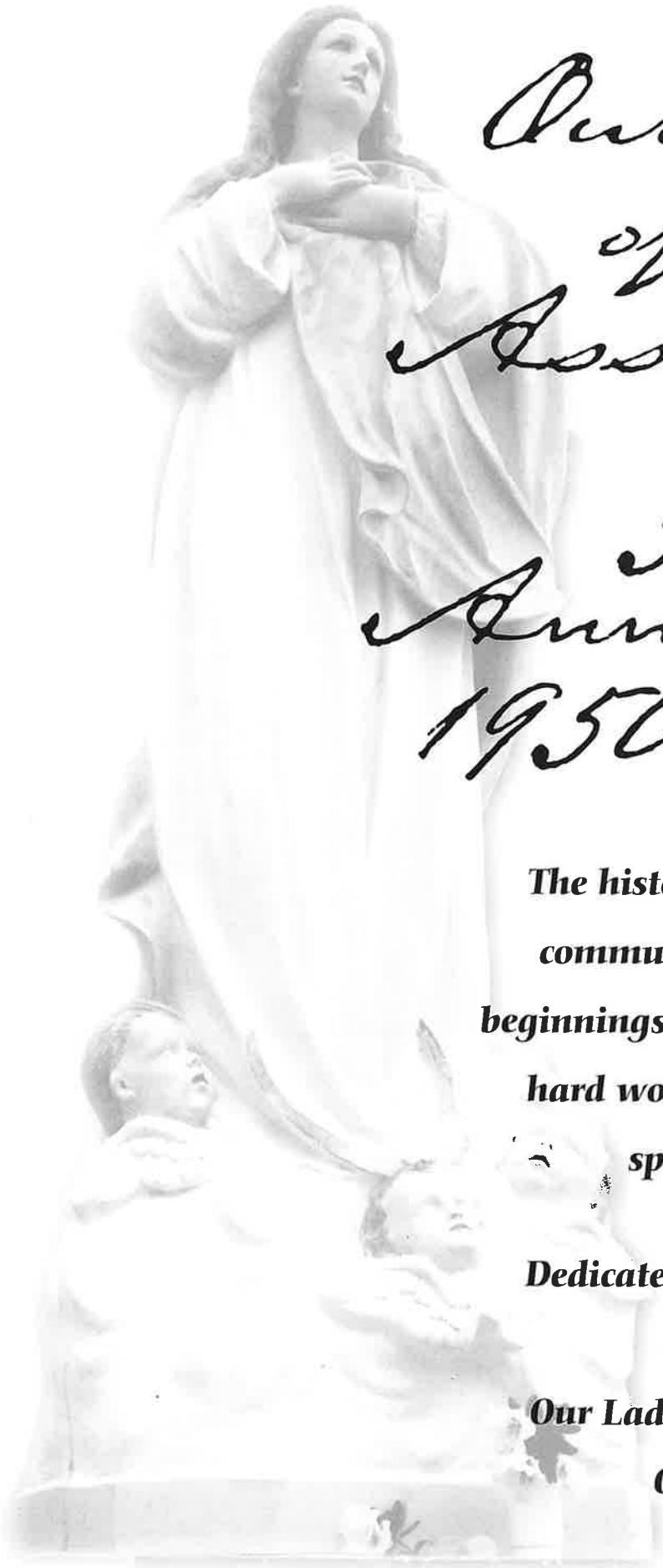
Our Lady of the Assumption

50th Anniversary

1950–2000



Our Lady of the Assumption

50th Anniversary

1950–2000

The history of a church and a community from its earliest beginnings through five decades of hard work, perseverance, and spiritual growth.

Dedicated to Christ, Our Lord,
and to Mary,
Our Lady of the Assumption,
Our Patroness

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Hal-Jay










HELAND









APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

No. 6687
This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

July 21, 2000

Dear Father McAllister:

On the happy occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Carmichael, California, it is my distinct privilege to convey to the entire parish community the heartfelt congratulations and prayerful good wishes of His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

It is the hope of the Holy Father that this celebration will awaken in all members of your parish a renewed consciousness of their Christian dignity and mission and a recommitment to Catholic values, as found in the Gospel and reaffirmed by the Magisterium of the Church.

His Holiness desires to unite with the entire parish family in thanking God for the blessings of the past fifty years, while entrusting the future into the loving hands of Mary, Mother of the Church.

As a sign of his spiritual esteem and solidarity, Pope John Paul II imparts to the parish his Apostolic Blessing, granted through the intercession of Mary Immaculate.

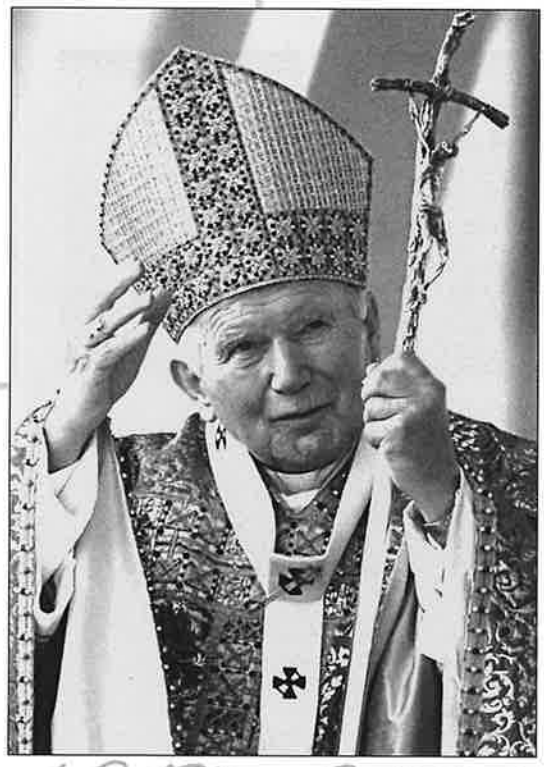
May I be allowed to join with the sentiments of the Holy Father and add my own good wishes.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Gabriel Montalvo

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo
Apostolic Nuncio

Reverend Leo McAllister, Pastor
Our Lady of the Assumption Church
Carmichael, California
October 2000



50th Anniversary 1950-2000


















DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2000

Dear Friends in Christ:

I wish to add my voice to the many others who express congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. On this festive occasion, you have every reason to rejoice. You have a faith history and a legacy of good works and witness which stretches back over 50 years. God has been with you, his people, during this whole time.

Anniversaries are a time when we pause to reflect, give thanks, and anticipate the future. Praised be Jesus Christ for these 50 years of Catholic life and faithful witness! Just think of the number of Masses offered, sacraments celebrated, and precious events shared together!

A parish is like a family, not only made up of present members, but also of a past, richly endowed with good people and devoted leaders who have gone before us. Under the pastoral care of the many dedicated priests, deacons, religious, and lay leaders you have formed an effective parish community where you worship together, your children are educated in the faith, and where you come together in a spirit of service to one another and to the broader community.

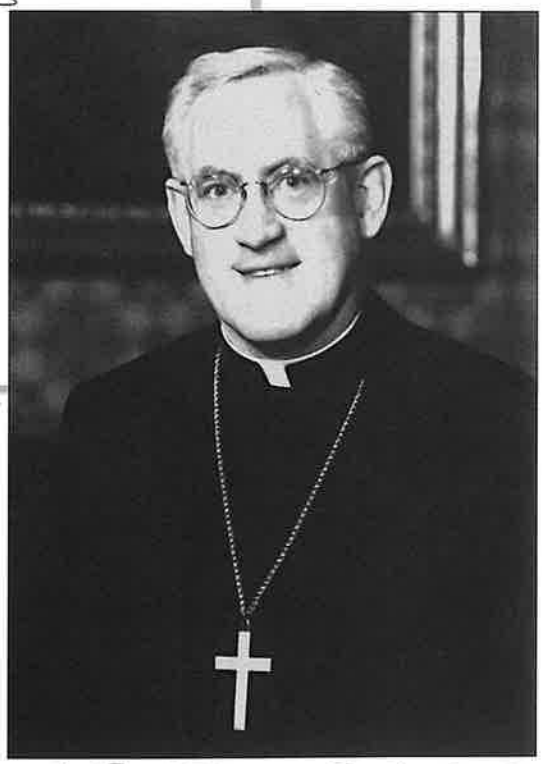
I extend my best wishes and gratitude to all who have made Our Lady of the Assumption a vibrant faith community. I assure you of my prayers as you continue forward into the new century and the new millennium.

Sincerely in Christ,

+William K. Weigand

WILLIAM K. WEIGAND
Bishop of Sacramento

ms



50th Anniversary 1950–2000

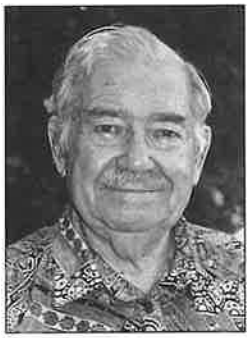




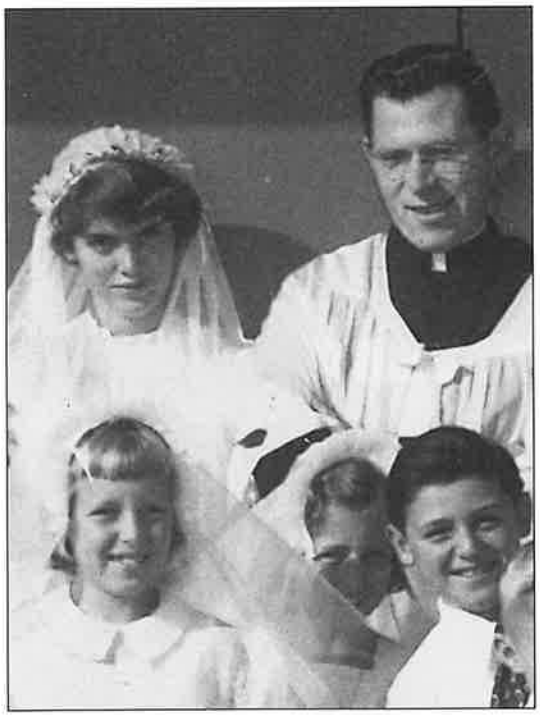






























Our Lady of the Assumption

The Pastor's Message

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

5057 COTTAGE WAY
CARMICHAEL, CALIFORNIA 95608
TELEPHONE (916) 481-5115

December, 2000

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In 1950, OLA's first parishioners came together to build a place to worship on Sundays. In the process, they formed a strong Catholic community in Carmichael. These parishioners of yesterday, under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Bannon, generously gave their time, energy, and talents as well as their financial support toward the common goal: building a church and a school.

Building a church from nothing was no small feat. Fr. Bannon and the parishioners are to be commended for persevering through the long drawn-out process of planning and building a parish plant that included not just the first church and school, but a rectory, a convent, and, later, a second church.

Yet, while a parish can be admired for its buildings, it's the people who make it truly impressive. From the very beginning, it was always the people along with the priests, sisters, deacons, teachers, and special ministers who have worked and served so devotedly over the years. The church is inside each one of us and it's our involvement in and personal contributions to the numerous parish activities and missions that have given Our Lady of the Assumption its dynamic reputation for fifty years.

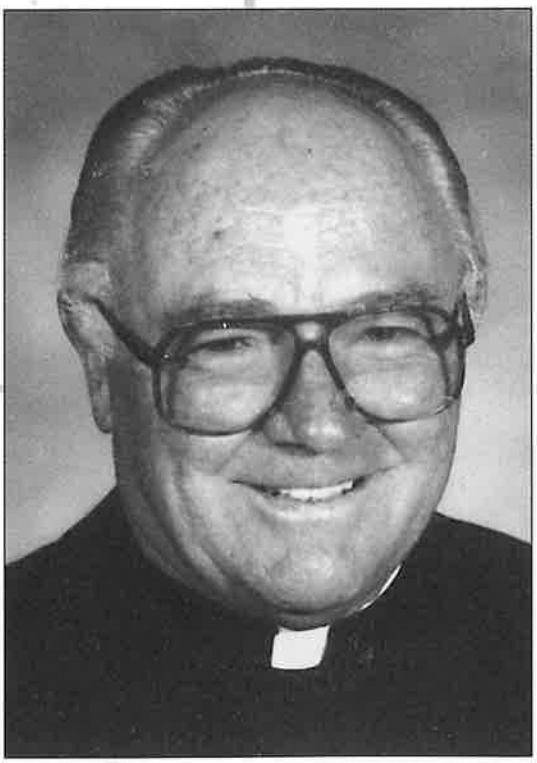
I am honored to be the pastor of this outstanding parish and extend a heartfelt "thank you" and ""God bless" to everyone.

Congratulations to all on the 50th!

Yours in Christ,

Leo McAllister

Fr. Leo McAllister



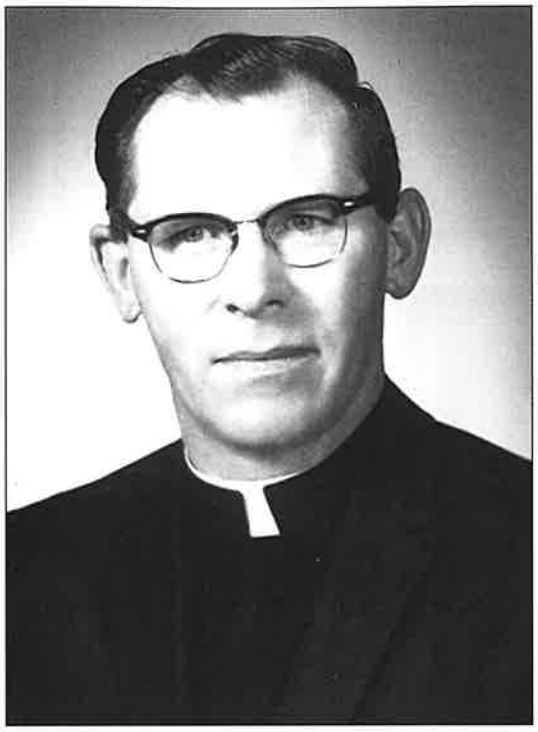
50th Anniversary 1950-2000



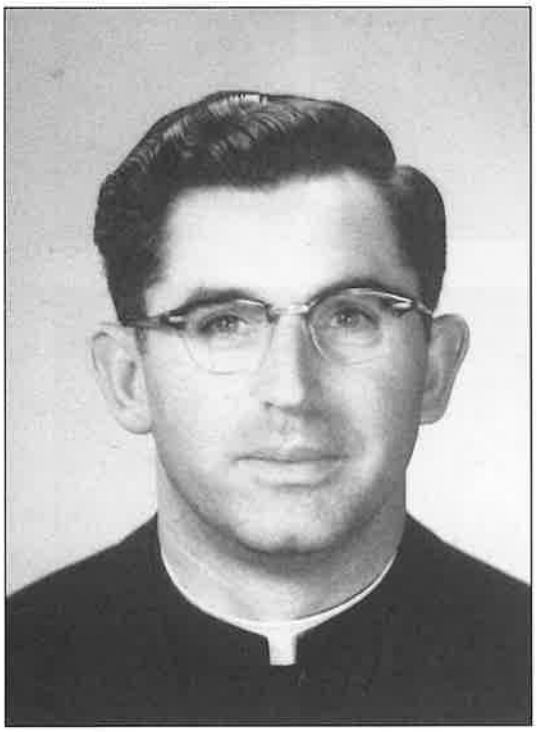
Fr. Bannon supervises construction in 1951.

Pastors

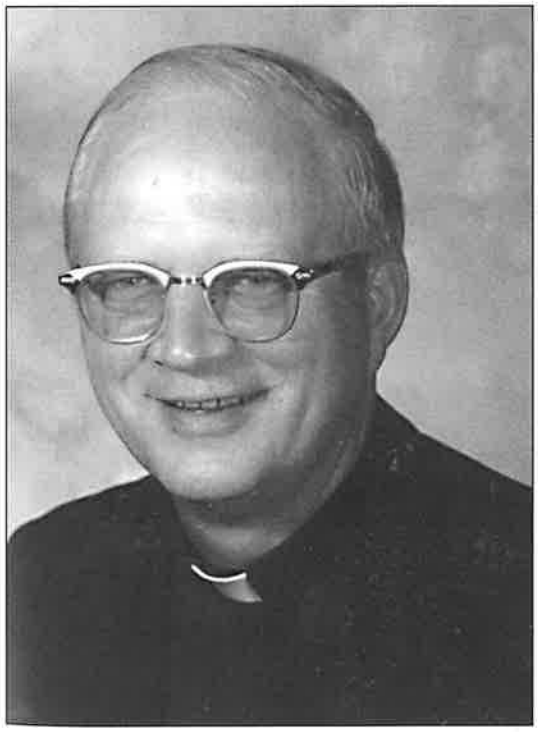
Pastors and their years at OLA:



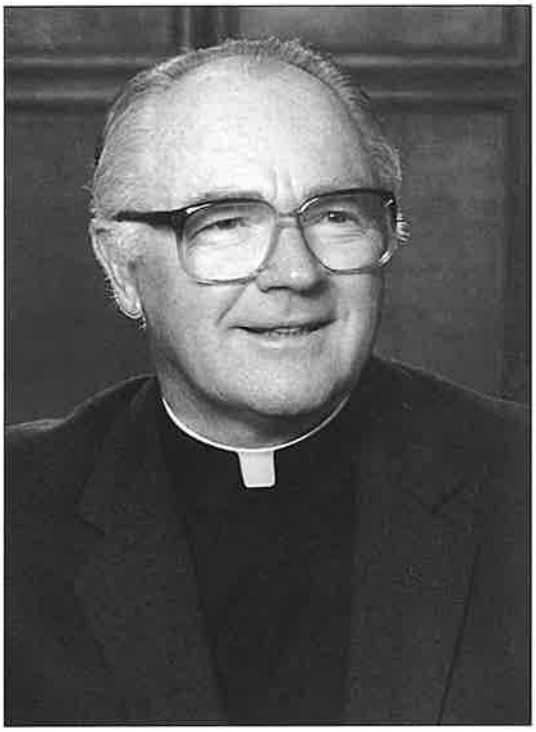
Father Thomas Bannon 1950–1970



Father Christopher Neary 1970–1972



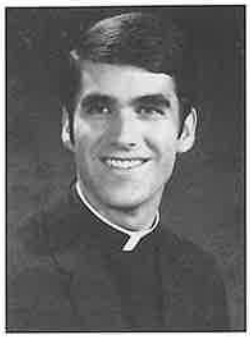
Monsignor Cornelius O'Connor 1972–1989



Father Leo McAllister 1989–present

A parish pastor is one who guides his congregation through growth and spiritual development. The responsibility is tremendous and his success is dependent upon the possession of leadership and administrative qualities as well as the attributes of patience, generosity, and commitment.

50th Anniversary 1950–2000
























Parochial Vicars and Deacons

Parochial Vicars

The responsibilities of parish pastors could be overwhelming without the able support of parochial vicars, formerly known as assistant pastors. Over the last 50 years, the unique and individual contributions of OLA's priests helped to define and enhance the parish's personality. Today, many parishioners have fond memories of these priests who touched their lives.

Parochial vicars and their years of service at OLA:

Monsignor Eymard J. Gallagher (d. Nov. 12, 1989)	1953–54	Father Simon Twomey	1976–79
Father Bernard J. Mannion	1954–57	Father Jonathan Mbah	1976–77
Father Patrick F. Keane (d. Jan. 20, 1961)	1957–59	Father William Feeser	1977–82
Father Joseph Carton (d. Sept. 29, 1991)	1958–70	Father Joseph McCarthy	1982–85
Father Hugh Bannon (d. Oct. 14, 1988)	1958–62	Father John Molumby	1986–87
Father Thomas F. Delahunty	1962–67	Father Paul Moran	1987
Father William F. Storan	1967–71	Father Eduino Silviera	1987–91
Father Colm O'Kelly	1970–71	Father Innocent Emechete	1991
Father Thomas O'Sullivan	1971–73	Father Pat Lee	1997
Father Michael O'Connor	1971–76	Father Antony Wamakula	1997–99
Father Robert P. Walton	1973–74	Father Bill Broderick, retired	1987–present
Father John Hannan	1974–75	Father Mathew Marankulam	1999–present

Deacons

Deacons serve the parish in many various capacities. In addition to assisting at the Mass including the delivery of sermons, they conduct special services, perform weddings, and officiate at funerals and baptisms as well as teach baptismal preparation classes. Our Lady of the Assumption ordained its first deacon, Michael Tateishi, in 1992.

Deacons and their years of service at OLA:

Thomas Ferriera	1994–98
James Meucci	1996–present
Michael Tateishi	1992–present





























Building a Church and a Community

Catholics With a Goal

In the late 1940's, the little suburban community of Carmichael was experiencing considerable growth with an increased number of new homes. With this increase in population came an increase in the number of Catholics.

For Sunday Mass, Carmichael Catholics attended St. Mel's Church in Fair Oaks. However, the drive was long and the church was fast becoming too small for its expanding congregation. The Carmichael Catholics needed their own church. For advice and leadership, they turned to St. Mel's pastor, Father Patrick Cronin. He advised the interested Catholics to organize a committee and take the necessary steps to gain the approval of the then Bishop of the Sacramento Diocese, Most Reverend Robert J. Armstrong.

On June 25, 1948, a meeting was held in the local fire house and a Carmichael Catholics committee formed. Prominent among those present were Edna Clark, Judge Raymond Coughlin, Senator Earl Desmond, Fire Chief Dan Donovan who was the unofficial mayor of Carmichael and his wife Mary; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Jerue, Harold Konvalin, Lugia Lima, Marie and Gene Lynch, Jo and Howard Maher, Maurice McCaffery, Monte and James Powers, Regina Stall, and architect Nick Tomich and his wife Madelyn.

This new committee's first order of business was to obtain Bishop Armstrong's permission to both establish a new parish and to also seek the funds to purchase ten acres of land on the northwest corner of Cottage Way and Walnut Avenue. The price was $5,000. The site was known as Tarweed Flats.

Senator Desmond and Chief Donovan approached Bishop Armstrong on the committee's recommendation and the Bishop gave them his approval for the formation of a new Catholic parish in Carmichael.

Fourteen months after the initial fire house meeting, the committee got together in the home of Lawrence Jerue who reported that $1,120 had been already paid on the purchase of the property. This amount was generated through second collections at St. Mel's Church, contributions from the committee, and pledges from other Carmichael Catholics whom the committee had contacted. However, two more payments of $500 each were coming due within the next five months and the committee needed more ideas for fundraising. Soon, food



Madelyn Tomich and LaRayne Hines prepare a doll for the first Christmas Tea and Handiwork Sale on Sunday, December 3, 1950 at the Carmichael Community Clubhouse.



Harold Konvalin and Sue Jacques rehearse for the St. Patrick's Day Dance in the early '50s.

sales, raffles, socials, and dances were scheduled and someone suggested a future "bazaar." Fundraising began in earnest and the committee started to meet monthly in the Jerue home.

Within the next six months, the committee decided to follow the lead of St. Philomene's, a neighboring parish, and organized a country fair and barbecue. The Annual Carmichael Country Fair and Barbecue was born in 1950.



Over 7,000 attended the 2nd Carmichael Country Fair.

The Carmichael Country Fair

Because there were no utilities available on the church property, the first Carmichael Country Fair was held on the J.H. Robinson ranch at Watt and Marconi avenues. This one-day event on September 17, 1950, raised over $2,000 toward the purchase of the property. That amount, plus other donations and fundraising throughout the year, left a balance due of only $703.

The Fair's general chairpersons are credited for much of the success of this event. These include Marie and Gene Lynch, Monte and James Powers, and Jo Maher. In addition, a vast amount of hours went into all the preparation by booth and meal chairpersons Charlie Aller, Mrs. Albert Baxter, Rita Brown, Edna Clark, Bill Delaney, Mary Dravis, Gwen Dunbar, Georgeann Dykes, Charlie Flynn, H. Hamilton, LaRayne and True Hines, Angie and Art Jacques, Evelyn and Harold Konvalin, Jack Lombardo, Mary Phelps, Martha and John Smilanick, and Regina Stall.

These individuals and their volunteers began a legacy of successful Country Fairs for many years to come. In 1994, the coordination of the Country Fair was given to the Parent Teacher Group (PTG) to use as a fundraiser for the school. While some of the booths and activities have changed, the theme of family fun, wholesome entertainment, and good food remains the same.



Marie Lynch minds the Country Store in the early '50s.



Cheryl Plog helps Bea Waterbury (left) and her mom, Gloria Plog, with canning fresh fruit for the Country Fair.

The First Pastor

On November 8, 1950, a potluck dinner with more than 100 people in attendance was held to welcome the new pastor appointed by Bishop Armstrong. He was a promising young Irish priest by the name of Thomas Bannon who had already served the Diocese as assistant pastor at parishes in Roseville, Folsom, and Chico.

In addition to sharing his plans for a new church and school, Fr. Bannon announced to the assembled community that the Bishop had designated the new Carmichael parish as Our Lady of the Assumption in honor of the November 1, 1950, pronouncement by Pope Pius XII of the dogma of the Assumption.

Fr. Bannon also announced that, until a church was built on the new property, Sunday Masses would be said in the Rainbow Theater located at the intersection of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Manzanita Avenue.

A Parish is Born

With Fr. Bannon's arrival, activities moved into high gear. The Carmichael Catholics were eager to see their new church built but half of the estimated $70,000 cost of construction needed to be raised before breaking ground. A fund drive by parishioners included ringing doorbells, writing letters, and conducting interviews which produced successful results that met the estimate. Construction proceeded.

During construction, parish life took form under Fr. Bannon's guiding hands and leadership. Daily Mass and confessions were held at his private residence while Mass on Sundays continued at the Rainbow Theater.



Sunday Mass was held in the Rainbow Theater.

At the Rainbow Theater, Mass was well attended. A portable altar built by Harold Konvalin helped transform the theater into a place of worship on Sundays. Still, the younger children of the parish were a bit confused on Sunday mornings. Mothers said that their little ones never knew if they were going to see Fr. Bannon or Donald Duck. And the confusion didn't stop there. Older children admitted having to resist the urge to genuflect before taking their seat to see a movie.



The movie theater became a place of worship on Sundays.

Another element that helped to change the movie theater into a place of worship was the Carmichael Catholic Choir. Under the direction of Mike Seeboth, an enthusiastic group of ten men formed the first choir. They practiced together learning the words of some of the classical Latin hymns since Latin was still very much a part of the celebration of the Mass. With the addition of a donated organ from the Carmelite Sisters, the choir soon became an important and appreciated part of the Sunday Mass. However, since the Sisters stipulated that the organ must not be left in the theater, Mike Seeboth had to haul it back and forth from his home every week for Sunday services.

Carmichael's First Catholic Church

In less than two years, the first Catholic church in Carmichael was completed. The design, created by architects Charles Dean and Nick Tomich, was a mission-type structure with white stucco walls, red tile roof and brick facade. It included 5,700 square feet for church proper, baptistry, sacristies, vestibule, and choir loft. Because of material restrictions created by the Korean War, the church design incorporated the use of wooden laminated structural supports for the roof and walls as opposed to oaken beams or steel girders. It was a unique concept and added an aesthetic quality not frequently found in structures of this type. The church's construction was completed by the firm of Guth and Schmidt at a cost of $69,800.





Top: In 1951, architect Nick Tomich with Father Bannon shows off the plans to kick off the building fund drive. *Left:* Construction on the first OLA church progresses.



Inside the new church, pews could accommodate 450 people. The design and material for these pews were the inspiration of architect and parishioner Nick Tomich while the construction was voluntarily provided by contractor and parishioner Harold Konvalin with the assistance of other parishioners.

Later, Messrs. Tomich and Konvalin, together with professional tradesmen and parish volunteers, completed a parish rectory. The design was simple, but in harmony with the church architecture.

Six months before the church was finished, Fr. Bannon accepted the gift of a small building that needed to be moved from Sacramento to Carmichael. Parishioner Bill Rust who had a housemoving business arranged for its delivery to the parish site. The men and women of the parish worked weekends to give it a foundation and a renovation. Upon completion, it became a frequently used parish hall and is still in use today. Referred to as "the cottage," the building is now used for an extended care program for OLA students.



Dedication ceremonies for first OLA Church on September 28, 1952.

Dedication ceremonies for the first Our Lady of the Assumption Church were held on Sunday, September 28, 1952 and presided over by Bishop Armstrong.

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM)

Ladies of Loretto

Our Lady of the Assumption Convent was opened in 1955 by Reverend Mother Constance MacMahon, Superior General, for the Ladies of Loretto at the request of Fr. Thomas Bannon.

Each convent in the order had a specific name. Loretto of Our Lady, Queen of the World was the name selected for the OLA convent.

The following sisters lived in the OLA convent during the years indicated. Some were teachers at OLA School and others taught at Loretto High School.

Sr. Edwarda Allen 1973

Sr. St. Thomas More Arment 1963–1966

Sr. Benita Bannon 1956

Sr. Mary Ellen Beck 1979–present

Sr. Marietta Brummel 1960–1963

Sr. Clare Marie Burns 1965–1966

Sr. Denise Brudwick 1971–1972

Sr. Mary Carton 1970–1974

Sr. Arlene Connelly 1980–present

Sr. Claret Crotty 1958–1962

Sr. Celeste Doolin 1960–1966

Sr. Maria Cordis Eade 1961–1963

Sr. Mercedes Elward 1956–1958

Sr. Joan Emmett 1968

Sr. Mary Cyrene Emmett 1967

Sr. Laverne Fullem 1958-1961

Sr. Thecla Flynn, 1955-1960

Sr. Mary Brideen Illig 1971

Sr. Elaine Iwanski 1973, 1984-1991

Sr. Mary Iwanski 1976-1981

Sr. Rita Jacques 1968-1970

Sr. St. Catherine Lowe 1955

Sr. Mary Mallany 1975-1977

Sr. Justina Malone 1967–1970

Sr. Veronka Marton 1956–1957

Sr. Concetta Mauer 1955–1957

Sr. Evelyn McCloskey 1967–1969, 1971–1979

Sr. Mary Howard Moriarty 1972–1978

Sr. Barbara Nelson 1968–1969

Sr. Celine Oliva 1964–1967, 1975–present

Sr. Ballarmine O'Mara 1966–1967

Sr. Esther O'Mara 1970–1976

Sr. Immaculata O'Meara 1959–1964

Sr. Patricia Pendleton 1978–1988

Sr. Trinita Pendleton 1958–1963

Sr. St. Anthony Poerio 1964–1970

Sr. Margaret Quinlan 1971–1976

Sr. Mary Loretto Riley 1956–1957

Sr. James Ellen Ryan 1962–1967

Sr. Maureen Ryan 1968–1969

Sr. Miriam Scanlon 1958–1966

Sr. Kristina Spejcher 1967–-1968

Sr. Colette Srill 1955–1956

Sr. Constance Steffen 1978–1979

Sr. Helen Timothy 1990–present

Sr. Blanche Turgeon 1968–present



Father Bannon with Mother Concetta, Mother St. Catherine, Mother Colette, and Mother Thecla (front) at Christmas 1955. These nuns were the first community assigned to the OLA convent.

The School

Fr. Bannon next wanted the parish to construct a new school and a new convent. In his Sunday sermons, he stressed the need of a Catholic education for all young people of the parish because he felt a Catholic school would provide a better value system. To raise the required funds, a group of parishioners went door-to-door seeking pledges from each parish family.



The then Most Reverend Bishop Joseph T. McGucken officiates at the dedication ceremonies for Our Lady of the Assumption School.

By 1954, contributions and pledges together with a mortgage of parish property provided the funds necessary to begin construction on the school. Again, the parish community volunteered much of the manual labor.

Before the new school could open its doors, teachers would be needed. Fr. Bannon was a friend of an order of nuns known as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) or Ladies of Loretto. This order was already established at nearby St. Philomene's and was in the process of staffing a high school adjacent to St. Philomene's Church. However, since the Order was interested in expanding its teaching vocation, the superior consented to the employment of two nuns at Our Lady of the Assumption School.

On September 7, 1955, the school was dedicated by the then Most Reverend Bishop Joseph T. McGucken, Bishop of Sacramento. Principal Mother Mary Thecla, Mother Mary Concetta and lay teacher Pat Leach welcomed 138 children into the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

A convent and chapel were completed shortly after school began and additional teachers made possible the expansion of schooling to all eight grades. More classrooms were built over the next few years until a total of 16 rooms completed the school complex.

The School Today

The school remains a neighborhood school where a majority of the students live in the vicinity. Today, it has a full enrollment of 310 students with more applications every year than available room or space. The current faculty includes nine full-time and 10 part-time teachers.

The number of classes offered differs from the original two classes per grade. Now there is just one class for every grade in addition to a kindergarten. Specialized teachers conduct classes in art, music, physical education, science, math, and computers. Students have a computer lab, a science room, and a library that is impressive in both the number and quality of books available.

Comparing an OLA education offered years ago to one today, Sister Mary Ellen Beck, IBVM, who retired in 2000 after 21 years as principal, says, "There is less emphasis on memorization and more on application of religious beliefs and awareness of social justice issues."

For the first time in the history of the school, the person selected to replace Sr. Mary Ellen as principal is a lay person. Principal Theresa Sparks brings a wealth of experience in Catholic education to her role.

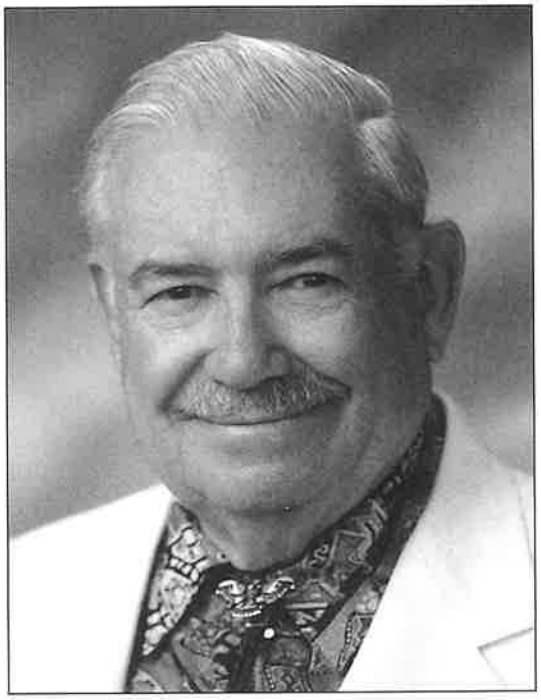
A TRIBUTE

The parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption parish wish to extend their sincere appreciation to Sr. Mary Ellen Beck, IBVM, for her twenty-one years of dedicated service to our school children.

Sr. Mary Ellen's innovative ideas and progressive policies were indicative of the superior quality of her leadership.



Sr. Mary Ellen Beck, IBVM



Architect Nicholas A. Tomich (see story page 31)



A New Church for the Parish

A decade after the first church was built, it was evident that a larger church was needed. The Carmichael area had continued to grow and with it the parish membership. The charter parishioners had known all along that one day the original church would revert to a parish hall and gymnasium when another church was built. In the mid-sixties, the then Most Reverend Alden J. Bell, Bishop of Sacramento, gave the approval for a new church and architect Nick Tomich was once again called upon to provide the design.

Tomich employed a unique construction method in that all the walls were made of poured concrete in forms laid on the ground. When these were finished and dry, a large crane which had to be transported from San Jose tilted the panels into their proper positions. The church took form in the short space of a few days.

Architecturally, the church is keyed to the Spanish influence; its tiled roofs on low-storied areas matching those of the rectory and convent. The same Spanish feeling shows up in the masonry texture of the walls and the color of the doors, Mediterranean blue, which was also initially used on the wall at the back of the sanctuary. An abundance of cherry wood is used throughout the interior. This includes the pews, side wall grill-work, and in the area between the inlays of gold tile of the huge semicircular raised wall framing the sanctuary. The wood assures a resonant quality for the entire church, complementing musical, singing, and spoken characteristics for all involved.

Purple carpeting counterpoints the clerestory above the sanctuary which admits natural lighting. The main ceiling of the church is affixed with dozens of spotlights bathing the entire sanctuary with illumination.

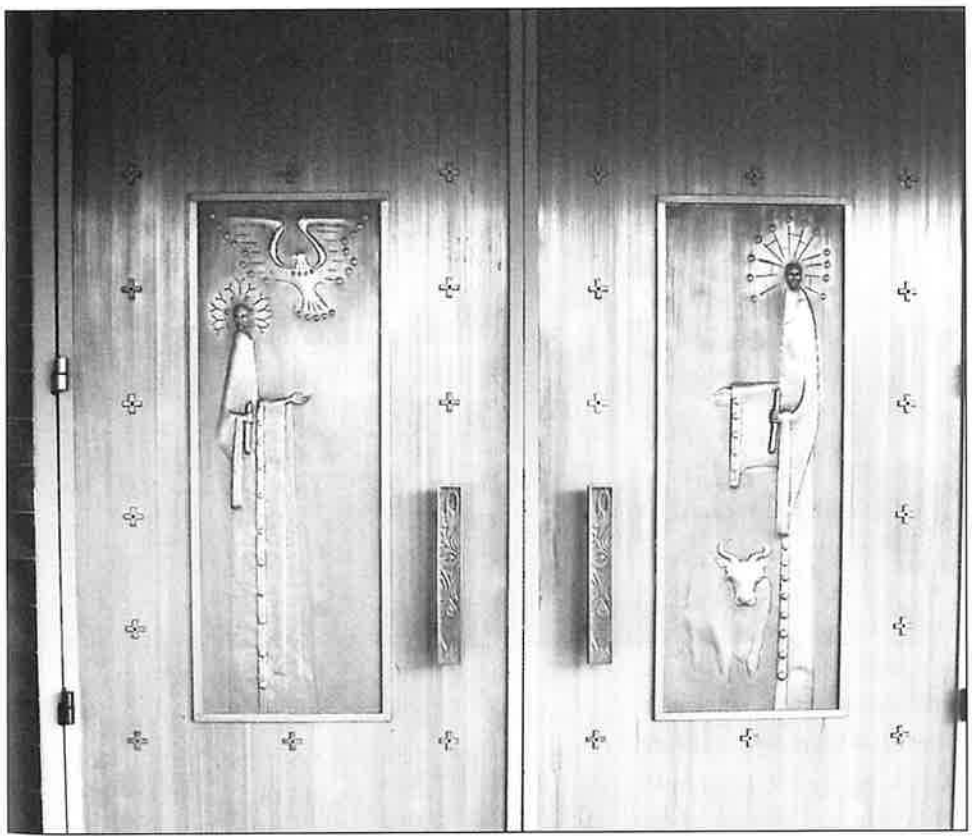
Generous use of La Scala de la Cotta marble is made in the altar, the tabernacle stand, the lecterns, the former communion rail which is topped with cherry wood, and in columns across the back of the sanctuary.

One of the most dramatic areas of the church is the entrance. Between two double doors is a full wall where a gigantic abstraction depicting the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is executed in faceted glass set in concrete. It is in strong color and has a feeling of resolve and lift. On the interior, directly in front of the massive window, is the baptistry. The font itself is made of the same Italian marble used elsewhere. At one time, forged grillwork soared upwards enclosing the baptistry.



The side walls of the church incorporate faceted glass windows depicting the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary. According to the artist, Hilda Sachs of San Francisco, color attempts to emphasize each Mystery and each window contains an appropriate symbolism. All of the stained glass windows were executed by Cummins Studios of San Rafael.

Of particular note are the repousse on the front entrance doors. These are aluminum, hammered from the back to give a sculptured or bas-relief effect. The four doors represent the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and appropriate symbols. These works of art were the creation of Norman Grag of Nevada City.



A chapel for daily Mass is an integral part of the overall church design and can be seen through one side of the sanctuary. It seats 50 people. The window behind the altar is composed of faceted glass depicting the Tree of Life. It utilizes dark colors at the base graduating to lighter ones at the top in an attempt to elevate the



The entire church was constructed and furnished at a cost of $500,000.

Though the church was finished the previous fall, Fr. Bannon chose the parish feast day in 1968 for its blessing. On August 15, Bishop Bell concelebrated a Pontifical Mass.

spirit of all who pray or meditate. The chapel's altar was constructed by Nick Tomich with inset panels carved by 81-year-old Ivan Satterlee.

The tabernacle in the original church was remodeled and expanded to fit its new location. It is surrounded by flame-shaped metalwork depicting the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit. This beautiful representation as well as all the candleholders and other metalwork are the work of artist Norman Grag.



PHOTO BY SIRLIN STUDIOS



Fr. Thomas Bannon celebrates Mass in the home of Doris and Richard Desmond.

Leadership Over the Years

The stress and strains of all that was involved in twenty years of establishing a parish from the ground up eventually took its toll on Fr. Bannon who requested and obtained a sabbatical from Bishop Bell in 1970.

The Bishop then appointed Fr. Christopher Neary to succeed Fr. Bannon. For the next two years, Fr. Neary had the formidable task of raising the funds required to pay off the substantial mortgage resulting from the construction of the new church. By 1972, Fr. Neary's health necessitated his request to be relieved from his responsibilities.

Bishop Bell appointed Fr. Cornelius O'Connor to be the next pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption. He came to the parish with a great deal of experience from five other parishes in the Sacramento Diocese and brought to OLA strong administrative abilities as well as charismatic leadership qualities.

In a short period of time, Fr. O'Connor discharged the parish's substantial construction debt in full. Afterwards, he enlarged the rectory and then renovated the old church which had become the parish hall. In May of 1979, he was elevated to the title of Monsignor.

In January of 1983, the parish was saddened to learn of the death of Fr. Bannon who passed away in Ireland while visiting his homeland.

In 1985, Monsignor O'Connor initiated a drive for contributions into a school endowment fund for the purpose of providing the school with a basic income from earned interest. Directed to all the members of the parish, it was a huge success with some $500,000 in pledges or donations which has assisted in ensuring the school's financial future. In April of 1986, the parish was again saddened to learn of the death of Fr. Neary.

Then, on July 14, 1989, Monsignor O'Connor's unexpected death left a great void to fill for the then Most Reverend Bishop Francis A. Quinn, Bishop of Sacramento. Within two months, the Bishop appointed Fr. Leo McAllister to lead Our Lady of the Assumption Parish into the 21st Century.

Leadership into the 21st Century

On September 10, 1989, Fr. McAllister became OLA's newest pastor. He brought to his position an impressive background of experience that includes serving the Diocese as a pastor in parishes in Oak Park and Elk Grove, as the Development Director for the Diocese, and as the chaplain for both the California State Assembly and later the State Senate. It wasn't long before parishioners realized that their new shepherd was not only a good speaker who expressed himself well, but also an excellent listener who could take even the most complex explanations and get to the heart of the matter.

By 1991, Fr. McAllister added to the parish grounds much needed storage buildings and a large room for Youth Ministry.

In 1993, a bequest from the estate of parishioner John Kelleher made possible the renovation of the parish office and the rectory kitchen and the construction of a multipurpose building in the open space between the school and the back of the church. This building, known as St. John's Hall and Seton Hall, includes a kitchen and two rooms. The architect was parishioner Rod Cecchettini. It was built by another parish family, Rod Read and Sons General Contractors.

Those who remember the years before the two halls, marvel at how the parish ever coped without them. Meetings, classes, banquets, receptions, and just about any other type of small gathering up to 200 people enjoy the spacious feeling of vaulted ceilings and large windows in a professionally designed interior. The fireplace in St. John's Hall adds warmth



St. John's Hall was constructed in 1993.

while a modern kitchen is easily accessible from the two rooms.

Eleven years into his tenure as pastor, Fr. McAllister is recognized for his strong leadership skills, his ability to utilize the talents of the parishioners, his generosity and commitment to the parish community as well as to the parish school, and his concern for the disadvantaged people living within the parish boundaries.



Fr. Leo McAllister is pictured with Director of Religious Education Gerardine McInerney (left), teacher Patty Couch, and the children who received the Sacramento of the Holy Eucharist for the first time in 1997.

Anniversary Celebration

50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

On October 28th and 29th, at all the Masses, Our Lady of the Assumption commemorated its 50th Anniversary. Parishioners were treated to special music, festive decorations, and photo displays. A reception with additional photo memorabilia displays followed every Mass.





On Sunday, the 11 a.m. Mass was concelebrated by the Most Reverend William K. Weigand, Bishop of Sacramento, with Father Leo McAllister, pastor, and Father Mathew Marankulam, parochial vicar. Deacon Michael Tateishi assisted. This Mass was well attended and had standing room only. A special parish choir that comes together for special occasions such as this one was in exceptional form and the walls reverberated with their hymns.

When the time came for the Eucharistic gifts to be presented to the Bishop, it was particularly significant that the grown children of three of the parish's charter families were the presenters. Brothers Jim and Steve Tomich joined Janet Smilanick Zalom and Sheila Plog Johnson in the presentation.





A Gift of Holy Water

As an anniversary memento, all parishioners and guests who attended the weekend's Masses received a gift of a small holy water bottle. The bottles, in the shape of a Celtic cross, were shipped from Fr. Leo McAllister's home village of Aclare in County Sligo, Ireland, by a plant that manufactures holy water bottles for many of the local shrines. Parish groups, families, and students assisted in the filling of the 2,500 bottles.



In Honor of Our Lady

Since October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, parishioners gathered to say the Rosary after the 11 a.m. Mass on the first four Sundays of October. Each Sunday's Rosary was lead by a different parish group which included the Legion of Mary, the Liturgy Committee, the Vocations Committee, and Youth Ministry.

Of special note, the stained glass windows on the sides of the church represent the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary. However, until this anniversary month, the windows have never been labeled with each's specific Mystery. The Boron Family, early OLA parishioners, donated fifteen beautifully engraved plaques that now identify each window with its specific Mystery.



































Parishioner and photographer, Vince LaBate, is responsible for most of the photos seen in the memorabilia displays and also within the pages of this book. Over the years, he and his camera have been a familiar sight at numerous parish events and special occasions. Thank you, Vince, for your talent and dedication!

50th Anniversary 1950–2000

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Fr. Leo McAllister, Pastor

Bill Hallerman, Chairman

Caroline Albers

Ruth Holewinski

Rees Lee

Fr. Mathew Marankulam

Gerardine McInerney

George Peres

Michael Tateishi

Tracy Urban

Thank You!

The committee would like to acknowledge and appreciate the many parishioners who contributed their time, energy, and talents to the preparations of OLA's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

To: Gene Bertolucci with the assistance of Bob Cesario, Vince Crandall, and Paul Read.
For the hanging of the banners, event lighting, church preparation, set-up, and countless other details involved in physically preparing for the celebration weekend.

To: Donna Eaddy, parish office manager.
For your patient and helpful assistance in providing guidance and information on whatever came your way.

To: Susan Johnson, church bulletin coordinator.
For your help in keeping parishioners updated on celebration happenings through the church bulletin.

To: Kelley Barnes, school secretary.
For your help in keeping school parents updated on celebration happenings through the weekly school calendar.

To: Hoolie and Howard Baber, Marylee Johnson, Vicky Johnson, Cindy Oreb, Martha Smilanick, and Helen Yarletz.
For joining committee members in the assembly of the photo memorabilia boards for the receptions; there were *hundreds* of photos!

To: Vicky Johnson with the assistance of Caroline Albers and Helen Yarletz.
For the assembly and design of the historical newspaper clippings boards displayed at the receptions.

To: David Donovan, Ellen Hallerman, Marylee Johnson, Norm Kuhn, Marjorie Lee, Margaret Mook, and Ona Wilsey.
For joining the committee members in decorating the church and the reception halls for the anniversary weekend.

To: Mary Lou (Wilson) Stone.
For designing and sewing all the pre-celebration and weekend celebration altar and lectern banners and beautifully decorating the altar for the celebration.

To: Joe Wilson.
For providing assistance with design and event ideas for the weekend celebration.

To: The Liturgy Committee.
For planning the Bishop's 11am Mass and making it a special celebration.

To: The OLA "Big" Choir.
For singing at the Bishop's 11am Mass and making it sound like a glorious celebration.

To: All the participants of the weekend celebration—altar servers, choirs and musicians, Eucharistic ministers, readers, ushers, and the Pastoral Council.
For your contributions in making all the weekend celebration Masses special events.

To: Patty and Alan Leatherby and Leatherby's Ice Cream.
For not only donating the ice cream sundaes enjoyed at Sunday evening's reception, but also for serving the ice cream.

To: Parishioner Michael Kyalwazi, Sr., District Manager, La Bou.
For arranging the donation of all the receptions' "La Bou" coffee from World of Good Taste.

A Gift from Nicholas Tomich and Family

The Story of the New Processional Cross —*by the Tomich Family*

A row of walnut trees bordered the western edge of the Wickstrom family residence on Pecan Avenue in Orangevale. Over the years, these trees were removed leaving only one old tree on the northwest corner. In 1939, Nick Tomich, the oldest son of Eleanor Wickstrom and Prosper Tomich, cut a limb from the tree to make a jewelry box for his future wife, Madelyn Zurfluh. Nick and Madelyn married on May 25, 1940 and settled in Carmichael where they became active members of Our Lady of the Assumption. Nick's architectural firm designed nearly all the buildings on the parish grounds.



Architect Nick Tomich (seated) with (l to r) Jim Tomich and his wife Gloria holding the processional cross; Steve Tomich, and Fr. McAllister

The last old walnut tree was eventually cut down after Nick's aunt Ruth Wickstrom Kirsten died. The large trunk was stored at his brother Tom's farm in Orangevale for 10 years until it was taken to Auburn and milled into beautiful planks.

Nick and Madelyn enjoyed a rich life together raising five children. In the summer of 1990, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Later that year, Madelyn passed away and Nick kept the jewelry box in remembrance of her.

As the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption approached, Nick determined a good use for the walnut wood, suggesting to Fr. Leo McAllister a new processional cross for the church. Fr. Leo agreed and Nick began collaborating with artist Marirose on the design.

On Nick's behalf, his son-in-law Gerry Gaynor cut the wood and assembled the cross. Marirose enriched the beauty of the wood with a hand-tooled copper icon of the Virgin Mary ascending to heaven made by Fr. Ron Schmit of the Oakland Diocese. After she inlaid genuine mother of pearl jewels on all four points of the cross, Nick asked her to add the wooden carvings from Madelyn's jewelry box, made from the same tree 60 years before, to complete this elegant and meaningful piece of art.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the parish, Nick and his family are pleased to present this gift. May it bring you all fond memories and hopeful thoughts for many years to come.

Liturgical Activities

Liturgy Committee

In consultation with the pastor, the Liturgy Committee coordinates regular activities associated with Sunday Masses as well as oversees the particular needs of any special Masses at the parish. The committee, under the direction of Deacon Michael Tateishi, currently has 10 members and was organized in 1988.

The Liturgical Celebration

A Mass relies on the contributions of numerous individuals who provide assistance and direction to the service. The names and faces have changed over the years, but their presence as an important part of the Mass continues today.



Altar server Sarah Couch assists Bishop Weigand at the parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

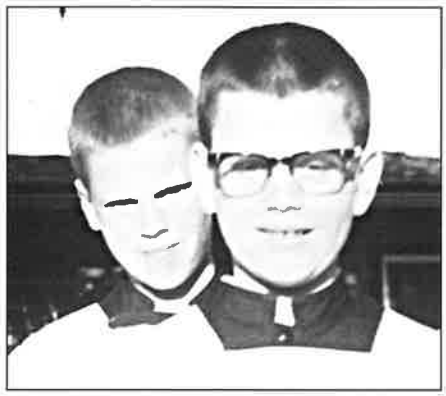
The Word of the Lord

Readers, formerly known as lectors, participate in the liturgy of the Mass by sharing the Word of the Lord.

Altar Service

Eucharistic Ministers were introduced in the mid-seventies and provide an invaluable service at Communion by assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Altar servers continue today as they have through the years by assisting the celebrant at Mass. In 1989, Fr. Leo approved the addition of girls as altar servers and the term "altar boy" is no longer used. Also, "altar server" is a more appropriate name for the two gentlemen, John Pesely and Russ Deterding, who each serve and have served for many years at one of the two daily morning masses.



Altar boys Tim and Mike Dunbar in 1966.

Music

Attending Sunday Mass at the Rainbow Theater in the early years was spiritually enhanced by the presence of OLA's first choir singing classical Latin hymns. Under the direction of Mike Seeboth, it continued through the fifties.

Later and continuing for many years, song leaders provided the congregation with direction for hymns and sung responses. Together with OLA's many talented organists, they were visible at every Sunday Mass.



Organist Virginia Burke

In the seventies, guitars were introduced into the liturgy and a folk mass that attracted youth became popular. Today, a variety of singing groups with various musical instruments provides the necessary direction and each weekend Mass has its own distinct musical group.



OLA Choir in 1954

Ushers

The gentlemen of the parish contribute to the flow of the Mass by providing assistance to the congregation as ushers. They act as greeters, arrange for the presenters of the gifts, coordinate the weekly collection of donation envelopes, and distribute the bulletin.



Ushers (l to r) Syl Reidhammer, Fred Sempl, Henry Jerzak, and Jerry Matthies

Spiritual Activities

Religious Education

History

Through May of 1951, catechism classes for all parish children were held in the homes of Senator Earl Desmond, Lawrence Jerue, and Ed Reilly. Beginning that summer, the classes were held in the Rainbow Theater and later in the parish hall or "the cottage." These subsequent classes were taught by Fr. Bannon and two sisters of St. Francis.



Religious Education Director Gerardine McInerney and the First Communion students in 1999.

In 1955, the Legion of Mary became involved. Legion member Anita Ackerman coordinated the program assisted by the parish nuns. Two-hundred and fifty children from area public schools attended Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes on Saturdays.



Students are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In 1971, Sister Esther O'Mara became the Director of Religious Education and formed a program for kindergarten through eighth grade. Also at that time, the parish nuns began the first Religious Education Advisory Board. The purpose of this Board was to promote and encourage the practice of Christian living and to bring a closer union between church and home by means of an effective religious education. It was an advisory body to the pastor and to the director of religious education. The first Chairman of the Board was August Scolari, assisted by Father Storan, Sister Esther, Anita Ackerman, Leo Granucci, Pat Pascal, and Adele Germoles.

In 1975, Sister Mary Mallany became the Director of Religious Education and held that position until 1978. In that year, Sister Pat Pendleton arrived and served as the director until 1989. Following Sr. Pat's tenure, Sr. Vianney Buckley arrived to direct the program until 1992 when Gerardine McInerney was appointed Director of Religious Education.

Today

OLA's Religious Education Program continues in its mission to help families articulate their faith experience through a more formal teaching environment.

Classes are held at the school and in parish meeting rooms primarily on Sundays and Mondays. Currently, a volunteer staff of 21 teachers with six aides teach an average of 275 students in preschool through eighth grade. Addressing her program's greatest challenge, Director Gerardine McInerney feels it is "to continually provide the best in religious education for all ages."

As such, the preschool/kindergarten class fosters a "religion-readiness" environment, while the students in grades one through six are provided with a rich, authentic, and complete presentation of their Catholic faith through the "Coming to Faith Series" by Sadlier Publishing. Also, students in grade two are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.



Fr. McAllister with the junior high religious education class.

To incorporate classroom learning into the family experience, students receive the "Faith Alive at Home" sheets summarizing the week's lesson for use at home. In addition, a bi-monthly newsletter and parent Sacrament sessions help keep families current regarding church teaching, liturgy, and para-liturgical experiences.

The seventh and eighth grade program, coordinated by Tracy Urban who is the Youth Minister for the parish, addresses contemporary concerns, promotes family values, and provides relevant religious education based on our Catholic faith. Grade eight also prepares students for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

By all accounts, the Religious Education Program appears to be thriving at OLA. In fact, one of the highpoints of Ms. McInerney's involvement in the program is seeing the same families returning year after year. She says, "I'm overjoyed to see that they recognize the importance and benefits of continuous religious education."

Adult Education

In 1991, the parish Adult Education Program began. This enrichment program is a planned effort designed to enable parishioners to awaken or deepen their knowledge and understanding of gospel values in contemporary life. It may include guest lectures, faith sharing groups, classes, and facilitated video programs. In 1992, the effort expanded into a joint venture with a nearby parish, St. Ignatius, offering three 4-week series each year on either theology, church history, or scripture. Ms. McInerney is pleased to report that the attendance over the past nine years "totals into hundreds of participants from OLA and other parishes."

Initiations into the Catholic Faith

Vehicles to Christianity

Non-Catholics who are seeking to know more about the Catholic faith and whether that faith is appropriate for them are welcomed through Christian initiation for adults. Our Lady of the Assumption offers two methods by which non-Catholics may discover the Catholic faith.

One method is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It is a liturgical process introduced at OLA in 1982 by Jane and Jerry Mouton under Msgr. O'Connor's sponsorship. This process follows the various rites in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults where parish team members foster a community of catechumens and candidates and assist them in their faith journey.

RCIA is a community process. Catechumens and candidates are publicly recognized in various activities and rites at both a parish and a diocesan level. Although originally developed as an eighteen-month process, it now assists the catechumens and candidates over seven to nine months, from September through Pentacost.



The first RCIA community began in October of 1982 and was received into the Church and the OLA community at the Easter vigil in 1984 after completing an 18-month process. Pictured above are the RCIA team members, sponsors, candidates, and catechumens.

Understanding the different pastoral needs of its parishioners, OLA also offers a second method which is a more private process of initiation into the Catholic faith. This is in the form of private instruction and support presented by the pastor all year round.

"The Legion of Mary presents the true face of the Catholic Church."

—Pope John XXIII

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is part of a unique, worldwide organization that works quietly throughout our communities, performing spiritual works of mercy and supplementing the work of our priests. Founded in Ireland in 1921, the Legion has become the largest lay apostolic organization in the history of the Church with over a million members performing a weekly spiritual work.

The First Legion

Our Lady of the Assumption's first Legion of Mary was organized on December 8, 1954, with Fr. Mannion as its Spiritual Director. The legionnaires named the group the Queen Assumed into Heaven Praesidium of the Legion of Mary. Handwritten meeting minutes from that time indicate an involvement by members in the implementation of a religious education program for children in the parish; calls on mothers with newborn babies; and working with the CYO. They established the parish's First Saturday Rosary, made door-to-door visits for a parish census, started a weekly Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, visited the sick in convalescent hospitals, and consoled those who experienced the death of a loved one.

When Fr. Mannion left OLA in 1957, Fr. Bannon became the Legion's Spiritual Director in January 1958. However, while the group continued many of the activities listed above, the number of its members did not increase. In a ledger of meeting minutes, the last recorded entry is dated May 9, 1963, and mentions a discussion of a new handbook to recruit more members.

The Legion Today

The current Legion of Mary group was started again in September of 1971 under the guidance of Fr. Christopher Neary. Today, a small but active group continues its mission of conversion, conservation, and consolation to people within our parish boundaries. To support the Legion members in their mission, an auxiliary of 36 members have the responsibility of praying the rosary daily.



Father Mathew Marankulam with Legion members and some of the auxiliary members.

Also, in 1971, the parish began a formal Religious Education Program that replaced the CCD classes the Legion had coordinated since 1955, nonetheless, the Legion's services to the community continue. In reflecting upon their different activities, Helen Yarletz, current president, shares that a particularly memorable highpoint for a member is becoming a godparent to a convert.

The Legion with the cooperation of our parish priests is responsible for arranging Masses at convalescent facilities. And, today, just like 45 years ago, a Rosary to Our Lady is said after morning Mass on every first Saturday of the month and includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Legion of Mary continues its mission.

Vocations Committee

Our Lady of the Assumption's Vocations Committee was formed in 1998 charged with the mission to help bring about an increase in vocations. It is a diocesan-wide effort and, already, it appears to be working. Committee chairman Alan Leatherby explains, "When this program began in our diocese, we had twelve seminarians. Now, we have 53!"



Committee members (left) Gloria Plog and Martha Wilson with Alan Leatherby, chairman

This committee of six meets monthly and has three distinct objectives to fulfill their mission. First is to promote prayers for vocations. Second is to ask individuals to consider a religious vocation. Finally, third is to plant the seed of an idea for a vocation in people for future consideration.

The Re-Membering Group

The OLA Re-Membering Group exists to help returning Catholics to once again become a part of the church community. Many are at a loss as to how to facilitate a comfortable return and need the caring guidance of a small group. Others may need to share their reasons for leaving the church and wish to do this with understanding and helpful individuals.

The group meets in a parish hall once-a-week for ten weeks to discuss topics such as prayer methods, sacraments, and morality today. A church tour is also included. These sessions are designed to be informative and to address different areas of concern.

An OLA Re-Membering group was active for a few years in the mid-nineties and re-formed in 2000 to once again meet the needs of Catholics who are not candidates for RCIA and who are not ready to enter into adult religious education.

FLAME

A Faith Sharing Community

In 1980, the parents of Mary A. Deterding School students attending religious education classes at OLA initially met during their children's Sunday morning instruction. While their initial intention was to support the children, it further developed when the parents found enjoyment and camaraderie in each other's company. They called themselves the "Church Group" and became a faith sharing community.

A few years later, the Church Group renamed themselves "FLAME" which stands for Family Life and Marriage Enrichment. A leaderless group, couples share the responsibility for planning discussion topics. Some of the topics have included spiritual growth in the family and community, transitions into retirement, and Christian responses to social issues.

FLAME continues to meet weekly on Sundays except during the summer months. However, in addition to their meetings, family members have come together for social gatherings, camping trips, and retreats. They welcome inquiries from anyone who is interested in learning how to start their own faith sharing community.

Service Activities

The Ladies Council

A Charter Organization of the Parish

In March of 1950, Mrs. James (Monte) Powers outlined a plan for forming a Catholic Ladies Group. Its aim was to help raise money toward the building of a church and school. Later called "The Ladies Council," this small group of dedicated women promoted and assisted in the formation of the parish, the acquisition of the land, and the construction of the first church. The first meetings were often held at Lawrence Jerue's home to coordinate the many plans and projects. LaRayne Hines served as the first president.

In the beginning, the Ladies Council was especially invaluable to Our Lady of the Assumption Church because the women joined in and promoted the parish activities that were so important to a newly formed community. The group provided refreshments for the men while they were refurbishing the cottage or rectory. Plus, they provided great assistance at the Country Fair because it was the members who produced so much of the foodstuffs and handiwork that were displayed and sold.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Our Lady of the Assumption has a long history of reaching out to the community and providing service where it is needed. While the Ladies Council and the St. Vincent de Paul Society are the two primary service-oriented organizations in the parish, a community service theme runs throughout the entire church and school. From eighth graders volunteering service hours to the Legion of Mary organizing Masses at convalescent hospitals, almost everyone of every age gets involved.

SERVING THE PARISH. Over the years, the Ladies Council has continued to serve the parish community in many ways and every pastor has been appreciative of these contributions. Providing Christian Service luncheons after funerals and memorial masses is perhaps its most important mission. Members generously contribute their time, effort, and energy to serve at these luncheons. In addition, they are often called on to provide help with receptions for other parish activities.



Martha Smilanick and Evelyn Konvalin prepare for the Council's annual rummage sale in the early 50's.

During the fifties, sixties and seventies, an annual rummage sale was quite popular in the parish and raised significant funds for the expenses the Ladies Council incurred serving as the Parish Altar Society. Its responsibilities as the Altar Society included then and still does the washing and ironing of the altar linens as well as making all the physical preparations for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. The Council is also responsible for decorating the altar during the Easter and Christmas holidays.



Marian Davey is known throughout the parish for her tireless attention to the care of both the church and the sanctuary as well as the upkeep of all the altar linens, garments and vestments for the past 30 years.

The Ladies Council continues to participate in the annual Country Fair and members' baked goods are sell-outs. The funds raised go toward the charitable work of the Council which includes a monthly donation to Loaves & Fishes,



Every year, the Ladies Council Baked Goods booth at the Country Fair is always a sell-out.

the OLA Food Locker, the Sacramento Food Bank, and others in need. At one time, the Council sponsored a Clothes Closet which collected furniture and clothes for needy people.

Two other fundraising projects which enable the Council to continue their charitable work include an annual book sale and a bake sale at the parish pancake breakfast. A new fundraising project for year 2000 is a Ladies Council cookbook.

For the first time, the Ladies Council is also sponsoring an educational program through the Sacramento Hospice Consortium to provide hospice training for Council members who may wish to volunteer in the Hospice Progam locally.

For 50 years, the Ladies Council has made a huge contribution to the OLA parish community and hopes to continue for another 50 years. Current president Ona Wilsey confides, "The balance of work and fun for the women involved fosters friendships that will last and have lasted a lifetime." She adds, "And we're happy to contribute to our parish community."



Going into the next century, the Ladies Council membership is growing.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

People Helping People

Throughout history, people needing help usually turned to the church. Today is no different. On any given day, a rectory can receive several requests for food, rent money, or necessary household items.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society–OLA Conference responds to these requests for assistance. From 1986 through 1996, President Lou Harrison with his wife Thelma coordinated the Society's activities during that time. Today, the Society has expanded to include more services. In its mission statement, it holds that, "... no work of charity is foreign to the society... (it) includes any person-to-person assistance that promotes human dignity and integrity... it serves persons in need regardless of creed, opinion, color, caste or origin..."



Anne Spaller and Tom O'Day

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. Twenty-eight OLA Conference members volunteer throughout the month. Under the direction of Rees Lee, one of their activities includes home visits to conduct needs assessments for people calling the parish rectory requesting emergency assistance. Initially, one or two members return calls from the rectory to determine type and level of need and to schedule a home visit. Assistance rendered can be anything from helping with rent and utility payments to beds and cooking utensils.



(l to r) Margaret Mongeau, Joan Kuhn, Celeste Depner, and Marjorie Lee

FOOD LOCKER. Another major activity of the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society is the operation of the OLA Food Locker open two mornings a week to provide emergency food stuffs to those who need them, primarily single mothers and their children as well as unemployed men. Under the direction of Margaret



(l to r) Bob Cesario, Don Day, and Tom Willow

Mongeau and Celeste Depner, the food locker each month assists over 500 individuals or 115 families. They credit the generosity of the parishioners in keeping the shelves full. While donations of bread loaves, pies, and cakes come from Winco, the locker is stocked mostly with donations of cereals, garden vegetables, staples and canned goods from parishioners and a local community resource, FoodLink. Quite simply, the locker could not exist without the parishioners' and the community's ongoing donations.

In fact, the OLA Conference finds that its biggest challenge overall is in resource limitations. To meet this challenge, they are required to establish priorities to assure the most appropriate use of Conference assets.

Yet, they continue to help many. Current president Bill Hallerman elaborates, "Each of our clients has different needs and we get great satisfaction and pleasure in being able to assist them. We've served battered families, former convicts, mentally ill, and the elderly." One situation, in particular, is especially memorable. He recalls, "One of our clients was a single mother of three who couldn't find a job and was experiencing depression. We immediately helped her with her emergency needs to get back on her feet. Subsequently, she has progressed through three jobs, completed nurse assistant training, and is now in nurses training. And she's done this all while providing for her children."

That's what it's all about. People helping people... St. Vincent de Paul style.

Serving the Pastor, the Parish, and the School

Over the years, different organizations have been and continue to be available to the pastor for accomplishing whatever he felt was needed for the parish or school.


Holy Name Society Officers 1953: (standing l to r) Rod Waterbury, Harold Konvalin, and George Bencken; (seated) Fr. Tom Bannon and Julius (Bud) Ratermann

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society was very active in the 1950's and 60's. It was basically a men's organization that pledged themselves to respect and revere the Holy Name of Jesus. The members of the Society also made themselves available to do any task promoted by the pastor.

Parish Advisory Council

In 1973, the Holy Name Society was replaced by the Parish Men's Advisory Council which later became the Parish Advisory Council. Their function was to provide the pastor with a variety of insights and advice concerning any maintenance and administrative problems of the parish.



Pastoral Council President Bill Hallerman (l) presides over the June 2000 meeting. Seen attending are (ctr) Joe Davey and (r) Rees Lee.

Pastoral Council

Throughout the 1990's and continuing today, a consultative body called the Pastoral Council assists the pastor in ministering to the people of God. The eighteen member Council, in consultation with the pastor, works to develop a Catholic community fostering productive channels of communication and cooperation for all the members of the parish family.

In its mission statement, the Council identifies five objectives:

1. To define, understand and coordinate the activities by which OLA discharges its responsibility to live and promote Gospel values.

2. To plan future activities by establishing priorities and objectives that assure continued promotion of Gospel values.

3. To assist the parish in the promulgation of its mission by identifying and utilizing the talent of all parishioners.

4. To serve as a structure for dialogue among parishioners, the community and the diocese.

5. To provide a continuing assessment of the activities of the parish in light of their effectiveness in promoting Gospel values.

Planning Committee: Building, Grounds, and Finance

Similar to the Pastoral Council, this committee is active today as an advisory body to the pastor. It deals with the physical and financial needs of the parish.

Parent Teachers Group

The Parent Teachers Group (PTG) was formed in the 1960's by Fr. Bannon to serve as a liaison between the school parent and the school administration. Since then, it has been helpful in building a community spirit among the school's families in addition to providing a program of family services as well as ongoing financial assistance through its fundraisers.



1998 PTG Fashion Show

Today's PTG fundraisers are impressive both in their scope and success. From organizing annual auctions and fashions shows to coordinating the parish's annual Country Fair since 1994, the entire parent population is involved and hundreds of volunteer hours are given to benefit the school, its students, and, ultimately, the parish.

School Board

In the spring of 1972, the School Board was instituted to assist the pastor and principal in establishing policies which were to affect the students and the parish school. Fr. Neary and principal Sr. Evelyn McCloskey were assisted by the first Board members: Asa Hambly, president; Ellen Baltezore, vice-president; Joyce Gibbon, secretary; and members Philip Klass, Marie Lynch, and Joseph McElligott. Today, the School Board continues to meet the needs of Our Lady of the Assumption School and its students.

THANK YOU!

The Our Lady of the Assumption School Board wishes to express their gratitude to the Parish for its generous on-going support of the school.


















CYO
SPLASH DOWN





Youth Activities

CYO—Catholic Youth Organization

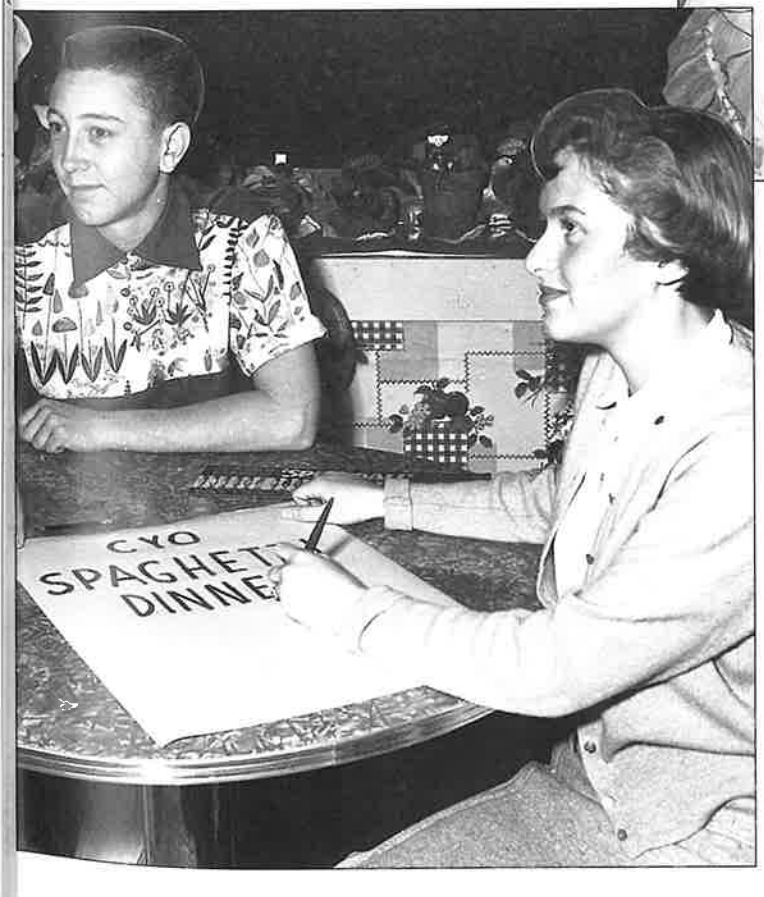
The Early Decades

In the 1950's and 60's, CYO focused on the youth of the parish interacting with one another and their community. Sharing their Catholic faith, being "Soldiers of Christ," and socializing together within the parish and in the diocese provided them an avenue of development and strength in living. Early member Joan Ferrari-Cotton says that the teens thought of OLA as their second home. She explains, "We thrived on assisting the parish whenever and wherever we could."

Activities such as hosting the Spaghetti Dinners and helping at the Country Fair became annual events. Many of the candidates for the Country Fair's "Fairest of the Fair" came from the CYO membership. Qualifications were based on grades in school, parish and community participation, costume selection, and the answers to questions provided by a panel of judges.

Particularly enjoyable for them were the regular trips with Fr. Joseph Carton to Soda Springs, Cisco Grove, and Stinson Beach as well as to the Baber, French and Carlson homes. Participation in diocesan activities such as inter-parish basketball and volleyball provided them the opportunity to socially interact with other youth of the diocese.





Top: CYO Officers 1956–57: (standing l to r) Paul Ackerman, Judy Storro, and Sid Carpenter; (seated) Natalie Konvalin and Ted Colbert
Left: Bill Uomini and Pat Colbert in the early 1950's

Every year, CYO members were required to attend a retreat. The girls went to the former Cenacle Retreat House on Fair Oaks Boulevard where they were counseled for three days on the spiritual and worldly challenges of young Christian ladies. The boys went to Christ the King Retreat House on Auburn Boulevard where they were similarly counseled.

Joan Ferrari-Cotton says that the opportunity to receive and to give in our community was an experience she will never forget. She shares, "Many of us still come home to attend Mass and think of OLA as our home parish."

Diocese Promotes CYO

In 1969, CYO was under the direction of Dave Mitchell who continued to coordinate a variety of activities for the youth of the parish. As in the earlier years, these included social activities, athletic tournaments, Christian service projects, and fundraisers. At this time, the Sacramento Diocese was heavily active in promoting the CYO within all its parishes.

In 1972, parishioner Adele Germoles proposed enlarging the scope of the youth program by adding weekly religious discussion groups and spiritual retreats. Together, she and Dave along with the support of their spouses, Richard and Romana, began gathering other adult volunteers to be teachers, coaches, chaperones, drivers, and sponsors.



Reach Outs were well-attended spirtual retreats held at Camp Pendola.

Bishop's Award for OLA

Soon, dozens of adults and nearly a hundred teenagers were involved in a rewarding program. Representative of just how successful this youth group became in a short period of time is the honor they received in 1974. At a special CYO convention in Sacramento, Our Lady of the Assumption was awarded the coveted Bishop's Banner for being the most outstanding club in the Sacramento Diocese for the year 1973–74.



President Rick Burke with Mark Touhey (l) and Peter Maxwell (r) places Assumption's name on the Bishop's Banner.

In the following five years, members and volunteers enjoyed countless activities including spiritual retreats called Reach Outs, Lock-Ins, and Discoveries. There were weekly religious discussion groups, "Fun" Nights, camping trips, and visits to local convalescent hospitals. The group held dances, bake sales, and parish Easter egg hunts. Members hosted spaghetti dinners, helped at the Country Fairs, participated in annual mystery trips to Santa Cruz or Disneyland, and won awards for their dramatic productions at diocesan art festivals. For CYO members and their parents, it was a busy and memorable time from 1972 to 1979.

Youth Ministry

Meeting the Needs of Youth

In 1986, Youth Minister Tracy Urban put together a ministry "for youth, by youth, to youth." She explains, "Youth ministry attempts to reach out, minister to, and advocate the needs of young people in our parish community."

All Youth Are Welcome

All parish teens are considered youth ministry members and are welcome at all functions. Activities include weekly meetings, periodic social functions, retreats, or combined activities with diocesan organizations and neighborhood parishes.

Through gathered and individual ministry experiences, youth ministry at OLA attempts to empower each young person with a climate of community to:

- deepen his/her relationship with God and each other
- cherish his/her own uniqueness and giftedness by God
- participate in prayer, worship and the Sacramental life of the Church
- meet the challenges of faith encountered through life's journey and to assume a strong social and ethical conscience.

Tracy Urban recalls a particularly memorable highpoint in youth ministry when twenty-two young people and parent chaperones traveled to Denver in 1993 to join 300,000 other Catholics from around the world for World Youth Day. She says that it was a "phenomenal experience!"

The Challenge of Youth Ministry Today

The biggest challenge for youth ministry today is getting the young person "in the door." Tracy explains, "There's so much going on out there and the competition for a young person's attention is incredible. We just want teens to give youth ministry a try. We have a lot to offer and it's theirs for the taking."



Members form friendships that can last a lifetime.



OLA youth with Bishop Quinn in Denver on World Youth Day 1993

Social Activities

ICF

The Italian Catholic Federation

The Italian Catholic Federation is a lay apostolic organization. Its purpose is to encourage the religious, patriotic, social, cultural, and charitable activities of its members.





Top: Past fundraisers include a Monte Carlo Night. (Pictured l to r) Jo Bertolucci, Msgr. O'Connor, Lydia Vassallo, and Lou Lovisa. *Right:* (Pictured center) Maria Terranova tries her hand at Blackjack.

The Our Lady of the Assumption Branch #278 was founded in January of 1973 by parishioner Jack Salatti who became OLA's first ICF president. With Msgr. O'Connor as the Chaplain and 77 members on the rolls, the organization held monthly meetings that were both business and social. Their fundraising events benefited the parish, the parish school, and various local and national charities.

Today, ICF continues its charitable giving by supporting education. President Marie Schuring says, "Since 1976, thousands of dollars have been donated for OLA School scholarships and also into the school's endowment fund." Two annual crab feeds raise the monies donated.

While OLA's ICF members are mostly of Italian descent, they encourage non-Italians to join the organization. Age is definitely not an issue. Their youngest member is nine-year-old Thomas Schuring Jr., Marie Schuring's grandson.



PERT Club visits Placerville's Gold Bug Mine in 1999. Left to right: Margaret Mook, Emil Malek, Jean Rietschln, Gerry Duszynski, Gloria Plog, Joan Eckart, Rosalie Kost, Steve Kost, Agnes Malek, and George Peres.

PERT

People Enjoying Retirement Together

In 1975 and at the suggestion of parishioner Jim Heinl, a new social club was formed called PERT–People Enjoying Retirement Together. The object of this club is to socialize and to provide entertainment and recreation for



PERT Club prepares to board the Spirit of Sacramento for a luncheon cruise on the Sacramento River on August 17, 2000. Left to right, front row: Bob Barth, Joyce Peres, and Evelyn Brown; second row: Bea Barth, Mary Fletcher, Jeanette Bowman, Katheryne Walton, Pat Frick, Vince Frick, Barbara Scott, Marilyn Hedges, and Kay Bettencourt; third row: Romana Mitchell, Barbara Murray, Dave Mitchell, George Peres, Evelyn Swanson, and Bill Hedges.

retired individuals. The group enjoys everything from potluck luncheons and Northern California tours to Reno trips and luncheon cruises on the Delta.

The Octoberfest

A Variety Show of Parish Talent

In September of 1971, Fr. Christopher Neary wanted to promote parish community so he asked the Ladies Council to arrange an evening of entertainment and light refreshments to be held during the month of October. President Marian Davey asked Martha Wilson to arrange a "funny" from which the idea for the Octoberfest was born.

The Octoberfest was a variety show produced annually for the next five years. Marian and Joe Davey handled the reservations and refreshments of hot dogs and beer while Martha and Ed Wilson took care of the entertainment using parish talent in original scripts. The shows were consistently sell-outs and provided a hilarious fun-raising evening that surely exceeded Fr. Neary's expectations. The parish talent was remarkable and rehearsals were as memorable as the performances.

Every Octoberfest had a different theme each year such as "Octoberfest Visits Mother Goose" or Octoberfest presents "The Sound of Mucus." John Shaffer could play any role, Marilyn Markowski's operatic voice shone, and surprises were John Foley as a butler, Mal Stephens as a detective, and Claire Lagomarsino as a pregnant Madam Butterfly. There was even an ensemble of singers who sang the "Beer Barrel Polka" in Polish with lyrics provided by Henry Jerzak. Outstanding were Norma Rolf as Mae West, Stan Lewinski whenever he sang, Virginia Burke as Charlie McCarthy, and the unforgettable "Whistling Dwarfs of Dusseldorf."



Octoberfest Time! Accordianist Joe Simas with (l to r) Bob and Dorothy Odehnal, Mary and Don Oldag, Lou and Dino Lovisa, and Emily and Dan Delise



The Whistling Dwarfs of Dusseldorf minus their huge hats are (l to r) Moreland Warner, Gene Spence, Norman Delise, artist Jim Davis, Rich Griffith, and Ed Wilson.



Marilyn Markowski, Marv Poyser, and Claire Lagomarsino



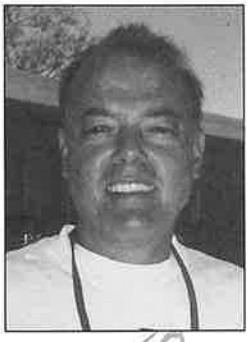












In Honor

Abdo, John
To my loving husband, compassionate son Ryan McGinnis, & devoted parents/family. I love you! Maureen

Adams, Carlton Z., M.D.
Daddy, you are our strength & inspiration. Love, Cheryl, Carlton, Anne & Kathy

Adams, Inez G.
Mommie, you are special in every way. We embrace & honor you. Cheryl, Carlton, Anne & Kathy

Alfonso, Camelita M. "Mely"
CPA-lawyer, pres. RC Central Pangasinan RY 2001/02. Congrats! Andrea

Baca, Lizz
Mom–What can I say–You are so very special, I thank God every day for the gift of you. Carmy

Barnes Men–Mike, Shane & Josh
To my guys–You're the greatest joy in my life. Love, Mommy

Beck, IBVM, Sister Mary Ellen
Thank you for welcoming us into school and into your heart. We love you. The Barnes Family

Thank you for all your years of devotion to our children. The Kozlowski Family

In loving appreciation. Susan and David Murphy

For 21 years of guiding our children with kindness and wisdom. PTG and Students

How fortunate to have had you as both principal & friend. Martha Wilson & family

Bertolucci, Gene
In appreciation for so many years of volunteer work for OLA! Your Parish

We thank you for all you do for our church & school. Love you, Kyle, Joanne, Kari & Kayla

We appreciate your years of dedication. Thanks, Larry, Julie & Kaela Nelson

Billeci, Ben & Kristen
For your ongoing dedication to our OLA choir. Your Sunday Night Choir

Bixby, Blake Robert
Son of Mark & Heidi. You were baptized as a Child of God on 9-10-00. Love, Nanni & Poppi

Caretto Family
We're proud of your involvement in church and of your devotion to God. Love, Mom and Dad

Carney, Mary Lou "Gramma"
Our guardian angel here on earth! We love you!! The Ragasa Family

Cechettini, Carol
Thank you for your love, wisdom & most of all your friendship. Love, Helen

Cerri, Louise
Dearest great, great aunt and godmother, I love you THIS much!! XO, Anna

Happy 90th Birthday! We love you. XO, Mark and Ruth

Cesario, Sam and Elaine
"We love you" Bob, Cheryl, Sal, Robbie, & Joey

Claytons & Diaz
To all our family, we love you always and keep you in our hearts. Cal, Elsa, & Brian Clayton

Combs, David
Thank you for your hard work and extra help when needed. OLA

Cummins, Norine
Always a class act, your courage and Irish charm inspire all. Cummins Family

Davey, Marian
For 30 years you took care of all altar linens as well as us. Papa & your 4 kids

Anniversary celebrations often remind us of those who are important in our lives. One of the ways to acknowledge love and appreciation for these individuals, family members, or support groups is a public declaration.

Desmond, Richard & Doris
Thank you for giving your "nine tickets to heaven" such wonderful lives.

Deterding, Russ
You're the best 6:30 a.m. altar boy! OLA

Dunbar, Patricia
My Gwen, your Larry, & God brought us together. Our lives are full. We are so blessed. Tom

Eaddy, Donna
It's always a pleasure to see your warm smile & dancing eyes. Thank you! Ruth & Anna

You handle parish affairs & small problems with such cheerfulness & grace. Thanks! Everybody!

Erl, Lila
You are never alone! You will always be loved and admired. Love, your daughter, Michele Sims

Farnsworth, Marion
Thank you for always being there. Thank you for making us smile! Your friends & family

Farren, Barbara
My wife, my best friend and my companion in life for the past 18 years and more to come. I love you.

Farren, Barbara and Tom
Celebrating our 18th anniversary on Oct. 18th. We hold the 18th of every month as our special day.

Feeser, Father Bill
Thanks for a beautiful wedding & your friendship. Anne Lee Hyatt

Feliz Family
In 2001, we can boast of students at OLA School for 23 continuous years!

Fletcher, Mary
To a real lady, who extends kindness to many. Thank you for your friendship. Manuel & Vivian Lopez

Franz, Rod & Lois
Our parents, full of faith and love. We are blessed & thankful to be their children. Franz Family

Franz Children
Bless you, your spouses & granbabes. Thru you our love & life spring eternal. Mom & Dad

Friends!
Great people! The families of Martha Wilson, Betty Foster & Marian Davey. Vicky Johnson

Fuoco, Mr. & Mrs. John F.
Love, respect & honor! Always there for everyone without fail! Love, John A. Fuoco

Fuoco Family
My 23 precious grandchildren! I am so grateful for your abiding love & respect! Love, Gram Fuoco

Fuoco, Liz
Mom, I see Grandpa in you: soft shyness, devotion & love. You are my sunshine. Love, Hanna

Fuoco, Mary Jane
Mom, you gently guide us all with love, courage & unshakeable faith. Elizabeth

Grandma, your love & wisdom is like no other. You light up my world. I love you, Hanna

One in a million! Outstanding role model for all! God Bless! Gina & Ira Pickell

Mom, your love & faith has been the wind beneath our wings! Jeanene & Jerry Rader

Garrett, Dolores
Grandma Dee, our prayers for a long life in good health. Love, The Rojas Family

Germoles, Richard & Adele & Family
39 years at OLA means fond memories of the clergy, the religious & friends

Griffin, Joycelyn
Thank you for being such a wonderful mother and grandmother. We love you very much. Your Family

Hallerman, Ellen & Bill
The best parents & friends! Love, your 8 kids, 8 "outlaws," & 22 grandkids!

Thanks for your help – I'm going to form a society! Fred Ozanam

Hines, True S. & Lorraine A. (LaRayne)
Thanks for your parenting & devotion. Memories of childhood & OLA are treasures. Will & Sissy

Holewinski, Anna
You are an absolute delight in every way & the joy of our life. Love, Mom & Dad

Holewinski, Peter & Rosemarie
Mom & Dad, We're glad you can enjoy retirement together. Love, Mark & Ruth

Holewinski, Ruth
In appreciation of your hard work and dedication on this book. Pastoral Council

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sisters
For 45 years, you have contributed to the quality of our parish life. Thank you, OLA

Iwanski, Elaine
Your dedication to the children & parish is a blessing. Thanks, Larry, Julie & Kaela Nelson

Thank you for contributing to the health & well being of many of our parishioners. OLA

Jerzak, Theresa & Henry
OLA family since '59. Much loved by 6 children & 15 grandkids. The Costan Family

Johnson, Vicky & Norman
Everyone in your life is illuminated by your love of family & community. Love, Irene & Steve

The best of friends, the best of companions! Affectionately, Martha

Klein Family
We're proud of your involvement in church and of your devotion to God. Love, Mom & Dad

Ladies Council
To past and present members for years of dedicated, generous, & loving service

Lavendas
Anna & Tom, Karen Barbier, Donna Perez, Michael, Denise LaFazia, Janet Rackley. God bless OLA

Leatherby, Alan
You are still my best friend since I met you 23 years ago at OLA in 8th grade. Love, Patty

Leatherby, Dave and Sally
Thanks for giving us your all! Love, your 10 kids, 6 in-laws & 21 grandkids

Lovisa, Dino & Lou
All our love always, Terry, Carolyn, Kyle & Kelli

Luttrell, Anily & Gene
On your 50th wedding anniversary–11/5/50. Tom, Liz, David & "Mr. Bumbles"

Mannion, Fr. Joe
Your Irish humor and wonderful singing voice brightened our days. Hoolie & Howard

McAllister, Fr. Leo
Thanks for your friendship and encouragement. Cuno Barrigan

Thank God for our bishops & priests, especially Fr. Leo as he guides us. The Norman Johnsons

In loving appreciation, Susan and David Murphy

I am blessed to know you, & admire how you touch the lives of everyone you meet. Colleen Reilly

"Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Wilson Family

McClain, Walter and "Bunny"
Your continuing example gives me a legacy of music, family, and church becoming my life. Thank you. Gail

McInerney, Gerardine
Your excellent program touches the lives of so many. Thank you. OLA

Thank you for renewing our adult faith & bringing God's love to our children. Admirers

Thank you for giving our children a program filled with love and dedication. Winje Family

McLaughlan, Denise & James
Great parents who shared love of God & family. Ree, Hu, Frances & Felix

Mitchell, Jill Turnacliff
Heartfelt thanks for welcoming Thomas into the music ministry. You uplift our lives with your song. The Moore Family

Mitchell, David & Pauline
Thank you for all your love and support over the years. We love you! Garlick Family

Moser, Dick, Donna & Santi
In celebration of our family

Mouton, Jerry and Jane
My mentors. I love you, Mary Fletcher

Narloch, Pete & Betty
Friends of many and the keepers of the roses at OLA. Many thanks. Manuel & Vivian Lopez

Nelson, Stanley E.
God has blessed us with you as a father. Thank you, God. Your children

OLA Camping Gang
Thank you for being my dearest comrades, friends, and family. Nancy

OLA Church and School Staff
Thanks for your efforts to make OLA what it is today. Bill & Ellen Hallerman

OLA Parish
Congrats on 50! We love being a part of this wonderful parish. The Paul Michael Sr. Family

Wherever we roam, OLA is home! The Touhey Family

OLA School Faculty & Staff
Thank you for your loving care, dedication, & expertise in the education of our children.

4 grads, now MDs, thank you for a great education! Adams Clan–Cheryl, Carlton, Anne & Kathy

OLA School Parents
Thank you for your loving support over the last 21 years. Sr. Mary Ellen Beck, IBVM

OLA Students
You make me smile. You're the best! Love, Mrs. Barnes

Oliva, IBVM, Sister Celine
We feel fortunate to have benefited from your vocation to God & children. The Kearns Family

Dearest 1st gr. teacher–of–mine, you'll always be 1st with me! Love, Ruthie

Parker, Byron & Margaret
Thank you for your love, support, & guidance. Karen, Helen, Brian, Robin & Kevin

Paulsen, Nicholas and Kyle
We love you & are proud of you. You're wonderful blessings in our lives. Mom & Dad

Peres, Joyce
You are God's messenger for bringing His love to children through your teaching. Love, George

Pesely, John
For all the years you have helped our sound system and served the 8 a.m. Mass! Thank you! OLA

Your devotion to the Sanctuary & the Mass is greatly appreciated. The 8 o'clock Congregation

The Parish is blessed by your service & dedication. Love, Jane, Larry, Julie, & Kaela

Plog Family
10 grads from OLA School & we're proud of what you have all achieved. Mom & Dad

Plog, Gloria & Calvin
Supportive parishioners since 1948. Cheryl Carter & Sheila Plog Johnson

Ratermann Family
In honor of the ten children and the part they played in the history of OLA.

Read, Paul
Thank you for giving your time, talent & expertise to parish projects big & small. OLA

Roth, Raymond & Family
Gregory, Kathy, Meg, Ray, Mary. Lovingly, Mom

Savarino, Vonnie
A kindred spirit. "A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." Love, Martha

Seeboth Brothers
Mike, choir director & original organist; Ed, faithful usher & helper. Mary Fletcher

Sheehan, Shirley A.
My beloved wife of 58-1/2 years. My eternal love grows every second of each day. God Bless. Wally

Silveira, Reverend Eduino
In loving appreciation. Susan and David Murphy

Sparks, Theresa Higgins
Welcome to our school & parish! OLA parents, students & parishioners

To honor your first year as principal of OLA School from your fellow LMU Lions. Stella Jaworski MacKay & Moira Callanan Little

Southern, Gina
Your love & dedication is a blessing in our lives. We love you. Chris Bittle & Family

Stein, Alice
Thank you for the beautiful banners you made for our altar these many years! OLA

Suggs, Philip & Sharon
Thank you for your love & constant support. You're both incredible role models. Julie Burgess

Tomich, Nick & Madelyn
Parish architect and school leader who made OLA a family place. Tomich Family

Turgeon, IBVM, Sister Blanche
In loving appreciation. Susan and David Murphy

We're always so delighted to see you! Love, Martha, Ruth & Anna

Usmial, Shelley
Remember, you are always being prepared for something better. Love, Mom & Dad

Usmial, Stephanie
Do everything in your power to let your light shine. Love, Mom & Dad

Vellanoweth Family
Ryan, Emily & Kevin–We're happy we raised you in this parish & school. Mom & Dad

Walsh, Kate
Your patience & guidance with a loving & firm hand prepared our children for their future. The Kearns Family

Ware, Phil
You have touched the lives of so many people and you are my best friend and supporter for over 49 years. I love you. Nancy

Washington, Johanne
My RCIA partner. I love you, Mary Fletcher

Weigel Boys
No. 1–Richard to 8th grade & Jesuit. No. 2–Roger to 6th grade. Mary Anne and James Weigel

Whitcomb Girls
Deborah–Cynthia–Elizabeth–Angela, et.al. You are God's precious gift to us. Dad & Mom

Wilson, Martha
Mom, Thanks for letting me be me. Love, Joe (aka Benjamin)

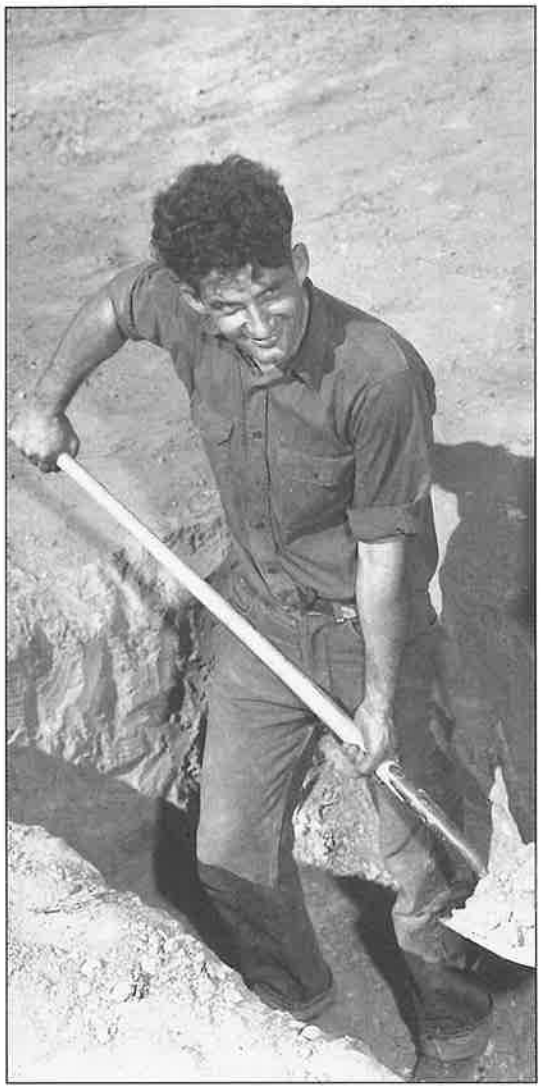
Mom, You gave us a loving family and, by your example, I now have my own to cherish. Love, Michael

Mom, I feel so blessed having you for a mother... and now close by! My cup runneth over. Love, Ruth

Ma, Now I know how you felt living in California. But you know what happens with crooked lines. Love, Matt

Mom, Don't worry... I can fix it! Love, Ed

Mom, It started in 1951. Wilson Math. 1+1= 6 + 5 = 23 x love = a special family! Love, Mare






50c



In Memory

The anniversary celebration for any special occasion is a time to remember many happy moments and milestones. It is also a time when one usually remembers those individuals whom you wish could be celebrating with you. Since many of our loved ones and dear friends have passed away in the last 50 years, the publication of an anniversary book is the perfect opportunity to print a message of love, caring, appreciation, or, simply, "in memory." Whatever the words, the real message is "You're not forgotten."

Ackerman, Anita & Charles
Both these good people closely worked with the priests on a daily basis. What a pair! Mary Fletcher



Alfonso, Ricardo
Dad, I love you & miss you. You are the greatest. Dading, Mely, Rick, Andy, Boboy & Norman.

Andrada, Romana & Gregorio
Loving mother & loving father. Devoted parents. Victoria A. Johnson

Armbruster, Valentin and Gertrude
Loving memories comfort our hearts. Theresa and Joe

Aronsen, Aaron Raphael 1942–1998
In memory of our beloved son, brother, friend of all. You're in our hearts forever.



Ayers, Paul Frederick
Daddy, I miss you. Thank you for giving me Catholicism. All my love, Linda Biko

Baca, Fred
Pop–Not a day goes by that I don't think of you. You are always in my heart. I love you. Carmy

Bacanis, Joe and Estelle
Good parishioners dedicated to OLA. You're greatly missed. Gloria Plog



Bambenek, Mary & Joseph
I think of you both enjoying heaven with Ray & Felicia & your own families. Love, Martha



Bannon, Fr. Thomas
We appreciate your emphasis on children's Catholic education. Hoolie & Howard



Fondly remembered, Rita Fischer, Alene and Greg

For Father, who warned me of "compulsory virtue" & instead did the virtuous because it was right. Stevie

You started it all. Muscardini Family

Fr. Tom shared Irish humor, hearty laugh, bluntness, & friendship with all. Miss you, Will & Sissy

Bergquest, Edward W.
35-1/2 wonderful years of marriage. You will be missed forever. Your wife, Velia



50th Anniversary 1950–2000

Bradley, Helen
Lovingly remembered through all the years. Jerry & Bud Roberts

Bradley, Sherman L.
You've been gone a long time but not forgotten. Jerry & Bud Roberts

Bragen, Lillian Wieckowski
Loving Aunt Sis, you are always in our thoughts and prayers. Wszyscy ciebie kochamy. Carol

Browning, John L.
In God's care.



Carberry, Dottie
Thank you for teaching us to read in Kindergarten. We'll always remember you. Shane & Josh Barnes

Carlson, Mary
Most active parishioner in CYO, choir, country fair, Christmas tea, and a very dear friend. Hoolie



Carney, Gerry "Grampa"
An eternal "credit to the family!" We love you!! The Ragasa Family



Chrzanowski, Ann V.
In memory

The Ciszek Family
Dearest Mama, Papa, Sisters, & Brothers– You're forever in our hearts. Love, The DeGraafs



Collins, Joe
Remember the ham and bacon booth at the Fair? Joe chaired it for many years. Fond memories! Pat

Cremins, Jeremiah Patrick
Father of Jerry, Tim, Anne, Denis, and Maureen, late husband of Kathleen Winter, grandfather of 11





Culbertson, Dolores McCrary
We're proud of her years of service as song leader & Eucharistic minister. The Culbertson Family

DeBruyn, David A. 1924–98
Loving, busy father who still helped build OLA school & was active in Country Fairs. Pat



DeGraaf, Burt and Charlotte
We miss you, Mother and Father, but finally you're together again. Love, "Ernie" and Mary DeGraaf



Delise, Doris Irene
"My darling Doris" My wife, my life, were it not for you I would have missed the dance. Norm

Delise, Daniel James Sr.
My dear father, all love you dearly, you are missed so very much. May the Lord be with you. Norm



Delise, Emily Rose
She touched everyone she met. Thank God she was our mother! Heaven now has an angel! Daniel J. DeLise, Jr.





Delise, Theresa Harriet
Mom, you were one of a kind. You are loved and missed by all of the family.

DeLuca, Eleonora "Nonna"
b. '17 Italy, d. '00 Vancouver, B.C. Together again with our beloved Papa Sam. You were the perfect grandparents. Cummins Family







Desmond, Senator Earl & Edna
You helped establish OLA & 14 of your grandkids attended OLA school. Doris & Richard Desmond

A founding family at OLA. We love you for that. Claire, your grandkids & great grandkids.

Deterding, Jo & Dick
Founding members of parish; helped Fr. Bannon "get started." Russ Deterding Family

Dikes, Georgia
The best years of our lives! Love, Martha



Donovan, Thomas and Virginia
You're gone, but your love and unwavering faith lives on in those you touched. We love you, Your Family



Dunbar, Gwendoline L.
Mother of 5 wonders. You missed 5 grandkids, Mom, & we miss your fighting spirit. Dunbar Family

Erl, George
In loving memory of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. I miss you daddy! Love, Michele Simes



Fagundes, Msgr. Val
1927–1996
Dear Friend, though you are gone, you live on in our hearts. The Silva/Meriano Family



Falkenthal, John L. "Jack"
Your heaven must be many a "hole in one" and many a "7-no trump" Love, Lo

Farnsworth, John
Uncle, your willingness to help at anytime made OLA a special place. Love, Ratermann Kids

Farren, Florene M.
Active member of OLA, Ladies Council & sewing circle. She made many quilts for numerous functions, country fair and our school

A dear & dedicated friend. Vicky & Norman G. Johnson

Finn, Eleanor Schnerr
Ellie, We were married 51 years. I wish we could have had 51 more. Love, Gardner



Fischer, James E.
Founding member of OLA Parish, also St. Mel's. A perfectionist in all he did. Rita Fischer Doherty



Fischer, Ted (1946–1964)
OLA graduating class of 1960. Our angel, taken from us too soon. Love, Rita Fischer Doherty

Flynn, Charles & Mary
On Dec. 15, 1957, you celebrated your 50th at OLA. Daughter Patricia & son-in-law Woody Woodward

Franz, Rodney T. 2/8/25–10/27/99
To the love of my life. Guide & protect us from above. You are forever in our hearts. Your Lois



Loving father, husband & friend. A model for all we hope to be. We love you & miss you dearly. Franz Family



Frick, Gregory Alan
d. 7/13/68
Winning the 8th gr. scholarship to Jesuit showed your potential, sadly unfulfilled. We miss you! Frick Family

Fuoco, John F.
In memory of his tremendous love for God, me & our family. I love you forever, John! Mary Jane

We miss our Dad every day. He was & still is our inspiration. Andy & Lisa Fuoco & family

You closed your eyes to see the Face of God, and you were happy. This is my comfort. Elizabeth



Thank you, Dad, Grandpa, for still loving & guiding us every day. We miss you so. Your "favorites"

Dad, Thanks for your unsurpassed love! We all feel you are still guiding us. Gina & Ira Pickell

I believed you'd live forever. I still feel your love. It pours from God's heart. Jerry & Jeanene Rader.

My heart's forever broken! I'm thankful you're with God. You'll always be loved. Mary Fuoco-Berge

You were a true man, what God intended men to be, loving devoted to family & God. I love you, Hanny

Grandpa, "Captain of the ship." I will always look forward to seeing you again! Love, Ted Pickell

You are and will always be my sunshine! I miss you. Rochelle Wherry

Gannon, Hazel
Hazel–you are forever in our hearts. Susan and David Murphy





Garlick, Jeannette Ellen
Thank you for all you gave us. We think of you every day. We love you! Lorie & Robert Garlick

Gaudin, Libby Webb
Mother, thoughts of you give meaning to our lives. Anita, Inez & Rollin Jr.





Gaudin, Rollin Octave Sr.
Daddy, your love & strength are always present in our lives. Anita, Inez, & Rollin Jr.

Gaudin, Joseph N. and Aliska W.
Grandparents, you are God's special gift to our Family. Gaudin Family







Gee, C. John
Loving husband of Lorraine and father of Terry, Curtis, Anne-Marie, & Michael. We miss you.



Ghilarducci, Alfred J.
Loving father and husband. Pat, Sue, Lisa, & Mark



Goodner, Kaye
In loving memory of my dear sister.
Leo

Grassi, Marin & Katie Pavlov
They migrated to this country, raised their four children and had their dreams come true. Peter & Jean

Gruen, Erhard
In lieber Erinnerung (In loving memory).
Sigrid, Bennet, Hana, & Sami Mattingly

Harrison, Louis Hayes
Loving husband & father; always willing to help anyone. Active in OLA since '56. We love & miss you!



Hickey, Paul J. 12/10/57–9/11/88



Paul enjoyed family & friends, especially children. We miss him & love him deeply. Abbes Family

Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Every day, you're in our thoughts and prayers. Love, your family

Hines, Lorraine Anna (LaRayne) 1918–1998

In heart & mind, True lives with the memory of LaRayne & all the pleasant people they knew over the years.



Memories never fade of our fun & diligent Mom. Years given to family & OLA show the beauty of her soul. Will & Sissy

Holland, Joan Esther



In loving memory of one of God's beautiful people, to know her was to love her



Hughes, Donald 7/23/24–6/20/89

Member of OLA since 1958. In loving memory. Urse Hughes and Family

Hughes, Geraldine



In loving memory of my dear sister. Leo

Iwanski, IBVM, Sister Mary



Dedicating her life to teaching, my sister gave freely to any student needing help. JoAnn Brown

We miss you! Phyllis Iwanski Glassy & Frank Glassy, MD; JoAnn, Elaine, Rosemarie & John



Jerzak, Paul and Antonina



Loving parents of Henry, Irene and Paul. You remain in our hearts and in our prayers.

Johnson, Ethel & Tesla Alonzo

Loving mother & father, devoted parents. Norman G. Johnson

Killingsworth, Loretta

You made the world more special just by being in it. Mahalo, The Cesario Family

My helping hand and guardian angel through many years. You will always be with me. Gail McClain



I think of you often. Thanks for looking out for me. Kelly Barnes

Konvalin, Harold F. & Evelyn

Together with your friends at OLA, you made our lives more blessed. Natalie, Jack & MaryBeth

Lo Pinto, Jennie & Frank

In loving memory of our beloved mother and our dear brother. Sadie & Frances (Ginger) Lo Pinto

Lovisa, Giselda "Mimi"



With love to the greatest grandmother ever. We miss you. Love Terry, Carolyn, Kyle, & Kelli



Lynch, Gene

For Dad, who along with Mom & Fr. Bannon, thrived on the start & nurturing of OLA. Steve

Lynch, Marie



For Mom, who with Dad & Fr. Bannon, exemplified the real meaning of community & dedication. Steve

Lynch, Gene and Marie
Gene, humble Lord's servant, & Marie, smiling eyes & faithful friend, will never be forgotten. Hines Family



Marraccini, Bruno D.
You had an unforgettable way that endeared you to many. We love you. Your family and friends

Marzolf, Mary Louise
Grams, you were an inspiration in living life with love and sharing. The Hallerman Family



Mattingly, Michael Matthew
You are in our hearts forever! Marilyn with children and grandchildren



McAllister, Jack
In loving memory of my dear brother.
Leo



McAllister, Joseph
In loving memory of my dear brother.
Leo





McAllister, Mr. & Mrs. Martin
In gratitude for my life and my faith. Your son,
Leo



McLain, Doris
A woman of faith & faithful friend. Susan and David Murphy



McLaughlan, Denise G.
She inspired all with faith, hope & love. Ideal wife, maman, grandmaman. James "Scotty" McLaughlan & family



Metz, Jean Marie
For there will never be another who takes the place of our dear mother! The Metz Family



Mook, Jacob J.
Gone 32 years & greatly missed by wife, Margaret, & children, John, Judine, & Carla



Morrow, Doreen M.
Loving wife; mother of Richard Jr., Daniel, Kristopher & Lynette. We love you. Rest in peace. Richard



Mounier, Genevieve
I treasure our friendship. You changed my life. I miss you. Jeremy

Nelson, Earlin D.
May God keep his daughter close to his heart. He blessed us with a wonderful mother.



Nolan, James P.
As always, you led the way. We will love you forever. Barbara, your children, & 7 grandkids.

O'Connor, Monsignor Cornelius
Your leadership was great. You really impressed this altar boy! Chip Lee

As your altar boy, you showed me the importance of faith. Loved your smile! David Lee



In loving appreciation. Susan and David Murphy

We thought the world of you. Muscardini Family

Fr. Bannon was our Founder, Fr. Neary was our Pastor and you were our loving Shepherd. Ed Wilson Family



Oldag, Donald W.
Dad loved being a part of OLA. He helped wherever needed and we miss him tremendously.
Oldag Children

Oldag, Mary F.
Mom loved doing things at OLA from baking to helping in the food locker. We miss her.
Oldag Children





Orey, Betty J. 1930–1989
Beloved wife and mother. Walter, Stephanie, Jim, Matt, & Stacie

Orsolini, Ed
Active in OLA & ICF. One of the original Boy Scout leaders. Loving husband & father. Love, Diva



O'Toole, Mary
Friend, mentor, a real guardian angel. Irene Hronicek & Steve A. Johnson

Great friend & neighbor. Kind & generous to a new foreign bride. Vicky & Norman G. Johnson



Pantages, James T., Jr.
You are always in our thoughts and in our hearts.
Mom and Dad

Pritchett, Roma Jane 1950–2000
You're with God now, but you remain in our hearts forever. Love, Mom and Dad

Mommy, I miss you! Love and hugs, Anthony Pritchett



Raleigh, Johanna & Patrick
Great friends, great neighbors to a new foreign bride. The Norman Johnson Family

Ratermann, Bud and Helen
Next to you, OLA was second in shaping our lives. Thank you! With love, your children.



Love, Peter, Susie, Maryann, Frankie, Gina, Joe, Peggy, Mark, Theresa and Tricia

Reilly, Edward J.
Ed ushered at the Theater, the Cottage, the Hall & the Church. Usher us into heaven, Ed. Rita





Reiter, Pete
You'll always be remembered as one of the first to put the pig in the pit.
Vonnie & the girls

Reyes, Magdalino & Demetria
Thank you for the gift of life. Love, Mimi Wise

Riley, Marjorie A.
Loving wife of Lawrence. Caring mother of Mike, Liz, Tim, Joe, Tom. We will love her always.





Rolf, Norma J.
Dedicated parishioner for 40 years. Her unique elegance brightened any occasion.
Love, Bill

Roth, Raymond Francis
From 1960–1991, he was a loyal parishioner & dedicated to serving God, his family & friends.
The Roths





Saenz, Rudy Elias Sr.
To a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Your family and friends miss you very much.



Santarini, Juliette
Grandma, we miss your curiosity & your common sense approach to life. Love, Mark, Ruth & Anna

Savarino, Marianna
So giving to church & family. Now heaven enjoys your company. We miss you, John & Kids





Scheier, Steve and Mary
For a lifetime of love, warmth, & caring, a place in our hearts you'll always be sharing. Mike & Steve

Sertich, Thomas Joseph Sr.
Fifty-seven wonderful years of many happy memories. Mary

Sidenblad, Carl M.
Love, you live in our hearts. Florence, Lois, Mariah, & Paul



Smilanick, John C.
The best years of our lives! Love, Martha



Smith, Jeanette T.
Devoted wife of Charles E. Smith and loving mother of Kelly, Lynn, and Michael.

Smith, Murdick Ronald
Your family loves you now and forever.



Smith, Wallace (Wally) and Mary
"Happiness is having a loving family." Your children

Southern, Dennis Paul
Though you're no longer with us, we feel your love every day. We miss you. Chris Bittle & Family

Stojanovich, John, Billie, and MaryBeth
You are greatly missed. Nancy Williams



Stone, John Joseph
My darling husband who lived and loved life to the fullest. He passed away on June 14th, 1986.

Terranova, Maria
Loving mother who was active in parish ICF, helping to sew its flag. Miss you, Mom, Rose LaBate





Terranova, Onofrio
Friend of Msgr. O'Connor, member of ICF. Rose LaBate "His cane for his old age"

Touhey, Philip
In loving memory of Philip! Mary, Mary Jo, Terry, Patti, Helen, Margy, Kathey, Mark, Bill & Eleanor

Walters, Patricia A.
In memory of our beautiful wife, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother. We love you.



Waterbury, Rod & Bea
Good neighbors, great friends, dedicated workers to OLA. "Great beans, Bea!" Gloria Plog



Webb, James and Georgana
Dear grandparents, you are our special gift from God. Anita, Inez, & Rollin, Jr.



Weubbe, William Thomas
Dad: Thank you for giving us the gift of faith. You're in our thoughts. Love, John, Karen, & Cam Goodman

Wike, Pearl Santucci
Your memories will always be with us. Love, Dan and Anne Santucci



Wilhelm, Joseph Dennis
Your family misses you

Willett, Larry E.
We miss you, grandpa, and we love you. Tateishi Family

Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Ed J. Sr.
Good role models, both. I pray my parenting skills equal yours. Your daughter, Pauline Mitchell





Wilson, Edwin J. Jr.
23 years gone & still greatly missed by wife Martha with Mary, Ed, Matt, Ruth, Mike & Joe

Winje, Winifred
Thank you for the memories we cherish of you as our special mom and Nana. David Winje Family



Yarletz, Mary G. (1889–1971)
Mother to Bill, grandmother to Paul. OLA children were at her funeral mass because of classmate, Paul.



Yarletz, Paul F. (1957–1978)
Graduate of OLA & Jesuit Hi, looking forward to USF after AR, but God changed his plans.

Yarletz, William L. (1925–1999)
Loving husband and father. A good provider who gave 200% to his work. Greatly missed.



Zurfluh, George & Ethel
Fondest memories of our wonderful grandparents. Tomich Family

McCarron, Lawrence & Teresa
Married June 17, 1928. Lawr 1903–1994 & Tess 1909–1997. We love you and miss you. McCarron Family



Carton, Fr. Joseph
We appreciated your style. Hoolie & Howard

Adams, Joe Nathan & Viola V.
Our patriarch & matriarch. God blessed us with you. Ola, James, Carlton, Samuel, Dorothy & Curtis

In Acknowledgment and Appreciation

Putting together a publication that accurately accounts for a period of time covering 50 years would be an impossibility without the talents and efforts of those who previously published historical information. In 1975, parishioner Stan Lewinski produced OLA's 25th anniversary book. In 1988, parishioner John Vincent Lemmon updated the parish history for the Diocese's centennial. The work of these two gentlemen along with the assistance of the parishioners who aided them provided invaluable information which made this 50th anniversary book possible. Thank you, Stan Lewinski and John Vincent Lemmon.

For their assistance to me in providing information and/or photos, I would like to thank Hoolie Baber, Virginia Burke, Joan Ferrari-Cotton, Mary Fletcher, Adele Germoles, Bill Hallerman, True Hines, Madeline (Hines) Johnson, Vicky Johnson, Mary Caye Lagomarsino, Alan Leatherby, Steve Lynch, Gerardine McInerney, Dave Mitchell, Margaret Mongeau, Jane Mouton, George Perez, Gloria Plog, Marie Schuring, Martha Smilanick, Michael Tateishi, Nick Tomich, Tracy Urban, Ona Wilsey, and Helen Yarletz.

In addition, thank you to *The Catholic Herald*'s Susie Aronson, Cathy Joyce, and Nancy Westlund for their assistance and guidance.

Other individuals to thank who were extremely helpful to me in the production of this book include Marylee Johnson, Lisa Rojek, Shawn Turner, Martha Wilson, and, especially, Tom Willow for his proofing and editing skills.

And how much fun would this book be to look at if it weren't for the photos? The early photos are from the late Gene Lynch who worked in advertising at *The Sacramento Bee*. Some photos are from parishioners' photo albums while others were taken by Vicky Johnson. As for the majority of the photos, Vince LaBate gets the credit, plus he is donating his entire collection to the parish archives. Thank you, Gene Lynch, Vicky Johnson, and Vince LaBate.

Finally, I want to thank my family for their support and patience throughout this entire project.

I hope you enjoy reading this book. It was written out of affection and respect for the people of my parish, Our Lady of the Assumption.

Ruth Holewinski, editor

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916 978-9137