



Deo Gratias

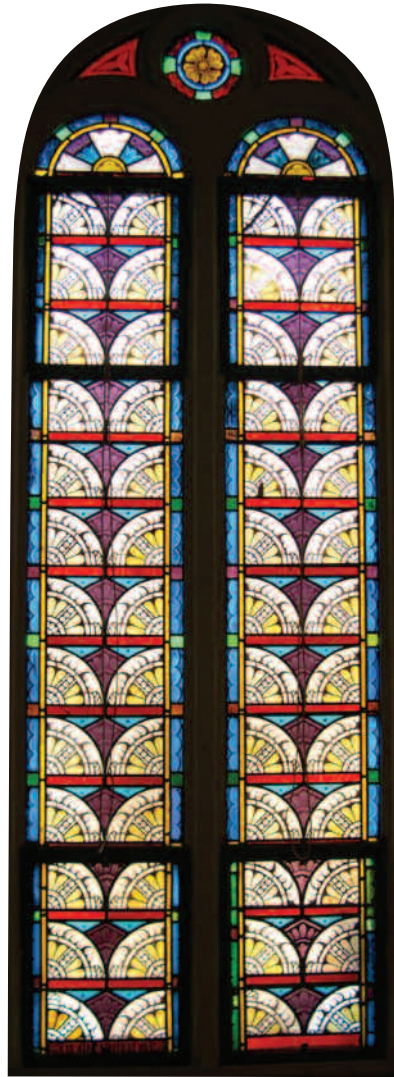
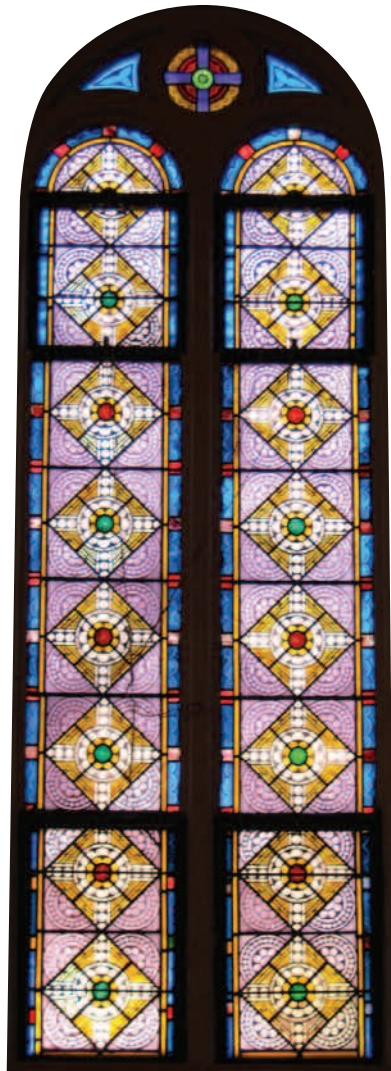
The Legacy of our Heritage



125th Anniversary History of
Church of the Holy Cross, Rumson, NJ

1884-2009







“Deo Gratias...
The Legacy of our Heritage”



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF TRENTON
701 LAWRENCEVILLE ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 5147
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08638-0147

June 14, 2009

Reverend Michael Manning
Holy Cross Parish
30 Ward Avenue
Rumson, New Jersey 07760

Dear Father Manning:

I am happy to extend to you and the entire community of Holy Cross Church in Rumson my warmest congratulations on the 125th Anniversary of your parish. Through God's grace, Holy Cross Parish has had a great history of strong faith and committed Christian living. Your parish has been a center of vital spiritual activity and has been blessed over these one hundred twenty-five years with enthusiastic clergy, religious and laity who have encouraged parishioners to understand and live the Truth that the Lord has revealed.

May the Lord continue to bless your efforts as you continue to proclaim His Gospel and do His work in future years.

With congratulations and prayerful good wishes, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John M. Smith
Bishop of Trenton

JMS:ms



INTRODUCTION



Our parish history is proud testimony to the faith and love of the generations of Catholics who have gone before us. Many people worked to uncover bits of parish history for this book. Our historians interviewed long-time parishioners, pored over old maps and newspapers and logged countless hours on the internet. Our centennial anniversary booklet was also an invaluable reference.

We have organized our story by pastorates, humbly acknowledging that our entire parish family has grown our history. This book is the fruit of the loving efforts of Eugenia Kelly and her committee of enthusiastic parishioner-historians. Eugenia recruited our volunteer editor, a childhood friend, Boodie Christian Clark, who in turn called upon our expert graphic designer Beverley Vienckowski. Thanks to our sacristan, Sue Symington, who is available to anyone who needs her. Susan helped me dig up the Holy Cross cornerstone, climb up into the belfry to fix our original bell and helped piece together the clues which enabled us to re-discover the story of our church windows.

We have compiled far more research than can be included in this booklet. All of it will be archived and available for inspection in the St. Michael Media Room. One day soon, God willing, a fitting place will be made for it in our new church.

With gratitude for their generous legacy, we prayerfully dedicate this booklet to the memory of our deceased parishioners and implore God's blessing on our present parishioners and those generations yet to come.

Fr. Michael Manning

Father Michael Manning
Pastor



*“Cantate Domino, canticum novum”
“Sing unto the Lord a new song”*

HOLY CROSS BEGINNINGS

HISTORIANS: MRS. NONNIE GODVIN AND MRS. MARIAN JOHNSTON

We know it as the Jersey Shore, a summer paradise. But in our region's history, this appellation is rather recent.

Throughout the Revolution and well into the 19th century, the area was largely composed of farms, fishing villages and the occasional manor house. As the century progressed, especially after the Civil War, people of wealth and enterprise discovered the delights of salt air and white sand, and began to buy up large tracts of land. Entrepreneurs and revivalists built hotels and religious retreats. And most important, the railroad came – right through Seabright, as it was spelled at the time.

The tracks ran from the steamboat landing at Sandy Hook all along the barrier beach that sits between today's borough of Rumson and the Atlantic Ocean, on through to the burgeoning resort at Long Branch. Beginning in the 1870s, west of the barrier beach, the wealthy designed palatial estates called cottages and the well-to-do built spacious summer homes, many of which still line what was called “the Rumson Road.”

City dwellers came to summer in the great Seabright hotels; mothers and children lived there all week while the fathers travelled down from city homes for the weekends. A thriving community grew up, composed of summer and year-round residents, and the servants and business people who worked with and for them.

Many who came and settled were Roman Catholic. Servants, small businessmen, summer dwellers and the occasional wealthy land owner who settled in the area were limited by distance in their



**Reverend
John H. Fox**

*July 7, 1858 (New Brunswick, NJ) –
December 25, 1928 (Mt. St. Mary's
Mother House, North Plainfield, NJ)
Seton Hall Seminary, Ordained 1881
at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark*

Holy Cross Parish 1883-1893



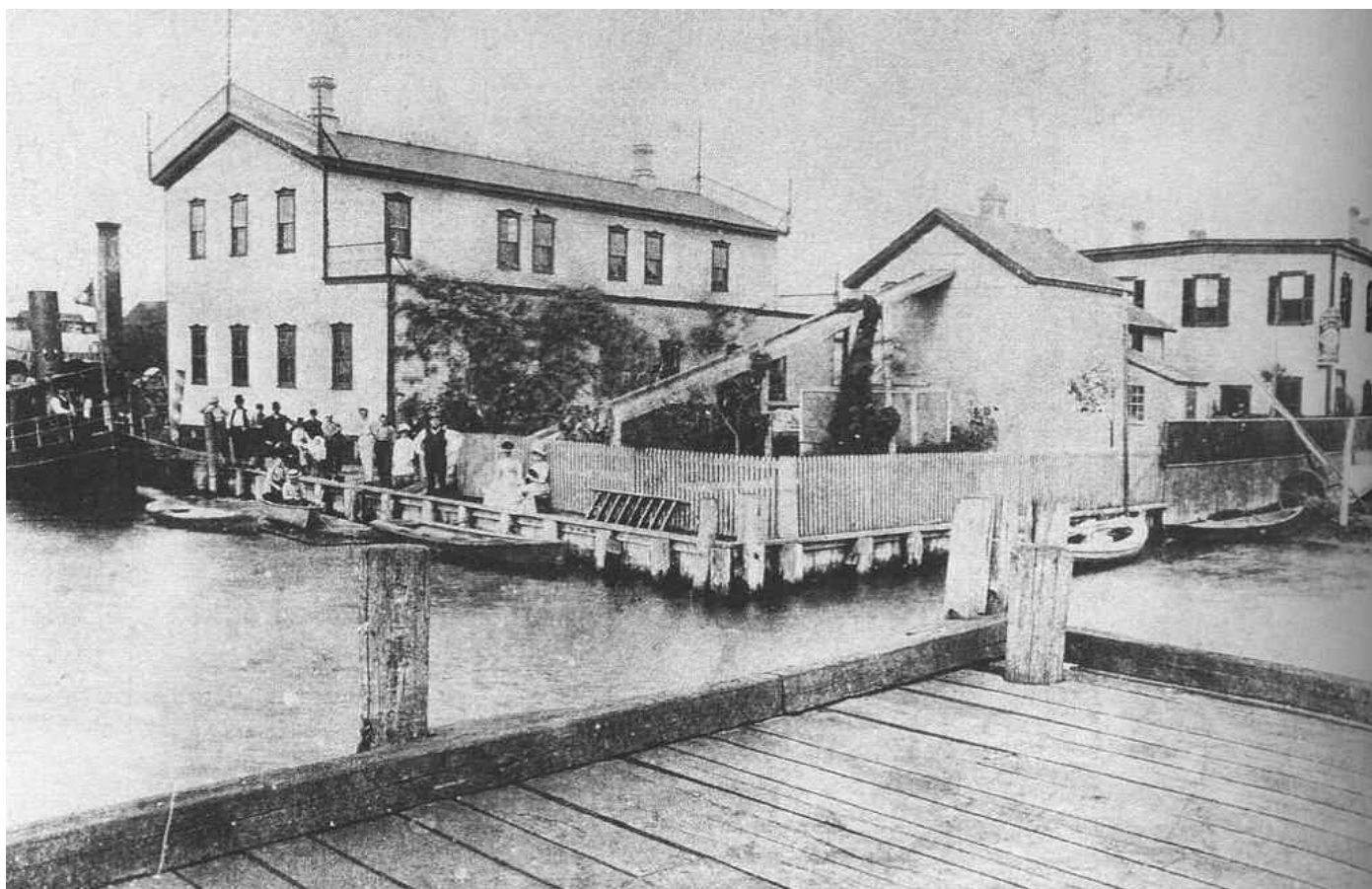
ability to attend Mass and receive the sacraments. In 1883, Right Reverend Michael J. O'Farrell, Bishop of Trenton, sent Reverend John H. Fox, then of St. Joseph's Church in Bound Brook, to the Seabright area of Monmouth County to organize the People of God into a parish at an appropriate, and convenient, site.

The Bishop obviously knew his man. Father Fox made his temporary headquarters at the Knights of Pythias Hall in Peter Poppinga's Riverside Hotel at the steamboat landing between South and River Streets, Seabright. He took up lodgings in a private home, paying \$9/month in rent. The first celebration of the Eucharist occurred on June 17, 1883. Around the same time, Bishop O'Farrell purchased pasture land from the Treadwell estate in what is now the southern

section of West Park, perhaps as an investment for the Diocese, as the site was not developed for church use. That land was sold in 1906.

By the beginning of August, Father Fox had purchased 200 stools for the congregation and built an altar at the Riverside Hotel. He baptized Mary Abbe McCarron on July 7, and joined Patrick J. Aylward and Joan Carton in marriage on October 31. The first First Communion class included Anne Mahoney, Mary Carton, Julia O'Melia, Mary Mullen, James Carton, Edward Bryant, Edward O'Brien, William Kinney and Patrick Shea.

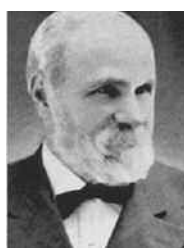
Father Fox made the search for land for a new church his primary goal. On August 15, *The Red Bank Register* reported that the “new Catholic Church... will be situated on a high bluff on the south side of Rumson Road and just west of the draw bridge.”



Peter Poppinga's Riverside Hotel, end of River Street, Seabright



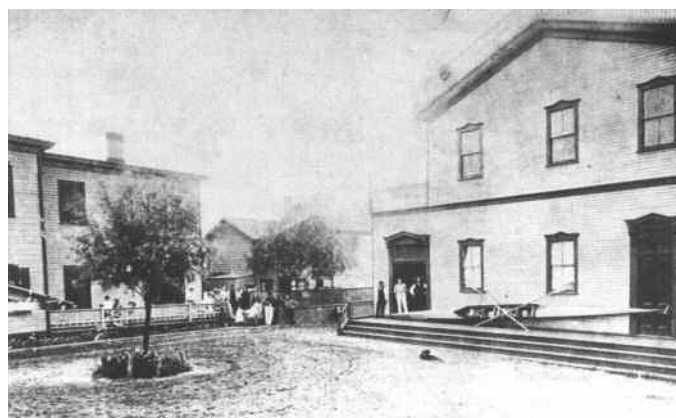
The bar at Poppinga's Riverside Hotel, adjacent to the Knights of Pythias Hall where Father Fox celebrated Mass from 1883 to 1885.



Jose de Navarro (1823-1909), was a Spanish entrepreneur who was dubbed “The Richest Spaniard in the USA.” Among his many achievements, he began a banking firm, then started the New York-Latin American steamship line

with Commodore Vanderbilt and Commodore Cornelius Garrison, built New York’s Metropolitan Elevated Railway System, was a founding director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, created Spanish Flats, the most elegant apartment houses that New York had ever seen, established the Portland cement industry and helped organize what became the Ingersoll-Rand Company. He and his wife, Ellen A. Dykers de Navarro, who was the daughter of a wealthy New York family of Dutch descent, owned a great deal of property in Seabright and in what is now Rumson. On the 1889 map of Rumson Road, he is shown as the owner of the river-to-river strip of land between Bellevue and Buena Vista Avenues. An 1895 map of Seabright shows that he and his wife also owned an oceanfront “cottage” north of the bridge, and the strip of land adjoining what was the Peninsula House; that site is now part of Chapel Beach Club. Jose de Navarro donated \$4,000, the cost of the building lot, to The Church of the Holy Cross. The large window over the main altar picturing the Finding of the True Cross by St. Helena was given by the de Navarros in memory of John Dykers, Ellen de Navarro’s father. Windows depicting St. Anthony and St. Alphonsus and bearing the names of his sons were donated by Señor de Navarro in memory of his parents, and it is believed that his sons, Antonio Fernando and Alfonso, donated the first altar which was replaced in 1948 and given to St. Catherine’s in Middletown.

— Roberta “Bobbie” Van Anda.



Another view of Poppinga's Riverside Hotel.

The parish was incorporated March 3, 1884, as The Church of the Holy Cross, Seabright, NJ. A lot was purchased from Anna L. Rutherford, but it proved to be too narrow, so it was exchanged for and expanded by additional property owned by Samuel Hartshorne on Ward Avenue; the contract to build the church went to John Burke of Asbury Park, working from the plans of architect Charles Keely. The first summer fair was held in July of 1885 and netted \$3,105.75 before the church was even built. The cornerstone was laid August 30, 1885 and, on June 27, 1886, Bishop O’Farrell dedicated the new church. The same year, Contractor Burke built the first rectory. Confirmation was administered on September 11 by Bishop O’Farrell.





St. Agnes Church, Atlantic Highlands, founded by Father Fox.

But Father Fox's work was far from completed. He had also been charged by Bishop O'Farrell with organizing parishes in neighboring shore areas. Along with his continuing work at Holy Cross, he purchased the site for St. Agnes Church in Atlantic

He had shared every important occasion with the Congregation and always had its best interests at heart. He was beloved by all who knew him, children and adults alike. He had helped shape the destiny of the Trenton Diocese for over a quarter of a century... God called His faithful servant to Himself, to share in his first heavenly Christmas. His passing left many sad hearts, but all knew they had a powerful advocate at the throne of God."



The records of Holy Cross's early days do not include much about Father Fox's personality. However, an article in *The Trenton Times* from November, 1906, which recounts the laying of the cornerstone for the Catholic Church of St. Peter in Merchantville, conveys something about the man, and the times. "In his remarks, Msgr. Fox spoke of the respect that should be shown persons of high stations of life, and he said that it disgusted him to hear persons speak of President Roosevelt as Teddy."

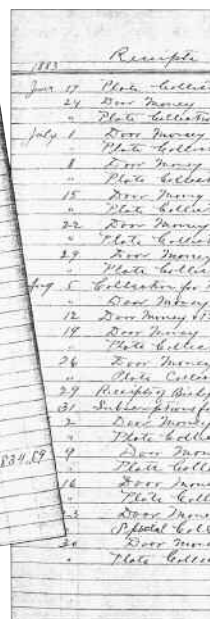
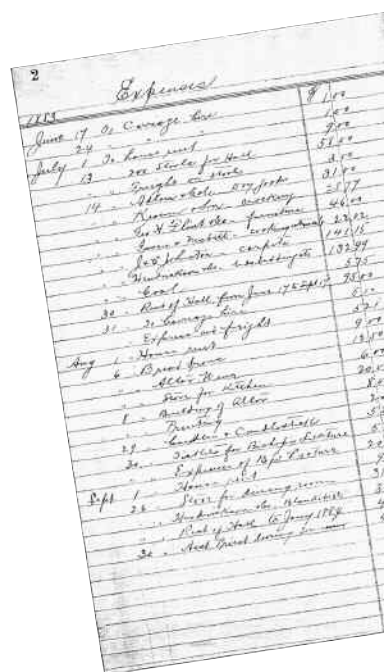


Highlands. The cornerstone was laid in November of 1890, and in 1891 Father Thomas A. Roche, Fox's assistant at Holy Cross since his ordination in 1887, was assigned as pastor. Father Fox was also charged with the Highlands area, and directed the construction of the mission Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. On Father Roche's assignment to St. Agnes, he also became responsible for the mission church.

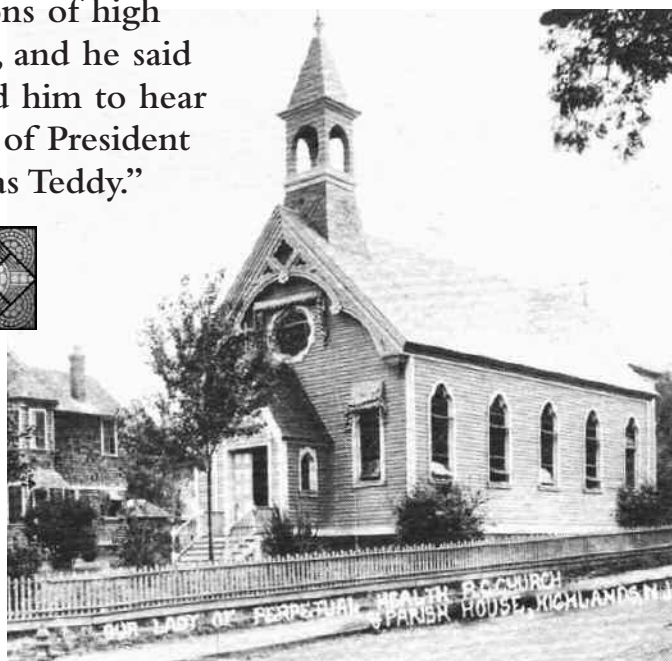
The Roman Catholic soldiers at The Fort at Sandy Hook were also served by Father Fox who journeyed there monthly no matter what the weather. Father Egan, Father Fox's successor at Holy Cross, took over the duty when he became pastor. St. Mary's Chapel remained a mission of the Church of the Holy Cross until 1898, when the first resident rector, Rev. Robert E. Burke, was assigned.

In 1893, Father Fox was transferred to St. Joseph's Church in Trenton where he served for two years as pastor. In 1895, he was named rector of Trenton's St. Mary's Cathedral, and later, Vicar General of the Diocese. At the end of his career, he retired to Mt. St. Mary's Motherhouse, North Plainfield.

According to the archives of the Sisters of Mercy, "Christmas Day 1929 brought its sorrow as well as its joy to the Sisters of Mercy. Almost from the time the Mercy Community established itself in New Jersey, it had a staunch friend and spiritual guide in the person of Right Reverend Monsignor John H. Fox.



Father Fox's handwritten ledger pages from his first days in Seabright.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Highlands, also founded by Father Fox.

“Gloria, laus et honor...”

“Glory, praise and honor”

INTO THE 20TH CENTURY

HISTORIAN: MRS. MARIAN JOHNSTON

Father Edward Egan came to Holy Cross in 1893 from Sea Isle City's St. Joseph's Parish. That first year, he oversaw the construction of a Parish Hall, which was designed by J. Swanell, Architect, and built by Sewing & Jeffrey Builders behind the rectory and the church. According to the minutes of the Board of Trustees, the cost was not to exceed \$10,000. The Hall lasted until 1967, and was well used for school and parish events. Father Egan formed the Young Men's Institute during that first year.

Father Egan began a one-classroom school in the newly built Parish Hall in 1894 and, the following year, arranged for the purchase of a lot adjoining Holy Cross property from the heirs of the late Samuel H. Hartshorne. On it, he hoped to build a convent to be occupied by the Sisters of Mercy, who would teach at the planned parochial school. Initial expenditures were \$86 to Cleveland School Furniture, \$74.50 to American Book and a monthly salary of \$35 to Miss McCarthy (1894-1896) and Miss Jackson (1898). However, enrollment diminished. The school closed in 1898; the building of the convent would wait a few years.

The parish continued to prosper. Father Egan “endeared himself to the residents of Seabright and Rumson,” according to a contemporary article, “without regard to religious faith. He took an active part at all times in any move for civic betterment.” His parishioners loved him, too. Sexton William Jeffrey and his wife Susan named one of their sons, “Edward Egan,” in his honor. History repeats itself,



Reverend Edward J. Egan

*December, 1860 (Newtown, Connecticut) –
October 12, 1933 (Phillipsburg, NJ)
St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Maryland
Ordained December 19, 1885 at St. Joseph's
Seminary, Troy, NY by Bishop O'Farrell
Named Monsignor in 1925*

Holy Cross Parish 1893-1915



our current sacristan Susan Symington is Mr. Jeffrey's grand-daughter!

In 1904, Bishop O'Farrell's successor Bishop McFaul visited Holy Cross to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. In honor of his visit, the altars were repainted and new carpets were put down in the sanctuary and aisles.

Throughout his career, Father Egan was a popular speaker, included on the podium at many events. At a celebration at the Elberon Hotel on July 2, 1907, Father Egan opened his toast at the dinner with a quote from Wordsworth's “Character of the Happy Warrior”: “When neither shape nor danger can dismay, nor thought of tender happiness betray...” (*Red Bank Register*, July 4, 1907). The poem itself describes a person not unlike Father Egan.



A view of Holy Cross Church, c.1904. Note the doors on the pews, and the carpet over the linoleum.



Holy Cross Church in Father Egan's time, showing the rectory to the south.



Edward Egan Jeffrey, named for Father Egan, and his sister Ruth at their First Holy Communion at Holy Cross.



“WHO is the happy Warrior? Who is he
 What every man in arms should wish to be?
 It is the generous Spirit, who, when brought
 Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought
 Upon the plan that pleased his childish thought:
 Whose high endeavours are an inward light
 That makes the path before him always bright:
 Who, with a natural instinct to discern
 What knowledge can perform, is diligent to learn,
 Abides by this resolve, and stops not there,
 But makes his moral being his prime care...”



In 1910, Father Egan celebrated 25 years of priesthood, eight of which had been spent at Holy Cross. According to *The Red Bank Register*, “the celebration lasted all day and three services were held in the church. About 600 people attended each of the masses...” Priests from all over the state, including founding pastor Father Fox, attended Father Egan’s jubilee banquet at the Rumson Country Club, and the congregation “made Father Egan a present of a purse containing a large sum of money.”

In 1915, the parish was flourishing, with 450 communicants in the winter and about 1,000 in summer. After 21 years of service to Holy Cross, Father Egan was transferred to the Church of St. Philip and St. James, Phillipsburg. When he became a Monsignor in 1925, a large delegation from Holy Cross attended.

Msgr. Egan died in 1933, of pneumonia at age 73. At his funeral, Holy Cross’s then-current pastor Father John E. Murray served as the deacon. Among his survivors was his brother, William H. “Big Bill” Egan, stationmaster for the Pennsylvania Railroad at 33rd Street and 7th Avenue, New York, from which so many parishioners travelled south for the summer.

“Domine, Deus, miserere nobis...”

“Lord, God, have mercy on us”

THE YEARS OF THE GREAT WAR AND AFTER

HISTORIANS: MS. NANCY SAVOCA-TRAUB

Father Michael H. Callahan came to Holy Cross from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Trenton. A graduate of Niagara University, his ties to his alma mater remained strong. In 1913, he was named vice president of Niagra’s Eastern and Western Alumni Association.

Holy Cross was his first pastorate, and he shepherded the congregation through the difficult days of “The Great War” and its aftermath. *The Red Bank Register* reported that, at the Church’s annual Harvest Home summer fair in 1918, many noticed the absence of their young men, 100 of whom were “serving the colors, many of them being abroad.”

During this time, the workers who staffed the cottages and estates and the small businessmen of the community were moving into their own homes, many of them in the Oceanic section of the Borough. For the most part, the Catholics among them had difficulty obtaining transportation to Holy Cross, and the walk, while doable, was lengthy. At the beginning of Father Callahan’s tenure, sanctioned by Bishop McFaul, a mission was opened in Oceanic, then known also as the “west end of Rumson,” with Masses being held in headquarters hall of The Improved Order of Red Men, the nation’s oldest fraternal order which had evolved from the original Sons of Liberty. The Hall, now a private home on Church Street, was a central and convenient location for the Oceanic residents. It was rented for \$125 per year.

Father Callahan and the west end Catholics determined that Oceanic needed its own church. Construction began on The Church of the Holy



**Reverend
Michael H. Callahan**

*1871 (Wallingford, Connecticut) –
May 14, 1948 (Atlantic Highlands, NJ)
Niagara University (classmate of Father Clune)
Ordained 1899*

Named Monsignor by Bishop Griffin in 1946

Holy Cross Parish 1915–1923



Rosary in January, 1923 and it was incorporated on March 6, 1923. Before its completion, Father Callahan was called to St. Paul’s Parish, Princeton, but as the founder of Holy Rosary, he remained for the dedication. According to a document from the Holy Cross Parish files, witnessed by the Rt. Rev. Thomas Walsh, Bishop of Trenton, Lay Trustees John Keany and Stephen Cook, founding pastor Father Fox (now vicar general of the Trenton Diocese) and Father Callahan, “the corner stone of [the] Church of the Holy Rosary was placed in position” on July 1, 1923. The document further states, “The Church of the Holy Rosary, Rumson, New Jersey, will for the present remain a mission to the Church of the Holy Cross, Sea Bright, New Jersey.” The same five men signed the Certificate of Incorporation for the new church.



A view of The Church of The Holy Rosary.



Father Callahan, Bishop William Griffin and Father Callahan's successor Father Clune at their installation as monsignor, May 1946.

Over 1,000 people attended the dedication and heard their work in establishing the new church praised by both Bishop Walsh and Father Callahan. According to *The Red Bank Register*, "(July 4, 1923), Holy Rosary is 'built of tapestry brick with copper cornices and a copper tower. It will seat 350 persons. There will be three altars, but they have not yet been installed ...A large oil painting depicting the Madonna receiving the revelation of St. Dominic has been hung in the church in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Brady of Rumson.'" Both Holy Rosary's and Holy Cross's church yards were sites for the Annual Summer Fair, a major fundraiser for the parish.

Father Callahan spent three years at St. Paul's, then was transferred to St. Agnes parish, Atlantic

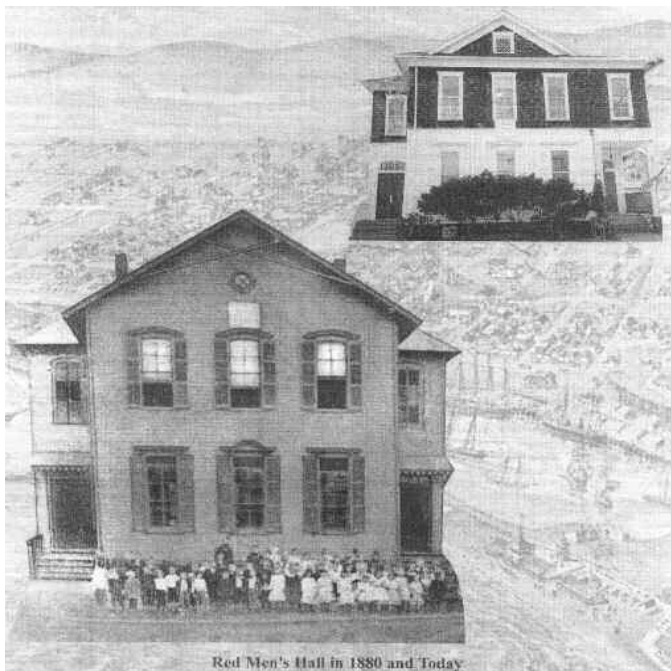
Highlands in 1926. He would spend the rest of his career there. In 1946, at a Solemn High Mass, Father Callahan became a monsignor on the same day as Pastor-to-be Father Patrick Clune. The Most Rev. William A. Griffin, Bishop of Trenton, officiated.

On May 14, 1948, Msgr. Callahan died at the St. Agnes Rectory at the age of 77.

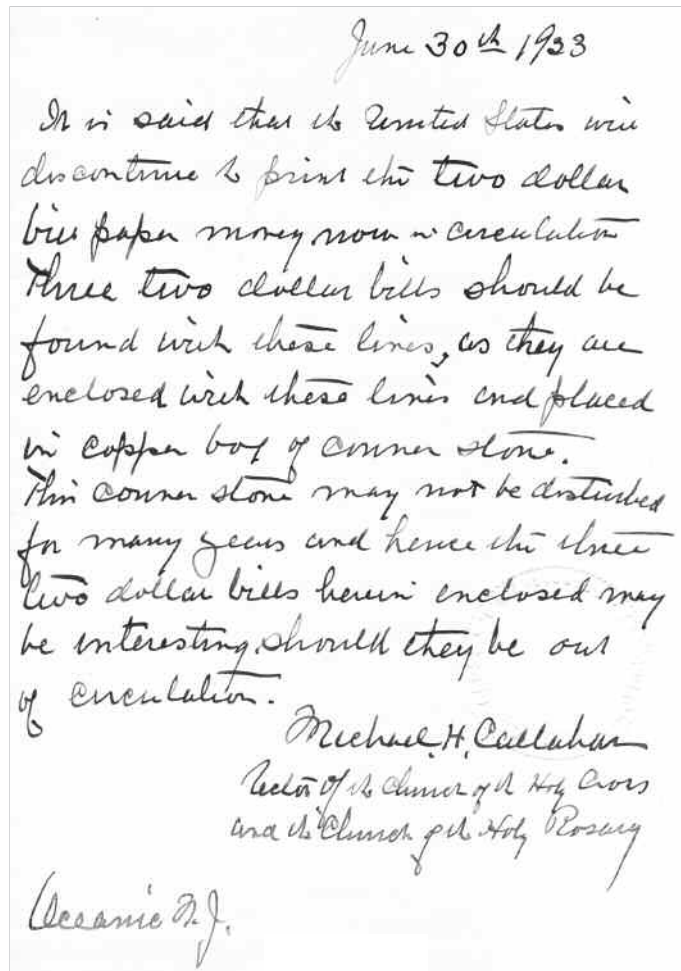


Entrance to Holy Rosary Church, Rumson.

A note included in the Cornerstone of the Church of the Holy Rosary, along with a copy of the Articles of Incorporation of Holy Rosary (placed in a glass bottle for preservation), a book of ferry tickets, coins, an issue of the *Red Bank Register* and the business card of the man who soldered the box closed:



Red Men's Hall in 1880, at bottom, and today, at top. Courtesy of The Rumson Borough Bulletin.



“Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, misere nobis...”
“You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us”

THROUGH THE DEPRESSION

HISTORIAN: MRS. SUSAN SOROKOLIT

Father Murray came to Holy Cross from St. Mary's parish in New Monmouth. During his tenure there, he had purchased the land for and supervised the building of St. Ann's Church in Keansburg, a mission church of St. Mary's. A world traveler who had accompanied Bishop McFaul on a European tour during which they had audiences with Pope Pius X and King Leopold of Belgium, he brought with him his great enthusiasm for people and his ability to energize a congregation.

Post World War I prosperity gave way to the Great Depression. Under Father Murray's leadership, there were numerous events and fund-raisers for both Holy Cross and Holy Rosary, such as the “Lincoln Party and Dance for the benefit of Holy Rosary Church at Holy Rosary Hall on Friday, February 12, 1926 at 8 o'clock” (*Red Bank Register*, February 10, 1926). He participated fully in the planning and execution of these, and became a popular dinner guest around the parish and with his fellow priests throughout the area. He expanded the pew-rental system, in place since the church was founded, into a good source of revenue. Individuals and families were locked in the pews by a door which was “opened” at Communion time! The entire system was discontinued in the 1940s.

Murray tended his flocks at both churches carefully. For example, First Communion Sunday in 1938 saw ceremonies at each church. Father Murray officiated at Holy Cross; his assistant, Father Joseph Sullivan (later to become pastor at Holy Cross) at Holy Rosary. He also was an esteemed member of



**Reverend
John E. Murray**

1877 (Philipsburg, NJ) – October 30, 1941
(Rumson, NJ)

St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Maryland;
Seton Hall College, South Orange;
the College of Brignole Sale, Genoa, Italy
and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore.
Ordained October 24, 1899

Holy Cross Parish 1923-1940

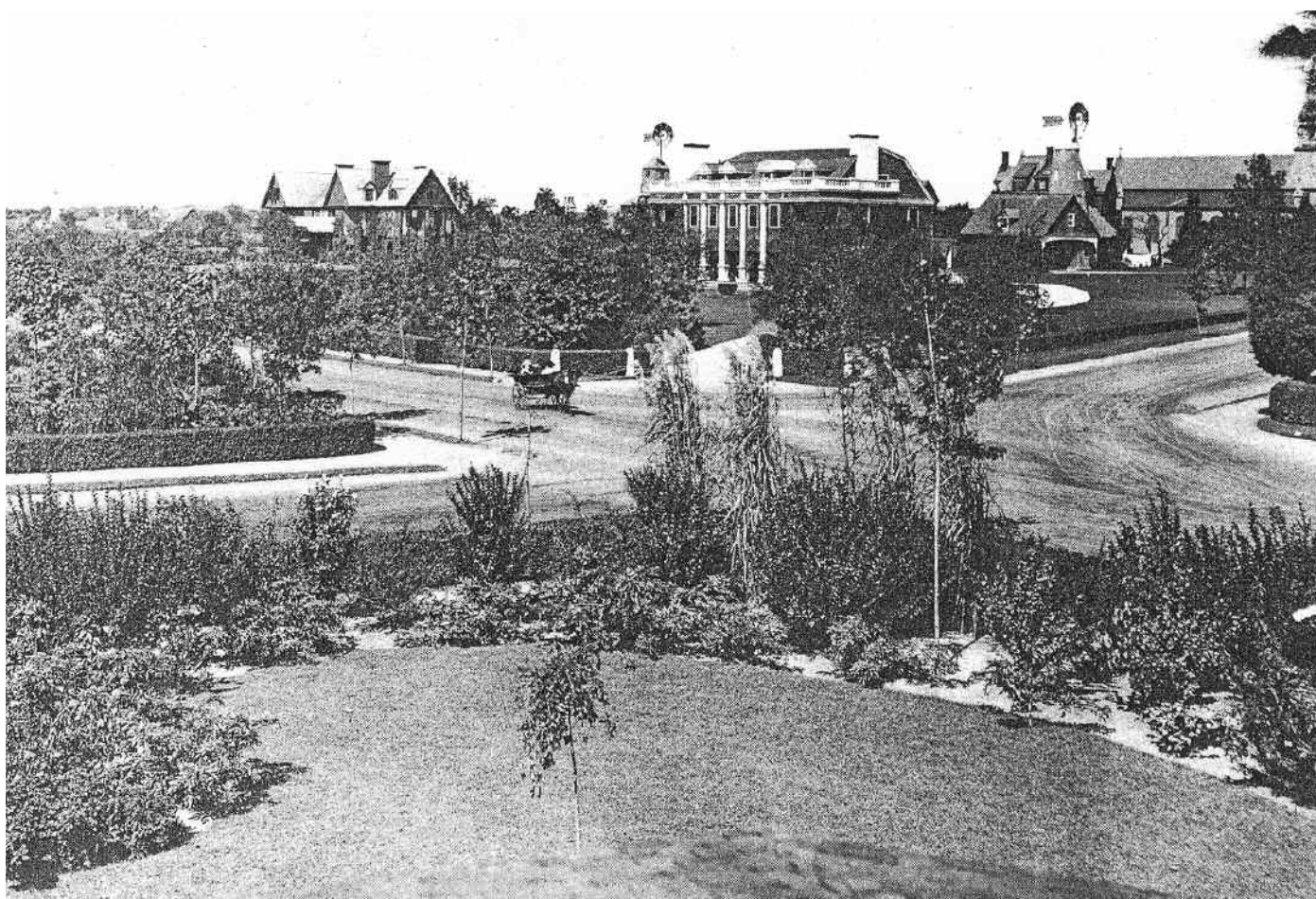


from the Rumson Borough, bingo was established as “legal” at Holy Rosary under Father Murray's pastorate (see p. 14).

the Rumson community, and appreciated the cooperation the mayor and council afforded to the parish. An article in *The Red Bank Register* of June 16th, 1938, headed “Rumson Seniors Attend Service At Holy Cross,” Father Murray tendered a “very hearty” welcome to the Rumson High School seniors, teachers and board of education attending the pre-graduation baccalaureate service, and “told them of the close and intimate relationship that has always existed between the high school, officials and Holy Cross Church, and he spoke of the many favors and kindnesses extended to him by the school and also by the different chief executives of Rumson from former Senator W. Warren Barbour to the present mayor James C. Auchincloss. He congratulated all the graduates and wished them God's choicest blessings.” As an example of the “kindnesses,” after a challenge



“The Corners,” home of Mr. Bernon Prentice.



A view of the corners of Rumson Road and Ward Avenue, showing the Hadden Estate, "The Corners," the Prentice carriage house (still standing on the Holy Cross campus) and Holy Cross Church.

A purchase of an important part of Holy Cross's campus occurred because of Father Murray's popularity and genial personality. Mr. Bernon Prentice, who owned numerous parcels of Rumson land, lived for many years at his estate "The Corners," appropriately located at the corner of Rumson Road and Ward Avenue. In 1940, Mr. Prentice considered selling or deeding away some of his land, and he conveyed a small tract to Holy Cross's neighbor, the Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club. The same year, while they were on a trip to Hot Springs, Virginia, Father Murray asked if Mr. Prentice would sell a plot at the northern edge of "The Corners" to Holy Cross Church since he had long wanted to build a school on the campus.

Nothing happened until the following year, when Mr. Prentice made up his mind to sell "The Corners." He, knowing that Father Murray hoped to purchase some of the land, sent a note to William Hintelmann of Hintelmann Real Estate, Avenue of Two Rivers, asking if "our neighbors would like to purchase the property at any price." Through Mr. Prentice's good will, the quoted price for purchase

was \$10,000, much lower than the estate's actual value.

Father Murray died on November 14, 1940, at the rectory, after a long illness. He was 64. His *Red Bank Register* obituary stated that "In the passing of Rev. John E. Murray of Rumson the Catholic church has lost a loyal and devout priest; the laity of Holy Cross and Holy Rosary churches a just pastor, a wise counselor and a warm friend; the borough of Rumson a distinguished and public-spirited citizen." Further, "Father Murray preferred to remain in the background, although he performed valuable services to the community as a member of civic groups and a friend of the unfortunate. His counsel and his charitable deeds will be sorely missed. Father Murray has left an indelible impression upon the minds of the people of Rumson, for he loved them all. Time will not diminish, but rather, will serve to enhance the memory of a priest who was a true friend to man; one who made this world a better place in which to live."

On February 3, 1941, his dreams for expansion came to fruition. Holy Cross Church, under the direction of new pastor Father Clune, contracted to



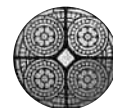
Mr. Bernon Prentice.

to commemorate his name in this way." In addition, Mr. Prentice donated, among other items, the clock and bell from the stable. The Prentice house served Holy Cross for more than 20 years; the bell remains in the Church bell tower.



Holy Cross in Father Murray's time.

purchase "The Corners" and Mr. Prentice conveyed the remaining land in a deed of gift in memory of Father Murray, stating, "I would like to make this donation in Father Murray's memory. I know of no one in our community that has done more for the people of Rumson than Father Murray, and it gives me great pleasure



Red Bank Register, October 19, 1939

FIREMEN PROTEST STOPPING OF BINGO GAMES AT RUMSON — MAYOR AND COUNCIL TELL DELEGATION LAW WILL BE ENFORCED

A delegation representing Oceanic Hook and Ladder Company appeared before the Rumson borough council Friday night and asked for an explanation with regard to the action the police had taken in halting their bingo parties after the first of a series of games was held Thursday night at Holy Rosary hall.

Charles Muegge, chairman of the bingo committees, was spokesman for the fire company, and he asked the council what objections the members had against the company continuing the games. Borough Attorney William A. Stevens was asked what his advice would be on the matter. Mr. Stevens told the council that he knew of no place in Monmouth County that brought the matter up as a violation. However, he said, the Supreme Court has decided that bingo is gambling. "I have seen the games operated by organizations right in my own city of Long Branch," said Mr. Stevens.

Raymond Desmond asked the council if the council thought Rev. John E. Murray, pastor of the Holy Rosary church, would stand for the company using the hall as a place for gambling. Mayor Auchincloss stated Father Murray is a fine, sincere man and declared that he would be one of the first to halt the games if he knew they were operating against the law... Harry Collis, also a member of the company, told the council he could see no harm in the games when 200 good church-going people leave the borough one night a week to play the game elsewhere... The borough attorney suggested that the fire company appoint a committee to travel to Freehold and seek advice on the matter.



*“Dona Nobis Pacem...”
“Give us peace”*

WAR AND PEACE

HISTORIAN: MS. NANCY SAVOCA-TRAUB

Father Clune came to Holy Cross upon Father Murray's death. Formerly pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Princeton, where he had founded and built their new school, and previously Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese in which position he was instrumental in introducing the Parent-Teacher Association, he was uniquely suited to his new assignment. He completed the purchase of the Prentice tract, 5.6 acres of land on which were situated the mansion, stables, greenhouses and outbuildings. The Prentice carriage house still stands on the Holy Cross campus. Father Clune immediately set about opening the Holy Cross School in the former Prentice mansion, which would serve as both school and convent after being redesigned by local architect, J. Sanford Shanley.

The Most Reverend William A. Griffin, Bishop of Trenton, presided over the dedication of the new school on September 8, 1941. Former pastor Father Callahan was a deacon of honor for the opening Mass. Sister of Mercy Marie Jeanne Maguire, RSM, came on board as principal. Sisters Mary Sheila Storm and Mary Eustace Hoover comprised the founding teachers, but since their quarters were not yet habitable, they commuted for a time from St. James Convent in Red Bank. When their rooms were completed, they moved to the second floor of the redesigned building; the classrooms for grades K through 4 were on the first floor where 71 children promptly began their Catholic education.



Msgr. Patrick J. Clune, Ph.D., LL.D.

*March 17, 1866 (County Clare, Ireland) –
November 15, 1947 (Rumson, NJ)
Niagara University, Lewiston, New York (with
Father Callahan), Sacred Heart College,
Vineland, St. Charles College, Ellicott City,
Maryland, and Mount St. Mary's College,
Emmitsburg, Maryland (theological education
in Innsbruck, Austria)
Ordained May 29, 1899*

Holy Cross Parish 1940-1947



America entered World War II on December 8. Since the school/convent building was only a block and a half from the ocean, blackouts were strictly enforced. Alumni from the class of 1946 vividly remember planting "victory gardens" for the War effort. The war years saw four more grades added to the school, with classrooms opened on the third floor of the converted mansion. The Sisters were joined by Sr. Mary Joseph Cunningham. By 1946, there were 169 students, and the first class celebrated their graduation.

The Sisters were also responsible for the Catholic education of children who attended area public schools. Each Sunday, they would go to Mass at Holy Cross. Then Sisters Sheila and Eustace would go over to Holy Rosary for another Mass and to teach Sunday school, and then return to Holy Cross for a third Mass, and an additional Sunday school session.

Music recital participants pose on Prentice House stairs.





First Graduating Class, 1946 — Dorothy E. Andre, Francis J. Andre, Teresa M. Andre, George A. Brown, William T. Brown, Margaret C. Costigan, Donald J. Clancy, Raymond J. Desmond, Charles T. Dombrovski, Jude T. Durstewitz, Leonard T. Friscia, Mary E. Friscia, Carol A. Guerrier, Doris A. Mears, Claudette M. Minaldi, Girard P. Minaldi, Ann M. O'Leary, Katherine A. Peluso, Mary M. Raleigh, James A. Tanner, Richard J. Wallace, Patricia M. Whalen, Raymond J. Whalen

The Sisters' relationships with Father Clune, known as "Doc" for his Ph.D., were cordial and filled with respect. In their work for the school, pastor and teachers made a formidable team. With choir members involved in the war effort, Msgr. Clune lamented that there would be no singing for midnight Mass at Christmas. But, Sr. Sheila organized and trained a children's choir which provided beautiful music.

In May of 1946, Father Clune was consecrated monsignor on the same day as Rev. Michael Callahan, former pastor. The following year, Msgr. Clune's long and fruitful life drew to a close at age 81 at the Holy Cross Rectory.



May Crowning, World Sodality Day, May 11, 1947.



William Hintelman of Hintelman's Realty wrote to Msgr. Crean, Vicar General of the Diocese of Trenton in 1941 about Holy Cross' intention to purchase the Bernon Prentice property and open a school. According to the letter, the Borough Zoning Board, opposed to a school on the site, proposed an amendment to the zoning regulations which would prohibit a school, "a purpose that might be very detrimental in a residential zone." At its meeting in March, 1941, the Zoning Ordinance Committee urged "immediate adoption" of the prohibition, but the mayor referred the proposed ordinance to the borough attorney, allowing Father Clune to organize and open the school before action could be taken. At the dedication ceremony, Bishop Griffin thanked the mayor and commended Father Clune for his efficiency.



“Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis...”
“And on earth, peace to men of good will”

PEACE AND PROSPERITY

HISTORIAN: MRS. MARTHA CHAMBERLAIN STEWART

Father Joseph Sullivan brought a thick brogue and the lilt of Irish laughter with him when he came to Holy Cross from St. Paul's Parish, Highland Park. Holy Cross School was growing by leaps and bounds; Father moved overflow classes into the old Parish Hall. Holy Cross students had many reasons to thank Father Sullivan. In addition to planning for their futures, he also gave them a holiday every year on St. Joseph's Day.

Father Sullivan was bent on building a modern school that could accommodate all the students in one building. He formed and commissioned a group of men of the parish to raise the necessary funds. As he began to plan for a new school, Father Sullivan saw to some renovations in the church itself. The de Navarro altar was sent to St. Catherine's Church in Middletown, and replaced with an oak altar and matching reredos. The old altar can still be seen at St. Catherine's today. Two side altars were constructed, also in oak.



**Msgr.
Joseph A. Sullivan**

*May 26, 1901 (County Wicklow, Ireland) –
March 28, 1973 (Red Bank, NJ)
St. Patrick's College, Dublin, Ireland;
St. Bonaventure Seminary, Olean, New York
Ordained May 21, 1932,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Trenton
Named Monsignor 1957*

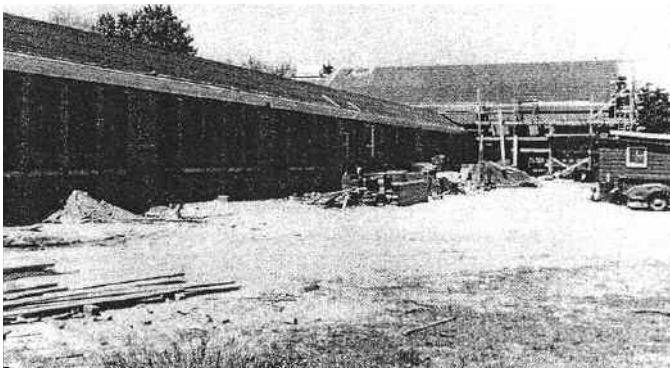
Holy Cross Parish 1947–1973
(Assistant to Father Murray 1938–1940)



In 1953, the new school opened, with eight (or nine, sources differ) classrooms, an auditorium, kindergarten, library and clinic. Father also saw to it that Holy Cross students were allowed to ride the public school busses, rather than having to pay to take the Boro Busses, a difficult battle he thought well worth the winning. Sr. Marie Jeanne returned for her second term as principal. The Sisters of Mercy remained in their quarters in the old Prentice Mansion and, according to *The Asbury Park Press*, the former school would be used as a hall once again. On September 19, 1953, the dedication ceremonies saw George W. Ahr, Bishop of Trenton, presiding. The principal address was delivered by the Rev. Eugene Davis of Sacred Heart Church, New Brunswick, uncle of present Pastoral Assistant Eugenia Kelly.

Shortly thereafter, Father Sullivan gained a behind-his-back nickname – “Silky” Sullivan. It has

long been thought that this referred to his taste for silk shirts and the good life, but recently a different



Construction of new Holy Cross School, 1952.



Sr. Michaeline, RSM



Sr. Brendan, RSM



Father Sullivan and the graduates of 1957 in front of new school.



Class of 1955 on the steps of Holy Rosary, after their baccalaureate breakfast.



Father Sullivan, Father Richard Ewing and the Class of 1951 in the Prentice House.

connection has come to light. Silky Sullivan was the favorite to win the 1958 Kentucky Derby, and Father dearly loved the horses. In fact, Julie O'Connor Collart, whose family socialized with Father Sullivan, recounts that Father "enjoyed a day at the racetrack, as did my mom and dad. One time, when I was a teenager, he sent me a postcard from Florida and said he had just heard a song called "Greenfields" and asked me if I knew of it. My Mom thought he was secretly giving her a tip on a horse to run at Monmouth!"

Student body growth necessitated an extensive addition to the new school. In 1962, Father Sullivan oversaw the opening of six new classrooms, along with a new convent and chapel for the Sisters of Mercy. In a recent interview, Sr. Mary Dora remembered "looking at the new building and wondering when we were going to get in." Get in they did. Bishop Ahr again officiated at the dedication, and Sr. Mary Arthur was principal. The faculty consisted of 10 Sisters of Mercy and seven lay teachers. In the

spring of 1963, the former Prentice home was demolished.

Father Sullivan achieved some measure of national fame. In the introduction to his collection of prayers *Go With God*, columnist Jim Bishop, noted author of *The Day Christ Died*, among many works, wrote from his Sea Bright home, christened *On the Rocks*, "From where I sit writing this, there is a view across the Shrewsbury River and a steeple shows in the distance above the trees. This is Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in Rumson, New Jersey. The pastor, Father Joseph Sullivan, is my pastor."

During his pastorate, Father Sullivan oversaw the charges and changes brought about by the great church council known as Vatican II. The main oak altar that he had installed in 1948 was refurbished in 1969, pulled away from the back wall and relocated to its present position, enabling the priest to celebrate the Mass facing the people. English replaced Latin, allowing the People of God to participate more fully in the Mass.

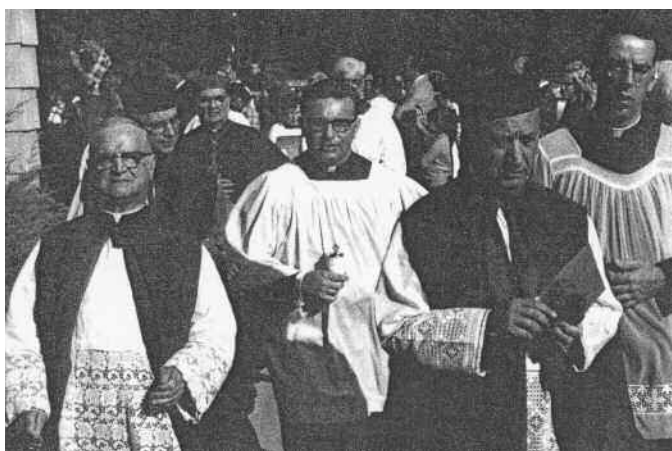
In 1967, the old Parish Hall was razed. The same year, Father Sullivan was named monsignor. By 1970, school enrollment was decreasing and, with the decrease and fewer religious teaching because of fewer vocations, there were overall financial difficulties in administering the school. Father turned to the parents, and Holy Cross School Board of Education was formed, composed of Father Sullivan, Principal Sr. Clarita, the president of the P.T.A., teacher representatives from both the religious and lay faculty and standing committees in the areas of curriculum, grounds, finance, legal and management affairs. It was the first of its kind in the Trenton Diocese. "The Board was challenged to determine if the school could realistically continue and how the school operation could be improved both physically and academically, at the same time reducing its financial dependence on the parish," according to David W. Buckley, Board president, quoted in *The Red Bank Daily Register*.

In March, 1972, with the school's situation improving, Msgr. Sullivan celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination and the 25th anniversary of his pastorate at Holy Cross. Ill health caused him to retire in January of 1973. Leadership of the parish was taken over by Associate Pastor William A. Carton who had been at Holy Cross since 1968. Wearing many hats – chaplain at Riverview Hospital, a confidant of the parish youth, developer of the High School Confraternity program, an erstwhile "playground father" and altar boy instructor – Father Carton carried the parish through its difficult times with his dedication and spirituality.

Msgr. Sullivan lived on at the Holy Cross Rectory until his hospitalization. Death claimed him on March 28, 1973 at age 71.



Wedding at Holy Cross in 1948 showing "new" oak altar and reredos.



Msgr. Sullivan, Bishop George W. Ahr and, at extreme right, Father William A. Carton, associate pastor.

Back in those days at Holy Cross School when all else failed, the ultimate punishment for a student who misbehaved was to be sent to "see the priest." The nuns figured that would put fear in our hearts. Well, one day I had maxed out my welcome at the school and was sent over to see Father Sullivan. The housekeeper answered the door and brought me in to the breakfast room. He was sitting there in a T-shirt and suspenders reading *The New York Times*. The housekeeper announced that I had been sent over by Sr. Marie Jeanne for misbehaving. He kind of peeked over the top of the paper and said in his famous Irish brogue, "Ahhh, Donnie me boy, what pray tell have you dunn now?" It was more rhetorical than accusatory. He then instructed the housekeeper to prepare an English muffin and a glass of orange juice. He then went back to reading the paper. After about 20 minutes, he told me to go back to class and he would take care of it with Sr. Marie Jeanne. All was squared.

A number of years later, I heard he was in Riverview Hospital and deathly sick. I made a visit to see him and found him lying in bed and not very alert, or so I thought. I went over and leaned in to speak to him, saying hello and that I was Don Mullins. There was a slight pause before he replied. His reply was, "Ahhhh, Donnie me boy, what have you dunn now?" I will never forget it.

Donald Mullins

Graduate, Holy Cross School, 1957

Altar boy for Father Sullivan



"Let us build the City of God..."

HOLY CROSS PARISH CENTENNIAL

HISTORIAN: MRS. SUSAN SOROKOLIT

After Msgr. Sullivan's death, Associate Pastor Rev. William A. Carton became Acting Pastor until Father Kokoszka came to Holy Cross from St. Joan of Arc Parish, Marlton, filled with a vision to respect the post-Vatican II changes, but to keep the fundamentals in place. He well knew that both the world and the Church were changing; Father had served as a Navy Chaplain in the Marine Corps both in World War II and in the Korean Conflict. He came to Holy Cross with the rank of Captain in the Reserves.

An interviewer for *The Red Bank Register* called Father Kokoszka "sincere, experienced, direct and human," and Father Kokoszka stated that he envisioned Holy Cross "as a parish involved in the community, the school, the church, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine... a meshing together of priests, sisters and laymen."

Father quickly solidified the innovations begun by Father Sullivan, with regard to the school. He worked closely with the School Board.



Centennial float in Rumson's Memorial Day Parade.



Reverend William J. Kokoszka

*November 19, 1917 (Helmetta, New Jersey) –
September 2, 1992 (Helmetta, New Jersey)*

St. Peter's College, Jersey City;

St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester New York;

Immaculate Conception Seminary,

Darlington, New Jersey

Ordained June 3, 1944,

St. Mary's Cathedral, Trenton

*Attended Chaplain School at College of
William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia,*

*1945, prior to becoming a Naval Chaplain
in the Marine Corps*

Holy Cross Parish 1973–1988



repair, new sidewalks around the church, and the replacing of the private pews of the past with new ones. In 1977, a new rectory opened to the north of the church building. Twice in the early 80s, Father painted and refurbished the church itself.

He appointed an Altar Guild and a CCD director to restructure the religious education for public school children. He also named a choral director and developed a Liturgy Committee. During his tenure, he incorporated the laity into the liturgy as lectors, choir members and Eucharistic ministers. He was

"The school has come a long way in a short time," he stated in speaking of the Board. "Their help has been invaluable."

Father Kokoszka and Principal Sr. Mary Clarita brought the school into the modern world, expanding the library by 300%, instituting a language arts program for all the grades and hiring a remedial reading teacher, moving the kindergarten into a large sunny room in the convent and introducing gym to the lower grades, among other innovations. By 1975, the staff included 16 teachers, all fully certified.



The physical plant was in need of updating, as well. Father Kokoszka oversaw roof and steeple



responsible for adapting the sanctuary of Holy Cross to meet the mandates of Vatican II.

Father's changes were not only innovative, but necessary. There were fewer priests to assist the pastor. In the early 1980s, Father Kokoszka brought the Reverend John Higgins, retired from the Diocese of Washington, D.C. to his family's summer home in Sea Bright across the river, to assist with parish duties. Father Higgins, a good and gentle man, served Holy Cross graciously and generously until 2008. The return to ministry of the "permanent" deaconate brought Deacons Jay Harbeck and Jim Kelly to serve as able assistants to Father Kokoszka.

In 1980, because of the falling number of vocations, the Sisters of Mercy relinquished their teaching mission at Holy Cross. Father Kokoszka called upon the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus to lead the school and three sisters arrived on August 23, 1980. Sister Carmelisa was named principal, assisted by Sisters Barbara and Gloria Louise. According to Sister Angela Pia Camilloti,



*Top: Deacon James Kelly
Bottom: Deacon Jay Harbeck*

FMIJ, the Franciscans "lived and worked serenely during their years at Holy Cross School and Parish and felt themselves to be at home there."

September 9, 1984 saw The Most Rev. John C. Reiss, Bishop of Trenton, celebrating a Centennial Mass honoring the 100th anniversary of Holy Cross Church, assisted by Father Kokoszka and associate pastor Rev. Thomas Rittenhouse. The Parish of the Church of the Holy Cross, Sea Bright (to give the official corporate name), had much to celebrate. Music Director George Murphy assembled his large choir under a tent on the church campus and conducted them, and brass, flutes, strings and organ, in a beautiful tribute to Holy Cross's first 100 years. The Recessional was the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah*, according to historian Susan Soroklit, "usually sung at Christmas



Outdoor Centennial Mass, September 9, 1984.

and Easter but there was no better occasion than on this glorious day to sing the highest of praise to our Almighty Father. May the next century unfold gently. May each of us know that we are loved and cherished without measure and convey deep appreciation to all who have come today."

Father Kokoszka left Holy Cross in 1988 because of ill health. He retired to his family home in Helmetta, New Jersey where he died at age 75 on September 2, 1992. He is buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery in Helmetta.



Father Kokoszka and Principal Sister Carmelisa with graduating class of 1984.

"The Lord is My Shepherd..."

YEARS OF CHANGE AND SADNESS

HISTORIAN: MRS. BARBARA CARTON-RIKER

Father Hughes followed Fathers Kokoska and Rittenhouse in July of 1988. He came to the parish from the principalship at Notre Dame High School, Lawrenceville. The shortage of priests required his going back to parish ministry. The first time he appeared in the pulpit he announced that he had been sent by the Bishop to replace two priests. He laughingly pointed out that while he was large enough to be two men, he could not do their work. He then announced that he would need the assistance of all parishioners. As time progressed, he proved true to his word. When he arrived at Holy Cross there were three parish organizations: the Altar Guild, School PTA and the Fathers Club. Within his first year, he saw the need for the

Social Concerns Committee, The Ushers Group, the Respect Life Committee, the Liturgy Committee, CYO, CCD, Our Ladies' Visitors, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Parish Social Committee, Social Justice Committee, Adult Choir, Children Choir, Bereavement Committee, The Healing Shepherd Prayer Group and others. The committee chairpersons became the Parish Council which met with him each month to discuss various

Members of the Social Concerns Committee put stars on the Giving Tree.



**Reverend
Joseph W. Hughes**

*May 10, 1944 (New York City)
St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore
Ordained 1970 (St. Ann's, Keansburg)*

Holy Cross Parish 1988–2004



aspects of parish life. His approach was to select individuals he thought were right for the post, have them confer with him on all activities and then permit them to move forward. Also during this time, young girls were trained and functioned as altar servers for the first time. Under his direction, Holy Cross moved from the old administrative style of all things centered in the pastor to a strong team approach to lay ministry.



*Fathers Keelan and Hughes,
Easter Vigil, 2000.*

He found that he needed more help and so hired a pastoral assistant. Father Hughes was one of the first to see and support the value of this position in parish management. His first assistant was David Kelly (followed by Sister Rosamond Blanchette, then Kevin Keelen, an Augustinian who was taking a year of discernment to determine the direction of his vocation, and finally Eugenia Kelly who continues at the parish today). Deacon Jay Harbeck, who had been working with Father Kokoszka and at Fair Haven's Church of the Nativity, became full-time at Holy Cross under Father Hughes' pastorate. When Father Hughes arrived, Ann Connor who worked half days, was the receptionist, bookkeeper, scheduler and gate keeper. The parish was expanding and needed more staff. A secretary, then a bookkeeper and a receptionist were employed, then a groundskeeper. Father Hughes dealt not only with the spiritual needs of his parishioners, but also with



Confirmation in the Holy Cross Gym; Father Hughes assists Bishop John Reiss.

the problems of the physical plant, patching plaster, and generally sprucing up the church itself.

The Catholic Church continued to lose vocations. In 1992, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus were called back to their community, and left Holy Cross with regret. The school, burgeoning still, was totally staffed and administered by members of the laity with Thomas Bugliaro as principal.

Then came the difficult decisions. The Holy Rosary Mission Church was in need of extensive and expensive repairs and renovations. Father Hughes was the sole parish priest; the ministry to both churches became untenable. These factors, plus the size and age of the main church, indicated the need for consolidation and the possibility of a new facility. Father Hughes closed Holy Rosary in 1994 and hired a firm to perform a feasibility study and strategic plan for the parish. With the approval of the Diocese, it was determined that Holy Rosary should be sold, and that all the parishioners would best be served by planning for a larger main church. Father Hughes then formed a Building Committee, which met monthly to plan, develop and bring to fruition a larger home for the People of God. The parish itself was divided in opinion about the sale of Holy Rosary, and about “losing” the old, familiar church, even though it could not come close to accommodating all those who wished to worship there. Father Hughes decided to refurbish the existing church in 1996. He closed the church for six months. The organ was cleaned and revoiced; new carpeting was installed. The Stations of the Cross were painted and gilded; the apostle portraits and those over the side altars, all of which are on canvas, were removed and restored. The building plans were put on hold.

To prepare for the coming celebration of the Millennium, the Diocese of Trenton instituted a spiritual program for all parishes. Father Hughes assigned Pastoral Assistant Kevin Keelen to oversee RENEW. For three years, small faith-sharing groups met in homes throughout the parishes of the diocese.

Holy Cross, with 45 faith-sharing groups meeting, had the largest program and the largest number of participants in the Diocese.

Then came the darkest day in our nation’s history – September 11, 2001. The town of Rumson lost too many citizens; Holy Cross was especially hard-hit with 18 parish families losing loved ones. The groups formed for RENEW assisted Fathers Hughes and Keelen in dealing with the shock, great sadness and outrage experienced by the entire community. Holy Cross teamed with St. Mary’s, Colts Neck to be a beacon of light in that time of darkness, and in the days and years to follow. During these harrowing times, Father Keelen often met and spoke with Rumson resident Bruce Springsteen, whose album “The Rising,” a tribute to the heroism of 9/11, reflects some of their conversations. From Springsteen’s song “The Fuse,” come the words “Trees on fire with first fall’s frost/Long black line front of Holy Cross/Blood moon risin’ in a sky of black dust/Tell me, Baby, who do you trust?”

As time passed the Building Committee continued to meet with the Rumson Planning Board to obtain the necessary permits to expand or rebuild the church. After 13 months of bitter wrangling, the Borough denied the application. Father Hughes, in the interest of making at least some progress, agreed to compromises and applied to enlarge the school, as well. An appeal to the State was heard, and, in the face of what became almost incredible obstacles and continuing divisiveness in the parish itself, the compromise plans were accepted.

The years of struggle might be over, but left a divided parish. Then, the shock to the parish of Father Hughes’s being removed from the pastorate and arrested for financial improprieties in November, 2004, called for a masterful hand.

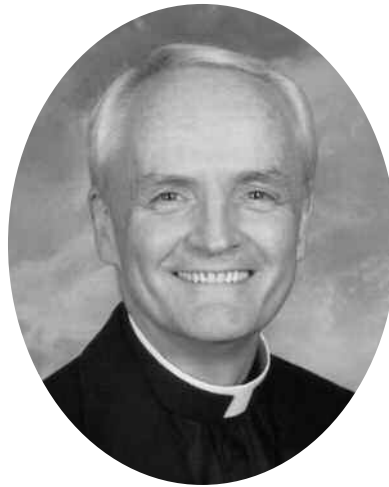


"Jubilate Deo..."
"Rejoice in the Lord"

HOLY CROSS TODAY

HISTORIAN: MRS. LORI LAPLANTE, HOLY CROSS PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Father Manning had a full career in medicine before he was called to the priesthood. He graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical College in 1975, and became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. Responding to his sense that spiritual healing is even more vital to the whole person than physical healing, Dr. Manning entered St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore in 1993. Ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton by the Most Rev. John C. Reiss in 1997, he served at St. Gregory the Great, Hamilton and St. Martha's, Point Pleasant. His most recent posting before Holy Cross was the Parish of St. William the Abbot, Howell, New Jersey, where he was brought in to minister to the wounds of a community suffering the unanticipated removal of its pastor.



Reverend Michael Manning, M.D., S.T.L.

*April 8, 1951 (Brooklyn, NY) –
New York University, SUNY Downstate
Medical College, Brooklyn, New York;
St. Mary's Seminary and University,
Baltimore, Maryland
Ordained May 17, 1997,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Trenton*

Holy Cross Parish 2004–



The Most Rev. John M. Smith, Bishop of Trenton, chose Father Manning to once

again minister and heal in time of trouble. Father Manning arrived at Holy Cross in November of 2004, and was installed as pastor in January, 2005. Determining to focus on the spiritual renewal of the parish and school, he took command of the situation and proceeded with the much-needed addition to the school. Construction went quickly; on December 16, 2006, the "new" school addition was dedicated. The gymnasium, media center, interactive learning classrooms, a science lab, a library – all with state-of-the-art technology – brought the institution firmly into the 21st Century.

Father Manning expanded the use of lay people begun by Father Hughes by bringing in a business manager, and an additional pas-

Ground breaking for school addition, 2005.



First Communion





Blessing of the animals, 2008.

toral assistant. He saw the school through a transition when they lost their principal in February, 2005. Adam Drapszuk acted as interim principal until Patricia Graham came on board in September.

Father Manning, a fervent scholar of Church ritual and history, has enriched parish spiritual life by returning to several traditional practices. He celebrates the Traditional Latin Mass (the Extraordinary Rite) at least once each week, and has re-introduced the ceremony of Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He educates both adults and children, teaching morality to the eight grade students, visiting a different grade each week for informal discussions about Catholic faith and life. He holds weekly adult sessions on many aspects of the faith. Under his leadership, a statue of the Blessed Virgin was sited atop the old carriage house. Father presides over the annual May Crowning from a bucket truck! He sought and received sponsorship for an almost-life-sized manger scene which, from its position on the Church lawn, draws many visitors,

Blessing the Statue of Mary atop the Carriage House, August 15, 2005.



Dr Michael Manning judges at Westminster Kennel Club Show.



**Father Michael Manning –
physician, priest,
dog show judge!**

**Many area residents,
parishioners and non-
parishioners alike, were
surprised and thrilled to
see Father Manning on
national television presiding
as a judge at the 2008
Westminster Kennel Show.
Trading his Roman collar
for black tie, Dr. Manning,
as he is addressed when
he functions in his judging
capacity, was responsible
for the non-sporting group,
one step away from the
“Best in Show” category.
Father owns two Vizslas,
Max and Hope.**





Sacristan Susan Symington assists Father Manning with burning of the palm for Ash Wednesday, 2009.

young and old alike. At Christmas, Father Manning offers The Stations of the Crèche; during Lent, the ceremony of The Stations of the Cross. An avid gardener, Father Manning has enhanced many areas of the campus with beautiful plantings!

On June 22, 2008, exactly 125 years and four days after the first Mass celebration in Seabright, Father Manning began the celebration of Holy Cross Parish's 125th Jubilee. Wearing vintage vestments and his own new biretta, he journeyed to the church by horse and wagon, in homage to founding pastor Father Fox, whose travels from the barrier island to the mainland brought Holy Cross to fruition. He was greeted by members of the People of God of the Parish of the Holy Cross dressed in turn-of-the-20th century garb and celebratory attire. Young girls from the parish held the traditional daisy chain, and a member of their number presented Father Manning with flowers. After Mass, everyone mingled at an old fashioned ice cream social, beginning a year dedicated to remembrance, reverence and the joys of community which saw lectures, presentations and a concert by noted singer John Michael Talbot. The publication of this history is the culmination of the celebration and a gift to the People of God of today and tomorrow at Holy Cross Parish.

As we go to press, the Parish is planning an Anniversary Dance in May and a closing Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Smith on June 14, Feast of Corpus Christi, followed by a Lawn Party.



Father Manning arrives for the 125th celebration opening Mass, June 22, 2008, dressed as Father Fox.



Father Manning with pastoral assistants Lori LaPlante and Eugenia Kelly.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With gratitude to the many friends of Holy Cross Parish who contributed content to this booklet, including (in no particular order):

The historians listed at the beginning of each chapter of this booklet, *sine qua non*

The uncredited writer(s) of Father Sullivan's Silver Anniversary program
"A Time to Remember"

The Centennial Committee: Rev. William Kokoszka, Rev. Thomas Rittenhouse, Deacon James Kelly, Sr. Carmelisa, FMIJ, George Murphy, Kay Haran, Maxine Donahue, Eileen Donovan, Jane McGohey, Kathleen Devine, Rita Sheik, Lee Klem and chairman George H. Moss Jr.

The uncredited writer(s) of "A Short History of The Church of the Holy Cross and Holy Cross School, Including a List of Pastors, Principals and P.T.A. Presidents"

Sr. Angela Pia Camillotti, FMIJ

Howard Andrews

Roberta H. Van Anda, Randall Gabriellan, Michael Steinhorn

Mary-Theresa McCarthy, RSM, "Mercy Memoirs 1925-1975"

The members of the Holy Cross Cookbook Committee, published in 2008 as
Breaking Bread

Ms. Phyllis Riddle, whose birth notice coincidentally appears just above the Holy Cross Mass schedule in *The Red Bank Register* of a certain year

Sr. Elizabeth O'Hara, RSM, Archivist, Mount St. Mary's, North Plainfield

Gary Sammon, John Sullivan, Donald Mullins and the members of the 50th Reunion Class of 1957, Holy Cross School

The Hintelmann family for access to the files of Hintelmann Realty

The current staff of Holy Cross Parish and School

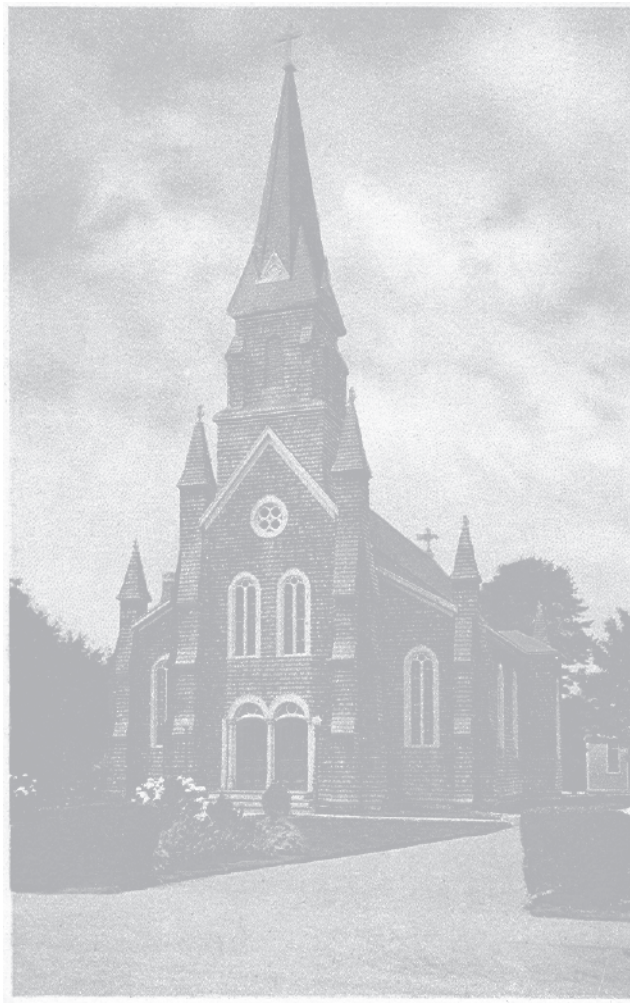
Sean Smyth

Dr. Richard "Rick" DiBlasi for the 125th Anniversary wine

Parishioners who shared pictures and memories

All persons of good will whose names may have, inadvertently, been omitted





CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, CHURCH, N.Y.

Deo Gratias...

