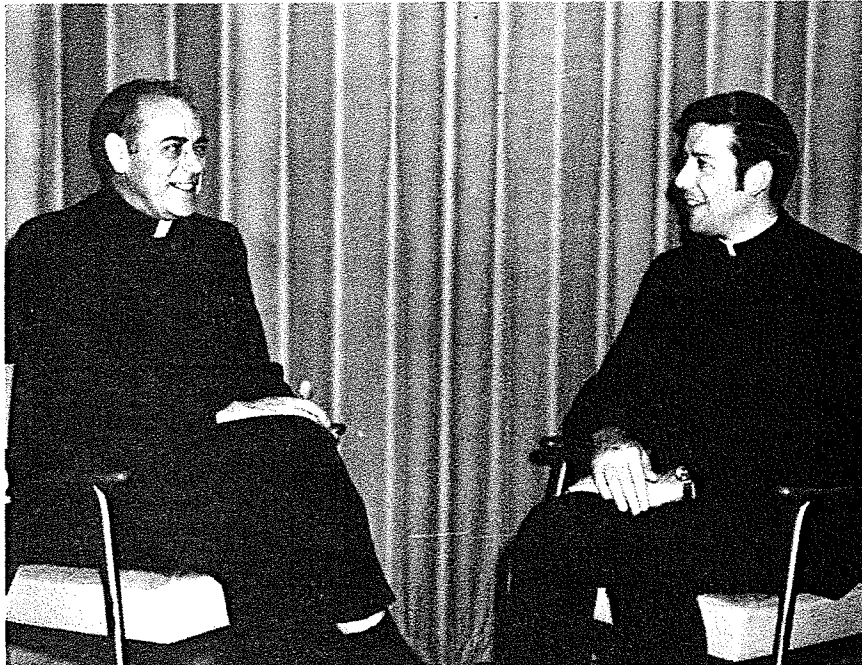
The parking lot across the street from the church was paved and at the same time the telephone company paved the adjacent lot. The paving project cost approximately \$3500.

Recognizing the need for redecorating the interior of the church, the Pastoral Committee secured bids from various contractors, and the redecorating project was completed in September of this year at a cost of approximately \$6000.

One of the most difficult projects which has been accomplished is the remodeling of the sanctuary. This included moving the marble altar forward, removing the communion rail, and recarpeting the sanctuary. The cost of this project was approximately \$14,000.

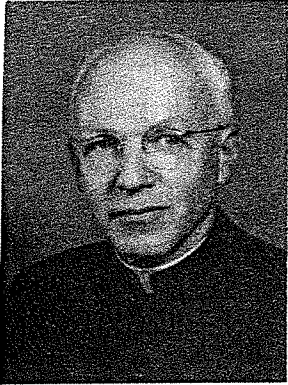
At various meetings during the year the question of air-conditioning the church was discussed, and after securing informal bids and opinions the Pastoral Committee has deferred the air-conditioning project for at least another year.

The major project has been preparing for this Centennial Celebration which we are now observing. The committee prepared the Centennial Brochure which you are now reading, and it is expected that Bishop Joyce will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. on November 30. This will be followed by a banquet for all parishioners, and it is expected that the Bishop as well as other prominent citizens will speak briefly at this affair.



Rev. James T. Engle and Rev. David Martin

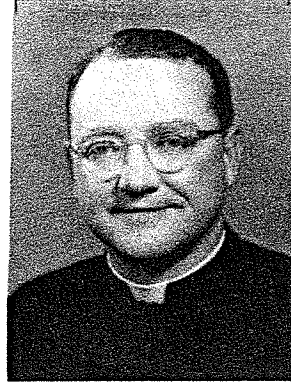
Assistant Pastors At Saint Anthony's



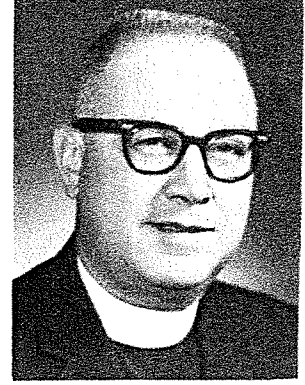
Rev. B. Roswell Spears
Sept. 1934 - Aug. 1935



Rev. Patrick J. Sweeney
Aug. 1935 - June 1939



Rev. John P. Mahoney
Jan. 1941 - Oct. 1941



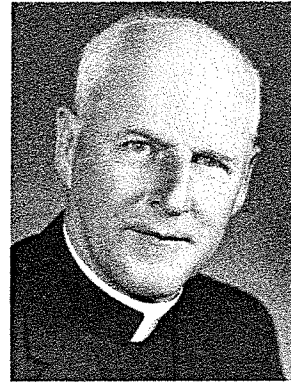
Rev. Richard J. Falwella
Oct. 1941 - Oct. 1943



Rev. Armand Fortin
Oct. 1943 - Nov. 1943



Rev. Christopher McHugh
Nov. 1943 - June 1944



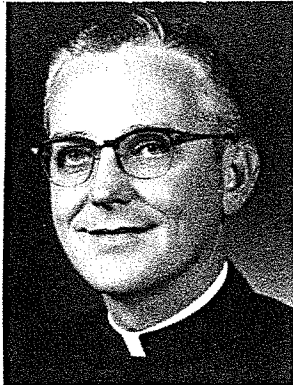
Rev. Daniel F. Roberts
Jan. 1946 - 1949



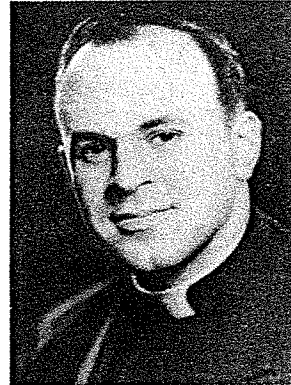
Rev. Anthony L. Jurgielewicz
1949 - 1951



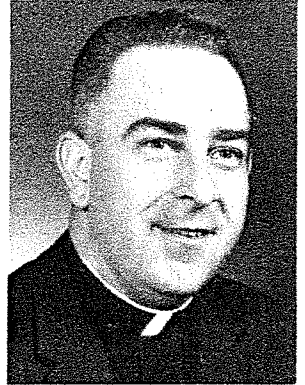
Rev. John Eastman
1951



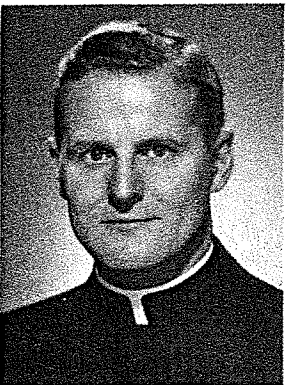
Rev. Francis Holland
1951 - 1955



Rev. Leo J. Steady
Oct. 1952 - May 1956



Rev. Martin F. Clancy
May 1956 - June 1961



Rev. Francis L. Flaherty
Oct. 1961 - May 1966



Rev. Bernard Messier
May 1966 - Feb. 1967



Rev. Victor G. Des Lauriers
Feb. 1967 - June 1969



Rev. David Martin
June 1969 - Present