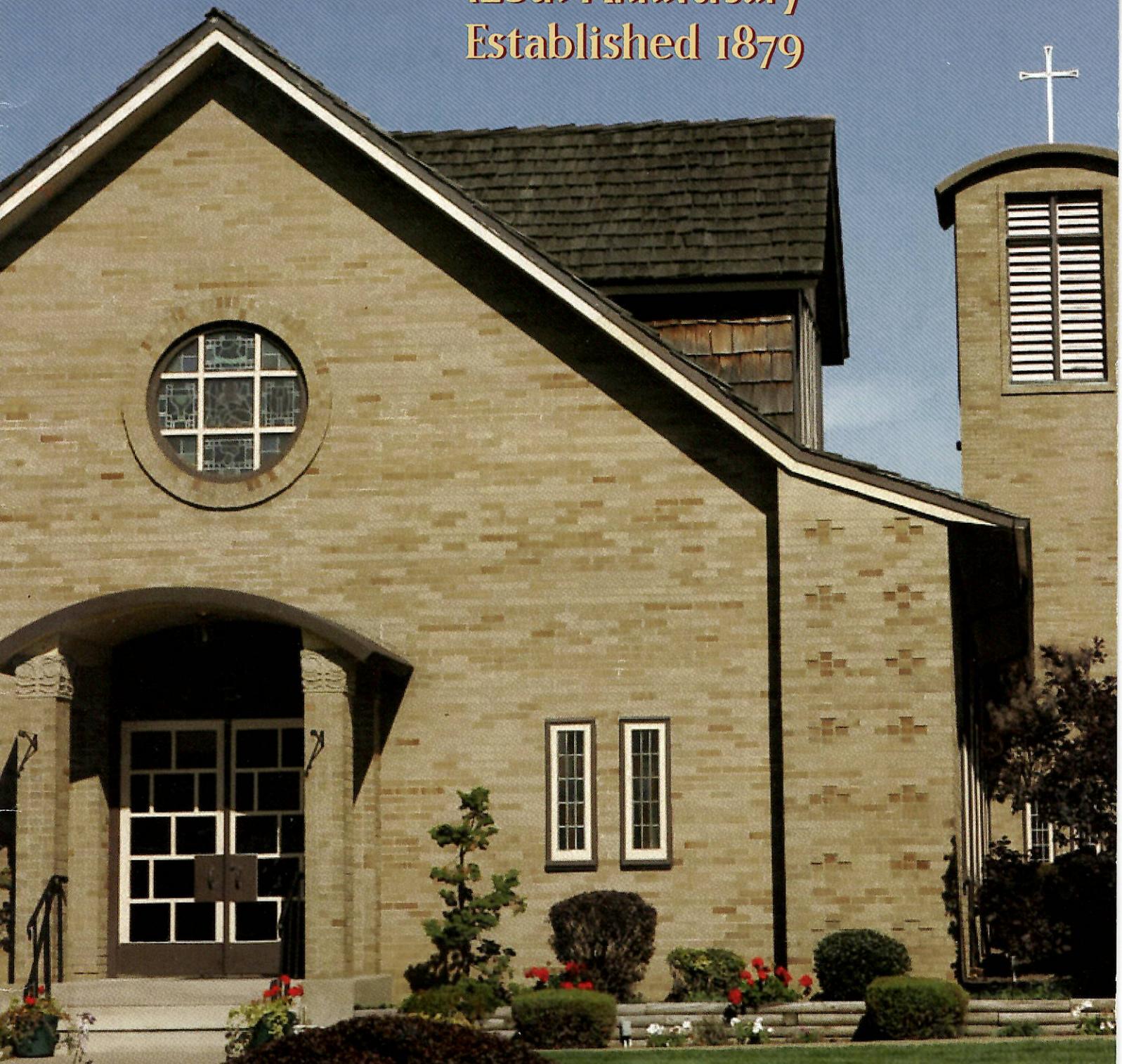


St. Agnes Church

125th Anniversary
Established 1879



Cleveland Catholic Diocese
Orrville, Ohio

ST. AGNES CHURCH

1879 - 2004

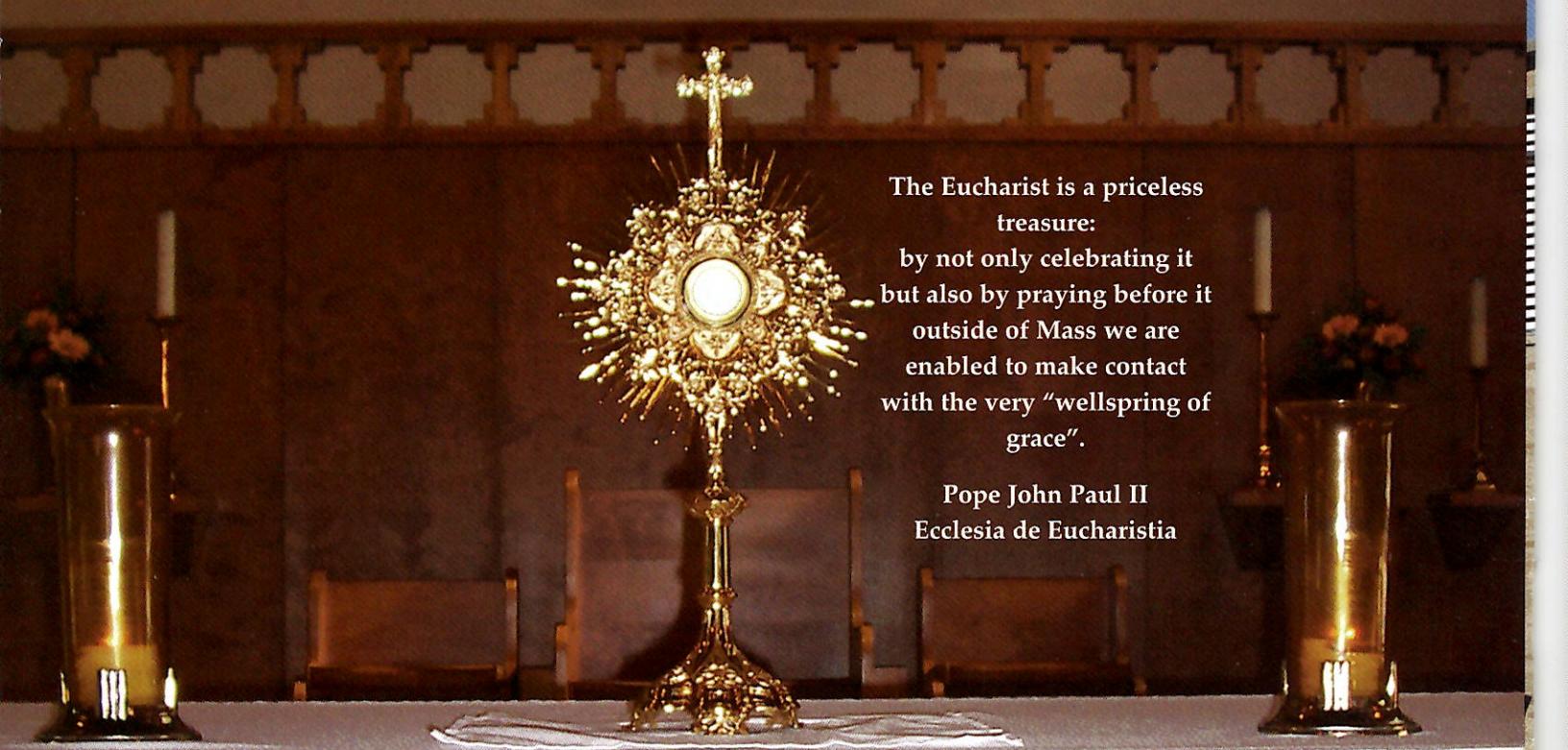
Thankful For Our Past

Faithful In The Present

Hopeful For Our Future

125 Years

The final compilation and publishing of this anniversary booklet was carried out during the 'Year of the Eucharist' that was called for from October 2004 through October 2005 by Pope John Paul II. During the 125 years of St. Agnes Parish, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist has been the center of each individual's faith as well as at the center of our communal prayer. We gather for the Sunday liturgy as well as for weekday Mass. Each Thursday from 8:45 A.M. to 8:45 P.M. we have Eucharistic Adoration. We pray that the members of St. Agnes may continue to draw upon the "wellspring of grace" in the Eucharist.



The Eucharist is a priceless treasure:
by not only celebrating it
but also by praying before it
outside of Mass we are
enabled to make contact
with the very "wellspring of
grace".

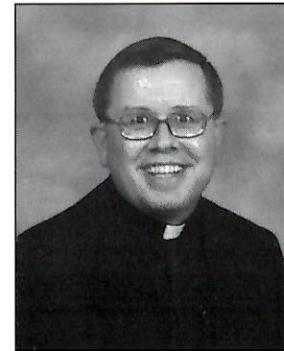
Pope John Paul II
Ecclesia de Eucharistia

AΩ

125th Anniversary



ST. AGNES



Dear Parishioners,

1879 is taken as the origin of St. Agnes Parish. It was then that Mass was begun to be celebrated in town for the Catholic families settling here with the building of the railroad. Because of this, the year 2004 is the 125th anniversary of the beginning of the parish. It would be appropriate for us to remember this beginning, and also some of the people and events in the history of our parish.

All too often, we can be so busy about our daily activities that we don't take time to reflect upon the importance of those activities, and upon the importance of similar events in the past. Fortunately, celebrating an anniversary can cause us to reflect upon our lives and our history. This should certainly be the case for our parish as well. The 125th anniversary of St. Agnes Parish should cause us to remember and reflect.

We should be grateful to the many people who made sacrifices for the establishment and growth of St. Agnes. This booklet recalls some of these people. It helps us to remember them and how they helped the church to develop and grow in this area.

Our thankfulness or gratitude, however, shouldn't just be a remembering of the people and events of the past. It should be something more. We need to recommit ourselves to our Catholic faith, our heritage. We should renew our efforts to share our faith with others. We should be thankful for the people who established and built our parish. We should be thankful for those who have shared the Catholic faith with us. We should be thankful for St. Agnes Parish today.

May God bless and reward those who have gone before us. May God strengthen and guide us today to continue to build upon their efforts and make St. Agnes Parish a living embodiment of Jesus Christ present in the world today.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ronald J. Turek

Father Ronald J. Turek
Administrator

St. Agnes Church

125th Anniversary

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Rev. Ronald Turek, Administrator
Jacquelyn Knox, DRE
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Special Thanks

Thank you to all the parishioners and local business owners for their support of the St. Agnes Parish 125th Anniversary Commemorative Book. Without their support, this publication would not have been possible. While browsing through our history book, take a moment to notice these parishioners and local businesses. Please consider their services and mention you saw their listings.

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Father Hoot - "A Man of God"

Charles A. Hoot was born on December 29, 1896, in Canton, Ohio to Joseph Charles and Eleanor Horning Hoot. He was educated at St. Peter's in Canton, St. Fidelis College in Butler, Pennsylvania, St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester, New York, and St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland. Father Hoot did his post-graduate work at Columbia in New York City.

Father Hoot was ordained in Cleveland by Bishop Joseph Schrembs on April 17, 1922. His parish appointments included curate at St. Boniface in Cleveland and as an assistant at St. Joseph in Youngstown. He was appointed by Bishop Shrembs to be pastor of St. Agnes in August of 1934.

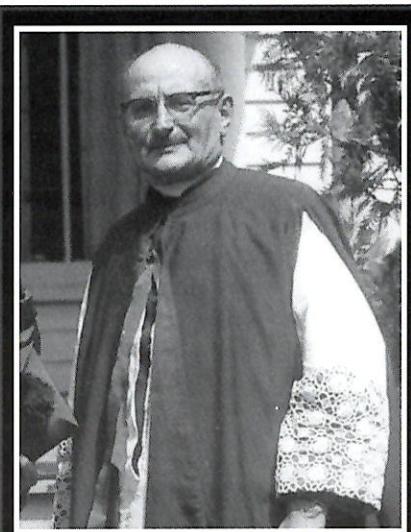
In addition to building a new St. Agnes Church, St. Agnes Elementary School, a new rectory, and purchasing a new convent, Father Hoot engaged in numerous church and civic activities. He endeared himself not just to his parish but to the entire Orrville area. Father Hoot was the spiritual director of the Holy Name Society in the Wooster Deanery, which encompassed three counties, for 16

years. He received both deanery and national recognition for his work in this position. The Father MacKenna Award for outstanding priestly work in the Holy Name Society was awarded to him in 1955. In addition, he served the Wooster deanery as the chairman of the Catholic Social Service Bureau. Father Hoot was listed in American Catholic Who's Who. In 1957, Father Hoot was entitled Monsignor and bestowed the rank of Domestic Prelate.

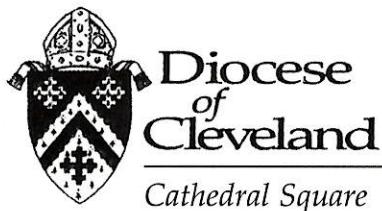
In addition to his church activities, Msgr. Hoot was active in a number of public good works. He volunteered for, and for a time chaired, the local American Red Cross. In 1946 he received a special citation from President Harry Truman, for his work during World War II organizing and running the Wayne County Red Cross War Fund campaign. Father Hoot acted as local president and district governor of the Rotary Club. He also donated his time and effort to the Orrville Public Library Board. For all of this work, he was selected posthumously for the Orrville Hall of Fame.

Msgr. Hoot worked in the theatre, authoring plays and writing for screen and television all under the pseudonym Charles Hart. He held membership in the Catholic Actors' Education Association. In 1962, one of his plays was performed on Broadway.

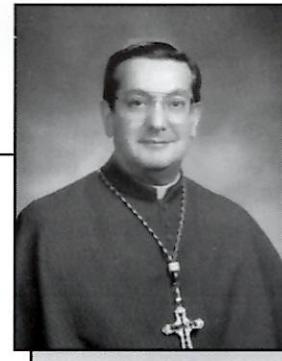
He died on February 18, 1965, at age 69.



Monsignor Charles A. Hoot



July 2004



Sisters and Brothers of Saint Agnes Parish,

Marking the passage of time is important for us who believe in the eternal Reign of God. This year you have the unique opportunity to mark the 125th anniversary of the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the place that would later be founded as your parish. Under the leadership of Fr. Edward Vattman and with the hospitality of the Sullivan family home, the first Eucharistic celebration allowed the eternal feast of heaven to erupt anew in your portion of our Diocese.

That same combination happens again and again through the good people of Saint Agnes these many years later. Under the leadership of generous ordained and lay ministers and through the hospitality and efforts of the fine people of your parish, the Eucharist is celebrated, God is honored, and hearts and lives are still transformed again today.

The mystery of Jesus' cross and resurrection are proclaimed every time we celebrate the Eucharist. I commend your efforts to remember the first Mass celebrated in your parish territory and I promise you my prayers and best wishes as you mark this important anniversary.

May the Eucharist always stand at the forefront of our lives and occupy a central place in our hearts. This anniversary will assist in accomplishing that worthy objective. Again, thank you for taking such special care. God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland

Our Patron Saint - Saint Agnes

St. Agnes was born in Italy about 291 A.D. Apparently of great beauty and wealth, Agnes resolved early to live a life devoted to God and purity. During the Emperor Diocletian's persecution, she was denounced by unsuccessful suitors as being a Christian. She refused to be intimidated by the governor, under threat of torture, even though she was just twelve or thirteen years old. He sent her to a house of prostitution in Rome, where she maintained her virginity. She was returned to the governor. It is unclear whether she was beheaded or stabbed in the throat, but there is no doubt she suffered and died for her faith. Her death is dated about 304 A.D.

St. Agnes is honored as one of the four great virgin martyrs of the Church. Her death had a profound impression on the early Church. She was buried in her parents' household cemetery near the city limits of Rome, where a small chapel was placed. After Constantine made Christianity lawful in the Roman Empire, this

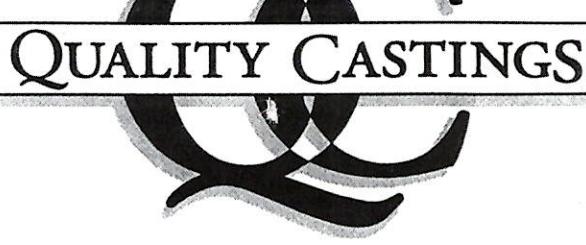


shrine was enlarged and transformed. Constantine's daughter was cured of leprosy after praying at St. Agnes' tomb. Her cure was attributed to St. Agnes.

St. Agnes is prominent in Christian art. She is the symbol of innocence and purity, and is represented as a young woman with a lamb, for the word lamb in Latin is agnus (Agnes). The blessing of the lambs under one year of age takes place on or near her feast day which is January 21.

Traditionally, these lambs are raised by the Trappist Fathers of the Abbey of the Three Fountains. The wool from these young lambs is made into palliums by the Sisters of Saint Cecilia. The rose window of St. Agnes Church in the choir loft includes a picture of the pallium.

St. Agnes is often shown holding a palm leaf, and sometimes a sword. The flower of St. Agnes is the Christmas Rose, the white blossom which represents purity. These symbols are also present in the rose window.



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and Saint Agnes Church, Orrville, Oh,
and invokes an abundance of divine graces,
on the occasion of the Dedication
of the Parish 125th Anniversary first Mass,
in the year 2004.

Ex Audibus Vaticanis die, 6 - vii - 2004

+ Oscar Rivas

Archiepiscopus Eleemosynarius Apostolicus

A History of Catholicism in our area

A history of St. Agnes as a parish would be incomplete without first providing some history of Catholicism in the Orrville area and a brief history of the creation of our Diocese. The Cleveland Diocese, of which Orrville and St. Agnes are a part, was formed over 150 years ago.

In the Treaty of Paris of 1763, ending the French and Indian War, the whole of the Ohio territory, including today's Diocese of Cleveland, was ceded to the British crown. The King's Proclamation, which was an addition to that treaty, made Ohio part of the Diocese of Quebec. As such, the Ohio territory had the same freedom of religion which that Diocese enjoyed. A second Treaty of Paris, in 1783, ending the War of

Independence, granted the new Republic of the United States jurisdiction of Ohio. Eventually Ohio, and the whole of the United States at that time, was part of the Diocese of Baltimore, under Bishop John Carroll.

As the country expanded, and states were added, so too, the Catholic Church grew. By 1821, the state of Ohio was its own Diocese, with the seat in Cincinnati. The Diocese of Cleveland, which included most of the northern part of the state, consisted of 36 counties including Wayne. The Cleveland Diocese came into existence on April 23, 1847, under Bishop Amadeus Rappe.

There was noticeable missionary work in the state even prior to it becoming an

independent Diocese. Father Edward Dominic Fenwick, as directed by Bishop Carroll, established the Dominican Order at St. Rose's Convent in Kentucky in 1806. Father Fenwick, on journeys to and from Baltimore, visited small groups of Catholics in and around the Canton area and other parts of the state. By 1816, as more priests were ordained in Kentucky, Father Fenwick was released to devote his efforts solely to Ohio.

Catholicism in the Wayne County Area

Oral tradition has it that Father Fenwick visited northern Ohio, including Canton and Lawrence Township (two miles from Canal Fulton) in 1817. He most certainly visited Wooster and the lone Catholic Irishman by the name of Edward Gallagher, before the end of 1818.

In Lawrence Township itself, three or four Catholic families had settled by 1812. Mass was held at Matthew Patton's home in 1817. In 1831, a rough log chapel was built dedicated to Ss. Philip and James. By 1845, a church of the same name was built in Canal Fulton.

In addition to Lawrence Township and Wooster, there were other small groups of Catholics who settled in the area.

Marshallville, once known as Bristol, had a noticeable Catholic population by the 1820's, with a frame mission chapel completed in 1848 or 1849.

Dalton, also known as Sugar Creek after its township, built a log chapel, St. Joseph, on the Arnold farm sometime around 1834. Eventually, the chapel and nearby cemetery were both sold to the township.

Chippewa Township, near Doylestown, was ministered to as early as 1827. In 1828, a log chapel dedicated to St. Francis Xavier, also known as St. Xavier, was erected. By 1849-50, it was abandoned in favor of a new brick church, Ss. Peter and Paul in Doylestown.

Converts from Presbyterianism built a Catholic chapel near Wooster in 1827. A brick church, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception was begun in 1847 and completed in 1852. This church was later destroyed by fire and another was built.

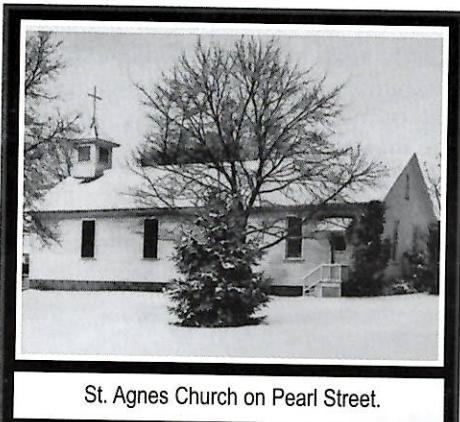


St. Agnes Church and parishioners, 2001.

St. Agnes Parish is Founded

Mass Said in Orrville

With the building of the railroads in the 1870's, Catholic families began settling in Orrville. Father Edward J. Vattman, pastor at Ss. Philip and James in Canal Fulton, began to travel to Orrville to minister to them. Families included were: Sullivan, Higgins, Clancy, Fitzgerald, Downs, Herly, Quinlan and Kane. The first Mass was held in the Sullivan home on (West) Pine Street, in 1879. When the Sullivans moved, Mass was said on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Vine Streets at the Herly home. When they moved, Mass was held at the Quinlan home on West



St. Agnes Church on Pearl Street.

Market Street, opposite of the site where eventually St. Agnes' first permanent church was built.

Father Vattman came to Orrville occasionally, from 1879 through 1891, but eventually received a commission as chaplain in the United States Army. He was succeeded in his missionary duties by Father Jacob Kuebler, who followed him as pastor at Ss. Philip and James. He served this area from 1891 through 1898.

Father Kuebler was replaced by Father Henry J. Gerhardstein, also assigned as pastor to Ss. Philip and James, where he served from 1898 until June of 1901. He was in charge of the mission of Marshallville, the stations of Clinton and Orrville, and in 1899 received Burton City as a station.

The next five years were under Father Nicholas Hassel. Father Hassel was succeeded by Father George A. Forst.

Father Forst held Mass in a rented room on the third floor of a building on

the old Brenneman block on East Market Street. It was through Father Forst's efforts that the beginnings of the parish

*Some of the
founding families of
St. Agnes included:
The Sullivan, Higgins,
Clancy, Fitzgerald,
Downs, Herly, Quinlan
and Kane families.*

were realized. A fund was begun for a parish church. Land, which was later disposed of, was purchased on West High Street (*Courier Crescent* accounts say North Ella Street) adjacent to what is now Orr Park. Father Forst also started catechetical instruction for children. Announcements in the *Courier Crescent* give proof to a very active Ladies Altar Society under his administration.

In a letter in support of combining Rittman and Orrville into a single assignment independent of Doylestown and Canal Fulton, Father Forst stated:

There are twenty five good Catholic families located at Orrville and many more indifferent, and fallen-away as might be expected in a locality which is without a Catholic Church.

We have... raised a little over two thousand dollars cash for a new church... The railroad men holding responsible positions are nearly all Catholic... both places are enterprising towns and... will soon develop splendid parishes...

The bishop decided against

combining the assignments this way and appointed Father John A. McKeever as the first pastor of St. Agnes Church. Father McKeever was born in Hanley, England, in 1879, and ordained in Baltimore for the Diocese of Cleveland in 1907. He served at several churches in Cleveland before being appointed to Orrville by Bishop Farrelly on June 17, 1914.

The parish was bound by St. Ann in Rittman to the north, St. Barbara in Massillon to the east, Immaculate Conception in Wooster to the west, and on the south by the Columbus Diocese.

Father McKeever's first Mass after being appointed pastor was held on June 28th, 1914. This Mass was held in the hall of a business building as Father Forst had done.

Land for the Church

Father McKeever acted quickly to open a parish church. Records of the Wayne County Recorder Office show that the 725 Market Street address (lot #327) was deeded to Joseph Perlstein on August 12, 1909. Mr. Perlstein was willing to sell the property to the Catholic Church, valued at \$4,030. As a member of one of the only, if not the only, Jewish family in Orrville, Mr. Perlstein's sympathy towards Catholics was much appreciated and later recognized by Pope Paul VI



The altar of St. Agnes Church on Pearl Street as seen in a wedding photograph of Eileen Nicholas & Charles "Rocky" Landers officiated by Msgr. (later Bishop) Issenmann on May 29, 1948.

with a special Papal blessing. At the time of the sale the property was deeded to the Rt. Rev. John Farrelly, Bishop of Cleveland. The property was later deeded to Bishop Joseph Schrembs when he became the Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese.



Mrs. Charles Landers before the Blessed Virgin, 1948.

In July of 1914, an option was taken on a Pearl Street property. This property, which already had a dwelling on it, was easily remodeled for the new pastor. The lot was considered an improvement over the property the parish had owned on North Ella/West High streets, as the new lot was only a five minute walk from the railroad depot and the city's principal residential district.

A church building for St. Agnes

Father McKeever discovered that a completely furnished church, St. Patrick's, located in North Lawrence, had not been in use for about three years. The church had been established in the latter part of the 19th century, with Catholic families settling there to mine the coal. Once the mines were worked out or abandoned, those Catholic families who formed the congregation moved on and the church floundered.

With permission from Bishop Farrelly, the 30 by 70 foot frame building was dismantled and moved the nine miles to Orrville in nine wagons. The interior



Father Hoot with Floyd, Tim, Tom, Mike and Art Martell, 1954.

furnishings were loaded into a box car and came on rail via Massillon. Reconstruction was begun on July 28, 1914, on the cement block foundation which had been laid for rebuilding. Despite the fact that construction was not yet complete, good weather permitted the first mass at St. Agnes to be held on August 2, 1914. Reverend McKeever's parents and his sister, Sister Clotilda, were guests in attendance.

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In September of 1914, a series of lectures was offered at St. Agnes, with presentations given by Fathers Steinbrunner and Kress, of Cleveland. The theme of the series was healing the divisions of Christianity. According to *The Courier Crescent*, Father Kress stated, "We who are many ought to be one.... The most religious and thoughtful men see much to deplore in the multiplicity of sects... Protestant churchmen and theologians have attempted its solution time and again... You have not as yet reconsidered the solution proposed by the old Mother Church. Turn to her for a few nights, listen carefully to her plan of unification... be brave enough to accept it." The local paper later reported that many from the area came to hear the message and that all came away pleased.

Anti-Catholicism in Orrville

Unfortunately, this attitude of unity was not shared by all of the persons living in the area. Anti-Catholic attitudes were evident to the new pastor and his new parish just a couple of months later. A public hall had been engaged by Reverend Fight-master, pastor of the Christian

Church, for a lecture by Ford Hendrickson. Mr Hendrickson was billed as an anti-Romanist speaker. The mayor and city council were threatened with an injunction to stop the lecture. The mayor refused to give up the key to the hall until instructed to do so by the city council. Seeking legal advice, city council was advised that there was "no law in effect which would make possible the exclusion of such organization from the use of town property..." Therefore, the speaker was allowed to proceed. Not only was the hall filled to capacity but approximately 200 had to be turned away from the first of a series of lectures against the Catholic religion. Mr. Hendrickson later appeared in Smithville to speak.



St. Agnes Pearl Street First Communion Class circa 1929 with Father Harry Kropfli.

First Row flower girls: Elizabeth Weber, Beatrice Murtaugh, Mary Rose George, Dorothy Yonto
 Second Row: Jimmy Chine, Billy Paul, Tony Yonto, Bernard Murtaugh, Joe Macrino
 Third Row: Kathryn Fallanca, Dorothy Welsh, Esther Hoover, Kathryn Prechtel, Marianna Macrino, Eugenia Schromen
 Fourth Row: Louis Prechtel, Fr. Harry Kropfli, Joe Weber



The Children's Choir 1947-48

1st Row: Carolyn Seifried, Carol McGreevy, Molly Krenger, Rita Schromen
 2nd Row: Julia Bidinger, Aldeen Laibe, Betty Lou Arnold, Patricia Yehl
 3rd Row: Judy Martell, Nancy Schromen, Marjorie Medve, Noel Frey, May Bescher
 Organist was either Noel Frey's mother, Pauline Frey, or Elizabeth Bilderback

After Father Mahony was reassigned, St. Agnes reverted back to mission status, with St. Mary's of Wooster as the home parish. Priests assigned to St. Agnes mission between 1929 and 1933 included Father Michael Lee Moray and Father Harry F. Kropfli. Father Moray left in 1933 when he was assigned to head the Catholic Charities program of the Cleveland Diocese. Father Harry F. Kropfli served his entire priesthood at St. Mary's and St. Agnes, dying at the young age of 37.

Fr. Hoot Arrives

In August of 1934, St. Agnes was reestablished as a regular, canonical parish, with Father Charles A. Hoot named as pastor by Bishop Joseph Schrembs. The parish then consisted of 32 families in a mission territory covering 150 square miles.

Father Hoot established himself as a very active pastor and member of the community. He promptly visited business leaders and the local newspaper offices, trying to assuage concerns about Catholicism, especially in light of local Ku Klux Klan activity. He also paid a personal visit to all the members of his parish, whether they were active or not.

In addition to the Altar Society, which existed while St. Agnes was still a mission, many other clubs and activities were added under Father Hoot's inspirational guidance, including the Women's Guild and a Mother's Study Club. An organizational meeting for the

*Sisters of Notre Dame,
from
St. Mary, Massillon*
Sunday School Classes at
St. Agnes, 1936-1950

1936: Sister Mary Stephen and Sister Annita

1939: Sister Mary Annita and Sister Lucius

1942: Sister Mary Madelyn and Sister Mary Annterese

1943: Sister Mary Francine and Sister Mary Jude

1944: Sister Mary Vaune and Sister Mary Terrence

1946: Sister Mary Marcelita and Sister Mary Moira

Francis Xavier Mission Circle was held in October of 1948. This group was very active in assisting various mission charities both locally and abroad. Its good work continued until September 1995. There was also a very active Holy Name Society.

Father Hoot himself directed the choir and later organized a junior choir to sing on special holidays. He was instrumental in the renovation and redecoration of the church in the Williamsburg style, going to Williamsburg, Virginia, to examine such details as paint colors and carpeting.



This aerial photo shows the St. Agnes Church and grounds, circa 1960.

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This work was completed in 1940. The donor plaque from this renovation of the Pearl Street St. Agnes is located in the current St. Agnes Church.

Sunday school classes were held in a third building on the church property referred to as the club house. Classes eventually grew so large that help was needed and the Sisters of Notre Dame from St. Mary's in Massillon came to assist. The Sisters were transported to Orrville by the Burger family of St. Mary's and made the return trip courtesy of volunteer drivers from St. Agnes.

The Sisters of Notre Dame worked at St. Agnes from 1936 until 1950. During their first year of service, Sisters Mary Stephen and Annita gave catechetical instruction to sixty-five children. Father Hoot so appreciated their work that he gave them not only a check, but a turkey for Thanksgiving and a bushel basket of food for Christmas. From 1938 through 1950, the number of children receiving instruction averaged over eighty each year, with the numbers of boys and girls about the same.

Planning to build a New Church

As early as 1952, plans were under consideration to build a new St. Agnes Church. In February of 1952, with prior permission of the diocese, St. Agnes Church installed a new Schantz organ in the church which was seen as the first

"The Renovation Plaque of 1940"

Some comments by Louis Prechtel

As a life-long parishioner, Louis Prechtel reminisced about the names of the donors who assisted with the renovation of the church on Pearl Street. The original impetus to start St. Agnes Church came from the development of the railroad and the number of Irish immigrants who came to work for the railroad. As such, it is only fitting to note the number of railroaders and their families whose names appear on this plaque. Mr. Prechtel identified Mr. Martin Bray, Mr. Edward Byron, Mr. James Byron, and the Michael Flannery family, which would include Ruth (Mrs. Ray) Ziegman, as parishioners employed by the railroad. Mr. James Specht worked for the city of Orrville and Mr. Theodore Bishop was a farmer. Employed at Koppers Company were Mr. Ralph Bescher and Mr. Joseph Weber. The Quality Castings Company was represented by Mr. H.C. Nicholas and Mr. Ray Ziegman.



The donor plaque from the renovation of the Pearl Street St. Agnes Church in 1940 now hangs in the current St. Agnes Church.

been contributing to a special fund since before World War II. Organ construction took about one year. The Colonial style organ was designed by Edison F. Schantz with hand-carved features by Bruno Weber, a commercial carver from Put-in-Bay, Ohio. St. Agnes' two organists at that time were Mrs. Harry Frazee and Mrs.

By 1957, sufficient funds, approximately \$100,000, were on hand to sign a contract for the building of the new St. Agnes Church. The design, submitted by Jules M. Franzen of Massillon, was for a Spanish style church seating 350 persons. Cost of the building without interior furnishings amounted to



Photograph of the construction of St. Agnes, 1957.

The theme of the capital campaign was: "not equal giving but equal sacrifice." Many parishioners volunteered their time and services to raise these funds. Within a matter of a few months, two-thirds of the goal, \$51,000, was solicited from only 14 families. General canvassing began on March 5th, and by March 29, 1957, the fund was oversubscribed and totaled \$105,210.

Construction Begins

Ground was broken on St. Patrick's Day, 1957, with Clarence A. King as contractor. On May 19th a cornerstone ceremony was held with 110



Photograph of the cornerstone, St. Agnes Church, 1957.

and Seville Reining. Mr. Reining was a devout and prominent Lutheran layman.

Many parishioners devoted much time and effort to the success of the campaign. Leadership included: Ray Ziegman, central chairman; Frank Seifried, canvass executive chairman; Anthony Yonto, initial gifts chairman; Dr. Edwin Feltes and Dr. Robert Reiheld, special gifts chairmen; Louis Prechtel, team chairman; James Specht and Joseph Macrino, division leaders. There were also many team captains and a number of women serving as hostesses. Father Hoot was the treasurer as well as being in charge of publications.



Bishop Hoban with Msgr. Hoot, 1957.

parishioners in attendance. Sealed inside a copper box and laid in the cornerstone were a Bible, a roll of 1957 pennies, *Courier Crescent* stories about the building of the church, a list of parishioners, a history of St. Agnes Church, a copy of the fund-raising booklet, and a list of names of those involved in the building program, including the contractor and the architect. A short service, including the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Benediction, concluded the ceremony.

In the middle of all this building activity, on June 13, 1957, Fr. Charles Hoot was informed of his elevation to the rank of Domestic Prelate and given the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. This honor was granted him by His Holiness Pope Pius XII and became effective as of May 17th. The investiture was held on September 2nd before the regular 11:00 a.m. Mass, and was conducted by the

"Fund-raising for the New Church in 1957"

Talking with Helen and Tony Yonto

"Everybody knew everybody and everybody was for the church." Tony and Helen Yonto remember the special esprit de corps that existed during the time that money was raised to build the new St. Agnes. Although the canvassing of the parish occurred in 1957, a good deal of the planning and some of the purchases had been made ahead of time. As mentioned in the history, a new organ had been purchased in 1952 and the property had also been bought and paid for well in advance of building. Mr. Yonto mentioned that this was "a choice piece of land in the south end; everyone else was downtown."

A sizeable sum of money had also been raised in advance. Mrs. Yonto noted that the Ladies Altar Society contributed its dues and proceeds from a variety of activities, including bake sales, teas, book reviews, etc., to the building fund.

The core group that began the building fund was characterized as "distinguished." With the help of a professional fund-raising organization, Ivan S. Justice & Associates, the entire parish was organized from top to bottom. Almost everyone served on a committee to assist with the drive. Everyone in the parish was asked to contribute, and a particular amount was suggested to each parish family. The response to the request was excellent and the fund drive was concluded within a single month.



Msgr. Hoot with Fr. Cyprian blessing the three bells donated by Robert and Aileen Cairnie, 1957.

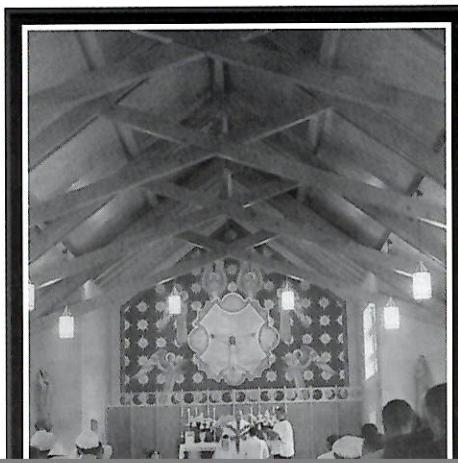
Celebrating 125 Years

Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Francis Hoban. Msgr. Halloran spoke of Father Hoot's many accomplishments



dignitaries in attendance was held at the Orrville High School cafeteria afterwards.

On December 8, 1957, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a ceremony dedicating the bells of the new St. Agnes and the outdoor shrine of Our Lady of Grace was conducted by Msgr. Hoot. The three bells, cast in bronze in Cincinnati, were donated by Robert Cairnie and his wife, Aleen. Due to Mr. Cairnie's death the previous week, the service was more solemn and shorter than originally planned. The largest of the bells, the "St. Agnes" bell, weighed 2000 pounds.



Mass at the New Church 1958

Although the new church was officially blessed on Palm Sunday 1958

Current parishioners recall that, at least until

Parish is active in the '60's

In addition to all the fund raising and building, the 1960 annual parish report

Free of debt from the construction of the new church as of April 20, 1960, a new goal of \$100,000 was set for the completion of the rectory and the school. The new fundraising brochure stated: "With Faith and Prayer a Sacrificial Pledge from Every Family." It was stressed that any donation to this

A woman from Cleveland by the name of Rosemary Macklem had visited the Hopi Indian Reservation at Keams Canyon, Arizona. Attending Mass on the Hopi Mesa, she was shocked at the poverty and the makeshift church. For many years she had helped the Hopi Indians obtain clothes, soap, medicines, etc., but

now hoped to provide them a church. Msgr. Hoot and St. Agnes Parish responded. From the first St. Agnes on Pearl Street, now no longer in use, a communion rail, five pews, ten kneelers, Stations of the Cross, a baptistery, and a confessional were donated. An appeal in the diocesan *Catholic Universe* Bulletin provided seven men, some with

"We are at a loss for words to express our thanks sufficiently ... The people of Orrville can be assured that their church will continue to serve God...here among the Indians...As Christmas approaches, it is my prayer that the Infant Jesus bestow upon all of you His very special graces for your charity"

**- Father Maxim Lannert,
St. Joseph Indian Mission**

additional 1500 miles by the Navajo Carting Company, which specialized in desert treks. A donation of \$420 from Mr. and Mrs. John Wagner of Fairview Park, Ohio, defrayed the shipping costs from St. Louis, Missouri to Arizona.

Father Maxim Lannert of the St. Joseph Indian Mission, the first priest allowed in the mesa area, wrote a heart-warming "thank you" to Rosemary and the parish

campaign was over and above the regular weekly contribution and that anything less would be "shortsighted churchmanship." The success of the campaign would be evident in the completion of the school in 1961.

Ground breaking on the rectory was held in May of 1960, with C. A. King and Company as contractors. The architects were Firestone & Motter of Cleveland and Canton. School construction also began above the already completed basement.

The year 1961 was also very busy for the parish as it reached out to help others.

There was considerable impetus to act quickly to ship the items, as the property and buildings on West Market and Pearl Streets had been sold and the new owner wanted to take possession.

Crating for the items being donated was supplied by a lumber yard in Orrville. Ray Ziegman, vice president of the Quality Casting Company, donated transportation to St. Louis, Missouri. The items were transported the



Donating items from "old" St. Agnes on Pearl St. to an Indian reservation, 1961. Pictured are Jack Ziegman and Pete Perkins with the Quality Castings truck.



St. Agnes School.



Grades 1-4 during St. Agnes School's first year of operation. Pictured with the children are Msgr. Hoot and Mrs. Justin and Loyola.

Akron Dominicans Assigned to St. Agnes School

School: 1962-1978 • Religious Education: 1979-1985

Sister Loyola Ernst	1962-63, Principal
Sister Dismas (Eleanor Wack)	1962-63, 1975-78 as Principal
Sister de Lourdes Wisniewske	1962-65
Sister Peter Brumter	1963-66, Principal
Sister Veronica Monsour	1963-65
Sister Nicola (Mary Ann Grande)	1963-65
Sister Madeline Karam	1965-68
Sister Carmelita Eck	1965-66
Sister Kenneth (Joan Franklin)	1965-72, 1972-75 as Principal
Sister Damian (Mary Ellen Paulus)	1966-68, Principal
Sister Genevieve Seifried	1966-67
Sister Bernadette (Mary Jakubiak)	1967-68
Sister Alma Tressel	1968-69, Principal
Sister Antoinette Greco	1968-69
Sister Maura Bartel	1968-69
Sister Ruth (Frances Ellsperman)	1969-72
Sister Rebecca Betz	1972-73
Sister Carla Ambrosic (Marilyn)	1973-75
Sister Yvonne Horning	1975-77
Sister Celeste Derr	1979-85, Dir of Religious Education

St. Agnes School Opens

St. Agnes School opened in the Fall of 1961. Msgr. Hoot had begun his search for sisters to staff the school as early as seven years prior to the opening. Letters were written to St. Agnes Convent in Wisconsin, Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary in Pennsylvania (who had taught Sunday school for the parish from 1936 - 1940), the Sisters of Christian Charity in Illinois, and others. Sisters were scarce, and many letters were written back and forth over the years.

Finally, the Sisters of the Dominican Order, whose Mother House was located in Akron, came to staff the school and teach. Sr. Justin and Sr. Loyola were the first teachers, of grades one through four. There was a total of 69 students. The sisters lived at St. Mary's in Wooster. A car pool was established to assist in the transportation of the Sisters and the students. As of September 14th, all the equipment had arrived, except for teachers' desks, which were somewhere in transit.

Msgr. Hoot himself purchased what would become the convent, a house at 541 Lake Street, on June 30, 1962, from Dale and Faith Long. He renovated it and rented it to the parish up until his

death, when it was deeded to the parish.

In 1962, four Dominican sisters came from Our Lady of the Elms, Akron, to live in the newly remodeled convent and teach at the school: Sr. Loyola Ernst came as teacher and principal, Sr. Dismas (Eleanor Wack) and Sr. de Lourdes Wisniewski as teachers, and Sr. Daniel as cook. From 1962-1978, the school was staffed by the Dominicans and lay teachers.

As school enrollment grew, more grade levels were added: grade five in 1962, and grade six in 1963. St. Agnes operated as a first to sixth grade elementary school.

Educational television came to St. Agnes in 1964. Two television sets were installed, a black and white one to be used for the classrooms, and a color set to be used in the fellowship hall. Special educational programs were beamed from an airplane circling an area over Purdue University of Indiana. Msgr. Hoot spearheaded the project to augment the present curriculum. Orrville Public Schools watched the program closely, considering the possibility of adding a similar program.

Bishop Issenmann appointed Father Paul Zarling to serve as assistant pastor in 1965, when Msgr. Hoot became ill and

needed assistance. Unfortunately, Fr. Zarling's first responsibility at St. Agnes was to administer Extreme Unction to the Monsignor. Three days later, on February 18, 1965, Msgr. Hoot died at the age of 69. Bishop Issenmann, nephew of St. Agnes parishioner Mrs. H. C. Nicholas, offered the solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass. About 1,000 people paid calls at Auble Hooley Funeral Home. The church was filled for the funeral mass.

Father Zarling called Msgr. Hoot "a giant among the priests of our Diocese." Msgr. Hoot was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Canton. During Msgr. Hoot's thirty-one year tenure at St. Agnes, the parish grew from 32 to 360 families.

Father Zarling served as administrator of the parish until June 27, 1965, when Father Harold E. Meade was appointed pastor. Fr. Zarling then became a chaplain in the U. S. Navy.

Fr. Meade becomes Pastor

Father Meade, a native of Cleveland, had been a Navy chaplain, from 1944 until 1960, when he retired as commander. He saw action in the Pacific during World War II and Korea. Later he became chaplain of NATO forces during the three years he lived in Italy. About his time in the service he said, "I'm no Pollyanna about men...But still I think you can help a young man see that when

Vocations from St. Agnes Church

St. Agnes Church has one parishioner who has become a nun. Sister Therese Rose Miller was accepted into the Daughters of Divine Charity in Akron at the age of 19. She was associated with the order for twenty years.

She is now a member of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Garfield Heights. In total, she has been in service for twenty-three years.

Sister Therese's mother, Lucille Mutersbaugh, said that all Therese ever wanted to be as she was growing up was a nun. Raised in Orrville, she attended Orrville Public Schools.

St. Agnes Lay Teachers 1961-1984

Mr. Bob Lapodot
Mrs. Sheryl Davidson
Miss Tyler
Mrs. Smedley
Mrs. Wyss
Mrs. Godchalk
Mrs. Barb Green
Ms. Barb Gross
Mrs. Carolyn Johnson
Mrs. Warner
Mr. Markovich
Miss Musochia
Mrs. McKenzie
Mr. Noletti
Mrs. Mast
Mrs. Karen Armond
Mrs. Rosie Bokman
Ms. Laurie Ryan
Mrs. Grindstaff
Mrs. Mastrine
Mrs. Fiely
Mrs. Eleanor Nicholas
Mrs. Dolezal
Mrs. Jean Prechtel
Mr. Michael Capitena
Mrs. Ruth Fletcher
Miss Jowski

Lay Principals

Cecilia Van Horn	1978-1982
Scott Powers	1982-1984

he feels an urge to conform, it doesn't have to be to the lowest gutter level - that he can be tough and manly and... at the same time be decent."

Father Meade's installation, the first for St. Agnes in thirty-one years, was officiated by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bernard J. Weigand, pastor of St. Mary's in Wooster. A reception in the school basement was held for parishioners, friends, and other well wishers.

As a result of Vatican II, many liturgical changes occurred during Father Meade's tenure with St. Agnes. The interior of the church had to be altered, including removal of the communion rail. For distribution of communion, twenty-three men in the parish and the Sisters were allowed to assist. Women in the parish were encouraged to take more active roles in the liturgy, including acting as commentators, readers and song leaders. These liturgical changes went smoothly due to Father Meade's leadership, ability,

and willingness to educate from the pulpit.

All the women's groups were combined into a single Women's Council. Father Meade was also instrumental in founding the Legion of Mary in the parish.

Father Meade helped with local education by initiating religion classes for Orrville's Adult Basic Education. He also assisted in procuring outside speakers for the classes. Father Meade was a member of the Catholic Audio-Visual Educators. He celebrated twenty-five years in the priesthood in 1967. Father Meade died on April 4, 1973, and is interred at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland. Though he was not with St. Agnes for many years, he was beloved and had a noticeable impact on the parish.

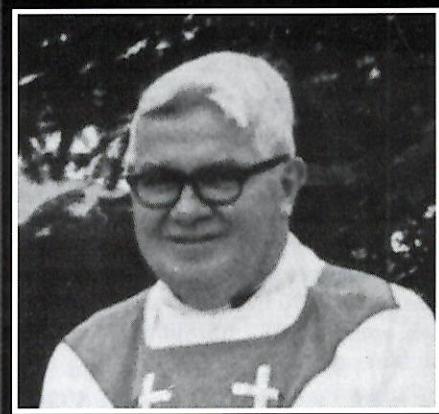


Father Harold E. Meade, 1965.

Father Meade's replacement was Father James A. Conry. Like Father Meade, he was educated at John Carroll University and St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland. Before coming to St. Agnes, Father Conry was an assistant at St. Mary in Akron, and also was a professor at Borromeo Minor Seminary. Coming initially as an administrator, he was appointed pastor and his installation as such was on August 13, 1973.

In 1978, Father Conry was met at the rectory by another priest, a friend whom he thought was just visiting, and found himself unable to explain all the cars in the church parking lot. Despite the fact that he had only been at St. Agnes five years, the parishioners were aware of his twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination and gave him a surprise party to mark the occasion.

Sr. Eleanor Wack left St. Agnes in 1978, and the first lay principal, Mrs. Cecilia Van Horn was hired. Kindergarten was started in 1979. Mrs. Van Horn remained at St. Agnes School until 1982.



Father James A. Conry, 1978.

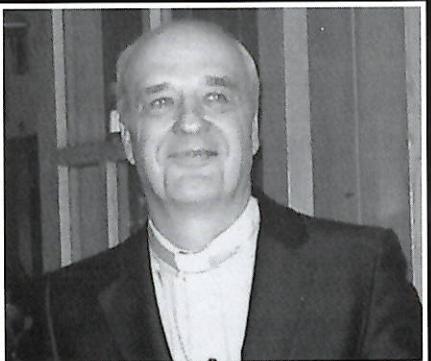
Under Fr. Conry's guidance, the sanctuary was remodeled around 1980 or 1981. The "Window to Heaven" painting on the back wall of the church was removed, and marble pillars were removed from the center altar and used on the side altars.

A St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in the parish, with the help of Sr. Albert in 1980. Teresa Hollinger, one of the original members, is still active in the group twenty-four years later. The Avilas, who pray for vocations, were also started around this time.

Father Conry himself was active in the Orrville Ministerial Association, serving as president and was also a member of the Exchange Club.

Father Conry served St. Agnes until January 4, 1982. His next assignment

*"When I was
attracted to be a
priest, this was my
idea of being
a priest ...
It's very gratifying
for me."
- Father Conry*



Father Paul J. Wysocki

was to Sacred Heart in Wadsworth upon the retirement of Father Thomas McMahon.

Father Paul J. Wysocki took over the responsibilities of St. Agnes parish after serving in parishes in Akron and the Cleveland area. He had also served as campus minister to the local campuses of Wayne College, ATI, and the College of Wooster. He had a double master's degree from Kent State University in counseling & guidance and education.

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"Some thoughts on Bishop Issenmann"

From a conversation with Eileen Nicholas Landers

Clarence G. Issenmann, bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland from 1966 to 1974, had familial ties to Orrville and St. Agnes Parish through the prominent H.C. Nicholas family. Mrs. Landers explained that the Bishop was related to her through her mother Helen. He was the son of Mrs. Nicholas' oldest brother, and therefore, Mrs. Landers first cousin. Although the Bishop was fourteen years older than Mrs. Landers, she remembers him coming to various family picnics held in Orrville over the years, and even playing baseball with his younger cousins. He was born in Hamilton, Ohio, and after seminary and serving in various parishes, he became the Bishop of Cincinnati, and later Columbus, before being assigned to Cleveland. He was intelligent and pursued some of his studies in Rome. As Bishop he was very likeable, and known to be a friend to the priests. When traveling throughout the Diocese, he was usually accompanied by Msgr. Quinn, his secretary, and occasionally Father Jurgens.

Through the years, many activities were taking place at St. Agnes School. A soccer team was active. Four students from St. Agnes: Brian Dalessandro, Janice Kollenth, John Hatalla, and Hope King swept the essay competition sponsored by Wayne-Ashland-Medina Regional Council of Catholic Women. The essay contest subject was, "What a Catholic

Upbringing Means in a Rural Area."

In 1983, the kindergarten class was moved from the rectory basement to the main school building. The library was relocated to the school hall, making it readily available to all classrooms. An Apple II computer was purchased to be used primarily for remedial math and reading.



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This photo taken at Christmas time in the 1980's shows some of the changes made to the church's interior during Father Wysocki's years at St. Agnes.

"I have tried to help people enrich their own lives by following Christ's teachings."
- Father

Paul J. Wysocki

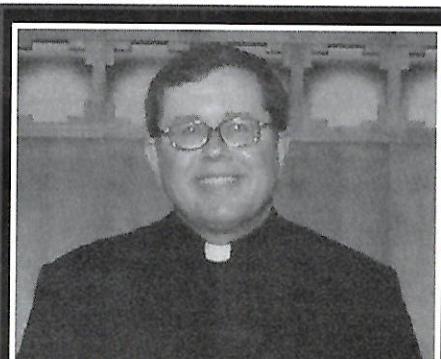
Also in 1983, the school celebrated 20 years of Catholic education in Orrville. Events included a parents' luncheon, a St. Valentine's Day project, an essay contest in each grade on a variety of themes, and a special Mass on Sunday.

Unfortunately, in 1984, after twenty-three years of operation, the school was closed. At an annual estimated cost of \$92,000, the parish could no longer fund a program of such magnitude. The last principal was Scott Powers, who had been informed by Father Wysocki when he was hired that the school would probably not be in operation for many

more years. Parishioners were very sad at the change, but certainly understood the necessity of the closing.

There was some modification of the sanctuary under Father Wysocki. Marble on the back wall was moved to support the main altar. The balance of the marble was removed and wooden side altars,

wooden chairs, and a wooden lectern, all matching the wooden walls of the church were installed. A single large statue of the Holy Family replaced the individual statues of Mary with the Christ Child



Father Ronald Turek, May 2, 2004

and Joseph, and the large crucifix was replaced with the Risen Christ.

During Father Wysocki's years as pastor, the parish continued to have summer festivals, later replaced by parish picnics; parish directories were

published in 1990 and 1996; Eucharistic Adoration was begun and held on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and the choir became more of a presence at services. Carol Fehler reinvigorated the choir and was its director from December of 1989 until February of 1993. Barbara Chine served as interim director until Suzi Lorson took over responsibilities in September, 1993.

R.C.I.A. was very active while Father Paul Wysocki was at St. Agnes. On most Easters there were new converts to the faith and on some occasions as many as eight new parishioners entering the church. Father Wysocki showed further interest in spreading and enhancing the faith of his own parishioners by beginning an Adult Bible Study group. This group met at the same time as PSR, and used the Little Rock Scripture Study series as a basis for instruction and discussion.

Father Wysocki took leave from St. Agnes in the fall of 2001, eventually receiving the Bishop's permission to retire.

Church Improvements, Refurbishing in the New Millennium

Father Ronald Turek was appointed administrator immediately after Father Wysocki's departure. Fr. Turek, a native of Cleveland, was educated at Borromeo Seminary and St. Mary. In 1974, he was a member of the last class ordained by Bishop Issenman before Bishop Hickey was named head of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Within year of his appointment, Father Turek embarked upon a gradual program of restoration and refurbishment of the church and grounds. Several projects and changes to the church's interior began under Father



The cake at Father Wysocki's farewell celebration September 23, 2001.

"Remembering Msgr. Hoot"

Conversing with Ethel Weber

"I remember Father Hoot announcing for weeks on end ... 'The church is going to be crowded. The Bishop is coming' - over and over again. That Sunday, he had to send out people to round up parishioners because the church was empty. No one had come!..."

Mrs. Weber remembered Msgr. Hoot as very intelligent, persuasive, and dedicated. "He would do anything for you," she said, continuing under her breath, "unless you made him mad." She noted that he was a very loving and pious priest, able to inspire his parishioners, as evidenced by what she called "the highlight of his life," the building of the new church in 1957.



St. Agnes Youth Choir, 2003.

Turek's direction. A new parish directory was published in 2003. The wooden Stations of the Cross, which had been placed on the upper part of the walls, were returned to their original positions. The stations were also remounted on marble and framed in wood, to accentuate them. The stained glass windows of the church were removed, cleaned, leaded where needed, and remounted. The monstrance was regilt through an anonymous gift. The St. Agnes Memorial Chalice was also

completely refurbished in memory of her husband, Edward Seib, their daughter Patricia Ann Seib, and Mrs. Seib's parents, Clayton and Lucy Marthey. The strikers, motors, a digital electric control with a remote were replaced. The bells once ring the Angelus at 6:00am, noon, and 6:00pm. Also, the bells again peal for one minute, five minutes before all the weekend Masses.

A new hand-painted, lindenwood Nativity set from the Demetz Company is being purchased. This is the same set

replaced and is now able to be used again.

Through the years the bells of St. Agnes have been cared for by the Cairnie family. Charles Cairnie made repairs as needed at the church's request. However, the bells deteriorated to the point where only one bell was working. In the fall of 2004, through the generosity of Mrs. Agnes Seib, the bells were

used in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, except their set is life-sized while the St. Agnes figures measure two-feet in height. The figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, along with one of the Magi and one shepherd were in place for the Christmas celebration of 2004. The shepherds are being donated by David and Kathleen Yonto in memory of her parents, Jacob and Margaret Medvitz. Donations are currently being accepted to help complete the set.

Also in 2004, the parish bid goodbye to Parish School of Religion coordinator Judy Werntz who served in this capacity for sixteen years. Secretary Gwen Carozza, who had eighteen years of service in a variety of capacities, and maintenance person Edna Lustig retired as well. Their service was greatly appreciated. Everyone in the parish wished them a very peaceful, blessed, and enjoyable retirement.

Jacquelyn Knox was hired to head P.S.R. and Roberta DeMali will serve as secretary. Melissa Rosenbaum will continue, as she has for six years, as bookkeeper.

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The St. Agnes Adult Choir, 2003.

Currently, there are numerous ways for parishioners to become involved in St. Agnes. Acting as a Eucharist Minister, lector, or usher, serving on the Liturgy Commission, or singing in the adult choir allows for special and direct participation in the Mass in a meaningful way.

Opportunities exist to share the faith through educational activities by teaching in the Parish School of Religion or serving on the biennial Confirmation team. Opportunities to explore the faith are available through Adult Bible Study or R.C.I.A.

There are outreach possibilities, both in the parish and in the greater Orrville community. These opportunities exist

through membership in: the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which sponsors a food drive the First Sunday of the Month, an annual collection from which monies are used to assist the needy throughout the year, and a Blanket Sunday; the Funeral Dinners Committee, through which many parishioners assist other parish members in

times of distress by sponsoring funeral luncheons as needed; the Parish Life Committee, which provides the coffee and doughnut social hour after 9:00 a.m. Mass during the school year and also sponsors bake sales throughout the year with proceeds going to a variety of charitable works. The Knights of Columbus is still very active. In 2004 year they have brought about a return of the Pearl Street church bell for the Indian Missions in Arizona. The Knights are sponsoring the redesign of the landscaping of the church and school grounds which is projected to be completed in the next couple of years.

Within the next year, St. Agnes is looking forward to revitalizing the Parish Council. Active from 1980 until 1988, the Parish Council per se became defunct. The Finance Committee, Parish Life Committee, the Funeral Committee and Liturgy Committee did continue their work, however. A Formation Commit-



The St. Agnes Adult Bible Study Group, 2003.

tee has been established to oversee the work of these groups, and to develop by-laws under which a new Parish Council could be elected. Among the responsibilities of the new Parish Council will be writing a mission statement and conducting a parish census.

New committees and sub-committees will be added to fill any needs that are not being met currently.

There are also several ad hoc committees, including the annual parish picnic committee and the building and maintenance committee, which most recently oversaw the city required installation of sidewalks along Lake and Springs Streets.



St. Agnes Choir, 1979.



The Knights of Columbus, 2003.

“Coming to Orrville”

By Carol Brenneman

As a young married woman, with a very young family, moving to Orrville from a big city like Cleveland was a bit traumatic. Coming from a parish so big there were at least five Masses every Sunday, to a small parish where everyone seemed to know everyone, was very difficult. One day, after church, an older parishioner, Millie Schromen, asked me how I liked living here. When I didn't answer right away, she understood my problem and said, "Just give it a little time." She was right. Soon I was a real member of a wonderful church family. So many in the parish had large families and not only did my husband and I have a safe, gentle social life, but our children had many "cousins." We all blended into one large super family.

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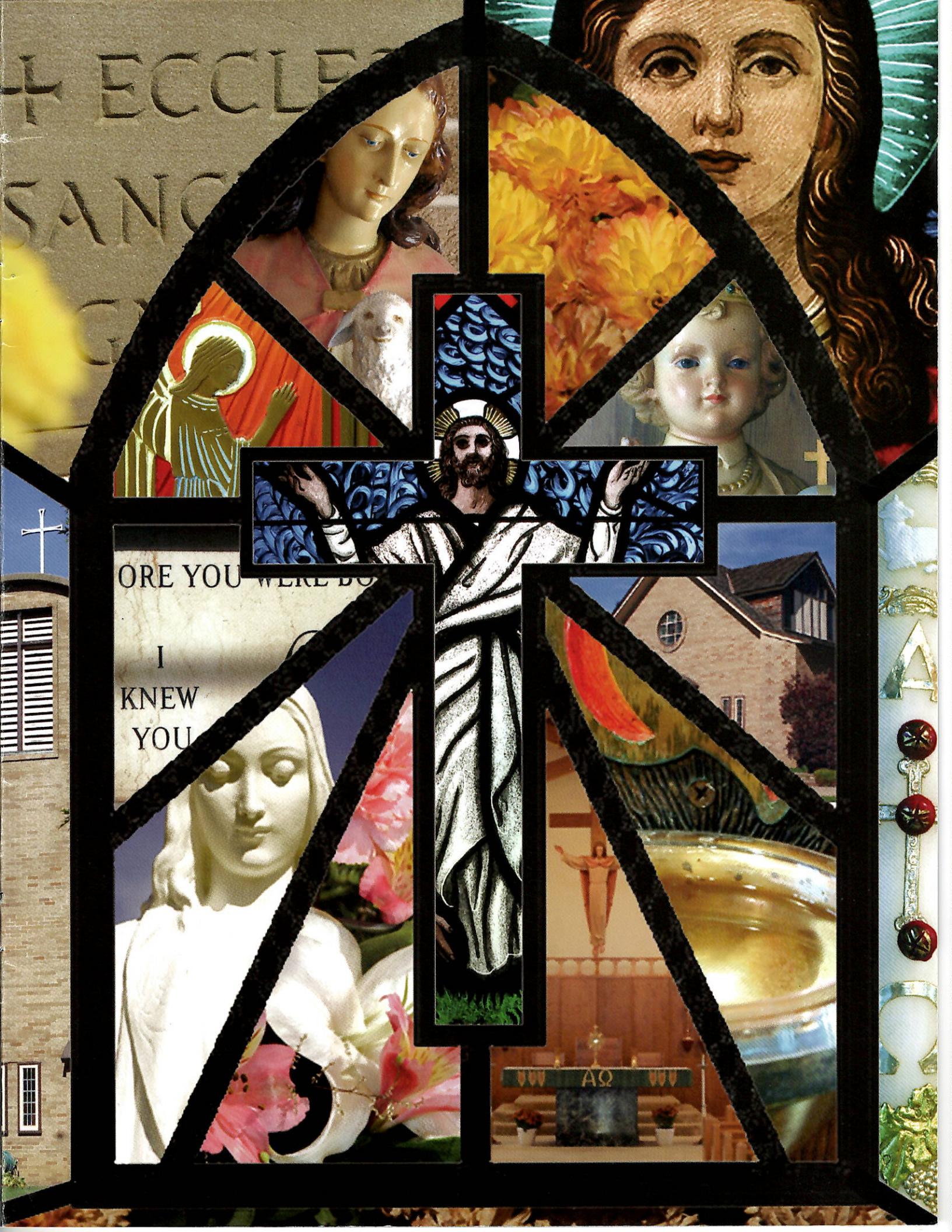
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