

THE ROAD TO 125

A Journey Through St. Benedict's History
1901 - 2026

The Very Beginning

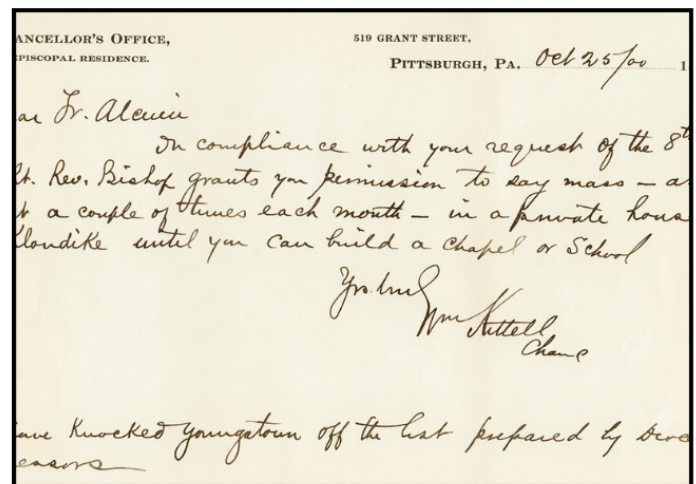
Did you know? The first Mass was held in a private home!

In 1900, Catholics in the community of Marguerite began attending Mass in a private home before later moving services to a company store.

As the local population increased—driven largely by the growing demand for coal—the community wished to have a dedicated priest of their own to attend to their spiritual needs. A delegation of parishioners petitioned the Archabbot of St. Vincent Archabbey, who graciously conceded to the request.

The community then applied to the Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for official permission to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. **On October 25, 1900, permission was granted to celebrate Mass a few times a month in a private residence in Klondike**, with priests traveling from St. Vincent to fulfill Sunday and Holy Day services. **(Marguerite was once known as Klondike in the early 1900's).**

Soon after, mining officials offered the use of the company store—located directly across from what is now the Marguerite Fire Hall—specifically for the purpose of holding Mass.



Permission Document
Oct 25, 1900

