



Holy Cross Connections

Celebrating 175 Years - Jubilee 2008



“We Glory in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ”

By Fr. Jerry Stluka

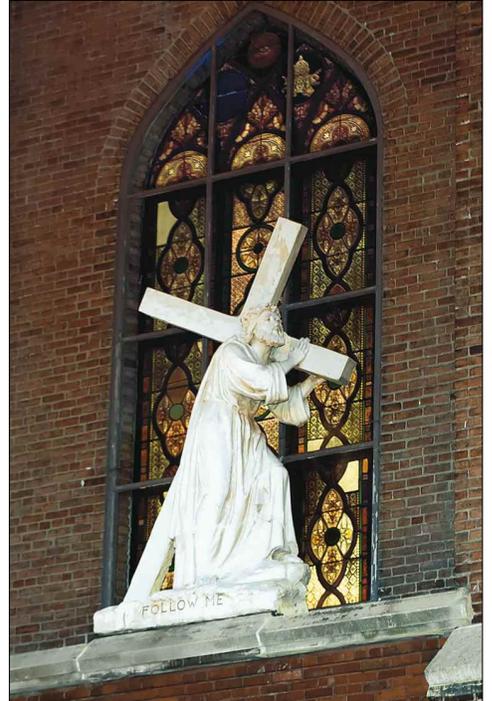
This quote from St. Paul is inscribed in the arch over the altar in our historic church.

As I reflect on our patronal feast, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, several thoughts and feelings of gratitude come to my mind and heart.

Founded in 1833, we are beginning our 175th year of grace as a parish. Thanks be to God for the thousands of parishioners who have celebrated the sacraments in our beautiful church and have prayed, studied, played and taught in our parish school. We wholeheartedly praise and thank God for the glory of the

Holy Cross manifested in the loving sacrifices of so many faithful parishioners whose Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions, Weddings, Anniversaries and Funerals have been celebrated in our community of faith.

Our recently restored 160 year old church building stands as a memorial tribute to all whose prayerful support and sacrificial giving have continued to repair, restore and maintain our beautiful and inspirational house of prayer. Our steeple, crowned with the



cross, was once the tallest building in the city and has always been a sign of our welcoming community reaching out to our surrounding neighborhood. See *The Cross of Our Lord* on pg. 2



Dear Friends of Holy Cross...

By Sister Pat Pieper

Though I write you from Ireland, I will be back among you by the time you read this. I will return refreshed, renewed, deeply grateful for this wonderful time yet eager to see you all again and be with you in ministry at Holy Cross.

The Final Vow program was a

grace - filled and enriching experience for us all with deeply moving moments of sharing stories of violence and war and many humorous moments of attempts at language learning and everything in between.

I find myself being ever more grateful and challenged by our ancestors in

the faith, our foremothers in the congregation and my Irish ancestors. I pray for some part of their deep faith, courageous risk-taking and commitment to sharing the awareness of God's Goodness. Our past is rich but the challenge is to live today and into the future as we are called by a loving God.

I pray for you all very often and thank you for your strength and encouragement.

Sr. Pat



Reflections after Twenty Years at Holy Cross

By Monsignor
Lawrence Corcoran

We are about to celebrate the 175th year of the existence of Holy Cross parish. I have been in residence at Holy Cross for twenty years, a truly enjoyable time. My thoughts about this time go beyond an account of some happenings during these years. They necessarily consider the full life of the parish and the blessing of its existence. They do not constitute “history,” but simply “reflections” that touch on all of the parish years.

Holy Cross parish was established in Columbus in 1833 by the Holy See as the place of worship for the Catholics who were beginning to settle in the south-central section of Ohio. They were most of German ancestry. As the population grew, other parishes were established. All of these traced (and still have) their origins to Holy Cross which is recognized as the Mother Church of central Ohio. It has been, and continues to be, a historical landmark.

The present church building looks

very much as it did when first built in 1848, although some changes have been made. Most notable, perhaps, are the stained glass windows. The were made in Munich, Germany, but World War I broke out and they had to remain overseas in Bremen until the war was over. Then they were shipped and installed in our church. Also, we now have a beautiful new baptismal font, which manifests the sacramental life of the church. Over all, the attractive, traditional interior still presents a venerable appearance and helps strengthen the prayer life of those entering the church.

From its beginning, Holy Cross has continued to be a needed inner-city parish, smaller now, but still very active. It has a life and spirit that are manifested in its activities and in the people who participate. Sunday and weekday liturgies maintain the on-going base of worship, supported by the administration of the other sacraments. Social activities, such as monthly coffee and donuts or the yearly parish picnic help maintain a strong parish social life. It truly can

be said that Holy Cross is a vital center-city parish rather than just a drop-in church.

The real Church, of course, is the parish community of worshippers. Many members live in either Nazareth Towers or J.C. Arms. Some others live elsewhere within the parish boundaries. But a large number of Holy Cross parishioners are those who live elsewhere but have a particular attachment and affection for Holy Cross. Many of these have been members since the time when they attended Holy Cross School. Others are newer members who also have come to see Holy Cross as an important spiritual home.

So, Holy Cross is indeed a spiritual home to many people. Here they can deepen their prayer life. Here they can kneel in intimate union with Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament. Here they can unite with others to participate in the Sacrifice of the Mass. In these ways, Holy Cross helps all of us to translate our reflections into meaningful actions.

From The Cross of Our Lord on pg. 1

The seven last words of Jesus on the cross feed our prayerful reflections:

1. “I thirst” – Christ makes the hungers of humanity His very own.
2. “Father forgive them” – Jesus teaches us how to forgive our enemies and all those who have hurt us.
3. “Today you will be with me in paradise” – Jesus’ promise is our hope – especially in times of pain and hardship.
4. “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” The despair of humanity becomes the redeeming prayer of Christ calling out for the new life God alone can provide.
5. & 6. “Mother, behold your son; behold your Mother.” – We share a mother who unites us with her Son and reaches out to us with maternal compassion and healing.
7. “Into your hands I commend my spirit.” – Jesus’ prayer of abandonment includes the final prayer of all of us entrusting our lives into the eternal embrace of Almighty God.



Thanking God – and you – for the blessings of these first seven years as your pastor, I look forward to the future with a spirit of enthusiasm and joyful hope. With St. Paul, I am realizing more and more that we truly find the Grace of God in our weakness. As we begin a season of jubilee, please join me in thanking God for the blessings of the past, present and future of our marvelous community of faith.

Behind the Scenes By Jack Kustron

From the elegance of the Altar Linen to the nitty-gritty of bathroom cleaning

When you walk into Holy Cross Church and see the bright white altar linens, the polished candle holders and clean carpet and pews, you might also see a smile on the face of Claire Miller.

Claire cleans the church. She vacuums, scrubs the bathrooms, dusts the pews, launders the altar linen, the purificators, and the albs for the servers and priests. She also mends garments, waters the altar flowers, polishes the candle holders and shines the baptismal font. "It's just something that I enjoy doing," she said.

The youngest of Emma and George Dresse's 10 children, Claire was born and raised in New Lexington. Her family lived across the street from St. Rose of Lima Church and her mom laundered the linens for the church. When the Fransiscan Sisters at Stella Niagara would return to their convent for the summer, Claire would assume the responsibility of taking care of the sacristy.

Claire arrived in Columbus in 1954 to attend the Mr. Carmel School of Nursing and, after graduating she cared for patients in the Oncology Department at Riverside Hospital until retiring in 2000.

During her second year at nursing school, she had a blind date with Fred Miller which led to 41 years of

marriage.

At the time Msgr. Berendt was named pastor of Holy Cross

he was the principal of DeSales High School where Fred was a volunteer freshman football coach. So when Monsignor became pastor "Fred came down and I followed and our children followed and now our grandchildren are here," Claire said. After doing odd jobs for Msgr. Berendt, Fred eventually took over the cleaning duties of the church and Claire helped out. When Fred died suddenly in 2000 - two months after Claire's retirement from Riverside - Claire assumed his duties.

"If I didn't have Holy Cross and my religion to help me to get through my husband's death - that helped me to clean the church - I don't know what I would have done," she said. "That was his job and I knew that he would have wanted me to continue. This is my life."

Together they raised four daughters and have been blessed with six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Holidays are the time for most people to "spiff-up" their homes and are the



Claire Miller holds a recently mended Chasuble that Fr. Jerry wears for weddings.

busiest times for Claire as well. At Christmas she has helpers to put up the Creche, with her grandchildren and young people of the parish setting it up while Claire supervises. "Joe Dury is very good, he comes and helps," she said. Holy Week presents the biggest challenge as she has to prepare the church for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. She said Patty Stover, Carol Plank and Betty Morbitzer are three faithful women she can always call on for help. Of course, she can always use more volunteers.

Not only does Claire make sure that the church is clean for weddings - we had more than 20 last year - but she arrives one hour before a wedding to greet the bridal party and makes sure they get down the aisle on time.

So the next time you show off our beautiful church to your friends and family, know that Claire Miller is beaming too.

Important Dates to Remember at Holy Cross – September through December

- September 16 Parish Feast Celebration following 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Oct. 7, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2 Donut Sunday following each Mass
- October 14 Anointing Service for the Sick, held at both Masses
- October 14 Annual Spaghetti Dinner following 11:00 a.m. Mass
- November 5 Remembrance Service for parishioners who have died
- November 18 Thanksgiving baskets final collection
- December 8 – (Saturday) Immaculate Conception - 11:30 a.m. only
- December 24 Vigil of Christmas - Mass at 4:00 p.m.
- December 25 Nativity of the Lord - Mass at 10:00 a.m.
- December 30 Feast of the Holy Family - Annual Rectory Open House



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Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor
Reverend Monsignor Lawrence J. Corcoran, P.A., In Residence
Sister Patricia A. Pieper, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Daily: 11:30 a.m. Monday - Saturday

Confessions

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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