

**HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**  
**ROUSES POINT, NY**  
1857-2007

Edited and Written by Rev. Clyde A. Lewis, Jr.

**EARLY PASTORS/ADMINISTRATORS OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**

Rev. Louis Barbanchon (of Corbeau)	1854-1857
Rev. Joseph Sasseville (of Corbeau)	1857-1859
Rev. Francis VanCompenhondt (of Corbeau)	1859-1860
Rev. Octave LaSalle (of Champlain)	1860-1866
Rev. G. Jeannotte (of Champlain)	July 1-August 8, 1866
Rev. Louis Lapie (of Coopersville)	1866-1869

**RESIDENT PASTORS OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**

Rev. James R. Scanlon	1869-1871
Rev. J. H. Carrieres	1871-1872
Rev. L. D. Laferriere	1872-1873
Rev. Damase M. Archambeault	1873-1875
Rev. Peter Poissant	1875-1878
Rev. James R. Scanlon	1878-1879
Rev. Peter J. Devlin	1880-1881
Rev. Joseph H. Conroy (Later became Bishop of Ogdensburg) .	1881-1883
Rev. John Talbot Smith	1883-1889
Rev. Michael R. Burns	1889-1892
Rev. Michael D. Charbonneau	1892-1897
Rev. James H. Driscoll	1897-1908
Rev. Adolfe Saurel	1908-1915
Rev. Henry Cormerais (First K of C Council Chaplain)	1915-1936
Rev. Albert P. McGrann, OMI, Administrator	1936-1937
Rev. George Garand	1937-1941
Rev. J. Aime Troie	1941-1955
Rev. Msgr. T. Walter Cleary	1955-1968
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Arquett	1968-1969
Rev. Gerald A. Sharland	1969-1973
Rev. Simond Boucher, OMI, Administrator	July-September 1973
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Farmer	1973-1979
Rev. Francis A. Menard	1979-1980
Rev. Albert W. Giroux	1980-1991
Rev. Roger M. Martin, Administrator	January-May 1991
Rev. Msgr. John F. Pendergast	1991-1993
Rev. Wilfred L. DeRoche	1993-2002
Rev. Clyde A. Lewis, Jr.	2002

# IRISH HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

By Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Farmer  
Edited by Rev. Clyde A. Lewis, Jr.

St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point is the only church in Clinton County named in honor of the patron saint of Ireland.

The county has a strong Irish connection, predating Irish settlements. Dublin-born Richard Montgomery, American patriot killed at Quebec, passed through Rouses Point in 1775. Father John Carroll, first Catholic bishop in the U. S., did the same in 1776 on his mission for the Continental Congress.

Irish immigrants were among the earliest settlers in the area. Many came during the Irish emigration from Quebec. The Irish, fearful of being dragged from New York vessels as rebels and traitors by the English officials, took passage in English bottoms to quasi-English soil and then crossed the line from Montreal. They settled all through the north, and particularly on the east and west shores of Lake Champlain.

Mass was offered in the home of Hugh McGuire in Plattsburgh in the early 1820's. Rouses Point was named after Jacques Rouse, settler. Rouse is an Irish name associated mainly with Northern Ireland. Irish workers came to Rouses Point in the 1840's when the railroad was built. The county was part of the Diocese of New York under Bishop John Hughes until 1847 when Albany became a diocese. Archbishop Hughes was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1797.

When St. Patrick's Church was organized in 1857, three of the five trustees were Irish-American---Robert Condon, John Sweeney and John Myers. Myers was born in County Cork, Ireland around 1802. He founded the F.W. Myers Company. When the first church was built in 1858, John McCloskey, later Cardinal, was Bishop of Albany. Of Irish descent, he was born in the U.S. in 1810. Well-known pastors at St. Patrick's were Fathers Scanlon, Conroy, Cleary, Burns, Driscoll, Pendergast, Lewis and others of Irish lineage.

The parish came under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1872. The old church was closed in 1922 and demolished in 1923. The new St. Patrick's Church was dedicated in 1925 by Bishop Conroy. This second church was renovated in 1967-1968 and 1998. New main and side entrances were constructed in 1990-1991.

Although this first Catholic church in Rouses Point has an Irish saint as its patron, the parish itself has never been considered an Irish parish. This is due to the fact that people of both Irish and French descent have lived here. Most came from the north from Quebec, either from the Port of Montreal or from the province itself. The Irish patron saint angle was probably due to the fact that three of the five trustees were of Irish descent.

## *St. Patrick's Church*

It was not untimely in 1857 that the parish of St. Patrick's in Rouses Point, NY was established. This significant event in the history of the village occurred nearly two hundred years after St. Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and Guillaume Couture came by canoe into Lake Champlain from the Richelieu River. From the days of the Jesuit missionaries and martyrs to the construction of the first church, history had passed by the site of Rouses Point on the magnificent lake discovered by Samuel de Champlain. Down from Quebec, across the waters from the Green Mountain country and up from Ticonderoga and the south, history was on the march. Over the spot where Rouses Point would spring up and on all sides of it, thousands of men and hundreds of boats passed and re-passed in a pageantry of war and exploration.

The faith in this northeastern corner of the United States had been brought at an early date by rugged pioneers and, by God's grace, was kept alive under the most trying of circumstances. For in these early days, the people were unattended by a priest for extended periods of time.

The first Catholic settler of Clinton County was John LaFramboise. He was a Frenchman who came through the Port of Montreal, Canada to settle on Lake Champlain, very familiar to the French in their wars with the English colonists and Iroquois. In 1763 he established a homestead along the shore of Lake Champlain at a point known now as Trombly's Bay, several miles south of the mouths of both the Great and Little Chazy Rivers. Driven away by Burgoyne's advancing British army in 1776, the settlers returned after the war. They were joined to the north in 1786 by newcomers from Quebec. During the war of the Revolution, Canadian sympathizers of the American invaders of Canada were forced to align themselves with the Irish patriot Richard Montgomery's army

and were exiled. After the war they were reduced to great distress and poverty. The State of New York, taking pity on them, gave lands in Clinton County to 250 of these refugees. This act was passed on May 11, 1782, and the land came from the Nova Scotia Refugee Tract. They settled near Chazy where the LaFramboises welcomed them.

Among these were men whose devotion to the Lord would form the strong foundation upon which the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Joseph at Corbeau (Corbu, later Coopersville) would be built. Tradition preserves the story of how these families met on Sunday in one another's houses to recite the rosary and the prayers of the Mass, and to sing the hymns which had once awakened the pleasant echoes of Acadia (Nova Scotia). Occasionally a military chaplain or wandering missionary from LaPrairie visited them. Antoine Paulint, a man who proved his leadership abilities as captain and then brevet major in the American Revolution, was granted 500 acres on the Great Chazy River in the town of Champlain. The spot was known as Corbeau. The French word means "crow," its origin as name of the spot lost in time.

Pliny Moore was a citizen of the new Town of Champlain. He had traveled up the Great Chazy River in 1787, establishing his own settlement closer to the Canadian border. Another small hamlet existed on the lakeshore just south of Quebec, established by refugee soldier Jacques Rouse in 1783. By 1793, three roadways had been laid out—one of them the South Road which ran westerly from King's Bay to the Great Chazy River at Corbeau. Moore wrote in a letter, dated February 26, 1798, to Joseph Scott of Philadelphia that about 125 families populated the Town of Champlain. At the turn of the century, as many as a dozen roads connected the various communities within the town. Champlain was fast becoming civilized; it was only natural that organized religious worship would soon follow.

On a grander scale, this was already underway. In 1790, an American Bishopric had been created. On August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, the Rev. John Carroll had been made the first bishop of the See of Baltimore. The residents of Northern New York saw no immediate change in their situation, however. In 1793, a priest named Father Pierre Huet de la Valiniere set himself up with house, church and cemetery at Trombly's Bay near the LaFramboise family. This was the first known Catholic Church in all of northern New York State. During his short tenure, Father de la Valiniere, an unorthodox and feisty priest, quarreled with his neighbors, complaining of their behavior to Judge Pliny Moore. The priest's church and house were set afire in 1793. He took the hint and departed. As the new century began, there were no priests ministering to local Catholics.

In neighboring Upper Canada, just three priests served the Catholic population. These overworked gentlemen were often approached by the faithful traveling from northern New York State who desired conferment of the sacraments—especially baptism and marriage. But for such Catholics as Antoine Paulint, who fought on the American side in the Revolutionary War, seeking out a Canadian priest was not a viable option. These men were considered traitors and could not safely return to Canada.

It is not likely that the new American bishop knew of the hardships Catholics faced near the Canadian border. His counterpart in Quebec, however, grew concerned over the plight of these settlers, many of whom had recently been under his charge. The Rt. Rev. Joseph-Octave Plessis, bishop of the Diocese of Quebec, took it upon himself to open a dialogue with Bishop Carroll. He offered to send one of his priests as a missionary to the shores of Lake Champlain in both New York and Vermont. In letters exchanged between February and July 1806, the groundwork was set, and the rules for this mission work were established. Faculties were also given to the priests of both dioceses to care for the Catholics dwelling there.

Bishop Plessis selected Abbe Joseph Signay as his missionary. In the autumn of 1806, this future bishop of Quebec made a journey from the parish of St. Marie de Monnoir (now Marieville, Quebec in the diocese of St. Hyacinth) to Lake Champlain. He decisively selected a site for a mission on the River Chazy. Research indicates that this mission would be centered in Corbeau, a small settlement on the Great Chazy River. In a letter to his bishop, Abbe Signay described the site as the "most central point for the gathering together of the Canadians scattered throughout the settlement."

However, Abbe Signay had difficulty obtaining sufficient land for the site. While there were those who more than likely welcomed the prospect of a church on the River Chazy, there were those who feared that they would be subsequently displaced. They refused to give the missionary the necessary land. As a letter to the Abbe from Bishop Plessis of Quebec indicates, the Diocese of Baltimore was about to be divided with the states of Vermont and New York going to the new diocese. The bishop suggested that Abbe Signay establish a cemetery and rectory with a new mission chapel so that the inhabitants of the new mission would not be displaced by the new diocese.

Upon the advice of Bishop Plessis, Abbe Signay returned to Corbeau in June of 1807 for a short visit to encourage “those worthy people.” He was again unsuccessful in obtaining the desired land and must have been discouraged upon his return to New York in October 1807. He wrote to the bishop of the continuing difficulties. He chose to sit back and let the residents come to him with a solution rather than risk alienating them by badgering them for a site. The bishop praised him for this insight.

On April 8, 1808, Pope Pius VII established the new Archdiocese of Baltimore with the new suffragan sees of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Bardstown in Kentucky. The creation of the Diocese of New York altered considerably previous commitments between Bishops Carroll and Plessis. Bishop Plessis wrote on November 5, 1810, begging that Bishop Carroll inform him of the name of the administrator of the Diocese of New York “so that I may treat with him as with the other bishops.”

It was difficult for a reply to Bishop Plessis by now Archbishop Carroll. For lack of a suitable candidate for Bishop of New York to be recommended by Archbishop Carroll, the pope himself picked the first bishop of New York. He was an Irish Dominican friar named Richard Luke Concanen, who for many years had lived in Rome. Father Concanen was ordained a bishop in Rome on April 24, 1808 and then made plans to sail to America and his new diocese. However, the closest that he ever got to New York was Naples where he tried in vain to find a ship that would take him to America. The problem was that England and France were at war and travel across the Atlantic was extremely dangerous. On June 19, 1810, he died suddenly in Naples and was buried there the next day. Back in 1808, however, Bishop Concanen had written to Archbishop Carroll, asking him to appoint a vicar general to take charge of his new diocese until he could come there in person. The person whom Carroll selected to administer the Diocese of New York was Father Anthony Kohlmann, a good Jesuit. He became known as “virtually the founder of the Archdiocese of New York.”

Bishop Plessis wrote Abbe Signay on January 6, 1811 to desist from visiting the new mission on the River Chazy until he received new faculties from the new Diocese of New York to which it now belonged. There is no proof that Abbe Signay ever built his proposed chapel at Corbeau. From this time on the region around the mission of Chazy was really without any services of a priest.

Although Abbe Signay would not return as a missionary to New York State, his early work was not in vain. Following the War of 1812, and upon request of Bishop John Connolly of New York, Bishop Plessis once again took the Catholics of northern New York under his charge. In 1818 Bishop Plessis sent Rev. Pierre Marie Mignault, pastor of St. Joseph’s Church in Chambly, Quebec to continue the work of Abbe Signay. He visited them and celebrated Mass for them two or three times a year. His territory extended from the Canadian border to Plattsburgh, north and south 25 miles, eastward and westward as far as he and his assistants chose to go. This area encompassed over 2000 square miles. From the year 1818 the inhabitants were never without a priest. Father Mignault was made Vicar-General of the Bishop of New York, and enjoyed that dignity from each new diocese until his death. For some time he celebrated Mass in private homes.

This inconvenience soon was remedied by Father Mignault later in the year 1818 by the building of a log chapel at Corbeau on the bank of the Great Chazy River. It was not far from the site of the present church and was next to a cemetery. As foreseen and recommended earlier by Bishop Plessis, the cemetery had been laid out as early as 1815 or 1816. This devoted missionary was transferred from his post at Corbeau in 1828, but the people of this region were never far from his thoughts. During those years, Corbeau was listed as the mission of the parish in Chambly.

The date of the actual founding of the village of Rouses Point is disputed, and historical records throw little light on its exact origin. However, refugee soldier Captain Jacques Rouse, for whom the village was named, did settle in the vicinity of the future village in the year 1783. From that point in history, a group of pioneers settled in this strategic location on the lake. By 1803 Rouse’s settlement consisted of six small huts. Gradually, this settlement would eventually become an important village in rail and lake commerce. This new village of Rouses Point, situated at the very point where Lake Champlain empties itself into the Richelieu River, was incorporated in 1877.

With the advent of the railroad and steamboat, Rouses Point became a thriving business community. For its size, it had more railroads coming in and going out than did Chicago. It was at a turning point in its history that the parish of St. Patrick’s was established. From 1849 until 1857, priests from St. Joseph’s Church in Corbeau, later named Coopersville, offered Masses in the homes of Rouses Point. When Father Louis Barbanchon was pastor of Corbeau from 1854-1857, the people of Rouses Point began to talk of organizing a new parish and building a church. Those who felt inclined to go to Sunday Mass had to go to Corbeau on foot. Occasionally Mass was celebrated in the house of Mr. John Myers, an energetic business man. His memory is held in regret and benediction as the most public-spirited gentleman that ever lived in the village.

On occasion, a priest from Boston or elsewhere visited the families of Rouses Point, and Father Mignault was also solicitous for their welfare. During 1857 Father Barbanchon left Corbeau and was replaced by Rev. Joseph Sasseville on March 22nd. Thanks to him, the Catholics of Rouses Point continued to talk of a new parish. On May 31, 1857, St. Patrick's Church community was first organized under the leadership of Father Sasseville. Its first trustees were William Collopy, Robert Condon, John Myers, John Sweeney and Ambrose H. David.

The building of a church was now pushed energetically by Mr. Myers and others. It was left to Father Barbanchon's successor at Corbeau and the first administrator of St. Patrick's Church, Father Sasseville, to rally the people to begin the erection of a brick church edifice for this new parish.

First of all, land had to be acquired. In 1857 three deeds were made to the Trustees of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Rouses Point: one by Rufus Heaton for the consideration of \$1; one by John Myers for the consideration of \$300; and another by Mr. Heaton for the consideration of \$1. The land was to be used for the new church and an adjacent cemetery. The deeds were recorded at the Clinton County Clerk's Office on August 20, 1857.

The village of Rouses Point was now located in the Diocese of Albany, which was established along with Buffalo by Pope Pius IX on April 23, 1847. On March 1, 1858, Father Sasseville wrote Bishop John McCloskey, the first bishop of Albany, to submit a proposal for the church building. Bishop McCloskey's consent was obtained.

On June 24, 1858, the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, the cornerstone of this first church of St. Patrick was blessed by the aged Father Pierre Marie Mignault, pastor of Chambly, Quebec and acting Vicar General of the Diocese of Albany. Since leaving St. Joseph's of Corbeau in 1828, Father Mignault had retained his love and affection for the Catholics of Rouses Point. He had discussed with Father Sasseville the plans for the new church and was excited about the project. He would come from time to time to visit the people of Rouses Point and Corbeau and sometimes would baptize their infants. Father Sasseville and many parishioners were present for the blessing.

St. Patrick's Church first opened for worship in September 1858 before it was completed. It was consecrated as the first Catholic Church of Rouses Point in November 1859 by Bishop de Goesbriand of the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont. The new church was located at the entrance of St. Patrick's Cemetery on Church Street and the end of State Street. Together the church and cemetery occupied 1.4 acres of land. The building, with a capacity of 300, was built by Joseph Mallette for the total sum of \$1700. It was 53 feet long and 33 feet wide. The sanctuary measured 19 feet wide and 15 feet long. The total length of the new church was 68 feet. The plot for the burial of priests is now located on the site of this first church. In September of 1867, a bell was cast by the Jones Bell Foundry of Troy, NY and installed in the new church tower.

During the first twelve years of the parish's existence, there was no permanent resident pastor stationed at Rouses Point. Indeed, the parish was a mission, first of St. Joseph's of Corbeau and then of St. Mary's in Champlain. The resident pastors of these parishes saw to the spiritual welfare of the parishioners of St. Patrick's.

On September 13, 1859 Father Sasseville left as pastor of St. Joseph's and administrator of St. Patrick's and returned to Quebec. He was replaced by Rev. Francis VanCompenhondt, a Belgian priest, who took up the administration of both Corbeau and Rouses Point. Father Van Compenhondt's duties began to expand as he ventured west to organize other parishes and build churches. In 1860 St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Champlain were assigned to Rev. Octave LaSalle, Father VanCompenhondt's assistant at Corbeau. Father LaSalle left Champlain in 1866 and was succeeded by Rev. G. Jeannotte for several months. During that year the Diocese of Albany gave the administration of St. Patrick's back to Coopersville/Corbeau. Rev. Louis Lapie of St. Joseph's took care of Rouses Point until 1869, when Rev. James R. Scanlon was appointed the first resident pastor of St. Patrick's.

Father Scanlon was an outstanding young man of many talents. He was noted as an orator, and the proof of his administrative abilities is to be found in the fact that he was able to pay off the entire debt on the new church and build a \$3,000 rectory during his stay of two years. The new rectory, whose foundation still exists under a more recent house, was located on the right of the church. Father Scanlon won the hearts of his people more completely than any of his successors.

In 1871 Father Scanlon left Rouses Point. Rev. J. H. Carrieres succeeded to the parish. It was during Father Carrieres' term as pastor that the Diocese of Ogdensburg was created by Pope Pius IX in his Bull of February 16, 1872. The first bishop of Ogdensburg was appointed on May 16, 1872. Thus, St. Patrick's went from being a parish of the Diocese of Albany to a parish of the Diocese of Ogdensburg under Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams.

Father Carrieres departed from St. Patrick's in the fall of 1872. He was succeeded by his assistant, Rev. L. H. Laferriere. Father Laferriere was replaced in 1873 by Rev. Damase Archambeault until 1875, when he died. Father Archambeault was buried under the altar of the church. Rev. Peter Poissant succeeded him as pastor.

Father Poissant's time as pastor in 1875-1878 was marred by dissension and turmoil. The laws of New York State had changed so that the property of the Church was now to be placed in the hands of the bishop. However, the trustees of St. Patrick's refused to surrender the title of the church into the hands of John Hughes, the first archbishop of New York. Subsequently, the parish was decreed under interdict by Bishop Wadhams for six months in 1876 and 1877. This status caused unfortunate misunderstandings and disagreements. The congregation was deprived of the ministry of any priest until May 7, 1877 when the trustees finally allowed the new incorporation. Under the new laws of the State of New York for church corporations, the officers of the corporation now were the Bishop as President, the Vicar-General as Vice-President, the Pastor as Secretary-Treasurer and two Lay Trustees. The Lay Trustees were to be appointed annually.

During the first part of 1878, Father Poissant moved on. Father Scanlon then returned as pastor of St. Patrick's. It was the same church, but in a new diocese. He remained pastor until his sudden death in late 1879. This first resident pastor's final resting place was in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Father Scanlon was succeeded early in 1880 by Rev. Peter J. Devlin, who later became pastor of St. Patrick's in Chateaugay and St. Patrick's in Watertown. Father Devlin contributed much to the spiritual welfare during his short pastorate. He also set in order the grounds surrounding the church property and improved the finances.

Following Father Devlin's transfer in 1881, Rev. Joseph Henry Conroy came to St. Patrick's as pastor where he remained until 1883. Newly ordained, Father Conroy had lasted only six weeks in his first assignment at Churubusco. He was transferred to St. Patrick's because he could not ride a horse. This future Bishop of Ogdensburg, even at this early age, distinguished himself as an able administrator and a most compelling preacher. There were still vestiges of the trials of interdict. Fathers Scanlon and Devlin had attempted to bring peace to the parish, but it was for Father Conroy, the new pastor, to bring renewal and rebuilding. Father Conroy handled the situation well, paid off a \$600 debt and instilled new hope in his parishioners.

The memory of this dynamic priest remained fresh down through the years, and it was with pride that the parishioners of St. Patrick's recalled the days when their Ordinary had been their pastor. On April 17, 1883, Father Joseph Henry Conroy was transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg where he became Rector, Vicar-General of the Diocese, later Auxiliary to Bishop Henry Gabriels and subsequently the third Bishop of Ogdensburg. Bishop Conroy died on March 20, 1939.

In the spring of 1883 Rev. John Talbot Smith became pastor of St. Patrick's and launched the parish into a new era. Rouses Point had become a bustling railroad center and an increasingly lively town with its Customs house and busy officials dealing with the complications of travel between the U. S. and Canada. In Father Smith's estimation, it was time to establish a Catholic school for St. Patrick's. Just before Christmas 1884, Father Smith visited Mother Mary Stanislaus McGarr, RSM in Hogansburg, NY to obtain sisters for a school in Rouses Point. He returned with a promise of teaching Sisters of Mercy. There would be a grade school first and possibly a high school later. The first priority was to get a temporary structure established as soon as possible.

A building known then as Eagle Hall, located on the southwest corner of Lake Street and Washington Avenue, was rented. This structure housed the beginnings of the first convent school. Here the Sisters, who arrived in January 1885, taught during those early months in this new mission. They lived in a small convent on Pratt Street, which later became the site of Anne's Grocery. The first superior was Sister Mary Annunciata McClosky, RSM. A temporary school was then fashioned and was ready for occupancy in January 1886. This "temporary structure" proved to be a permanent one without anyone ever realizing it. It was located on the corner of Clinton and Maple Streets. It consisted of two floors. The school was a rectangular building with a notable absence of trees and shrubs. Classrooms were on the first floor, with the chapel and classrooms on the second floor.

Father Smith was a man of scholarly habits and, while in Rouses Point, he wrote the first history of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It is this history that furnished much of the data of the early days of Catholicism in the North Country and an account of the pioneer priests of the area. A North Country priest, Father Talbot described the hardships endured by Bishop Wadhams and his priests in the 1880's. "The Ogdensburg mission is the wildest part of the state," he said, "and the stories that could be told of endurance and suffering in it are quite as real and interesting as any from the remote West." At the time of his history, Father Smith estimated that St. Patrick's Church numbered "very nearly 200 families and something over 800 souls." A second history of the Diocese of Ogdensburg would be written by Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ in 1972 on the occasion of the Centennial of the Diocese.

After Father Smith's pastorate, which ended in 1889, there followed in succession four apostolic pastors who contributed much to the life of the parish. They were Fathers Michael R. Burns, later to be pastor of Holy Family Church in Watertown; Michael D. Charbonneau, the uncle of Msgr. Anthime D. Charbonneau of Notre Dame in Ogdensburg, who later went to Keeseville; James H. Driscoll, who would later become pastor of St. John's Church, Plattsburgh and Dean of the Clinton County Clergy; and Adolfe Saurel. These were all outstanding men who made a lasting impression upon the history of both parish and village.

During the early days of the school, the Sisters would visit the people of the village after classes. The people became very devoted to them, and the Sisters were laden with food to take back to the convent. During the pastorate of Father Burns, 1889-1892, no salary was paid to the Sisters. Their income was obtained, with Father's permission, by visiting the people and collecting the "school tax" which they kept for their support.

Rev. Michael D. Charbonneau (1892-1897), the next pastor, inaugurated the custom of the annual Fair. The Rouses Point Fair was held in the Town Hall for a week, and all the income generated from it went to the school and the Sisters. Books of chances were distributed and numerous attractions were planned. All year the Sisters would collect items for the Fair and spend their extra time making fancy articles. The citizens supported the Fair very well and all rejoiced when the total net income was announced, usually in the neighborhood of \$1,000. While in Rouses Point, Father Charbonneau was most generous to the Sisters in giving school supplies, sending feasts to the convent and paying the fares for the Sisters at Christmas time so that they could go home to the Motherhouse in Hogansburg. For years the Sisters fondly remembered him and sang his praises for his kindness. Succeeding Sister Mary Annunciata McClosky, RSM as superior were Sister Mary Mercy McCue, RSM and Sister Mary Francis Oakley III, RSM.

Under Father Charbonneau in 1894, a charter for a high school was obtained from New York State. However, a high school was never established due to circumstances beyond the Sisters' control. The building inspector would not allow it since St. Patrick's was a wooden building. The school remained a grade school. Privately, the Sisters would remark that "they wanted pupils for the other school." It was during this year that the school was expanded to include eight grades. However, due to lack of space, each Sister was obliged to teach double grades, a situation that continued until a new school would be constructed.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in great style at the school. Besides the usual entertainment in the evening, there was always a parade of the children from the school to the Church where High Mass was sung. At Christmas time the people rejoiced with the children who gathered around a Christmas tree in the church hall and received their gifts plus a big bag of candy from the pastor.

Rev. James H. Driscoll succeeded Father Charbonneau in 1897. He was a man of great dignity and noted for elegant extravagant speech. Father Driscoll further enlarged the school building by adding a third floor. This third floor allowed the Sisters to leave their small convent on Pratt Street and live in this new addition. Thus, St. Patrick's School became a convent school. Father Driscoll remained pastor until 1908.

After the pastorate of Father Adolfe Saurel from 1908-1915, Rev. Henry Cormerais became pastor of St. Patrick's, where he would remain until 1936. Father Cormerais was born in France and educated in Spain. It was during this time that World War I occurred, causing so much world upheaval.

Around 1920 Rouses Point had become a large railroad center with several different lines operating from this border village. Many employees of these lines either lived in Rouses Point or tied up there for rest. Many were Catholic and belonged to various councils of the Knights of Columbus both in Canada and the United States. They would meet together at various places in the village. One such meeting place was at the store of Brother Knight Louis A. Moquin. Looking for a larger, more appropriate meeting place, these men decided to form a club. On January 6, 1920 the Columbus Club was formed in a room on the second floor of the Chapman Block on the southwest corner of Lake and Chapman streets. Election of officers took place on January 18<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in P. E. Rock being elected President, George Rivers, Sr., Vice-President and Albert G. Carriere, Secretary-Treasurer. A large enough treasury was established to purchase all the furniture.

The Columbus Club prospered financially and was instrumental in promoting many of the town's social activities through the efforts of its leaders. However, it was hampered by a regulation that restricted participation only to avowed Knights of Columbus members. The only answer was to form a council of their own. A drive was instituted and 105 applications were received from men in Champlain, Chazy, Alburg, Lacolle, Coopersville, Mooers and Rouses Point. On May 21, 1921, the new members received their third degree in St. Albans, Vermont. Finally, Rouses Point Council No. 2366 was chartered on April 2, 1922 with 85 names. A list of 122 more was waiting admission or transfer to the new Council.

The first chaplain of the K of C Council was Father Henry Cormerais. The other first officers of the Knights of Columbus Council #2366 were: Grand Knight, Thomas A. Sabourin; Deputy Grand Knight, George Rivers, Sr.; Chancellor, John Nolan; Recorder, Fred Foy; Financial Secretary, P. E. Rock; Treasurer, Albert G. Carriere; Lecturer, John Nolan; Advocate, Charles Rushlow; Warden, Jack Sabourin; Inside Guard, Willis Miller; Outside Guard, Francis McArdle; Trustees Frank Connolly, George Landry and Nelson Burke.

When the former pastor of St. Patrick's, Bishop Conroy, began his episcopate on January 18, 1922, one of his first decisions was to direct the publication of the first Official Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The directory included all parishes and detailed reports of the financial contributions of each member of each parish in the diocese. The directory listed St. Patrick's of Rouses Point with 242 families and 211 parochial school students under the leadership of its pastor, Rev. Henry Cormerais.

As time passed, the parish grew in numbers so that a more accommodating church was felt necessary. Under the leadership of Father Cormerais, and in accordance with the wishes of Bishop Gabriels, land had been purchased on March 1, 1919 on Lake Street for \$6,000 from Armand A. Ducharme. During 1922 the cornerstone for the new church was blessed. The church basement was completed in the late fall of that same year and served as a place of worship until the superstructure was finished in September 1924. Research indicates that the first Baptism in this basement church was on Christmas Day 1922, that of Helen Roberts, daughter of George Roberts and Lillian Gooley. Father Cormerais administered this first baptism, and Silas Sharron and Julia Chevalier were the Sponsors. Helen is now Helen Davies, still an active parishioner of St. Patrick's.

The first Mass was celebrated in the newly-completed church on September 14, 1924. Records show that the first Baptism in this newly-completed church was that of Rita Gertrude Boulerice, daughter of Alfred Boulerice and Delia Menard, on September 28, 1924. The Sponsors were Joseph Lapierre and Anna Menard, and Father Cormerais performed the ceremony. Rita later married Roland LeBlanc. Amidst great rejoicing, the former pastor, the Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, Bishop of Ogdensburg, dedicated the church on June 29, 1925. This new church was a most imposing edifice overlooking Lake Street and beautiful Lake Champlain where in days past missionaries, explorers and warriors passed during the infancy of the New World.

The building was romanesque in design, but due to finances it was left generally undecorated. A major exception was the beautiful stained glass windows. They were made by the MAUMEJEAN BROTHERS of Paris, France. These consisted of a very large circular window in the choir loft. This window pictured Jesus giving his famous Sermon on the Mount. There were two other circular windows in the choir loft, one of which was that of St. Charles on the south side of the church.

Lunette windows with pictures of saints adorned both sides of the upper story of the church nave. It is presumed that the saints pictured had no connection to the church. They were probably the patron saints of those who donated them as indicated by the donor's name under each window. These lunette windows are as follows:

North side from back to front:

1. St. Michael the Archangel
2. St. Thomas the Apostle
3. St. Stanislaus
4. St. John the Baptist
5. St. Henry

South side from front to back:

6. St. Rene
7. St. Catherine
8. St. Armand
9. St. Francis of Assisi
10. St. George

The windows on the lower story featured pictures of various scenes, some related to the life of Jesus.

North side from back to front:

1. St. Paul
2. Jesus Raising Lazarus
3. Jesus Giving Sight to the Blind Man
4. Jesus Calming the Storm on the Sea of Galilee
5. Jesus and Mary at the Death of Joseph

South side from front to back:

6. The Widow's Mite
7. Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes
8. The Doubting Thomas
9. The Prodigal Son
10. St. Peter

There were three small stained glass windows in each of the church's side chapels. The windows in the Chapel of the Blessed Mother on the south side contained three different pictures of the Mother of Jesus. The Chapel of St. Joseph on the north side was adorned with three different pictures of the husband of Mary.

Other items completed the new church. A beautiful ornate center altar with a tall tabernacle with a cross filled the sanctuary. Beneath the altar table was a marble display of the Last Supper. An ornate Communion Rail with metal gates bordered the church sanctuary and chapels. In addition, there were statues that adorned the church. Statues of Mary and Joseph were located in their chapels up front. A statue of St. Anne was placed on the right up by the Chapel of St. Joseph. In the rear of the church by the entrance doors were statues of St. Patrick (over the center entrance door), St. Therese of Lisieux on the left and St. Anthony on the right.

There were additional items as well, such as the baptismal font located on the right of the church in front of St. Joseph's Chapel beneath St. Anne's statue and a votive candle stand on the left of the church in front of Mary's Chapel. The spacious basement of this new church, used first as a worship space while the superstructure was constructed, became the new parish hall. It is presumed that the original bell installed in the first church was re-located to the tower of this new edifice.

During this time, a new rectory at 138 Lake Street was procured by Father Cormerais. It was the former Swinburne Stables, which included a blacksmith shop. The structure had then been down-sized and made into a two-family house. The parish purchased this building, and Father Cormerais transformed the structure into the new rectory that now comprises 16 rooms and three bathrooms.

The original church on Church Street had its last Mass in December 1922. The building was demolished in 1923. The plot of land on which the first church had stood for 65 years now became the priests' burial plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

On May 25, 1925 the Knights of Columbus Council invited the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia No. 962, to share its home in the Chapman Block for their meetings and other activities. Court Patricia had been formed in Rouses Point on May 10, 1925. This arrangement was maintained for many years until the CDA disbanded in the year 2000.

The theme of the Daughters' activities was "Charity." The first Grand Regent was Helena Rock. The remaining court of officers included Jane Corcoran as Vice-Regent; Angeline Weeks as Financial Secretary; Flora Murray as Treasurer; Mollie Hoag as Historian; Margaret Landry as Monitor; Ethel Ashline as Prophetess; and Helene Sweet as Sentinel. Trustees were Mary Connolly, Flavia Hanfield, Antoinette LeBlanc, Ida Mae Landry, Bertha Rushlow and Mae Breault. There were 66 Charter Members.

In the first few years the Court found that raffling cedar hope chests filled with handmade linens, producing plays and minstrel shows, sponsoring card parties and church dinners netted large sums of money. During the Depression large scale efforts were not practiced. The money was raised through food sales, raffles and rummage sales.

Court Patricia was extremely generous through the years. The American flag in the church, the church linens, a new church fund started in 1926, the large cross purchased for the cemetery in 1927, a continuous fund for upkeep of the cemetery are mute memorials to the Court's beneficence. In addition, the Catholic Daughters aided the Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic School children with constant gifts, repairs and provisions. The Court had an outreach to the sick and poor of St. Patrick's Church and provided bandages to the Red Cross for disasters. They also made regular donations to Catholic Charities, the Seminary Fund, many religious organizations, St. Patrick's Church and other charities. They were always available to help with energy and enthusiasm at various events.

Entertainment in those days was a ready means of building up funds for the new K of C Council. Dances, card parties and shows were sponsored by the membership with the proceeds being used to increase the Council treasury. In those days when automobiles were not numerous, the Knights of Columbus rooms in the Chapman Block were the center of the social activities of the village. The membership soared to over 300, and on August 13, 1925 at a meeting, Brother Albert G. Carriere successfully moved that the money now in the treasury be set aside to build a new home.

The story of the interior decoration of St. Patrick's Church is a masterpiece, much like the work of its decorator. On his way from New York to Montreal in March 1928 to consider a contract at one of the churches in that city, Professor Angelo Metalò, a renowned artist from Italy, was detained at Rouses Point by Canadian immigration officials because of passport regulations. While waiting there for matters to be straightened out, the professor lived at the Hotel Montgomery and became acquainted with members of the church and with its pastor, Father Cormerais.

A visit to the new church revealed, in its undecorated interior, a very exceptional opportunity for artistic ornamentation. At that time, the new St. Patrick's Church had been erected for only a short time and at a very considerable expense to the parish. The pastor and trustees felt that the costs involved in decorating the interior of the church would be too much for the parish to meet at that time. Professor Metalò, however, saw here the unusual scope for his artistic talents which the layout and design afforded. He also desired to have an example of his work in this section of the State. He named a price that scarcely covered the cost of materials, living expenses and the salaries of assistants.

Father Cormerais called a special meeting of the trustees. Because all surmised that this opportunity was not likely to occur again, a contract was signed. The work required more than a year, and it is estimated that the contract would have involved an expenditure of more than \$15,000 under ordinary circumstances. With a final stroke of his brush, Professor Metalò completed the interior decorations of the new church on April 15, 1929.

The professor wore the decoration of the Cross of Cavaliere conferred upon him by King Victor Emmanuel of Italy. He had decorated many of the better known Catholic churches and cathedrals in Europe and America. Professor Metalò considered his work on the interior of St. Patrick's to be the very best that he had ever done. At the time, the entire parish, Bishop Conroy and all in the Diocese of Ogdensburg were effusive in their praise of Professor Metalò's work. Since coming to Rouses Point, the professor had decorated the interior of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Churubusco, NY, the chapel at the former Gabriels, NY Sanatorium and the Orphanage Chapel in Ogdensburg. While in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, he maintained studios in the Gunn Building in Rouses Point and also in the city of Ogdensburg. St. Patrick's parishioner Rene Ancil would often visit the artist in his studio at Rouses Point and watch him paint. The Gunn Building was located on the southwest corner of State and Lake streets, the former site of Clyde LaMoy's taxi stand.

Professor Metalò had come to the United States from Italy in 1910 on a visit and was invited to decorate the courthouse in Wilkes-Barre, PA., as well as a Catholic Church in Scranton, PA. Instead of returning to Italy as he expected, he remained in this country. Examples of his ability may also be seen in the Church of the Sacred Heart, the Church of the Precious Blood and St. Casimir's Franciscan Church, all in Holyoke, MA. In addition, the professor did work in the Church of the Transfiguration in New York City, St. Joseph's Church in Alameda, CA and many other religious edifices throughout the U.S.

All of the many beautiful original paintings used in the decoration of St. Patrick's Church and executed by Professor Metalò were donated by members of the parish. The ceiling was divided into six sections, each embellished with an emblematic example of religious art most effectively done in oil on canvas and cemented in place. The sections were located on the ceiling from the front to back of the church. "The Birth of Jesus" was given by Elysse Bertrand; "The Celebration of the First Mass in the New World" was the gift of the local council No. 2366 of the Knights of Columbus; "Martha and Mary with Our Lord" was donated by Court Patricia No. 962, Catholic Daughters of the Americas; "Suffer the Little Children to Come to Me" was paid for with money raised by the children of the parish; "The Resurrection" was provided for by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Brothers, while "Saint Cecile" was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rushlow.

The professor painted himself in one of the ceiling paintings, the one with the children in it. In this work, entitled "Suffer the Little Children to Come to Me," he is the man with the black cape on the right hand of the picture.

In the sanctuary on the ceiling there was a very large painting, extremely beautiful in its conception and execution and portraying more than 50 figures. It was titled "The Redemption." At the center bathed in blue sky, a group symbolized "The Trinity", surrounded by choruses of angels draped in white. In the lower part of the picture was a vision of "Purgatory." From flames below, souls cried out to the Holy Trinity above. This was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. H. McDonough. The wall of the sanctuary was decorated with an artistic drape in red, purple and emerald green on a gold background.

There is a story regarding the "Redemption" painting Professor Metalo did. The superior of the Sisters of Mercy at the time considered herself somewhat of an artist. She would visit the professor from time to time making comments about his continuing work on the painting. Somewhat irritated by the visits, Professor Metalo painted her face among the souls in Purgatory. When Sister recognized it one day, she went to Father Cormerais and complained. Father talked to the professor and he painted a rock over Sister's face. When she returned one day, he mentioned that the rock covered her face, but that she was still there.

Each of the lunettes in the upper story of the nave which framed the art glass windows ornamented with pictures of saints was attended by two angels draped in white. The backgrounds were in gold mosaic, which was also used for the fine ornamental work around the lunettes. Columns and pillars in the church were decorated in old ivory with a delicate touch of gold in the highlights. Sidewalls were paneled and each panel was painted in imitation of Siena marble.

The two side chapels were richly ornamented. The decoration of the wall in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, depicting a scene in Bethlehem, was made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Valenze. The Nazareth scenic design on the wall in the chapel of St. Joseph was the gift of the Dr. George Letourneau family.

On May 28, 1930 from a fund of over \$3,000, a lot for the new K of C Home was purchased for \$1,875. The property was located just behind St. Patrick's Church and rectory on Liberty Street. In that same year, Brother Angelo Metalo, the artist who decorated St. Patrick's Church, presented the Council with a beautiful oil painting depicting the landing of Columbus. The painting still hangs in the present quarters of the Knights in the new parish center. Around the same time, the professor also painted a picture of the church and rectory and presented it to the parish for a raffle. The proceeds went to help pay for the interior artistic additions to the new church. Norman and Bertha Moore won the painting in the raffle and made it a special addition to their Rouses Point home. The painting is signed by Angelo Metalo in the lower right-hand corner and is now in the possession of Rose Moore.

For a time in 1931, the K of C Council was in dire straits due to President Franklin Roosevelt's memorable bank holiday which froze the savings account. The hearty response by the members to pay all dues kept the Council solvent until the banks were opened. The economic depression of the 1930's, which followed, caused the membership to drop to 112 due to widespread unemployment and no bank account in 1936. The harassed officers could find little consolation. It is to their great credit that they kept sturdily on, paying all bills and meeting every per-capita tax as it came due. In 1937 the Council began to recover, forging ahead slowly at first. As distinguished Catholic men of Champlain, Mooers, Mooers Forks and Lacolle interested themselves in the Society, the Council quickly wiped out the old losses, and the membership once again rose to a new high.

In 1936 Father Cormerais retired as pastor. It was during this year that St. Patrick's Church purchased a pipe organ to go with the new church. The eight-rank pipe organ in the choir loft was a product of the Estey Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. Research reveals that this instrument is an Opus 3086 installed in 1936. Like a basic eight-rank organ supplied to a multitude of churches throughout the USA, it was a two manual and pedal "stock" model instrument that contained a three-stop Great, four-stop Swell and a Pedal Bourdon. With a few renovations, the pipe organ remains today to accompany the liturgical services.

Rev. Albert P. McGrann, OMI, replaced Father Cormerais when he retired in 1936 and became administrator of the parish for a short time. During this period St. Patrick's celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the school. It was a festive and memorable occasion. There was a play in the Church Hall, and an evening of entertainment followed. Many of the charter members were present, old people reliving by-gone days. They sang the old songs of their school days. About twelve dressed up as youngsters wearing braids and pinafores and even carrying slates. Among those who celebrated the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Seguin, the parents of native son Father Gerald Seguin, who was a former pupil of St. Patrick's. Another feature of the celebration was a banquet at the school. On this occasion a tree was erected from whose branches hung little gold packages all containing money. Father McGrann acted as toastmaster, and Father Kane, OMI played the piano and sang.

Rev. George Garand, brother of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Phileas S. Garand, P. A., Vicar-General of the Diocese of Ogdensburg succeeded Father Cormerais as pastor in 1937. Father Garand made many improvements to the Rectory and Church grounds during his pastorate. He also added a sun porch to the convent school.

Among the parish improvements made by Father Garand was the stone altar he had erected in 1938 over the spot that was the sanctuary of the former church. Beneath it was placed the body of Father Cormerais, who died on March 30th. In front of this altar grave would be placed the burial plots of priests who would serve the parish in the coming years. Father Garand died on July 13, 1941. It was only fitting that he be buried in the priests' plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery in front of the stone altar that he had placed there.

During the 150 years of St. Patrick's Church, the parish has given six of its sons and daughters to the Church. Ordained priests were Msgr. Alexander P. Landry (1872-1955) and Rev. Gerald Seguin (died in 2006). Native daughters included Sister Mary St. Louis, GNSH (Jacqueline C. Roy), Sister Mary Bernard, GNSH (Doris Sabourin), Sister Mary Pierre (Ruth Seguin) RSM and Sister Gail Jarvis, RSM. Msgr. Landry is buried in the priests' plot of St. Patrick's Cemetery. Father Seguin lies in another plot elsewhere in the cemetery.

1941 was an epochal year, marking the United States' entry into World War II and the beginning of a new era of bloodshed and terror which would profoundly influence the history of future times. A number of parishioners served in the Armed Forces, some of whom gave their lives for their country. A memorial plaque listing these heroes of both World Wars I and II hangs in the small front archway of the church, just off the lobby.

It was in the first year of the war that Rev. J. Aime Troie became pastor of St. Patrick's Church. Father Troie made many improvements to the cemetery.

Perhaps the most notable contribution of Father Troie to St. Patrick's was his devotion to Catholic education. In July 1949 Father Troie purchased property, including the Frenyea house and property owned by Mrs. Kitty Ryan Smith. The Frenyea house was then moved to Chapman Street by Victor West. This purchase enlarged the land around the present school. It was his intention to re-establish the idea of a Catholic High School. This would mean that the Sisters of Mercy would retain their students after their completion of elementary school rather than see them depart for the public high school of the village.

In the meantime, the local Knights of Columbus were improving their fund raising. They embraced the goal of some day building a new home for the Council on the land at 9 Liberty Street, which was purchased in 1930. The Building Fund had originally been established in 1925. The Building Fund for the Liberty Street property was initiated during December 1944.

Two substantial fund raising efforts ensued. The first was the establishment of a committee to sell shares weekly for the raffle of a \$25 bond. All members of the K of C and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas cooperated to such an extent that on January 12, 1945, six months after its inception, the Chairman was able to report that the fund had reached a total of \$2,200. As the raffle concept lost interest, a new fundraiser took hold. In the fall of 1945, William Nautel instituted the Tombola (Indian word meaning "Fair"). It was held for three years. This idea originated from Hogansburg and concluded in the third year in concert with the Plattsburgh K of C Council. By 1948 the Council had increased the building fund to better than \$18,000. This type of fund raising, however, came to an end with a decree by Governor Thomas Dewey banning all games of chance.

Despite the percolating of the idea of a new home with \$18,000 in hand, nothing was done until 1951. Under the leadership of Grand Knight Stanley Moore, the K of C members established a Building Committee and formulated plans for the erection of this new home. The new building was to be two stories. The basement was to be finished off to be used as a kitchen, dining room and recreation room. The ground floor was to be finished with Knotty Pine interior, have hardwood floors and was to be used as a meeting room. The building dimensions were to be 32 feet wide and 60 feet long. The outside of the building was to be finished in pastel green stucco with white trim. The new home was to have modern rest rooms, fluorescent lighting and a forced-air heating system.

On May 18, 1953 Father Troie, pastor of St. Patrick's Church and Chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 2366 of Rouses Point, presided over the ground-breaking ceremonies. He was surrounded by the officers of the K of C. The new building was built by the Victor West Construction Company for \$20,000. It was located right behind the rectory of St. Patrick's at 9 Liberty Street. In October 1953, the original Council rooms were vacated and formal dedication ceremonies of the new home were held on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The new home for the K of C continued to be a center for Court Patricia No. 92 and many other activities of organizations in the village of Rouses Point. Council 2366 also flourished in this new modern building.

Father Troie suffered ill health during the latter years of his life and went to his eternal reward on March 29, 1955. In June of that year, Rev. T. Walter Cleary assumed his new duties at St. Patrick's. Father Cleary had been the first resident pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, a village on the western edge of the diocese, where he had been stationed for twenty years.

The new pastor immediately saw the need for some help with the liturgical materials for the church. He gathered some of the women of the parish together to form a Rosary Altar Society. The purpose of this organization was to care for the church linens and oversee the maintenance of the church sacristy and altars. The ladies were to sponsor fund raising activities for this purpose. In addition, the spiritual activity of praying the rosary daily was added to the duties of the members. On January 11, 1956, this society was granted its charter. The first president of the Rosary Altar Society was Mrs. Rose Moore.

Also in 1956, Father Cleary, aided by his assistant Father Paul L. LaRocque and a committee of zealous laymen, undertook a parish campaign for a much-needed new parochial school and adequate convent for the Sisters of Mercy. Over \$143,000 was pledged toward the realization of the day when a modern school and residence for the Sisters would complement the beautiful church building. Court Patricia donated \$300 toward the new convent construction.

On Sunday, September 15, 1957 the parish observed its centennial with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis D. Berube, V.G., P.A. The parish festivities lasted throughout the week. On Monday evening the Miraculous Medal Novena featured the preaching of Rev. Louis A. Wheeler, SJ. There was a Block Dance on Tuesday evening with music by the Lytle Family. Friday was a Day of Remembrance with a Solemn High Mass in the morning. Father Cleary celebrated with Father Clarence Devan as the deacon and Father Paul LaRocque the Subdeacon. That evening at St. Patrick's Cemetery a wreath was placed at the grave of Father Scanlon and prayers were offered for the dead. The ceremony concluded with the Rosary. The Civic Program took place on Saturday with a parade, a baseball game and races. The day ended in the evening with a Vaudeville Show. On Sunday, September 22, 1957, the week of centennial celebration concluded with a Nor-Aqua Ski Show, followed by a Mass of Thanksgiving and a Barbecue.

The committee which organized and led the Centennial Celebration included the following parishioners:

Honorary Chairman, Rev. T. Water Cleary; General Chairman, Leo Landry; Executive Chairman, W. Rossiter Casey; Financial Chairman, Harold Ashline; Album-Souvenir Chairman, Rev. Paul LaRocque; Parade Chairman, Leo Letourneau; Children's Day Chairman, Gustave Wetterhahn; Social Chairman, John Podesta; Publicity Chairman, Walter Connelly; Advertising Chairman, Robert E. Casey, Jr.; Reception Chairman, Stanley Moore; Sports Chairman, Melvin Franklin.

It was during 1957 that Mr. Louis A. Moquin, organist and choir director since 1918, retired from St. Patrick's. A plaque honoring Mr. Moquin hangs in St. Patrick's Church. Mr. Moquin is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

During the years 1958-1959, a new St. Patrick's School was designed and built next to the old convent school, which was then demolished. Then on the site of the former Frenyea house, a beautiful convent was erected for the Sisters. The new school and convent opened in the Spring of 1959. Bishop James J. Navagh of the Diocese of Ogdensburg blessed these new edifices for the children of St. Patrick's on May 3, 1959. In charge of the dedication and recreation programs was Father Howard Gosier, Assistant Pastor.

The new school building was comprised of nine classrooms, a principal's office and a supply room. The new convent consisted of nine rooms with toilet facilities, the Mother Superior's room, a community room, refectory and parlor. A fully-equipped kitchen was adjacent to the refectory. The Sisters of Mercy continued to administer the school, and Father Cleary remained pastor of the parish. It was during February of 1959 that Father Cleary was named a Papal Chamberlain by Pope John XXIII with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor.

The legalization of bingo as a method of fund raising by charitable and non-profit organizations was the major factor in liquidating the additional debt incurred in the building of the new K. of C. Home. Brother Norman Moore served as the Chairman of the Bingo Committee for many years, and his dedication to this activity, along with that of the members, resulted in the final payment of the mortgage in 1959. It was a grand occasion when Grand Knight Louis Dupras, in the company of the Council Members, performed the ceremonial burning of the mortgage. In 1963 the facilities were expanded to include a lounge and pool room on the ground floor. During these years the Council home served as the place for the activities of many village agencies. The bingo fund made possible a pledge of \$2000 to St. Patrick's School. This activity also continued to provide 50 percent of the net proceeds to St. Patrick's Church.

Without a doubt, a most significant event to happen during the 150 years of St. Patrick's was the Second Vatican Council, which occurred during 1962-1965. The impact on the Roman Catholic Church and, in particular, on the Church of St. Patrick was monumental.

The first clear evidence of this impact came in the 1967-1968 renovation and re-decoration of the church led by Msgr. Cleary. The project included the new altar for Mass facing the people, a new wrought iron communion rail, the removal of the angel paintings from the sides of the lunettes on the upper nave of the church and the re-decoration of the Sanctuary ceiling with a mural of Christ the King surrounded by choirs of angels. This mural replaced the original painting of the Trinity and Purgatory. The top of the main marble altar was removed, and a new tabernacle was installed. In addition, Court Patricia covered the cost of new wiring in the church that amounted to \$2,665.

It was during this time that English replaced Latin in the Mass, and the organization of the celebration of the Mass was revised. The most obvious sign of this was that Mass was celebrated by the priest facing the people. Another indication of the impact of the Second Vatican Council was the establishment of advisory boards in parishes. One such board in St. Patrick's was St. Patrick's School Board. This first board was announced on April 30, 1968. It was to be a nine-member board with eight of these members to be parish lay persons elected by the parish and the ninth to be the pastor, the Very Rev. Msgr. T. Walter Cleary. Ballots for the election of these eight lay members were distributed to the parishioners at the Masses on May 5, 1968.

It is interesting to see that 19 parishioners were selected as candidates for this first board. Additional names were to be added to the list, if submitted by May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Those already selected included Joseph Bailey, Richard Ballman, Arnold Beal, Alfred Columb, Mrs. Garth Gallagher, Herman Jubert, Francis Kavanaugh, Robert LeBlanc, George Legnard, Leonard Martinsen, Emile Mayer, Mrs. Earl Merchant, Stanley Moore, Norris Nash, Terrence Phillips, Mrs. John Podesta, Mrs. William Turner, Wallie H. Wellette and Blanchard "Doc" Wetherby.

Msgr. Cleary died after a short illness on June 14, 1968. Archbishop-Designate Thomas A. Donnellan celebrated the Funeral Mass with eleven other concelebrants on June 17, 1968. The church was filled to capacity to pay respects to the pastor who had served St. Patrick's for 13 years and the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 38 years. During the year of Msgr. Cleary's death, the original bell in the tower was removed to make way for the new memorial chimes installed just before Christmas. The funds were raised by parishioners in his memory. In addition, a shrine of the Blessed Mother was erected near the church, also in memory of Msgr. Cleary.

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Arquett was appointed the new pastor of St. Patrick's during the Summer of 1968. He had previously been pastor of St. Mary's Church in Waddington, NY, a town just east of Ogdensburg. He was also, at this time, the head of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. During Msgr. Arquett's time at St. Patrick's, he founded the first Parish Council, an advisory board for the pastor. This was to be formed as part of the changes issued by the Second Vatican Council. Msgr. Arquett was also an accomplished orator. His pastorate was a short one that ended with his death on January 8, 1969 in St. Patrick's Rectory. Msgr. Arquett was buried in Waddington, NY.

In 1969, Rev. Gerald "Whitey" Sharland became the new pastor of St. Patrick's. Father Sharland returned to the parish where he served as an Assistant Pastor from 1950 to 1953 under Father Troie. After leaving Rouses Point, Father Sharland had served in St. Mary's Church of Champlain as Assistant Pastor.

During Father Sharland's pastorate, a number of significant events occurred. The first one saw St. Patrick's School close its doors. On June 28, 1971 the Sisters of Mercy left the parish. After 86 years under the wonderful leadership and administration of these Sisters of Mercy, an illustrious chapter in the history of St. Patrick's Church came to an end. At the time, there was a staff of four nuns and three lay teachers.

Also during 1971, a parish census was undertaken. In August and September of that year the rectory exterior was renovated by the removal of the sun porch on the south side of the house. Added to the exterior were a new roof, siding, windows and porch doors.

Under the leadership of Father Sharland, an annual appreciation dinner was held to honor parishioners who had served in positions of responsibility. Father Sharland was described as an able administrator and a developer of teamwork in the parish. He wanted to help the young people and he never turned away anyone. It was also during this time that Deacon Daniel Chapin, soon to be ordained a priest, served with Assistant Pastor, Father Paul Priester.

During the school year of 1971-1972 Chester Olshevsky and his wife, Lynn, coordinated the Religious Education Program. They lived in the convent.

On April 22, 1972, the Knights of Columbus Rouses Point Council No. 2366 celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a grand occasion which began with the celebration of Mass at St. Patrick's Church with Father Sharland presiding. Dinner was served in the K of C Hall. Joseph A. Storella, P.G.K. was Toastmaster. Grand Knight Joseph Dumoulin welcomed everyone. District Deputy Herman Jubert did the introductions, and State Deputy James A. Ruh was the Guest Speaker. Msgr. John M. Waterhouse represented Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

The K of C 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee included Walter Connelly, Jr. as General Chairman; William Nautel, Dinner Chairman; Harrison Aubrey, Historical and Booklet Chairman; Stanley Moore, Publication Co-Chairman; Robert Goddeau, Reservations Chairman; Alban Mazeau, Publicity Chairman; and Arthur D. Lawrence, Seating Chairman.

In the middle of August 1972 Father Sharland brought two Sisters of Holy Cross, Sister Rita Reff CSC and Sister Adele Chebrette CSC, to administer the Religious Education Program. Father re-opened the convent and purchased a Pontiac station wagon for the Sisters.

During 1973 a number of events took place. A new cemetery vault was erected. This was made possible with a \$5,000 donation by Anna O'Neil in memory of her husband. In addition, new trees and shrubbery were planted in the cemetery. In the spring the rectory kitchen was remodeled and a new gold carpet was installed in the church three days before Confirmation. On Memorial Day weekend, Father Raoul Poirier of the White Fathers of Africa was assigned as Assistant Pastor of St. Patrick's. He would be in the parish until October 1979. At this time, Father Sharland received word that Sister Teresina Barrett, CSC would join Sister Rita Reff CSC to help administer the Religious Education Program.

On Sunday morning August 5, 1973 Father Sharland was found dead of a heart attack in the rectory. He was 55 years old. His funeral was on Wednesday with Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana presiding. The homily was given by Msgr. Robert Farmer, dean of Clinton Deanery. Altar Boys were John Ashline, Kevin Ashline, Bryan Moore, John Podesta, Ronald Willette and Daniel Phillips. Father Sharland was buried in the priests' plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery, as he wished. This beloved pastor of St. Patrick's had said to a fellow priest after hospitalization for heart complications, "I want to finish my ministry here and to be buried here." Father Simond Boucher, OMI was assigned as Administrator while he was at Wadhams Hall during July and August 1973.

Msgr. Robert J. Farmer, V. F. became the new pastor of St. Patrick's in October of 1973. He arrived from St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh, NY. During 1974-1975 Msgr. Farmer led the construction of a new side entrance to the church. The old side entrance had just been a flight of iron stairs to the main church. In 1976 the parish began to hold an annual festival around St. Patrick's Day. Also during that year in May, a new boiler was installed in the church. The parish conducted a census and a parish mission during 1978.

St. Patrick's Church has always had a choir and an organist. From the earliest days the choir sang at the High Mass on Sunday mornings. After the changes of Vatican II, no doubt the main Mass on Sundays became the 10:00 or 10:30 A. M. Masses. The term High Mass disappeared since the Church wants every Mass sung. The first known organist and choir director was Louis Moquin, who retired in 1957 after 61 years.

From 1959-1963 Msgr. Cleary was fortunate to have another excellent Assistant Pastor by the name of Father Bernard Christman. Father Christman was a talented musician who was the organist at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. before he entered the seminary. He formed an outstanding Boys Choir which sang on Sundays and performed concerts all over the North Country, including appearances on the local television station. The parish was also fortunate to have Father Christman play the organ for liturgical services while he was stationed at St. Patrick's.

Nothing more is known of the parish music program until 1971. From 1971-1973 a Folk Group lead a parish Mass every Sunday. Its members consisted of many young parishioners who took up four pews. The musicians were as follows: Hal Mero, guitar; Gary St. Hilaire, guitar; Mark Martin, drummer; Danny Giroux, bass guitar. When Sister Adele Chebrette, CSC came to the parish to help coordinate the Religious Education Program, she played the organ and directed the choir until she left the parish in 1973. It was in 1974 that Norma Nutt took over playing the organ until 1978. She directed the choir from 1974-1976.

It was during August of 1976 that the choir entered a new era. A particular group of parishioners was inspired by the visit of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Led by Ruth Letourneau, who became its new director at this time, these parishioners brought this inspiration to the parish choir. Since then this musical group has given pleasure and inspiration to many people by their efforts in singing God's praises. Ruth Letourneau would direct the choir until 2003 when she was forced by illness to retire. Penny Tregget replaced Ruth as director and continues to do so at the present time.

The parish choir has been blessed with the leadership of a number of musicians. Kelly Penfield was organist from 1978-1986. Nicole Nikki Racine played from 1986-1989. Buffy Little has been organist since 1989, when Ruth Letourneau recruited her. From 1984-1995, Judy Rushford played the piano, sang and worked with the parish children at the Sunday 8:00 A.M. Mass. For a period of time, Dorothy Lake sang and played guitar with them as well.

During April 1979 Msgr. Farmer suffered a stroke. He died on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:20 P.M. and is buried in the priests' plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery. Rev. Francis Menard replaced Msgr. Farmer as the new pastor in November 1979. After a tumultuous pastorate, he left the parish in July 1980.

Rev. Albert Wilfred Giroux became the pastor of St. Patrick's Church in July 1980. At that time, Mrs. Jacquelyn Ducharme retired as parish secretary after ten years. While pastor of St. Patrick's, Father Giroux was active in the Rouses Point community. He was chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 2366, and former president and secretary of the Rouses Point-Champlain Kiwanis. He belonged to the Border Clergy of the Northern Tier and was a board member of the Dodge Memorial Library. It was during this time that the Sisters of Holy Cross, who administered the Religious Education Program and lived in the convent, left the parish. In their place, the parish obtained the services of the Daughters of Charity of St. Louis. Sister Mary Edmund Boutin, SCSL and Sister Angela Theresa Chabot, SCSL became administrators of the program.

Shortly after Father Giroux's arrival, Noel Hinerth, a parishioner of St. Patrick's, was ordained a deacon of the Catholic Church by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana at St. Mary's Cathedral on October 4, 1980. Deacon Hinerth was a member of the first class of permanent deacons ordained for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He was born on December 25, 1939 in Worcester, MA and married Theresa Lavoie at St. Patrick's Church on September 11, 1965. On May 17, 1998, Noel was professed as an Oblate of St. Benedict at St. Benoit du Lac, Quebec.

On December 16, 1980 St. Patrick's Choir made a record. The album was dedicated to the memory of Msgr. Farmer with grateful appreciation to Father Giroux. The Choir Director was Ruth L. Letourneau. The organist was Kelly Penfield. The music was recorded live at Saxony Recording Studios, Rouses Point, NY. The organ was compliments of Herman and Jean Jubert. Marc C. Chapman engineered the recording.

Choir members included Margaret Aubrey, Sandy Barcomb, Ann Batchelder, Fran Boyden, Joan Bylow, Cathy Columb, Ruth Fitzgerald, Anita Grinter, Peggy Huchro, Christopher Huchro, Terry Penfield, Melissa Penfield, Julia Plante, Nicole Racine, Karen Sutton, Helen Wetherby, Genny Demers, Shirley Dubuque, Bea Jefferson, Dotty Lake, Josette LeBlanc, Rita LeBlanc, Ginny McDonough, Louise Ryan, Arnie Beal, Al Columb, George Dion, Dan Dubuque, Bob Lake, Joe McDonough, John Pollock, Jim Rochester, Doc Wetherby, Mitch Willette, Kenneth Perry, Edward Keable and Mary Van Splinter.

Father Giroux supervised the replacement of the original Carillon system in 1984. It was installed by the Verdin Company and paid for by the parishioners in memory of Msgr. Cleary. The new system was a Verdin Alpha unit.

During this time Father Giroux devoted himself to the project of replacing the front steps of the church with a lobby to make the church more accessible, especially for the handicapped. This project would also include a new rear side entrance. To this end, Father Giroux set aside funds which amounted to \$300,000 by the year 1990.

Working with architect Jeremiah Oosterbaan, Father Giroux announced to the parish on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1990, the plans for the entry improvements. The plans were unanimously accepted by the Parish Council and approved by Bishop Brzana. The plan was to remove the front steps to ground level and build a two-story lobby containing enclosed stairs, an elevator for the handicapped and rest rooms. The elevator was to be full-size, able to carry a coffin at a funeral. The north side rear entrance was also to be improved for safety and comfort and include a new rest room near the sacristy. The cost of the project was estimated to be more than \$300,000. Since the parish already had \$300,000 in savings, the remainder was to be financed and raised by the parish. At the time, Father Giroux announced, the interior renovation of the church was also being studied.

During the winter of 1990 the north side rear entrance was built. The stained glass window picturing the Death of St. Joseph, the first window on the north side of the church, was re-located to the new entrance.

On Monday, January 21, 1991 Father Albert Wilfred Giroux died at the age of 62 at the CVPH Medical Center, where he was rushed during Sunday evening. Bishop Brzana presided at the funeral at Noon, Thursday, January 25, 1991. Father Giroux was buried in the priests' plot at St. Patrick's Cemetery in May. From this time until May of 1991, Rev. Roger Martin administered St. Patrick's Church.

Msgr. John F. Pendergast left Sacred Heart Church in Massena during May of 1991 to become the new pastor of St. Patrick's. Father Martin remained in residence at the rectory for a time until he left for Connecticut and retirement. Msgr. Pendergast set out to complete Father Giroux's project of building the new front entrance to St. Patrick's Church. The task had already begun officially under the leadership of Father Martin on April 1, 1991 by Luck Brothers Construction Company of Plattsburgh, NY with Jeremiah Oosterbann of Chazy as architect. The new north side rear entrance had been constructed during the previous winter. The total cost was projected at \$450,000 with all of the financing coming from the parish. At the time of the completion of the project, the parish had raised \$335,000. Rouses Point's Court Patricia #962, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, donated \$1,000 to the fund for the new addition. The project was completed around August 24, 1991.

Highlighting the additions were an elevator and a large lobby upstairs with a rest room. A bronze statue of St. Patrick was placed in the downstairs foyer of the addition. This bronze statue was the original statue of St. Patrick which had been located in the original church since its construction in 1858. It was re-located to the new St. Patrick's Church in 1924 and was placed in an arch above the front entrance. During the construction of this new addition, it was taken down and refinished before locating it in the foyer. Plants and a large bronze plaque adorned the spot. The plaque dedicated the front lobby and northeast rear entrance to the memory of Father Giroux.

The brick on the entire exterior of the front and rear side of the additions was suitably matched to the existing brick face. In addition, the warped and cracked stained glass windows in the choir loft were repaired. The new addition also featured a handicapped access ramp for the parish hall just off the new foyer. Entrance doors to the new addition were also on both sides of the front addition and were complemented by new sidewalks and foundation plantings that went out to the street. However, leaks from the roof where the addition in front was joined to the existing church occurred. For a number of years a water problem around the church exterior continued to plague the parish.

Besides Father Giroux and Msgr. Pendergast, the leadership positions in the parish for this latest project were: Deacon Noel Hinerth; Religious Education Coordinators Sister Mary Edmund Boutin, SCSL and Sister Angela Theresa Chabot, SCSL; Roland LeBlanc and Leo Letourneau, Trustees; Parish Council Members Gladys Bechard, Mary Coopy, Bertha Halstead, Donald Keddy, Arsene Letourneau, Ruth Letourneau, Dawn O'Boyle, Patrick O'Connor, Margaret Rivers, Carleda Taylor. In late June of 1993 Msgr. Pendergast was transferred to the pastorate of St. Mary's Church in Massena, NY. Msgr. Pendergast's successor was Rev. Wilfred DeRoche, who came from the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Crown Point, NY. Father DeRoche, a native of Maine, had previously been a Christian Brother teaching at Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh, NY. He entered the seminary during 1961 and was ordained in 1965. Father DeRoche had previously served at St. Patrick's as an Assistant Pastor in 1965 and beyond.

A number of significant events occurred during Father DeRoche's pastorate. Among them was the installation of a new church sign in 1994; the departure of the two Daughters of Charity of St. Louis in June of 1995; the location on the grounds of the K of C Hall of a "Monument to the Unborn" in November 1996, donated by Andy Guay as a project of the Knights of Columbus; the appointment of Mrs. Patricia Canning as coordinator of the Religious Education Program beginning with the 1995-1996 school year; the leasing of the school to the Champlain Learning Center in 1998 and the subsequent re-location of the Religious Education Program from the school building to the vacated convent; the addition of the Calvary Shrine to the cemetery in 2000; the beginning of improvements to the rectory with the installation of new floors and windows; a new church boiler in 2000 and an expansion of the church driveway for additional parking; a donation of land to the cemetery by the Anctil family in 2001; in 2002 a new roof for the school building, a contract for a new rectory roof, and the renovation of the parish hall rest rooms.

On April 5, 1997 Knights of Columbus Council No. 2366 celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Mass, Open House, dinner and dance in the Council rooms at 9 Liberty Street. Mass was presided over by Father Wilfred DeRoche, Chaplain and Pastor of St. Patrick's. During the dinner Father DeRoche gave the invocation; Deputy Grand Knight Claude Dessureault was Toastmaster; Grand Knight Arsene Letourneau welcomed everyone; Water E. Connelly, Jr. introduced the guest speaker, John T. Ryan, Past Chairman of the Northern Conference. Presentations were made by Stanley Moore as representative of Mayor Thomas Batha, Grand Knight Arsene Letourneau and John F. Dawson, New York 99<sup>th</sup> District Deputy. The Benediction was given by Deacon Noel Hinerth.

The major accomplishment of Father DeRoche's term was the renovation and re-decoration of the church interior. The idea of such an undertaking had been in process since Father Giroux's time. Father DeRoche contacted Bishop Loverde about beginning the planning. The Bishop started the process with the parish leadership by appointing Rev. Albert Hauser, Diocesan Director of Art and Architecture, to lead the project. The services of Patrick Baker & Sons from New York and Connecticut were also enlisted for the proposed plan. The Baker firm, in consultation with the Parish Council and the Diocese, was to plan and accomplish the entire project with its own personnel for a total cost of around \$503,000.

The Financial Campaign was lead by parishioners Roland LeBlanc and Tom Marlow and the members of the Parish Council. The plan was to raise the appropriate funds through memorials of all the components. The Baker firm was to arrive with its own workers. They would live in the convent. Everything would be done in-house. During the time of the work on the church, Sunday and daily Masses would take place downstairs in the parish hall.

Before the project could proceed, however, the Bishop insisted that the church building be surveyed for soundness, the sidewalk and driveway projects be completed and the drainage problem around the church be solved. As a result, the above projects were completed, and the church roof was repaired and fitted with new shingles in 1997. The Bishop then gave permission in the Fall of 1997 for the work to begin. The Baker firm arrived in April of 1998 to begin the project the day after Easter, April 13, 1998. It was completed in late July of that year.

The church renovation and re-decoration project included the following: a new font for adult and infant baptisms with flowing water located in the lobby; a new wooden altar facing the people; a new tabernacle on a new small wooden pedestal with steps; a new wooden oak floor in the sanctuary and a new tile floor in the assembly area; matching wooden ambo, paschal candle stand, processional cross and presider's chair with accompanying sanctuary furniture and rugs; new pews with permanent green seat cushions; renovated Reconciliation Room; refurbishing of choir loft; new oak doors to main church; radiator covers; new carpeting and furniture for sacristy; new sound system; refurbished statues of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Fatima located in the lobby; new vestments; improvements to church heating system; a new lighting system; and a new Verdin Carillon system for the church tower.

Just as another foreign artist, Professor Angelo Metalò, had done years ago in the original decoration of St. Patrick's in 1928-1929, so Slavo Pardaj of Poland left his mark on this renovation of St. Patrick's Church. On the sanctuary ceiling, just as the Trinity towering over the souls in flames was replaced by the Risen Christ in 1969, so Mr. Pardaj returned the blue sky of the original design with the Trinity and choruses of angels. This time there were no souls in flames crying out for relief. The talented artist wove his genius throughout the renovated church, re-decorating and refurbishing with brilliant colors of paint. He repainted the statues and the Stations of the Cross. He painted the pillars that support the high ceilings with a deep green, adding swirling lighter shades to create the effect of marble.

There was controversy concerning the final painting of the sanctuary ceiling. Father DeRoche and the pastoral council wanted to return this area to the original painting that Angelo Metalò had fashioned in 1928-1929. This masterpiece, entitled "The Redemption," consisted of the Trinity and choruses of angels in heaven on top and the souls in Purgatory below. Heaven was bathed in a blue sky and Purgatory in flames. Bishop Loverde wanted Purgatory eliminated. A long period of discussion ensued, marked by a flurry of letters. The council thought that the bishop wanted to eliminate the entire original painting. However, it appears that Bishop Loverde would have settled for the original depiction of the Trinity with Purgatory not present. Because of this misunderstanding and the fact that time was being lost, Father DeRoche and the council asked Mr. Pardaj to come up with another design. A picture of the Trinity with the original choruses of angels framed by clouds was chosen. Bishop Loverde approved the new design.

At the request of Father DeRoche, the original carved scene of the Last Supper located in the original altar was incorporated into the new one, which stands on solid oak flooring. There is also a plaque with strips of wood from the old pews located in the alcove of the church, just off the lobby. Thus some of the old was brought into the new.

The re-dedication of St. Patrick's Church was held on August 8, 1998 at 4:00 P.M. Bishop Paul Loverde presided and Msgr. C. John McAvoy, the Dean of Clinton Deanery, and Father DeRoche concelebrated. Brother David Eddy, CFX was Master of Ceremonies. Noel A. Hinerth was the Deacon. Trustees Jules Trahan and Andy Guay were present. Presenters of the Offertory Gifts were George and Peggy Rivers. Leo Letourneau and Lena Bombardier were the Lectors, and Ruth Letourneau directed the Choir with Donald Fellows as organist.

Over the years the membership of Court Patricia No. 92, Catholic Daughters of the Americas began to dwindle. By the 1990's the majority of the members were in the age group of 60-85. Some members found it difficult to attend the meetings and participate in the activities. Recruitment of younger members became difficult due to work schedules and family. Some of the older members who were very active passed on to eternal life. Little funds were being raised due to the lack of members and the constraints on the time of the present members. In 1999 the present officers decided to stay the course for another year. One year later, during the business meeting in March 2000, Regent Elaine Cloutier and Treasurer Rita Mischler gave their resignations effective in June 2000.

After much discussion at the March meeting, Court Patricia decided to send a letter to the membership on March 24<sup>th</sup> outlining the present discussions and asking the 69 members to answer one of three questions: 1) to form a nominating committee to fill the positions of Regent and Treasurer; 2) to disband Court Patricia and form a new Catholic group, "Ladies of St. Patrick"; 3) to continue Court Patricia AND start a new church organization separately "Ladies of St. Patrick." 43 members responded with 5 voting for (1) and 38 voting for (2).

On Saturday, April 29, 2000 a meeting was held to hear the results of the "Binding Poll." Twenty members plus the officers attended. After the results were read, Regent Elaine Cloutier asked for a show of hands for the following: 1) Do you want to continue Court Patricia No. 962? (Show of hands-3). 2) Do you want to disband Court Patricia No. 92? (Show of hands-17). A motion to disband was made by Carleda Taylor and seconded by Venita McChesney. 17 voted in favor. On June 24, 2000 at a meeting in the Knights of Columbus Hall, in front of State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Regent, Diane Scaringe, Court Patricia No. 962 was officially disbanded. Fern Wilder made the motion to disband. This was seconded by Wanda Gamache. All 14 members present at the meeting voted in favor of disbanding. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Regent Scaringe requested the original charter certificate of Court Patricia No. 962, as well as the recent minutes, all financial records, banner and flag.

The meeting of disbanding continued with discussions on how to disburse the funds left over in the account. The final decision was as follows: 1) Dishes and tableware were donated to the parish, to remain at the K. of C. Hall. 2) \$200 for the patients of Cedar Hedge Nursing Home. 3) \$300 to Knights of Columbus Council 2366. 4) \$300 for Court Patricia's Historical Display under the direction of Father Wilfred DeRoche. 5) \$600 to the Rosary Altar Society.

St. Patrick's Church was indeed fortunate to have had The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia No. 92, serving the parish for 75 years. Unity and Charity was their motto. How much they lived it!

On June 26, 2002 Father Wilfred DeRoche retired and moved to Massachusetts. On that day, Rev. Clyde A. Lewis, Jr. became the new pastor of St. Patrick's Church. Father Lewis had previously been pastor of the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown, NY from 1993-2002. A native of Plattsburgh, NY, Father Lewis remains pastor of St. Patrick's today.

The pastorate of Father Lewis has seen a number of notable events. Shortly after Father's arrival in Rouses Point, a new roof was put on the rectory. The first order of business in the new administration was the purchase and installment of new computers and printers and their networking in the rectory. Each year since, improvements to the rectory begun by Father DeRoche continued.

During 2002 Mary Franke was appointed Coordinator of Religious Education. Liturgy in the church saw the addition of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and the Liturgy of the Word for Children. The Learning Center, leasing the school, took over the remaining classrooms from the Parish Religious Education Program. The total program was then located in the convent, rectory and church.

In 2003 the first celebration of the Rite of Christian Initiation took place at the Easter Vigil. Exterior improvements were made to the church by painting the cornice and wrapping the windows in vinyl. Ruth Letourneau, retiring from Directorship of the Parish Choir after many years, was replaced by Penny Treggett; Buffy Little continued as organist since 1989. Landscaping was done around the rectory and the Calvary Shrine in the cemetery. The church purchased the Knights of Columbus building as a parish center, with the Knights continuing to use the building for their activities. The Church sold the school to the Champlain Learning Center on July 26, 2004 for \$150,000. On June 25, 2003 the parishes of St. Joseph's in Coopersville and St. Patrick's became linked. This meant that both St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's were now to be administered by the same pastor, Father Lewis.

Over the years from 2003-2005, various improvements were made to the Church organ. During 2004 the Parish Hall beneath the church was painted, and St. Patrick's Cemetery Regulations were revised. In 2005-2006 the new Parish Center was renovated by Trahan Construction Company to include six classrooms upstairs, a new front entrance and small elevator.

During 2006 the Religious Education Program began using the recently renovated space of the new Parish Center. The Program was now being directed by Kathy Guay. St. Patrick's Convent was sold for \$50,000, and the funds were used to finish paying off the debt for the parish center renovation. The small shrine dedicated to Mary and the display of the Holy Family that were located on the convent grounds were re-located to the new parish center grounds. The shrine to Mary had been located on the lawn behind the convent. It had been given to the parish in memory of Grace Merchant by her family. Additional projects included new commercial fans for the church ceiling and the painting of the parish center exterior with volunteer help in the summer. The color of the center was changed to be more in line with the color of the church. In light of the wish of the Pastoral Council to construct a parking lot for the church, surveys were conducted to facilitate drainage and to design a proposed new parking lot behind the Parish Center.

The year 2007 saw the major repair of the church elevator. On September 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, St. Patrick's first parishioner was installed by Bishop Robert Cunningham as a Lay Minister for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Patricia Carey would now be qualified to work in the parish as a leader. In addition, a successful Stewardship Program was held in conjunction with the other parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. During 2008 Father Lewis finalized the arrangements for Court Patricia's historical display. The display never got off the ground due to Father DeRoche's retirement. Father Lewis suggested that the money be used for Masses at St. Patrick's for the deceased members of Court Patricia. In addition, the parish would design and display a memorial plaque at the entrance to the church. During the month of May the Pastoral Council approved the installation of a new granite sign in front of the church. The present sign was in need of substantial repair. Owen Garrow of Garrow Monuments, a parishioner of St. Patrick's, wished to donate the new sign in memory of his recently deceased wife, Elaine. The sign was installed on June 19, 2008. The old sign was located on the front lawn of the new parish center at 9 Liberty Street.

With the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick's Church, plans were ongoing to celebrate the occasion. A committee was formed in 2004 and had its first meeting on September 13th. The members of the committee included Father Lewis, Peg Rivers, Pat Racine, Mary Racicot, Jackie Ducharme, Ed Sweeny, Silva Mary Marnes and Joe Bailey.

It was decided to observe a year-long celebration with monthly events. The anniversary celebration began with a 12-day pilgrimage to Ireland from May 1-12, 2007. Forty-five people, including 20 parishioners, relatives and friends of St. Patrick's enjoyed the journey with Green Mountain Tours. On June 3, 2007, the parish celebrated with Bishop Robert Cunningham at the Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass. Afterwards, Bishop Cunningham blessed the new parish center. A reception followed in the Parish Hall. During the village's Fourth of July parade, the parish sponsored a birthday cake float displaying the anniversary. It was designed and constructed by Bill and Claude Letourneau with help from Andy Guay, who also pulled the float in the parade.

On September 9, 2007, a parish picnic pig roast was held on the church grounds. Despite threatening weather, a large crowd of parishioners from St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's attended. The roasted pork was prepared and cooked by Arnold Beeman, his son, Brian and Fran Baxter with the help of others. Corn and beverages were served on picnic tables beneath a tent. Tasty foods from many a kitchen were provided. All worked together extremely well. The response was so positive that Father Lewis declared that it would become an annual event.

Concerts were scheduled for November and February. Parishioner Pat Racine arranged for the November concert to be held on Friday evening, the 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a Celtic concert with folk singers Sean and Marianne Kelly, a husband and wife team from Vermont, with Sean accompanying on guitar. A hundred people enjoyed the Irish music in the church hall. A small reception followed. On the night of February 12, 2008, singing groups from NCCS, directed by Kathy Kokes, put on a wonderful concert in the church. A large crowd was on hand. Both the music and the reception afterwards were enjoyed by all.

On the weekend of January 20 and 21, social gatherings were held after each Mass. The Irish Festival was celebrated on the weekend of March 29 and 30 due to the lateness of Easter in 2008. On April 26, 2008, the parish sponsored a pilgrimage to the Benedictine Monastery at St. Benoit du Lac in Quebec. 48 parishioners and friends rode the bus to eastern Quebec, about an hour and a half trip to the area of Granby and Magog. Upon arrival at the beautiful monastery, the group toured briefly and then settled in for a sung Mass. The voices of the monks echoed throughout the huge and simple chapel both in French and Latin. Afterwards all continued touring and frequented the beautiful gift shop. Cheese, maple syrup, CD's, candy, and other items made their way into shopping bags.

The final observance of the Sesquicentennial Year was a closing Mass on June 8, 2008. Father Lewis presided and a good crowd was present. During the Offertory Procession, the following items of historical interest were presented: the record album recorded by St. Patrick's Choir in 1980; a copy of the parish history; a photo album picturing the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events; a plaque containing a special anniversary letter from the Clinton County Legislature; the anniversary cookbook, *Heavenly Delights*, and the program of the Mass of June 3, 2007 presided over by Bishop Cunningham, which began the anniversary year.

On July 1, 2008, the anniversary committee had its final meeting to go over the directory before its publication. All were effusive in their praise for the final editing by Mary Racicot and Jo-Anne Ryan.

While the history of St. Patrick's Church during the past 150 years may not be the substance of greatness as far as the world is concerned, it is a testimony to the faith of the Roman Catholic people who have lived in the top eastern corner of Northern New York. The French and Irish settlers of long ago who came to northern New York from Quebec left their mark on this wilderness. They presented a unique picture of history much different from the Mohawk Reservation at Akwesasne and the founding of Fort La Presentation at Ogdensburg. To the people of St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point one can only shout, "*Ad Multos Annos!*"

## ASSISTANT PASTORS/PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. L. D. LaFerriere  
Rev. P. Leduc  
Rev. Armand Brunett  
Rev. Emile LaLonde  
Rev. Howard McCasland  
Rev. Gerald Sharland  
Rev. Paul LaRocque  
Rev. Howard Gosier

Rev. Bernard Christman  
Rev. Paul Ledermann  
Rev. Wilfred DeRoche  
Rev. Patrick Mundy  
Rev. William O'Reilly  
Rev. Paul Priester  
Rev. Raoul Poirier, W.F.  
Rev. Roger Martin

## SISTERS WHO HAVE LABORED IN ST. PATRICK'S

### SISTERS OF MERCY SUPERIORS

Sister Mary Annunciata McClosky  
Sister Mary Mercy McCue  
Sister Mary Francis Oakley  
Sister Mary Stanislaus  
Mother Joseph  
Sister Mary Patricia 1901-1913  
Mother Mercy  
Sister Mary Agatha 1917-1920  
Sister Mary Mercedes Even 1920-1925  
Sister Mary Eulalia 1925-1928  
Sister Mary Consolata 1932-1934

Sister Mary Martin 1934-1936  
Sister Mary Dominic 1936-1937  
Sister Mary Presentation 1937-1940  
Sister Mary Stephen 1940-1942  
Sister Mary Carmel 1942-1945  
Sister Mary Nolasico 1945-1948  
Sister Mary Leonard 1948-1952  
Sister Mary Thomas 1952-1954  
Sister Mary Louis 1954-1957  
Sister Mary Alexis 1957-1959

### OTHER SISTERS OF MERCY

Sister Mary Joseph Carr  
Sister Mary Damian  
Sister Mary Xavier Warde  
Sister Mary Laura  
Sister Mary Baptiste Beauchamp  
Sister Mary Wilfred Riley  
Sister Mary Rose Wreape  
Sister Mary Gonzaga McKay  
Sister Mary Damien  
Sister Mary Liguori  
Sister Mary Gilbert  
Sister Mary Marian  
Sister Mary Purification  
Sister Mary Margarita  
Sister Mary Alberta  
Sister Mary Maxim  
Sister Mary Carmelita  
Sister Mary Kevin  
Sister Mary Helena  
Sister Mary Electa  
Sister Mary Ephraim

Sister Mary Martina  
Sister Mary Bridget  
Sister Mary Esther  
Sister Mary Inez  
Sister Mary Evelyn  
Sister Mary Consilli  
Sister Mary Michele  
Sister Mary Colette  
Sister Mary Elizabeth Mauree  
Sister Mary Nativity  
Sister Mary Zita  
Sister Mary Edward Marie  
Sister Mary DeSales  
Sister Mary Peters  
Sister Mary Innocentia  
Sister Mary Veronica  
Sister Mary Annunciation  
Sister Mary Miriam  
Sister Mary Jerome  
Sister Mary Regina  
Sister Mary Ignatius

Sister Mary Theophane  
Sister Mary St. Ann  
Sister Mary Natalie  
Sister Mary Patricia  
Sister Mary Carolyn  
Sister Mary Benedict  
Sister Mary Columba  
Sister Mary Baptist  
Sister Mary Consella  
Sister Mary Clarice  
Sister Mary Placidus  
Sister Mary Agatha  
Sister Mary Gregory  
Sister Mary Bernadette  
Sister Mary Geraldine  
Sister Mary Evangelest  
Sister Mary Jerome  
Sister Mary Nolette

## **SISTERS OF HOLY CROSS**

Sister Rita Reff  
Sister Adele Chebrette  
Sister Teresina Barrett  
Sister Nora Phelan

## **DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. LOUIS**

Sister Angela Chabot  
Sister Edmund Boutin  
Sister Bernadette Ducharme

## **TRUSTEES OF ST. PATRICK'S**

1857  
William Collopy,  
John Myers,  
Ambrose David,  
John Sweeney,  
Robert Condon

1955-2007  
Harold Ashline, Sr.  
Tabor W. Sweet  
W. Rossiter Casey  
Walter Connelly  
Gustave Wetterhahn  
Roland LeBlanc  
Rose Marie Dupras  
Leo Letourneau  
Andrew Guay  
Jules Trahan  
Mary Racicot

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL NO. 2366**

### **GRAND KNIGHTS**

T. A. Sabourin 1922-1923  
Thomas Brennan 1923-1926  
John C. Sabourin 1926-1928  
Eldred Bombard 1928-1929  
W. R. Casey 1929-1930  
Charles Rushlow 1930-1931  
Joseph Fortier 1931-1932  
William Brothers 1932-1934  
Frederick Foy 1934-1935  
Eugene J. Couture 1935-1937  
Francis Plante 1937-1938  
Leo Landry 1938-1940  
Stanley Monette 1940-1941  
James Gratton 1941-1942  
John Curly 1942-1943  
A. J. Gauvin 1943-1944

Harrison Aubrey 1944-1945  
Alex LaMountain 1945-1946  
John Galvin 1946-1947  
Jay Sartwell 1947-1948  
Armand Favreau 1948-1951  
Stanley N. Moore 1951-1954  
George McNally 1954-1956  
Leo P. Letourneau 1956-1958  
John W. Podesta 1958-1959  
Louis A. Dupras 1959-1961  
Gustave Wetterhahn 1961-1963  
Charles Fraser 1963-1964  
Walter Connelly, Jr. 1964-1965  
Harley Pettis 1965-1966  
John W. Podesta 1966-1967  
Edward Mazdzer 1967-1968

Herman L. Jubert 1968-1970  
Joseph Storella 1970-1971  
Joseph Dumoulin 1971-1972  
Lawrence Strack 1972-1974  
Robert E. Goddeau 1974-1976  
Stanley N. Moore 1976-1977  
Real Bedard 1977-1980  
Robert Lake 1980-1982  
Louis DiOrio 1982-1983  
Lester F. Mackey 1983-1989  
Richard J. Letourneau 1989-1992  
Arsene F. Letourneau 1992-1997  
Claude Dessureault 1997-2001  
Arsene F. Letourneau 2001-2006  
Benny Arno 2006-present

## ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

### CHARTER MEMBERS

Mrs. Rollen Bechard	Mrs. Peter Narreau	Mrs. Robert Halstead, Sr.
Mrs. Peter Barcomb	Mrs. Alex Nolette	Mrs. Della Parrott
Mrs. Phillip Bedard	Mrs. Warren Palmer	Mrs. Robert Maskell
Mrs. Arthur Cannon	Miss Sarah Clarke	Mrs. Woodrow Clark, Sr.
Mrs. Rose Delumyea	Mrs. Russell Pilger	Mrs. Noah Belair
Mrs. George Ducharme, Sr.	Mrs. William Quinlan	Mrs. Tim Mott
Mrs. Louis Gebo	Mrs. Remi Rivers	Mrs. Alden Aubrey
Mrs. Sanford Gooley	Mrs. Charles Sequin	Mrs. Leo Bedard
Miss Bertha Letourneau	Mrs. Joseph Soucy	Mrs. Stephen Lovely
Mrs. George Letourneau, Sr.	Mrs. Harry Strack	Mrs. Harry Landry
Mrs. J. F. McDonough	Mrs. H. A. Trombly	Miss Phyllis Jefferson
Mrs. George Letourneau, Jr.	Mrs. James Bell	Miss Beatrice Jefferson
Mrs. Norman Moore	Mrs. Laurier Lefebvre	Mrs. Arthur Sequin
Mrs. Stanley Moore	Mrs. George Cutler	
Miss Mary Mussot	Mrs. Donald Sargent	

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Rose Moore	Mrs. Helen Wetherby
Mrs. Ann Honan	Mrs. Doris Rochester
Mrs. Bertha Moore	Mrs. Eileen Ashline
Mrs. Irene Lombard	Mrs. Theresa Penfield
Mrs. Alice (Peg) Barcomb	Mrs. Jackie Ducharme

## CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS COURT PATRICIA NO. 962

### CHARTER MEMBERS

Florence Anctil	Mae Forgays	Lydia McChesney
Ethel Ashline	Margaret Foy	Helene Mero
Maude Aubrey	Mary Gaines	Ida Mero
Eugenie Belair	Ida Gooley	Lea Miller
Helen Boright	Luella Gooley	Katherine Moore
Mae Breault	Lucille Goyotte	Flora Murray
Flora Brennan	Isabelle Hamel	Nettie Pratt
Della Burke	Ellen Hamelin	Eileen Quain
Edith Carpenter	Maria Hanfield	Katharine Quain
Ila Carriere	Flavia Hanfield	Margaret Recor
Mary Carriere	Minnie Hervieux	Lorena Rivers
Bertha Casavant	Molly Hoag	Helena Rock
Mary Connolly	Ida Mae Landry	Agnes Rochester
Mary E. Conway	Margaret Laundry	Nellie Rochester
Jane Corcoran	Elizabeth Laventure	Bertha Rushlow
Mary M. Corcoran	Antoinette LeBlanc	Lillian Ryan
Edith Couture	Bernadette LeBlanc	Lulu Ryan
Grace Couture	Lauretta LeBlanc	Anna Sabourine
Mary Couture	Hannah Leggett	Flora Sabourine
Margery Fitch	Evelyn Mayo	Henrietta Sanchagrin
Maria Fitch	Minnie Mayo	Katherine Sanchagrin

Helene Seguin  
Lottie Seguin

Helene Sweet  
Angeline Weeks

### **PAST GRAND REGENTS**

Doris Heard  
Veronica Gratton  
Arlene Penfield  
Lillian Casey  
Irene Bierer  
Peg Storella  
Helen Reynolds  
Paulette Orzeck  
Margaret Recore  
Eilene Sweet  
Adrienne Gooley  
Rena O'Connor

Silva Mary Marnes  
Helena Rock  
Ann McDonough  
Donna Racine  
Betty Mero  
Daisy Ducharme  
Esther Sequin  
Ann Yingst  
Elizabeth Fitts  
Anita Quinlan  
Betty Wetterhahn  
Elaine Cloutier

### **SIGNIFICANT DATES**

November 25, 1783  
British Army Sails Out of New York Harbor

1783  
Jacques Rouse Settles in the Vicinity of the Future Village of Rouses Point

November 6, 1789  
See of Baltimore Created by Pope Pius VI with Rev. John Carroll Named as its First Bishop

May 11, 1792  
New York State Act Granting Lands in Clinton County to 250 Refugees Exiled by Canada

1793  
First Known Catholic Church Established at Trombly's Bay near Chazy by Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere

1806  
Abbe Joseph Signay of St. Marie de Monnoir, Quebec Establishes Site for a Mission on the River Chazy

April 8, 1808  
Establishment of Archdiocese of Baltimore by Pope Pius VII  
With Suffragan Sees of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Bardstown, Kentucky

War of 1812

1818  
Rev. Peter Pierre Mignault of Chambly, Quebec Continues Work of Abbe Signay at Corbeau on the Great Chazy River and Builds a Log Chapel Next to Existing Cemetery

April 23, 1847  
Establishment of the Dioceses of Albany and Buffalo by Pope Pius IX

1850  
Diocese of New York made an Archdiocese by Pope Pius IX with John Hughes the First Archbishop

May 31, 1857

Organization of St. Patrick's Church by Rev. Joseph Sasseville

June 24, 1858

Blessing of Cornerstone of First St. Patrick's Church by Rev. Pierre Marie Migneault

November 1859

Consecration of First St. Patrick's Church by Bishop de Goesbriand of Burlington, VT

September 1867

Installation of Bell in St. Patrick's Church Tower

1869

Appointment of Rev. James Scanlon as First Resident Pastor of St. Patrick's Church

February 16, 1872

Creation of Diocese of Ogdensburg by Pope Pius IX

May 16, 1872

Appointment of Edgar P. Wadhams as the First Bishop of Ogdensburg

January 1885

Opening of St. Patrick's School

1915-1919 World War I

April 2, 1922

Knights of Columbus Council #2366 Chartered

May 25, 1925

Formation of Court Patricia No. 962 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

June 29, 1925

Dedication of New St. Patrick's Church on Lake Street by Bishop Joseph Conroy

April 15, 1929

Completion of Interior Decorations of St. Patrick's Church by Professor Angelo Metalò

1941-1945 World War II

November 8, 1953

Dedication of New Knights of Columbus Hall at 9 Liberty Street

September 15, 1957

Celebration of Centennial of St. Patrick's Church

May 3, 1959

Dedication of New St. Patrick's School & Convent by Bishop James J. Navagh

1962-1965

Second Vatican Council

1967-1968

Renovation and Redecoration of St. Patrick's Church

June 28, 1971

Closure of St. Patrick's School and Departure of Sisters of Mercy

April 22, 1972  
Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Knights of Columbus Council #2366

October 4, 1980  
First Permanent Deacon Class Ordained by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg  
Parishioner Noel Hinerth, Member of Class

August 24, 1991  
Completion of New Front and Side Entrances of St. Patrick's Church

April 5, 1997  
Celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Knights of Columbus Council #2366

August 8, 1998  
Rededication of St. Patrick's Church by Bishop Paul Loverde After Church Renovation & Redecoration

April 29, 2000  
Disbanding of Court Patricia No. 962, Catholic Daughters of the Americas

2004  
Sale of St. Patrick's New School Building, September 26th  
Purchase of Knights of Columbus Hall for Parish Center

June 25, 2003  
Linkage of St. Patrick's Church with St. Joseph's Church of Coopersville

2005-2006  
Renovation of New Parish Center

2006  
Sale of St. Patrick's School New Convent

June 3, 2007  
Opening Mass of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Blessing of New Parish Center by Bishop Cunningham

September 7, 2007  
First Parishioner Installed as Lay Minister for Diocese of Ogdensburg, Patricia Carey

June 8, 2008  
Closing Celebration of Sesquicentennial Year of St. Patrick's Church

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & RESOURCES**

*History of the Diocese of Ogdensburg*, by Rev. John Talbot Smith

*A History of Catholicism in the North Country* by Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ

*The Living Stone* by Suzanne E. Moore

ROUSES POINT 1877-1977 Centennial Year Booklet

*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet of St. Patrick's Church—1957*, with a history by Rev. Msgr. Robert Arquett

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program of Knights of Columbus Council #2366—1972*

*History of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia No. 962* by Mrs. Elaine Cloutier

Sacramental Books of St. Patrick's 1857-2008

Sacramental Books of St. Joseph's, Corbeau/Coopersville 1857-2008

## NOTES

1. The name of the artist who decorated the second St. Patrick's church was found to be spelled three ways, depending on the source: Angelo Metillo, Angelo Metallo, Angelo Matello. The fourth spelling is now considered to be authentic since it was the name the artist signed in the corner of the picture of the church and rectory which he painted for the raffle—Angelo Metallo. This is the way the name is spelled in the history.

2. In Volume I of the Sacramental Books of St. Patrick's, there is a list of the pastors of the parish. The list appears to be done first by Father Cormerais during his pastorate in 1915-1937. Others subsequently added to the list. The list records the time of each pastorate according to the dates of the pastor's initial and last sacramental entry. In one case, the pastor made an entry detailing his entrance and departure as pastor. I have made some corrections to the names and filled in a few names that go with an initial. Occasionally it is clear that the names of the priests do not correspond to their signatures. Recent additions have included only the years beginning and ending. At times the initials do not actually correspond to the writing and signature of the pastor. I have taken the liberty to make changes to these according to what I found in the sacramental books.

3. The first entries in volume I of the parish sacramental books are of baptisms performed by Father Louis Barbanchon and Father Joseph Sasseville. They were pastors of St. Joseph's in Corbeau as well. The leadership of these first two pastors of St. Patrick's is critical since Father Barbanchon first floated the idea of the new parish and Father Sasseville led its founding and the construction of its first church. However, in some sources, Father Sasseville is left out.

4. There is a definite mis-reading of the actual third pastor of St. Patrick's. Somehow the name of Rev. Timothy or Ed Van Sempshands or Van Semvenhands was found in two of the sources. Upon closer reading of the Sacramental Books, the pastor signing the book and being the third pastor of the parish is Rev. Francis Van Compenhondt. He was also the pastor of Corbeau, and was referred to as "Father Francis" by Rev. John Talbot Smith, the author of the first history of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Father Francis was responsible for organizing parishes and building churches from his residence in Corbeau. He started with Champlain and moved west. This was probably why St. Patrick's was given as a mission church to the pastors of Champlain in 1861. When he came to Corbeau in 1859, St. Patrick's was already a parish with a new church.

5. It is evident that Father Octave LaSalle had an assistant in G. Jeannotte while pastor of St. Patrick's from 1861-1866. They lived in the rectory in Champlain. Father Jeannotte succeeded to St. Patrick's during the summer of 1866. At the end of this time, Rouses Point was given back to Corbeau.