

## REV. HAROLD J. FLYNN

Sixth Pastor—September 1, 1942—

*"To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; to be a member of each family, yet belonging to none; to share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer him their prayers; to return from God to men to bring pardon and hope; to have a heart of bronze for chastity; to teach and to pardon, console, and bless always—What a glorious life! And it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ!"*

(Lacordaire)

Lacordaire has beautifully expressed the life and work of a parish priest. This has been fulfilled admirably well by Father Flynn for the past 33 years.

Rev. Harold J. Flynn became our pastor on September 1, 1942. He was indeed no stranger coming as he did from the Phoenix parish where he had served for 14 years. He could not have come at a time when his administrative ability was in greater need. For with the growth of our parish and the age of its buildings, we were ready for expansion and improvements. This meant heavy expenditures which necessitated prudent planning and careful judgment.

We mention some of the numerous repairs and improvements made by our present pastor that we might come to realize in some small

way how he has been continuously occupied in the burdensome administration of this parish for the past 12 years: September, 1944, Church redecorated; September 17, 1944, Attic of St. Mary's School insulated; January 27, 1945, Attic of church insulated; August 14, 1945, Fans in church basement, paint for the exterior of the rectory; June 27, 1946, new lighting fixtures for church; August 12, 1947, new boilers for church and school; January, 1948, Rebuild church organ; July 10, 1948, Chapel and bathroom added to convent; 1949, new desks, school repairs, convent painted, desks for the school; 1951, redecorate church after fire; January 13, 1953, addition to the convent. All of the buildings have been painted and repaired for the centennial year. The present property on Buffalo Street adjacent to the school was acquired by Father Flynn.

Rev. Eugene M. Yennock  
Asst. June 25, 1950—

Rev. Stanley Macewicz  
Asst. June, 1953—Oct., 1954







Rev. John F. Rogers  
Asst. Jan. 15, 1951 to Oct., 1952



Rev. Aloysius Jankowski  
Asst. Sept. 13, 1946 to Jan. 11, 1951

Blessing of renovated church after fire—Sept., 1951



That house was renovated and converted into the kindergarten (first floor), the organist's quarters on the second floor.

Seldom enjoying good health, the present pastor has continuously been kept anxious and concerned over the spiritual and physical condition of the parish. Just when his work of improvement and repairs seemed finished, fire suddenly broke out in the church at the altar of the Blessed Virgin in the afternoon on January 4, 1951. The probable cause was a votive light near the trimming around the Christmas Crib. The side altar was destroyed and there was considerable damage to the interior of the church by smoke, heat and water. A complete job of renovation was necessary. Repairs were made during the spring of 1951. Services were held in the basement in the meantime.

Rev. Thomas Conners  
Asst. Oct., 1952 to Feb., 1953





Stephen Gilles, Trustee



Synon Frawley, Trustee

On Sunday, September 16, 1951 His Excellency, Most Reverend Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse, rededicated the Immaculate Conception Church. The solemn blessing of the newly decorated church took place at the eleven o'clock Mass. The ceremony consisted in the blessing of the main altar and the interior walls of the building, during which Almighty God was invoked to protect and sanctify the edifice being set aside for Divine Worship.

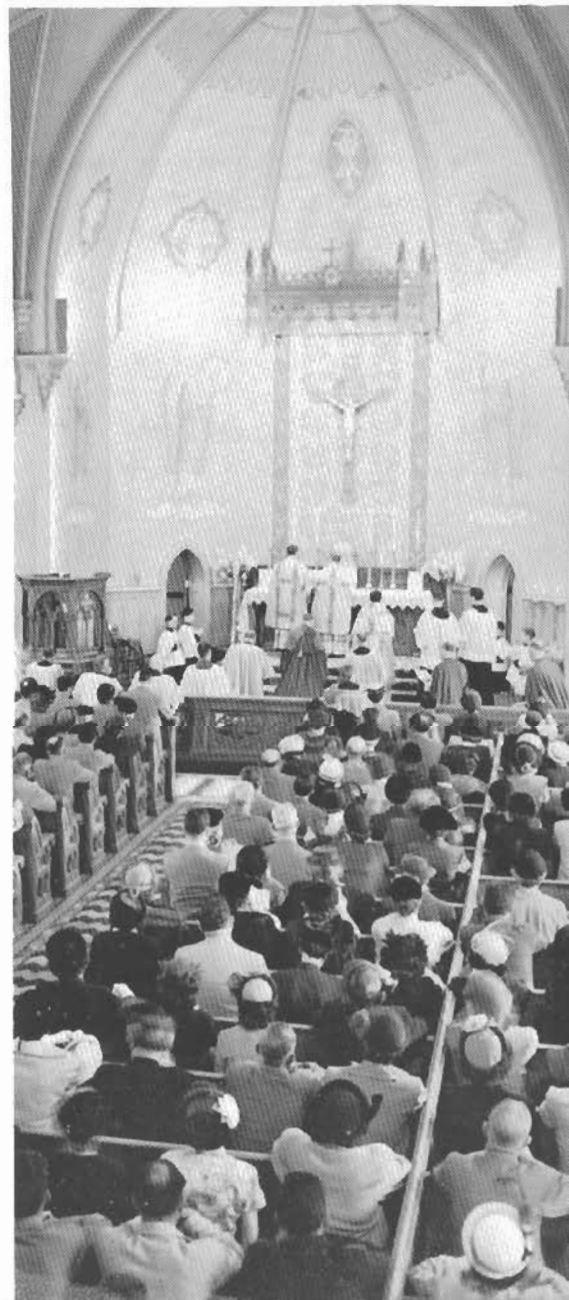
A solemn Mass in the presence of the bishop vested in "Cappa Magna" followed the blessings. The chancellor of the diocese, the Rt. Reverend Robert E. Dillon, served as assistant priest at the throne. The Reverend Angelo Strazzoni of Syracuse and the Reverend Edward Quaid of Oswego acted as chaplains to the bishop. Celebrating the Mass was the pastor,

(left) Rev. Mr. Vincent Mirabito  
Deacon—St. Bernard's Seminary

(right) Rev. Mr. Moritz Fuchs  
Deacon—Catholic University



Blessing of renovated church after fire—Sept., 1951



the Rev. Harold J. Flynn, with the assistants, the Reverend John Rogers and the Reverend Eugene Yennock serving as deacon and sub-deacon. Moritz Fuchs, a seminarian, was master of ceremonies.

Bishop Foery in his sermon discussed the purpose of establishing a church and related that approximately 100 years ago the first Mass in Fulton was celebrated in a private home. He emphasized the importance of the Sacrifice of the Mass and the reception of the sacraments in the lives of Catholics and mentioned that these are made possible by the presence of the priest and the church in their midst.

His Excellency said it was fitting that the ceremonies should take place on the opening Sunday in the Crusade for Freedom campaign and stressed how fortunate the people of this nation were in being able to exercise their right of freedom of worship.

Father Flynn prepared for the priesthood at Niagara University, completing the college course. From there he went to the Grand Seminary at Montreal for his philosophical courses. He spent four years at St. Bonaventure's Seminary where he completed his theological studies.

Ordained in 1921 by the Most Reverend Mark Gannon, D.D., Bishop of Erie, Pa., Father Flynn served as assistant pastor of St. Joseph's French Church in Syracuse; chaplain of Holy Name Academy, Rome; St. John the Evangelist, Oswego; and St. John the Baptist, Syracuse. He was made pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Phoenix, September 1, 1928, serving 14 years before he was appointed pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church.

On December 18, 1946, marking the 25th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood, Father Flynn celebrated a Solemn High Mass assisted by priests of the diocese and was guest at a reception arranged by parishioners and friends, when five hundred persons attended the reception during which Father Flynn was presented with a purse and a spiritual bouquet in behalf of the parishioners by George M. Fannin. Speaker of the evening was the Rt. Rev. Charles McEvoy of Syracuse. Pupils of St. Mary's parochial school participated in the evening program.

Father Flynn had celebrated a Solemn Mass that morning, assisted by the Rev. Paul Hemmer, Liverpool, as deacon, Rev. Francis Hour-

gan, Syracuse, sub-deacon, and Rev. Aloysius Jankowski, Fulton, master of ceremonies. Very Rev. Thomas Plassman, president of St. Bonaventure's College, delivered the sermon.

Father Flynn's assistants were:

Father Harry J. Surber, April 4, 1945-September 13, 1946.

Father Aloysius Jankowski, September 13, 1946-January 11, 1951.

Father Eugene Yennock, June 31, 1950-

Father John Rogers, January 11, 1951-October 21, 1952.

Father Thomas Connors, October 21, 1952-February, 1953.

Father Stanley Macewicz, June, 1953-

And so, we conclude a century of grace. In one hundred years, our parish, under God, has enjoyed continuous and rapid progress spiritually, numerically and materially. From a small beginning of ten or fifteen families, due to the influx of souls created by industrial growth and *the zealous work of able pastors*, who cared for their spiritual welfare. In the past century thousands of souls have been taught to know, love and serve God and their fellow man in this community.

Our loyalty, appreciation and gratitude to those great men and women of the past who, by their efforts, have made possible the enviable position which our parish holds today in the City of Fulton, prompted us to review their accomplishments in this centennial book.

We have endeavored in these chapters, to give an *outline* and a *summary* of the people, buildings, and events which have colored the story of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in one hundred years. One can never do justice to a subject with a scope so wide as this. Many details have necessarily been omitted. Countless names of individuals who have figured intimately in the history of this parish do not find themselves on these pages because they are known only to God who will reward them sufficiently.

In conclusion we entreat our readers to recognize our limitations, and to pardon our errors and omissions.

May Almighty God continue to look down upon us with another Century of Grace.