

Most Rev. John J. Myers  
Archbishop of Newark (since Oct. 9, 2001)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Catholic fathers, mothers, sons and daughters of the previous century and a half have bequeathed to us a spiritual legacy that is visible for miles and miles around the environs of Newark: The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. This beautiful, soaring prayerful structure echoes some of the classic cathedral churches of Europe, yet there is something quintessentially American and “down to earth” about her solidity and strength. It was purchased with sweat, tears, genius, devotion, faith and the treasures large and small donated by those faithful members of our Church family.

Here you welcomed me as your brother and shepherd on Oct. 9, 2001, almost exactly three years ago. It was a difficult time for all of us in the local Church of Newark because of the tragedy that had befallen the communities within our Archdiocese: The terrorist attacks of September 11. At the same time, it was a deeply affirming moment that clearly demonstrated our utter and eternal dependence upon God—as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

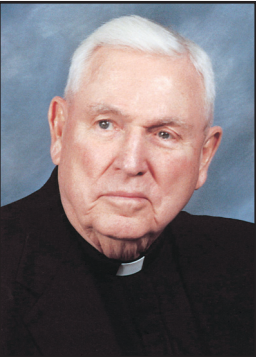
To Him, then, we turn as the successors of those generations of faithful Christians who came before us—with thanksgiving for His gift of this magnificent Cathedral, with a spirit of charity for those in her very shadow who are most in need, with a firm commitment to the future of the Church of Newark to be here for them, just as the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart has been and will ever be an unmistakable presence and sign of God’s love for us.

On October 17 we will celebrate the closing of the Sesquicentennial observance of the founding of the Diocese of Newark, and we will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the dedication of the Cathedral Basilica, our Mother Church. I ask you always to keep the men and women of this Archdiocese, our Religious men and women, our ordained clergy and the episcopal leadership in your prayers.

Sincerely in the Lord,



✦ Most Reverend John J. Myers  
Archbishop of Newark



Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety  
Archbishop Emeritus (since June 1, 1986)  
Archbishop of Newark (1974-86)

The Archdiocese of Newark is celebrating a double jubilee: the 150th anniversary of the erection of the diocese and the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our magnificent Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. What a wonderful history of accomplishment our people can look back upon as we rejoice at these two significant events.

Tacitus, the great historian of ancient Rome, once wrote these significant words: “The principal office of history I take to be this: To prevent virtuous actions from being forgotten.” It is good advice for us. Let us not forget the hard work, the sacrifice, the many prayers, the Christian witness of those who made possible the vast

array of churches, schools, hospitals and all sorts of charitable enterprises that are here before our eyes.

When James Roosevelt Bayley, our first bishop, began his episcopal ministry among us in 1844 he was assisted by 28 diocesan priests in serving a Catholic population of 40,000 souls.

How the seeds planted by those early New Jersey Catholics have borne fruit in abundance! They were followed by bishops, priests, deacons, Religious men and women and wonderful Catholic families in spreading the word of Christ and His love. As we humbly look forward to continuing this fantastic heritage let us never forget those on whose shoulders we stand in responding to the call of the Lord to follow them in holiness and love.



A ‘special moment’ remembered  
by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick  
Archbishop of Washington, DC (since Jan. 3, 2001)  
Archbishop of Newark (1986-2000)

Editor’s note: The following is an excerpt from Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick’s Oct. 25, 1995 “Thinking of You” column, on the occasion of Pope John Paul II’s historic pilgrimage to New Jersey.

It happened on Wednesday evening at the Cathedral. The Holy Father had just finished the Evening Prayer and had

gone to the front pew to say goodbye to the President and to greet some of the people on his way back to the sacristy.

As he passed the Lourdes Chapel on the Ridge Street side of the church, he noticed the tabernacle and the vigil light announcing th0to me for a moment and pointed to that altar, looking for confirmation

that the Eucharist is reserved there. I responded that the Blessed Sacrament was present.

The pope smiled and, with the same enthusiasm that he

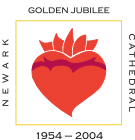


would leave his entourage to greet the crowds, even though this was not in the program, we walked to the kneeler and knelt to pray. For the next 10 minutes, he remained there, totally absorbed in his conversation with the Lord. The noise and the movement of people were all around him, but he gave no sign that he was even aware of it.

I have seen Pope John Paul II in prayer before and have sensed his concentration and the depth of his relationship with God, but to become aware of it again in this holy place at that special time was a particular grace for me. In fact, I wish

I could pray like that.

I have often written here about prayer, its value and its necessity in our lives, but this was a moment when all that became personified in a good man, kneeling humbly before his God and entering into His presence in the deepest and most awesome way. Many of our people asked me to have the pope pray for them during his visit. I have no doubt that as he knelt in silence before the Blessed Sacrament in the heart of our Cathedral, he was indeed praying and thinking of you!



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The Cathedral Basilica's central bronze doors feature Christ the King and Mary, Queen of Heaven.

Advocate photo- Ward Miele

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Golden Jubilee 1954 - 2004

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Editor's Note

Archbishop John J. Myers was translated to Newark in 2001. He was installed in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Oct. 9, in a ceremony that included the presence of his two immediate predecessors (see facing page) and incorporated a sense of the history and majesty of the great tabernacle of faith that the Cathedral had been for more than a century—from its conception in the mind of Bishop James R. Bayley through the efforts of thousands, young and old.

Now we come to the Golden Jubilee of the dedication of this magnificent edifice, built to honor the glory of God and dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The jubilee celebra-

tions are upon us, and will soon be a memory...but the Cathedral church itself, raised to the dignity of a Minor Basilica by the Holy Father in 1995, remains a witness to our people, a house of worship, a home for the archbishop and the seat and center of his teaching authority.

What would Bishop Bayley think today if he could see the results of his fidelity and foresight as the founding ordinary of the then-Diocese of Newark? What would his successors, pioneers and leaders of the Church say if they could process into one of the inspirational liturgies held beneath those vaulted arches and immense pillars?

# From a gleam in the eye of the first Bishop of Newark and with prayers and pence from many, Cathedral rose

On June 11, 1899, at the laying of the cornerstone for the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Most Rev. Bernard McQuaid, Bishop of Rochester, NY, spoke of Newark's great Cathedral as "a fitting monument to the faith."

It is this key thought that permeates all aspects of the Cathedral project, from its inception in 1859 by the Most Rev. James Roosevelt Bayley, the first Bishop of Newark, to its dedication in 1954 by Most Rev. Thomas A. Boland, the second Archbishop of Newark.

For, it is said, a cathedral is more than stone and mortar...much more than multi-colored glass and delicate woodcarving. In the words of the Pope Paul VI: "The secret of a cathedral is an expression of the unity of believers." In its totality, then, a cathedral is a symphony of praise to Almighty God!

## Bishop Bayley's dream

When the Diocese of Newark was erected in 1853, the Church of St. Patrick, at the corner of Washington Street and Central Avenue was selected as the Cathedral (from the Latin cathedra, which is the chair of the bishop) no doubt because it was the newest and largest of the three churches then in Newark. (The other two were St. John on Mulberry Street and St. Mary on High Street.)

St. Patrick's began construction in 1846, and was finished only three years before the foundation of the diocese.

It is probable that Bishop Bayley began to entertain the idea of a new and more suitable Cathedral shortly after his coming to Newark. In his diary, he frequently noted that St. Patrick's was crowded, especially on such feasts as Christmas. Only six years after his arrival, he took the first definite step towards the realization of this goal.

On Jan. 17, 1859, he purchased from James Dougherty and wife, for the sum of \$10,000, a plot of ground on the southwest corner of High and Kinney Streets as the site for the new Cathedral.

Bishop Bayley signed a \$6,000 mortgage, and paid \$4,000 in cash; the latter he borrowed from the St. Patrick's Deposit Fund, a quasi-savings bank operated by the parish for the benefit of its people.

The seller, James Dougherty, was evidently a "go-between" as he purchased the same property, on the same day, from one John H. Stevens. The bishop's mortgage was paid off in full on Aug. 31, 1864.

Two years later, Bishop Bayley, deciding that the High and Kinney Street site was unsuitable, purchased another, located on what was then called South Park (now Lincoln Park), facing up Broad Street. Bought in January 1866, it was an

irregularly shaped plot, with over 400 feet on Broad Street, and 271 feet on what was then called Lagrange Street, the short block directly south of the park proper. The price paid for this "admirable" piece of property was \$52,000, one-half of which was paid in cash, the other guaranteed by a mortgage for \$26,000.

In February 1867, Bishop Bayley appealed to the people of the diocese to contribute to a special collection to be taken up throughout the diocese on March 17, to clear the debt on "the Lots," and to prepare for building.

These collections were apparently taken up annually for several years thereafter; the total for 1868 was \$5,915.28, for 1869, \$5,634.37. It is interesting to note that in his letters at the time, Bishop Bayley always referred to the proposed edifice as the "Cathedral of Our Lady and St. Patrick."

It was decided shortly thereafter to put the



Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley

new property to immediate use. Before departing for the first Ecumenical Council of the Vatican in 1869, Newark's bishop arranged for the erection of a chapel on the new site, about which the Cathedral parish might begin to grow.

## Chapel construction

On Aug. 21, 1869, the cornerstone of the "Cathedral Chapel of Our Lady and St. Patrick" was blessed and laid by Rev. Dr. Michael A. Corrigan, administrator of the diocese in the bishop's absence.

At the same time, Bishop Bayley made provision for the preparation of plans for the new Cathedral, which he hoped to erect in the not too distant future. He engaged the services of Jeremiah O'Rourke, architect and a trustee of St. Patrick's.

He commissioned O'Rourke to travel to Europe, together with Father George H. Doane, pastor of St. Patrick's, to study European cathedrals and to bring home ideas that would be of help to Newark.

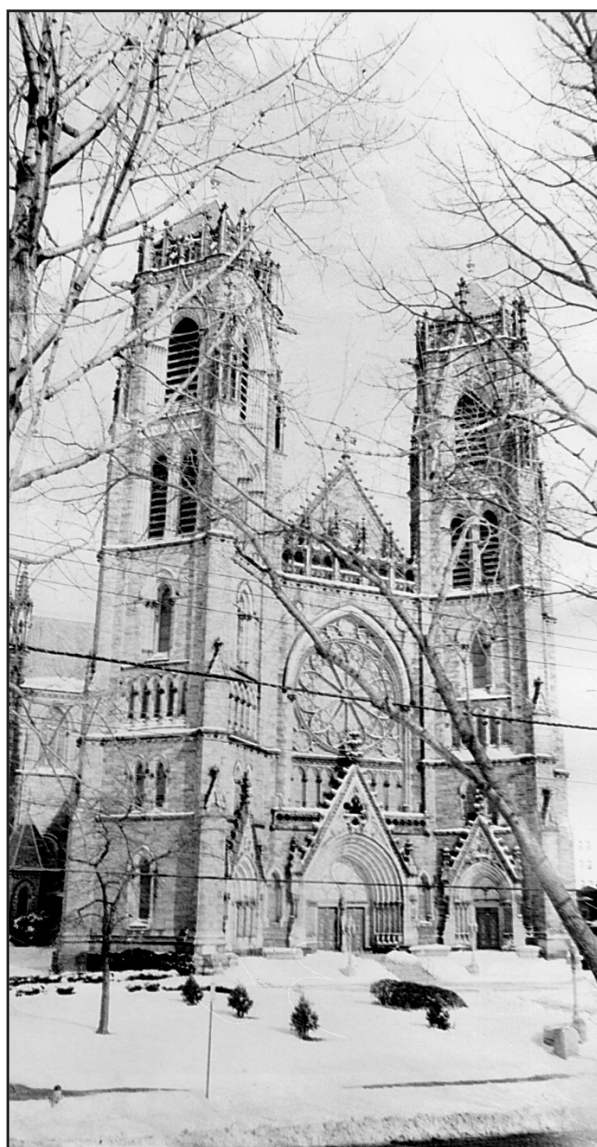
The bishop's ideas were simple; he wrote back several times from Rome to impress upon them the two. He asked them to remember "what I have said in regard to the size of the Church and the nature of the plans. There is no use of our attempting to rival New York or Brooklyn. A small Cathedral—with clear strong lines—solidly build, is all we want."

Again, he insisted: "I do not want a very large church—one that we can easily preach in ...the design should be simple..."

Father Doane and O'Rourke left the United States in April 1870 and visited Germany, France and England. (Bishop Bayley met them in Paris in July, as the former was returning from Rome.) In London, O'Rourke worked out with George Goldie, the most prominent Catholic architect in England at the time, a complete set of plans for the proposed Newark Cathedral.

These plans were not used in the building of the current structure; in February 1901 they were sent to Most Rev. Charles E. McDonnell, Bishop of Brooklyn. (To date, the Brooklyn chancery has not been able to supply any information as to why this was done, or what use, if any, was made of them there.)

Even if these plans had been used, they would have not been for a building on the site for which they were drawn up. For, before leaving for Europe, Father Doane discovered a new site that he believed far superior to the Broad Street location.



Continued on Page 7

*The Parishes of Bloomfield  
are pleased to  
join in the celebration with the  
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on the occasion of the  
50th Anniversary  
of the*



*Cathedral Basilica  
of the Sacred Heart*



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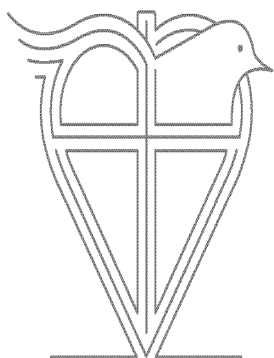
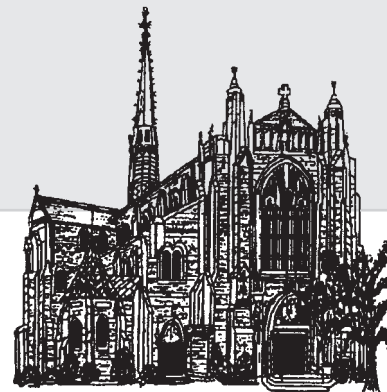
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on the Golden Jubilee of  
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of the Sacred Heart

*Rev. Msgr. John E. Doran, Pastor*



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Congratulations and  
Special Thanks to  
Archbishop John J. Myers  
and the Campus Ministry  
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# Decades of planning, three bishops

Continued from Page 5

On Sept. 13, 1869, he wrote to Bishop McQuaid (who had been his predecessor at St. Patrick's), also in Rome for the Vatican Council, asking his advice regarding the suitability of a plot of ground on Fifth (now Park) Avenue, which "commands a view of the Orange Mountains on the West and Newark Valley, the hills of Staten Island and New York on the East."

He pointed out the possibility of selling the Broad Street property for \$125,000 or \$150,000; the complete transaction would leave a profit of \$30,000 to \$50,000 for the Cathedral project.

Father Doane said that the immediate action was necessary to secure the property, but it was not until Bishop Bayley returned from Rome that anything was done. The bishop requested Jeremiah O'Rourke to make an extensive survey of land available in the section of the city advocated by Father Doane.

O'Rourke submitted his report to Bishop Bayley on Oct. 11, 1870. There were, in all, four plots that could be purchased; of these, he recommended the one bound by Fifth (now Park) and Sixth Avenues, Clifton Avenue and Ridge Street. Two hundred feet by 800 in size, it was apparently an extension of the piece that had attracted Father Doane's attention, which had been 200 feet by 400 feet.

The only objection that O'Rourke saw was that the most desirable front was that on Park Avenue; this would require that the building be erected to face north.

## Another change in plans

By the end of the year, Bishop James R. Bayley had determined to dispose of the Broad Street land and to acquire the site in the Eighth Ward. On Jan. 2, 1871, he took a deed from the owners, Peter T. Doremus and Hiran M. Rhodes, to the 200-by-800-foot plot recommended by O'Rourke. The price was \$60,000; of this, \$16,000 was paid in cash.

The balance was covered by two mortgages, one to the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co., for \$30,000, the other for \$14,000 to the sellers. These mortgages were reduced during the ensuing years. The latter was paid in full on March 2, 1888, the former, on Aug. 15, 1889.

At the same time that he took possession of the new property, the bishop sold the Broad Street tract for \$153,000. Simultaneously, he acquired a small piece of ground on nearby Thomas Street, for \$25,000, to which the Cathedral Chapel was moved, to become, in time, St. Columba Church.

In a letter to the diocesan clergy, Bishop Bayley gave his reason for changing the Cathedral site. Coming assessments on the South

Park land for street improvements would amount to at least \$20,000, while the diocese still owed \$43,000 of the purchase price.

In addition, Roman Catholics were few in number in that area, and it did not seem likely that they would become more numerous in the future. These financial drawbacks were removed by the advantageous sale of the property, while the new site was "near a large Catholic population."

The sale of the property did not, however, prove as advantageous as the bishop calculated. Subsequently, the diocese, under the title of St. Patrick's Church, was forced to take back part of the tract, because of the failure of the purchasers to make the stipulated payments.

In 1877, McClave and Keasby, the owners, still owed the sum of more than \$58,000. In 1876, St. Patrick's sold part of the land, on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Street, as a site for the convent of St. Columba Parish.

The bishop was quite optimistic about the early use of the newly acquired land in the Eighth Ward.

In July 1871, he expressed the hope that "in the course of another year," he would be able "to commence the building of the (Bishop's) House" and "that the Cathedral will follow in good time."

It was not, however, in the plan of Providence that he should carry these hopes to fulfillment. In August 1872 he was translated to the See of



**Bishop Michael Augustine Corrigan**

Baltimore as archbishop, and left to his successors the task of providing Newark with its Cathedral.

It was, therefore, Most Rev. Michael Augustine Corrigan, the second Bishop of Newark, who arranged for the grading and leveling of the property to make it suitable for building purposes.

Under a contract dated June 4, 1875, and under the supervision of O'Rourke and of Herman Lehlback, surveyor, Michael Stanley & Sons and James Smith, removed nearly 50,000 cubic yards of earth and rock. The work was completed April 1, 1876, and cost \$6,310.87.

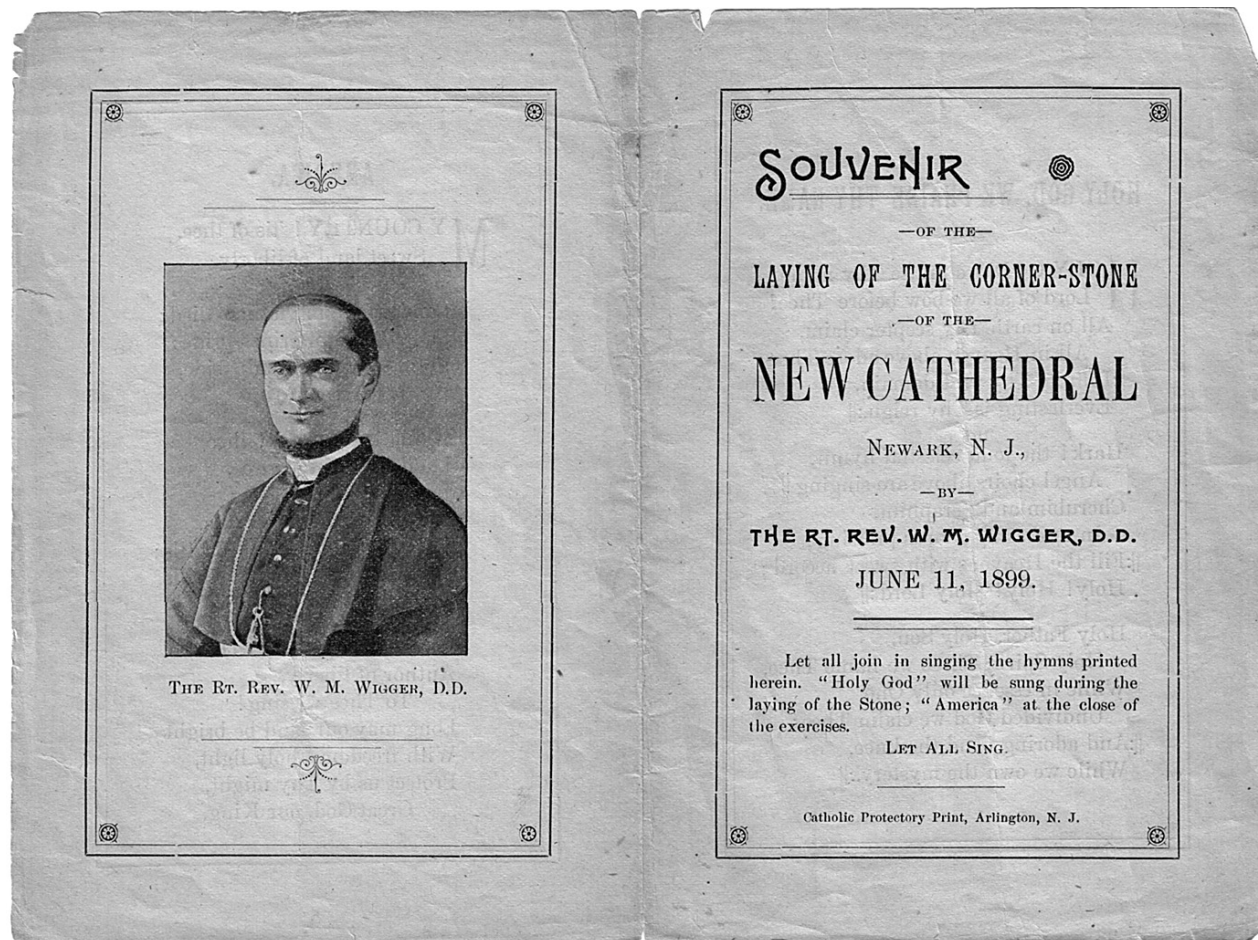
Nothing further was done with the property for over twenty years. During that time there were several occasions when it seemed likely that it would be disposed of.

In 1888, Most Rev. Winand Michael Wigger, the third Bishop of Newark, and the consultors seriously considered the advisability of selling the tract, which could be divided into 64 building lots. To continue to hold it was expensive, as the taxes ranged from \$600 to \$800 per year.

Several of the consultors doubted that that section of the city would ever build up sufficiently to warrant the construction of the Cathedral there. Father Doane (now a monsignor), the original advocate of the site, urged strongly against the suggested sale; he was joined by Dean McNulty and Msgr. Cody. Eventually, after the matter was taken up at several meetings, it was decided to hold the land for the present.

Several years later, in 1896, the city of Newark offered informally to purchase the land as a site for a new high school (to be called Barringer), but Bishop Wigger declined to sell.

Continued on Page 9



*How lovely  
is Thy  
dwelling place,  
Lord,  
God  
of Hosts.*



The parish community of  
**St. Paul the Apostle**  
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rejoices with the archdiocese  
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*Happy Golden Jubilee*  
**Cathedral Basilica  
of the Sacred Heart**



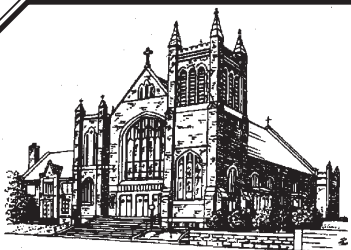
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We Joyfully Celebrate  
the 50th Jubilee of  
the Cathedral Basilica  
of the Sacred Heart  
St. Anthony of Padua Church  
Jersey City, N.J.



May God continue to bless  
our Cathedral Basilica and  
shower His gifts on all who  
worship there  
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Pastor



The parish community of  
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on the Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the dedication of the  
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the Sacred Heart

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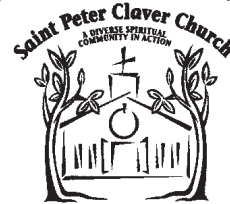
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as we proclaim the Word of God*



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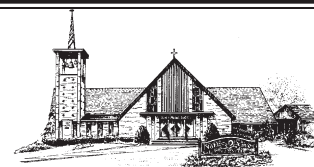
***50th Jubilee***

We join with the whole  
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in celebrating the  
50th Anniversary of the  
dedication of our  
Cathedral Basilica



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the 50th Jubilee of the  
Cathedral Basilica of  
the Sacred Heart*



**St. Stanislaus Kostka**  
Garfield, NJ

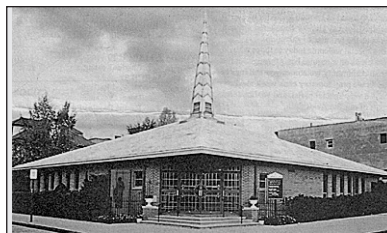
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Cathedral Basilica  
of the Sacred Heart on  
its 50th anniversary**



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and gratitude for  
50 years as a  
monument to our  
Catholic faith

The parish community of  
**St. John Church**  
Newark

# Site is settled

Continued from Page 7

In the following year the diocesan authorities became concerned about a rumor that the Essex County Park Commission might seek to add the Cathedral grounds to the new Branch Brook Park, but Msgr. Doane was assured by Alonzo Church, secretary of the commission, that that body had no such intention.

In the meantime, it had been decided to make use of the property for a small chapel, as had been done on the former site. In January 1888, Bishop Wigger had suggested the idea during the course of the discussion regarding the possible sale of the land.

In a meeting on July 25 of that year, at which it was definitely determined not to sell, Father Senez pointed out that the building of a small chapel would test the possibilities of the region for a Cathedral parish, and at the same time serve to reduce the tax burden.

Msgr. Doane made a personal survey of the district, and came to the conclusion that there were enough Catholic people in the area to justify a chapel, especially in view of the crowd-

ed conditions at St. Michael's, from which the parish Cathedral district would be severed.

On Oct. 24, 1888, Bishop Wigger announced to Father Patrick Leonard, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Newark, his intention of detaching part of his parish. In November, the bishop offered the charge of the new mission to Father J.J. McKeever, who apparently declined it, because, on Feb. 15, 1889, in formally separating the new parish from St. Michael's, Bishop Wigger appointed Father Leonard temporary administrator.

In April of the same year, from Rome, the bishop directed Father Leonard to begin the construction of the chapel at once, so as to escape the taxes that would be levied in June. This was a burden that Father Leonard found himself unable to assume, so it was not until the appointment of the first pastor, Father Michael A. McManus, on Nov. 8, 1890, that anything was done.

Father McManus took charge on Nov. 18, and worked rapidly, so that on Nov. 30, Bishop Wigger laid the cornerstone of the small frame structure that would later become Sacred Heart School, which he dedicated on the following Feb. 22.

In appointing Father McManus, the bishop

reserved the right to remove him if he so desired, in the event that the Cathedral should be built. This reservation was repeated in February 1872, when the Father J.J. Brennan of Morris Plains, was appointed to succeed Father McManus, who was transferred to St. Aloysius Parish, Newark.

The third pastor, Father James J. Sheehan, appointed March 26, 1897, was also removable should the bishop so desire, with the promise, however, that in such a case, he would be given another pastorate.

In the meantime, the new parish had been incorporated under the title of the "Church of the Sacred Heart" on Jan. 19, 1891. The incorporators were Bishop Wigger, Msgr. Doane, Father McManus the vicar general, Patrick Hughes and John E. Duffy.

There is little information available with regard to the choice of the name Sacred Heart, for that was to become the Cathedral parish. The only record that has been found dealing with the choice of the Cathedral patron is in the unpublished memoirs of the late Archbishop Robert John Seton, at that time one of the consultants of the diocese.

Continued on Page 11

## NOVARCENSIS: A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY

- Jan. 2, 1871** Most Rev. James R. Bayley, first Bishop of Newark, paid \$60,000 for the property on Ridge Street, Newark, where Sacred Heart Cathedral was ultimately built.
- Nov. 8, 1890** Rev. Michael A. McManus was appointed the first pastor of Sacred Heart Parish.
- Jan. 19, 1891** Sacred Heart Parish was formally incorporated.
- Jan. 7, 1898** The first formal contract was signed to begin construction on the Cathedral.
- June 11, 1899** Most Rev. Winand M. Wigger, third Bishop of Newark, laid the cornerstone of the Cathedral before a crowd of 100,000 people.
- June 17, 1924** The shell of the building was completed and for the first time the Cathedral was completely enclosed.
- May 25, 1927** Most Rev. John J. O'Connor, fourth Bishop of Newark, was buried in the crypt of the Cathedral.
- May 1, 1928** Most Rev. Thomas J. Walsh was installed as the fifth Bishop of Newark during the first Mass celebrated in the Cathedral.
- June 29, 1933** Most Rev. John A. Duffy became the first priest to be ordained a bishop in the Cathedral.
- April 27, 1938** Most Rev. Thomas J. Walsh was installed as first Archbishop of Newark.
- Jan. 26, 1950** At the close of a Mass at St. Patrick Pro Cathedral, celebrating his golden jubilee of priestly ordination, Archbishop Walsh announced a campaign to raise \$5,000,000 to complete the work on the Cathedral.
- June 13, 1952** Archbishop Walsh was buried in the Cathedral crypt.

- Oct. 19, 1954** Sacred Heart Cathedral was formally opened and Most Rev. Thomas A. Boland, second Archbishop of Newark, received his pallium.
- June 4, 1955** For the first time, a class of priests was ordained in the Cathedral.
- June 28, 1974** Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety was installed as third Archbishop of Newark.
- December 15, 1975** The Cathedral was recognized as a U.S. national historic site.
- June 25, 1976** Three priests were ordained auxiliary bishops of Newark, the only time such a triple episcopal ordination took place in New Jersey.
- March 21, 1979** Archbishop Boland was buried in the Cathedral crypt.
- July 25, 1986** Most Rev. Theodore E. McCarrick (later a cardinal and Archbishop of Washington, DC) was installed as fourth Archbishop of Newark.
- Nov. 7, 1987** The remains of Bishop Wigger were transferred from Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and interred in the Cathedral crypt.
- Oct. 4, 1995** Pope John Paul II presided at a prayer service attended by President Bill Clinton. It is the only prayer service in history attended by a pope and a president of the United States. That day, the Holy Father raised the Cathedral to the dignity of a Minor Basilica.
- Oct. 9, 2001** Most Rev. John J. Myers (former Bishop of Peoria, IL) was installed as fifth Archbishop of Newark in the Cathedral Basilica.



*Editor's Note:*  
This special Novarcensis column was written for the Golden Jubilee edition of The Catholic Advocate, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, now the Cathedral Basilica.

Novarcensis is compiled and edited by Rev. Msgr. Francis R. Seymour, Archivist of the Archdiocese of Newark.



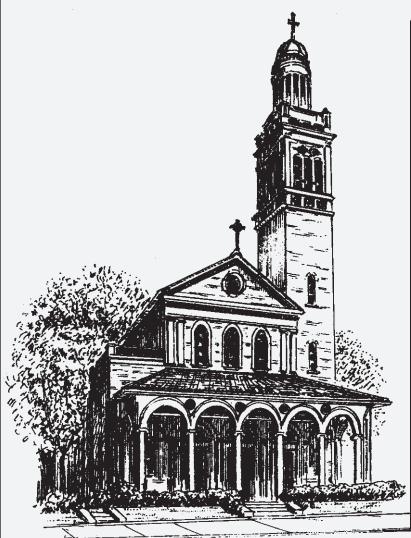


The Benedictine Monks of Newark Abbey join our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Newark in joyfully celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary



Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski  
and the Priests, Religious and People  
of the Diocese of Metuchen



*The Parish Family of Immaculate Conception, Montclair joins our sisters and brothers of the Archdiocese of Newark in thanking God for the blessings bestowed on this local church for 150 years and in acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.*

*We offer sincere congratulations on the jubilee of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.*

Rev. James J. Reilly, Administrator  
Rev. Patrick R. C. Wilhelm, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Anthony Paskus, Weekend Assistant  
Deacon Leonard J. Mackesy  
Parish Staff and Parishioners



*Our Lady of Sorrows Church  
136 Davis Avenue  
Hearny, NJ 07032*

*Celebrating 50 years of service to God's people:  
the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart*

**Holy Cross Parish**  
Harrison, NJ



**The Passionist Community**  
joins the Church of Newark  
in celebrating the  
**50th Anniversary**  
of the Cathedral Basilica



Very Rev. Terence Kristofak, C.P.  
Provincial



*Gracious God,  
We praise you and bless  
you for the  
wondrous beauty of our  
Cathedral Basilica!*

The Catholic Church of the  
Holy Trinity  
Westfield, NJ



1954 † The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart † 2004

God our Father, from living stones, your chosen people, you built an eternal temple to your glory. Increase the spiritual gifts you have given to your Church, so that your faithful people may continue to grow into the new and eternal Jerusalem.  
Let our worship always be sincere and help us to find your saving love in this Church.  
Amen.

May the Light of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
continue to shine on our magnificent Cathedral!

**Queen of Peace Church ~ North Arlington, NJ**  
Rev. Msgr. William J. Fadrowski, Pastor

# Gothic monument begun

Continued from Page 9

He relates that he suggested that the name of St. Patrick be used for the new Cathedral, as had been done in New York, but he adds that he was “not supported in the council and Bishop Wigger wanted it called, as it was, Sacred Heart.”

## Inauguration of Cathedral project

When, on March 26, 1897, Bishop Wigger appointed then-Father Sheehan pastor of Sacred Heart, he already had in mind the beginning of the building of the Cathedral. On May 5, he discussed with his consultants the advisability of proposing the matter at the next regular clergy conference. If the reaction there should be favorable, a special meeting could be called for fuller discussion and practical consideration of the financial problems involved.

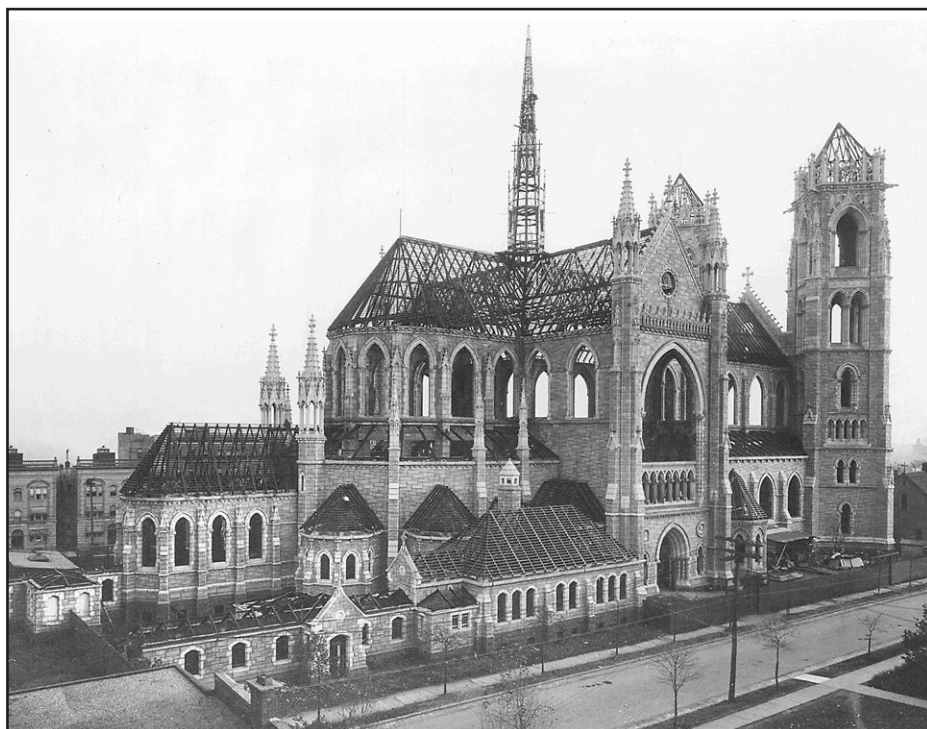
The special meeting was held on June 9 in Newark. The idea of contributions to the building fund by the clergy, the parishes and individuals, was presented. Hearty approval of the proposal to build the Cathedral was voiced by all present at the meeting, as well as by several who found it impossible to come, but who wrote to the bishop to pledge their support.

Several, however, were hesitant; Father Joseph M. Flynn, author of *The Catholic Church in New Jersey* (published in 1904 with the understanding that any profit would go to the Cathedral fund), questioned the wisdom of starting the project at that particular time, in view of the widespread unemployment among the people of his parish, but concurred in the general desirability of a new Cathedral.

Dean McNutly of St. John's, Paterson, suggested a number of what he considered more urgent needs, such as a new church in Rutherford, but expressed his willingness to do his share, if the Cathedral was started.

His cooperation was assured when, in July, he accepted membership on the special Diocesan Cathedral Committee, set up to make preliminary studies and arrangements. Msgr. Doane was also a member, together with six other priests and laymen.

The two chief problems facing the committee were the selection of an architect and the development of plans for raising the necessary funds. In regard to the latter, Bishop Wigger laid down the general lines he thought should be followed.



**What will become a local landmark takes shape during the early days of construction. The familiar form is already recognizable.**

The Cathedral was not to cost more than \$1,000,000 complete, and it should take about ten years to build. Raising \$100,000 annually would eliminate the necessity of borrowing.

In this matter, an interesting exchange took place between the bishop and Msgr. Doane. It was interesting because, while Bishop Bayley had obviously been fearful of the extravagance of Father Doane in 1870, Msgr. Doane felt the same way about Bishop Wigger in 1897!

On Oct. 14 he wrote to the bishop to urge him to moderate his plans. He suggested a Cathedral would cost \$500,000, which would bring the amount to be raised annually down \$50,000, a sum much more likely to be attained.

Msgr. Doane was anxious lest the bishop attempt too much. “I should be sorry,” he concluded, “to see the Brooklyn experience repeated here.”

## Initial design by Newark architect O'Rourke

In July 1897, following the establishment of a Cathedral Committee and the initiation of a massive fund raising drive, Bishop Wigger invited several prominent architects to submit proposals for the new Cathedral, including the New York-based firms of O'Connor and Metcalf, Ansley Brothers, Schickel and Ditmars, along with Jeremiah O'Rourke and Sons of Newark.

On Nov. 11, 1897, the committee, after carefully reviewing all four plans, awarded the contract to O'Rourke. The O'Rourke church was conceived in the English-Irish Gothic style, which would be modified later by O'Rourke's successor.

Physical dimensions, however, remained constant over the long years of construction. Hence, the building as it is measured today—length, 375 feet; nave width (center of column to center of column), 50 feet—is the same as O'Rourke envisioned it at the turn of the century.

In accepting the commission, O'Rourke pledged to Bishop Wigger that the work would be “a labor of love and not of fees and profits.”

The first formal contract for the construction of the new cathedral was signed by Bishop Wigger and the firm of O'Connor and McManus on Jan. 7, 1898.

It provided for the excavation of the cellar at the rear of the church, beneath what would become the sanctuary, chapels and sacristies. The contractor was to remove and dispose of the earth at a cost of 48 cents per cubic foot.

Work was begun at once. The bishop turned the first spade of soil, and occasionally stopped by to check on the progress. The contract called for the completion of the job by Feb. 15. It was not, however, until April 7

Continued on Page 25



**Workers and artisans with the frame for the Rose window during construction of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Photo believed to be in the 1920's.**

*Cathedral  
Basilica of the  
Sacred Heart*

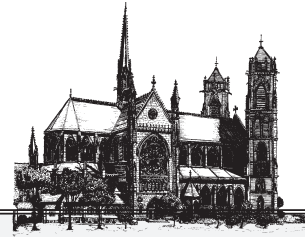
*We joyfully celebrate 50 years  
of fidelity to the Word of God*

**The Parish Family of St. Leo of Irvington, NJ**

*Served by Clergy:*

**Rev. Beaubrun Ardouin, Pastor**

Rev. Marco Hurtado-Olazo, Parochial Vicar, Rev. Emmanuel Ogu, O.P., in Residence,  
Rev. Mr. Victor Reyes, Permanent Deacon, Rev. Mr. Nelson Ramez, Permanent Deacon,  
Rev. Mr. Edson Fernando Costa, Transitional Deacon,  
Rev. Denis R. McKenna, Pastor Emeritus



The following parishes of  
Deanery 3  
rejoice with the  
Archdiocese of Newark as we  
celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the  
consecration of the  
Cathedral Basilica of the  
Sacred Heart

***St. John the Evangelist, Bergenfield***

***St. Mary, Dumont***

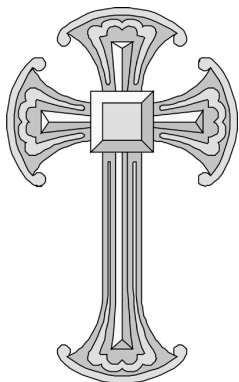
***Ascension, New Milford***

***St. Joseph, Oradell***

***St. Peter, River Edge***

May the Lord continue to keep us all in His loving care.

*Congratulations to  
Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Our Spiritual Home*



**St. Aloysius Parish  
Caldwell, NJ**

**Msgr. Ron Marczewski**

**Rev. Joe Scarangella, Rev. Tom Nicastro, Jr.**

**Msgr. Ben Piazza, Msgr. Mike Kelly**

*May God's grace  
continue to shine upon the  
Cathedral Basilica of the  
Sacred Heart  
as we proclaim the Word of God*

**Deanery 16**

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH**

28 Brookline Ave., Nutley

Rev. Msgr. Paul L. Bochicchio, Pastor

**OUR LADY of MT. CARMEL**

120 Prospect St., Nutley

Rev. Thomas J. Ciba, Pastor

**ST. MARY**

17 Msgr. Owens Pl., Nutley

Rev. David C. Hubba, Pastor

**GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY**

24 Brookline Ave., Nutley

Sister Lois Zampese, M.P.F., Principal

Sister Antoinette Pagano, M.P.F., Assistant Principal



**The Religious Teachers Filippini**  
 join with the multitude of peoples  
 who have been inspired  
 by the magnificence and splendor of the  
**Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart**  
 to pray and to worship.

\*\*\*\*\*

This celebration of fifty years is truly  
 a time of praise and thanksgiving!

*How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God.  
 Psalm 8 1:2*

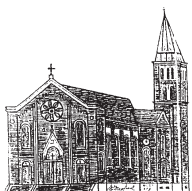


*The bishop, clergy and faithful  
 of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic  
 extend congratulations and prayerful best wishes  
 to the Archdiocese of Newark  
 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary  
 of the completion and dedication of the  
 Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
 on Sunday, October 17, 2004*

*May the Lord God grant to  
 Archbishop Myers, the clergy and faithful  
 of the Archdiocese of Newark,  
 peace, health and happiness for many years.*



**St. John  
 Orange**



**Our Lady of  
 Mount Carmel  
 Orange**



**Holy Name of Jesus  
 East Orange**



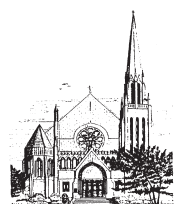
**St. Andrew Kim  
 Orange**



**Our Lady of  
 the Valley  
 Orange**



**St. Joseph  
 East Orange**



**Holy Spirit &  
 Our Lady, Help of Christians  
 East Orange**

*The Faithful of the Parishes of Central Essex Deanery 17  
 give thanks to God for 150 years of faithful witness  
 and service in this local Church of Newark.*

*In union of prayer and worship with  
 the heart of the Archdiocese,  
 the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart,  
 we pledge a continuing proclamation of the Gospel,  
 service to the poor, and the witness of love in action  
 following the heart of Christ.*

# Pastoral duties on a grand scale the province of Cathedral's rector

**BY BRIAN FORES**  
Staff Writer

Msgr. Richard F. Groncki, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart since 1996, deals with an array of issues that keep the Newark cathedral church running smoothly throughout the year.

Whether coordinating, planning or scheduling, he aims to serve the needs of the local and larger archdiocesan communities, as well as those of the archbishop, whose residence is adjacent to the Cathedral itself.

"In many ways, the responsibilities are the same as those of a pastor. The difference is, however, that the archbishop is the pastor of the Cathedral. The rector acts as the director or administrator in the name of the archbishop," he explained.

Msgr. Groncki added that the size of the Cathedral Basilica and the campus on which it stands mark a major difference between it and a normal parish church. "When you speak of the maintenance, the day to day care of the Cathedral, it is larger in scope than most parishes," he noted.

However, Msgr. Groncki pointed out that in dealing with issues relating to the physical space, such as sidewalks and roofs, heating and cooling—for example, the installation of air-conditioning, which began two years ago and was completed last year—and general repairs, "the Cathedral is no different than any other church. Besides, the spiritual and sacramental concerns are similar to that of any other parish."

He elaborated on the statement by pointing out that the dimensions of the structure make maintenance "a lot more complex" than a smaller parish church. He acknowledged the efforts of Cathedral and archdiocesan staff: "We have a lot of help from our staff and archdiocesan organization."

The cathedral staff includes Father Luis Orlando Gonzalez, parochial vicar; Mary Clare McAlee, weddings administrator; Dr. Thomas DeBenedictis, deacon; Rev. Mr. Thomas P. Quinn, deacon; John J. Miller, director of music ministries; Mark Pacoe, associate director of music ministries; Olfary Gutiérrez-Ahearn, director of Spanish choir; Valerie Bernhardt, administrative assistant for music ministry; Sister Ana Josefa Fajardo, coordinator of catechetics, as well as several maintenance workers, office personnel and a household staff under the direction of Paula Flynn.

Msgr. Groncki noted that much of his time is devoted to planning and preparing the many events that fill up the Cathedral's crowded schedule. He explained that he works closely with the archdiocesan Office of Worship, headed by Sister Sandra DeMasi, S.S.J., which coordinates liturgies that take place in the cathedral.

"I participate in the planning, some of the publicity, and the publication of worship aids [booklets]. I

also coordinate everything with the staff, especially those involved in the music ministry and the various ministers assigned to function at a given event," he noted. "To look at it from a different perspective, the entire archdiocesan worship staff is associated with the Cathedral, so we have a lot of help in all areas."

Msgr. Groncki also pointed out the Cathedral's successful concert series, noting that there are ordinarily eight to ten concerts per season. "It's probably the longest-running concert series of any cathedral in the country. The average lifespan is probably about



**Msgr. Richard F. Groncki warmly greets Pope John Paul II during his 1995 visit to the Archdiocese of Newark.**

10 years; ours has been going for over 30 years."

Msgr. Groncki explained that because the Cathedral is a diocesan church, it is the center of archdiocesan-wide celebrations. Not only are there celebrations that are required to take place at the Cathedral, such as the Chrism Mass and ordinations, but others, such as the Blue Mass for law enforcement officers, the St. Florian Mass for the fire service, the Red Mass for those working in the legal profession and the Mass for emergency medical service (EMS) personnel. There are also many ethnic celebrations, as well as major holy days such as Christmas and the Easter Triduum.

Msgr. Groncki noted that ministering to the local community is an important priority as well. The Cathedral is the site of graduations for neighboring Barringer High School, as well as other events involving Newark high school students, all "in addition to the full spectrum of liturgical services that a parish would have."

The rector added that attendance at Mass is "quite good," due in part to out-of-town visitors drawn by the Cathedral itself, but also because of neighborhood parishioners attending weekly Masses in English and Spanish.

Explaining the challenge of serving both a parish

community and the archdiocesan community, Msgr. Groncki commented, "All the signs speak of it as a diocesan church... but for the people who are here regularly, they need to feel a sense of ownership too. There is a need to have balance, to keep parish life focused so that it is not overshadowed by all the events in the life of the wider diocesan church, which are extremely important as well."

Among those events are episcopal ordinations, priestly ordinations and ordinations of transitional and permanent deacons.

"In the past two years, we've had two episcopal ordinations," Msgr. Groncki noted, referring to the ordinations of Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., in September 2003, and the double episcopal ordinations of Bishops Thomas A. Donato and John W. Flesey in August 2004.

"These are major diocesan events," he emphasized, adding, "A lot of dedicated people help to make these occasions special, not only in the preparation and planning, but in the celebration on the day itself," he stated.

Msgr. Groncki concluded by noting, "The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is really a great and inspiring place of prayer. Many people come here on tours, especially in the spring and the fall, who have heard of the great cathedrals of Europe. When they see something comparable right here, within their reach, they are astounded.

"The very fact that Newark has a Cathedral of such proportions is a credit to those who preceded us. The vision of Newark's first bishop and his immediate successors is unbelievable. How did someone even conceive, back in the 1850's, of building something like this in Newark? Yet they did, and we're reaping the benefits of their faith and vision today.

"Newark's Cathedral Basilica is a credit to our ancestors, the founders of the archdiocese, and in some measure, gives the archdiocese its identity."

## Sacred music concert Oct. 17 at Cathedral

The San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble (SAVAE) will present a performance of Sacred Music of the Ancient World at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m.

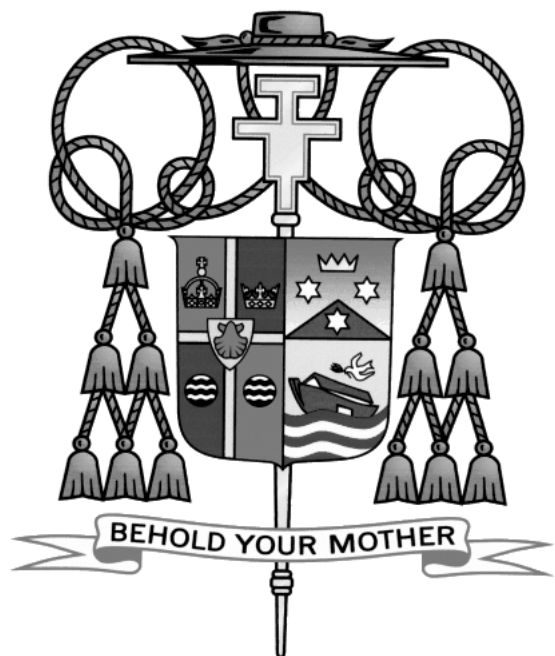
The performance will follow a Thanksgiving Mass at 3 p.m. marking the Golden Jubilee celebration for the Cathedral Basilica. A reception follows Mass in the auditorium of the Archdiocesan Center across the street from the Cathedral.

SAVAE's arrangements have been performed by choirs in venues as far ranging as the Washington National Cathedral, the Los Angeles Civic Center, as well as by many university and church choirs throughout the Americas. The group compliments its vocal work with performances on reproductions of ancient wind, string and percussion instruments from Latin America and the Middle East.

Their performance at the Cathedral Basilica will include music from the Jewish, Christian, Greek, African, Aztec, Maya and Inca cultures.

For additional information call (973) 484-2400.





As a son of the Cathedral Parish from  
Baptism through Episcopal Ordination,  
the Cathedral Parish and the Basilica  
are so much part of my faith life.

Congratulations and best wishes!

With my prayers  
for your anniversary celebration, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

*Nicholas DiMarzio*

Most Reverend  
Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Brooklyn

"Even though their primary concern is the spiritual renovation of the Church, let the sisters also take care of the material needs of the churches, in which the God of their hearts dwells and who often is forsaken and deprived of fitting worship. Let them, as far as possible, strive to restore fitting worship by helping to make the liturgical services solemn, by adorning the altars with flowers and by training choirs in chant and devotional singing. St. Francis showed this by example; it was in these external activities of repairing churches that he began his mission. In his humility he did not even presume that God was calling him to a different mode of repairing."

*(Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska, foundress of the Felician Sisters)*

In the spirit of  
our foundress Blessed Angela and  
patron Saint Francis of Assisi,  
we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
magnificent Cathedral Basilica  
of the Sacred Heart.

### Felician Sisters

*Transformed by Christ, we are Eucharist Alive*  
Lodi, New Jersey

### Felician College

*The Franciscan College of New Jersey*  
Lodi and Rutherford, New Jersey

### Immaculate Conception High School

*Where today's girls become tomorrow's women.*  
Lodi, New Jersey

### The Felician School for Exceptional Children

*Serving the needs of developmentally and  
behaviorally challenged persons.*  
Lodi, New Jersey

# Basilica's insignia symbolizes history and mission of Newark

BY FATHER MICHAEL WALTERS, J.C.L.  
Special to The Catholic Advocate

**H**eraldry developed in the Middle Ages as a way of distinguishing friend from foe on the battlefield. What began as a battlefield necessity soon became a mark of honor as private citizens, towns, universities, guilds and churches began to acquire grants of arms.

Eventually, the art of heraldry developed into a complex system, which was regulated by colleges of heralds who exercised jurisdiction by either royal or ecclesiastical authority.

The arms of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, were developed in harmony with this ancient tradition. They are composed of a shield and several other elements.

The shield is divided in three parts, which express the unique character of the Cathedral Church of our Archdiocese; each element serves to situate the church in location, dedication and time.

The top part of the shield, called the chief, contains the arms of the Archdiocese of Newark, which themselves contain a chief. These arms are based on the arms of Newark, Nottinghamshire, England, which is the origin of the name of the City of Newark, the See City of the archdiocese.

To reflect the ecclesiastical character of the arms, the English arms have been changed, or differenced, by replacing the charges of the city in the chief with a crescent moon displayed between two shamrocks. The crescent moon, a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception, the principal patroness of the archdiocese and of the major seminary at Seton Hall University, is derived from the book of Revelation (12:1): "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars."

The shamrocks honor St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland and titular patron of the Pro-Cathedral. The red color of the chief is symbolic of the Blood of Christ, which has been shed for the salvation of the world.

The blue and silver (white) waves are generally seen as heraldic representations for rivers or bodies of water. The City of Newark in England is located on the River Trent in New Jersey, parts of the Hackensack, Hudson, Passaic, Rahway, Raritan and Saddle Rivers

flow through the Archdiocese of Newark.

The bottom part of the shield is divided in two. Heraldry describes the shield from the perspective of the person bearing the arms so that what appears on the left for the viewer is described as being on the right, or dexter side. The viewer's right is referred to as sinister, or left.

The dexter side of the arms of the Cathedral

tion of the arms of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, who raised the Cathedral Church to the dignity of a Minor Basilica during his historic visit of October 1995. The Holy Father's arms are included to situate the Cathedral Basilica in time (during his pontificate) as well as to indicate the bond that exists between the church of Newark and the Church of Rome in the person of the Chief Shepherd.

The Holy Father's arms are based on those he used as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, which in turn are based on those used by another bishop of Krakow, Zbigniew Olesnicki, in the 15th century. Pope John Paul's arms consist of a Latin cross in gold (yellow) on a blue field. In the sinister base is a gold (yellow) letter M, representing the Blessed Virgin Mary to whom the Holy Father has a special devotion.

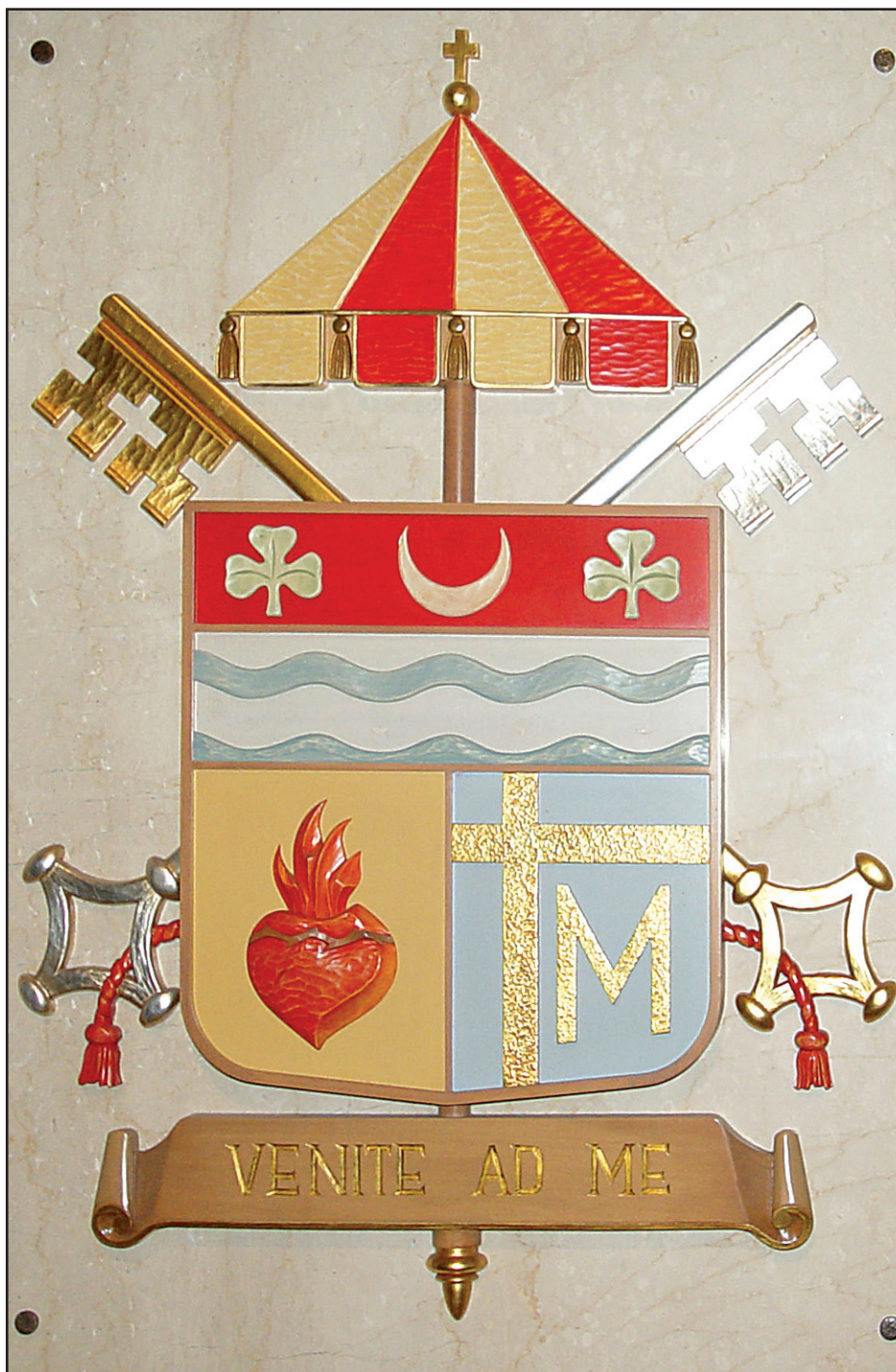
The use of a letter on a shield is unusual but not entirely absent, especially in Polish heraldry.

Displayed behind the shield are heraldic elements proper to a basilica. The crossed keys, one silver and one gold (yellow), are the symbols of the papacy signifying the power to bind and to loose given by the Lord to St. Peter and through him to his successors, the Bishops of Rome.

The Pavilion (ombrellino, or canopy), striped in red and gold, is also a papal emblem, which dates from the 15th century. Originally a protective covering for dignitaries in solemn processions, it eventually acquired a purely symbolic function as an emblem of the temporal power of the church. Its use in a basilica is a reminder of the special character of the basilica as a papal church.

Finally, a motto is displayed on a ribbon beneath the shield. The words "Venite ad Me" are taken from the Gospel of Matthew (11:28-29): "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

Used as the motto of the Cathedral Basilica, these words have a dual meaning. On one hand, the Lord speaks to the world to come to His Sacred Heart for refreshment as the source of salvation. On the other hand, it is the voice of the Cathedral Basilica, as the mother church of the Archdiocese of Newark, inviting all her children to come to her as the heart of the sacramental life of this local Church.



The arms of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark

Basilica is composed of the symbol representing the dedication to the Sacred Heart, a red heart enflamed on a gold (yellow) field. The gold field has traditionally been used in representing holiness or divinity.

The heart is depicted as having a flame issuing from it, which symbolizes the Sacred Heart of Christ burning with love for all people.

The sinister side of the arms is a reproduc-

Advocate photo - Ward Miele

## Celebrating a Golden Jubilee.

The dedication anniversary for  
the Cathedral Basilica of  
the Sacred Heart



Receive from 6% to  
11.3% Return for Life  
leaving a legacy that will  
maintain the beautiful  
Cathedral for current and  
future generations.

### Receive:

- Peace of mind knowing you will receive a **STEADY INCOME FOR LIFE** and help the Archdiocese and your local parishes **CONTINUE THE MISSION** entrusted to us by Christ.
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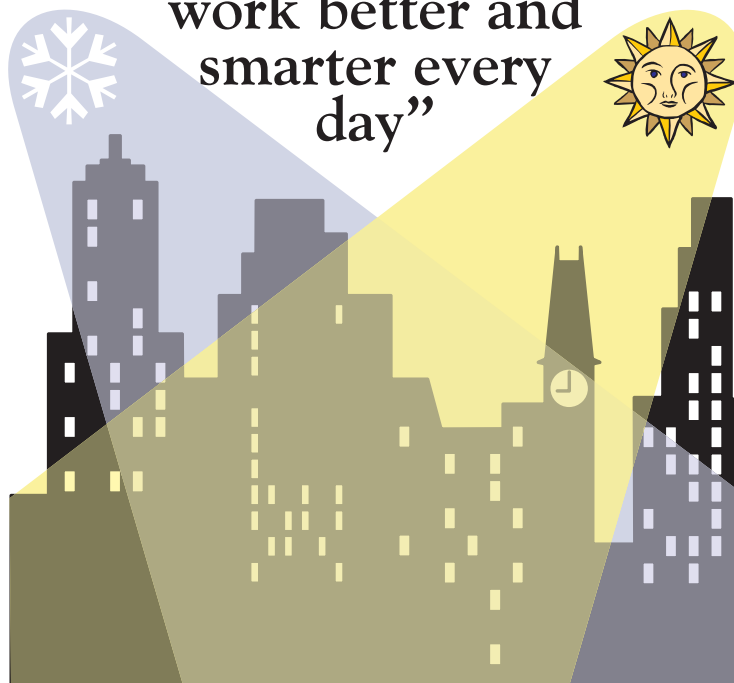
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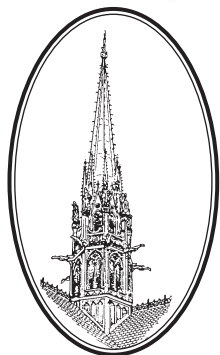
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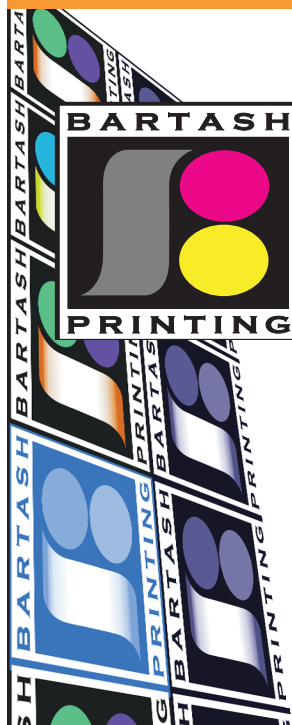
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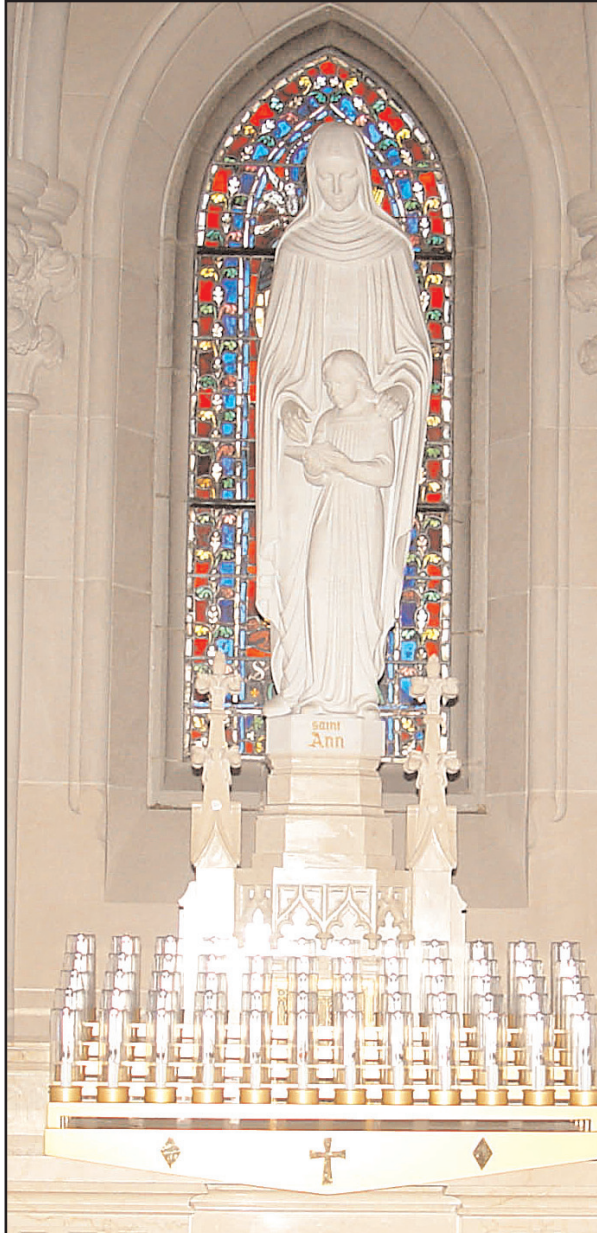
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# Immigrant population of Archdiocese remembered



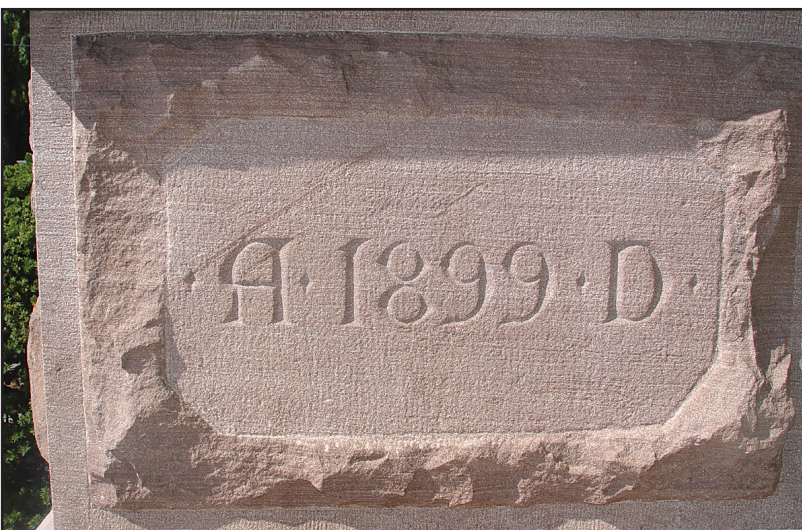
**The Chapel of St. Stanislaus**, an 11th century bishop of Krakow. His opposition to a cruel and unjust monarch led to his martyrdom. The chapel windows depict SS. Casimir, Hedwig, Wencelous, Elizabeth of Hungary and John Kanty.



**The Chapel of St. Anne**, mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus, honors several ethnic groups. In the left window is St. Martin DePorres, a Peruvian Dominican of African ancestry. St. Joachim was the grandfather of Jesus. Center is the Spanish St. Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite mystic, writer and religious reformer. On the right is the Chinese martyr Blessed Martin Wu, a catechist from a farming family that had been Catholic for generations.



**The Chapel of St. Joseph**, husband of Mary. The inscription reads "Saint Joseph, guardian of the child Jesus who is God." The window depicts Joseph's family, Jesus and Mary. Below are symbols of their suffering hearts and purity.



Advocate photos- Ward Miele

The **cornerstone** was laid on June 11, 1899 attracting a parade of men from every parish. Over 10,000 marched from St. Patrick's to Ridge Street.

Newspaper accounts of the day estimated that some 50,000 viewed what the Daily Advertiser described as "one of the finest street demonstrations, outside of military displays, that has ever been witnessed in Newark."

A crowd of 100,000 impeded a planned procession of 100 clergy around the foundation walls.

Bishop Winard M. Wigger blessed the cornerstone which included stones from the Holy Land in the base of the west tower. Bishop Wigger inserted a metal box with records of the historic moment.

A former president of Seton Hall University, Bishop Bernard McQuaid of Rochester, predicted, "This edifice will be open to the world. It will be a house of prayer and a tabernacle."

On Oct. 4, 1995, **Pope John Paul II** visited the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart as part of his pilgrimage to northern New Jersey. The Holy Father arrived at the Cathedral in the “popemobile” and received an enthusiastic and loving reception as he entered for evening prayer. For the first and probably only time the Roman Pontiff and the President of the United States prayed together. Among those greeted by the pope were members of the Cathedral Choir. He was formally welcomed to the Cathedral Basilica by Most Rev. Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark.





Since before its completion a half century ago, the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart has been the focal point of the spiritual life for the faithful throughout the Archdiocese of Newark. Under the guidance of the archbishop, prayerful celebrations by the people of the Church take place throughout the year in this house of worship.





Archbishop Myers celebrates Mass in the Lady Chapel. Concelebrating are Msgr. Robert Fuhrman, Msgr. Frank Del Prete and Father James Sheehan.



Group tours of the Cathedral Basilica are offered. Shown here, is a group from the ARC of Essex County. For information call (973) 484-4600.



Standing on the plaza in front of the Cathedral Basilica after a special Mass are, left to right, Father Andrew Prachar, Archbishop John J. Myers, Msgr. Richard Arnholts and Father Michael Walters.

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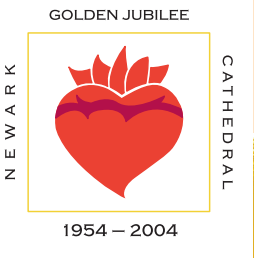
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# A family's history entwined forever with Cathedral Basilica from the ground up

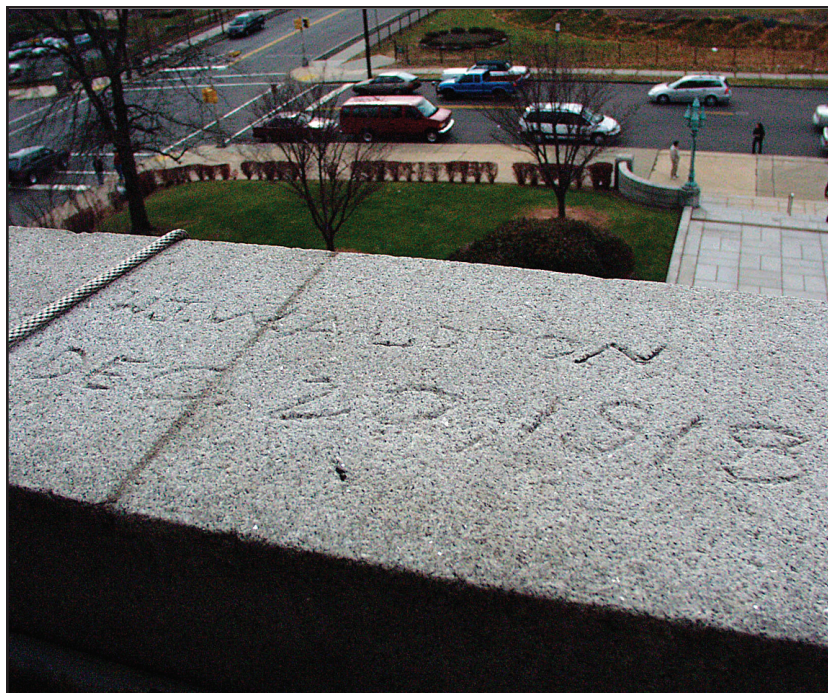
BY ELIZABETH WALDRON MITCHELL

Special to the The Catholic Advocate

During a 2002 residency at the Experimental Printmaking Institute at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, I created a limited edition book titled *More than Stone and Mortar: The Building of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart*.

This book records the visual history of the Cathedral Basilica and my family's involvement in its construction.

I began the research at the Newark Public Library where I was directed to three essential sources; the writings of Father Michael E. Gubernat, the Special Collections Center of Seton Hall University's Walsh Library and the library's own collection of photographs of early Newark.



The signature of Elizabeth Mitchell's grandfather, William J. Waldron, is carved in the granite railing overlooking the Cathedral Basilica's main place and dated Dec. 20, 1918.

Other sources included the Newark Star-Ledger and oral family history.

My great grandfather, Edward M. Waldron, left Ballyhannus, Ireland, at the age of 16 and came to Newark in 1884.

After various jobs, he became a bricklayer. Newark was a thriving industrial city. In 1888 he started the Edward M. Waldron Construction Co. The company continued for three generations and included my father, Thomas F. Waldron, Sr.

In 1899, Edward M. Waldron was awarded the contract to begin the construction of the Cathedral.

His company began working on the exterior walls and the interior columns. In 1905, the walls stood 60 feet tall. This was an amazing accomplishment, considering the workers had to hand lift the stones onto the scaffolding.

Archived receipts from 1904 and 1905 reveal that a difficult relationship between my great grandfather and the architect, Jeremiah O'Rourke, was brewing.

In 1908 and until 1910, the work on the Cathedral

came to a halt due to a structural dispute between the two men. Architect Isaac Ditmars was hired as arbitrator and upon inspection, determined that the foundation piers were disintegrating. In 1910, Jeremiah O'Rourke resigned.

Ditmars himself was hired as the next architect. He redrafted the original design, changing to a French Gothic style.

Construction work was restored to the exterior walls and inside columns and continued until 1928 when a lack of funding and materials caused by the war and the Depression postponed the project.

At this time, my great uncle, Paul C. Reilly worked as an architect for Ditmars, and became his partner in 1925. He was married to Mary Germaine Waldron, Edward M. Waldron's daughter and my great aunt.

Construction was revived in the early 1950's. In 1951, Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh approached the architectural firm of Fanning and Shaw to finish the Cathedral. Ned Fanning declined, recommending that Paul C. Reilly be hired as the architect. Because of Paul's successful architectural work building theatres and his early work with Isaac Ditmars on the Cathedral he came highly recommended. He had been consistently involved with the Cathedral since 1910.

My grandfather, William J. Waldron, who now ran the company, bid the lowest amount to complete the project. He was not awarded the contract presumably because of his family ties to Paul C. Reilly. This was a terrible disappointment to him.

My grandfather did however leave his mark on the Cathedral...literally. His signature can be seen on the balcony overlooking the main plaza and is dated December 20, 1918. He was in his twenties.

In the spring of 2002, I made a visit to the Cathedral with a number of family members. It was Sunday and the Spanish Mass had just ended. We approached the choirmaster, who was rehearsing for noon Mass and asked if he had seen any signatures carved in the choir loft. We had heard through Paul W. Reilly that my grandfather had carved his initials somewhere in the choir loft. The choirmaster told us that he had seen some initials carved on the balcony overlooking the plaza.

We made our way up to the choir loft and through



Elizabeth Waldron Mitchell, front, with her sisters Helen Grundman, Mary Allen and Meg Waldron and her mother, Mary Lee Waldron, stand near the granite railing her grandfather inscribed. (See photograph at left on this page.)

a small supply closet that led out onto the balcony to find his signature carved in the granite railing.

In the 1951, my cousin, Paul W. Reilly, was hired as a field engineer by the Fuller Construction Co., who had won the bid. He had also worked at the Cathedral while he was in college.

The romance and excitement of the Cathedral project convinced him to study architecture and follow his father's example. He claims that he can "see behind the walls."

The Cathedral Basilica has played a central role in his life. His parents were introduced as a result of my great grandfather. He considers himself a child of the Cathedral Basilica.

I have been in touch with my cousin throughout my research. He has been a wonderful source of personal history. Paul W. was involved with the project in one way or another from beginning to end.

As recently as the mid-1970's Paul W. Reilly worked on the Cathedral Basilica. He tells the story of bidding to restore the organ valves and pipes. The priest mentioned the expense that they were also facing to restore the large rose window. They had received an estimate of \$45,000 dollars for the restoration cost.

The priest had not realized that Paul's father had designed the unique and economical frame system for the rose window using cast terra cotta clay with interior wire supports.

Paul offered to restore the rose window for \$2700. It would require nothing more than large two by fours, some wire poked through small holes in the windows lead fillings and a pulley system to draw everything back

in to place. He won both jobs.

Paul W. Reilly, who now lives in the south, feels blessed to be part of this once in a lifetime project. At the dedication ceremony, he and his parents were escorted to the front pew.

It was one of the proudest moments of his life.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is a rare gem and national treasure. It reminds us of the power of vision, creativity and persistence.



**More than Stone and Mortar, a visual history of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.**

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## Early construction

Continued from Page 11

that the final payment of \$870.92 was made, bringing the total cost of the work to date to \$2,767.12.

Shortly thereafter a start was made on the foundation. On May 8, 1898, a contract was awarded to the firm of Peter Boyle of Kearney, for building the foundation and basement walls and interior piers, including all necessary further excavations and stone work.

The walls and piers designed to carry the interior columns were brought up to ground level. The contract price was agreed upon as \$65,743, though Mr. O'Rourke, in cost tabulations made at a later date, gave the cost as \$71,769.25. The work was to be finished by May 1, 1899.

By April, sufficient progress had been made to lead Bishop Wigger to formulate plans for laying the cornerstone. On April 17, he informed the consultants that he had picked June 11, 1899 as the day and asked for suggestions that would make the affair a notable one. A committee was appointed to make all arrangements.

The Very Rev. John J. O'Connor, vicar general, (who later, as fourth Bishop of Newark, carried through the greater part of the construction work) was chairman, assisted by Father J.J. Boylan, Father John A. Sheppard, Father Francis O'Neil, Father W.T. McLaughlin and Father W.T. Fallon. Father James J. Sheehan, pastor of Sacred Heart, was the active "field manager," in charge of all arrangements at the Cathedral grounds.

The ceremony on June 11 was preceded by a parade of representatives of every parish in the diocese. The line of march began at Broad Street and Central Avenue, went up Central Avenue to Norfolk Street, along the latter to Fifth (Park) Ave., up the latter to Ridge Street, and then into the Cathedral grounds.

More than 10,000 men formed the line and presented a spectacle that the *Newark Daily Advertiser* called "one of the finest street demonstrations, outside of military displays, that has ever been witnessed in Newark."

It was estimated that more than 50,000 persons viewed the parade, and that more than 100,000 were gathered at the grounds for the actual ceremony.

The parade left the starting point at 3 p.m. on a perfect summer afternoon; the last contingents reached the Cathedral at about 4:30, as the procession of the clergy arrived at the site from the nearby Sacred Heart Church.

Among the dignitaries present were Archbishop Michael A. Corrigan of New York (former Bishop of Newark), Bishop James A. McFaul of Trenton, and Bishop Thomas M.A. Burke of Albany. As they, and over one hundred others, assembled on a platform built near the site of the present Sanctuary, they then proceeded (with difficulty because of the crowds), to the southwest corner of the structure, where Bishop Wigger blessed the cornerstone, a granite block measuring 7'x3'x2', to be set in the wall of the west tower.

On the front face of the stone, two pieces of marble, brought from the Holy Land, had been inlaid.



Scaffolding adorns the front of the Cathedral during work in the early 1950's.

Inside a receptacle in the stone the bishop placed a metal box containing appropriate records.

The procession then moved around the outside of the foundation walls to bless them, but passage through the dense crowd was so difficult that this part of the program was abandoned and all returned to the platform to hear Bishop Bernard McQuaid preach an eloquent sermon on the history of the Church of New Jersey, and on the cathedral itself. Archbishop Corrigan and Bishop Wigger concluded the ceremony by giving their blessing to the assembled throng.

O'Rourke immediately directed his attention to the erection of the walls and towers, selecting Vermont Rockport granite as the exterior stone.

Joining O'Rourke in the fall of 1899 was the Newark firm of E.M. Waldron and Co., which would handle the responsibilities of general contractor. By April 1902, the walls stood 50 feet at the nave and ambulatory locations, with the first four tiers of the front towers under construction.

Bishop Wigger did not live to see this stage com-

pleted, however. He died on Jan. 5, 1901. His successor as Bishop of Newark, Most Rev. John J. O'Connor, instructed O'Rourke to continue on, but to cut cost wherever possible so as not to exceed the estimated price tag of one million dollars.

### Waldron-O'Rourke feud

Bishop O'Connor requested that O'Rourke undertake a notable revision of the plans, so as to economize where possible without sacrificing design or structural security.

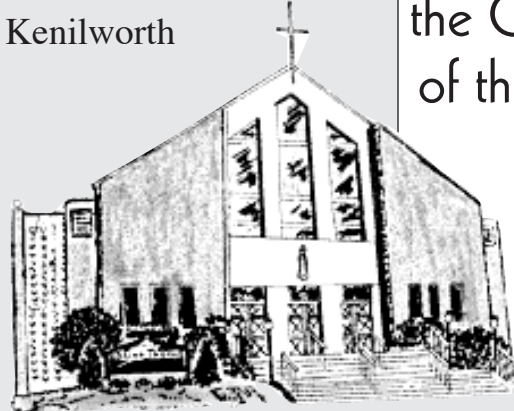
The architect supervised contracts and construction with meticulous attention, reviewing all bills and inspecting ongoing work.

Friction developed between O'Rourke and the general contractor, E.M. Waldron and Co., over costs and quality. Work occasionally halted, payments were withheld, compromises attempted.

A crisis arose over the stability of the nave and chancel columns. Fred L. Metcalf and I.E. Ditmars, acting as arbiters, upheld the contractor's positions in April 1900.

Continued on Page 27

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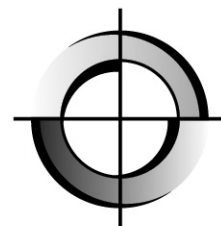
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# Plans changed

Continued from Page 25

Msgr. John A. Sheppard, as vicar general, prevailed upon a reluctant Ditmars to become advisory architect. O'Rourke's resistance led Bishop O'Connor to dismiss him on Feb. 24, 1910.

Ditmars ordered the removal of all 24 pillars. Ditmars' fears concerning the stability of the columns were confirmed when excavations proved that little attention had been paid to sub-surface preparation.

Ditmars directed that the rock bed be leveled and the column foundations reconstructed, whereupon twenty-two of the original pillars were reset. His decision to drop the two remaining pillars allowed him to eliminate the clerestory wall connecting the nave and the chancel, thus opening the transept the full 165 feet.



Equipment to haul stone in place marked the construction site during initial construction.

As the arches and clerestory began to rise in the latter half of 1910, extra reinforcement was provided in the form of steel girders at the clerestory level down either side of the nave and around the ambulatory.

His revised plans were accepted in June 1913, with work beginning in August. Among the changes was a reduction in the size of the front towers from the projected 332 feet to the present 232 feet.

The O'Rourke church was characterized by pointed spires, which Ditmars deleted after expressing concern over the strength of the tower foundations—and whether the foundation as constructed could support the added burden of a decorative cap.

Other modifications included the elimination of the exterior nave buttresses and pinnacles; the substitution of three “wheel pattern” rose windows instead of the concentric circle design submitted by O'Rourke, and the increased use of sculpture at all entrances.

Construction moved along steadily, and by 1918, the greater part of the project had been completed so as to allow erection of the steel supported slate roof and the 131 foot copper “fliche” that tops the intersection of the nave and transept. This part of the work was completed in November 1919.

With the exterior nearing completion, Ditmars directed that the granite tympanum canopies and medallions be erected. The actual carving of the medallions' scriptural scenes and bishops' portraits took place on the Cathedral property between April 1922 and November 1924 under the direction of Rochette and Parzini of New York.

Inside, work commenced on the insulation and sealing of the terra-cotta window tracery.

By July 1924, plate glass had been installed in all the windows, thus for the first time insulating the Cathedral from the weather.

## Construction of interior

In subsequent years, Ditmars supervised the construction of the basement heating tunnels, the crypt and the initial aspects of the interior limestone walls and the vaulted ceilings by Rafael Guastavino, the Spanish architect who employed Akoustolith-tiled arches.

In 1925, diocesan officials felt it might be possible to complete the grand edifice in time for Bishop O'Connor's fiftieth anniversary of priestly ordination in December 1926, but the proposed October 31, 1926 dedication had to be postponed because of several incidents: the first, a dispute over the type of limestone to be used, and the others, simply the inevitable delays of the construction process.

The stone agreed upon ultimately was Indiana limestone and was installed by the Waldron firm in the sanctuary and ambulatory.

In spite of the postponement, the limestone installation continued, as did work on the vaulting and sanctuary floor and sacristies, but Bishop O'Connor's death on May 20, 1927, limited Ditmars' responsibilities to those contracts, which had already been drawn.

Meanwhile, the Waldron Company was instructed to finish the crypt where Bishop O'Connor had been laid to rest. Work commenced in August 1927 and ended some months later with the installation of a botticino marble altar purchased from Benziger Brothers of New York. The completion of all existing contracts marked Mr. Ditmars' last association with the project. (He passed away in 1935 without seeing the Cathedral completed.)

## Archbishop Walsh and new cathedral

At the death of Bishop O'Connor, Ditmars was eager to move on to the next steps to the completion of the building. In spite of his urging, however, Msgr. Duffy, administrator of the diocese during the sede vacante, with the approval of the diocesan consultants, insisted that at most he could provide for the work already under contract and in progress (the



The familiar form of the Cathedral takes shape during early days of construction.

sanctuary interior), and that any plans beyond that would have to be left to the new bishop.

On March 2, 1928, Most Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, a priest of the Diocese of Newark and Bishop of Trenton, was transferred to the See of Newark. Within two weeks, he visited the new Cathedral with Msgr. Duffy and decided that, as a means of bringing the edifice to the attention of both priests and laity, the ceremonies of his installation should be held there.

Accordingly, the place was readied as much as possible. A temporary altar, throne and chairs were provided, and the impressive ceremonies were held on May 1, 1928. This was the first time the new Cathedral had been used for any religious purpose.

The Pontifical Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, Bishop of Ogdensburg, NY. A crowd of nearly four thousand filled the Cathedral, splendidly decorated despite its unfinished condition.

Shortly thereafter, on the occasion of the first anniversary memorial Mass for Bishop O'Connor, celebrated in the new Cathedral, Bishop Walsh spoke of completing the building.

That evening, at a dinner in his honor by the men of the Holy Name Society of the diocese, he asked their help in raising the necessary funds. On that same day, also, he discussed with Ditmars the scope of the work that remained to be done.

During the month of September, the Building Committee, consisting of Msgr. Michael J. White and Father James T. Delehanty and a Father Lundy (no first name listed), met in Ditmars' office with the architect Paul C. Reilly of Reilly and Matlock, to talk over several of the items connected with the building program, such as the boiler house, the heating and ventilating systems and the completion of the crypt.

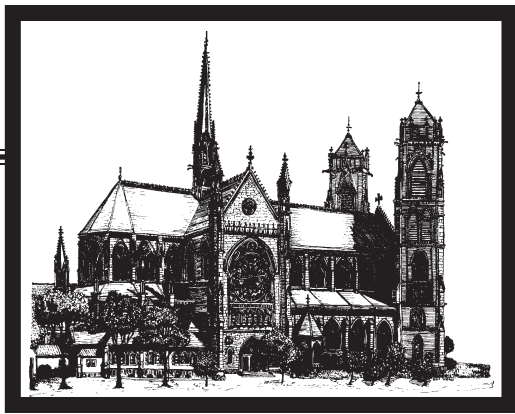
It was suggested that further consideration be given to the matter of coal vs. oil vs. another fuel. This conference was solely for the purpose of securing information, and Ditmars was advised to take no further steps until directed to do so.

At a meeting of the consultants on Oct. 9, 1928, Bishop Walsh presented the idea of a diocesan fundraising drive for the completion of several proj-

Continued on Page 29



Bishop John Joseph O'Connor



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## Delays encountered

Continued from Page 27

ects, the first of which was to be the new Cathedral. All present heartily endorsed the bishop's proposal.

In January 1929, the bishop appointed a special cathedral committee, consisting of the Father John A. O'Brien, Father Cornelius Clifford and Father Edward O'Malley.

On March 5, 1929, Ditmars, growing impatient at the delays, appealed directly to Bishop Walsh for some action. He was informed by Msgr. Duffy that the bishop desired to see complete and detailed plans for all the work still to be done, so that these plans would be studied by the special committee.



**Crowds outside the unfinished Sacred Heart Cathedral awaiting the installation of Bishop Thomas J. Walsh as Bishop of Newark on May 1, 1928.**

The monsignor suggested that the architect prepare such plans and submit them for study and possible revision. Ditmars replied that the plans he had drawn during the first years of his association with the cathedral (1910-1913) would serve that purpose and urged an early meeting of the bishop and the consultors, as it would take some time thereafter to prepare the full-size drawings necessary for estimating and construction work.

On June 1, 1929, Msgr. Duffy authorized Ditmars to prepare drawings for the completion of the interior sufficiently detailed for submission to possible bidders. The bishop would study these on his return from Europe in the autumn.

Ditmars spent the summer in this work. On Sept. 17, he called on the bishop at the chancery, outlined what he had been doing, and promised to push the work to completion.

On Oct. 23, 1929, however, he was informed that the bishop wished all work held in abeyance until a thorough study of the whole situation could be made. Ditmars interpreted this as applying to actual construction only and not to the preparation of the drawings, which he said he would continue.

In the course of the ensuing investigation, conducted by Thomas E. Fitzsimmons, the diocesan attorney, Ditmars submitted a statement of the payments received by him during the years in which he had directed the cathedral work, which totaled \$145,171.51.

At the same time, he explained that the requisitions for funds which he had been making in

recent months were standard practice among architects, and were to defray the expenses of the current office and paper work, and that they would be considered as payments on account of the amount due when construction was actually completed.

Fitzsimmons made his report to Bishop Walsh on Dec. 9, 1929. The only contracts outstanding in connection with the cathedral were two: of these, this first was the one between the diocese and Ditmars, dated Sept. 14, 1909. Fitzsimmons advised that, according to the terms of this document, the advance payments requested by Ditmars were not due, and should not be paid.

The second contract, between the diocese and Matlock, dated Jan. 20, 1926, Fitzsimmons said "should not have been signed," but, since it had been, there was nothing that could be done. (The Matlock contract covered the plans and specifications for the heating-ventilating apparatus.)

Included in the Fitzsimmons report was an estimate of the money so far spent on the Cathedral: \$3,296,881.21.

Fitzsimmons concluded by recommending that the bishop's plan for completing the building as rapidly as possible be carried out. He suggested that the architect be instructed to furnish final plans and specifications at once, that bids be gotten as soon as possible, and that a competent priest be placed in charge.

Accordingly, on Dec. 12, 1929, Fitzsimmons instructed Ditmars to furnish, as soon as possible, plans and specifications for study by Bishop Walsh and the building committee. At the same time, he notified the architect that, in his interpretation of the 1909 contract, he was not entitled to the advance payments he had been asking.

With this latter point, Ditmars disagreed, and said that he felt sure that a conference would remove the difference of opinion. Ditmars, Reilly and Fitzsimmons did meet, but the discussion had no effect on the lawyer's interpretation of the original contract.

While settlement of this disagreement was still pending, Ditmars continued work on the plans, which he delivered at the chancery on Feb. 24, 1930. At a May 27 meeting of the consultors, Bishop Walsh suggested that they be submitted to a board of architects, for expert guidance regarding their fitness and suitability.

The names of W.E. Anthony, Joseph Shaley, R.J. Reilly and G. Raggi, were proposed and agreed upon.



**Bishop Thomas Joseph Walsh**

## Cathedral opens for worship

The arrival of the fifth Bishop of Newark had signaled the dawn of a new era for the Cathedral project. While it was not until 1950 that work actually resumed, Bishop Thomas J. Walsh had laid the foundations for the raising of necessary funding, revisions in the plans and focus of the diocese (soon to be redesignated as an archdiocese) on the mother church.

Crowds as great as those who had attended Bishop Walsh's installation jammed the great nave on nine other occasions during the following 24 years. Three of those events were in honor of Newark's ordinary: the occasion of his elevation to the rank of archbishop on April 27, 1938; his silver jubilee as a bishop on July 29, 1943, and the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination on May 1, 1950.

During that same 24-year period, Archbishop Walsh consecrated six bishops. Of this group, two played a crucial role in the Cathedral's completion.

The Most Rev. Thomas A. Boland, ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark on July 25, 1940, was to succeed Archbishop Walsh and see the effort through to completion. The Most Rev. James A. McNulty, consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark on Oct. 7, 1947, functioned as a liaison between the architect and Archbishop Walsh and, at the Archbishop's death in 1952, directed that work on the Cathedral continue.



**Bishop Thomas J. Walsh, seated in *cathedra*, was installed as Bishop of Newark in the still unfinished Cathedral.**

## Drive to complete the edifice

In 1950, Archbishop Walsh used the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary of priestly ordination to announce a massive drive to finish the Cathedral in time for the diocesan centenary in 1953.

A Cathedral Builders' Association was formed to raise \$5,000,000 to finance the project. The architectural firm of Paul C. Reilly of New York was engaged, with heavy construction to be handled by the George A. Fuller Company and interior ornamentation by Prof. Gonippo Raggi and Sons of Orange.

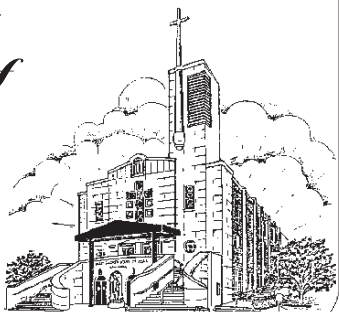
For Reilly, the 1950 appointment marked a

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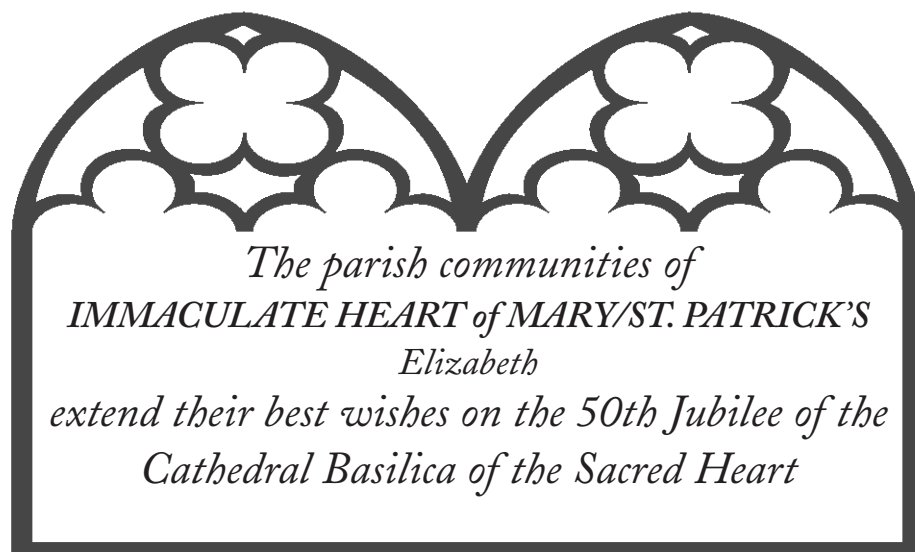
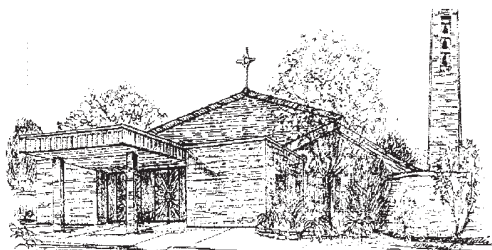
*May God continue to bestow His blessings  
upon us...As we celebrate the*

*50th Jubilee of the  
Cathedral Basilica of  
the Sacred Heart*

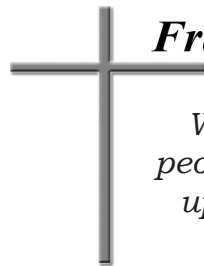
**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
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Wallington, NJ



**Most Reverend John W. Flesey,  
The Pastoral Staff, and the Parishioners of  
Most Blessed Sacrament Church, celebrate the  
Dedication of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred  
Heart on its 50th Anniversary!**



*The parish communities of  
IMMACULATE HEART of MARY/ST. PATRICK'S  
Elizabeth  
extend their best wishes on the 50th Jubilee of the  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart*



**Franciscan Sisters of the Poor**

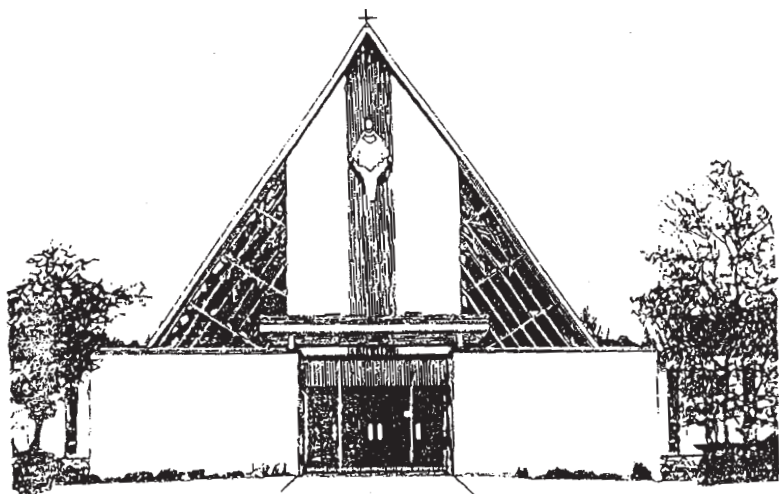
We are Women called to heal a Wounded World

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upon the 50th Anniversary of the  
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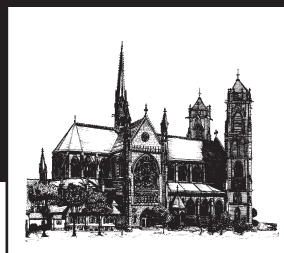


**IMMACULATE HEART  
of MARY  
Scotch Plains**

Acknowledges  
with heartfelt respect  
this momentous occasion

*50 years of fidelity to the Word of God*

**Prayers of gratitude for all who  
built and sustain  
the Cathedral Basilica  
of the Sacred Heart**



*"Let us go to the house of the Lord"*  
—Psalm 122:1

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Most Rev. John J. Myers  
President and Publisher

G. Gregory Tobin  
Editor and Associate Publisher

# The final drive

Continued from Page 29

return to the Cathedral, where he had worked as a partner with Ditmars during the earlier stages of construction.

For Raggi, the Cathedral commission was the culmination of a career totally devoted to ecclesiastical art—a career that found its expression in several church buildings in the metropolitan area.

His association with the Cathedral project found him not only at the building site, but also in Rome, where he maintained a shop and supervised several craftsmen working on his designs for the marble altars and statuary.

Work on the Cathedral's interior was quite advanced when Archbishop Walsh died on June 6, 1952.

With the nave and transept obstructed with scaffolding, it became necessary to hold the Archbishop's funeral at St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral. Following the Mass, his body was moved to the Cathedral crypt and laid to rest next to Bishop O'Connor.

Most Rev. Thomas A. Boland, who had been a diocesan priest, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and Bishop of Paterson, NJ, was appointed second Archbishop of Newark on Nov. 15, 1952 and installed on Jan. 14, 1953—in the same way Archbishop Walsh had been, though much progress on the Cathedral structure had been made in three years.

He gave the full, enthusiastic support of his office to the Cathedral effort. Hence, Reilly and Raggi continued on, working together to create the Cathedral's renowned interior.



**Bishop Thomas Aloysius Boland**

During this same period, Reilly also erected the episcopal residence on Ridge Street. It was at this time that the sanctuary floor, previously on two levels, was changed to a single-level, stage-like surface. Marble floors were laid throughout the church and heating and ventilating systems were installed for the first time.

The interior was beautifully appointed with Munich stained glass, hand carved white oak screens, massive carved limestone screens and furnishings of Italian marble.

## Historic dedication

On October 19, 1954, the dream that had been envisioned by Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley became a reality. Archbishop Thomas Aloysius Boland dedicated Newark's mighty Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in a ceremony in which he also received the pallium—the lamb's wool stole, a symbol of archepiscopal dignity and metropolitan authority—from Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

Monsignor Joseph A. Doyle, who spent his entire priestly life in the Cathedral parish, was appointed



**A procession of bishops, priests, brothers and seminarians enters the newly completed Sacred Heart Cathedral in 1954 just prior to its formal opening with a Solemn Pontifical Mass. The edifice cost \$10 million and had taken more than 50 years to complete.**

first rector, the title having been elevated from "pastor," once the Cathedral was dedicated.

Over the two decades of Archbishop Boland's episcopate, the Cathedral emerged as the center of faith and worship for the people of the Archdiocese of Newark. During his tenure, six bishops were raised to the episcopal rank, countless numbers of priests ordained at his hands, and thousands of laity, both young and old, cited and celebrated for their contributions to their Church and to society at large.

On December 2 and 8, 1972, thousands came to the Cathedral to celebrate the archbishop's golden jubilee.

Upon his retirement on April 2, 1974, Archbishop Boland invited the faithful of the local Church of Newark to return to their Cathedral on June 28 of

that year to witness the installation of his successor, Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, who had been translated from the See of Portland, ME, to the Archdiocese of Newark.

## Opening doors to the world

On coming to Newark as the diocese's seventh ordinary and third archbishop, Archbishop Gerety became the first to live in the episcopal residence attached to the Cathedral. Under his leadership, the Cathedral, as Bishop McQuaid had predicted so many decades before, opened its doors to the world.

This statement can best be exemplified in a precedent-shattering ceremony in which Right Rev. John Shelby Spong was consecrated in the Cathedral sanctuary as co-adjutor bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. This historic event took place, at Archbishop Gerety's invitation, on June 12, 1976.

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was filled to capacity, and thunderous applause echoed through the great nave as Archbishop Gerety embraced the consecrating prelate, the Right Rev. John Maury Allin, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America.

Later that same month, on June 25, Archbishop Gerety ordained three men to the episcopacy as Auxiliary Bishops of Newark in a magnificent ceremony, which was televised live throughout the state. The three were Most Rev. Robert F. Garner, Most Rev. Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., and Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi.

Prior to the ordination rite at the Archbishop's direction, following the liturgical changes after the second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, steps were taken to adapt the high altar for the modern liturgy, allowing Mass to be said facing the people, from an altar that commands the attention of those even in the farthest reaches of the Cathedral.

State and national recognition has also been accorded Newark's majestic Cathedral church, which was designated an historic landmark by the New Jersey Historical Society in December 1974. Two years later, on December 22, 1976, national

Continued on Page 33

## Reprinted from the Oct. 23, 1954 edition of *The Catholic Advocate*

The imposition of the pallium on Archbishop Thomas A. Boland Oct. 19 in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was witnessed by a large number of the recipient's colleagues in the hierarchy.

Besides Archbishop Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, who celebrated the Mass and bestowed the pallium, five other archbishops were present, as were 25 bishops and two abbots.

Among those attending were Archbishop John F. O'Hara of Philadelphia, Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford, Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley of St. Augustine, Archbishop Edward F. Hoban of Cleveland and Archbishop Paul Yo-Pin of Nanking, China.

Also present were Bishops George L. Leech, Harrisburg; Eugene L. McGuinness, Oklahoma City; Bartholomew J. Euystace, Camden; Ambrose Senyshyn, O.S.B. of the Byzantine Rite; Joseph A. Burke, Buffalo; Bryan J. McEntegard, rector of Catholic University of America; Vincent S. Waters, Raleigh; James L. Connolly, Fall River; Lawrence J. Shehan, Bridgeport; Thomas J. McDonnell, Co-adjutor of Wheeling; Cuthbert O'Gara, C.P. of Yuanling, China; James A. McNulty of Paterson, who preached; Emilianus Pillai, O.M.I. of Jaffna, Ceylon; James H. Griffiths, Auxiliary to the Military Vicar; George W. Ahr, Trenton; Walter F. Kellenberg, Ogdensburg, and Jerome D. Hannan, Scranton.

Auxiliary Bishops in attendance: John J. Boardman, Brooklyn; Leo R. Smith, Buffalo; John F. Hackett, Hartford; Edward V. Dargin of New York; Coleman Carroll, Pittsburgh; Joseph W. Pernicone, New York; Justin F. McCarthy, Newark, and Jeremiah F. Minihan, Boston.

Abbots who attended were Right Rev. Patrick M. O'Brien, O.S.B., and Right Rev. Leo A. Rudloff, O.S.B.



## The Parishes of Bayonne Deanery 13

*Heartfelt prayers  
and congratulations on the  
occasion of the*

*Golden Jubilee of the  
Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
and the closing of the  
Sesquicentennial of the  
Archdiocese of Newark*

Our Lady of the Assumption

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saint Andrew

Saint Henry

Saint Joseph

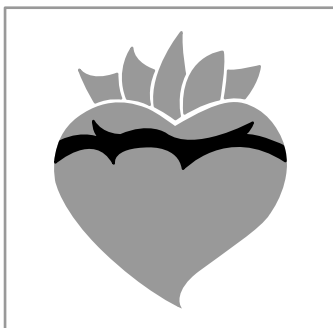
Saint Mary,  
Star of the Sea

Saint Michael

Saint Vincent DePaul

GOLDEN JUBILEE

NEWARK



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1954 – 2004

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# 'Crown Jewel'

Continued from Page 31

recognition was given the Cathedral through its designation as a national historic site.

In 1979, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart celebrated its Silver Jubilee. A sad, double irony touched the Cathedral that same year in the deaths of Archbishop Boland and Monsignor Doyle.

Twenty-five years after dedicating the Cathedral, the remains of Archbishop Boland came to rest permanently in the crypt chapel. In 1989, the remains of Bishop Wigger were taken from Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and placed in the crypt chapel.

Still, the Silver Jubilee was a cause for joy and pride. The Cathedral had stood for a quarter century as religious witness and cultural enrichment to the people of the Newark area and to all the men and women of good will who entered its doors and were part of its programs and inspiration.

On July 25, 1986, Most Rev. Theodore E. McCarrick was installed as the fourth Archbishop of Newark in the sanctuary of the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Before coming to Newark, he had been the founding Bishop of Metuchen and an Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

A record 3,100 people attended the installation ceremonies.

During Archbishop McCarrick's time in Newark, the Cathedral received restorative maintenance to the exterior; exterior lights were installed to enhance nighttime viewing of the Cathedral from all points of the city, and seven archdiocesan priests were ordained bishops there:

On Jan. 25, 1988, Bishop John M. Smith was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. From 1991-95, he served as bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL; from 1995-97 as co-adjutor bishop of Trenton, and as bishop of Trenton since 1997.

On Jan. 25, 1988, Bishop James T. McHugh was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. From 1989-99, he served as Bishop of Camden, and as Bishop of Rockville Centre, NY, in 2000. He died Dec. 10, 2000.

On July 30, 1990, Michael A. Saltarelli was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. In 1996 he was appointed Bishop of Wilmington, DE.

The episcopal ordination of Charles J. McDonnell took place on May 12, 1994. He served as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark until his retirement in May 2004.

Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark on Oct. 31, 1996. From 1999-2003, he served as Bishop of Camden. In 2003, he was appointed Bishop of Brooklyn.

On Sept. 8, 2000, Arthur J. Serratelli was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. In 2004, he became Bishop of Paterson.

## Cathedral a minor basilica

In October 1995, Pope John Paul II visited the state of New Jersey and the Archdiocese of Newark. He was so impressed with Newark's Cathedral of the Sacred Heart that he elevated it the rank of a minor basilica.

At the time, Archbishop McCarrick said the pope commented on the beauty of the Cathedral and declared, "this church should really be a basilica."

Naming a church a basilica formally acknowledges that the structure has particular religious or historical importance—such as St. Peter's in Rome. There are only 32 minor basilicas in the United States.

As the archbishop happily accepted the honor, the pope turned to a secretary and noted, "Send in the papers so you will receive the proper acknowledgment and certification."

Minor basilicas usually have special privileges and a distinctive emblem: an "umbrella"

striped in yellow and red, to stand for the papal and senatorial colors. This ombrellino was formally carried over the Holy Father in the days when the papal entourage made official visits on horseback.

Other insignia of minor basilicas are a bell on a staff, used to alert people to the coming of the pope; and the right to display the papal coat of arms in the sanctuary or above the front door.

## The first century observed

The 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart was commemorated with a blessing of the restored cornerstone and Mass on June 11, 1999. The celebration was part of the Archdiocese's celebration for the upcoming Jubilee year in 2000.

The cornerstone was set in June of 1899. It is granite and seven feet long, three feet wide, and two feet thick with the inscription "A 1899 D" on each end. It contains two stones from Israel inscribed with the words "Jerusalem" and "Bethlehem."

The ceremonial laying of the cornerstone attracted 10,000 Catholics to the Cathedral Plaza and more than 50,000 others who stood on a hill in adjoining Branch Brook Park. The *Newark Evening News* reported that it was the largest public gathering in Newark up to that time.

For Catholics, the new millennium marked an opportunity to respond to Pope John Paul II's call to celebrate, reconcile and rejuvenate their faith.

That call was answered with enthusiasm in the Archdiocese of Newark. Catholic parishes in the archdiocese heralded the 2000th anniversary of

birth of Jesus with the ringing of their bells at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

At midnight Mass, Archbishop McCarrick opened the holy door that was sealed at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, in May 1998.

The Mass and ceremony there followed a similar celebration in Rome, where Pope John Paul II took a hammer, knocked three times on the holy door of St. Peter's Basilica and said, "Open to me the gates of justice."

The gesture connected the faithful of the archdiocese with the Jubilee 2000 celebration in Rome and throughout the universal Church.

Archbishop McCarrick designated the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and two parishes in each county as Jubilee Pilgrimage Churches. Each of the designated county churches was either a Marian church or a church named for an apostle.

He celebrated Mass at the designated parishes when each opened their Holy Doors over Christmas week.

The archbishop also declared that all the faithful who visited the Jubilee Pilgrimage Churches would receive the plenary indulgence of the Jubilee, granted by the Holy Father, and which could be applied to the souls in purgatory. The holiday season concluded on New Year's Eve when many parishes remained open until midnight for "Pray and Party" programs.

At the time, archdiocesan Jubilee Commission Chairman, Msgr. Timothy Shugrue, said the season was a good time to rejuvenate people's faith and sense of community.

"The Jubilee year is a spiritual opportunity for us to focus on the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ," he said. He added that it would allow people to reflect on the role "we have in history and what we are called to be as Christians."

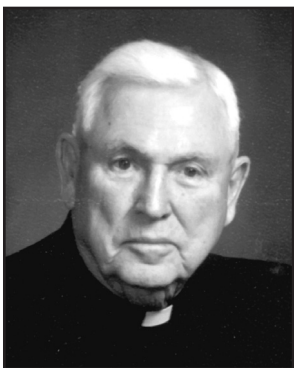
On Nov. 21, 2000 Archbishop McCarrick was appointed Archbishop of Washington, DC, the third time in the history of the diocese that an ordinary from Newark had been transferred to another see (the other two being Bishops Bayley and Corrigan).

The Holy Father elevated Archbishop McCarrick to the cardinalate on Feb. 21, 2001.

## A new archbishop arrives

Several months passed before a successor to Archbishop McCarrick was announced, during which time Bishop Paul Bootkoski served as apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Newark. Word came On July 24, 2001: Most Rev. John J. Myers, Bishop of Peoria, IL, was named to the position of chief shepherd of the local Church of Newark.

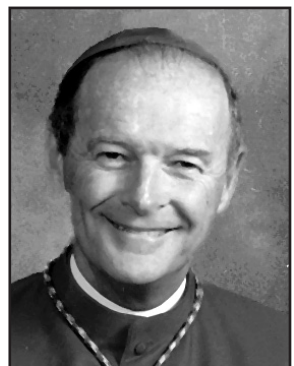
On October 9, Archbishop Myers was installed as the fifth Archbishop of Newark, in a magnificent ceremony that signaled the transfer of ecclesiastical authority and at the same time memorialized the tragic events of the previous month—the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.



**Archbishop Peter  
Leo Gerety**



**Archbishop John  
Joseph Myers**



**Archbishop Theodore  
Edgar McCarrick**



Continued on Page 38

# Within Cathedral's walls the vibrancy of a people is celebrated

BY MICHAEL WOJCIK

Special to The Catholic Advocate

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, has often been described as the “jewel” of the Church of Newark.

Like a coveted and priceless gem, the Cathedral Basilica sparkles from its many facets, among them the religious, the artistic and the historical.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart has impressed people as much as many of the events that have taken place within its walls, including installations, ordinations, jubilees, anniversaries, award ceremonies and concerts.

The Cathedral Basilica also is a sacred site for the rituals common to the passages in life such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Many contemporary celebrities have walked through the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The aisles have welcomed a pope, a U.S. president, cardinals, archbishops, notable Religious and famous musicians.

If that weren't enough, both the federal and state governments have recognized the Cathedral Basilica for its historical and artistic contributions to New Jersey and the City of Newark.

The media shone its spotlight in early October 1995 on Sacred Heart Cathedral as John Paul II visited the New York, Newark and Baltimore archdioceses. On Oct. 4, the pontiff presided over a prayer service at the Cathedral with Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick attended by President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodman Clinton and local dignitaries. It was after the prayer service that the pope proposed that the Cathedral be elevated to the rank of Minor Basilica.

Less than four months earlier, the Cathedral experienced another brush with fame. On June 7, Mother Teresa, foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, attended the profession ceremonies of six active nuns with her religious order who work with the poor, and of four contemplative nuns who support the order's work through prayer.

Archbishop McCarrick called Mother Teresa's visit to the archdiocese “a grace for all of us.”

In February 1978, Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who brought Catholicism into the TV age, opened the series of special Lenten Sunday programs.

Archbishop Sheen celebrated Mass at the Cathedral and preached the homily. The Mass marked his second Lenten visit to the Newark Archdiocese.

The Cathedral Basilica also has welcomes such Church dignitaries as Cardinal John J. Krol, the late Archbishop of Philadelphia, and Cardinal John O'Connor, the late Archbishop of New York.

Thousands of non-celebrities have enjoyed the splendor of the Cathedral Basilica as well. In June 1978, visitors from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, toured the Cathedral as it underwent major renovations.

The pilgrimage gave visitors “a chance to share our faith and get in touch with other

Catholics,” said Brother Edward Adams, director of education at the shrine.

Others have recognized the history and artistry of the Cathedral. In December 1953, the magazine of the natural building stone industry devoted an entire issue to what it called “a single magnificent structure.” The New Jersey Historical Society in 1974 designated the Cathedral a historical landmark. Two years later, the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior placed it on the National Register of Historic Places.



Advocate photo - Ward Miele

**The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart reaches majestically into the early autumn sky.**

The Cathedral's beauty and distinguished past were captured in a 30-page booklet published in 1979. Written by John O'Hara, the Cathedral's publicity director, the booklet offered a walking tour of the building and included a large selection of photographs.

In addition to being a work of art in itself, Sacred Heart Cathedral has displayed artwork. On Dec. 8, 1979, the house of worship housed treasures of Marian art loaned principally by archdiocesan monasteries and convents for the celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The event commemorated the 125th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

Among the pieces were a Byzantine Madonna painted on bronze, a medieval woodcarving and a statue of Our Lady of Montserrat in alabaster.

The Cathedral Basilica has distinguished itself for sponsoring other forms of artistic expression, most notably music.

For decades the Cathedral has presented its annual concert series each Christmas season, which fea-

tures performances by choirs, orchestras and solo organists. Among the artists who have graced the Cathedral were the Winchester Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, flamenco guitarist Carlos Montoya and classical violinist Yehudi Menuhin.

In 1968 at the Cathedral, Duke Ellington conducted “jazz vespers” for an ecumenical concert organized by the Youth Consultation Service of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

Theater has also been part of the Cathedral's rich history. In 1977, the black gospel musical *Don't Cry Mary* was performed.

As the jewel of the local Church of Newark, the Cathedral Basilica has been part of many Catholic traditions carried out in the archdiocese. Its ornate walls have witnessed the installations and ordinations of archbishops and bishops and the ordinations of priests and deacons.

There, Religious brothers and nuns have professed their solemn vows.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart also holds annual or less frequent rites, services and ceremonies throughout the liturgical year. The building has hosted the investitures of priests elevated to the rank of honorary prelates.

Regularly scheduled Cathedral events include the Masses that commemorate wedding anniversaries, the Mass for health care workers, the Red Mass for those in the legal profession, the Chrism Mass, Masses for Boy Scout and Girl Scout Sundays, the Rites of Election and the Mass for Catechists.

At the Cathedral Basilica, hundreds of clergy and Religious have celebrated their own jubilees, while several Newark archbishops have marked the anniversaries of their episcopacies and their ordinations into the priesthood.

In addition to milestones for clergy and Religious, Catholics have celebrated important anniversaries in the life of the local Church.

In 1979, Polish-American Catholics marked the 900th anniversary of their patron saint, St. Stanislaus, coinciding with Pope John Paul II's return to his native Poland. They returned to the Cathedral in October 1989 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Holy Father's pontificate.

Some Cathedral Basilica events are not so much celebrations as they are remembrances.

In 1987, the Newark Church Consultation sponsored an ecumenical service for the 20th anniversary of the Newark riots which had crippled the city and claimed the lives of 26 people. Three days after the terrorists attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, which hit the Church of Newark especially hard, a special Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica.

On another solemn note, the Masses of Christian Burial of many of Newark's bishops and archbishops have taken place at the Cathedral Basilica. The Cathedral crypt is the final resting place for several of Newark's archdiocesan leaders.

*Michael Wojcik, a former reporter for The Catholic Advocate, is now with The Beacon of the Diocese of Paterson in the same capacity. This article is reprinted from May 29, 1996.*



Advocate photo- Greg Tobin

# Many generations have contributed to Cathedral

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was formally opened on Oct. 19, 1954. It had been 101 years since the Diocese of Newark was established in 1853 and almost a century since Bishop James R. Bayley envisioned a cathedral in 1859. It was almost a century since Winand Wigger had laid the cornerstone in 1899. It was more than a quarter century since Archbishop Thomas John Walsh had first used the Cathedral for worship in 1928 and it was just four years since he had launched the final effort in 1950. Four generations of Newark Catholics had contributed to their Cathedral. Three generations of skilled workers had constructed it. Most Rev. Thomas Aloysius Boland had been installed as the Archdiocese of Newark's sixth leader (second auxiliary) in 1953 and carried the cathedral to completion.

He was to receive the pallium, symbol of his rank, on Oct. 19. This would coincide with the (postponed) diocesan centennial observance.

Pastors of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish
Michael A. McManus 1889-1892
James J. Brennan 1892-1897
James J. Sheehan 1897-1921
Edward J. Barrett 1921-1937
Cornelius J. Corcoran 1937-1941
Thomas F. Moran 1941-1950
Rectors of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Church
Joseph A. Doyle, 1950-1975
Joseph F. Flusk, 1975-1979
Edward J. Hajduk, 1979-1980
Francis R. Seymour, 1980-1982
Cajetan P. Salemi, 1982-1987
Francis R. LoBoianco, 1987-1990
Michael A. Saltarelli, 1990-1996
Richard F. Groncki, 1996-present

The formal opening ceremony filled the Cathedral to its capacity of 2500. Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, bestowed the pallium on Archbishop Boland. The ceremony was televised, Catholic schools had a free day. A spirit of celebration prevailed. Msgr. Joseph A. Doyle was appointed administrator of the Cathedral. He and other priests lived in the adjacent episcopal residence, newly completed. Archbishop Peter Leo Gerety was the first archbishop to reside there in 1974 and his successors followed suit.

# The sounds of worship reverberate throughout our archdiocese

Reprinted from a special edition of The Catholic Advocate published on May 29, 1996 marking the elevation of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart by Pope John Paul II.

The sound of the 14 bronze bells in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is as unique as their origin.

The bells were made by Diciano Colbachini E. Figli (Colbachini and Sons) in Padua, Italy. The firm has been making bells since its founding in 1745.

The bells of the Cathedral Basilica do not swing, as church bells are often portrayed. They are stationary, struck by electrically operated hammers on the outside. This is "typical of bells that are made to be played rather than rung" explained David Fedor, Cathedral Basilica organist and director of music.

When the bells were installed in 1953, they were played from a 14-key keyboard and operated in the gallery (choir loft). The timer played the angelus and three bells sounded out a peal on festive occasions.

But there was a long time when the bells were silent.

The electronic system fell into disrepair over the years, and by 1985, the system was virtually inoperable and "had not been used in many years," said Fedor.

Fedor came to the Cathedral Basilica in 1986. Around that time, a company from Pennsylvania was called in to evaluate the bells. At the company's suggestion, the old ringing system was removed and replaced.

The new system "allows us to do things we could never have done before," Fedor said.

Hymns are programmed into the system with a digital encoder, he noted and "the bells can now play themselves."

But this was not always the case. When the bells were being tested during the rewiring process, nearby Barringer High School called to ask if someone had died because they hadn't heard the bells for so long.

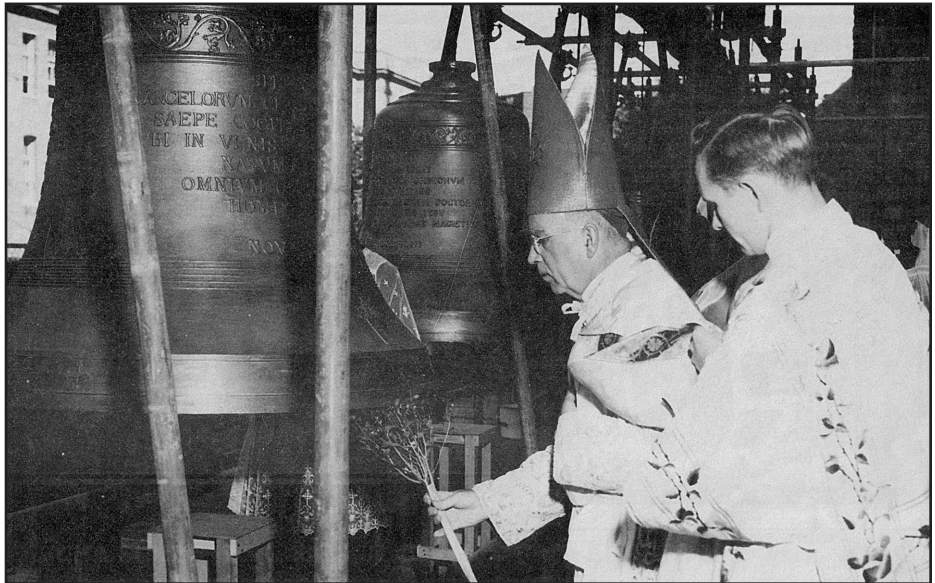
The bells have once again "become a part of life" around the Cathedral Basilica, Fedor said. The angelus still plays daily at noon and it is now followed by two seasonal hymns. A peal announces each Mass.

The group of bells, since it is less than 25, is called a chime rather than a carillon, Fedor noted. The octave and one note range is produced by the 14 bells.

The Cathedral Basilica bells, already unique, are made even more so by the Latin dedications on each one.

Each bell is dedicated to the Angels of the Lords, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (name of the Cathedral Basilica), St. Patrick (patron of the archdiocese), events in the life of Christ, the Holy Church on Earth or the Blessed Mother.

Although "it is not unusual to name or have inscription" on bells, Fedor said the inscriptions on the Cathedral Basilica bells are "very personal, like poetry."



Archbishop Thomas A. Boland blesses the bells of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart before their installation in 1953.

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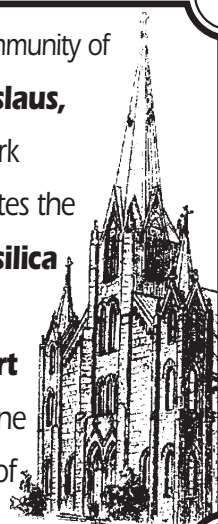
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The parish community of  
**Christ the King Church**  
Hillside

The Parish Community of  
**St. Stanislaus,**  
Newark  
congratulates the  
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**Sacred Heart**

for all that is done  
under your roof



We gratefully celebrate the  
**50th Jubilee of the Cathedral Basilica**

as we rejoice  
with our own

**IRENE BROWNE**  
Jubilee Medal recipient



**St. Margaret of Cortona Church**  
Little Ferry/Moonachie, NJ



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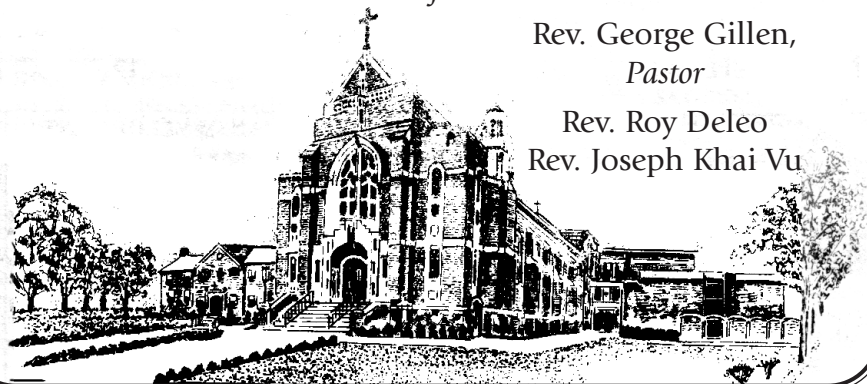
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# Cathedral Basilica enduring symbol of faith and hope for archdiocese

BY WARD MIELE  
Managing Editor

For those steeped in the history of the Archdiocese of Newark, the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is a special place.

Msgr. Robert J. Wister, professor of Church history at the Immaculate Conception Seminary, School of Theology, Seton Hall University, conceded he always calls the landmark edifice the “Newark Cathedral.”

For Msgr. Francis R. Seymour, a former rector of the Cathedral Basilica and now the archdiocesan archivist, fond memories harken back to Dec. 5, 1954, just two months after the cathedral opened, at the investiture of his uncle, Cornelius J. Boyle, as monsignor.

Msgr. Boyle was among 35 invested on that historic winter day.

From where he sits as archivist, librarian and assistant professor at Seton Hall University, Alan B. Delozier calls the Cathedral Basilica a “remarkable testament to the Catholic Church in New Jersey and especially to the people of Newark.”

Citing the Cathedral Basilica’s most striking feature, Msgr. Wister called it “the most beautiful Gothic style building in the western hemisphere.”

Expounding on that point, Msgr. Wister touched on what is probably a little known fact—the Cathedral Basilica differs from Gothic churches of Europe because it is the product of 20th century construction. A prime example, he noted, is the steel beams used in the Cathedral Basilica.

Another nugget of information about the site of the landmark structure, Msgr. Wister revealed, is that the acreage was a sandstone quarry 200 years ago. In fact, Msgr. Wister added, stones from that quarry were used to build President’s Hall on the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, declared Msgr. Wister, is “a symbol of the archdiocese, its spectacular beauty is also a symbol of hope for the City of Newark.”

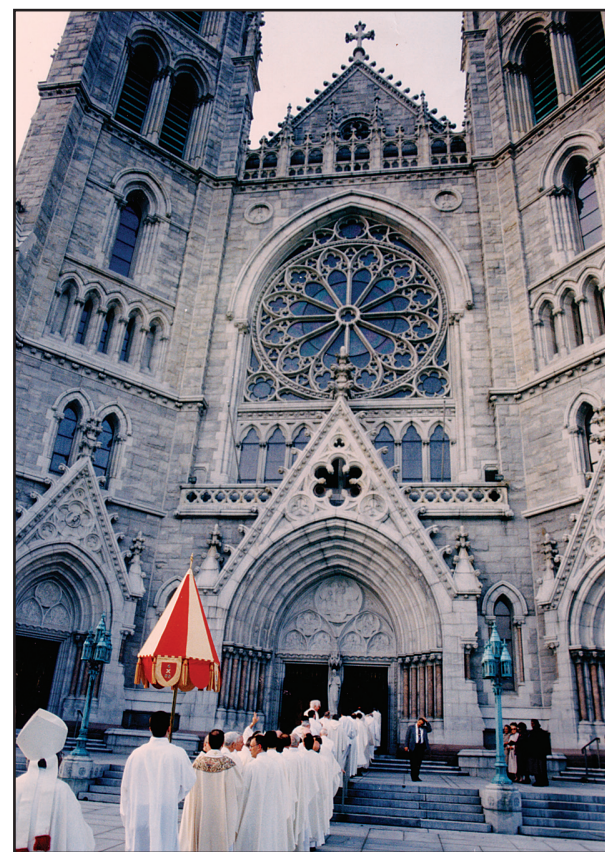
Looking back to his first visit to the Cathedral as a high school student a half century ago, Msgr. Seymour remembers he was “overwhelmed.” He never thought, the monsignor continued, that nine years later he would be ordained to the priesthood nine years later and serve as rector 16 years after that first visit.

He too pointed to some unique stories about the Cathedral Basilica.

In the early 1950’s, when it was about to open, the idea of installing an electronic organ as a money-saving move surfaced. The idea was forwarded by Auxiliary Bishop James A. McNulty to archdiocesan music expert at the time, Msgr. Andrew Maine.

The monsignor’s reply was blunt, an electronic organ was fine if one was building a theater but a pipe organ is the only appropriate equipment for a cathedral.

Msgr. Seymour recalls too that 30 years ago, when Archbishop Emeritus Peter L. Gerety was going to be installed, the custom then was to do so in a stadium or arena setting.



June 1996 marked elevation of status for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Once the new archbishop saw the Cathedral Basilica for the first time, he immediately decided it was where his installation should take place.

The first bishop ordained at the still unfinished cathedral was Thomas J. Walsh on May 1, 1928. He also became the first archbishop to be installed, at a still unfinished cathedral, a decade later.

For the occasion in 1938, Msgr. Seymour explained, the walls and windows were finished but there was nothing inside. Planks were used on the dirt floor and tapestries were used to cover other incomplete features of the structure.

The tapestries were lent by department store mogul Louis Bamberger, was a friend of the new archbishop.

Msgr. Seymour is not alone in citing the Oct. 4, 1995 visit of Pope John Paul II to the Cathedral Basilica as a major highlight.

Msgr. Seymour at the time was in-studio commentator at Channel 9 in nearby Secaucus. The “most striking” moment for Msgr. Seymour came when the Holy Father walked down the center aisle of the Cathedral Basilica where the monsignor had been “thousands of times.”

It was, he said, a “tremendously moving moment.”

Delozier also cited the Gothic architecture of the Cathedral, calling it “one of the best examples” of the Gothic style in the entire country.

The Cathedral Basilica, Delozier went on, is “the heart and soul of the Church in the Archdiocese of Newark.” Saying it is “all about the people of Newark,” he called the construction period from 1887 to 1954 “an amazing feat and an example of faith.”



Adjacent to the cornerstone, off to the right, are stones from Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Winand Wigger on June 11, 1899.

Advocate photo - Ward Miele

# New archbishop

Continued from Page 33

Archbishop Myers had been ordained a bishop on Sept. 3, 1987, and served as co-adjutor Bishop of Peoria, then acceded to the See of Peoria on Jan. 23, 1990.

As a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Myers has served on the Canonical Affairs Committee (1988-2002), Committee on Shrines and Pilgrimages (since 1990), Committee on Vocations (1995-1998), Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse (2002), Committee on Hispanic Affairs (since 2002) and Committee on Aid to Eastern Europe (since 1999).

Currently, he serves on the Board of Governors of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Boston, MA; the Seminary Board, Kenrick-Glennon, of the Archdiocese of St. Louis; the Seminary Committee, Finance Committee, Ad Hoc Committee for By-Laws and Board of Trustees of the Catholic University of America, and the Board of Trustees of the Papal Foundation.

Archbishop Myers, who holds a doctorate in canon law, has participated extensively in numerous canon law projects, and has produced scholarly writings on a range of topics including diocesan finance, ecclesial ministries, the rights

of unborn children and the family.

He embraced the Catholic community of 1.3 million faithful in the four counties that comprise the archdiocese: Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union. He has celebrated numerous significant events and anniversaries in the Cathedral Basilica and dedicated himself to its preservation and improvement.

## Three new auxiliaries ordained

On Sept. 3, 2003, Archbishop Myers ordained Most. Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. Bishop da Cunha currently serves as Regional Bishop for Essex County.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Charles J. McDonnell, Regional Bishop for Bergen County, and Bishop David Arias, O.A.R., Regional Bishop for Hudson County, Archbishop Myers appointed two new auxiliary bishops.

In the same faith-filled Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on Aug. 4, 2004, Archbishop Myers ordained Most Rev. Thomas A. Donato and Most. Rev. John W. Flesey as Auxiliary Bishops Newark. Bishop Donato became the Regional Bishop for Hudson County and Bishop Flesey, the Regional Bishop for Bergen County.

Some of the most extensive work on the history of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, through the early 1990's was done by

Father Michael E. Gubernat, currently the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fairview.

In addition to his own researches and fact-checking, Father Gubernat in turn relied on the manuscript of Father Joseph Brady, dated 1950. There are tour books with historical and other information available in the office of the Cathedral Basilica.

Improvements and renovations are periodically undertaken in order to preserve the beauty and integrity of the structure. Air-conditioning was installed recently, which affords additional comfort and safety for thousands of worshipers during very hot summer days.

The Golden Jubilee celebration, scheduled for Oct. 17, 2004, is scheduled to include a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a reception at the Archdiocesan Center, across the street on Clifton Avenue, and a concert of spiritual music as part of the ongoing Cathedral Choir Series.

Guided tours of the Cathedral Basilica are available throughout the year.

To arrange for a tour of groups of at least 15 persons call the main office weekdays at (973) 484-4600 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tours are usually scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. Tours are also available for smaller groups following the noon Mass on Sundays.

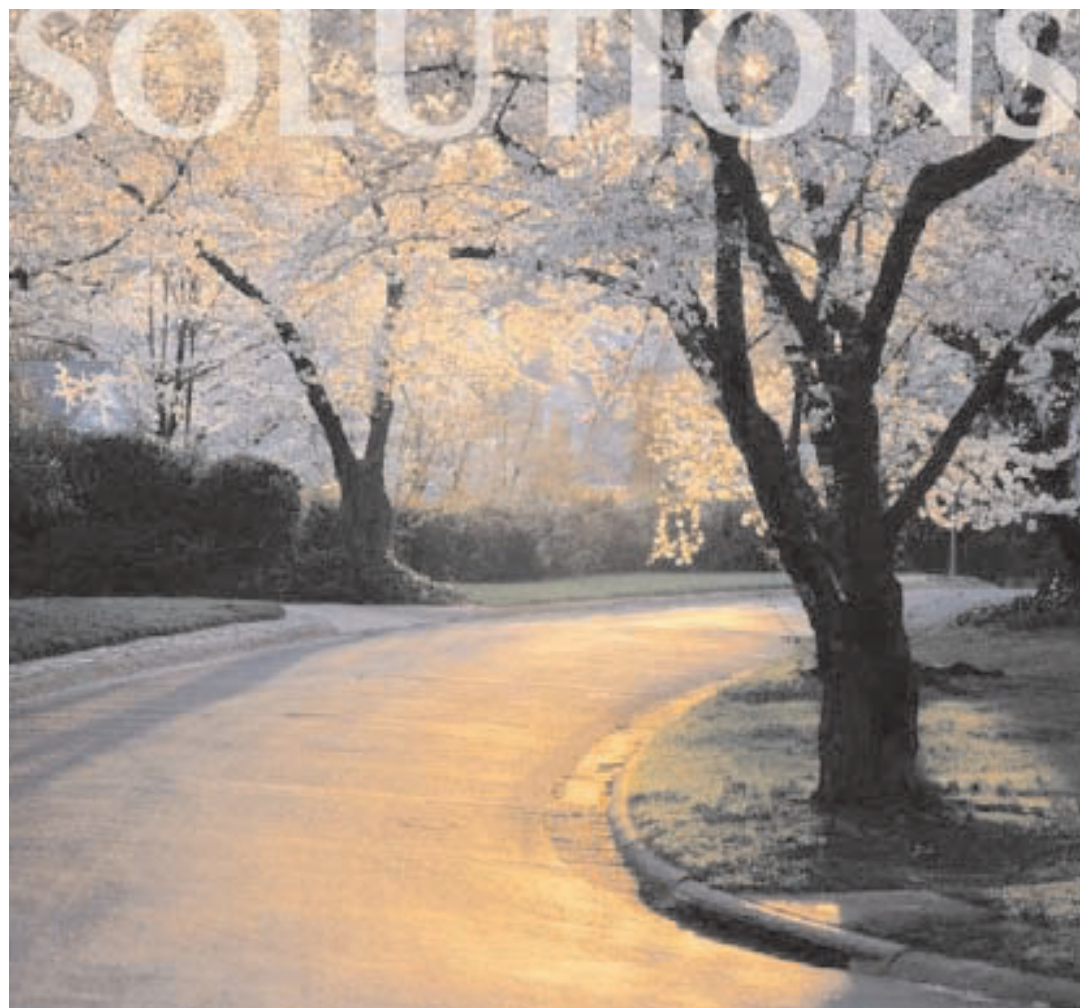


The events of Sept. 11, 2001 sent shockwaves through the Archdiocese of Newark. Scores of families in the four counties of Bergen, Essex, Union and especially Hudson, lost loved ones. Memorial services were held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and in parishes, as the faithful leaned on one another for spiritual support and to express their grief.



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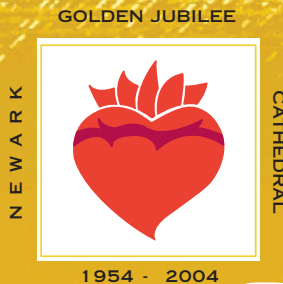
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