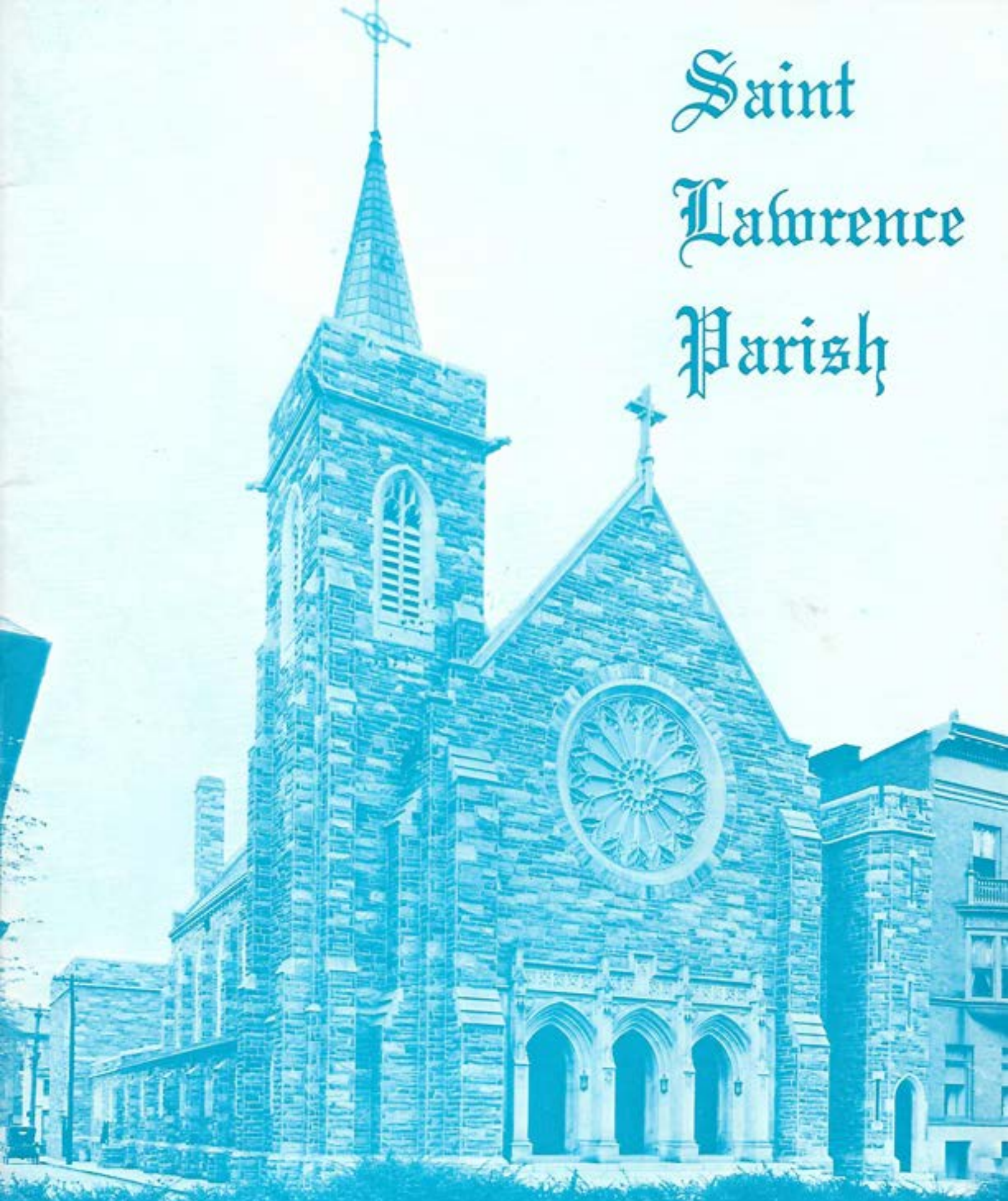


Saint
Lawrence
Parish



1859 — 1984

Dedicated
to the
Priests, Sisters and People
of
Saint Lawrence
Roman Catholic Church
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
1859 1984



His Holiness, Pope John Paul II



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

October 4, 1984

Dear Monsignor Overbaugh:

I am pleased to inform you that His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparts his Apostolic Blessing on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Lawrence parish in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Addressing the question of the parish family, Pope John Paul noted: "The parish must be a fraternal and welcoming family home where those who have been baptized and confirmed become aware of forming the People of God. In that home, the bread of good doctrine and the Eucharistic bread are broken for them in abundance, in the setting of the one act of worship. From that home they are sent out day by day to their mission in all the centers of activity of the world."

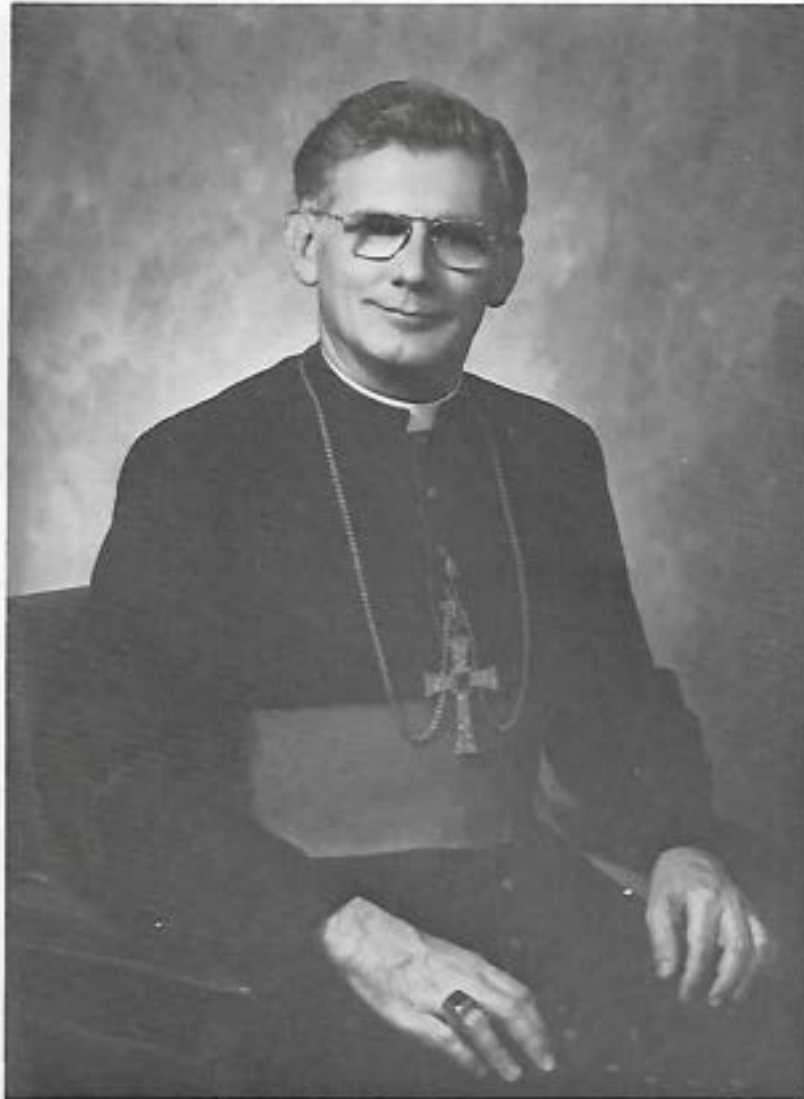
It is the Holy Father's special prayer that the experiences of this past century and a quarter will be the impetus for greater dedication to the future mission of Saint Lawrence's. May all be willing to undertake courageously their task in making Christ real to the larger community of Harrisburg. The Holy Father reminded us of this responsibility: "It depends on us, in fact, to gather the meaning brought by Christ to human existence and to 'incarnate it' in our lives. It depends on the commitment of all to incarnate this meaning in human history. For this purpose consistent and courageous witness to the faith is necessary."

Permit me to join my personal greetings and best wishes to those of the Holy Father. May Mary, Our Lady of the Universe, help all to grow closer to her Son, especially in graciously accepting the cross He asks each of us to bear.

With cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Apostolic Pro-Nuncio



Most Reverend William H. Keeler, D.D., J.C.D.
Seventh Bishop of Harrisburg

On October 12, 1967, Monsignor William H. Keeler (now Bishop) came to reside in Saint Lawrence rectory and to assist Monsignor McGovern. His homilies were a great source of inspiration to all parishioners and the many visitors who came to hear him speak. Monsignor Keeler had accompanied Bishop Leech to the four general sessions of the Second Vatican Council and he imparted a special insight into the Documents of the Council. He initiated a program to train parishioners in the work of evangelization. He arranged ecumenical services held in conjunction with other downtown churches. Monsignor also conducted Bible studies which were held each Sunday after the ten o'clock Mass. He introduced educational programs which were held for several weeks during Advent and Lent. He conducted instruction classes and many converts were received into the Church. Monsignor readily recognized the talents and skills of people. He encouraged the use of them in the church and in the community. Monsignor Keeler remained at Saint Lawrence until he was named Auxiliary Bishop in 1979.



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

4800 Union Deposit Road • P.O. Box 2153 • Harrisburg, PA 17105-2153
(717) 657-4804/652-3920

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 15, 1984

Dear friends in Christ,

During my residency at St. Lawrence Parish I was able to observe first hand your faith and devotion. A friendly spirit pervaded each liturgical celebration and the little chats on the sidewalk after Mass added a special warmth and parish unity.

Now, as your bishop, I appreciate all the more your loyalty and support. Other commitments will prevent my participating in your jubilee celebration in November but I look forward to returning to St. Lawrence for the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 9, 1984.

You have special reason to be proud of the accomplishments of the past 125 years and I joining you in thanking God for his many blessings.

Extending to all my congratulations, good wishes and blessing, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Harrisburg

St. Lawrence Church
114 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Most Reverend George L. Leech, D.D., J.C.D.
Fifth Bishop of Harrisburg
1935 - 1971

Bishop Leech is dearly loved by the people of Saint Lawrence Parish. All through the years he considered himself a part of "my parish across the street." He was always a welcome guest at picnics and events in the social hall. He especially endeared himself to the parishioners by greeting them from the door of his residence each Sunday after Mass.

4800-A UNION DEPOSIT ROAD
P. O. BOX 2153
HARRISBURG, PA. 17105

October 10, 1984

Dearly beloved people of St. Lawrence Parish,

My close association with you now spans a period of almost fifty years. With genuine pleasure I recall our weekly Sunday greetings after the eight o'clock Mass. How I enjoyed the many parishioners who waved to me or crossed the street to speak at my doorstep! Many of those familiar faces are now gone and with profound respect I lovingly commend their souls to the Lord.

I think of all those wonderful priests and sisters who served the parish throughout the years, men like Monsignor Peter Huegel whose pastorate extended almost half a century. They will share the glory and reward of your anniversary celebration.

Congratulations and may God prosper Saint Lawrence parish for many years to come.

Devotedly yours in Christ,



Titular Bishop of Allegheny

Saint Lawrence Church
114 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Reverend Monsignor
Hugh A. Overbaugh, V.G.

Reverend Monsignor Hugh A. Overbaugh, a native of McSherrystown, prepared for the priesthood at Saint Charles Seminary in Overbrook. He was ordained in Saint Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, on May 20, 1961 by Bishop Leech.

He has had wide pastoral experience, serving as assistant pastor, administrator, pastor and chaplain in a number of parishes and schools.

He has served as secretary to the bishop, Vice Chancellor and later Chancellor of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Monsignor Overbaugh has continuously contributed as chairman or member of numerous boards and commissions dealing with the most important services of the Diocese.

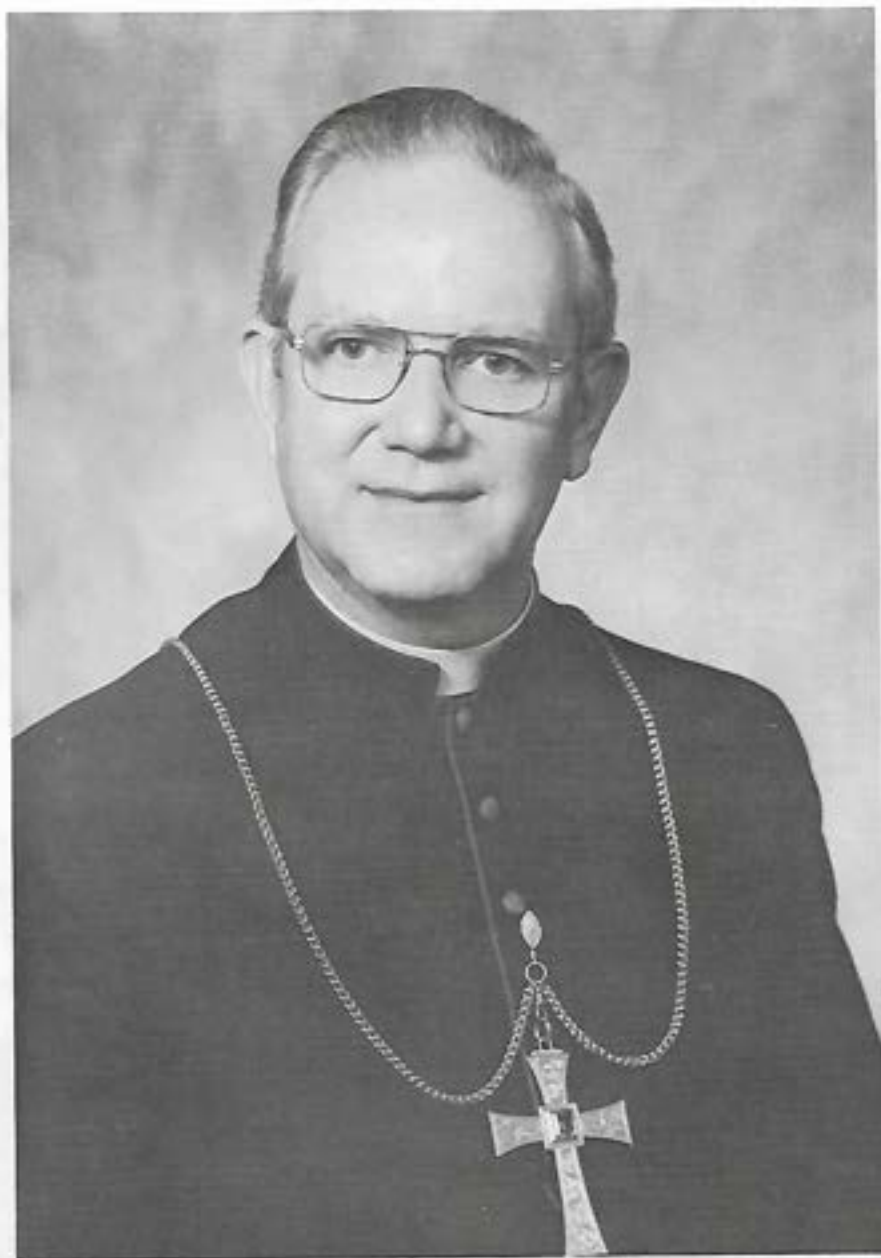
Saint Lawrence Parish welcomed Monsignor Overbaugh as pastor on April 21, 1983. They rejoiced in his appointment as Vicar General on January 4, 1984.

Reverend Patrick A. D'Alessandro, a native of Philadelphia, prepared for the priesthood at Holy Apostles, Cromwell, Connecticut, and Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corners, Wisconsin. He was ordained in Saint Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, on April 26, 1980, by Bishop Keeler.

Father Pat, as he is addressed by the parishioners, first came to Saint Lawrence Church as deacon. Following his ordination, he was appointed assistant pastor at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lancaster, and later at Saint Aloysius Parish, Littlestown. He also conducted a migrant ministry in Adams County. On October 6, 1981, he was welcomed back to Saint Lawrence.



Reverend
Patrick A. D'Alessandro



In Memoriam

Most Reverend Joseph T. Daley, D.D.

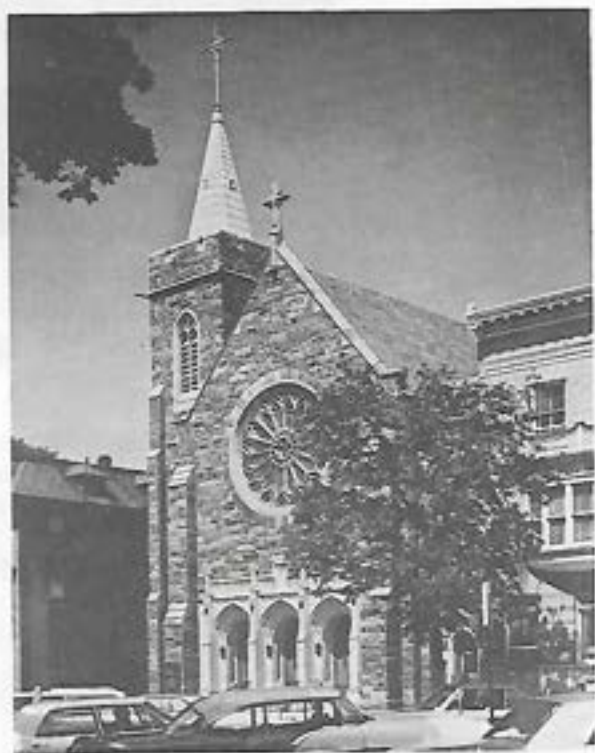
Consecrated January 7, 1964; appointed Coadjutor Bishop January 31, 1967; succeeded to See October 19, 1971; died September 2, 1983.



Saint Patrick's Pro-Cathedral
The Second Church on Site



Exterior of Saint Lawrence Church
Walnut Street at Fifth



Exterior of Saint Lawrence Church
State Street at Buttonwood

Shrine Room

Treasures from Old Saint Lawrence Church



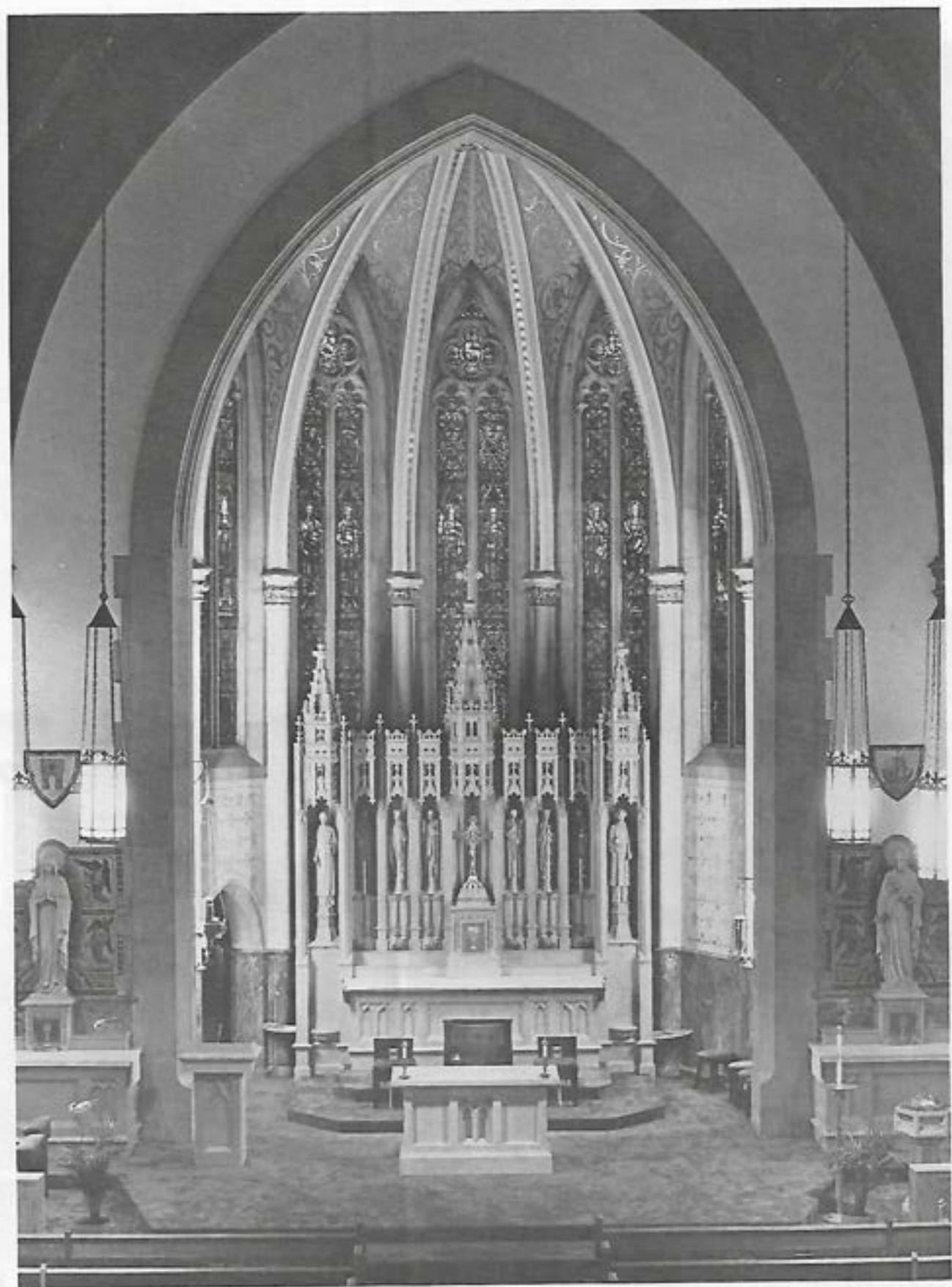
Prayer room in rear of St. Lawrence Church



Interior of first Saint Lawrence Church
Front Street



Life size crucifix in prayer area rear of St. Lawrence Church



Main and Side Altars, Saint Lawrence Church
State Street



Rear View, Saint Lawrence Church
State Street

Remembrance

In this year of Jubilee, we honor our Founding Fathers, immigrants from Germany, whose determination to maintain their Catholic Faith and to preserve their traditional values is our treasured legacy.

They loved work: Industrious, skillful and untiring in the pursuit of excellence, they carved out simple livelihoods in the existing economy.

They loved family: Loving parents, they taught their children to love God, to love neighbor and to develop their talents.

They loved God: To sustain their faith and their yearning for spiritual growth, they initiated the organization of a German Catholic Church, served by a German-speaking priest.

For one hundred twenty-five years, generations of Catholics of diverse origin have found their heritage of faith developed and strengthened in the congregation established by these noble immigrants.

We, the people of Saint Lawrence Church, thank God for them and for the Bishops, Priests and Sisters whose apostolic work has continuously helped us rely upon God and the spirit of the gospel.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years In His Name

A trace of the roots of Saint Lawrence congregation leads to Father Joseph Greaton, S.J., who in 1720 was assigned a large mission territory. In south central Pennsylvania he found groups of German immigrants who communicated their need of German priests. In response to their appeal, Father William Wappeler and Father Theodore Schneider arrived from Germany in 1741. They also were Jesuits and came endowed with great missionary zeal.

Father Schneider ministered to the Germans in Philadelphia and in the missions which he organized in the surrounding country.

Father Wappeler found German Catholics scattered over wide areas. He established three places of assembly for his flock, one of which was at Conewago (now the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). Very soon the English began to mix with the German Catholics, so Father Wappeler had to become more proficient in English to minister to them.

Conewago Chapel, built in 1741 by Father Wappeler, was enlarged in 1768. By 1787 it was the largest church in the new nation. Its Jesuits continued to spread their apostolic labor over a wide area, including Harrisburg.

An account of their labor and the Saint Lawrence involvement as a congregation has been recorded by Father Peter S. Huegel:

In the very beginning of the nineteenth century the few Catholic families here were visited at irregular intervals by the Jesuit Fathers of Conewago, who celebrated Holy Mass in the humble dwellings of the Faithful. As early as 1810 Catholics had acquired ground on Allison Hill (Sylvan Heights). The Jesuit Fathers continued to visit Harrisburg until 1824 when Father Levy, of Lewistown, and Father Diven, of Carlisle, visited here and took the first

step toward the erection of a church. In the latter part of 1826 ground was broken for a church which was dedicated on October 2, 1827, by the Rt. Rev. Henry Conwell, Bishop of Philadelphia. This church was built during Father Michael Curran's pastorate and occupied the site where the Cathedral now stands. The English and German-speaking Catholics worshipped together.

In April 1859, Saint Lawrence's congregation was organized by Father Dryer of York, Pa., as a mission. Father Dryer died later that same year. On December 11, 1859, Father M.J. Meurer held services in the Odd Fellows Hall, Second Street, rented for that purpose. From January 1860, Father J. Vollmeyer of York, came here and held services twice a month until September 1, 1860, when he was transferred to another parish. Father Meurer again attended the needs of the congregation until November 1, 1860, when Father Lawrence Schneider, Assistant Pastor of York, was sent here.

Until this time the congregation attended services in the hall already mentioned. During Father Schneider's pastorate an old church was purchased from Mr. Robert Long for \$2,500. It was situated in the area of 107 N. Front Street. This church was dedicated on November 25, 1860, and bore the title "Saint Lawrence." Father Schneider served as pastor until February 1861, when he was relieved by Father Meurer, who remained until September 29, 1861, when Father Hamm took charge. On January 26, 1862, Father Karl Schafroth of Columbia, succeeded him and held services twice a month until December 6, 1863, when Father William Pieper (later Monsignor) looked after the congregation. He was in charge for nearly five years, coming about twice a month from Columbia. In April 1868, Father J. B. Frisch was appointed as first resident pastor, remaining until the end of the year.

On March 3, 1868, the Diocese of Harrisburg was created. Twenty-two priests came under the jurisdiction of the Rt. Rev. Jeremiah F. Shanahan, its first Bishop.

In its first ten years as a German congregation, Saint Lawrence had shared the services of eight priests, had acquired a small church building and had its first resident pastor. At this point, a priest arrived who was destined to make a lasting impact on the history of Saint Lawrence congregation.

This amazing priest was Father Clement A. Koppnagel, from the Province of Westphalia, Germany.

Appointed by Bishop Shanahan in January 1869, the new pastor immediately assessed the needs of his parish and began planning to provide the congregation with a new church to accommodate its growing membership. In 1873, he sold the church property on N. Front Street to Henry Gilbert for \$7,000. He purchased a new site for church and school purposes from Constantin Benitz, Mrs. Osler and the Young estate for \$11,500. It was an L-shaped piece of ground with a frontage for the proposed church on Walnut Street facing Fifth Street (the present site of the Forum Building, formerly named the Education Building). The shorter arm of the L extended along Short Street (see map - Harrisburg 1910) and was reserved for the rectory, school and convent.

Father Koppnagel erected a temporary frame church for worship in the center of the lot. The new building was then built around and over it.

The church, one of the largest in the city, was planned by and built entirely under the supervision and largely by the manual labor of Father Koppnagel. The structure was brick, most of them laid by the pastor, with the assistance of a few parishioners. The walls supporting the steeples were four feet thick. The front walls were two feet thick and those on the sides twenty-one inches. It was reported in the local newspaper that no church in the city was so firmly and so massively built.

The design of the church was Gothic. It was one of the finest specimens of this style of architecture in this part of the country. All the window glass was cut on a hand machine on the premises. The glass was then put together and stained by Father Koppnagel. He made the pulpit and altars. He formed the pews. He personally selected each piece of lumber. Photographs taken of the entire interior of the church show the delicate ornamental wood-carving executed by Father Koppnagel. All the capitals of the many pillars in the immense church were made by him. Temporary altars were built and the church was dedicated in September 1878. He designed and completed the side altars in 1882 and the magnificent main altar in 1884.

Meanwhile, Father Koppnagel had organized the first German Catholic school. The first classes were taught by a

lay teacher in 1873. Two years later the pastor secured four Sisters of Christian Charity from the Motherhouse in Wilkes-Barre. Fifty children were enrolled. The upper class was taught in the parlor of the rectory and the lower class in the Sisters' parlor.

Mother Pauline von Mallinckrodt, foundress of the Order, visited the school in 1880. A statue of the Pieta was blessed in her presence. (It now has an honored place in our Shrine Room.)

In 1884 another class was added. It was taught in the sacristy of the church. It was a first grade of thirty pupils. In 1887 a new frame two-story structure adjoining the church provided classrooms on each grade level.

The new church and school were strengthened by the arrival of Austrian and Hungarian immigrants.

Father Koppernagel celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the Priesthood in 1891. He died that same year.

A local paper published this tribute:

Father Koppernagel died November 26, 1891, universally lamented by all of those who recognized in him the noblest work of God - a man honest in all the relations of life and faithful to the charge and talents entrusted to him.

Father James Huber acted as temporary pastor until the appointment of Father Frank E. Seubert, who remained until 1899. He was succeeded by Father Stephen M. Wiest, who built a handsome two-story brick school and hall in 1907. He died September 5, 1910. Father Peter S. Huegel was appointed pastor by Bishop John W. Shanahan on September 21, 1910.

Early in his pastorate, Father Huegel and the parishioners had to deal with problems created by the State Capitol Park Extension movement which was inaugurated in 1901, but was not formalized until an Act of Assembly was signed by Governor Tenor, June 16, 1911. On September 9, 1911, the first Commission was named and charged with the acquisition of all property bounded by North, Walnut, Fourth and the right-of-way of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

That community interest in the fate of Saint Lawrence was aroused is indicated in the following excerpt from The Patriot, November 17, 1911:

When the Capitol Park Extension Bill is carried through and the buildings between Sixth (Fourth) Street and the railroad

.... are razed, one of the most interesting and historic churches in this section of the country will have to be moved.

It is not known at the present time whether the congregation will rebuild or whether they will scatter into the other Catholic churches of the city. The bishop (Rt. Rev. John Shanahan) is in favor of disbanding, but the people there have built up their school and church. They are organized and wish to remain so.

On October 13, 1912, a meeting of members, called by Father Huegel, passed resolutions to perpetuate the congregation and to request Bishop Shanahan to secure a new location for them. In response, the bishop delegated the responsibility of finding a site to the pastor and the congregation. He cautioned them not to take options until an acceptable financial agreement was reached with the Commission.

As diligently as Father Koppernagel had worked with wood, bricks and mortar to construct old Saint Lawrence, so Father Huegel worked with pen, paper and people in years of negotiating with the Commission to secure a sum of money for its church properties commensurate with the cost of replacement. The effort culminated in December 1915, when, on the advice of Bishop Shanahan, the congregation agreed to accept \$125,000 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for all its church properties. Possession was set for March 31, 1917.

Following the unexpected death of Bishop Shanahan, Monsignor Maurice Hassett became Administrator of the Diocese. Acting as Trustee for the Congregation of Saint Lawrence, Dr. Hassett purchased properties at 110 and 114 State Streets for the sum of \$38,000 on February 16, 1916.

The Patriot reported February 16, 1916:

Options have been taken on two properties: No. 110 State Street, belonging to the McKee estate, formerly the Kepner mansion, built by Harrisburg's first mayor, William H. Kepner, and 114 belonging to the estate of the late Marlin E. Olmsted.

Bids were taken and contracts signed by Dr. Hassett on June 2, 1916. Paul Monaghan of Philadelphia, a graduate of Saint Lawrence School, was the architect. Father Huegel

supervised the erection of the new parish buildings. Work was begun during the last week of June 1916.

The cornerstone was placed on October 29, 1916, by the Rt. Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, fourth Bishop of Harrisburg. It was his first public function after his installation. The cornerstone was placed in the center of the first dressed stone of the sanctuary arch at floor level on the Gospel side. Directly back of this stone, the face of which is marked by a Maltese Cross, was placed a copper box containing a history and other data of the parish.

The congregation, under contract to give possession of its property to the Commonwealth on March 31, 1917, was unable to do so until May 27, 1917, when the last service was held in old Saint Lawrence Church. From June 1, 1917 to March 17, 1918, Mass was celebrated in the new school social hall.

The organ, purchased in the 1890s, was rebuilt by the Bartholomew Company of Philadelphia and was installed in the new church in 1917. It was again rebuilt in 1961.

On March 24, 1918, Bishop McDevitt blessed the church and the first Mass was sung by Father Huegel. On the same day the Stations of the Cross were blessed by the pastor.

On April 19, 1918, the bishop brought relics for the altars. They were sealed and enclosed in receptacles. The relics of Saint Lawrence and Saint Benedict were reserved for the main altar; those of Saint Lawrence and Saint Victoria for the Blessed Virgin altar and the relics of Saint Lawrence and Saint Benedict for the Saint Joseph altar.

On April 20, 1918, Bishop McDevitt consecrated the church in honor of Saint Lawrence, and the following day, celebrated Solemn Pontifical Mass.

Saint Lawrence Parish had perpetuated itself with the determination of its parishioners, the approval of Bishop Shanahan and the leadership of Father Huegel.

It was a national church, commonly referred to as "The German Church." In the earlier years, German was used in church services except where Latin was required. By the turn of the century both English and German were used. The entrance of the United States into the war with Germany in 1916 marked the end of the use of German in Saint Lawrence Church services.

Father Huegel was a strong advocate of Catholic education. He visited the school frequently. He conducted Sunday School for children. Catholic High School, staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, had opened at North and Church Streets

in 1918. Saint Lawrence graduates were expected to attend it. Catholic schools were tuition free.

In contrast to the serenity of the 1920s, some of the people of Saint Lawrence encountered the widespread suffering of the 1930s and 1940s. Father Huegel was a source of strength to the parishioners during the Great Depression and World War II. Young people of the parish served their country in the conflict. Some gave their lives. Father Huegel administered to the prisoners of war at the New Cumberland Army Depot. Parishioners contributed old German prayerbooks.

In 1943, Father (later Monsignor) George D. Mulcahy, Chancellor of the Diocese, began to assist at Saint Lawrence during an illness of the pastor. He continued regularly until 1950, when he was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Enola.

Monsignor Huegel celebrated his Golden Jubilee in the Priesthood in 1951 and was honored by the congregation.

He served the diocese in many capacities. On two occasions Monsignor Huegel was honored by the Holy See. In 1940 Pope Pius XII elevated him to the rank of Domestic Prelate and in 1947, to the Office of Prothonotary Apostolic. He was Vicar General of the Diocese, the most important office under the bishop.

The people of Saint Lawrence were blessed with more than forty-seven years of his priesthood. His legacy to generations of his parishioners was indelible: a humble man, aware that it was in Christ's Name and Presence he worked; a holy man, devoted to contemplation and prayer; an apostolic man, who week after week, instructed the congregation on the teaching of Christ and its application to daily living; a frugal man, who managed well in the lean years and in better years accumulated savings for future needs. Like the Good Shepherd, he sought the sheep who strayed.

Monsignor Huegel's memory is treasured by generations who attended Saint Lawrence, by the bishops whom he served, by the Sisters of Christian Charity who staffed the school, by his brother priests and by the community in which he was loved and respected. He died on January 15, 1958.

Father (later Monsignor) Damian E. McGovern became Monsignor Huegel's unofficial assistant in September 1950. In the two years before his death, Monsignor Huegel had been confined to his home with severe arthritis. Father McGovern conducted all services. After his death, Bishop Leech asked Father McGovern to remain. He was appointed Administrator pro tem in February 1958, and named Domestic Prelate on May 18, 1959 by Pope John XXIII.

Monsignor McGovern undertook the first refurbishment of the church since its construction. The interior stone was cleaned, the walls of the church were painted, and the sanctuary was redecorated. The ceiling and art on the walls were properly washed. A new lighting system was installed. All work was completed before Christmas 1959.

In the early 1960s, after the disastrous Chicago school fire, the Department of Labor and Industry inspected and required schools to meet safety standards. Saint Lawrence School had a second stairway exit from the top floor of the school installed. All improvements, including redecoration of the convent, were completed without incurring debt.

Monsignor McGovern then began a much needed redecoration of the rectory. At the same time, Trinity High School was in the process of construction. Saint Lawrence Parish, along with other parishes, was assessed to pay for the school. When the pastor reported a debt for the work in the rectory and the school assessment, the parishioners responded to a fund drive to wipe out the debt and to put the parish on a sound financial basis. Monsignor aptly observed that in the mind of most parishioners it was an article of faith that "Saint Lawrence should not have a debt."

Monsignor McGovern then turned his attention to the parish school. It had four classrooms and two grades were assigned to a room. The school also served students from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Enola, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Marysville and Saint Bernadette Mission, Duncannon. Saint Patrick School had the same arrangement and service. Monsignor conceived the idea of reorganizing the schools by assigning grades one through four to Saint Lawrence and grades five through eight to Saint Patrick. The primary purpose was to improve educational opportunities for children by assigning one grade to a classroom. Parents and faculties approved the idea. The Cathedral School, a consolidated elementary school, was formed.

The first implementation of Vatican II began in 1965. Bishop Leech had wisely directed that changes in the Liturgy be introduced gradually. The placement of an altar of sacrifice to face the people was a milestone. On October 22, 1967, Monsignor McGovern celebrated Sunday Mass in English for the first time.

In 1968, Saint Lawrence celebrated its fiftieth year in its present church. At the same time, the parish celebrated the centennial anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg.



1918 - 1968

The Anniversary Celebration

While at Saint Lawrence, Monsignor McGovern also served the diocese as Vice Chancellor and secretary to Bishop Leech. He was Chancellor from July 15, 1952 to October 3, 1969. He was also Secretary of the College of Consultors and Treasurer of Catholic Social Services, Inc. He was a member of the Commission on Vocations and the Building Committee.

Monsignor McGovern ministered to the people at Saint Lawrence from September 1, 1950 to October 3, 1969. The parishioners, accustomed to lifetime pastorates, were saddened at the loss occasioned by his appointment to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lancaster.

Monsignor McGovern was succeeded as pastor by Father (later Monsignor) William P. Bridy, who completed the implementation of the Liturgy. Renovations on the convent were begun during his pastorate. Progress was continued in the consolidation process of the Cathedral School. By-laws were composed, lay board members appointed and a budget established.

While pastor, Monsignor Bridy also served as Diocesan Director of Catholic Social Services.

His ministry at Saint Lawrence was all too brief. However, the congregation was proud of his appointment to the distinguished position of pastor of Saint Patrick Cathedral on June 4, 1971.

He was a patron of the arts and, at times, called upon his knowledge and appreciation in these fields to make a

point in his homilies. He was a kind man, who welcomed all to Saint Lawrence and to involvement in parish life.

Father Lawrence R. Overbaugh was appointed pastor of Saint Lawrence by Bishop Leech on June 4, 1971.

Almost immediately civil events and acts of nature intruded into the lives of people and of the church. Civil Rights riots came close when a fire bomb was thrown into the rear of the State Republican Headquarters adjoining the church. Fear arose for the safety of the Sisters and the convent. The Sisters requested the pastor to transfer the Blessed Sacrament from their chapel to that of the convent on North Second Street.

In June 1972, Tropical Storm Agnes devastated the Susquehanna Valley. As the flood waters rose, Father Overbaugh went to the school and worked through the night removing books, equipment and furniture from the school office and library located in the basement level. By morning it was flooded with five feet of water.

In October 1972, Father Overbaugh was honored by the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, with the title of Honorary Prelate. The congregation celebrated the occasion with a reception for their new Monsignor.

Implementation of Vatican II continued with emphasis on the Decree on the Laity. The result was the formation of a Parish Advisory Council which brought the laity into a more active role in the mission of the Church.

The Laurentian Club was organized in April 1974, and has as its purpose the enrichment of the spiritual life of its members and the establishment of friendly, social contacts with the older members of the parish, particularly the shut-ins. Club members, who at the present time number 35, meet regularly the third Saturday of each month. Activities include spiritual and corporal works of mercy, community and church activities.

In 1975, the parish celebrated the centennial anniversary of the Sisters of Christian Charity in Saint Lawrence later, the Cathedral School. Monsignor Joseph Schmidt delighted the group with reminiscences of his school days at old Saint Lawrence. A history of the Sisters' one hundred years presence as educators was distributed.

The year 1975 was memorable for another event which has continued to enrich the congregation. In response to an appeal from the diocese, Saint Lawrence agreed to sponsor one of the Vietnamese families, housed temporarily at Fort Indiantown Gap. A committee made all arrangements for the arrival of a mother and four children ranging in age from ten

to seventeen. Later they requested assistance in bringing other members of the family to Harrisburg. Housing was found for the twelve additional members. The families were most appreciative and quickly became part of the parish.

Saint Lawrence Church became the spiritual center for all Vietnamese Catholics in the area. A Vietnamese priest offered Mass here each Saturday from 1975 until 1984 when, a priest, newly assigned to Holy Family Church, began administering to them there.

During Monsignor Overbaugh's pastorate at Saint Lawrence, he also served in many diocesan positions, including Executive Secretary of the Mission Board and Director of the Financial Office.

Monsignor Overbaugh was transferred to the pastorate of Immaculate Conception Church, New Oxford, March 1, 1976.

Monsignor Lawrence Overbaugh was untiring in his service to the congregation. No task was too menial and no time too early or too late for him to give of himself. He is remembered as a caring man who took a personal interest in his parishioners and in all who came to his door. He loved children and understood how to guide the youth of today. He left an endearing and enduring impression on all.

Father Francis J. Taylor was appointed pastor of Saint Lawrence by Bishop Leech on March 1, 1976.

During his pastorate the sanctuary of the church was rearranged and the interior refurbished. This involved a new altar of sacrifice and pulpit, removal of two rows of pews and enlarging the sanctuary. The altar rail was relocated. The main and side altars, the stone trim and ceiling were cleaned. The side walls, shrine room and sacristies were painted. The baptismal font was relocated and refurbished. The former baptistry was converted to a vesting and reconciliation room. New lights were installed to illumine the altar, shrines and choir loft. Candlesticks and side aisle fixtures were replated. The sanctuary furniture was upholstered and the floor carpeted.

The enlarged sanctuary provided space for lectors and eucharistic ministers. These ministries were implementations of the Second Vatican Council.

The school office and library suffered a fire which resulted in the loss of books, furniture and equipment. The book collection was replaced by donations. The library and lunch room were repainted and refurbished.

Father Taylor celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary of Ordination on April 3, 1979. He was named Honorary Prelate by Pope John Paul II on April 10, 1979.

The number of souls increased by almost one hundred during his pastorate. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was fostered by his monthly reminders of First Friday Communion.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Monsignor Taylor also served as Vicar for Education.

He was appointed pastor of Saint Theresa's Parish, New Cumberland on April 21, 1983.

Monsignor Taylor brought a joyful dimension to his ministry. He opened his arms and his heart to everyone in an outpouring of love and compassion. He left Saint Lawrence with the deep appreciation and affection of the parishioners.

Father Patrick D'Alessandro was appointed assistant pastor of Saint Lawrence on October 6, 1981. His ministry includes the duty of parish visitation. He brings comfort and joy to the sick and shut-ins whom he visits regularly. Father Pat shares the love of Christ with all. He counsels those who have strayed from the practice of their faith.

Monsignor Hugh A. Overbaugh was appointed pastor of Saint Lawrence on April 21, 1983.

He has impressed the congregation with his priestly qualities. They appreciate his reverence in conducting the Liturgy and his delivery of homilies that help them grow spiritually. His smiling countenance radiates true kindness and a sincere concern for people.

Monsignor Overbaugh is an able administrator. He keeps abreast of parish activities and manages its business with great efficiency. He is untiring in dedicating his special talent to the service of God in the parish and in the diocese.

Saint Lawrence Parish today counts as its members people of diverse ethnic and racial origin. Though small in number, it is strong in spirit. Its members are firm in their faith, generous in their outreach and proud of their church. The glorious history of the past is here recorded as a testimony to past generations and as an incentive to us who will continue to write in our lives the events which, by God's grace, are yet to come. May they be even more glorious and may God be praised through us.

Cathedral School

Catholic education has been the Saint Lawrence tradition since 1873. The Cathedral School today is staffed with certified teachers, lay and Religious. The curriculum includes formal instruction in religion as well as in secular subjects. Its program is based on Christian values and on deep regard for the spiritual, social, and personal potential of each child.

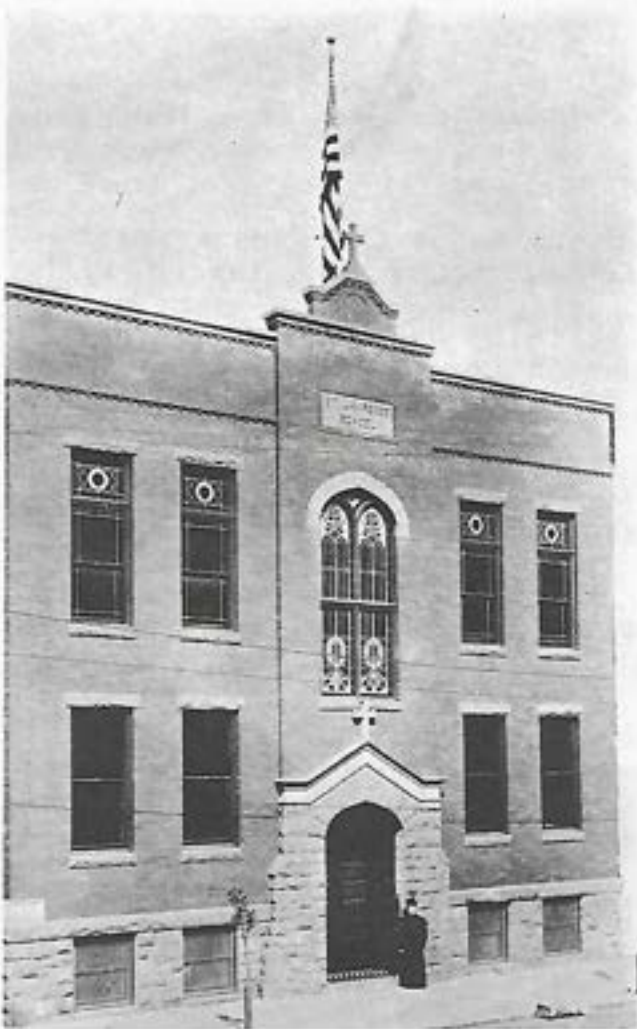
Cathedral School has two well-equipped libraries which are open for group or individual use.

The school offers gym classes, instrumental music lessons, a basic skills program and the services of a nurse, counselor and speech therapist. Field trips and a sports program are planned.



Cathedral School Faculty

Left to Right: Sister Jude, Principal, Miss Calabretta, Miss DeCarlo, Rev. Joseph Stahura, Coordinator, Mrs. Asman, Mrs. Woltcheck, Mrs. Schmidt, Sister Ann Marie, Miss Mahnken, Sister Kathleen Marie



Old Saint Lawrence School
Short Street



Saint Lawrence School
Liberty and Buttonwood Streets

The Art of Saint Lawrence Church

Inspiration for the architecture of Saint Lawrence Church came from the medieval builders who symbolized their religious beliefs in wood and stone. They dramatized teachings of Holy Scripture in carvings and stained glass. Their churches were austere, symbolizing a renunciation of the flesh and of materialism. They built them high, symbolizing man's reaching out to heaven for the promise of a life to come. They decorated their altars with symbols of faith and with niches in which sculptures of saints were set, reminding them of exemplary lives lived in imitation of Jesus Christ.

Saint Lawrence Church is a free rendering of the early English Gothic style of architecture. The distinguishing characteristics are simplicity and massiveness of composition. The main facade, which is flanked by a square tower, is marked by a great rose window, sixteen feet in diameter, and the main entrance doors which are designed in a unit. The facade on Buttonwood Street indicates low aisle walls with small twin apertures which are in marked contrast in size and simplicity to the large clearstory windows of the nave. Interest in these windows, as well as in the rose window, is heightened by stone tracery of varied design.

The trim, buttress caps, copings and window tracery are of Indiana limestone wrought in intricate mouldings.

The vestibule is of paneled quartered oak and plaster. Originally without decoration, the paintings and statuary were added later. The symbolism in the glass of the front door recalls events in the Holy Scriptures.

The most striking feature of the interior is the marble sanctuary. In the center of its vaulted ceiling is a great boss in which the ribs of the vaulting terminate. The sanctuary threshold is Napoleon Grey marble (now carpeted) and the wainscoting is Porto Santo marble. The windows of the sanctuary and the rose window are executed in imported antique glass. In design, color and leading they are in exact conformity to the leaded glass of medieval times, corresponding to the period which has given inspiration to the architecture of the church. The sublimity of the sanctuary is expressed best in its altars. They were carved in Italy of Cenero marble and contain a tabernacle in which the Holy Eucharist is kept. Sculptures, also carved in Italy, fill the niches. The detail of the altars and sanctuary railing is worthy of note.

In the nave, the clearstory windows are of grisaille, allowing sufficient light to filter through, giving the interior a somber, mellow atmosphere and disposing the worshipper to personal communion with God. The trim of the

piers and arches of the clearstory walls is limestone, the arches being relieved of their simplicity by delicately carved mouldings. The aisle wainscoting is Indiana limestone and the floors are laid with fire-flashed quarry tile.

The paintings on the nave and aisle walls were commissioned in 1930 by Monsignor Peter Huegel, Pastor, and executed by the Dutch artist, DeGroot. They are done in the Byzantine style and reflect the art deco approach of the artist's time. The paintings depict the events related in Holy Scripture of the coming of the Messiah and the fulfillment of His mission.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross, set in high relief in the aisle walls, commemorate the traditional pathway Jesus followed from the Court of Pilate, where he was condemned to death, to Calvary, where he was crucified. Nine events of this sorrowful journey are related in the Gospels and five are rooted in tradition.

In contrast to the essential and universal humanity portrayed in the paintings on the nave walls and in the Stations are the figures employed in the paintings over the side altars. The subjects here are of the spiritual world. This work is more formal and more in keeping with the Byzantine style.

Small paintings on the aisle walls are symbolic representations of virtues to be practiced for spiritual growth.

The ceiling of the nave is one of the church's most unusual features, wood paneling elaborately decorated in primitive colors - black, white, red, blue and gold. Polychrome work of this nature has been little known in this country, but many of the European medieval churches were so decorated.

The story of the art of the church would be incomplete without a tribute to the artistry and craftsmanship that creates the music of its bell. It was presented around 1880 by Father Aloysius Kuhlman, of Lebanon, to old Saint Lawrence (Walnut Street at Fifth). It became a much loved sound to those who lived and worked in the area. When the church was razed for the Capitol Park Extension the loss of the bell was lamented in a local paper. It was brought to its present site in 1917. The bell is 43" in diameter and weighs 1500 pounds. The wheel is 6'6" and its tone is G. It was cast by McShane Bell Foundry.

Symbols: Front Doors: Keys - Keys of the Kingdom
 Dove: Holy Spirit
 Chalice: The Blood of Christ

Figures in the sanctuary windows, from left, represent:

Saint Rita, wife and mother; Saint Mary Magdalen, first witness of the Resurrection; Saint Matthew; Saint Mark; Saint Peter; Saint Paul; Saint Luke; Saint John; Saint Rose of Lima, first American saint (S.A.); Saint Ann, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Statuary in the niches of the main altar, from left, represent:

Saint Lawrence, martyr, deacon; Saint Anthony of Padua, noted for almsgiving; Saint Agnes, virgin, martyr; Saint John the Baptist; Saint Aloysius, patron of youth; Saint Helena, credited with discovery of the Holy Cross; Saint Clare, co-founder of Poor Clares; Saint Stephen, first martyr.

Subjects of nave paintings, from right front:

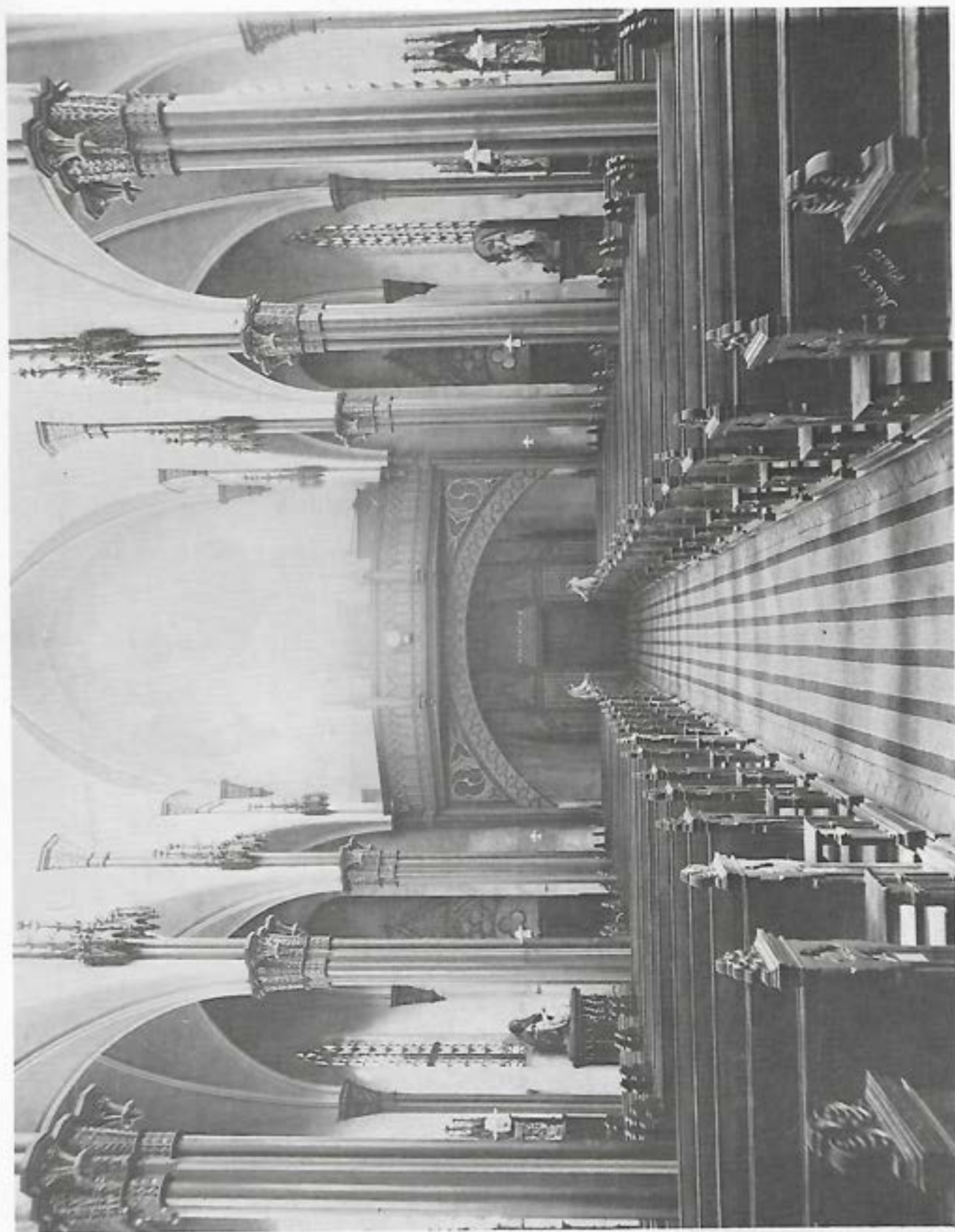
The Annunciation; The Visitation; The Nativity; The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple; The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

From left rear:

The Resurrection; The Ascension; The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles; The Assumption; The Coronation.



Main Altar, Old Saint Lawrence Church
Walnut Street



Rear View, Old Saint Lawrence Church
Walnut Street

Parish Activities

Saint Lawrence parishioners enjoy a covered dish supper and auction held each December. Coffee and doughnuts are served after Sunday Mass several times a year.

Parishioners contribute food and money monthly to the Food Pantry, an ecumenical service to the community.

St. Vincent de Paul Society is active in its mission to the needy.

The Parish Council meets monthly with the pastor to discuss parish business.

The Liturgy Committee chooses weekly themes and prepares Liturgies for special occasions.

Saint Lawrence Spiritual Reports

	<u>Families</u>	<u>Souls</u>	<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>Marr.</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1900	170	685	32	9	24
1910	118	525	48	16	14
1920	98	485	44	5	12
1930	97	460	35	8	11
1940	100	477	23	7	8
1950	170	540	22	2	15
1960	134	441	14	8	17
1970	127	380	10	4	6
1980	184	439	14	7	7

Pastors of St. Lawrence



Father J. B. Frisch
1868



Father Clement Koppernegel
1869 - 1891



Father F. C. Seubert
1892 - 1899



Father Stephen M. Wiest
1899 - 1910



Rev. Msgr. Peter S. Huegel,
V.G., P.A.
1910 - 1968



Rev. Msgr. Damian E. McGovern,
J.C.L., V.F.
1958 - 1969



Rev. Msgr. William P. Bridy
1969 - 1971



Rev. Msgr. Lawrence R. Overbaugh
1971 - 1976



Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Taylor
1976 - 1983



Rectory and Convent, Old Saint Lawrence Church
Short Street



Rectory, Saint Lawrence Church
State Street

The Pastors of Saint Lawrence

In memory of Rev. John B. Frisch, First Pastor
(1868 - 1869)

In memory of Rev. Clement A. Koppnagel, Second Pastor
(1869 - 1891)

In memory of Rev. Francis C. Seubert, Third Pastor
(1892 - 1899)

In memory of Rev. Stephen M. Wiest, Fourth Pastor
(1899 - 1910)

In memory of Rev. Monsignor Peter S. Huegel, V.G., P.A.,
Fifth Pastor
(1910 - 1958)

Rev. Monsignor Damian E. McGovern, J.C.L., V.F., Sixth Pastor
(1958 - 1969)

Rev. Monsignor William P. Bridy, Seventh Pastor
(1969 - 1971)

Rev. Monsignor Lawrence R. Overbaugh, Eighth Pastor
(1971 - 1976)

Rev. Monsignor Francis J. Taylor, Ninth Pastor
(1976 - 1983)

Rev. Monsignor Hugh A. Overbaugh, V.G., Tenth Pastor
(1983 -)

Vocations From Saint Lawrence

Rev. Leopold Snyder, C.P.
(1880 - 1967)

Sister Ann Bomgardner, S.C.C.

* Sister Humilda Clancy, S.C.C.

* Sister Virginia Glaser, S.C.C.

Sister Ann Horchler, S.N.D.

Sister Mary Dorothy Kelly, S.C.C.

* Sister Walfreda Walz, S.C.C.

* Deceased

Sponsors

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Ball
Judge Genevieve Blatt
Mrs. Frank X. Brady, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John Brinjac
Rev. Patrick D'Alessandro
Mrs. Joseph Devanney
The Most Rev. William H. Keeler, D.D., J.C.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Weldon M. Krebs
The Laurentian Club
The Most Rev. George L. Leech, D.D., J.C.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Neal J. McGee
Rev. Monsignor Hugh A. Overbaugh, V.G.
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Pairits
Mr. Charles R. Peguese
Dr. and Mrs. Manuel Quesada
The Frank H. Reuwer Family
Helen E. Reuwer
Rev. Monsignor Joseph Schmidt, P.A.
John Sinkovich
Mr. and Mrs. Aden P. Speece
Mrs. John Stapf
Alex and Dory Szeles
Representative and Mrs. Peter C. Wambach, Jr. and Family
Capt. and Mrs. Samuel K. Wilson

Patrons

Johanna Angeli
Philip Angeli
Susan M. Angeli
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. Leon J. Banker
Mrs. Marie Karle Banmiller
In memory of William Banmiller
Mrs. Ella Barbush
In memory of Bernard and Pauline Barrett
Patricia F. Barrett
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bence
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bitner
Mrs. Claire Bolbecker
In memory of the Bollendorf Family
Mrs. Frank X. Brady, Jr.
John and Anne Marie Kelly Brixius and Family
In memory of John and Margaretta Bruck
Joseph C. Bryner
The Robert A. Casey Family
The Catholic Shop
Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary Post #707
Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary Post #1738
In memory of Mary T. Charlton
Edward J. Coady
Cropf Brothers, Inc.
In memory of Mauro and Anna D'Alessandro
Donna Jean Deaven
Dorothy Knoll Deaven
Eugene Deaven
Deissler's Flowers & Greenery
Mrs. Louise R. Derr
In memory of Mrs. Anna Donbach
In memory of Joseph Dorko
In memory of Patrick M. Duggan

In memory of Barbara and Crescentia Egenrieder
In memory of Nicodemus and Barbara Egenrieder
In memory of Thomas and Marie Egenrieder
In memory of Thomas and Mary S. Egenrieder
In memory of Frank and Lidvina Egresitz
In memory of John Egresitz
In memory of Joseph Egresitz
In memory of the Joseph Egresitz Family
Kathryn A. Egresitz
The Matthias Egresitz Family
The Howard L. Eissler Family
Mrs. Leo T. English
In memory of Leo T. English
Julius Fabiankovitz
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Filippelli
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fink
In memory of the Ignatius Furber Family
Mrs. Joseph F. Furber

Patrons

Margaret C. Gaffney
In memory of Joseph H. Gerdes, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Glancey
Mrs. Clement A. Glaser
In memory of Clement A. Glaser
In memory of Franz X. Glaser
In memory of Sister Virginia Glaser, S.C.C.
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Grandone
In memory of Sister Gudula, S.C.C.
Hamilton Bank
Harrisburg Glass Company
In memory of Mr. Henry E. Hobaugh, Sr.
In memory of Mrs. Margaret Kaufhold Holtzendollar
In memory of Clement J. Horchler
Mr. and Mrs. George S. Horchler
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Horchler
In memory of Mrs. Amelia Horvath
Grace B. Hostetter
In memory of David and Barbara Houlihan
In memory of Mary Huegel
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hughes and Family
In memory of the Lyman Humes Family
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Husic, Sr.
Mr. William Itinger
Mrs. William Itinger
In memory of Doris Jacob
Dr. Emerson D. Jacob
Mr. and Mrs. Larry C. Jante
In memory of Francis J. Kane, Jr.
In memory of Father Peter S. Kane
Ida E. Kauffman
In memory of Catherine and Charles Kaufhold, Sr.
In memory of Ellen M. Kaufhold
In memory of Joseph and Anna Kaufhold
Kathryn M. Kaufhold
In memory of Margaret and Charles Kaufhold, Jr.
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kaytor
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh P. Kelly
Mrs. Margaret D. Kelly
Sister Mary Dorothy Kelly, S.C.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Kelly
In memory of Thomas A. Kelly
Mrs. Carolyn Kestel
Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council #869
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Knoll
William J. Knoll
Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Krajcsik
Mrs. John F. Kray, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Weldon M. Krebs
Mr. and Mrs. Egbert J. A. Langendijk and Family
In memory of John and Margaret Lechleitner
In memory of Lawrence E. Lechleitner

Patrons

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Leininger
Lenkerbrook Farms, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lewis
In memory of Col. Roberts V. Lewis
Mrs. Roberts V. Lewis
In memory of Matthew and Barbara Lutz
In memory of John and Helena Malloy
In memory of Helen McBride
Ruth Gilbert McCarty
Mr. and Mrs. Barry L. McCoy and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Neal J. McGee
Anna McVarish
In memory of Cyril Moeslein
Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Moeslein, Sr.
In memory of the Moeslein-Troup Family
Mrs. Charles F. Moore
In memory of Charles F. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Moore
In memory of Marie Steinberg Nelson
Elsie M. Nonn
Rosa B. Nonn
In memory of Margaret G. Noonan
Elizabeth L. Och
Gertrude T. Och
In memory of John and Mary Och
In memory of John T. Och
In memory of Lawrence A. Och
In memory of Marcus and Caroline Och
Mary H. Och
In memory of Sylvester and Helena Och
Jessie E. Olejnick
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Olejnick
In memory of Mrs. Marie Young Ortenzio
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clarence Overbaugh
In memory of John and Catherine Pairits
In memory of Mrs. Catherine Knoll Payne
Pealer's Flower Shop
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Pohl
Catherine A. Qualls
Jesse L. Qualls
The Ranberg Family
Ann M. Reber
In memory of Catherine Reuwer
Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Reuwer
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Reuwer
Helen E. Reuwer
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Reuwer
In memory of Henry and Hermina Reuwer
Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Reuwer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roberts, Jr.
Mrs. Margaret A. Ross
Frank J. Ruback

Patrons

Elizabeth Ruch
Mrs. Robert D. Rudy
In memory of Robert D. Rudy
Mr. and Mrs. Barry W. Ryan and Family
St. Lawrence Altar and Rosary Society
St. Lawrence Choir
In memory of deceased members of St. Lawrence Choir
In memory of Joseph Sasa
In memory of Anna M. Savercool
In memory of Annie M. Schell
In memory of Michael and Walburga Schell
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Schlitzer
Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Schmidt, Jr.
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Schmidt, Sr.
In memory of Sister Berna Schmidt, S.C.C.
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schmidt
Catherine T. Schmidt
In memory of Genevieve Schmidt
Sister Louisa Schmidt, S.C.C.
Margaret Schmidt
In memory of Martin and Anna Schmidt
Mrs. Pauline Schmidt and daughter Pauline
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Schmidt, Sr.
In memory of John Schostarich
Lena Schostarich
Charles and Margaret Schroy
In memory of Samuel and Edith Schroy
Anna Reuwer Signor
In memory of Frank and his sister Catherine Sinkovich
John Sinkovich
In memory of John and Catherine Sinkovich
In memory of Ambrose Sinkovitz
In memory of Catherine Sinkovitz
Mr. and Mrs. Aden P. Speece
In memory of John Stapf
Stephenson's Flowers
In memory of Simon and Margaret Stock
In memory of Mrs. Carol Suhr
Chester C. Sweigart
Mrs. Rita Sylvester
Mrs. Margaret M. Tittiger
William E. and Rita Stock Turina and Daughter
Mrs. Agnes Ulsh
Wilhelmina Ulsh
Mrs. George W. Van Wagner
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Von Neida
In memory of Pauline Bitner Weaver
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Weiss
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wesneski
West Shore Paper Supply
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wieger, Sr.
Mrs. Gilbert L. Wieger

Patrons

Helen Wieger

Mary E. Wieger

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Young, Jr.

In memory of Benjamin and Marie Young

Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Young

In memory of Pauline M. Young

Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Zlogar