



Our Church

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

St. Ann's Society History

(actual report)

In July of 1958, Fr. Gallagher and Mr. Russell approached Mr. Martina requesting sketches of a possible church. The first consideration was a matter of finances. At that time there was about \$23,000 or \$24,000 dollars available to build a \$100,000 church. The sketches were made and when one had been selected, the Archbishop's approval was sought. The original expected seating capacity was 650. The estimated cost was \$94,000 whereas the low bid was \$86,000. As it turned out a larger church than expected was built with a final seating capacity of 750. The most amazing part was that what was an idea in July of 1958 was dedicated on **July 19, 1959**.

The altar of magnificent Italian marble was obtained at a total cost of about \$1,000 from St. Patrick's church in Gallion, Ohio. This church was built in the 1860's and had been condemned about four years prior and the altar, imported from Italy and first consecrated by Archbishop Altar when he was Bishop of Toledo, was offered to our Parish. To duplicate this altar today, would could \$25,000. It is constructed of five different types of marble with a solid 2 1/4" thick top. The whole altar weighs 11 tons; the top alone weighs almost 2 tons. It was necessary to reinforce the floor under it. There were five steps leading to it which could not be moved. The original tabernacle was huge—about the size of a barrel. This, plus the columns around the altar were not used in our church. When the stations were attempted to be moved, they cracked and could not be used. The Corpus now hanging on the large cross above our altar came from the pulpit of the condemned church. This was painted white with gold high-lights. There are other things received from St. Patrick's which may be used in our church at a future time.

Some of the statues are already in use, principally the angels, the statues of the Virgin, St. Joseph and the Sacred Heart. The sanctuary lamp is also from there. Because of all these donations, our building expenses could be kept in line. The pews in our loft were some of those that had been in our former church quarters. The pews in the body of the church were obtained for \$11,000 from a firm in Wisconsin. The lowest bids received from local firms ran between \$17,000 and \$18,000. The Archbishop said that we have the largest church for the least money built anywhere in the area. It was because of this that permission was given to proceed with the rectory.



While many churches use stone, with ornate carvings on the outside, our church is mostly brick. This keeps it in line with the other Village buildings. The general style is on the Gothic side. The interior walls are designed to take either plaster or stone as a later date.

New stations have been ordered from Holland. These highly carved wooden statues are made by missionaries.

The roof of the church is 4" wooden planks which have a better fire rating than concrete. The roof plus the current beams have all been treated. At first a full basement was planned, but due to the cost. Only a room large enough for utilities was constructed.

The main parts of the church are the sanctuary, sacristy, nave, and narthex. The baptistry now located in the narthex will be moved when the church is completed. The final plans call for a transept to extend behind the rectory at the right side of the church near the sanctuary. When this is completed, it will add another 250 seats. At the junction of the church and transept a tower will be constructed and under the tower the permanent baptistry will be located.

Plans also call for a colonnade to join the right side door of the church with the front entrance of the rectory. The permanent convent will be built behind the rectory on the other side of the hill.

In the early days, a church was usually designed in the shape of a cross, but now economy dictates that it be built as a rectangle. The baptistry should be located on the gospel side, but due to the situation here, permission was granted to change this. There are no side altars in our church as they are being built in this diocese now.

Mr. Martina closed his talk by mentioning how please he was with our church, since this was the first church he had built.

Signed: Joan L. Velleguitte, Secretary
May, 1960

