

Holy Trinity Catholic Church History Columbia, Pennsylvania

In the beginning

The borough of Columbia lies midway between York and Lancaster on the east bank of the Susquehanna River. The community was founded in 1726 and was known as Wright's Ferry. Later the name was changed to Columbia after the discoverer of America, Christopher Columbus.

The early Catholic settlers had to travel to Lancaster, York or Elizabethtown to attend Holy Mass. In the early Nineteenth Century occasionally a priest would come and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in private homes for the Catholics of Columbia.

The first Catholic Church, known as St. Peter's, was erected on Union Street and dedicated on September 12, 1828, by Most Reverend F.P. Kenrick, Coadjutor Bishop of Philadelphia. All Catholics in and around Columbia attended St. Peter's Church. The earliest Catholic settlers were English-speaking and chiefly were of Irish ancestry. At this early date, this part of Pennsylvania had not yet been formed into the Harrisburg Diocese, but belonged to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Between the years 1840 and 1860 there was a great influx of German people into Columbia. This was because chaotic conditions throughout Europe as the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars. Many German peoples felt that they would cast their lots for a new life in the New World. Those who practiced the Catholic Faith affiliated themselves with St. Peter's church. The sermons there were in English and many of the newly arrived Germans had difficulty in understanding them. The Most Reverend John Nepomucene Neumann, Bishop of Philadelphia, suggested that the Germans might find it advisable to erect a church for themselves. (Bishop Neumann was Canonized a Saint by Pope Paul VI in 1976).

The first meeting of the German members of St. Peter's congregation, held with the view of forming a separate parish, took place in the home of Frank Shilott at Third and Perry Streets. The first meeting was held in the month of November 1856. Those present included Frank Shilott, John Essig, and Adam Benkert. In January 1857, a second meeting was held at the home of Joseph Blum on Union Street. Approximately thirty persons were present. They organized themselves into a committee that met regularly each month in the basement of St. Peter's church until January 1858. After this the meetings were held in the town hall. There they continued to be held until the basement of the new church was fitted for use.

The committee organized, collected money, and paid all the bills. Michael Thomas was the secretary. Other members were George Ziegler, Joseph Blum, Joseph Mack, Adam Walker, John Wagner, Sylvester Vogel, George Wellein, Peter Grab and John Kramer, who with a few others were charter members.

Land purchased. . . .

About 1859, Bishop John Neumann of Philadelphia visited Columbia to arrange the purchase of a plot of ground for Holy Trinity Church to take care of the Germans. Bishop Neumann authorized the Reverend Mathias Meurer and his assistant, the Reverend L. Schneider, both of St. Mary's Church, York, to hold services once a month for the Germans in Columbia. They held services once or twice in the basement of St. Peter's Church and several times in the house of Frank Shilott.

For the sum of \$1,500 the committee purchased from George Bogle, on October 3, 1859, a lot measuring one hundred and twenty by one hundred and ninety-seven feet. This lot was situated near Fourth and Cherry Streets.

Shortly after the ground had been purchased, Michael Thomas, one of the committee members, dug the ground for the basement of the new church. Adam Maxton built the stonewalls. Shuman and Upp were given the contract to enclose and prepare the basement for services. The stone for the foundation and walls was purchased from a Mr. Myers and Henry Wisler furnished the brick. Holy Mass was offered in the basement of the new church by Fathers Meurer and Schneider of York and later by the Reverend Anthony Schwartz of Lancaster.

First pastor named. . . .

Early in 1860 Holy Trinity Parish was formally established. During the summer of 1860 the Most Reverend James F. Wood, Bishop of Philadelphia, laid the cornerstone of the new building. On September 1, 1861, the Reverend Charles Schafroth was appointed the first resident pastor of Holy Trinity Church. Besides being pastor of Holy Trinity, Father Schafroth was also pastor of St. Lawrence Church in Harrisburg.

Services were held in each church on alternate Sundays. At first the new pastor made his residence with one of the parishioners, reputed to be Andrew Grab at 136 South Third Street in Columbia. He then purchased a home on South Fourth Street near Union Street. Here the succeeding pastor also resided until a rectory was built.

The parish did not have sufficient funds to complete the church and the new pastor said Mass in the basement room. In 1862 the church was finally completed. It was a brick building, sixty feet by fifty feet, with forty-eight pews.

The first baptism was Anna Muller, daughter of Ferdinand and Antonia Muller. Father Meurer performed it on April 1, 1860. The sponsors were William and Anna Greilich. The first wedding was Andrew Hermann and Anna Barbara Schackert. The witnesses were Frederick Grab and Brigid Nealen. Father Meurer performed the wedding ceremony on October 23, 1860. The first funeral was that of Catherine and Marie Kaufolt. They were the twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kaufolt. Father Schafroth buried them on January 8, 1862.

Father William C. Pieper comes to Columbia. . . .

In November, of 1863, the Reverend William C. Pieper was appointed to succeed Father Schafroth as rector of Holy Trinity and St. Lawrence Church in Harrisburg. He alternated in caring for the parishes on Sunday, offering Mass one Sunday in Columbia and the following Sunday in Harrisburg. This arrangement continued until 1868, when St. Lawrence Parish in Harrisburg was separated from Holy Trinity Parish.

When the new pastor arrived in Columbia, he found a small congregation of about fifty or sixty families. The church debt at that time was approximately \$4,000. Since there was no rectory, he roomed in the same house on South Fourth Street in which Father Schafroth had lived. The first rectory wasn't built until 1866. It was a two-story brick house that cost approximately \$4,000 and served the parish for one hundred and twelve years.

In 1865, Father Pieper purchased three acres of ground from Fred Bletz on Barber Street for use as a cemetery. Until this time all Catholics were buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Klinesville, just north of Columbia. Father Pieper saw the need for a parochial school. In the summer of 1865, he hired Miss Elizabeth Stolz, of Philadelphia, to serve as a teacher. The school opened on September 1, 1865, in the basement of the church building. The initial enrollment was about sixty children.

Franciscan Sisters arrive. . . .

Three years later, the Sisters of St. Francis - Philadelphia to take charge of the school. Mother Agnes, Superior General, sent three sisters and a postulant. They included Sr. M. Aloysia, superior; Sr. M.

Augusta, Sr. M. Alphonse, a novice and Margaret Haecker, a postulant. Ms. Haecker later became Sr. M. Adelheid in May of 1873. They departed the motherhouse at seven o'clock in the morning on September 4, 1869, with a sum of five dollars to start their new mission. After a fourteen-hour journey they finally arrived in Columbia at nine o'clock at night with only nine cents in their pockets.

Father Pieper welcomed the sisters and showed them to their new home. It was a two-story building erected in the rear of the church. Two days later they opened their school and greeted two hundred pupils. The first days were trying. Their home was poorly furnished. The parish had no money to pay the sisters so they relied on the generosity of the people.

During the spring of 1870 ground was broken for a new school building. Father Pieper with the help of some of the older schoolboys built the school adjacent to the Sisters' Convent. It was dedicated on November 1, 1870. The school had one large room on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. The Reverend Mother sent another sister, Sr. M. Bonifacia. This made possible a division of the school into three classes.

To accommodate the steady increase in membership of the parish an addition was built onto the church. In 1873, the extension was added and the number of pews grew from forty-eight to one hundred and thirty-six. It seated conveniently seven hundred persons. Within the next few years the entire church was renovated. Three beautiful marble altars were purchased. The married women of the parish donated the altar and statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The men of the parish donated the altar and statue of St. Joseph. Stained glass windows replaced the original ones of plain glass. The walls were beautifully frescoed. On the walls of the sanctuary were paintings of the Annunciation, the Nativity, Our Lord distributing Holy Communion, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection.

Also, during 1873 the sisters were finally able to arrange the classes into grades. Sr. M. Beda taught the first grade; Sr. M. Adelheid taught the second grade; Sr. M. Ildephonsa taught the third and fourth grades while Sr. M. Aloysia taught the fifth and sixth grades. It should be noted that in July 1891 Sr. M. Aloysia, after twenty-two years at Holy Trinity, was appointed mistress of novices at the motherhouse, Glen Riddle. Then in 1906 she became Superior General of the whole community. Succeeding Sr. M. Aloysia as superior at Holy Trinity was Sr. M. Adelheid. She held this office until 1909. Forty of her forty-three years in the religious life were spent at Holy Trinity.

There was a minor fire in the church on Easter Monday morning, 1875. The Sisters were going about their regular duties connected with the altar and sweeping the sacristy. When they left everything seemed to be in perfect order. While eating dinner they became aware that there was a fire nearby. You can imagine their excitement when they learned there was a fire in the sacristy. The fire was quickly extinguished. The main loss consisted of damage to vestments and altar boy cassocks from smoke and water.

Largest Parish in Columbia. . . .

During the years, 1875-1885, there was another great immigration of German people into Columbia. At this time Holy Trinity became the largest parish in the community. The school building became inadequate to accommodate all of the children. In 1884, a third story was added to the Convent and another story was added to the school.

The year 1888 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Father Pieper as pastor of Holy Trinity. The *Columbia News*, November 22, 1888 edition, paid him the following tribute: *"he has been kind to the poor, the sick and the suffering, but his becoming modesty has kept many of his deeds from being known to the world. Many of the working men of Columbia who own their homes are in a manner indebted to this worthy gentleman, for he was the originator of building associations in our town and it has been nearly twenty-three years since he started the St. Joseph's Building Association which has been in successful operation ever since."*

During his anniversary year, Father Pieper donated a lot measuring twenty by one hundred and ninety-seven feet, to the cemetery. Then in 1894, he purchased another parcel of ground, one and three-quarters of an acre, from Peter Hebel for the cemetery. The same year he announced from the pulpit that he would build a stone chapel in the cemetery at his own expense. The chapel was built at a cost of \$5,000, paid by the rector with the exception of \$1,623, which was money donated by many of the parishioners and as the old document says, "without a collection." In appreciation of the fine cooperation given by the people to this project, Father Pieper at his own expense had several stone statues sent from Germany which he donated to the parish. Several were placed in the chapel and the others were for the church.

Start of the 20th Century. . . .

On December 18, 1901, a great honor was bestowed upon Father Pieper when Pope Leo XII made him a domestic prelate with the title, Right Reverend Monsignor. The Most Rev. J.W. Shanahan, Bishop of Harrisburg, delivered the message personally at the rectory. Then on January 21, 1902, Bishop Shanahan invested Monsignor Pieper in the robes of his office.

A few months after this honor was conferred, the rector, advanced in years, petitioned the bishop for an assistant. Bishop Shanahan appointed the Reverend Peter Gustave Brueggemann as an assistant on August 1, 1902.

Because of failing health Monsignor Pieper resigned as pastor of Holy Trinity on August 13, 1911. From this time until the day he died, August 26, 1912, he resided at 128 North Fifth Street in Columbia. Monsignor told a *Columbia Daily News* reporter, "when the end comes I want to be buried amongst my own German people." He served as pastor of the parish for an unprecedented forty-eight years.

Father Brueggemann named to succeed Msgr. Pieper.

On August 10, 1911, Father Peter Gustave Brueggemann was appointed to become the third pastor of the parish. He had served earlier as the assistant for nearly four years. He returned to Holy Trinity from St. Andrew's Church in Waynesboro, PA. Bishop Shanahan made the appointment.

Immediately he saw the need for a new school building. He purchased four houses on Cherry Street and two on South Fourth Street. Then through the generosity of a parishioner, Joseph Knapp, Father Brueggemann was able to secure a large enough site to begin construction of a modern school. He wanted to accommodate the increased demand for better facilities and more room for between three and four hundred pupils.

According to a published report in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* newspaper, May 2, 1914 edition, Joseph Knapp, vice president of Central National Bank and an auditor in the parish, deeded property he owned to the church. His property included Knapp's Grocery Store on the corner. The combined parcels of land were cleared for construction of the school.

The D.S. Warfel Company of Lancaster built the structure at an approximate cost of \$100,000. The exterior of the building is of rough gray brick with a roof of Vermont green slate. The new school contained eight classrooms on the first and second floors. In the basement there were two classrooms, a library, a large meeting room, an office, a large hall and a kitchen. The auditorium features a stage and balcony and is used for athletic events. The building was completed in the fall of 1915.

New school building opens.

On Sunday, October 24, 1915, the school and auditorium were dedicated with elaborate ceremonies. A parade with almost 3,000 people, including the priests, civic dignitaries and members of the parish, preceded the blessing of the building. Monsignor P. Masson of Allentown, a lifelong friend of Fr. Brueggemann, performed the dedication ceremony. One year after the school was dedicated, in 1916, a ninth grade was added. Nine years later in 1925, a tenth grade was added with an enrollment of fourteen

students. Many students would complete their high school education either by attending Columbia High School or traveling to Lancaster Catholic High School for the final two years.

A group of young men from the parish approached the priests to form a young men's club known as The Lyceum. They were given permission early in 1913. Initially they used a room in the basement of the church to meet. Later they moved to larger quarters in the Bittner Building. After the new school was built they relocated to the basement.

World War I interrupted the activities of The Lyceum, but shortly after the war the club was revived in the auditorium at the school. Results of this brought about entrance of basketball teams into the Lancaster County Church League, under the director of Father Joseph Schmidt. Father William Boyle was responsible for several years of Holy Trinity Club baseball activity. Another very important activity of this period was a legitimate stage production under the guidance of Father P. M. Stief. Then in 1929 a new club, called the Boy's Club, succeeded the original youth organization. This group continued with activities until the outbreak of World War II. The war prompted thirty-six members to join the armed forces. With so many members away, the club was forced to suspend its work.

The Hollinger home at 343 Cherry Street was purchased in 1924 for the Sisters of St. Francis. They moved from 419 Cherry Street into their new facilities during the summer of that year. When they vacated their old home contractors began razing the old school and convent.

Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ welcomed.

During a voyage to Europe Father Brueggemann met Father Joseph Meckel, from Alton, Illinois. Upon learning he was from Holy Trinity in Columbia Father Meckel warmly recommended the community, Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ. They were moving from Alton and would be settling soon on the Quay Farm east of Columbia, along the Lincoln Highway, to establish a Motherhouse.

The first group of four sisters arrived in Columbia on March 26, 1925. They included Sisters Fridoline, Anselma, Veronica and Elizabeth. One of the pleasant memories they retained was the cordial welcome extended to them by Father Brueggemann and the Franciscan Sisters of Holy Trinity. Their first night was spent in the Holy Trinity Convent.

Following Mass the next morning Father Brueggemann arranged for William Lutz to take the sisters out to the Quay Farm. The farm later became known as Gethsemane at the suggestion of Bishop Philip R. McDevitt. During the renovation of the farmhouse the sisters had no chapel. To attend daily Mass they used the trolley to travel to Holy Trinity church. On mornings when they missed the trolley they walked for a half-hour to Columbia.

The house chapel at Gethsemane wasn't completed until April 19. The very next day Bishop McDevitt accompanied by Father Roy Keffer, the assistant pastor at Holy Trinity, visited the sisters to bless and dedicate their new chapel. It was during this visit that Bishop McDevitt promised to provide a temporary chaplain until a permanent one could be appointed. Father Keffer came out from Columbia and distributed Holy Communion to the sisters each morning. Later two assistant priests at St. Joseph's Parish in Lancaster attended to the daily spiritual needs of the sisters.

As the community grew in numbers there were several of the sisters who fell ill with tuberculosis. The illness was prevalent in the early 19-hundreds. During a 16 year period seven sisters died from the disease. Many sisters along with some residents of St. Anne's Home were hospitalized in the Rossmere Sanatorium in Lancaster.

It was during this time the community decided they needed a separate facility to serve as an infirmary for their sisters. They received approval from the bishop to purchase the "Cloverton" portion of the Dr. Houston Mifflin property. This was situated just outside Columbia on the Ironville Pike. Papers were signed on July 8, 1936 and they paid \$10,000 for the property and it was renamed St. Elizabeth's Home.

Father Brueggemann and his assistant drew up plans for a small chapel and by the end of summer the house was ready to accommodate sisters and lay guests suffering from tuberculosis. The house was renamed in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth "Mother" Keim. For more than twenty-five years bread from Keim's Bakery, in Columbia, was delivered to Gethsemane without charge. Cornelius Keim, Sr. asked only the sisters in return to pray for his family. Although the farm and garden provided most of the meat and vegetables, "Mother Keim" provided the bread that was the community's mainstay. It was delivered every day from the bakery.

Another of the sisters' benefactors from Holy Trinity was Clara Kaufhold who owned a grocery store on South Fourth Street. Whenever the sisters needed a special errand or a means of conveyance, they turned to Miss Kaufhold and they were never disappointed. Another benefactor from Holy Trinity was Peter Gable of Ironville, who did all of the butchering at the St. Anne's Farm for the sisters,

As St. Anne's Home continued to grow and with a new addition dedicated on September 30, 1956 it was decided to close St. Elizabeth's infirmary and sell the property. The buyer was H. C. Frey of Wrightsville who paid \$18,000 in 1959.

Plans announced for a new church building.

With an eye towards the future Father Brueggemann's next objective was a new church for his parish he announced that the old church itself would be demolished. In an effort to help raise money to build the new church the Altar Rosary Society, in 1924, held their first Fastnacht Bake. The first bake was held at the beginning of the Lenten Season. Traditionally, the Germans used Shrove Tuesday to use the stored animal fat and lard before Lent. This fund raising project has evolved and grown into a major fundraiser for the parish.

For many years the Altar Rosary Society staffed the fastnacht bake. During the decades it has become a total parish project and includes almost an equal number of men and women totaling nearly 115. Some of the early leaders of the bake included Margaret Krodel, Lena Dinkel, Gertrude Heltshe, Mary Haberstroh, Sophie Haberstroh, Mary Smith, Caroline Droege, Patience Musser and Ruth Albright. For a number of years school cafeteria manager Gertrude Golden and chief cook Clara Smith supervised the annual bakes. In recent years Anita Grab has been the main coordinator with able assistance from Fred and Mary Elslager and Phil Haberstroh.

Fastnachts are baked on Monday, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. After that, there are four weeks of bakes, during Lent, on Mondays and Wednesdays only. Nearly seven thousand dozens fastnachts are produced each season.

The fastnacht bake received national attention on January 25, 1989 when TODAY Show weatherman, Willard Scott, broadcast his weather segments "live" from Holy Trinity Parish Center. The event was televised nationally by WGAL-TV for the NBC Television Network. Willard chatted with many of the volunteers and during one segment joked, "you eat three of these (fastnachts) and you can't get off your chair."

On Sunday, June 18, 1926 the last services were held in the old church. Until the new church was built services were held in the school auditorium. Work on the new building actually began in the fall of 1926 and advanced rapidly. On May 1, 1927 the cornerstone was laid. Bishop Philip R. McDevitt presided at the ceremony. A copper box containing valuable documents of the church was placed in the cornerstone. The name of every parishioner in his/her own handwriting also was deposited in the stone.

The church is built of beautiful hand-cut granite. There are six different kinds of stone found in the structure. The beautiful gray granite used in the walls came from quarries in South Carolina. Ten carloads of buff limestone from Indiana and Green River were used in the exterior trimmings. Thirty carloads of decorative stone from Connecticut were used on the interior. The granite steps at the main entrance came from the Deer Island quarries of New Hampshire. Thirty carloads of ordinary limestone were used in the

foundations. The stone care here in the rough and each piece was hand-addressed by American and Italian stone-cutters.

In every detail the architectural design is English Gothic of the Elizabethan period. This design prevails within the edifice as well as without. The church is one hundred and fifty feet long and sixty-five feet wide, and is in the form of a Latin cross. The height of the building, including the forty-foot tower, is one hundred and five feet. The roof is constructed of a vary-colored slate. The same material covers the floor of the aisles. The slate came from quarries in Vermont. On either side of the main body of the church are seven massive composition stone pillars. The pews, which provide seating for nine hundred, are in keeping with the severely simple, yet attractive, lines of the entire structure. The lighting system also harmonizes with the thirteenth century design, the lantern effect predominating. The ceiling beams are poly-chromed woods.

The sanctuary is entirely of marble, quarried and imported from Italy. The Stations of the Cross, the altar, the altar rails, the pulpit and the baptismal font are made of marble. All of the marble used in the sanctuary had undergone a special treatment giving it an antique ivory finish. The Carrara marble work of the sanctuary is a gift from Mrs. John (Bertha) Erdrich of Philadelphia. Imports from Germany include the carved wood depiction of the Good Shepherd in the stone niche on the right side of the altar. The Blessed Mother in the stone niche on the left side is carved of wood, as is the Crucifixion scene above the main altar.

New church is blessed.

Father Brueggemann's dream became a reality when the new church was completed in October 1929. Bishop McDevitt returned to Columbia on October 6 to bless and open the new church. The officers of the Solemn Pontifical High Mass, offered on this occasion, were Bishop McDevitt as celebrant; Rev. P.M. Stief, deacon and Rev. Roy Keffer, sub deacon.

The church was constructed at an approximate cost of \$390,000. The Holy Name Society presented the pews; the organ was a gift of the Altar-Rosary Society and the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality donated the lighting fixtures.

The first funeral in the new church was Margaret Schlegelmilch. Father Brueggemann buried her on October 7, 1929. George R. Lilley, a convert at the age of sixty-three, was the first person baptized. Father Hartnett performed the sacrament and George C. Gress was his sponsor. It took place on October 12, 1929. Paul Weisser and Anna Foehlinger were the first couple married in the new church by Father Brueggemann. The wedding was held on October 21, 1929 and John Weisser and Catherine Foehlinger were the witnesses.

Janson Foundation formed.

Through the will of Joseph Janson, Feb 21, 1925, the Frank, Valentine and Joseph Janson Foundation was formulated to provide assistance to the needy of Holy Trinity, St. Peter's Parish and Columbia residents. The Janson brother's were successful businessmen and members of Holy Trinity Parish. The family patriarch Joseph decreed that membership of the Foundation would include the pastor and eight laymen from the parish. As trustees they distribute funds in support of Catholic charities, support seminarians and maintain a track of land known as Janson Park. The park is located at Sixth and Cherry Streets and is for the enjoyment and benefit of the community. The philanthropic work of the Foundation is conducted anonymously.

A year before his death, Father Brueggemann celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of Holy Trinity. To mark the occasion he was presented with a set of Gothic vestments from the congregation on Sunday evening, July 10, 1927. Three days later a Solemn High Mass was celebrated with the choir of school children singing. Most Reverend George L. Leech, Bishop of Harrisburg, along with fifty priests paid tribute to him. Shortly after this occasion his health failed very rapidly and he was confined to bed

most of the time. He passed away on July 16, 1937. Father Brueggemann was a synodal judge in the diocese and active in the priests' choir. For years he served as a director of the Columbia Hospital and actively participated in many civic affairs.

Father Stump named to succeed Father Brueggemann. . . .

On July 30, 1937, Reverend Leopold J. Stump, then pastor at St. Gertrude's Church in Lebanon, was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity. Bishop Leech made the appointment. Father Stump was no stranger to the parish. While a seminarian he spent many summers here with Monsignor Pieper. In fact, he offered his First Solemn High Mass at Holy Trinity on May 28, 1911. While he was pastor at St. Gertrude's he built a new church and rectory and began construction of a new school. The main marble altar was obtained from the old Holy Trinity Church.

In the early years of his tenure as pastor Father Stump made extensive improvements to the parish properties. The lighting system in the church was made more efficient; a new heating system was installed in all the buildings; the school and rectory were renovated. He started a parish bulletin. The Mother's Club, the Boy Scouts, the National Council of Catholic Women and the Dramatic Club were introduced into the parish.

A special celebration took place in October 1944 marking the fifteenth anniversary of the new church, the clearance of the parish debt, and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. The parish published a one hundred and seven pages Souvenir Booklet containing history and photographs. Assistant pastor Father Raymond A. McColligan was the editor and Edmund A. Wickenheiser the managing editor. The Booklet Committee consisted of twenty-nine parishioners.

It was in 1944 that Father Stump developed a program to ensure the future of possible expansion in the parish. He purchased a home on South Fourth Street and in later years purchased another on Cherry Street. At the urging of Father Stump a cafeteria was started in 1947 for the students at Holy Trinity School. Mrs. Gertrude Golden was the first manager and supervised the operation for many years. The first cook hired was Mrs. Clara Smith.

She started out using an old U.S. Army Recipe Book containing 500 recipes. Clara would simply modify the ingredients to accommodate the large number of students fed every day. The very first day she prepared vegetable soup. That same day someone informed her there would be fifteen students from St. Peter's School coming for lunch. She raced home grabbed some food from her own pantry and stretched the soup to feed the additional students.

Additionally, Clara cooked for three pastors including Father Stump and kept house and cooked for Monsignor Francis Heltshe. She later cooked for Monsignor Rudolph Fuhr and among his favorites was her brown flour potato soup. Father Stephen Rolko enjoyed her cooking and was a fan of her chocolate cake.

She cooked for Holy Name Society dinners and was very involved in the annual fastnacht bakes. Clara was Holy Trinity's Chief Cook for fifty years retiring from the kitchen in 1997 at the young age of 92. In later years she resided at St. Anne's Home until her death on March 3, 2003 at the age of 97. Clara was the mother of five children: Charles, Jr. (who was killed during World War II), Paul J. (deceased), Fred, Sara Goodhart (deceased) and Mary Lou Jones.

Early in April 1950 Father Stump began seeking bids on rebuilding or purchasing a new organ for the church. Two companies responded and he finally selected the proposal from Mudler-Hunter Company of Philadelphia. They first began building church organs in 1875.

He then engaged the services of Bruno C. Hensen to review the proposals and advise him accordingly. Mr. Hensen, from Hagerstown, Maryland, is the proprietor of his own pipe organ service in Northern Maryland.

Work began in the spring of 1950 with most parts for the organ being hand made in Philadelphia. The only exception was the metal parts. Periodically during the installation Mr. Jensen reviewed the work of the installers. Installation was finally completed on May 18, 1951. Mr. Hensen reported that the Mudler-Hunter Company met all of the specifications, their workmanship and material is first class. The entire project cost the parish \$11,400.

Part of Father Stump's expansion plans included enlarging the school yard in 1951 by razing three old buildings adjacent to the school. In April of 1951, he erected a parish garage,

June 11, 1950 marked the closing exercises for the sophomore class. They were guests of the Holy Name Society at a breakfast following the seven o'clock mass. Three years later, June 1953, the final freshman class graduated ending nearly thirty-five years of secondary education at Holy Trinity School. In September approximately seventy-five students began commuting, in two buses, to Lancaster Catholic High School.

During 1954, Father Stump not only beautified the new cemetery but had a road paved giving a better entrance on Ninth Street. An additional plot of ground was opened to accommodate more grave sites. This land borders on Tenth Street. The statue group depicting the death of St. Joseph was removed from the cemetery chapel and made into the centerpiece that now faces Central Avenue. The work was performed under the supervision of Rev. Joseph Smith, assistant pastor. John Geltz, president of the Holy Name Society and William Nikolaus were chairman and cochairman of the workers. The men who assisted were Louis Bittner, Francis Draude, Leroy Cramer, Ronald, Arthur and Vincent Fischer, John Jr. and Peter Geltz, Paul Stein, Philip Haberstroh, Paul Weisser and Frank Sahd. Work started in September 1956 and was completed with the opening of the chapel on All Souls Day, November 2, 1956.

In 1957 a new gateway was constructed at the Tenth Street entrance to the cemetery. The final touch to beautify the cemetery was supplied by the men of the parish who re-painted the interior as well as repaired the exterior of the cemetery chapel.

The parish purchased the abandoned Cherry Street Public School in August 1958. Attorney Wilson Bucher, representing the parish, presented a sealed bid offer of \$12,000 to the Columbia School Board. The school building was damaged twice by fire during the year. Father Stump was hoping to turn the facility into a social and recreational center for the parish. When advised the project would be too costly he had the land cleared and paved for a very welcomed parking area. One of Father Stump's remarks of this new addition of land was: "The Holy Trinity of Tomorrow may need every inch of that ground."

On April 10, 1959, Father Stump died in St. Joseph Hospital, Lancaster and was interred in Holy Trinity Cemetery. His Excellency, Bishop George L. Leech presided at the Funeral Mass. The Most Reverend Lawrence Schott, Auxiliary Bishop of Harrisburg, conducted the final prayers. Father Stump served as pastor for nearly twenty-two years.

One of our own named to succeed Father Stump.

A native son, Reverend Francis J. Heltshe, was appointed pastor to replace Father Stump. His parents were A. Frank and Gertrude M. Heltshe, members of the parish. Father Heltshe attended Holy Trinity School, graduated from Columbia High School and attended St. Vincent College and Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 21, 1931 at St. Patrick's Cathedral and celebrated his first Solemn Mass in Holy Trinity the next day.

Upon his appointment as our fifth pastor Father Heltshe was welcomed "home" with a challenge for further progress. One of the first tasks he undertook was construction of a two story enclosed fire tower and stairway at the school. The tower project provided necessary exits from school corridors, auditorium and the cafeteria. This project began in July 1960. Additionally, a modern fire alarm system was installed as well as fireproof doors in the hallways.

During Father Heltshe's time the Holy Trinity Boys Choir performed at special functions. Sister M. Claracita formed the thirty-member group in the fall of 1960. Their initial appearance was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th. They appeared in cassocks and surpluses and sang the Proper of the Mass and the Offertory Hymn. During the next decade they performed throughout the area and at special liturgical functions and even sang on the radio. On November 29, 1962 they tape-recorded a special program in the studios of WGAL-TV. This program of Christmas music was broadcast on Sunday, December 2nd.

In 1964 Father Heltshe purchased two properties for future expansion. One was located at 433 Cherry Street and was purchased for \$5,000. The other property was located at 25 South Fourth Street and cost the parish \$13,000.

Father Heltshe was elevated to the rank of Monsignor on May 24, 1965 in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop George L. Leech. Nearly two years later he passed away on January 24, 1967 and is buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery. Monsignor Heltshe served as pastor for almost eight years.

Celebrating 100th Anniversary.

The parish commemorated its 100th Anniversary on October 19, 1960 with a special program that was written and directed by Rosemary Horn. The co-chairpersons were Gertrude Wright and Philip Haberstroh. The program consisted of five segments or acts depicting the history of the parish. Part one was the First Baptism featuring sponsors portrayed by Bernard Wickenheiser and Constance Stetter. Wayne Dellet played Father Meurer our first pastor. The Guardian Angel solo was sung by Bernadette Smaling and members of the Senior Girl Scout Troop #31 sang the lullaby *White Coral Bells*. Part two focused on the early days at Holy Trinity School. Sylvia Smith portrayed a Franciscan Sister. Representing school children were Michael Bransby, Joseph Horn, Mildred and Marjorie Lutz. Edmund A. Wickenheiser, Sr. was dressed as Saint Nikolaus.

The next portion of the program commemorated the sons of Holy Trinity who served in five wars. Joseph Horn was dressed as a Union Soldier. The Spanish American Soldier was Gerald Nikolaus while John Zercher was featured as a Dough Boy from World War I. Honoring those who served in World War II and the Korean War were Airmen Richard Bransby, Marine Edmund A. Wickenheiser, Jr. and Cornelius Keim was a sailor.

The final two acts centered a-round weddings between 1860 and 1960. Portraying a couple from the 1860's were Carol Derstler and Robert Seibert, Jr. The wedding party of 1960 included Margaret, Rose and Lucretia Schinzing along with Dolores Weisser. Rosemary Donnelly sang a beautiful rendition of the Ave Maria. There was a special tribute honoring the priests and sisters in the finale and vocalist Edward A. Hermesky sang *Mother At Thy Feet is Kneeling*.

Music director Katharine Swingler coordinated the chorus who included Thomas Roeser, John Quinn, Bernard and Michael Wickenheiser. Robert Martin provided the piano accompaniment. Philip Haberstroh painted all of the scenery. The cast played before a record number of parishioners who filled the auditorium and balcony at the school. Sylvester Welsh was the program commentator.

Father Fuhr comes to Holy Trinity. . . .

In 1967 following the death of Monsignor Heltshe, Bishop Joseph T. Daley appointed Reverend Rudolph Fuhr as the sixth pastor of Holy Trinity

On August 19, 1969 the newly organized Holy Trinity School Board met for the first time. Charter members included Philip H. Glatfelter, II, president; Edmund A. Wickenheiser, Jr., secretary; Joseph Robinson, Gerald Fischer, Donald Nikolaus, Paul Nikolaus, Father Fuhr, pastor and Sr. Adelinda, principal.

During 1970 Father Fuhr was named an Honorary Prelate (Monsignor) by Bishop Daley.

A VISTA volunteer working in Columbia, Howard Kissinger shared a survey with Msgr. Fuhr in 1971. It suggested that the elderly needed comfortable and economical housing. Shortly afterward Msgr. Fuhr formed the Columbia Catholic Housing for the Elderly, Inc. This non-profit corporation consisted of hand picked members of Holy Trinity and St. Peter's Parish. Each would bring expertise to the board. Banker Philip H. Galtfelter, II was named vice president, insurance specialist C. Stanley Albright was treasurer, Donald H. Nikolaus, Esquire served as the corporation attorney. Borough councilman William D. Elliot was the connection to government and Monsignor needed someone to provide a homey touch and named Mrs. Mary Loreto as secretary. Mr. Elliot and Mrs. Loreto are members of St. Peter's Parish.

It took the corporation two years to get approval for low interest loans from the Federal Housing Administration. The project was the first of its kind supported by the Housing Development Corporation of Lancaster County. Ground was broken on November 7, 1973 at the former Herbert Estate property, Fourth and Mill Streets, for the 2.5-million dollar facility. The Herbert's were former members of Holy Trinity. The nine story high rise contains one hundred and thirty-five units and was named Trinity House. At the ground breaking Msgr. Fuhr was quoted as saying, "this is the crystallization of a dream. This will be a place where there will be happiness and dignity for our senior citizens." Trinity House was dedicated on Sunday, June 1, 1975.

Gerald Nikolaus was the first member of Holy Trinity Parish appointed to serve on the Diocesan Cemetery Committee. Bishop Joseph Daley made the appointment official in 1973. Mr. Nikolaus's name was submitted by Monsignor Fuhr to fill a vacancy on the Diocesan Committee. He served faithfully for 18 years and was chairman of this committee for 13 years. Additionally, he served as one of the pallbearers for both Bishops George L. Leech and Joseph T. Daley.

In 1974 St. Peter's School discontinued their seventh and eight grades. Because of this change Holy Trinity's principal, Sister Joseph Marguerite, received permission from the Sisters of St. Francis, the Bishop, and the Vicar General of the diocese to serve as principal for both schools. At the same time Holy Trinity cafeteria began preparing hot lunches for the students at St. Peter's School.

After eight years as pastor and having reached retirement age, as prescribed by the Diocesan policy for priests, Monsignor Fuhr retired as Pastor in 1975. He was named pastor emeritus upon his retirement. The lay leadership of the parish produced a magnificent tribute to honor Monsignor Fuhr. The retirement recognition night was held on May 11, 1975 in the school auditorium. It was standing room only.

Sylvester J. Welsh served as master of ceremonies. The Most Rev. George L. Leech, Bishop of Harrisburg, delivered remarks. All parish organizations and societies were represented and presentations were made by Thomas Martin, Ty Brown, Rose Kloidt, Eugene Smith, Jean Gainer, Betty Jo Stephenson, Susan Wickenheiser, Joseph H. Nikolaus, Bertha Yeaglin, Patricia Martin and Ed Wickenheiser, Jr. A resume on the life of Msgr. Fuhr was written and delivered by Donald H. Nikolaus.

The highlight of the evening was a special musical presentation by the Adult and Children's Choir. It featured musical memories in the life of the Monsignor from his birth on Christmas Day 1905 with the singing of *Stille Nacht* to the closing selection *Aufwiederseh'n*. Gerald Nikolaus was the narrator; the choirs were under the direction of Sr. M. Georgina, O.S.F. and Patricia Martin. Bernard Wickenheiser provided the accompaniment. Michael Helwig performed a special solo. Following the tribute parishioners had an opportunity to mingle with Monsignor at a reception in the school cafeteria.

Seventh Pastor announced by the Bishop. . . .

Upon his retirement Msgr. Fuhr was named pastor emeritus of Holy Trinity and then served, until the time of his death, as rector of Villa Vinanney, Lebanon. The Bishop immediately appointed Reverend Stephen M. Rolko to succeed Msgr. Fuhr in May 1975 as the seventh pastor at Holy Trinity.

A number of changes were made while Father Rolko served as pastor. One of the first things he proposed was the inauguration of the "300 Club". The Pastor's Advisory Board approved the plan in September 1976. This is an on-going project designed to generate extra income to supplement the ordinary parish contributions. Funds are primarily used for renovations and repairs to parish property. Several retired men of the parish volunteered to handle the formation of the Club and serve as the initial sellers. The group included: Elmer and Leo Derstler, John Geltz, Edmund Kasel, James Kaufhold, Sr., Samuel Maurer, Joseph Pirraglia, Carl Roeser, Sr., Richard Schickling and Frank Wickenheiser. The very first drawing was November 11th.

One of the first major projects receiving approval was a plan for the construction of a new stone rectory and parish office. Father immediately formed finance and building committees to undertake this new challenge. Bishop Daley gave his approval in 1977.

In May of 1977 William Kloidt, Sr. was named general chairman for the project. The building committee chairperson was Joseph Broich assisted by Robert "Hammer" Grab, Elmer Derstler, Larry Smith, Samuel Maurer, Paul Stein, Stephen "Bo" Rheel, John "Tink" Lutz, Dick Donnelly, Eugene Menko, Jean Bourne, and Patrick O'Donnell. The finance committee chairperson was Philip H. Galtfelter, II with assistance from Sylvester Welsh, Richard Horn, Joseph Schahren, Gertrude Wright, Dorothy Sheehy, Rose Kloidt, Cyril Smith, Myrtle Meisenbach and Ronald Sahn. Father Rolko and James Dailey, president of the Parish Advisory Board served as ex-officio of both committees. Anna Mohler served as public relations chairperson with help from Miriam Benedict and Claressa Hartman. Legal advisor was Donald H. Nikolaus, Esq. Betty Horn served as general committee secretary.

Another first for the parish occurred on October 9, 1977. A statue of the Blessed Mother was carried, in procession, around the streets of Columbia. Members of the parish, including the youth, recited the rosary for the spiritual welfare of the United States.

Rectory and office complex built.

The new rectory wasn't completed until the fall of 1978. The priests moved into their new residence on November 4 and the special blessing and open house took place on November 19, 1978. The construction costs totaled nearly \$190,000. It was a welcomed addition and the stone edifice compliments the English Gothic stone structure of the church. Some of the stones were pre-cut and used from a mansion in Media, Pennsylvania which were carefully dismantled, thus giving the parish a rectory made of the exact granite material as was utilized in the church itself - from the same quarries of South Carolina. Thanks to the Nikolaus Family who donated the electrical construction work for the new rectory complex. The gift was in the memory of George Ignatius and Paul Jacob Nikolaus.

During the summer of 1976 Sr. Anna Cosgrave arrived at Holy Trinity to become Superior at the convent and teach in the school. After six years as Superior her Order transferred her. It would be one year before she returned on August 9, 1983. Sister has been described as a person who "lives and loves for others." During the decades she serves as a pastoral assistant and is coordinator of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program. In addition she works with seniors, tutors mentally challenged children, cleans, paints and helps those unable to perform such chores. She is an invaluable asset to the pastor and members of the parish. A humble and pious individual who goes about her work in a very quiet manner. On February 28, 1993, Sister Anna was named a recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award. She was one of six individuals from the Susquehanna Valley to receive the honor at during ceremonies at the Hershey Convention Center. Sister was recognized for outstanding service to the parish and the community of Columbia. The special national honor was bestowed by WGAL-TV.

With fewer members of the Sisters of St. Francis teaching at Holy Trinity School it was decided to sell the convent at 343 Cherry Street. During 1979 the "old convent" was sold for \$40,000. A smaller home, to serve as a convent, was purchased for \$38,000 at 548 Cherry Street. The Amos and Elizabeth Kauffman family lived there for three generations.

Because an overwhelming demand for housing the Columbia Catholic Housing for the Elderly, Inc. broke ground on October 7, 1981 for a second high rise. St. Peter's House was built at Fourth and Union Streets on property formerly owned by Holy Trinity parishioners Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weisser and Dean Pettis. It was the site of the old Columbia Market House.

Spearheading this project was retired Holy Trinity pastor Msgr. Rudolph Fuhr and the original corporation members. The thirteen story high rise was built at a cost of 6.5-million dollars and provides 126-units of housing for the elderly and handicapped. Again the Housing and Urban Development provided loans. In his seventy-eighth year Msgr. Fuhr watched Bishop Joseph T. Daley dedicate Columbia's tallest building on Sunday, April 24, 1983. Upon the death of Msgr. Fuhr, Philip H. Galtfelter, II succeed him as president of the non-profit corporation. Msgr. Fuhr served as president of this group for twenty-three years.

To comply with new liturgical guidelines the baptismal font was removed from the Baptistery, located in the rear of the church, and moved to the sanctuary. Kenneth Swartz brought sand and water from the Jordan River to be placed in the baptismal font in its new location. The Baptistery was renovated to honor the founder of Holy Trinity Parish. On September 26, 1982 the Shrine to St. John Nepomucene Neumann was finally dedicated. St. John Neumann was Canonized a Saint by Pope Paul VI in 1976.

All of the doors in the church were replaced to conform to safety regulations issued by the Penna. Department of Labor and Industry. The work was completed in the summer of 1982. The doors were memorialized in honor of the following parishioners - the main entrance John J. and Mary E. Gable. The St. Joseph side entrance in memory of George and Pauline Grab. The Blessed Mothers side honors the Helwig Family and Frank Zipp. The door entering the hall to the Sacristy was donated in memory of Charles R. Kirchner and Charles P. Smith.

Holy Trinity School initiated a Kindergarten program in the fall of 1986. The first class had an enrollment of twenty-one children who attended the morning sessions.

Plans for a Parish Center.

Father Rolko undertook another major project with the help of many parishioners. The proposal to construct a parish social center/cafeteria and several additional classrooms was approved by Bishop William Keeler. The new structure became an extension of the school. A fund drive was launched on October 1, 1986 to raise \$530,000. Donald Nikolaus was appointed general chairman. The two men responsible for overseeing the actual construction of the facility were Dick Donnelly and William Kloidt, Sr. Bishop Keeler formally dedicated the building on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1987. The ceremony included a Rosary for Peace followed by the celebration of the mass. Then Bishop Keeler opened the doors for the parishioners to enter.

Another milestone for Holy Trinity School was the addition of a preschool program designed for four-year olds. This program began at the start of the 1987-88 school year.

Father Rolko formed the Holy Trinity Men's Club in April 1990. The Club was organized to raise funds to underwrite various parish expenses and to supplement the Lenten Appeal. The Club's first president was William Kloidt, Jr. The core group included Russell Messer, Paul Yeaglin, William Meley, William Englert, William Meisenbach, William Kloidt, Sr., Charles Broome, James Olweiler, Richard Daecher, Dick Donnelly, Fred Wickenheiser, John Horn, John Hess, William Dinkel, Harold "Butch" Morrison and James Wagner. The annual parish festival was created by the Club in the spring of 1990.

In early June 1992 a group of men cleaned, repaired and painted all of the walls over the side altars in the church. The work was difficult and required skill, care and safety. Outside work on the church was completed to prevent leaks from heavy rains that caused extensive staining and erosion. The work crew consisted of Phil Haberstroh, Joseph Robinson, Joseph Horn, Lamar Kauffman, Ronald G. and Chris Sahd, James Wagner, Robert "Hammer" and Mark Grab and Bernie Wolgemuth, Jr.

Father Rolko passed away on December 4, 1993 following several months of illness. He served as pastor for eighteen years. Bishop Nicholas Dattilo celebrated the funeral mass and Father Rolko was laid to rest in Holy Trinity Cemetery. On December 4, 1994 the Memorial Garden, on the lawn in front of the Parish Center, was dedicated to Father Rolko. Following the dedication an oil portrait of Father, painted by parishioner Mark Grab, was unveiled and hung in the hallway of the Center.

Father Lawrence succeeds Father Rolko. . . .

The Reverend Kenneth Lawrence was appointed eighth pastor of Holy Trinity. His previous assignment was as pastor at St. Francis Church in Gettysburg. Father's appointment was effective March 9, 1994. Shortly after his arrival Father Lawrence paid off the remaining debt of the Parish Center with some of the funds bequeathed to the parish from the Ella Veit estate.

One of his first undertakings was to purchase the three Westerman properties adjacent to the school on Cherry Street. These buildings included the former Westerman Butcher Shop and residence and the old slaughterhouse at the rear of the properties. The structures were razed and the land cleared to make way for additional parish parking and an enlarged play lot for the school.

Following a brief illness the pastor emeritus of Holy Trinity, Msgr. Rudolph Fuhr died at St. Anne's Home, Columbia on September 14, 1994. The Mass of Christian Burial held at Holy Trinity with Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo as celebrant. The con-celebrants included Monsignors Vincent Topper and Donald Adams and Fathers Andrew Marinak, Kenneth Lawrence, William Haviland and Lawrence McNeil. The lectors were William Kloidt, Sr. and Donald Nikolaus. Gift Bearers included Lucille Sahd, Philip Glatfelter, Lucille and Floyd Nevin. Mr. and Mrs. Nevin were members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enhaut, Dauphin County. Monsignor Fuhr was laid to rest near the chapel in Holy Trinity Cemetery on September 16, 1994.

Richard Horn served two - three year terms as President of the Diocesan Council of the St. Vincent DePaul Society. In September 1994 he was instrumental in helping to reorganize the St. Vincent DePaul Society within the Harrisburg Diocese. It was during this reorganization meeting that he was elected to his first three-year term. As the resurgence took place Dick was re-elected to continue in his leadership role as president for another three years. In September 2000 a new president was elected and Dick was thanked for his contributions. He was the first member of this parish to serve the Society at the Diocesan level.

During the fall of 1995 the diocese approved three plans for improvement to the church. These included a major overhaul and upgrading of the pipe organ, repainting of the interior walls, and the exterior restoration of the church and bell tower.

A new science room was dedicated at Holy Trinity School and an open house held on October 6, 1996. The room was refurbished and remodeled in memory of the late John Horn. Students presented a special banner and an Angel Award to the Horn Family in gratitude for their generous gift to the school.

Pipe organ restored. . . .

Early in February 1997 restoration work on the pipe organ was completed and the parish held an organ rededication ceremony. The Columbia Organ Works completed the major renovations. The project included the installation of a new three manual console made from oak with mahogany inlay. The solid state console is equipped with a laser light keyboard, making it the first organ in the Greater Lancaster area of this kind. Also included, was the expansion of the reed section, which added seventy-three pipes (the Tromba and Clarion). With the addition of these two new ranks, the organ now has twenty-one ranks with a total of two thousand pipes. The original Mudler-Hunter organ was purchased in 1951-second hand from a church in Philadelphia.

Parochial schools in Columbia consolidated.

In 1998 the final chapter in the one-hundred and thirty year history of Holy Trinity School was finalized. During the Diocesan Consultation Process and after much prayer it was decided to consolidate Holy Trinity and St. Peter's Schools. The decision was reached for a number of reasons including declining enrollment, lack of space, a decrease in the birth rate and financial difficulty. Bishop Nicolas Dattilo formally closed Holy Trinity during a Eucharistic celebration. It was during this ceremony Our Lady of the Angels School was formally commissioned. Students from Holy Trinity and St. Peter's Schools participated in the special ceremony.

As the doors to Holy Trinity School closed, its first lay principal Mrs. Shirley Meley retired. She was principal for fifteen years. Also retiring was Mrs. Elizabeth Horn. Mrs. Horn was the school secretary for thirty years. For their long and dedicated service a reception was held in their honor. They were presented with various gifts from the parish and its organizations.

The 1998-99 school year got underway with much excitement. It was the beginning of Our Lady of the Angels School. A contest to name the new school was held among the students. Names were submitted to the bishop and finally he announced the selection as Our Lady of the Angels. When the doors opened for the first time children in pre-school through grade three were housed in St. Peter's school building. Students in grades four through eighth were assigned to classrooms in Holy Trinity. The new school's first principal was Mrs. Theresa Burg. She was the former principal at St. Peter's School.

During Catholic Schools Week, February 1999, the new computer lab at Our Lady of the Angels School was formally dedicated. Money to offset the expense was raised by the newly formed Technological Committee under the chairmanship of Philip H. Glatfelter, II. Donald H. Nikolaus organized the major gifts division while Ronald G. Sahd was responsible for contacting corporations and businesses. And Sue Morrison coordinated donations from the alumni.

A large portion of the Mary Hickey estate was bequeathed to the parish. In her memory a new heating and air-conditioning system was installed in the church. The work, begun in early March 1999, was completed at the end of June in the same year.

The beginning of the 21st Century and Holy Trinity responds to 9/11.

On September 11, 2001 Americans and the world were shocked by a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C. and the plane crash in Western Pennsylvania. That evening Father Lawrence conducted a prayer service for peace. The attendance almost filled the church. The following weekend a special collection was held for the victims of the attack.

Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo appointed Ed Wickenheiser, Jr. to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The appointment was received on February 19, 2002 and is for a term of three years, ending May 2005. Ed was the first member of the parish to serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council. He also served two-three year terms an elected member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Additionally, two young ladies from the parish, Emily Broich and Maria Helwig, were elected to serve on the Diocesan Youth Council.

On April 13, 2002, Father Michael Grab, a native son of the parish, returned to Holy Trinity to celebrate a Mass on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee as a priest. Father Grab is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Lancaster.

Holy Trinity was represented at the World Youth Day Celebration in Toronto, Canada. Maria Robuccio, a member of the Youth Ministry Program, attended the celebration between July 22 and 29, 2002. She joined with Father Kenneth Smith, pastor of St. Peter's Parish and Morgan Burkhardt. The trio was part of the hundreds of thousands who had the opportunity to see and hear Pope John Paul II. The two young ladies are members of the Youth Ministry Program of the two parishes.

Through the kindness of the Janson Foundation, Kaboom Corporation and Armstrong World Industries ultra modern playground equipment was installed at Janson Field, 6th and Cherry Streets. Work on this project was started in September 2002 and involved a number of volunteers from the parish, community and from Armstrong. Construction was completed in less than a week. Father Kenneth Lawrence conducted the formal blessing and dedication of the play lot on June 13, 2003. The ceremony was presided over by Ronald G. Sahn, Foundation President and members of the Janson Foundation Board.

During the year 2002 a number of repairs were made to parish properties, including repairs to the convent, the paving of the parking lots adjacent to the school and behind the school on the former Link Bakery property. Curbing was placed along 10th Street at the cemetery. A new furnace and freezers were installed at the rectory and new lights installed in Our Lady of the Angels gymnasium. By midyear 2003 the lower level of the school was carpeted and lighting in that area including the library was upgraded. Over the summer months a former classroom, in the Parish Center, was converted into two offices for use of the principal and school secretary and the security and fire alarm systems was upgraded..

The oldest member of the parish, Frank W. Zipp, died on July 11, 2003 at the age of 102. During most of his life he resided in the Ironville area. By trade he was a master carpenter. Mr. Zipp's legacy to the parish was construction and installation of the bookracks attached to the pews in the church. Upon his death it was revealed he had bequeathed \$50,000 to Holy Trinity. He was a member of the Holy Name Society and Legion of Mary.

The parish Youth Group continues its active participation in spiritual and recreational activities. Members of the group served as parking lot attendants at the Flames Across the Susquehanna commemorating the burning of the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge during the Civil War. This re-enactment was held in the summer of 2003. Several members attend the Christian Leadership Retreat, and some participated in the diocesan sponsored program, "To Work in the Vineyard", providing assistance to the inner city poor in York.

Under the guidance of Father Lawrence the ongoing program of improvements to parish properties included the paving of the auxiliary parking lot, replacement of the handicap ramp at the church to conform to federal regulations and the laying of new sidewalks on both sides of the church.

At the suggestion of Father Kenneth Lawrence the Parish Council re-established a Cemetery Committee in the fall of 2003. John and Joseph Nikolaus along with George and Keith Fischer were the first parishioners volunteering to serve. They identified items needing attention and began organizing work parties and contracting outside services.

A magnificent Steinway piano was purchased and installed in the choir loft in September 2003. The instrument is being used to enhance the celebration of the liturgies. The \$18,000 purchase was made possible from interest generated from the Teckla Finnegan Estate. Additionally, in memory of Clara Smith, new Communion cups, a plate and a pitcher were donated, and new altar vases were given in memory of Robert "Hammer" Grab.

In the northern section of the Diocese the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius honored 36 high school juniors and seniors with servant leadership awards. Among the recipients was Emily Broich of Holy Trinity. The honor was given to youth who demonstrated servant leadership skills in their parish, school and community. The inaugural program was held on October 26, 2003, at the Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania.

Early in 2004 the Cemetery Committee expanded to include brothers Keith and George Fischer, Bernie Wolgemuth, Jr., Paulette Moore, Sue McVey and Gerald Nikolaus.

Several parish organizations as well as individual parishioners and families have underwritten the costs to repair stained-glass windows in the church. Some ventilator windows were in very poor condition and in danger of falling out. The ventilator is the lower portion of the window that opens. The initial undertaking

involved twenty-three of the forty-six ventilators at a cost of \$34,500. A Mechanicsburg company, Cumberland Stained Glass, worked on the restoration project for several months during 2004, 2005 and completed in 2006. The benefactors included: the Holy Name Society (3), Altar Rosary Society (4), the Men's Club (3), Kevin and Sue Kraft (3), Mary Gable (3), Holy Trinity Parish (2), Edmund and Sue Wickenheiser (1), Jean Bourne (1), Paul Yeaglin (1), Leo and Patricia Motter Family (1), in honor of the Robert F. and Anita C. Grab Family (1), in memory of Richard J. Donnelley, Sr. by Rosemary Donnelly, Linda Kopp, Richard Donnelly, Jr., Stephanie Christoffel and Timothy Donnelly (1), in memory of Cletus Horn by Betty Horn (1), The Wogelmuth Family (1), Joseph Broich Family (1), in memory of Arthur and Grace Groft (1), in memory of Patience and Martin Musser and Lieutenant Colonel James H. Dailey, Jr.(1).

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor new statues for the outside crèche were purchased. The original statues have been deteriorating over the years. The new figurines were placed into service during the 2004 Christmas Season.

Early in January 2005, Father Kenneth Lawrence was re-appointed to the Presbyteral Council by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Additionally, Father Lawrence was asked to continue serving as a member of the College of Consultors who advise the Bishop. The appointments were announced one month after the ordination of Bishop Rhoades successor to the late Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo. Parishioner Ed Wickenheiser, Jr. was re-appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council and will serve until February 2008.

Holy Trinity Parish hosted Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for a Stational Mass celebrated on January 19, 2005. Despite a light snowfall and bitterly cold conditions nearly 500 faithful attended the Mass. This was the Bishop's first visit to the Northern Deanery of Lancaster. In addition to Holy Trinity pastors and parishioners from Mary, Mother of the Church- Mount Joy, St. Peter- Elizabethtown, St. Peter- Columbia, St. James- Lititz, Our Mother of Perpetual Help- Ephrata, St. Richard- Manheim and Our Lady of Lourdes- New Holland provided a warm welcomed for his Excellency. A reception in the Parish Center followed the special Mass. The combined choirs from the parishes, led by minister of music, Bernard Wickenheiser, lifted their voices in song and praise. A large support staff with the guidance of Father Lawrence and assisted by Sister Anna coordinated all aspects of this special celebration and reception. It truly was an historic and memorable occasion.

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005. He served as Pope for twenty-six and a half years and was the 264th in succession to St. Peter. As the world mourned his death and prayed for God to reward him for his faithful service by granting him eternal peace in heaven. Parishioners of Holy Trinity celebrated his life by participating at a special mass. Father Kenneth Lawrence celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation Mass for John Paul II on April 4 at 7:00pm. Several hundred faithful participated in the Mass that featured special readings, prayers and music sung by the choir.

The following Sunday afternoon parishioners again gathered before the Blessed Sacrament to ask Christ, the Eternal High Priest, to take Pope John Paul II to His eternal Eucharistic banquet table. Following the death of John Paul, Father Lawrence said, "The Pope will be historically remembered primarily for his upholding of the principles of justice, love and peace. . . . peace to the human race."

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia celebrated the congregation's 150th anniversary during 2005. The order was founded in Philadelphia in 1855 by Mother Mary Francis under the guidance of St. John Neumann, then-bishop of Philadelphia. On Sunday, April 9th Sisters serving in the Harrisburg Diocese celebrated the anniversary with a Mass and reception at St. Joseph Parish in York.

The Sisters hold a long tradition of service in the diocese. They have been serving Holy Trinity Parish and Our Lady of the Angels School since September 4, 1869. During the anniversary year special congregational celebrations were planned to include special liturgies and prayer services. The Sisters of St. Francis minister in 29 states, in the Caribbean, Ireland and Africa.

On April 19, Jesus said to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger what He said to St. Peter along the shores of Lake Gennesaret, "Duc in altum," Latin meaning "put out into the deep." When this German cardinal gave an affirmative reply to our Lord, he became Pope Benedict XVI. On the day of his installation, Sunday, April

24, parishioners of Holy Trinity gathered together in prayer at a Holy Hour to ask the Holy Spirit to guide, protect and strengthen him as he steps forward in the deep as Christ's Vicar on earth.

In May 2005 the parish received an Allen Electronic Theater Organ. The instrument was donated to the parish by Joseph and Janet Mathoit of Lancaster. It is placed in the Parish Center. We are deeply grateful to them for their generosity and kindness.

Pastor marks a milestone.

The Student Council of Our Lady of the Angels School hosted a "Pastries for Parishioners" on May 10th. It had a slightly different twist. It was a coffee klatch in disguise to celebrate Father Kenneth Lawrence's 45th Anniversary as a priest. He was ordained by Bishop George L. Leech on May 14, 1960. This special celebration was held in the Parish Center following the 7:30am Mass.

As the daily churchgoers trekked into the Parish Center, OLA students from the Elementary Primary Building filled the back portion of the room. When Father arrived, he was overwhelmed. The honor and tribute featured presentations from representatives of the Altar Rosary Society, the Parish Council, the Adult Choir, the Holy Name Society, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Men's Club as well as the Parish Nurse/Health Ministry. The OLA students entertained Father with a few songs.

During the latter part of June, 2005, the parish and Columbia Borough were inundated by a number of young volunteers who were with the Catholic Heart Workcamp. This was the first time Lancaster Catholic High School hosted the CHW. The teens and young adults represented several states and were part of a non-profit organization that began in Florida by a couple working with a parish youth ministry. A member of the group was Holy Trinity's very own young Joe Robuccio.

Sister Anna and John Nitroy, Building and Grounds Supervisor, welcomed two of the four teams assigned to Columbia. The teams painted 2-thousand and 80-feet of chain link fence surrounding the Rectory, Our Lady of the Angels School, the church, parking lots and cemetery. In addition to Holy Trinity two other teams helped several needy families in Columbia. Their efforts were coordinated with the help of Jeff Helm, Zoning, Planning, and Code Enforcement Manager for the Borough of Columbia.

Overall the youth performed nearly 672 hours of community service. Their good deeds and work ethic touched the lives of many people. They truly were working in God's vineyard and spreading His word with their many acts of kindness. At the same time they made a number of lasting friendships in Columbia.

Mural of Jesus.

Throughout our communities there are monuments and statues of people honoring them for their past achievements. The statuary serves as a reminder that we shouldn't forget these great individuals and their contributions.

Conversely there is no one who has done more for mankind than Christ. He suffered and died for all of us. Thus it was Father Kenneth Lawrence's intent to have a painting of Jesus on the wall of Our Lady of the Angels School to serve as a reminder of what God has done for the human race. Father is hopeful that the mural will draw people's attention to Christ and what He is all about.

The idea was discussed at a meeting of the Building and Grounds Committee. After exploring a number of options and meeting with several artists the matter was presented to the Parish Council. The Council, during the October 2004 meeting, unanimously approved the idea and authorized the committee to proceed with the project. Renowned muralist Wayne Fetto of Elizabethtown was commissioned to bring this project to reality.

The final rendering of Jesus is the work of Holy Trinity parishioner Mark Grab. He completed the artistic work and Mr. Fetto was then able to develop it and do the painstaking work of creating a canvas on the wall. He began on August 13th, a day before his 44th birthday, and completed the work on August 24, 2005.

The final command by Jesus before ascending to heaven was to proclaim his Gospels and evangelize. Since the Second Vatican Council the Church has placed great emphasis on evangelization. The late Pope Paul II traveled the world preaching about Christ and His word and Bishop Kevin Rhoades has evangelization as one of his goals. The mural not only enhances the appearance of the wall but more importantly, is a means of inspiring people to turn their attention to the Lord. It is just another form of evangelization.

Cost of the mural was \$8,000, which was paid, with the approval of the relatives, from money left to Holy Trinity by a person who desired to remain anonymous.

Columbian addresses Synod of Bishops.

When the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist was convened in Vatican City, in the fall of 2005, one of Holy Trinity's own sons was involved. Father Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S., as Moderator General of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, was among the church hierarchy who participated. On October 10th he addressed the Synod on "Communion and Reconciliation in the Blood of Christ." His audience included Pope Benedict XVI, 250- Cardinals and Bishops along with 30-theologians from 118 countries.

The meeting's aim was to offer proposals to the pope to "deepen the Eucharistic life of the Church" and to enrich all of society. During the Synod Fr. Fischer worked with one of the Spanish speaking groups consisting of three Cardinals and a number of Latin American Bishops. He was also assigned as one of twelve tellers named to count the votes. The committee of tellers consisted of three Archbishops, three Bishops and three Superiors General.

Early in 2006 a new lectern was placed in the sanctuary. It was presented to the parish by Howard "Butch" Morrison and his brother Richard. They designed and crafted it to honor the memory of their mother Mary C. Morrison. Assisting them in the working project was Richard's son, Ryan.

After consulting with Father Kenneth Lawrence and Sister Anna Cosgrave the Morrison's began formulating design plans in January 2005. From start to finish the project took nearly twelve months to complete.

The exterior portion of the lectern is constructed out of solid white oak. While the interior sections are a mixture of red and white oak. All elements of this piece of furniture had to be intricately handcrafted into sections before it could be assembled. One interesting aspect of the lectern is the cross which is affixed to the front. Elements of the cross were cut out of maple wood. The cross was fashioned from the headboard of their mother's bed.

Many hours were devoted to constructing, sanding and staining. The final touch included the laborious task of hand rubbing oil into the wood giving it the luster of a fine piece of crafted furniture.

On New Year's Day 2006 the brothers began assembling the various pieces. This took about five days and the lectern was finally completed and placed in the Sanctuary on January 6, 2006. All of the work was completed in Butch's garage workshop. It is a fitting tribute to their mother and their woodworking skills.

First visit to Holy Trinity

The Parish hosted the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on June 24 and 25, 2006. It was the final stop on the Diocesan tour of 25 parishes and facilities. Holy Trinity was chosen along with four other parishes within the Deanery to honor Our Lady. This statue has visited more than 100 countries since it was carved in 1947 by Jose Thedim. The striking four-foot mahogany statue is based on the

description by Sister Lucia Santo, one of the three children to whom Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kurjiaka coordinated the visit and special programs for Holy Trinity. Additionally, they hosted the official custodians who accompany the statue while it is on tour.

Upon arrival the statue was processed into church for the Saturday 5:00pm Mass. Following Mass a Holy Hour, rosary and special prayers were recited. On Sunday the rosary was offered before the 8:00 and 10:30AM. Masses and then the renowned statue was processed to the vestibule of the church for a closing ceremony and prayer. The destination of its next stop was Indiana and then on to Australia.

Road Improvements in the Cemetery.

During the summer of 2006 the entire roadway in the cemetery was replaced. Old roadway materials were replaced, some excavation required to widen the road in some areas and then repaved. The project was completed by Rholan Paving of Mount Joy at a cost of nearly \$60,000 and coordinated for the Cemetery Committee by John Nikolaus.. This major improvement and upgrading was underwritten by an anonymous foundation.

Approximately ten large decaying and dead Bradford Pear trees have been removed. All the remaining trees were pruned throughout the cemetery. The cost for removing and pruning amounted to more than \$10,000. Thanks again to an anonymous foundation for their generosity in underwriting this major cleanup effort.

Twelve year reign as Moderator General ends.

Father Barry Fischer, C.PP.S. concluded his role as Moderator General of the Precious Blood Missionaries in July 2007 during the Orders General Assembly in Rome.

The Columbia native, served two six year terms, consecutively, as the head of the order. Prior to his elected post he served six years as General Councilor of the Congregation.. As Moderator General Fr. Fischer was instrumental in his order expanding in Colombia, Guine-Bissau, Mexico and the Vietnam Mission. During his reign he traveled the world overseeing the congregations work in spreading God's Word.

At the conclusion of the General Assembly Fr. Fischer was commissioned to establish a new International Center of Precious Blood Spirituality in Salzburg. Austria.

Papal honors for parishioner.

A special honor was bestowed to a life-time member of Holy Trinity Parish on September 29, 2007. Donald H. Nikolaus, Esq. was invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Mr. Nikolaus was one of four Diocese of Harrisburg members who were invested Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, conferred the papal honors.

The Equestrian Order traces its origin to the year 1099 A.D., when St. Godfrey deBouillion, a leader of the first Crusade, selected a number of his knights to guard the Tomb of Christ which had been newly liberated from Turkish control.

The Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, a chivalric organization is dedicated to supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and to responding to the needs of Catholics in the Holy Land.

An addition to the cemetery.

In late November, 2007, a new crucifix was installed in the main circle at Holy Trinity Cemetery. A family anonymously donated the statue in memory of its deceased family members. The center of all Catholic cemeteries is a crucifix as it serves as a reminder that because of Christ's death and resurrection, the dead are raised to eternal life with Him at the end of their earthly existence.

Because our cemetery is named for all three persons of the Blessed Trinity, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all three are included on this marble statue. It was designed at Mid-Atlantic Church Supply, formerly The Catholic Shop, in Harrisburg and sculpted in Italy by a special artist just for Holy Trinity. It is the only one of its kind in the world. The piece stands 7 feet tall and weights some 9,600 pounds.

On a rainy Trinity Sunday, May 18, 2008, Father Kenneth Lawrence blessed and dedicated the statue during a ceremony at the cemetery. The Parish community is most grateful for the kindness and generosity of this families gift.

Pope Benedict XVI visits the U.S.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI made his first visit to the United States in April 2008. He arrived in Washington, D.C. April 15th. His schedule included a Mass at the new Washington Nationals Park, dinner at the White House, a speech at the United Nations in New York City, a visit to Ground Zero and concluded with a Mass at Yankee Stadium.

More than 500 from the Diocese of Harrisburg attended Mass in Washington on Thursday, April 17th. Among the faithful were Mark and Cheryl Grab along with Tom and Kathy Wiley representing Holy Trinity Parish. They were part of the 45,000 who filled the new Nationals Park. This was their first time seeing a pope in person. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was one of 70 clergy from the diocese to concelebrate the Mass on the field.

On Sunday, April 20th, nearly 60,000 Catholics including 100 from the Diocese of Harrisburg converged on Yankee Stadium in New York for Mass celebrated by the Holy Father. This was one of the final events of Pope Benedict's visit to the United States. Parishioner Ed Wickenheiser, a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, was in attendance and was quoted in the *Catholic Witness* saying, "the Mass was so much more than what I expected. I got so overwhelmed once I saw the popemobile come into the stadium. I just welled up with emotion."

During the pope's homily at Yankee Stadium the crowd applauded his final words when he said, "Jesus is the way that leads to eternal happiness. . .and the life who brings ever new joy and hope, to us and to our world."

The pope's visit marked the 200th anniversary of Pope Pius VIII elevating the Diocese of Baltimore to the dignity of an archdiocese. Along with the elevation of Baltimore to an archdiocese, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Louisville, were all created as dioceses.

Vandals target tombstones

Holy Trinity Cemetery was hit by vandals between late August 10 and early on August 11, 2009. Between 45 and 50 tombstones, including some that date back to the mid-1800's, had been toppled, damaged or even broken into pieces. Early estimates on damage may exceed \$50,000. The Clyde W. Kraft Funeral Home in Columbia offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction in the case. Gerald Fischer, caretaker of the cemetery, said most of the tombstones can be up righted and repaired.

Parish celebrates its 150th Anniversary

Artist Mark Grab, a member of the parish, designed the logo for our 150th Anniversary. A special banner was created and hung in the vestibule of the Church. It shows our Church entwined in a circle – representing the Trinity. In the background, is featured the exterior and interior of the first church building, the present church and the cemetery Chapel. This logo adorned the cover of the parish directory and was used throughout the year in various parish communications.

There were a number of events to mark the occasion during the year.

- The parish opened a year long celebration at the Annual Parish Picnic hosted by the Men’s Club. This event on September 13, 2009, was the official kick-off for our 150th Anniversary as a Parish. Nearly 225 people gathered in the Parish Center that began with a prayer service offering praise and thanks to the Holy Trinity for countless blessings bestowed on our Parish over the past 150 years. The Columbia Catholic Youth Group provided the entertainment. Based on actual facts of the parish several main events were portrayed with a great deal of humor by the youth group.
- On Saturday, September 26, 2009 parishioners made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. John Neumann, the Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia and founder of Holy Trinity Church. The pilgrimage began with a tour of the beautiful Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul. Pilgrims were blessed with a First Class Relic of St. John Neumann. While in Philadelphia the pilgrims attended a Mass, recited the rosary and novena to St. John.
- A native son of the parish, Father Barry Fischer, C.S.S.P. was welcomed “home” to preside over the Parish Mission, October 25-28. The Mission was conducted to enable parishioners to grow spiritually during this special anniversary year. Father Barry preached at all the weekend Masses and led the prayers and reflections during the evening devotions. He also celebrated Mass with an abbreviated homily Monday through Wednesday at 9:00AM in the Church.
- Choirs from different Catholic churches in Lancaster County converged at Holy Trinity on Sunday, January 3, 2010. As part of the 150th Anniversary celebration, the annual Twelfth Night event was hosted by the parish. Choirs participating along with our own included, St. Richard’s of Manheim, St. Leo the Great of Roherstown, St. Anne’s, St. Anthony’s, Historic St. Mary’s and St. Phillip’s all of Lancaster. In addition the Te Deum Laudamus Schola participated. It was a fitting close to the Christmas season and to celebrate the visit of the wise men to the Christ-Child at Bethlehem by prayer and the singing of Christmas carols.
- A big North Eastern storm “visited” the Susquehanna Valley on February 6, 2010 depositing nearly two feet of snow. Many fathers and sons braved the weather and found their way to church on Sunday, February 7th to attend the 8:00am Mass. The Men’s Mass, sponsored by the Holy Name Society, was part of the continuing celebration of our 150th anniversary as a Parish. The near blizzard like conditions did force cancellation of the Father and Son Breakfast which was scheduled following the Mass.
- On Sunday, February 14, 2010, the women of the Parish worshiped and prayed together at the 8:00am Mass taking an active part of our 150th Anniversary. Father Kenneth Lawrence was celebrant and delivered a special homily on this Valentine’s Day. The women gathered in the vestibule and then processed to the front pews before the start of Mass. What was rather unique the Eucharistic Ministers were women, the Altar Serves were young ladies, the Cantor and Lector were women and another group of ladies served as Ushers for the morning. Immediately following the mass the entire congregation was invited to the Parish Center for a continental breakfast.

- The Parish's 150th Anniversary celebration came to a close on Sunday, May 30 with a special Mass at 10:30A.M. Father Chester Snyder, the diocesan administrator was the celebrant of the concelebrated Mass with Father Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S. as the homilist. Fr. Fischer traveled home from Austria to be with family and friends for this special celebration. All altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, the Parish Pastoral Council and officers of the parish organizations were part of the opening procession. Fathers Michael Grab and Paul Helwig, "sons" of Holy Trinity returned for this special Mass. Additional Father Dominic DiBiccaro, pastor of St. Peter's Parish joined our pastor Father Kenneth Lawrence in the Sanctuary for the Mass. Following Mass several hundred parishioners gathered in the Parish Center for a reception. Several "daughters" of the parish returned home for this special occasion and included Sisters of St. Francis Patricia and Jean Wickenheiser and Sister Linda Fischer a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Special guests included former teachers, Sisters who were assigned here: Sisters Dominica LoBianco, Albert Mary McSwiggin, Alice Klein, Georgina Marmino, Albertus Dougherty, Marguerite O'Berne (Joseph Margaret), Robert Marie Green, Dorothy Epple and our current residents Sisters Anna Cosgrave, Charlotte and Elizabeth. Also recognized were retired principal Mrs. Shirley Meley and the current principal Mrs. Theresa Burg.

Choir performs at National Shrine

Holy Trinity's 18-member choir was one of 10 choirs from the Diocese who performed in a 250-voice pilgrimage choir in Washington, D.C. They performed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 24, 2009.

Bishop Kevin Rhodes extended the invitation to a choir in each of the Deaneries. The occasion marked the beginning of the Diocesan Marian Year, in honor of Mary and involved a pilgrimage of about 3,000 people.

Bernard Wickenheiser, parish music director, said "it was a wonderful opportunity for all the choirs and quite an honor to have been asked and to represent Holy Trinity."

The combined choirs sang in the morning at the Opening Mass for the Marian Year and then again during a Marian celebration in the afternoon. As a prelude to the celebration the choir sang the Magnificat.

The Bishop chose the basilica because it honors Mary as the Patroness of the United States and is the largest Catholic Church in the country.

Bishop speaks to ecumenical gathering in Columbia

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades came to Columbia on November 9, 2009 to address a large crowd at St. John's Lutheran Church. It was a gathering of the Columbia Adult Christian Formation Group. In his address he offered ways in which to live the Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic (LARC) covenant and spoke about Pope Benedict XVI's recent establishment of a structure for Anglicans who wish to be in full communion with the Catholic Church while preserving aspects of their Anglican heritage.

In addition to parishioners the gathering included the following clergy: Father Kenneth Lawrence, pastor of Holy Trinity; Father Dominic DiBiccaro, pastor of St. Peter's; Rev. Patrick Peters of St. Paul Episcopal Church; Pastor Richard Geib of St. John Lutheran Church; Pastor Mark Kopp of St. James Lutheran Church and Deborah Brumbaugh, associate pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Bishop Rhoades offered suggestions on how the five LARC parishes in Columbia can specifically live out the LARC covenant – through prayer and common work. Prayer is the basis and support of dialogue, he said.

Pope transfers Bishop Rhoades

Several days later on November 14, 2009 Pope Benedict XVI announced the appointment of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as head of the Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana Diocese. The news came as a complete surprise and almost on the eve of his celebrating his 5 year as Bishop of Harrisburg. Bishop Rhoades was installed as the 9th Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend on January 13, 2010.

Joseph P. McFadden, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, was named to succeed Bishop Rhoades as the Diocese of Harrisburg's 10th Bishop. A congregation of priests, religious sisters and lay faithful offered a prayerful welcome to Bishop McFadden on the eve of his installation during a Vespers Service at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill August 17th. The Mass of Installation was held in St. Patrick's Cathedral on August 18, 2010.

One of the first announcements of the new Bishop was to celebrate a Penance and Reconciliation Service in each of the 10 Deaneries of the Diocese. Holy Trinity hosted Bishop McFadden and the priests of the Deanery on September 20th. The Deanery Penance Services, according to Bishop McFadden, were an important part of celebrating the ongoing Diocesan Marian Year.

OLA principal honored.

The principal of Our Lady of the Angels School received top honors during the annual Catholic School Educators Conference. The conference was held at Trinity High School in Camp Hill on September 29, 2010.

Mrs. Theresa M. Burg was recipient of the *Frederick F. Noel Distinguished Educator Award*. This high honor was presented by Bishop Joseph P. McFadden.

Bishop McFadden celebrated Mass at the conference and in his first gathering with Diocesan Educators reminded them of "the great vocation" God has entrusted to them. "In your work, you are asked to help form young people not simply to be successful persons in this world but to be prepared to take their place in the Kingdom of God as God's sons and daughters."

New snow removal equipment donated.

On a cold snowy January 12, 2011 morning parishioner Frank Doutrich and his wife Kathy, presented keys to a brand new 4-wheel drive Bobcat All Terrain Vehicle. Following the blessing of the ATV it was immediately pressed into service clearing sidewalks around the church and Our Lady of the Angels School. On hand for this historic occasion were members of the "Snow Removal Crew" namely, Bernie Wolgemuth, Jr., Sister Anna Cosgrave, OSF, John "Tink" Lutz, James Kaufhold, Jr., John Nitroy and Frank Doutrich. After its first performance the Crew gave thumbs up and agreed that thanks to the Doutrich's generosity this ATV will provide additional muscle and help speed up snow removal efforts. Additionally, the ATV will see service during the spring and summer months at the Holy Trinity Cemetery.

An early afternoon fire on March 26, 2011 heavily damaged a shed used by the Men's Club. It is located in the alley behind the school and parking lots. The shed was used to store all of the festival equipment and supplies for the parish. The adjacent larger building sustained damage. It housed a wood working shop. Fire damages were estimated at \$20,000. About 70 firefighters from Columbia, Wrightsville, Mount Joy, Maytown and Mountville responded to the call.

The Journey makes us one.

At the start of the 1998-99 school year, St. Peter and Holy Trinity Schools merged into one elementary unit and became known as Our Lady of the Angels School. During the thirteen years OLA occupied the former school buildings. St. Peter's served Kindergarten through Fourth Grade while Holy Trinity's building

housed the upper grades Fourth through Eighth. At a November 2011 Town Meeting the School Board announced another consolidation. OLA students would be moving from St. Peter's facility into 404 Cherry Street for the 2012-13 school year beginning in September. This difficult decision was made with the students and the well being of the school in mind. Holy Trinity Parish immediately began making some cosmetic changes to have the building ready for the transition.

Wooden Altar replaced.

The new year of 2013 got off to an ambitious start. The parish was given the opportunity to purchase a marble altar to replace the wooden one used for several decades. The replacement altar comes from St. Kunegunda Church in McAdoo, Schuylkill County, PA. The altar was removed when the church was closed during the Allentown Diocese restructuring in 2008.

Father Kenneth Lawrence along with Father Josh Brommer and Ed Wickenheiser found the altar in a warehouse in Allentown. Upon inspection and with the approval of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Building and Grounds Committee it was decided to bring the altar to Holy Trinity. The search for an altar included the Scranton Diocese as well as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



It was felt the altar would enhance our sanctuary since it was carved from Carrara marble, the same marble that is installed in our sanctuary. The front middle panel of the altar is onyx marble. Overall this is a perfect match.

The installation was awarded to Luigi Barcaliello of Marble Works in Milway, N.J. He was assisted by his associate Allen Sasdelli. Within three working days, beginning January 16, 2013 the actual assembling of the altar was completed, enabling

Father Lawrence to celebrate his first Mass from the altar on Saturday, January 19th.

This marble altar replaces a wooden one that had been used for several decades. The former was given to Majestic Works of Elizabethtown during the summer of 2013. Majestic officials informed Father Lawrence that in October a Bishop from Nigeria, in Africa, made an inquiry whether their company had any altars. Arrangements were made for the wooden altar from Holy Trinity to be created and shipped to Nigeria for installation in a church in need.

Oldest Parishioner dies.

Catherine E. (Bittner) Smith went to her eternal reward on July 9, 2013. At the time of death she was 101 and the oldest living member of the parish. She was the daughter of the late Conrad and Elizabeth Kaufhold Bittner and the wife of the late Larry Smith who passed away in 1977. Catherine was a member of the Altar Rosary Society and Legion of Mary. Preceding her in death was a daughter, Cathie Zerphey, 1 sister and 7 brothers including Father Joseph H. Bittner, S.J.

Brother and Sister mark 65 years of service to the Lord. . . .

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, August 11, 2013 a special celebration took place in Holy Trinity Church. It marked the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Rev. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S. and his sister Linda Fischer, ASC 25th Anniversary as a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Both were baptized and educated in the parish. They are the son and daughter of the late Clarence and Dorothy Fischer. Sr. Linda joined the Adorers at their Convent east of Columbia. As a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Fr. Barry served in Chile and Guatemala and as Moderator General of the Order in Rome. To mark the special occasion he returned to Columbia from Salzburg, Austria where he is director of the Precious Blood Spirituality Center. A number of priest friends from around the country and world joined in celebrating the special Eucharist Mass of Thanksgiving with Fr. Barry. A gathering of nearly 200 family members and friends of Sr. Linda and Father Barry joined them in the Parish Center for a light supper and spent time reminiscing.

Church lighting improved.

At the beginning of the 2014 Lenten Season it was discovered the original wiring for the lights in the Sanctuary were in disrepair. Some copper wiring was exposed and posed a fire threat. Wilco Electric Inc. of Columbia was contracted to inspect and make recommendations. Immediate steps were taken to correct the problem resulting in rewiring the entire Sanctuary area. At the same time, as a cost saving move, new LED lights (light-emitting diode) were installed. The new lighting offered a dramatic change. Because of the major improvement it was decided to replace all of the lamps in the church with the new LED bulbs. The change over was finally completed early in May.

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 during the Annual Appreciation Banquet Father Kenneth Lawrence was honored for his 20 years as our pastor. The milestone was reached quietly on March 9th. Usually the dinner is reserved to thank the many volunteers for their hours of service. On this evening the table was turned and we paid tribute to Father Lawrence. The Parish Center was filled to capacity as Mark Grab and Ed Wickenheiser presented a power-point program highlighting Father's many accomplishments.

A little research showed he performed 547 baptisms, presided at 728 first Holy Communions, 583 confirmations, 270 marriages, 590 funerals. Total hours spent in the Reconciliation Room hearing confessions – 1,080. He's attended 1,018 meetings of parish organizations. Celebrated 9,700 daily, Sunday and Holy Day Masses. Visits to nursing homes and hospitals number well over 2,000. His hand written and memorized homilies, since arriving at Holy Trinity, total 3,226 and he has instructed and brought into the faith 117 converts.

Among the 8 pastors who served our parish since 1860, Father Lawrence ranks fourth in tenure. Monsignor William Pieper served for 48 years; Father Peter Brueggemann was pastor for 28 years followed by Father Leopold Stump who at the time of his death was in his 22nd year as pastor.

Prior to the July 4th weekend workman from Rholan Paving, LLC of Mount Joy began making repairs to the main parking lot of the church. The firm was awarded a contract as low bidder for \$31,700. The resurfacing of the entire lot took three days under the hot July sun with high humidity. Following the paving the new parking spaces were lined off in the big parking lot, as well as the smaller lot next to the school, and the teacher's parking lot. The cost for lining the parking lot totaled \$925. Parishioners began using the refurbished lots for Saturday evening Mass on July 5 2014.

God's House given a make over

Early in the fall of 2014 members of the Mary Motter Family wanted to honor and pay tribute for her dedication and devotion during the decades she served as a sacristan. Mary began taking care of the altars and sacristy in 1958 and served under the following pastors: Father Leopold Stump, Monsignors Francis Heltsche and Rudolph Fuhr and Fathers Stephen Rolko and Kenneth Lawrence. So with our pastors blessing Leo and Pat along with Tom and Anna Motter got the project off the ground.



As it turned out the original tabernacle was removed by Majestic Works of Elizabethtown. The religious goods company subcontracted with a firm in New Jersey to have our tabernacle cleaned and refurbished. It needed to be restored to its original wonderful luster. After all it houses the Holy Eucharist and is Jesus home.

Following several weeks of painstaking work the Tabernacle was finally returned in late October and placed in its prominent location on our marble altar.



When the sanctuary lights are turned on the light reflects off the golden tabernacle and enhances the marble surroundings. Mary Motter would be proud of the work the craftsmen performed in restoring the tabernacle back to its original look.

Mary attended mass and received Holy Communion everyday. She went to her eternal reward on her 99th birthday, June 13, 2013 following a brief illness.

Financial irregularities discovered.

The headlines read “Worker stole more than \$10,000 from church, police say.” The parish community was rocked when they learned that secretary Josetta Reese was charged with felony theft by unlawful taking or disposition. She was arrested June 22, 2015 following a lengthy investigation by the Diocese of Harrisburg, Columbia Police and the Lancaster County District Attorney Office. When confronted she

confessed and was placed on suspension May 7th. The money was taken, over a period of years, from candle votive funds, Mass donations, building maintenance and education donations and grave opening fees according to the formal complaint. Reese posted \$5,000 bail pending a preliminary hearing. She had worked for the parish since 2008.

Holy Trinity youth answered God's calling.

From among the sons of the parish twelve consecrated themselves to serve God in the priesthood and two as monks:

Rev. Fred C. Wagner studied at St. Vincent's in Beatty, Pennsylvania; St. Charles Borromeo in Overbrook, Philadelphia, as well as the American College of Louvain, a Roman Catholic seminary in Leuven, Belgium where he was ordained July 16, 1905. He was the first "son" of the parish to become a priest. His first assignment was at St. Mary's, York; St. Gertrude's, Lebanon; St. John the Baptist's, New Freedom; St. Hubert's, Danville and his last assignment was Sacred Heart Parish in Lewistown where he died on September 28, 1924 and was laid to rest in Holy Trinity Cemetery.



Monsignor Francis J. Heltshe was educated at Holy Trinity School and graduated from Columbia High School with the Class of 1921. He was ordained February 21, 1931 after completing studies at St. Vincent College and Seminary. His first assignment St. Rose, York, then to St. Joseph, Lancaster. Was appointed Chaplain at the United States Northeastern Penitentiary and Sacred Heart Chapel in Lewisburg. Later was named pastor to St. Gertrude's, Lebanon and Corpus Christi Church in Chambersburg before being appointed pastor here at Holy Trinity in 1959. He served as our pastor for 8 years until his death on January 24, 1967. Monsignor Heltshe was the son of the late A. Frank and Gertrude M. Heltshe. A number of nieces and nephews survive today.

Two members of our parish were classmates in the seminary and were ordained together on May 26, 1934. They were **Monsignor Francis J. Dinkel** and **Rev. Cletus A. Hauck**.

Following ordination **Monsignor Dinkel** became an assistant at St. Mary's, Lancaster; then appointed to St. Theresa's in New Cumberland; appointed first pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola; later assigned to Immaculate Conception in Berwick. Other assignments were as pastor of St. Peter's in Mount Carmel, St. Joseph's, Lancaster where he served for 10 years during which time he was named Honorary Prelate to Pope Paul VI with the title of Monsignor.

Msgr. Dinkel died on August 23, 1984 and is buried in the family plot in Holy Trinity Cemetery. He was the son of Henry and Magdalena (Nikolaus) Dinkel and the thirteenth of fourteen children: Catherine (August Smith), Mary, Barbara (Thomas Pullan), Henry (Anna Keys), William (Mary Ida McGee), George, Lena (Francis Thomas), Margaret, John (Celia Tragressor Collier), Regina (Joseph Halter), Leo, Edward and Celeste (George Pinkerton).

Father Cletus A. Hauck, upon his ordination was assigned to Sacred Heart in Cornwall; then to St. Peter's in Mount Carmel. Later he was appointed assistant at the following parishes: Annunciation in McSherrystown; St. Anthony, Lancaster; back to St. Peter's in Mount Carmel; St. Patrick, Carlisle. He was named pastor at Immaculate Conception in Fairfield and St. John the Baptist, New Freedom. He was named administrator of St. Peter's in Elizabethtown then Queen of the Most Holy Rosary in Elysburg. He resigned in February 1963 with residence at Villa Vianney in Lebanon. In 1964 Father Hauck was appointed assistant at St. Joseph's, Lancaster and named chaplain at Misericordia Convalescent Home, York. He died at Sunbury Community Hospital on July 7, 1969 and buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery.



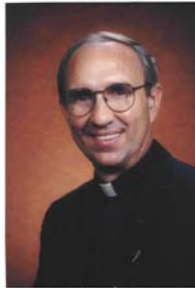
Rev. Joseph H. Bittner, S.J. (Jesuit) was ordained at Woodstock College, Maryland on July 21, 1939. It should be noted that Father Bittner was a missionary/teacher at the Ateneo de Naga in the Philippines at the outbreak of World War II. He was captured by the Japanese in December 15, 1941 and held as an internee at the Los

Banos concentration camp. On February 22, 1945 he was rescued and awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon by order of General Douglas MacArthur. After spending a short period of time recuperating in the United States Father Bittner returned to the Philippines to continue God's work. He died there at the age of 92 on May 14, 1998. Father Joe was the son of the late Elizabeth and Conrad Bittner, Jr. Father's sister Catherine (Bittner) Smith, passed away July 9, 2013 at the age of 101 and was the oldest member of the parish at that time.



Rev. Hugh John Schleif, T.O.R.; (Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular). While a seminarian he volunteered for mission work and left Columbia on December, 15, 1939 for India. He completed his studies and was ordained in Ranchi, India in October 1942. During World War II he resumed his missionary/teacher work and in 1946 for health reasons returned to America. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass at Holy Trinity on New Years Day 1946 and was a teacher of mathematics and history for the remainder of his life. He died at St. Francis Friary in Loretto, Pennsylvania on November 28, 1980. Father Hugh was the son of the late John and Helen (Weisser) Schleif. Still in active ministry today are the following:

***Very Rev. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S.** was born in Columbia on September 11, 1946. Following elementary school at Holy Trinity he attended Brunnerdale Seminary High School, Canton, Ohio graduating in 1960.



Very Rev. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S.

Then he studied at St. Joseph's College, Rennselaer, Indiana graduating in 1969 with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. Then it was off to South America spending a year in Peru before enrolling at Catholic University in Santiago, Chile. When he completed his theological studies he was ordained on January 28, 1973 as a member of the Cincinnati Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He served as a missionary in the United States, Chile and Guatemala.

For four years, 1981 – 1985, he was Director of Advanced Formation of the Congregation's seminarians in Chile and from 1987-88 was responsible for the Special Formation Program. In 1989, the Chilean Vicariate sent him to the newly founded Mission in Guatemala where he was Director of Formation for several years. Then in October 1989, he was elected to the General Council, with residence in Guatemala. Two year later, in February 1991, he was named Director of the Central American Mission, a position he held until February 1995 when he moved to Rome, Italy.

On September 8, 1995 he was elected Moderator General of the Order and reelected for five more years in September 2001. When the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist was convened in Vatican City, in the fall of 2005, Father Barry was among the church hierarchy who participated. He addressed the Synod on "Communion and Reconciliation in the Blood of Christ." His audience included Pope Benedict XVI, 250-Cardinals and Bishops along with 30 theologians from around the world.

Father Barry concluded his twelve year reign during the Orders General Assembly July of 2007, in Rome. His current assignment is in Austria where he established the International Center of Precious Blood Spirituality in Salzburg. His parents are the late Clarence J. and Dorothy Schultz Fischer. His sister is a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, **Sister Linda Fischer**, ASC, and his brother is Dennis husband of Karen.

Rev. Paul C. Helwig, ordained April 27, 1974 after studies at St. Mary's College in Kentucky, St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA. His first appointment was assistant pastor at Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill and Catholic Campus Minister at Messiah College in Grantham. He also served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph Church, York and Catholic Campus Minister, Penn State York Campus. In August of 1979 he became assistant chancellor of the diocese with residence at St. Joan of Arc, Hershey. Then Bishop Keeler appointed him Catholic Campus Minister at Dickinson College and School of Law in Carlisle with residence at St. Patrick's Parish, Carlisle. Father Paul served several years as Diocesan Vocation Director

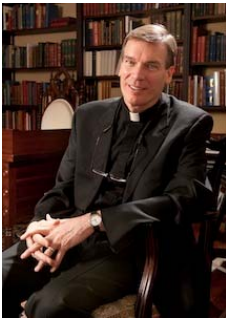
and became the first Diocesan Secretary for Clergy and Religious Life in April 1990. He subsequently served at St. Lawrence Church, Harrisburg and Prince of Peace Parish, Steelton. In January 1999 he was named pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill, Cumberland County serving until June 2015 when he was named pastor of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church in Harrisburg. Father Paul is the son of the late Paul R. and Margaret (Smith) Helwig and brother of Michael husband of Ann.

Rev. Michael J. Grab was ordained April 16, 1977 at St. Patrick Cathedral. He attended Holy Trinity School and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School Class of 1967. The he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from York College of Pennsylvania in 1973 entered the seminary and studied at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland graduating with a Master of Arts in 1977. A few years later he earned a Master of Education in 1984 at Millersville University.

Following ordination his first assignment was St. Joan of Arc, Hershey. Within two years he was assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Schuylkill County. While in Mount Carmel he was appointed executive director of Holy Spirit School serving until April 1983. Fr. Grab became assistant to the principal at Lancaster Catholic High School with residence at St. Joseph church. His next move was to McSherrystown to become principal at Delone Catholic High School serving in that capacity for 9 years. He came east when appointed principal at York Catholic High School a position he held for 8 years. Father returned to Lancaster as pastor at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in June 1997 and remained for 12 years before reassignment as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Enola, Cumberland County where he resides today.

Through the years he has numerous special assignments: Chaplain of Catholic Campus Ministry at Elizabethtown College, area moderator for the Family Life Pre-Cana Program, area moderator for Ecumenical Activities, Regional Advisor of the Catholic Charismatic Movement for Mount Carmel and Shamokin Deaneries, Deanery Vocation Awareness Coordinator and a member of the Core Planning Group.

Father Grab is the son of the late Samuel and Martha (Nikolaus) Grab and the brother of George and James.



Rev. John P. Horn, S.J., (Jesuit), is rector and president of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in the Arch Diocese of St. Louis, MO and assumed his present position July 1, 2011. He was ordained on June 8, 1985 in Loyola College Chapel (now Loyola University), Baltimore, MD and celebrated his first Mass at Holy Trinity on June 16, 1985. He took his final vows as a Jesuit on August 30, 1992. Father Horn is a member of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit) and completed his philosophy studies for Jesuit Formation at St. Louis University. He was awarded a M.A. in Government from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., graduate certificates in Spiritual Direction and Retreat Ministry and a M.A. in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha, NE. He later was awarded a M.Div., from the Weston School of Theology and a Doctorate in

Ministry from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

As one of the co-founders of the Institute for Priestly Formation, Father Horn has served national and international seminarians and seminary personal through the mission of the Institute headquartered at Creighton University. More than 1300 seminarians from 140 different U.S. and 24 international dioceses have been served by the Institute. He has been a friend, colleague and presenter in the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors and the Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors.

Father Horn is the son of the late John and Regina (Keim) Horn and brother of Suzanne (Horn) Ganse wife of Gerald.

Rev. Christopher Sahd was educated at Holy Trinity School and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School Class of 1991. He matriculated to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh where he graduated with the Class of 1995. Father Chris studied for one year at St. Pius Seminary, Dalton, PA and continued his studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. He was ordained in St. Peter Cathedral, Scranton in 2001 and serves in the Scranton Diocese. Hi first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Boniface parish in Wilkes-Barre PA where he also taught at Bishop O'Reilly High School. After one year he was

reassigned to St. Peter Cathedral in Scranton as secretary to then Bishop James Timlin. He remained there until 2010 and serves as pastor to Christ the King Parish in Archbald, PA.

Rev. Kyle Sahd was ordained June 28, 2014 in St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg and received his first assignment to St. Joan of Arc Parish, Hershey, Dauphin County. He graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School in 1997 and furthered his education at Bloomsburg University graduating in 2001. Following college he taught history for seven years at York Catholic High School until 2008. He answered his calling to the priesthood and began studies at St. Vincent's Seminary, Latrobe, PA. In 2010 the Bishop sent him to Rome to complete his education at the Pontifical North American College. (Father Kyle's twin brother Timothy entered the seminary in August 2012 and is continuing studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook, Philadelphia.) The three Sahd brothers are sons of Ronald and Karen (Smith) Sahd. Their oldest brother, Daniel is married to Deborah and they a son and two daughters.



Two of our “sons” are members of the Maronite Monks of Adoration (MMA), a Catholic community of contemplative Monks dedicated to a life of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, **Brother Ephren (Robert) Martin, M.M.A.** and **Brother Augustine (Michael) Martin, M.M.A.** Maronite is an Eastern Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. The Martin brothers are the sons of Robert and the late Patricia (Glatfelter) Martin. Both are in residence at the Most Holy Trinity Monastery in Petersham, Massachusetts, a few miles west of Boston. The Martins were educated at Holy Trinity School and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School and took different paths before becoming Monks.

Robert was born September 30, 1954 and graduated from LCHS with the Class of 1972. He first entered the Redemptorist Order in 1972 and was educated at St. Alphonsus College, a minor seminary in Esopus, New York, graduating in June 1976. Some ten years later, 1986, he entered the Order of St. Maron and made his solemn profession December 8, 1983 and took the religious name **Brother Ephrem**. He serves as a sacristan, creates works of art and occasionally writes articles for their orders monthly publication.

His brother **Michael** was born August 20, 1958 and following graduation from LCHS Class of 1976 attended Millersville University for a period and then migrated to California. It was during his stay on the west coast and his involvement with the Opus Dei Group that he was inspired to enter the Order of St. Maron and join the Monks of Adoration. That was in 1995. He made his solemn profession on March 18, 2002 and his religious name is **Brother Augustine**. He serves the monastery as a computer specialist and a gifted artist. He resides in a hermitage on the grounds of the monastery.

Note: The title of Monk is bestowed on priests and brothers because all are required to recite the Divine Office daily. They are also required to spend forty minutes, three times a day, in prayer before the Eucharist. During the week they must fast and abstain two days and subsist only on bread and water.

Twenty daughters of Holy Trinity have given themselves to the service of the Lord in six different religious communities. The following were members of the Sisters of St. Francis – Philadelphia and are deceased:

Sr. M. Gregory, O.S.F. (**Anna Werner**) she was born in York, PA on February 8, 1850 to Adam and Eva Elsesser Werner. Her investiture into the Sisters of St. Francis was held on April 16, 1872 and she made her final vows on May 3, 1873. Sr. Anna died two years later on July 29, 1875 and is buried in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston, PA. She was 25.

Sr. M. Climaca, O.S.F. (**Catherine Thomas**) and Sr. M. Alfreda, O.S.F. (**Elizabeth Thomas**) are the daughters of Michael and Catharine Schillow Thomas. She was born in Columbia on August 22, 1857. **Sr. Catherine** entered the Order first on May 9, 1885; her profession of vows was on August 24, 1887. Although she missioned at a few hospitals, generally she served as a teacher in elementary schools. In Pennsylvania she was stationed in St. Clair, York, Philadelphia, Lehigh, Bally and Shenandoah. Taught in Baltimore, MD; Providence, Rhode Island as well as in Freehold and Hopewell, New Jersey. Sr. Catherine died on August 3, 1927 at St. Francis Hospital, Wilmington, DE and is buried in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston, PA. Her younger sister, **Sr. Elizabeth**, was born, during the Civil War, in

Columbia on November 16, 1862. She entered the convent on May 1, 1886 and two years later, August 16, 1888 took her final vows. She was a seamstress and served in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Her mission work took her to Wilmington, DE; Emmitsburg and Baltimore, Maryland; Tacoma and Tekoa, Washington; Pendleton, Oregon; New Bedford, Massachusetts; Hopewell and Lawrenceville, New Jersey; Philadelphia and Reading, Pennsylvania; Providence and Hills Grove, Rhode Island. She passed away on August 27, 1941 at St. Joseph Hospital, Reading, PA and buried in Gethsemane Cemetery, Reading, PA.

Sr. M. Januaria, O.S.F. (**Elizabeth Vogel**) was born in Columbia on November 17, 1862 to Sylvester and Mathilda Smith Vogel. Her investiture was held on October 4, 1881 and her final profession was May 19, 1883. Sr. Elizabeth passed away two months later on July 18, 1883 and is buried in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston, PA.

Sr. M. Speciosa, O.S.F. (**Margaret Heltsche**) is the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Wood Heltsche and was born on April 3, 1871 in Columbia. She entered the convent on the first day of January 1900. Her first profession was on August 21, 1902 with final profession 6 years later on August 20, 1908. Sisters' mission was spent in healthcare at St. Agnes Hospital, Philadelphia. This is where she died on December 3, 1932 and is laid to rest in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston, PA

Sr. M. Cortona, O.S.F. (**Margaret Nikolaus**) was born in Columbia, on December 9, 1872 to Magdalene Thomas and Jacob Nikolaus. Her investiture was on August 20, 1903 followed by her first profession on August 23, 1905. Six years later she took her final vows on August 23, 1911. Less than six months later she passed away on February 4, 1912 at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Aston, PA and is buried in the convent cemetery.

Sr. M. Fernanda, O.S.F. (**Margaret Resh**) was the daughter of John George and E. Rosina Aulic Resh and is the youngest of seven children. She was born on March 10, 1884 in Kinderhook and her brother and sisters included Anna Resh Overmeyer, George, Rosa Resh Schinzing, Andrew, Mary Resh Banner and Henry. Her three brothers were barbers in Columbia and the family resided in Kinderhook. She was educated in Holy Trinity School and entered the convent on March 18, 1905. Her first profession was on August 20, 1907 and final profession August 20, 1913. She was a teacher and stationed in Mahanoy City, Manayunk, Bridesburg, Minersville and Bethlehem all in Pennsylvania. Sr. Margaret retired to St. Mary Convent in Bryn Mawr, PA in 1961 and went to her eternal reward July 6, 1968. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Conshohocken, PA. Sr. Fernanda is the aunt of Sr. Mary of the Good Shepherd, R.G.S. (**Serena Schinzing**).

Sr. M. Beatissima, O.S.F. (**Mary Fleckenstein**) was born on January 24, 1885 in Heinrichsthal, Germany to Magdalen Amrhein Fleckenstein and Konrad Fleckenstein. She had three sisters, Emma, Rosa and Margaret. Her last residence in Germany was in Aschaffenburg. It was in 1906 when she emigrated from the port of Bremen, Germany and arrived in New York on August 29th. She then traveled to the home of Gertrude Gribb in Columbia. Sister Mary entered the Franciscans on November 21, 1911. Was first professed in the summer of 1914, July 7th and made her final profession on August 10, 1919. Her ministry was that of a cook. All of her assignments were in Pennsylvania: Aston, Philadelphia and Manayunk. She retired in 1961 and lived at St. Mary Convent, Bryn Mawr, PA but died in St. Agnes Hospital, Philadelphia on June 9, 1961. Her final resting place is Calvary Cemetery, Conshohocken, PA.

Sr. M. Laetaria, O.S.F. (**Ada Nikolaus**) is the daughter of Jacob J. Nikolaus and Mary A. Herbert Nikolaus. She was born August 21, 1889 in Columbia and completed eight grades at Holy Trinity School. For a time she was a clerk in a shipping room before entering the Franciscans on November 11, 1914. Her first profession was July 7, 1917 and final profession on July 7, 1920. Her primary mission was elementary education and served in Lock Haven, Allentown, Bethlehem and Bally all in Pennsylvania. In retirement she served missions in Allentown, Bryn Mawr and Aston, PA as well as in Trenton, NJ. Sister Ada died on January 25, 1983 at Assisi House, Aston, PA and is buried in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston, PA.

Sr. M. Rose Marie, O.S.F. (**Caroline Mary Theresa Horn**) and Sr. M. Hedwig, O.S.F. (**Elizabeth Caroline Horn**) were the daughters of the late Francis "Frank" and Elizabeth Margaret Roehrig Horn and are two of their thirteen children. **Sister Hedwig** was born March 1, 1889 in West Hempfield. She

completed 7 grades at Holy Trinity School and worked as a cook and did factory work in the area. She entered the convent on May 24, 1916, made her first profession on August 12, 1919 and final profession on July 4, 1922. She served the order as a domestic with mission work in Bridesburg and Lehigh, Pennsylvania; Boston, Massachusetts and Raritan and Lawrenceville, New Jersey. She died at St. Francis Hospital, Trenton, NJ on October 16, 1957 and is buried in Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Trenton, NJ.

Sister M. Rose Marie was born August 9, 1901 in Columbia and received her education through grade 5 at Holy Trinity School. She entered the Franciscans on May 13, 1920 four years after her sister. Her first profession was on July 7, 1923 and final profession six years later on July 2, 1929. Her mission assignments as a domestic placed her in the Reybold/Delaware City section of Wilmington, Delaware; New Bedford, Massachusetts; Hopewell, Trenton, Freehold and Lawrenceville all in New Jersey. She passed away December 5, 1963 at St. Mary Home, New Bedford, MA and is buried at St. Mary Cemetery there.

Sr. M. Bernard, O.S.F. (**Gertrude Florence Weisser**) is the daughter of William and Mary Kasel Weisser and was born on July 4, 1909 in Columbia. She graduated from Holy Trinity School and Sacred Heart Academy in Lancaster. For a time before entering the Franciscans she was employed as a bookkeeper at Columbia Auto Company. She entered the order on September 17, 1929 made her first profession on August 24, 1932 and final profession August 11, 1938. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters in Education. Sr. Bernard taught elementary and secondary education. Her assignments took her to West Warwick in Rhode Island; Roxbury, Massachusetts; St. Stephen's, Wyoming; Tacoma and Spokane, Washington; Chester, York, Lebanon, Dallastown and Aston, Pennsylvania. She died on April 5, 2005 at Assisi House and is buried in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Aston, PA.

Today three women still serve the Lord as members of the Sisters of St. Francis – Philadelphia:

Sr. Mary Victor, O.S.F., (**Janice Marie Hallacher**) was born in Lancaster, PA on September 29, 1931 and is the daughter of Mary Grace Hemler and Victor Hallacher. She attended Holy Trinity School and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School. Following graduation she was employed as a stenographer at Hamilton Watch Company, Lancaster. Sister Janice entered the Franciscans on August 28, 1949. Her first profession was on August 11, 1952 with her final profession six years later August 11, 1958. She received a Bachelor of Art in Education and a Master of Arts in Math from Villanova University. Over the years she served at Our Lady of Angels College, Aston, PA; Assistant Provincial-Immaculate Conception Province, Springfield; Catholic High School, Baltimore, MD; Landsale Catholic High School, Lansdale, PA; St. Stanislaus and St. Agnes (Hallahan) High School, Philadelphia; St. Francis in Bryn Mawr, PA; Holy Angels School, Trenton, NJ; St. Joseph Elementary School, Wilmington, DE and was an associate professor at Neumann University, Aston, PA. Sr. Janice resides in the Mother House and is involved with the local house ministry.

Sr. **Patricia Wickenheiser**, O.S.F. and Sr. **Jean Wickenheiser**, O.S.F. Sisters Patricia and Jean are daughters of the late Franklin J. and Mabel V. Fehl Wickenheiser, twin brothers, James Earl and Jere Edwin, who died in infancy and the brother of the late Frank James Wickenheiser who married (Kathleen Manning).

Sister Patricia Ann (given the religious name -Sister James Marie) was born December 28, 1938. She attended Holy Trinity grade school and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School in the Class of 1957. After working for a year at ITT/Grinnell, in Columbia, she heard the Lord call her name and choosing Sister Maria Sponsa (who taught her at Holy Trinity) as her sponsor, Patricia entered the Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia on September 8, 1958 and was professed August 11, 1961. Receiving her BA in English at Our Lady of Angels College, now Neumann University, she continued her studies at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, to become certified as a permanent teacher in the field of education. Graduating from St. Joseph's with a BS in accounting, Sister Pat worked in the accounting office at St. Mary Hospital in Philadelphia. Continuing studies at Mt. St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD, she received her MA in Business Administration in 1981.

As a primary teacher in the Diocese of Allentown, she taught at Sacred Heart- Allentown, SS. Peter & Paul-Lehigh, St. Francis-Allentown, and Holy Family-Frackville. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

she taught at St. Aloysius-Pottstown, Resurrection-Chester, Nativity BVM-Media, Holy Saviour-Linwood, and was Principal at St. Basil the Great in Kimberton, PA. She also rendered her educational services at St. Thomas the Apostle-Glen Mills, and The Child Development Center at Neumann University. Missioned at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-Doylestown and was an assistant to the Director of Religious Education. She spent two years at St. Joseph School, York. When not using her academic skills, she enjoys learning by watching JEOPARDY, and following her favorite Philadelphia Phillies, or relaxing to piano music, cooking or planning a creative display for any occasion. Retired by age, she still keeps active in the field of education and wonders where the next lap of her journey will call her. She presently resides at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent in Morton, PA.

Sister Jean was born February 29, 1944 and was educated in Holy Trinity School and graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School Class of 1962. Shortly after graduation she entered the Franciscan community in Glen Riddle on September 8, 1962 and was professed August 11, 1965. Her religious name was Sr. James Marita (1963-1971). She continued her education earning a BA in History at Our Lady of Angels College (now Neumann University) in 1972. Post graduate credits she earned from St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, University of Dayton (Ohio), Kutztown University and West Chester University. Later she was awarded a Pennsylvania Instructional II Certification in Elementary Education and a Master Catechist from the Diocese of Allentown, PA. In the field of education she served as a primary grade teacher (1965-79 and 1988-1991) at St. Stanislaus, Lansdale; Holy Ghost, Bethlehem; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Doylestown; Easton Catholic, Easton; Resurrection, Chester; St. Lawrence/St. Mary, Catasauqua; St. Aloysius, Pottstown all in Pennsylvania. From 1979-1988 she was elementary principal at Sacred Heart in Allentown, PA. Her focus changed in 1991 when she became a kindergarten teacher assigned to the following schools: Our Lady of Hungary, Northampton, PA, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown and St. Francis Academy, Bally, PA.

These three “daughters of Holy Trinity” served their respective religious communities until they were called to their eternal reward:

Sr. M. Ada, C.S.C. (**Appolonia Thomas**), Sisters of the Holy Cross; was born in Bavaria, Germany, January 23, 1858, the daughter of George Thomas and Mary Magdalen Bonapert. She entered the Congregation, May 13, 1884, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Sister Ada received the Habit, January 1, 1885, and made final profession, July 22, 1888 at St. Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana. She was a teacher and was given only one assignment during her 62 years of active ministry to teach German at St. Mary’s Academy in Austin, Texas. She came to St. Mary’s Academy during its first year of operation. Sister died at the Academy August 27, 1947 and is interred in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Austin, Texas.

Sr. Mary of the Good Shepherd, R.G.S. (**Serena Schinzing**), Religious of the Good Shepherd she was born on February 16, 1891, the daughter of Frank and Rosa Resh Schinzing. Her brothers and sisters were Joseph (b. 1888), Francis (b. 1893), Agnes Schinzing Wagner (b. 1895), Mary Schinzing Stone (b. 1898), John (b. 1900), Rosina Schinzing Wallick, Leo (b.1905), and George (b.1908). At the age of 16, she joined the Sisters of the Good Shepherd where she was given the religious name of Sister Mary of the Good Shepherd. The order chose to add “of the Good Shepherd” to her religious name in recognition of the fact that she was the youngest person to have joined the order to that point.

The Good Shepherd sisters had convents in a number of cities in the United States, including one in Baltimore where they housed and cared for girls who had been assigned to their supervision by the courts after getting into trouble with the law. Serena would have been aware of the order and its’ work because her grandmother, Mary Buechler Schinzing , had two sisters who were already members of the congregation. For most of her years in religious life, Sister Mary of the Good Shepherd resided at the Baltimore convent where she made priests’ vestments and taught sewing as part of the life skills training which the order provided to the girls in their care. In the 1960s, the convent moved from Baltimore to Halethorpe Maryland, in the Baltimore suburbs, where Sister Mary of the Good Shepherd died on March 16, 1978.

Sr. M. Columba, O.S.B. (**Margaret Keim**) is the daughter of Cornelius Keim, Sr. and Elizabeth Keim. Her brothers and sisters included Agnes, Elizabeth, Aloysius, Genevieve, Anastasia, Cornelius, Rita and Leo.

In 1929 she began serving in the Order of St. Benedict and her solemn profession took place on May 2, 1934. This order of the Benedictines perpetually adored the Blessed Sacrament. She entered the St. Benedict Cloister Maria Immaculata in Johannisberg, Rhingau, near Frankfurt, Germany on the banks of the Rhine River. Her Aunt, Anna Keim (a native of Germany), was serving in this Cloister as Sister Lioba. They served at the Benedictine Sisters Convent in Johannisberg, Germany. During World War II the Nuns fled the Cloister and came to America to live until the end of the war. Sr. Columba returned to Columbia, PA and stayed with the Precious Blood Sisters at Gethsemane which later became St. Anne's Home. She returned to Germany when the war ended. The nuns left the Cloister in 1991 and today it is known as Kloster Johannisberg, a hotel.

Two other women still in active ministry include:

Sr. **Kathleen Marie Aucoin**, S.C. Sisters of Charity-New York who was born on September 18, 1947 and is the daughter of the late Mary Elizabeth and Paul S. Aucoin. She aspired to become a nun in her early teens and attended a special school, Immaculata High, Mendham, New Jersey, run by the Sisters of Christian Charity for girls interested in becoming religious. Sr. Kathleen entered the Sisters of Christian Charity August 29, 1965 in Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, NJ. Her final profession was on August 15, 1975. Sister Kathleen received her Bachelor of Arts in Education and Sociology from Marillac College, St. Louis, MO. She has two masters' degrees, one in Religious Studies from St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, PA and the other in Pastoral Counseling from Fordham University in New York City. She was a school teacher with assignments in Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and taught in Maryland, New York City and New Jersey.

On August 28, 2000 she transferred to the community founded by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Sisters of Charity of New York. For the past 10 years Sr. Kathleen works in psychotherapy and is a renowned sculptor of statues. She resides in Mt. Vernon, New York. Her siblings include her sister Regina Heisler, married to John Heisler, and one nephew and six nieces residing in the Columbia area.

And Sr. **Linda Fischer**, ASC., Adorers of the Precious Blood is the daughter of the late Clarence and Dorothy Fischer, and the sister of Father Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S. and Dennis Fischer. She attended Holy Trinity School and graduated with the Class of 1960 from Lancaster Catholic High School. Following graduation she immediately entered the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood (now named The Adorers of the Blood of Christ) in Columbia and remained with them until 1969. During her years there she taught school at Holy Trinity in East Chicago, Indiana; St. Francis School, Lumberton, North Carolina; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Niles, Ohio and Assumption School, Chicago, Illinois. In 1969, after leaving the convent, Ms. Fischer continued to teach for two years and then moved to Wildwood, New Jersey for the next fourteen years.

After living and working in Wildwood for those years, she returned to the convent, The Adorers of the Blood of Christ, in 1985. She made her First Profession July 28, 1988 and her final profession, July 28, 1994. Finishing her college education she graduated from Alvernia University in 1988 and for the next fifteen years taught at Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster, PA. Since her retirement from teaching in 2005, Sr. Linda has been actively involved in giving retreats to members of Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-Step groups, giving around thirty retreats a year. She lives with another member of her community on Prospect Road, Columbia, PA.

One cannot help but admire and feel very proud of the efforts that make up the history of Holy Trinity Parish. It took one hundred and forty-five years of sacrifice. Nothing was done overnight because nothing was easy. No one-generation could single out itself for special distinction. Simply, the history of this parish could be summed up in a sentence: "What one man began to build - another man completed; and if it's still standing, then thanks to a third man for maintaining it."

Above all, God was always with us. Without him to inspire, direct and sustain us, there could never be a parish like ours. He was with our predecessors in 1860 and He is with us today. No matter what the tasks may be in the future, let us face it with assurance of continued achievement and progress. If only we continue the tradition to have faith in God - and faith in each other.

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This overview would not be complete without a special tribute to the first priests who gave their time and love to this parish in the early years of struggle, beginning with: Rev. John N. Neumann – as early as 1844, the Catholic Directory gives Columbia as being attended-to from St. James Church in Baltimore, Maryland. At the time the Redemptorist Fathers were in charge there, including Father Neumann who came to serve in Columbia on occasions for a short time until the coming of Father Shorb. It was Father Neumann who helped arrange the purchase of a lot for ground on which was built Holy Trinity (German) Church about 1859, (from the writing of Rev. F. X. Reuss).

Father Neumann was appointed the fourth Bishop of the Philadelphia Diocese and pioneered the Parochial School System in the United States. He founded the first American Roman Catholic church for Italian-speaking people and founded the Glen Riddle group of Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis known today as Sisters of St. Francis-Philadelphia. He died in 1860 at the age of forty-eight. He was canonized by the Holy See in Rome in 1976 and is venerated as St. John Neumann by all Roman Catholics. It is this special historic connection between Holy Trinity Parish and the life of St. John Neumann that makes this modern-day saint so closely related to the entire parish family at Holy Trinity.

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- Additional sources for information included:
- “A Souvenir Booklet” of Holy Trinity Church published in October 1944
 - “A Glorious History of One Hundred Years” the anniversary booklet of Holy Trinity Church published in October 1960.
 - Third Order of St. Francis Diary - Holy Trinity Convent circa 1869
 - “Diary of Japanese Prison Camp Life” by Joseph H. Bittner, S.J. 1945
 - “Pilgrims All” by Sr. M. Modesta Monnig, ASC published August 1974
 - “The Pilgrim House” by Sr. Joy Jensen, ASC published in 1984
 - “Holy Trinity Herald-Tribune”
 - “Memoirs of a Missionary” by Joseph H. Bittner, S.J. published in 1996
 - “Franciscan Friars, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Third Order Regular of St. Francis”
 - “Columbia Daily News”
 - “Columbia Daily Spy”
 - “The Columbia News”
 - “The Columbia Ledger”
 - “The Catholic Witness”
 - “The Jesuit Center”
 - “Lancaster New Era”
 - “Intelligencer Journal - Lancaster”

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