

THE HISTORY
OF

SAINT PIUS X

CATHOLIC CHURCH

IN

OLD TAPPAN, NJ

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A HISTORY OF SAINT PIUS X R. C. CHURCH

FOREWORD

During the lives of people and nations, there are certain dates which stand out as milestones along our journey through life.

The yearly recurrence of these dates, we call anniversaries and they always bring back memories of the original event.

We are now on the threshold of our Fortieth Anniversary, another milestone, as we, Children of God travel onward on our pilgrimage toward heaven.

We are blessed with many happy memories as we recall with joy that on this special date, July 3rd, 1994, over four decades ago in 1954, a trilogy of events took place here in Old Tappan on a sunny, summer, Saturday morning in the Fire Hall at which our Most Reverend Archbishop Thomas J. Boland officiated: namely,

1.-- Reverend Michael W. Dancak was installed as our first pastor.

2.-- The name of our mission Church, "The Mission of Our Lady of Refuge," was changed to "Saint Pius X R. C. Church."

3.-- The first Confirmation in our parish was administered.

In order to tell our story adequately, we must turn the pages of time backward and introduce you to Old Tappan the way it was before we settled here and took root.

ORIENTATION

The land upon which Saint Pius X Church now stands was originally part of a vast wilderness which was purchased by Dutch settlers from the Tappan Indians in 1682. Here, the redmen had worshipped The Great Spirit in their own way.

Historic, old, brownstone houses, reminders of a bygone era, landmarks which dot the landscape of Old Tappan and vicinity, stand as sentinels of old. Their long and colorful history provides for us the stepping stones of a bridge across the years to pre-colonial times.

Many of their inhabitants are descendants of the first settlers in this area who have preserved with pride records of an early history, a heritage worth remembering.

Before the middle of The Nineteenth Century, a great exodus of Irish immigrants came to America because of the overcrowded conditions on the Emerald Isle which resulted in a growing famine.

The family of John J. O'Connor, Sr., was among this early migration landing in New York Harbor. About 1850, they arrived and settled in Old Tappan, becoming the first Roman Catholic family to reside here.

Pioneer Catholics in the vicinity often walked across country or traveled via horse and wagon, or surrey, each Sunday morning to Piermont on the Hudson River, in New York State to attend Mass at Saint John's Roman Catholic Church.

Throughout the final decades of The Nineteenth Century and during the beginning of The Twentieth Century, a steady stream of emigrants from the Old World arrived in America seeking better living conditions.

As our cities became overcrowded, many of their inhabitants sought the peace and quiet of country living.

The advent of the steamship, railroad and automobile changed the pattern of living.

Additional families gradually settled in the Old Tappan area, including Roman Catholics. Census records reveal that the growth of the population in the village of Old Tappan rose slowly in those years.

When it became incorporated as a borough in 1894 and officially adopted the name of "Old Tappan," it was a farming community of about one hundred and two people.

Before this date, it was part of Orangetown and Tappantown, New York, or Harrington Township and River Vale, New Jersey, intermittently.

In 1912, John J. O'Connor, Jr., was a founder of Our Lady of Victories Roman Catholic Church in Harrington Park and first president of the Holy Name Society there.

Later, Catholics in our growing community also attended Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church in Norwood.

INTRODUCTION

The most important individual in our young church's early history was a layman, Peter W. Wise, who lived in Old Tappan with his wife, Anne, and family, from 1941 to 1962.

Encouraged and spurred on by requests and prayers of local residents who were anxious to have a Catholic church in their own borough, he proceeded to make his and their wishes known to members of the clergy and worked zealously at this project from the summer of 1951 onward.

This Christian followed the example of his patron saint, Peter, the apostle, and remembered Christ's Words, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build My Church."

His dedicated work in the Matt Talbot Retreat Movement for laymen and women in Bergen County secured for him acquaintances and friendships with high-ranking members of the clergy, including Right Reverend Msgr. John A. Mc Nulty, then president of Seton Hall College.

He interceded for our cause with his brother, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, Most Reverend James L. Mc Nulty, who finally heard and granted Peter Wise's request and appointed Reverend Thomas Curry from Oradell, Administrator of our Mission Church in Old Tappan.

The next step was to find a site for the Offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays in Old Tappan, New Jersey.

Peter Wise was then Chairman of the House and Grounds Committee

of the Old Tappan Volunteer Fire Company. Through the aid of Charles De Wolf, Sr., a trustee of the Old Tappan Fire Company, he received permission for the use of the Hall in the Fire House, by the vote of the members of the Fire Company. This site was in turn approved by Father Curry.

The name of the Mission grew from a remark made by Father Curry's sister during one of her visits here. She commented that this place was a refuge for those Catholics in this borough who had longed to have their very own church. Both Father Curry and Peter Wise agreed that a good name would be "Mission of Our Lady of Refuge."

Our church was initially dedicated to Mary, Queen of Heaven, who had already been chosen Patroness of the United States of America by a Council of American Bishops in May, 1846, over a century ago.

Prayers were answered and dreams came true on Sunday morning at ten o'clock, on September 21st, 1952, the feast of Saint Matthew, when Father Curry offered the first Mass ever celebrated in Old Tappan in the Fire Hall of the Fire House, filled to capacity with grateful men, women and children.

Two weeks later, Father Curry informed Mr. Wise that it would be necessary to suspend services unless we could furnish our own priests, because he had difficulty even serving his own parish of Saint Joseph's.

Without alarming the parishioners of The Mission, Peter Wise carried his burden to a meeting of The Matt Talbot Retreat Movement in New York City, where the Jesuit Fathers rallied to our aid.

Early in October of 1952, both The Rosary Society and The Holy Name Society of The Mission of Our Lady of Refuge were organized. Mr. Peter W. Wise was elected first president of the Holy Name Society. Mrs. Camille Tuttle was elected first president of The Rosary Society. Their dedicated members volunteered to help our newly found church.

Following tradition, we rediscovered our cultural heritage as we pledged our allegiance to Mary, the Mother of God and the borough of Old Tappan was blessed as she became Our Guiding Star.

Jesuit priests offered Sunday Masses at The Mission of Our Lady of Refuge until March 3rd, 1954, when we were notified by Father Curry that the Franciscan Fathers would continue fulfilling the needs of our Mission Church.

During this interval, two masses were offered each Sunday morning at eight-thirty and ten o'clock. Confessions were heard before the Masses. Hymns were played on the piano by Mrs. Kathryn Koch. We had a Children's Choir and an Adult Choir. The congregation joined in the singing and the results were beautiful, unsurpassed and inspiring.

The ladies took care of the altar linens, priests' vestments, and provided fresh flowers to decorate the altar.

The men arranged round-trip transportation for those Jesuit and Franciscan priests who lived in New York City and offered Sunday

Masses for us here.

The women served these priests before they returned home to the city.

The men formed a maintenance crew who set up the chairs, stored them, and cleaned the Fire Hall weekly before and after services.

Peter Wise personally returned the sacred vessels and the collection money on Sunday afternoons to Father Curry in Oradell.

Mr. Joseph Tuttle built the altar and platform at his own expense.

There were many donations given from parishioners and non-parishioners to defray the expenses of our growing, church community.

Religious Education Classes began in November, 1952, under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Hanley and Mrs. Kathryn Koch. A few, lay teachers taught about thirty-five children in the Fire Hall after Sunday Masses. The children gathered around their respective teachers as they learned Christian Doctrine lessons from their Catechisms and listened attentively to Bible stories.

Our first Baptism took place at Our Lady of Refuge on November 30th, 1952 in the Fire Hall with Reverend Charles Reinhardt, S. J., officiating. The baby or newest parishioner was Joanne Winifred Tuttle, daughter of Camille and Joseph Tuttle.

Our first, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, on December 24th, 1952, was celebrated in the Old Tappan firehouse when a Jesuit priest, Father John Paul Jones was the celebrant, Peter Wise, the assistant,

Mrs. Kathryn Koch played the traditional hymns from the Saint Basil Hymnal on the piano and the whole congregation participated in their singing.

It was truly a joyful, inspiring and unforgettable occasion!

The first First Holy Communion Class received The Holy Eucharist on May 24th, 1953, at the Mission of Our Lady of Refuge located in the Old Tappan Fire House. The group consisted of two girls and eight boys.

The celebrant of the Mass and Benediction was the Reverend Charles Reinhardt, S. J., assisted by our lay representative, Peter W. Wise, as master of ceremonies.

Following an age-old tradition, after the Mass and before the Benediction, our two first communicants, Nancy Pearl Eggenberger and Linda Anna Cortez crowned the statue of Our Lady of Grace with a beautiful, floral wreath.

Thus began our annual Coronation of Mary, the Mother of God ceremony.

Chapter I

Peter Wise was notified by Father Curry on June 15th, 1954, that Archbishop Boland was assigning Reverend Michael W. Dancak to be the first pastor of The Mission of Our Lady of Refuge and that the name of our church would be changed to Saint Pius X Roman Catholic Church, effective July 3rd, 1954.

Therefore, a rectory was purchased. Its furnishings were donated by parishioners. Father Dancak took up residence at number five, Charles Place, as our first pastor. Our church was named after Saint Pius X, the poor, farm boy who became Pope and was recently canonized a saint, on May 29th, 1954.

(His name was Giuseppe Sarto, the second eldest of ten children born to very religious parents who were poor farmers. The family called him "Beppi.")

When he was a little boy, he would take off his shoes and walk home barefooted on rough country roads for a long distance to save his shoes so that his poor parents would not have to buy so many shoes for him.

He wanted to be a priest; but his parents could not pay for his education. He studied very hard and won a free scholarship to the seminary.

After he was ordained a priest, he spent all his money on poor children and their parents.

When he became Pope, he not only fed little children with bread; but made it possible for girls and boys to receive Holy Communion at an early age, as soon as they knew enough catechism to understand that Our Dear Lord comes to them in Holy Communion.)*

July 3rd, 1954 was also the occasion of the first Confirmation in our parish. The Sacrament was administered in the Fire Hall by the Most Reverend Archbishop Thomas J. Boland. Twenty-four children were confirmed, including eleven girls and thirteen boys.

Father Dancak, our newly appointed pastor, assisted Archbishop Boland.

Harold Sunden and Peter Wise were appointed first Trustees of the new parish. Harold Sunden is a Charter Trustee Member. He has served his church community faithfully for over thirty-five years.

For the next sixteen months, daily Mass, reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance and Holy Eucharist, and devotions took place in the little "breeze-way" chapel at the rectory, while Sunday Masses continued at the Fire House.

On August 22nd, 1954, an outdoor Shrine to Saint Pius X which had been erected on the rectory grounds, was blessed. A three-tier, metal rack of tall, red-glass, outdoor, vigil lights was set in front of the statue of Saint Pius. The lights burned night and day for our intentions.

**** Reference: -- "Saints to Know and Love,"

A memento of the occasion, a prayer card was given to the early parishioners by Father Dancak at this time. It had a prayer to Saint Pius printed on one side and an anonymous poem, entitled "I Lighted a Candle," on the other side. This adequately expressed the feelings of the faithful in bygone days.

"I lighted a candle and knelt to pray
Just for a moment -- I couldn't stay.
I had work to do that would not wait
(And time slips by at a fearful rate.)
So, I left the candle in my stead
And went my way, much comforted
With the thought that the tiny light would be
Burning the livelong day for me,
Expressing my Faith and Hope and Love
And my Confidence in a Power above.
Maybe it's childish to do such things;
But it always gives my spirit wings,
And I'd say to those who think me odd
It's children who'll enter the Kingdom of God."

On December 8th, 1954, the parishioners of Saint Pius X, with Father Dancak as their leader, remembered their allegiance to Mary and observed The Marian Year as they took part in a pilgrimage to a shrine of The Blessed Mother at Our Lady of Victories Church in Harrington Park and formed a living rosary together.

Chapter II

The need for a church grew and led to the purchase of our present, brick building on Cripplebush Road at the southwestern end of the borough of Old Tappan, near Harrington Park and Norwood, on July 5th, 1955.

Our building has a very interesting history. During The Gay Twenties, several years before the collapse of our country, Ripple Creek Country Club was established in Old Tappan. On this site, a large, red and tan brick building with elegant French windows and doors was constructed which originally served as a clubhouse.

The rolling green of its eighteen-hole golf course extended to where our rectory now stands and even beyond. It covered the area upon which many of our parishioners' homes have been built.

Our native, senior citizens recall events which took place here during their childhood, youth and courting days. They played golf on these grounds, attended dances in the ballroom of the swanky, Ripple Creek country club; and, often, on a Sunday afternoon, breathlessly observed daring, young men take off in small aircraft on a runway that extended from Charles Place to Blanch Avenue, Norwood!

Purchased in a state of disrepair, this structure required immediate attention. On July 19th, 1955, the gigantic task of converting it into a church began.

A volunteer group of dedicated men and women worked to repair, refinish and practically resurrect both the exterior and interior of the building. Many monetary gifts were given anonymously to Father

Dancak for this purpose.

The original statues, oaken pews and kneeling benches were donated from the old Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark, New Jersey. A group of Holy Name men worked hard sacrificing their time and energy transporting truckloads of church furnishings from Newark to Old Tappan.

Our first Ciborium was donated by the Longshoremen of the American Export Lines, Pier A, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Our first organ was a gift from the Loyola House of Retreats, in Morristown, New Jersey.

On November 6th, 1955, the Church of Saint Pius X was blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Thomas Boland.

On November 13th, 1955, the first Mass was celebrated here in the newly renovated building on Cripplebush Road.

Our church is a simple, sturdy, red and tan brick edifice. Its style is not Gothic, Romanesque, Italian, Baroque, nor Dutch Colonial.

Inside its walls, one's attention is focused to the sanctuary area, where a beautiful, artistic, hand-carved, wooden crucifix, imported from France, hangs on the wall behind the altar. This crucifix is a gift from Marie Davenport, donated in memory of her parents, Michael and Lucy Lanza.

Statues of Our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, The Sacred Heart, The Infant of Prague and Saint Pius X have a place of honor here

within this pious abode.

The side altar is the Repository for The Blessed Sacrament. Within the sanctuary, a tall, vigil light burns perpetually, reminding us of Christ's Presence here, as we recall His Comforting Words, "I am with you always, even to the end of time."

Fourteen, bronze plaques, The Stations of the Cross hang on the walls and encircle our church.

The windows are not of imported, stained glass as found in landmark churches and noted cathedrals; but the colored light that filters through the pastel, tinted windows of our House of Prayer sends a most edifying warmth upon those who worship under our cathedral-like ceiling.

During 1956, many changes occurred at Saint Pius X. We were growing numerically. Therefore, on February 20th, Religion Classes, which had temporarily been held at the rectory, were transferred, with permission from the local Board of Education, to Charles De Wolf School and conducted after regular school hours.

Because of poor health, Father Dancak asked Archbishop Boland for a helper. On April 7th, 1956, his request was granted when Reverend Andrew Jensen was appointed our parish's first assistant priest.

The first First Holy Communion Class in our new church received The Holy Eucharist on May 20th, 1956, with Father Dancak and Father Jensen officiating.

Chapter III

On June 23rd, 1956, a trilogy of important events took place here: namely,

1.-- The first, annual "Country Fair" was successfully held on the grounds surrounding our new church.

2.-- Our dear first pastor, Father Dancak bid "Good-by" to Saint Pius parish because his health was failing. Country living did not agree with Father Dancak. He had diabetes and suffered from allergies. He was transferred to Saints Peter and Paul parish in Hoboken, New Jersey.

3.-- Reverend Francis J. Ballinger became the second pastor of Saint Pius X Church.

In September, 1956, a census of the parish was taken by the Missionary Helpers of the Sacred Heart. We had grown to include over two hundred families! An extra Sunday Mass was added to our schedule.

Father Jensen continued to serve as assistant priest. Three lay teachers helped two nuns teach Religion to our grammar school children.

In October of 1956, two, outdoor shrines were erected on the front, tree-shaded lawn of our church. They are each mounted on a low, brick pedestal, measure about seven feet tall, partially sheltered by shrubbery and face Cripplebush Road, within view of passers-by.

One shrine is a rustic, Alpine-style crucifix donated by John and Helen Corrigan in memory of her mother, Loretta Greenidge. The other shrine is a white, stone statue of our patron saint, Saint Pius X, which had formerly been on the rectory grounds.

During the autumn of 1956, the Cana Movement and a local Legion of Mary were introduced here. High school girls and boys were organized into a new "Sarto Club," our first organization for teenagers here at Saint Pius Church.

In November, Father Francis Larkin preached a Triduum ending on November 27th with the solemn enthronement of The Sacred Heart as King of Our Parish.

In December, the Rosary Society conducted a successful Toy Sale and extensive improvements were made in preparation for Christmas.

Father Eugene Schwarz, O. S. B., came to us for Christmas, making possible a beautiful, Solemn High Mass on Christmas Eve, parts of which were sung by the entire congregation. A new inducement to the true spirit of Christmas was the rustic, outdoor crib erected on the front lawn of our church.

During 1957, the church and its grounds were further improved. An annex was added to the rear hall to accomodate the needs of our growing parish.

The month of August was selected for the first Religious Vacation School, conducted by The Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart and two seminarians. Lay teachers were trained during the summer to

prepare them to teach Religion during the school year.

On June 12th, 1958, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time at the new Church of Saint Pius X. Most Reverend Walter W. Curtis, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark officiated. Forty-three children and six adults were confirmed.

Chapter IV

Reverend William T. Lynch was appointed our third pastor on July 1st, 1960 and served our congregation as pastor until June 30th, 1977, a period of over seventeen years. During this time, we have grown spiritually and physically.

In accord with the decisions of the Second Vatican Council convoked by Pope John XXIII, changes were introduced in the church's liturgy, in order to present centuries-old doctrines in a manner more meaningful to our world today.

Therefore, in 1962, dialogue Masses were introduced and the priest faced his congregation as he offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at an altar table.

Lay lectors, both men and women, were introduced to assist the priest by reading the prayers and epistles of the new, dialogue Mass.

Many improvements were made to accomodate our growth. A dormer was added to the rectory. The church parking area was expanded and repaved. The kitchen in the church annex was renovated.

In 1962, a bell tower was constructed on the southwest corner of the roof on our church.

The bell was tolled on June 3rd, 1963, the day when Pope John XXIII died and on November 22nd, 1963, when President John Fitzgerald Kennedy died.

Father Jensen continued as Assistant Priest here until 1963, having served under three pastors: Father Dancak, Father Ballinger and Father Lynch.

As the years went by, several other assistant priests lived, in turn, at the rectory on Charles Place and helped alleviate the needs of our growing parish community. They were:

Reverend Joseph Ward, Reverend William Mc Cauley, Reverend James Mc Manus, Reverend Edward Scandone, Reverend Francis Cunningham, Reverend Ronald Rozniak and Reverend Thomas Hayden.

During the 1960s, we were temporarily blessed by the advent of several religious vocations. One young man became a priest and celebrated his first Mass in Saint Pius X Church. Three young ladies became nuns.

Sr. Charlotte Maria Koch entered the Franciscan Order on the anniversary of the birthday of Our Blessed Mother Mary, September 8th, 1960 and has continued to be a nun for thirty-three years. Hers is the only religious vocation which endured from our parish to this day.

During The Sixties, our Religious Education Program flourished under the guidance of our pastor, Father Lynch, our assistant priests,

the good sisters and dedicated, lay people, who served the needs of Saint Pius X Community during that decade when more homes were being built in Old Tappan and additional families were moving into our borough, including many Catholics.

Therefore, the enrollment of our children expanded from less than one hundred to over four hundred!

In the Mid-Sixties, four Sisters of Saint Joseph from Saint John's Convent, in Hillsdale, New Jersey, taught our children after Masses on Sundays for about four years.

Lillian Kasper served as Principal of the Religious Education Program from 1968 to 1973. The nuns could no longer come to Saint Pius to help teaching the children Religion because they had increased responsibilities in their own parish. Lay staff members volunteered their services and succeeded in teaching the children under difficult circumstances.

The Church Hall was partitioned by means of folding doors to separate groups.

Classes were now held on weekdays after school hours. The children were called to Religious Instruction from their playtime in the parking lot by the tolling of the newly installed church bell and dismissed in the same manner.

In 1972, there were twenty-nine teachers and a principal for children in Grades One through Eight. There were nine teachers and a principal, Nancy Tomcufcik, for the high school grades. The program

had grown rapidly and needed full-time attention.

Sister Jean Whitley was our Religious Education Coordinator from 1973 to 1978. She strengthened the existing, noteworthy foundation with the aid and cooperation of additional teachers.

Father Lynch observed his Fortieth Anniversary as a priest on June 19th, 1975. We celebrated the occasion with a High Mass followed by a party on the front lawn of our church.

By 1976, there were forty-three teachers and five coordinators of grade levels and of sacrament programs. These men and women taught five hundred and thirty-five children, representing three hundred and three families in our parish community.

In the Sacrament Programs, they prepared seventy-five children for Confirmation, seventy-five for first Penance and fifty-six for First Holy Communion.

The Religious Education Program is the largest activity in our parish and needs the support of all parishioners because our children are our future.

Religious Education is not limited to childhood. It is also an ongoing process, an adult process, through which we may review our basic heritage, faith in God.

The Parish Council of Saint Pius X R. C. Church was founded and organized in 1976 while Father Lynch was our pastor.

It consists of a group of parishioners elected by the congregation

to serve in an advisory capacity to the Pastor concerning the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Church Community. Final decisions remain the responsibility of the Pastor.

According to the spirit of Vatican II, it is a channel through which the entire parish can participate in the affairs of the parish.

Chapter V

Reverend Donald A. Cooper was appointed our fourth pastor on June 30th, 1977 and was our pastor as we celebrated our Silver Anniversary in 1979.

Father Lynch continued to serve Saint Pius X as our Associate Pastor. Reverend Edward Biggane was appointed our Weekend Assistant.

During Father Cooper's Pastorate, in accord with present liturgical norms, the altar railing was removed.

Improvements included new carpeting and a revised intercom system.

The Mass schedule was changed, adding a fourth Mass on Sunday mornings to accomodate the increased number of parishioners attending Mass.

Mass servers were increased and The Rosary Society donated white, monastic cassocks for the altar servers.

An imposing panorama is enacted and repeated several times

every Sunday morning as a steady stream of men, women and children approach The Table of the Lord reverently in double file up the center aisle to partake of The Bread of Life and return to their seats in single file down the side aisles.

In 1978, the method of Reception of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist was implemented by allowing Holy Communion to be placed in the hand of the receiver following the old tradition introduced by Jesus Christ to His Apostles at The Last Supper.

Each person makes of his or her left hand a throne, held upward and supported by the right hand to receive The Body of Christ reverently; and, then, carefully places The Sacred Host on their tongue with the fingers of the right hand.

This privilege is optional. The people have a choice and may receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand, whichever method they prefer.

Ministers of the Eucharist, members of Saint Pius X Community, both men and women, have been commissioned to help with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to bring The Holy Eucharist to the sick and shut-ins.

Sister Jean accepted another position at Presentation Church in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Connie Heatley was employed as Religious Education Coordinator during 1978 and 1979.

There were now approximately four hundred and fifty children involved in the program. Eighty-two children were in the Confirmation

Group and fifty-two children were in the First Communion Group.

Emphasis was placed on drawing parents into the preparation of their children receiving the Sacraments. There were Parent Meetings.

An Administrative Staff was appointed to administer the Weekday Programs.

Audio Visual Aids and New Films were purchased to facilitate the teaching of Religion.

During the Lenten Programs, a Learning Center approach was introduced which centered on units. This made the teaching process more effective.

Roberta Medalis had been appointed our new Religious Coordinator effective in September, 1979.

Father Donald Cooper hired Mrs. Rachel Lerch as our parish organist on February 8th, 1978. Volunteers were needed as Leaders of Song for the Masses and the first Adult Choir was formed. Mr. Robert Neukum, choirmaster and director, was hired in September, 1978. Kay Bollerman volunteered her services to direct the Guitar Group.

The Liturgy Committee is very active and has helped in making worship more meaningful.

The Rectory of Saint Pius X has a full-time secretary, Gertrude Mc Ilveen and a part-time housekeeper, Mary Utvak.

A custodial service was hired to take care of the church and hall. A landscape contractor was hired to care for the grounds

around the church and the rectory.

Many volunteers have come forward to paint, repair and take care of other necessary improvements. A vibrant, Faith Community needs a clean and neat physical plant in order to operate efficiently.

Following directives set forth by the Second Vatican Council, a three year Renew Program had been developed by a team of clergy, religious and lay people to help parishes be reborn spiritually by renewing individual lives who are the life of the church.

The program began in November of 1978, continued during Lent of 1979 and is planned to continue for the next two years.

About two hundred and fifty people responded to the call and met in small group meetings throughout our parish, shared their faith, read and listened to Bible readings, discussed the passages together by answering a series of questions on the Scripture selections.

There were twenty-four, small, group meetings held in homes. Three large meetings assembled at Saint Pius X Church at the beginning, middle and end of the program.

Jack Welby is the Coordinator of Renew.

The meetings began and ended with a prayer, involved action response and assigned Scripture readings to be reviewed individually for the following week.

Renew is not just a program for one, two, or three years; but an ongoing, reflective process which enriches our lives and makes us aware of God's Overwhelming Goodness and Love, with Whose Help, we

will renew the face of the earth.

Throughout the years, fund-raising activities to help defray the expenses of our growing Christian Community, were sponsored by our Rosary Society. They included:-- cake sales, bridge parties, fashion shows, bazaars, dances, book sales, a thrift shop, a merchandise club, and so forth.

The annual, simmertime "Country Fair" had always been a cooperative effort by both the Rosarians and the Holy Name men.

With God's Help and His Continued Blessing, under Our Blessed Mother Mary's Guidance and through the concentrated efforts and sacrifices of our priests and lay people, we established our roots here in Old Tappan and grew. Therefore, the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Church of Saint Pius X had been made possible.

Recalling the quotation from the biblical Book of Ecclesiastes, in Chapter Three, we read that "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

Chapter VIOUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY

July 3rd, 1979 marked a milestone in our church's history. It was the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the incorporation of Saint Pius X R. C. Church as a parish!

In celebration of this memorable event, two hundred people were present at a gala Dinner-Dance on Friday evening, June 8th, 1979, at The Colonial Manor in Old Tappan.

On Sunday, June 10th, 1979, at twelve o'clock noon, about three hundred people attended a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving and thanked God for the many blessings bestowed upon Saint Pius X Parish during the past twenty-five years.

Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark celebrated the Mass and was assisted by our Pastor, Reverend Donald Cooper, our Associate Pastor, Reverend William Lynch, our weekend assistant, Reverend Edward Biggane, three former assistant priests, Reverend William Mc Cauley, Reverend James Mc Manus and Reverend Ronald Rozniak, several visiting priests from neighboring parishes, laypeople and Mass servers.

The ceremony was very beautiful and inspiring. The Adult Choir, Youth Group, clergy and the congregation jubilantly joined together in singing hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Rachel Lerch was our organist.

An anniversary booklet had been written and published, recalling our history during the past twenty-five years. It was presented to Archbishop Gerety at the Mass by Kathryn Koch during the offering of the gifts.

This silver-covered memento was distributed to our parishioners after this Solemn High Anniversary Mass.

After the Mass, the congregation gathered on the front lawn of the church grounds and enjoyed a social get-together, during which refreshments consisting of fruit punch, sandwiches and cookies were served, while memories were shared.

Chapter VII

Very Reverend Francis T. Maione was appointed our new , fifth pastor on February 7th, 1981.

After his appointment to our community, he built up his Parish Staff to aid him in meeting our needs.

Reverend Stephen Feehan was his Weekend Assistant.

Deacon Richard G. Hodges and Deacon Frank Rumolo were our Permanent Deacons.

In April, 1981, Paul T. Reiser was named Pastoral Assistant. He coordinated all Liturgical and Music Ministries and all Celebrations for our community as well as being the right-hand man to our pastor.

His Music Ministry consisted of: an Adult Choir, a Folk Group, a Children's Group, while Rachel Lerch was our organist.

Father Maione encouraged and led the entire congregation in singing, reminding us that, "Those who sing praising God, pray twice."

Father Maione sponsored programs for ministerial renewal with Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, the Choir, Folk Group, Childrens' Choir and our Parish Council, a group of dedicated parishioners who provide insight and advice to our pastor and are interested in both the physical and the spiritual life of our parish.

The Ministry of Altar Servers was opened to all girls and boys in Grades Four and up.

Bobbi Medalis served as Director of Religious Education along with Jim Ferry as Youth Minister while Rita Gillen was appointed Staff Associate for the Religious Education Program.

Al Getler became Youth Minister temporarily until he was replaced by Mike Reiser in March, 1983. We now had over five hundred and fifty registered families in our parish community.

Mrs. Rita Gillen was renamed Religious Education Program Administrator replacing Bobbi Medalis. In this capacity, she served Saint Pius X Parish for six years from September, 1979 to June, 1985.

Reverend William T. Lynch continued to serve us as Retired Priest in Residence.

In January of 1982, in addition to working as sexton at Saint Pius X Church, Thomas Guerriero, Sr., a parishioner for twenty-two years, volunteered his services to make a set of stained-glass windows to adorn and beautify the south wall of our church.

He was given permission by Father Maione and the Parish Council to go ahead with his creative project.

His first stained-glass window was completed for The Feast of Corpus Christi, June 13th, 1982 and named "The Body of Christ." It was unveiled at the 10:30 A.M. Mass on that Sunday, the day on which twelve new Eucharistic Ministers were installed.

Tom received a standing ovation by our congregation for his masterpiece.

This window which pictures The Eucharistic Host and Chalice, plus the words, "The Body of Christ," printed on it, contains almost four hundred pieces of glass! Three spools of solder were used and two rolls of foil were required to wrap each piece of glass before soldering.

Tom continued his dedicated, creative artistry until his seventh window was unveiled on October 4th, 1984, depicting the Anointing of the Sick, Extreme Unction; thereby, completing his set of the Seven Sacraments, colorfully portrayed. He has served God and our parish community in a most edifying, spiritual way.

These windows are a lasting memorial to one man's efforts and an inspiration to all who view them. They have been dedicated in memory of community members who have died.

In October, 1982, we celebrated our Rosary Society's Thirtieth Anniversary and had a booklet written and published about its history.

It is a story of faith, a collective prayer to God, a testimony to the mutual love between Mary, the Mother of God and her children.

Twenty-six ladies were present at our first, historical meeting. We now had seventy-two members!

Our Social Concerns Ministry has been active throughout the years with Mrs. Camille Tuttle as Chairlady, Evelyn Allen, Marge and Bill Drummond, core coordinators and the dedication and commitment of many wonderful volunteers.

We have been blessed with the spirit of caring and sharing as demonstrated in their many services assisting those in need.

These include:--

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Grop Walk, | (b) Clothing Drive, |
| (c) Food Baskets, | (d) Giving Tree, |
| (e) Baby Clothes, | (f) Mass of Anointing, |
| (g) The Homeless, | (h) Mother Teresa's Soup Kitchen. |

On October 2nd, 1983, Father Malone introduced The Tithing Program at Saint Pius X Church. It appeared to be successful in its initial stages; but had its pros and cons. After analyzing the results of this project, Father Malone reported to his people, "We are really not a tithing parish. We have a small amount of parishioners who do tithe, we have others who have increased their giving, we have those who give within their means and we have those who give nothing at all."

Father Malone concluded that our attitudes and spirit of giving

are far more important than dollars.

Deacon Dick Hodges brought new life to our parish when he became a full-time paid member of our Parish Staff on March 1st, 1985 and moved into his Pastoral Care Office located in the rectory basement.

He had previously begun to minister in the areas of Pastoral Care of the sick, Senior Citizens, needy families, Baptismal and marriage preparation couples.

For several years, he had been available to bring the Eucharist to those confined at home, paid friendly visits to the lonely and was on call to provide food, clothing and shelter to the needy.

Mary Anne Fox was appointed Director of Religious Education in September, 1985.

Catechists, aids, administrators, volunteers and parents had helped in our Religious Education Ministry throughout the years.

On February 22nd, 1986, Reverend William T. Lynch bid us "Farewell" after almost twenty-six years of service to Saint Pius X Parish.

Growth had been achieved in both First Eucharist and Confirmation classes.

Bishop Dominic Marconi and Bishop Joseph Francis confirmed sixty-two of our young people at Saint Pius X Church on May 24th and May 25th, 1985.

On Sunday, April 20th, 1986, thirty-two children received the

Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time.

Forty-six candidates celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 17th, 1986, the eve of Pentecost and were confirmed by Bishop Pechillo.

On June 30th, 1986, Father Malone bid "Farewell" to our Saint Pius X parishioners during a most impressive, Liturgical, ceremonial Mass.

He had been granted a Sabbatical Leave and returned to further his studies at The Theology Institute in Louvain, France.

Chapter VIII

Reverend Joseph H. Murphy was appointed Temporary Administrator of Saint Pius X Parish by Archbishop Gerrety on July 1st, 1986.

On July 25th, 1986, Most Reverend Theodore E. Mc Carrick was installed as our new Archbishop of Newark by retiring Archbishop Gerrety.

On Sunday, August 31st, 1986, Reverend Joseph H. Murphy was appointed Pastor of Saint Pius X Parish Community by our new Archbishop Theodore E. Mc Carrick.

On September 20th, 1986, Reverend Joseph H. Murphy was officially installed by Archbishop Theodore Mc Carrick as our sixth pastor. This Saturday, 5:30 P. M. Mass was concelebrated by

Archbishop Mc Carrick, Bishop Garner, ten priests, Deacon Richard Hodges and Deacon Frank Rumolo. The Liturgy was most impressive.

Our Church was crowded to capacity with additional visiting clergy, relatives and friends of Father Murphy and parishioners attending this special, happy occasion.

A joyful, welcoming Reception in the Church Hall followed which provided everyone present an opportunity to greet and congratulate Father Joseph Murphy and extend our best wishes to him on his new assignment.

Sister Regina Suplick had joined the Parish Staff of Saint Pius X in 1987. Her ministry is R. C. I. A., Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a process whereby new members are welcomed into our faith community by the entire parish.

It involves prayer, inviting, inquiring, discussion, seeking, learning, sharing and accepting.

In September, 1987, Mary Anne Fox was appointed our new Director of Religious Education. There were now three hundred children in Grades One through Eight enrolled in our Religious Education Program.

Our Catholic Community is justly proud of its beautiful church named in honor of Saint Pius. As we expanded numerically, the idea of erecting a new church had been discussed among a group of parishioners and grew.

Our seven acres of parish land on Old Tappan Road were put up for-sale and placed on the market. We have not had a legitimate

offer made for the purchase of this land.

The Building Committee of our Parish Council has been studying and planning how our new church and parish center would fit into our future.

They visited other church facilities making comparisons. Architects have been interviewed.

Father Murphy had a private meeting with Archbishop Gerrety and submitted the Feasibility Study document prepared by members of our Parish Council for his consideration and further review by the Archdiocesan Administrative Staff.

The new Saint Pius X Parish Newsletter, "Dialogue," was begun in November, 1989, hoping to provide an open forum for the parish through interchange and discussion of ideas.

We are grateful to Editor John De Biasio and his staff for keeping our Parish Community informed about the activities and needs of our parishioners.

In 1987, our Parish Council, which had been founded and organized in our Parish Community in 1976, while Father Lynch was pastor, experienced a state of transition to a Parish Pastoral Council which will spend more time in prayer and study, concerning themselves with renewal, retreats, missions and the four areas of ministry: namely, Word, Worship, Community Building and Service.

Mrs. Mary Ann Cassidy served as Director of Religious Education for two years, from September 1990 to June, 1992.

Sister Emily Mc Mullen served as Minister of Liturgy and Music from 1988 to September, 1990. Mrs. Harold (Peg) Lakin generously ministered to us and supplied the music in Our House of Prayer from September, 1990 to March, 1991, while Father Murphy searched for a new parish organist.

Roger Lakins became our new Parish Organist on March 17th, 1991.

Deacon Richard G. Hodges retired from full-time involvement in our parish activities in 1992. For decades, he has been an integral part of the spiritual and social life of our Saint Pius X Community.

In addition to being a member of the Rectory Staff and Pastoral Council, he has been actively involved in all four ministries: namely, Word, Worship, Service and Community Building.

Deacon Dick's dedicated services are deeply appreciated by our entire Parish Community.

During 1992, extensive maintenance improvements had been made in our church which included: painting, new lighting, new fans, new carpeting, roof repair, a new sound system, speakers, a VCR and new television, etc.,

Our "Wish List" consisting of necessary improvements and their costs had been posted in the rear Parish Hall. We have received generous donations from parishioners for items on our "Wish List."

Our Rosary Society has donated the VCR and TV for use in our church and CCD Classes.

On October 10th, 1992, at 11:00 A.M., a Mass was offered in Saint Pius X Church to commemorate Our Rosary Society's Fortieth Anniversary in our Parish Community.

On this special, spiritual occasion, our pastor, Reverend Joseph Murphy, was the celebrant at this Mass, assisted by Deacon Richard Hodges and two Eucharistic ministers.

The Mass was followed by the recitation of the rosary, during which we meditated on the glorious mysteries of our faith. About fifty people attended.

A Social followed in the Parish Hall. Refreshments were served. It was a time to remember the past, enjoy the present and look forward to our future.

We take pride in remembering our rich heritage which had been conceived simultaneously in September of 1952, during the first month when our Mission Church was founded.

In the afterglow of the many 1992 celebrations observing the quincentennial discovery of our continent by Christopher Columbus which was not only a great historical event; but a great spiritual event which brought Marian devotions to the New World from Spain and Portugal through the faith of Columbus and his crews.

Tradition tells us that those sailors gained renewed strength and courage by closing every evening of their long voyages with the singing of "The Salve Regina," a favorite hymn also embraced and popularized by our Rosary Society.

History of Saint Pius X

As we reminisce about our history, a kaleidoscope of memories presents itself before our view. Always in the background, hovers Our Lady of Refuge, Our Star of Hope protecting us under her mantle of blue and guiding us as we journey together on our pilgrimage through life.

Our story has been told through the hands, perspiration, determination and sacrifices of our dedicated clergy and lay people, who gave of their time and talents to lay the initial cornerstone and ensure the existence of their church by making its early and humble beginnings of four decades ago blossom and grow through two generations of parishioners; thereby fulfilling the motto of our heavenly patron, Saint Pius X, "To restore all things in Christ."

This is our time once again to be thankful, to remember, to celebrate and look forward to our future, renewed by our faith, hope and love in God.

Our special "Congratulations! to each and everyone who have made this Ruby Anniversary possible!"

Greetings...

...and Farewell!

MEMOIR

(A farewell to our old Church on
Cripplebush Road in Old Tappan... August 21, 1998)

In 1954 the Korean War had just ended- and like a lot other young veterans I was released from service, and anxious to get home and build a home and raise a family. My wife Vivian and I had purchased a piece of land in Old Tappan five years earlier, and we lost no time in getting started. The population of Old Tappan was just a little under 1,000 at that time. During the year or so that it took to build, Vivian discovered that Sunday Masses were being offered at the local firehouse, so we began attending regularly. The people there were open and friendly, and we could see that a sense of community already existed, even though there was no church in town. The thing I remember most about the Mass in the firehouse was the sensation caused when the fire whistle blew. It was located on the roof, directly above us, and believe me when I say it would ~~lift me up~~ off my seat!

The Rectory was located on Charles Place, a quarter mile from the church. It was a small ranch house joined to a garage by a screened in breezeway. Our Pastor, Father Danzak, would hear confessions in the breezeway, with his eyes and one ear cocked toward the TV set just inside the door to the living room. Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca's "Show of Shows" was his favorite program. In the summer of 1955 Vivian and I had just moved into our completed home in Old Tappan when we heard that the church community had just purchased a parcel of land in town and were planning to renovate an old abandoned airplane hangar and converting it into a church. We went to see this future church...and it was an incredible sight! Parts of the floor were missing. There were bent and broken golf clubs, airplane propellers and engine parts strewn all over the place. It was a shambles! But the little community of faith known as Saint Pius Xth rolled up their sleeves and set to work repairing, replacing, refinishing- in fact, *resurrecting* this old wreck of a building. I can recall working with the men of the Holy Name Society when they hauled all of those heavy oak pews from an old church in Newark and set them in place here in our new home. God, they were heavy! So many of us couldn't straighten our backs for two weeks that we renamed the group the "Holy *Lame* Society".

There was a groundskeeper's apartment at the west end of the building, where the sacristy is now located. The two lavatories that are there now were once a small kitchen. We built this platform, and placed an altar-with a tabernacle in the center- against this rear sanctuary wall; in those^{days} the priest saying the mass faced the altar (and the rear wall) and prayed in Latin the entire time.

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The only times he turned toward the people and spoke in English was when he said "Let us pray" or "The Lord be with you." An altar railing ran across the room at the foot of the altar. The only people allowed behind the railing were the celebrant and the altar servers. (Jack Jaworski and his brother Raymond were our "steady Eddie" altar servers.) Oh, and the ladies who cleaned and vacuumed during the week...they were allowed to enter the sanctuary, and I can recall hearing some of the ladies saying how unworthy they felt being on the altar, and how nervous they were about it.

That alcove where we keep our baptismal font didn't exist at the time. That was an external porch with French doors leading out onto it. Once we closed it in it became the music ministry bay. Many a group of grammar and high school students played guitars and tambourines and drums, and sang their hearts out at Sunday Masses all through the seventies and well into the eighties. But the folk music seemed to slowly phase out of liturgy toward the end of the eighties, as those students graduated and moved on. I think, now, that Lisa our music director; Jeanne, our lead singer, and our choir do a marvelous job- yet sometimes, when I reminisce a little...I hear the guitars.

In 1957 our pastor Father Ballinger added a twenty foot extension at the other end of the building, doubling the size of the hall. Among other obvious advantages, we were able to hold parish dances several times a year- on New Years Eve, Saint Patrick's Day, bus Day, and even an occasional barn dance in the late fall. Our CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) held dances here and youths from parishes all over the Northern and Pascack Valleys would attend. The noise and percussion from those bands was unbelievable- and many of the adult chaperones of those days are wearing hearing aids today. Those were great times, and great memories.

Another affair that was very popular and a real community builder was our annual chicken barbecue and carnival. The Holy Name men had built a huge cinder block barbecue pit out there under the trees. And we'd set up tables and chairs out on the grounds, where we would serve hot chicken dinners with all the trimmings. There were rides for the kids, and roulette wheels and other games and prizes for young and old alike. The biggest event was held for the end of the day - and that was our annual car raffle. For months before the event our parishioners had sold raffle tickets at supermarkets for miles around, including Rockland County. Our very first car raffle was won by none other than... our raffle chairman, Steve Dunn- boy, was he embarrassed!

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Interestingly, these annual barbecues were always held on the third Sunday in June...and that was always the day that our newly assigned priests would arrive for duty. Father Bill McCauley, Father Jim McManus, Father Ed Scandone, Fr. Ron Rosniak, Fr....all said they wanted to turn around and go home when they saw our church and the goings on on our church property. In time though, these priests learned to love this community, and they are very fondly remembered by those of us who knew them.

In 1962, our Pastor, Father Lynch had the bell tower installed at the southwest corner of the building. A knotted rope, used for tolling the bell, hangs through the ceiling of the lavatory below it. When my son Mark was about seven he fulfilled a secret longing; he wanted to toll that bell! Before Mass one Sunday morning got his wish...he was allowed to ring the bell. He ran in and grabbed the rope and pulled with all his might...the bell swung and the rope went up and Mark went up with the rope...and he came down into the toilet!

1962 to 1965 were the years of the Second Vatican Council in Rome, and many changes were beginning to take effect in our sacramental and liturgical celebrations. During this period we remodeled the sanctuary by replacing the altar, as you see it today; so that the celebrant saying the Mass is facing the people and inviting them to become a *part* of the celebration instead of observers. Lay Readers were introduced- our Lectors of today- and others were trained to assist in administering the Eucharist.

In the decade of the seventies the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, borne at the Vatican Council under Pope John the Twenty-Third, swept through the Catholic Church in America; and many other instruments of renewal like Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, and the RCIA became popular. There were weekly prayer meetings here- around this altar- every Tuesday night for five years; and AGAPE evenings of reflection went until well into the eighties. By that time there was so much activity going on in addition to our regular religion classes that our little country church was already bursting at the seams.

In 1979, our Pastor Father Don Cooper removed the altar railing from the sanctuary, in keeping with the latest liturgical developments. Everyone was flabbergasted by such a drastic change! Before then, people would approach the altar and kneel at railing, and the celebrant would go down the line distributing communion. Now, with the railing gone, the restricted area of the sanctuary was wide open. And no one quite knew how to handle that. In spite of assurances, it seemed sacrilegious to tread on such holy ground without at least taking one's shoes off.

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The end of the seventies was marked by the beginning of a three year process of spiritual renewal for parish communities. Two hundred of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark participated in "RENEW", and in our own little parish of 400 families , more than 250 people signed up for small faith-sharing discussion groups. (They were called "Small Christian Communities".) Our Rosary Society got into the spirit of the thing by donating 250 bibles to families that didn't own one. This was another amazing development- Catholics carrying bibles?? Good Heavens!!

The RENEW process ended in 1980, but everyone wanted to continue on...so several times in the years following we wrote our own small group programs for Lenten and Advent seasons. Some of these groups eventually took on various forms of ministry; one group became the St. Pius X Social Concerns Ministry...they're the ones who organize the annual clothing and food drives, and look for volunteers to man the homeless overflow shelter twice a year. Another group began cooking meals for a soup kitchen on Monday mornings- enough to serve 200 people. The cooking team rotate from week to week and the ministry goes on and on...ten years to date. With the closing of this church building the Trinity Reformed parish has offered their kitchen until we gain access to our new facilities, so the service will not be interrupted.

Our Saint Pius X Bethany Group is another form of Ministry that was born as a result of a small group action. Bethany serves bereaved families by providing meals , transportation, house-sitting during funeral proceedings, and quite frequently prepares a marvelous buffet lunch for the post-funeral reception for family and friends of the deceased. They do this here in the church hall or in the family's home , and at no charge.

All of these things are accomplished here- in our own little country church. Our little kitchen has always been a laugh and a half- but marvelous things have come out of there. (including the men's toilet that used to be in one corner of the kitchen. Father Cooper pulled the plumbing out when he got tired of the women complaining about the men standing on line in that little space. (Of course, men complained too, but he didn't mention that.) For many years the Rosary Society and the Holy Name Society held their annual Communion Breakfasts in our church hall. On those occasions the men would cook and serve the ladies their breakfasts, and the women would serve the men's breakfasts. And...for several years, during Holy Week, we served Paschal Suppers, (a Christian version of the Seder.) The entire parish was invited, and we would serve roast lamb dinners to as many as 90 to 100 people.

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In 1982 a parishioner (whose name was Tom Guerriero) attended a stained glass artistry course at the local high school. Tom had just retired and was looking for a useful pastime. He made a stained glass window for our church... that one- depicting the Holy Eucharist. Tom installed it, and at 10:00 Mass one Sunday morning, our Pastor, Father Frank Maione unveiled it, and presented it to the community. Tom got a standing ovation for that. In time, he made a stained glass window for each of the seven sacraments, as you can see. These windows are a part of our history as a community of faith. I understand that they will be installed in the classroom windows of our new parish center, where our children will learn about the sacraments. This is Tom's legacy to the community of faith that he loved. And speaking of legacies...

Father Joe Murphy joined us twelve years ago. He was appointed Pastor on August 31st, 1986. One of the first things he did besides hiring our beloved Father Leo was install new carpeting throughout the church, after first consulting all of us regarding color and pattern. (We weren't accustomed to being consulted about such things.) Since then he has often astounded us with his artistic flair for beautiful liturgical decoration of the altar, sanctuary, and the entire building, especially during the Easter and Christmas seasons. A few years ago he had the entire place redecorated once more, with fresh paint, ceiling fans and lighting fixtures. Father Joe has also had to attend to some really serious structural problems with the roof and the foundation- not evident to most of us, but of a critical nature...and he has been the driving force in helping us to move on to a new and larger parish center which will more fully meet our liturgical, catechetical and ministerial needs... and that is *his* legacy to us. I came across a poem which I thought was rather appropriate- and I've renamed it "An Ode to Father Joe"...listen:

Somebody said it couldn't be done, but he, with a chuckle, replied:

Well maybe it couldn't, but he wouldn't be one to say so til he'd tried... so he pitched right in with a grin on his face (if he worried he didn't show it)

and he started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn't be done, and he did it!

You know, I've probably left a few things out- but we're talking about nearly fifty years of history, here. The history of Saint Pius X Parish is *our story*- the story of a growing faith community in which we all have played - are playing- an important part. Day by day our story grows...let's live it to the fullest. There's a passage from Ecclesiastes that puts it so well...

"There is an appointed time for everything under the heavens; A time to be born and a time to die; time to plant and a time to reap; a time to tear down and a time to build...Brothers and sisters, this is our *appointed time*...to build! Let's move on from this place as we continue to "***Renew all things in Christ***"!

Deacon Dick Hodges (August 21, 1999)