

75 ANNIVERSARY

1954



ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

NORWICH

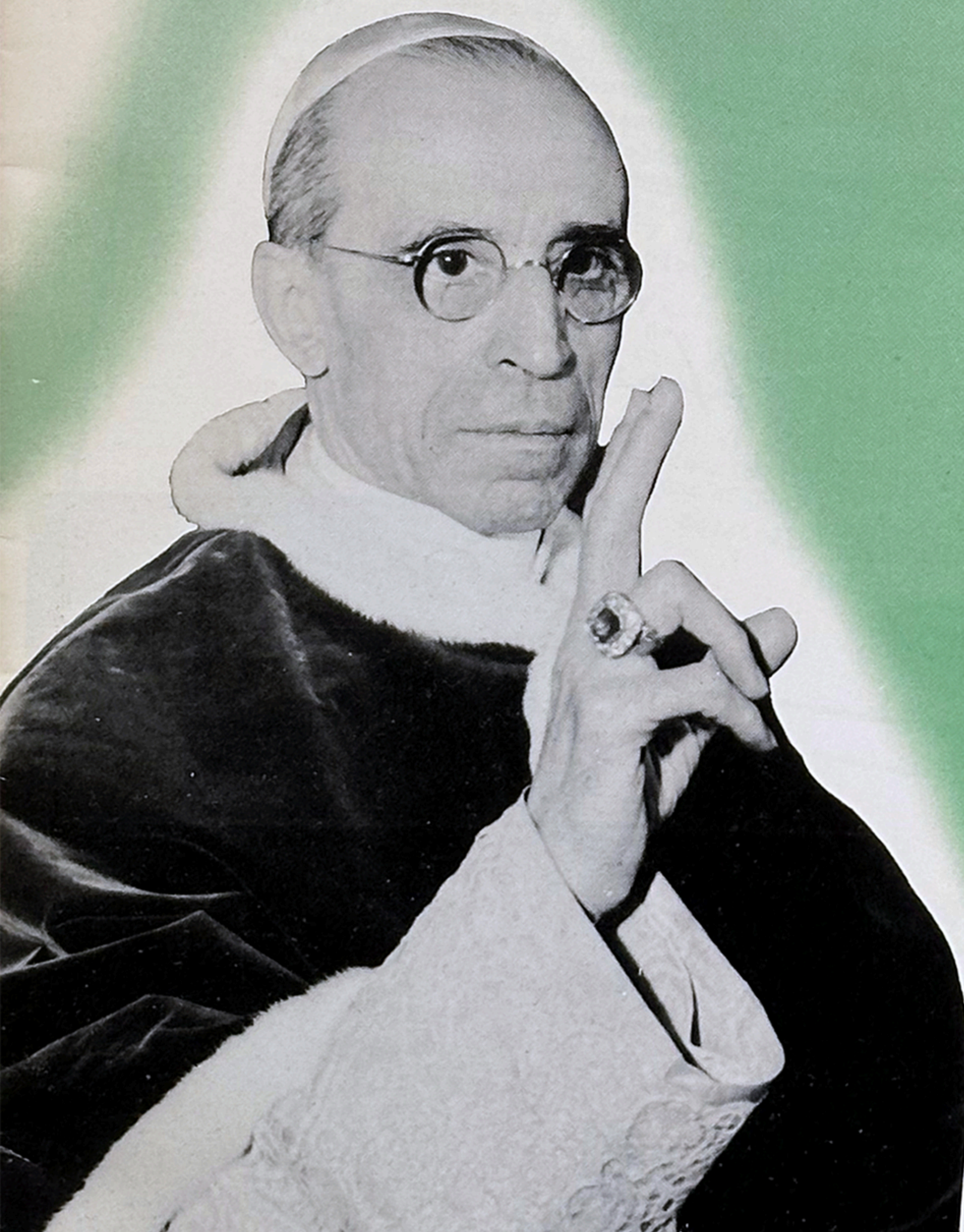
1879 - 1954

CONNECTICUT

POPE'S PRAYER:

O God, the Shepherd and Ruler of all the faithful, look down favorably upon Thy servant, Pius, whom Thou hast been pleased to appoint pastor over Thy church; grant, we beseech Thee, that he may serve by word and example those over whom he is set, and so attain to eternal life with the flock committed to his care.

... *Third Collect*



HIS HOLINESS,
POPE PIUS XII
EUGENIO PACELLI

Bishop of Rome and Vicar of
Jesus Christ
Successor of St. Peter, Prince
of the Apostles
Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church
Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy
Archbishop and Metropolitan of the
Roman Province
Sovereign of Vatican City



September
1st
1954

My dear Monsignor Reilly:

I am delighted to learn that the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich is to be observed with appropriate ceremonies. It has had a long and distinguished history and has been renowned throughout Connecticut and beyond as the magnificent church of a magnificent parish. How fitting it was that Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, should have bestowed upon it during the past year a new and glorious dignity in designating it the Cathedral Church of the new Diocese of Norwich.

In expressing to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop of Norwich, to the clergy, religious and faithful of the Cathedral parish and of the entire diocese my warmest congratulations on this notable anniversary, I offer also the assurance of my prayers that Saint Patrick's may enjoy the blessing of God in continued and ever increasing abundance during the years to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

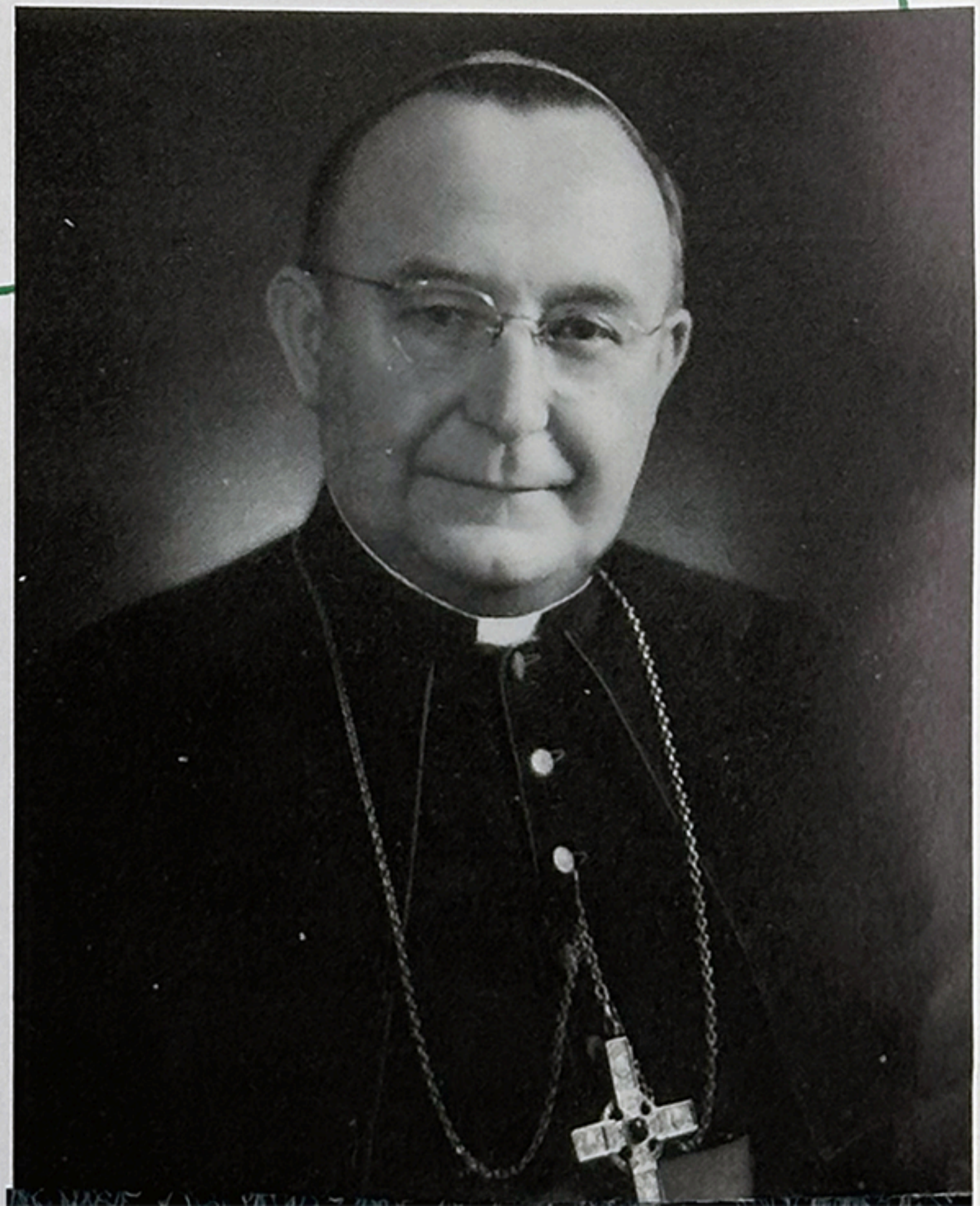
Henry J. O'Brien

Archbishop of Hartford

THE MOST REVEREND
HENRY J. O'BRIEN, D.D.
Archbishop of Hartford

Ordained July 8, 1923
Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of
Hartford, March 19, 1940
Consecrated May 14, 1940

Appointed Bishop of Hartford,
April 7, 1945
Installed June 5, 1945
Appointed Archbishop of
Hartford, August 6, 1953





September 28, 1954

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

The thoughts and sentiments of all of us on this anniversary day find apt expression in the words of the Royal Psalmist, King David: "To Thee is due a song of praise, O God, in Sion . . . give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever." (Ps. 64, 2; 117, 1) For it is to God and His eternal goodness that we owe the countless blessings, both spiritual and temporal, which have been bestowed upon St. Patrick's Parish and its people during the past seventy-five years, and which culminate in this anniversary year in the gracious conferral of Cathedral status upon us by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. Truly, it would seem that the hand of Divine Providence has been close to St. Patrick's through the years. How else explain the courage, zeal and vision, which prompted our forebears in the Faith to build a Church of such beauty and proportions that today, three-quarters of a century later, it so admirably becomes the new and proud dignity of a Cathedral?

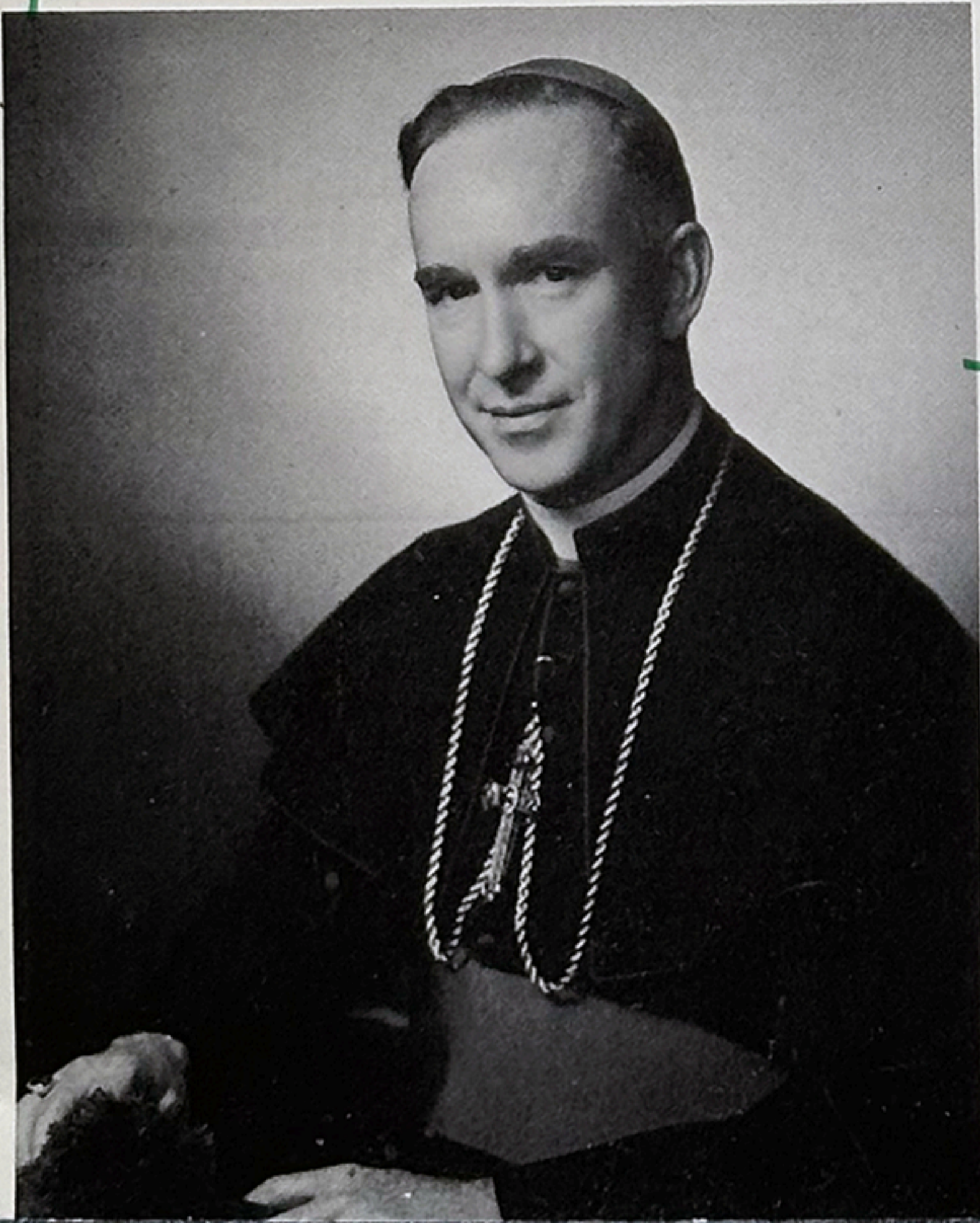
Under God, our grateful thanks are due also to these pioneer priests and people, whose faith and spirit of generous sacrifice prompted them to build for us this beautiful and enduring monument to God's glory - our Cathedral - and who left us a blessed and priceless heritage in their example of devoted service to God and His Church. The words of Sacred Writ most fittingly apply to them: "They were men rich in virtues, caring for what is seemly, lovers of peace . . . Let the people proclaim their wisdom and the Church sing their praise." (Eccl. 44, 6, 15)

Forget them not in your prayers during these days of festive rejoicing that God may admit any still detained in Purgatory to the delights of the Beatific Vision. It is always "a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead"; an occasion such as this joyous anniversary should prompt us, out of a sense of gratitude, to be even more fervent in our prayers for their eternal repose.

Pray, too, that God may give us the grace to "walk worthy of the vocation in which we are called," and so help us by the fervor of our own lives to pass on to future generations an even more abundant heritage of devotion to God's Church than that which we have received.

May Mary, the Blessed Mother of God, keep us all in the love of her Divine Son, and may St. Patrick, our Blessed Patron, ever intercede for us before the throne of God.

Devotedly yours in Christ,
 BERNARD J. FLANAGAN
 Bishop of Norwich

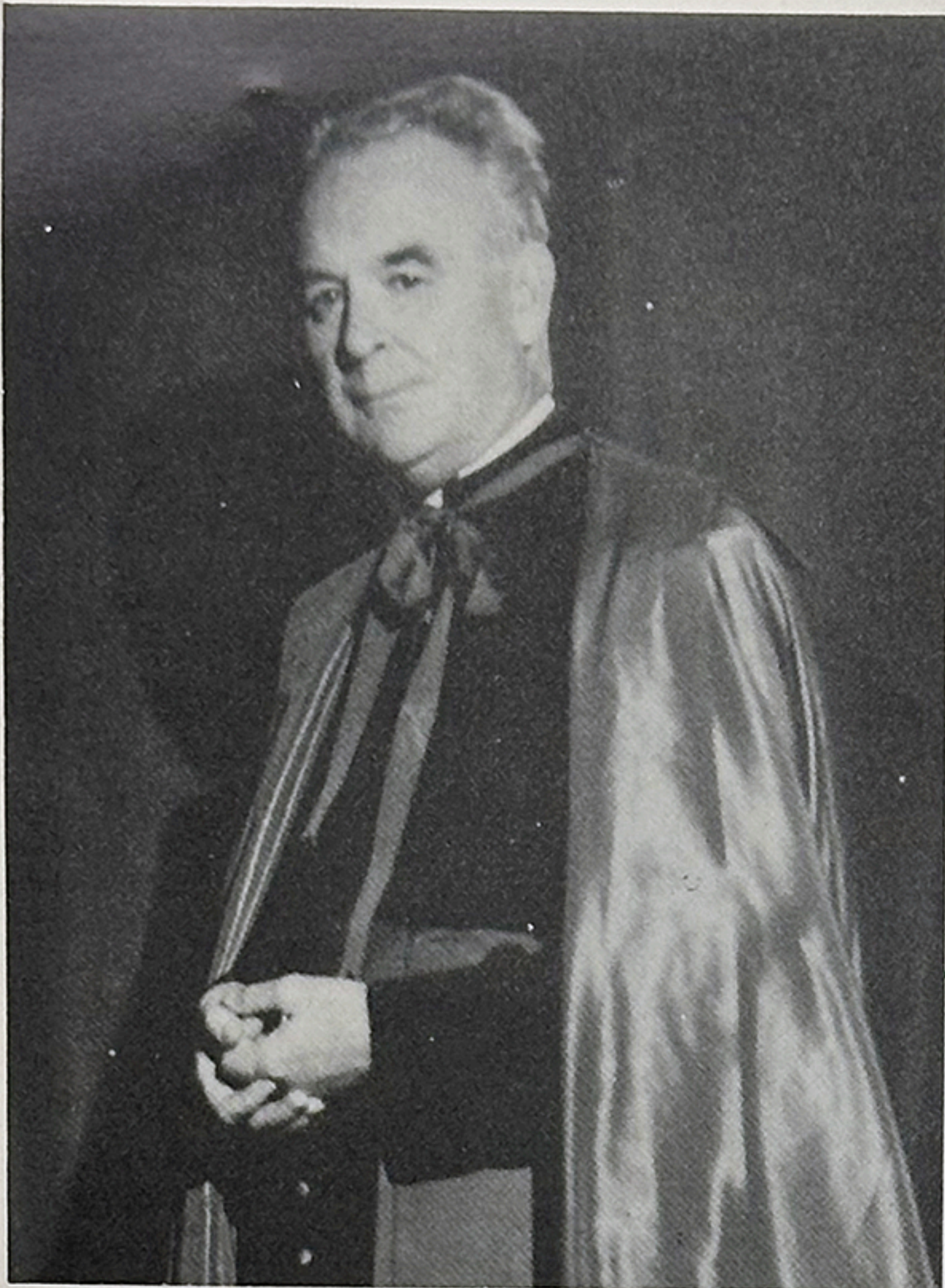


THE MOST REVEREND
 BERNARD J. FLANAGAN, D.D., J.C.D.
 Bishop of Norwich

Ordained December 8, 1931
 Chancellor, Diocese of
 Burlington, 1943-1953

Appointed Bishop of Norwich,
 September 1, 1953
 Consecrated November 30, 1953

Installed First Bishop of Norwich
 December 9, 1953



RIGHT REVEREND JOHN J. REILLY
Vicar General, Diocese of Norwich
and
Rector, Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Ordained July 8, 1923
Assistant Saint Patrick's
1924-1935
Director National Shrine of
the Immaculate Conception
1940-1950

Named Domestic Prelate,
October, 1946
Appointed Pastor of Saint
Patrick's, January, 1950
First Vicar General, Diocese of
Norwich, December, 1953

213 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut

To the Faithful of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Parish:

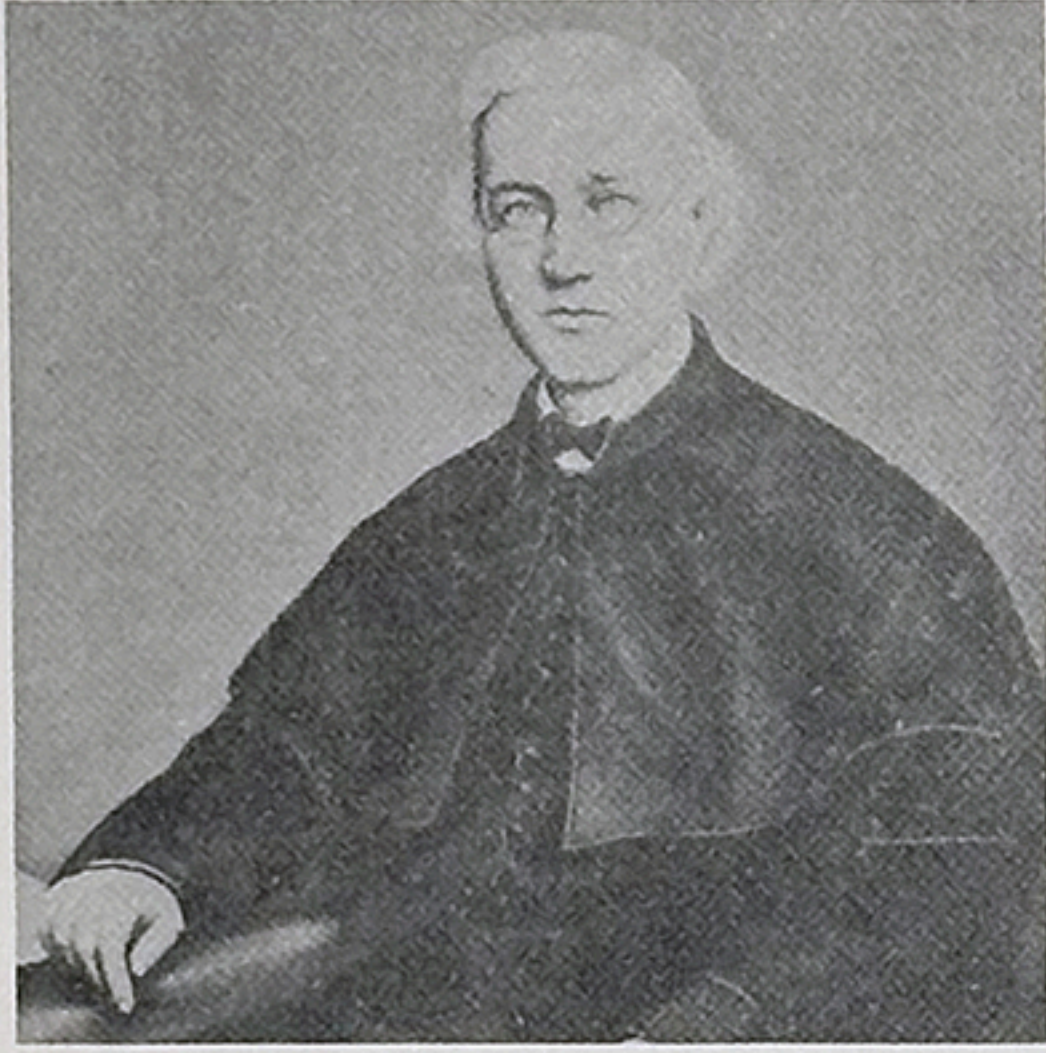
Greetings, Congratulations and Blessings!
May your joys of these Jubilee Days be as pure and as profound as we find them to be in our own heart. On anniversaries such as this, there is a tendency to reminisce. We feel as if on a pinnacle where our gaze takes in the past, and where crosses row on row may still be visible. At a time like this, we can not help but remember fondly those who have worshipped and labored here before us, and, undoubtedly, our memories will be translated into prayers and sacrifices that we may be able, insofar as possible, to have a decisive influence on their eternal happiness. At such a point, however, it is laudable to peer into the future so that when we ourselves have become the "have beens" of tomorrow, these Jubilee Days will have been a source of spiritual profit for us all.

May the sunset of our own years then be more golden still, and they will be, if from the majestic stones of our Cathedral, we draw a lesson. Stones always held a peculiar fascination for our Blessed Lord. He mentioned them repeatedly in His public life. The stones of Saint Patrick's have always held a peculiar fascination for ourselves. They have stood the test of time; they will stand the test of time to come. They were beautiful when placed in position; they have grown more beautiful through the years. Above all, they have served their purpose - they have sheltered their Eucharistic God. Priests and people may have passed on; music has died down; sermons have been forgotten; but these stones remain mute witnesses to the presence of a hidden God in our midst. May it never be said of any one of us that we have been less than these dumb stones. May all of our hearts be less of a stony nature, and much more pliable to the will of God. May it be said of us, in jubilees to come that we have served our purpose; that we have sheltered same God, that through the years we have become more close to this to Him, and to her who is His mother!

Cordially in Christ and His Blessed Mother,
Monsignor Reilly

September 28, 1954
Marian Year

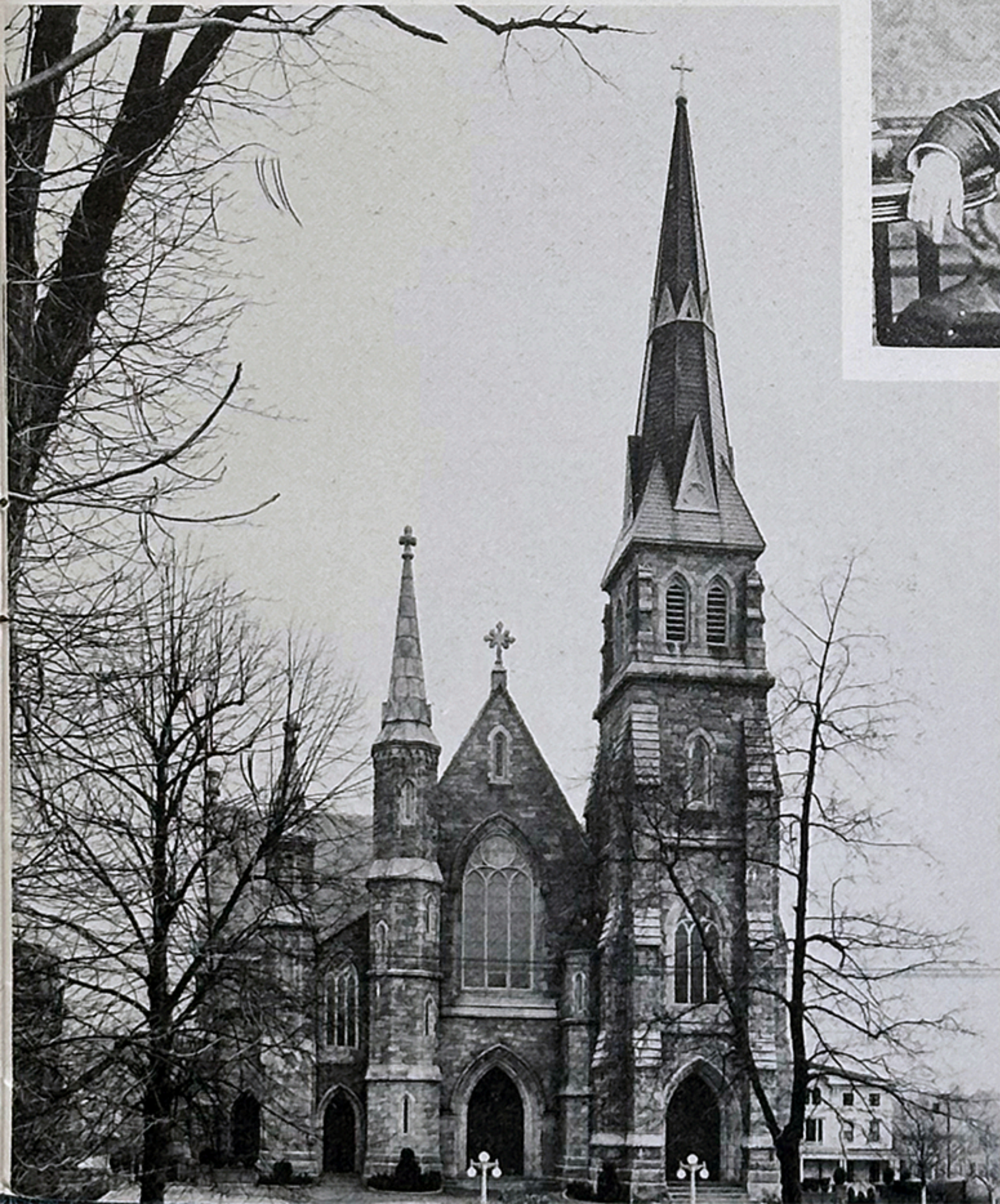
*Saint Patrick's Partially Completed
At The Time Of
Father Mullin's Death*



REVEREND DANIEL MULLIN
The Founder of Saint Patrick's
Pastor 1869 - 1878



REVEREND PATRICK J. SHAHAN
Pastor of Saint Patrick's
1878 - 1892

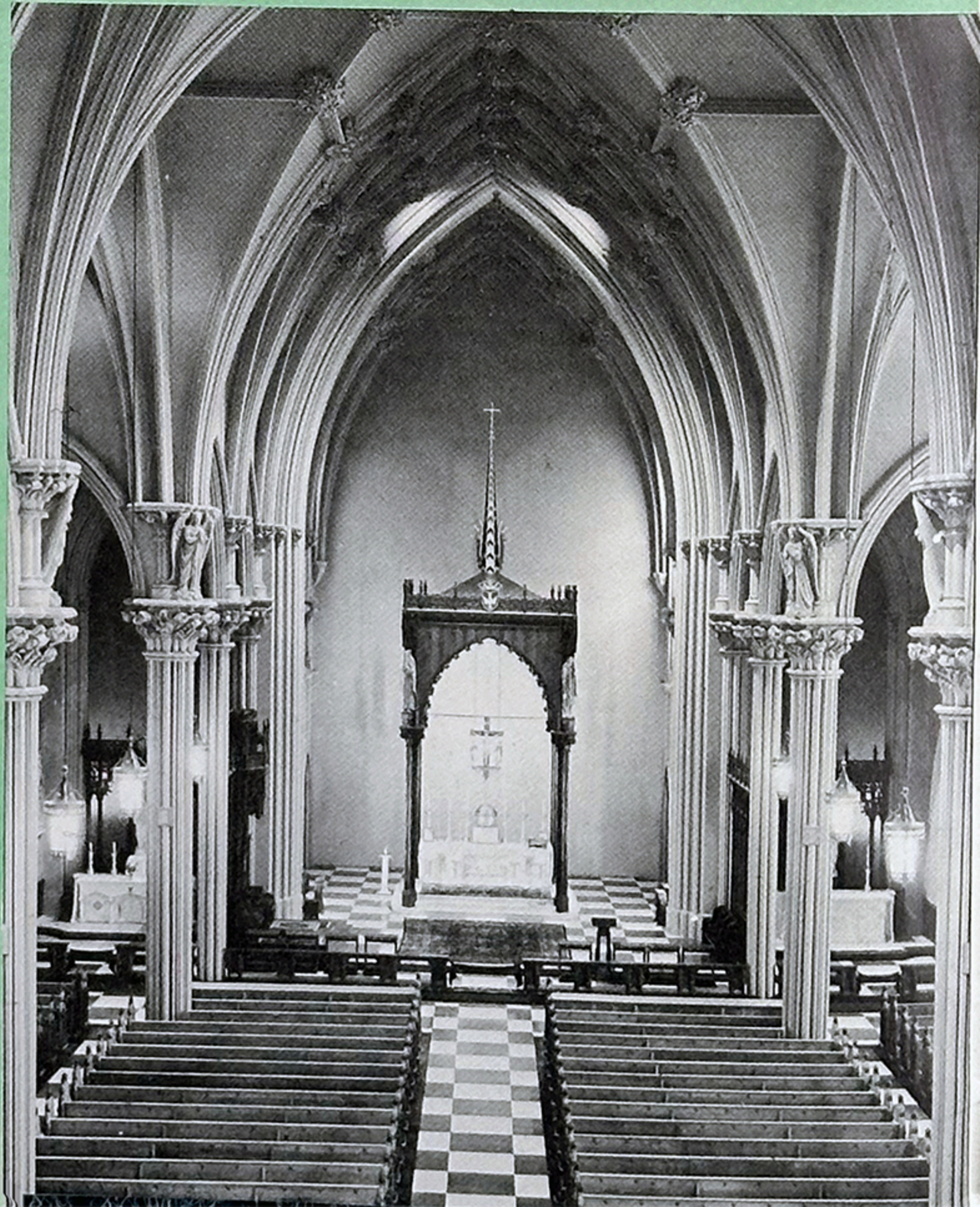


*The Magnificent Saint Patrick's Completed
During The Pastorate Of Father Shahan*



*A Look Into The Past—The Interior
And Altar of The Old Saint Patrick's*

*The Renovated St. Patrick's — The
Baldachino. A True Expression of
Christian Liturgical Art.*



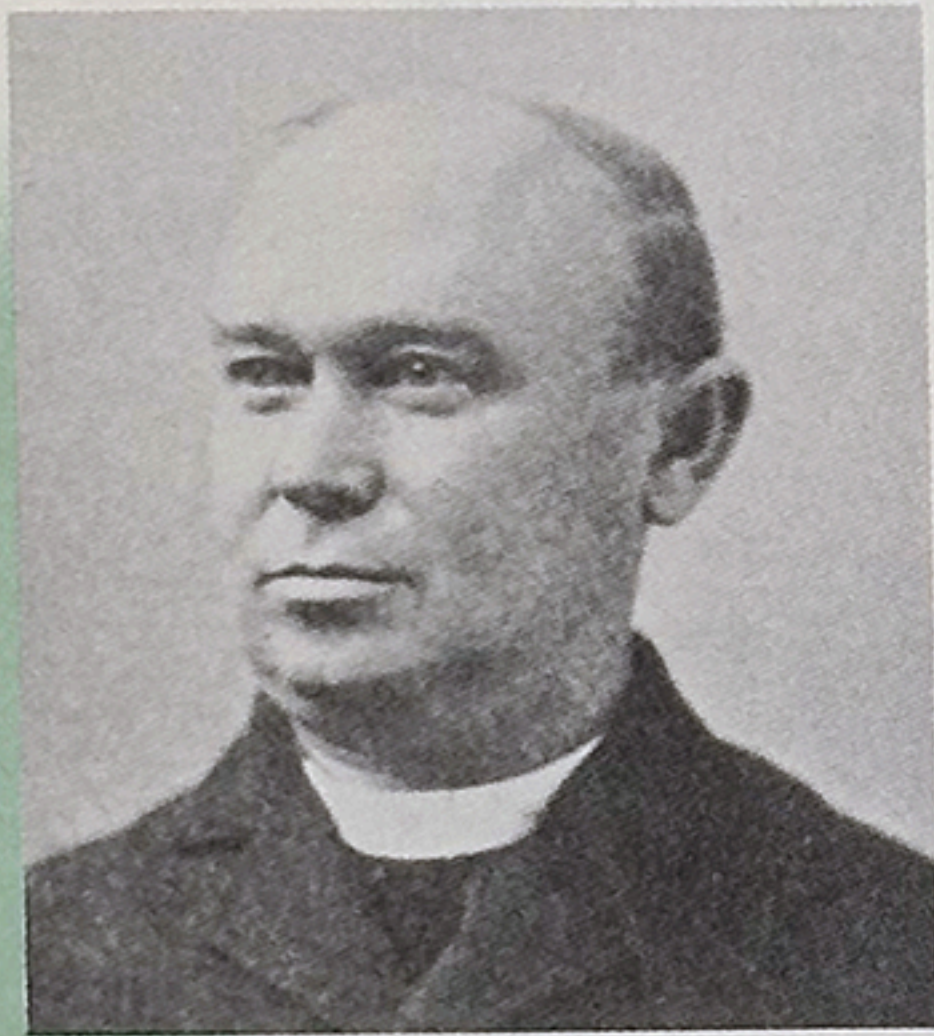


REVEREND PETER M. KENNEDY
Pastor 1892-1897

PROGRAM

September 12-26, 1954—SOLEMN MISSION in preparation for the Diamond Jubilee. Conducted by the Dominican Fathers.

Monday, September 27, 1954—9:00 a.m. SOLEMN PONTIFICAL REQUIEM MASS. Offered for the repose of the souls of all deceased clergy, religious and laity of Saint Patrick's Parish.



REVEREND HUGH TRAINOR
Pastor 1897-1912

Tuesday, September 28, 1954—7:30 p.m. DIAMOND JUBILEE SOLEMN PONTIFICAL EVENING MASS. In thanksgiving, and for the intentions of all living members of the parish, for the boys in service and for all friends and benefactors.

Officers of the Mass:

His Excellency, Most Reverend Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien, D.D., presiding.

His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan, D.D., pontificating.

His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Matthew Brady, D.D., preaching.

Organist and Choir Director—Henry J. LaFontaine.



REVEREND JOHN BRODERICK
Pastor 1912-1921



RT. REVEREND
MICHAEL H. MAY
Pastor 1921-1936



REVEREND
ALEXANDER F. MITCHELL
Pastor 1936-1950

PARISH VOCATIONS

Fruit of the vine from seed sown and nurtured at St. Patrick's

CLERGY

Rev. James Birracre, R.I.P.
Rev. Michael Byrne, R.I.P.
Rev. Henry Coleman, R.I.P.
Rev. Charles Corcoran
Rev. James Dennis
Rev. William Disco, R.I.P.
Rev. James Donohue
Rev. Alfred Driscoll*
Rev. Francis Fahey
Rev. John Fanning
Rev. Richard Fanning
Rev. Terence Finnegan
(Brig. General—U.S.A.)
Rev. John Fogarty, R.I.P.

Rev. Joseph H. Ford, R.I.P.*
Rev. Joseph King, R.I.P.
Rt. Rev. Raymond LaFontaine
Rev. David Marshall, CSSP
Most Rev. Patrick J. McCormick, R.I.P.*
Rev. John Moran
Rev. James Mulcahy, O.P.
Rev. Henry Murphy
Rev. John Murphy, S.J.
Rev. Edward Plunkett, R.I.P.
Rev. Hormidas Portelance, R.I.P.
Rev. John Ryan, R.I.P.
Rev. John Shugrue
*attended Saint Patrick's School

NUNS

DOMINICAN-SPARKILL COMMUNITY:

Sister Mildred Marie Hourigan

FRANCISCAN SISTERS:

Sister DiPazzi Meligan, R.I.P.

Sister Anthony Lyons, R.I.P.

Sister Assumpta Casey

HOLY CROSS ORDER,

BOISE, IDAHO:

Sister Lilia, R.I.P.

MARYKNOLL SISTERS:

Sister Sharon Frances Desmond

PRECIOUS BLOOD SISTERS:

Sister Paula

SISTERS OF CHARITY —

BALTIC:

Sister Pauline Good, R.I.P.

SISTERS OF CHARITY —

MOTHER SETON'S CONVENT STATION:

Sister Annina Clune, R.I.P.

Sister Marie Agnes Clune, R.I.P.

Sister Francis Regis McCrohan,

R.I.P. (Colorado Community)

Sister Marita Frances Byrnes

SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH:

Sister Liguri Carroll

Sister Felcitas Brunelle, R.I.P.

Sister Rosalie Gough

Sister Lawrence Gough

Sister Victor Kingsley

Sister Euphemia Donahue

Sister Christine Leonard

Sister Visitation McCarthy

SISTERS OF MERCY —

CONNECTICUT:

Sister M. Bonaventure Sullivan, R.I.P.

Sister M. Assissium Hynds, R.I.P.

Sister M. Corsini Sullivan, R.I.P.

Sister M. Louise O'Sullivan, R.I.P.

Sister M. Victor Barlow, R.I.P.

Sister M. Martha Barlow, R.I.P.

Sister M. Therese Lentz, R.I.P.

Sister M. Pierre Donahue, R.I.P.

Sister M. Mildred Anderson, R.I.P.

Sister M. Ameliana Sullivan

Sister M. Regis Ward

Sister M. Perpetua Collins

Sister M. Raphael Collins

Sister M. Albeus Monahan

Sister M. Ellen Finnegan

Sister M. Davidica Murphy

Sister M. Elegius Voech

Sister M. Agnes Gertrude Holston

Sister M. Lenore Gorman

Sister Marie George Donegan

Sister Miriam Francis O'Brien

Sister M. Wilhelmina Bergeron

Sister M. Elinita Barry

SISTERS OF MERCY — NEW HAMPSHIRE:

Sister Annunciata, R.I.P.

SISTERS OF MERCY,

OMAHA, NEBRASKA:

Sister Mary Spellman

SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE:

Sister Isadore McNulty

Sister Euphemia Kilkenny

Sister Catherine Yerrington

Sister Winifred O'Neil

Sister Mary Jane Reed

BROTHERS:

Brother William Thomas

Babbitt, C.C.S.

THE HISTORY OF SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

*"This is the House of the Lord;
this is the Gate of Heaven."*



His Excellency Bishop Flanagan taking possession of his See, Dec. 9, 1953. Archbishop O'Brien, Bishop Flanagan and Monsignor Reilly in foreground.

Under God, no single factor has made the seventy-five years growth of Saint Patrick's the remarkable aspect of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford it has turned out to be. The faith, the love, and the sacrifice of the laity; the vision, the inspiration, and the leadership of the shepherds of souls who have served Saint Patrick's must all be considered if the true picture of Saint Patrick's through the years is to be clearly glimpsed.

Saint Patrick's Is Born

From the Rev. Daniel Mullin, former chaplain in the Civil War, however, no one will withhold that creative spark which would not be dimmed until the present cathedral structure was almost a reality. Father Mullin came to Norwich in 1868 as pastor of Saint Mary's Church, and his restless soul found no peace until he had succeeded in launching the dream which he had dreamt. Some activity had already started as regards a new place of worship to take the place of the modest Saint Mary's on North Main Street. It was well known that the Reverend Daniel Kelly, a predecessor of Father Mullin at Saint Mary's, had purchased a site on Church Street, and even planted a cross there on March 17, 1845, with the intention of locating the new church there. This plan was apparently abandoned for no more was heard about the proposed new church until within a year of Father Mullin's arrival in Norwich. On August 25, 1869 Father Mullin left no doubt as to what he had in mind. On that day he insured for the future Saint Patrick's an atmosphere which forever after would be a source of pride by acquiring what was known as the Appleton Meech property, with one hundred and twenty feet facing Broadway and consisting of land in the amount of two acres. Significant is the

fact that the plot of land was not bought by Saint Mary's Church, but by Joseph Connor for the Church. An item of interest found in the Norwich Board of Trade Quarterly, Volume III, No. 1, published in July 1909, is that on a lot adjoining that purchased for Saint Patrick's plans had been made in 1869 for a new Trinity Episcopal Church; these plans later being abandoned.

Additional Property Acquired

The alert mind of Father Mullin was still active and, after paying \$17,000 for the first piece of property, one might think that he would have rested. But, on September 3 of the same year, 1869, as if he were looking out upon the future beautiful parking space in the rear of the present cathedral, he purchased property in the rear. On April 8, 1870 he secured a fifty-foot strip which gave the church property an outlet on Otis Street. For the first parcel Father Mullin paid \$5,500, and for the second \$500. Father Mullin might well have stopped for a while, having successfully penetrated whatever curtain then hung on Broadway, but, first removing the house, which came with the purchase of the Broadway property, to the rear of the newly acquired property that it might serve for a convent and academy, Father Mullin really got started.

March on Broadway

On March 17, 1870, Mass having been offered in old St. Mary's begging God's blessing on his undertaking, Father Mullin left Greenville for Broadway. It was not the way of Father Mullin to come silently and unannounced. Maybe he was reliving his Civil War days for, according to the same issue of the Norwich Board of Trade mentioned above, Father Mullin came to Broadway with 1,547 doughty parishioners led by Dr. Patrick Cassidy as marshal. The first sod was turned by a shovel

in the capable hands of one John Murphy, the ground being stilled frozen, but frozen ground never yet held back a Murphy. After prayers of consecration, and an address by the then Vicar General, Reverend James Hughes; the Bishop, Most Reverend Francis P. McFarland, being in Europe, the entire group marched to Breed Hall where dinner was served and the pioneers of Saint Patrick's were addressed by the then Mayor of Norwich, Honorable Lorenzo Blackstone.

Construction Started

Father Mullin did stop to catch his breath; or else paused to collect more money, for the next activity at Saint Patrick's does not take place until Good Friday, April 7, 1871, when another procession formed and another descent on Broadway took place. No mention is made in the chronicles of speeches and dinners this time, but the men did come with picks and shovels and got down to the serious business of digging for the foundations. The proudest boast any Catholic of Norwich can make today is to be able to state that his ancestor helped dig the foundation for Saint Patrick's. So misty has become the past that the present writer would venture to say that if everybody who is reputed to have had a hand in the digging of the foundation for Saint Patrick's really put his shoulder to the shovel, the excavating must have been completed in a very short time. History seems to indicate besides that the work would have been completed sooner if one person who had failed to show up for the digging (having decided to dig his own well that day, and who dug so frantically that the well caved in on him) did not have to be rescued by those who were engaged in the far more exalted occupation of digging for the Church. These were summoned from their task, and a Good Friday tragedy averted by the rescue of the unfortunate individual who came nearly digging his own grave, just before an unprovided death.

Cornerstone Laid

With the completion of the excavation, work began on the foundation and the walls, the walls rising to the water table. July 13, 1878 must have been a memorable day in Norwich, for on that day the cornerstone of Saint Patrick's was laid. In between time, the fertile mind of Father Mullin was active producing as a brainchild the famous "ten-cents-a-week" club which made it possible for the work to continue. Ten cents a week was asked as a contribution from each working family, and, as the parish was made up for the most part of working families, this was how Saint Patrick's was financed. In passing, we wonder whom to admire more — the families who gave the ten cents, or the zealous men who went around collecting the ten cents from house to house. Thus it was through the sacrifices of the faithful Catholics of all Norwich that the noble walls of Saint Patrick's began to take shape and split the sky of Norwich.

James Murphy of Providence had been chosen as the architect of this magnificent gothic church which, as the work progressed, soon revealed that it was to be no ordinary church. The measurements of the church were 200 feet in length and 100 feet across the transept. Monson granite had been selected as the stone, and those with a love for figures would be pleased to know

that 1,600 stones, weighing ten tons each, were part of the construction. Local labor was used insofar as possible, and we are told that a great deal of volunteer effort went into the completion of the majestic structure. Like the Cathedral of Charters, and many of its predecessors, Saint Patrick's was truly a labor of love on the part of its parishioners, and on the part of its priests. The same spirit of sacrifice which had marked the origin, and the progress of what had now become the pride of the Catholics of Norwich, was not absent on the day of the laying of the cornerstone. On that day, the records show, the offerings of the faithful amounted to \$10,000. Father Mullin would not have been a true pastor if he did not sleep the sleep of the just when the sun went down over Norwich on July 13, 1878. Bishop McFarland had returned from Rome by this time, and as listeners have since described the scene, "The beautiful voice of Bishop McFarland was heard that day on Broadway".

Contents of the Cornerstone

Newspapers and periodicals as follows: Boston Pilot, Catholic Almanac, Catholic Directory, Catholic Review, Freeman's Journal, L'Avenir Canadien of Manchester, New Hampshire, Le Foyer Canadien of Worcester, Mass., New York Herald, New York Tablet, Norwich Advertiser of July 12, 1878, Norwich Aurora of July 8, 1878, Norwich Bulletin of July 12, 1878 and the Norwich Courier of July 10, 1878. Also — Cement from the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, a stone from Ireland, United States coins and British coins.

Tragedy Strikes

As it has been said of the place of Father Mullin's birth, "A land without sorrow is a land without memories", so too, Saint Patrick's without sorrow would be a church without memories. It was not given to Father Mullin to behold his dream come true. On March 3, 1878 he was called before the Great High Priest Whom he had held before him as model; his life-work, materially speaking, unfinished. At the time of Father Mullin's death, the church walls and the roof to the ridge-pole had been completed, and this had satisfied Him to Whom he was called to render an account of his stewardship. Popular opinion has it that Father Mullin broke under the strain, but the faith of Father Mullin would put upon what seems his untimely death an altogether interpretation. Father Mullin was not born, and then ordained a priest of God, to complete Saint Patrick's Church. Father Mullin was born, and ordained a priest of God, to build divine life in himself and others. Father Mullin had done just that, and was himself ready to enter into divine life. Father Mullin was buried in Hartford, although the faithful of Norwich had expressed the hope that he might be buried where his priestly touch had been so deeply felt.

Father Shahan Completes St. Patrick's

After Father Mullin's death, the Bishop of Hartford acted quickly. Within two weeks, on March 17, 1878, the Reverend Patrick P. Shahan, who had been pastor at Stafford Springs, was appointed pastor of Saint Mary's Church, Norwich. To him was given the task of completing the work on Saint Patrick's, and bringing it to that point where the desire of Father Mullin would be carried out — that Saint Patrick's Church would be of

such a commanding nature that it could be seen from the Thames River. Father Shahan, once on the scene, rapidly took over. One of his first acts was to incorporate Saint Patrick's Parish according to the laws of the State of Connecticut. This was done on March 26, 1878. Father Mullin's plans for the church were carried out with minor exceptions. Father Mullin had planned to finish the ceiling in wood, but a cheaper and quicker stucco finish, as seen today, was used. The work progressed rapidly, so that on March 16, 1879, the church was ready for the first mass. The floor of the church was not ready, but the faithful knelt and stood on a temporary floor for which privilege, the records show, each willingly offered a dollar.

Dedication

However, the day-of-days for the parishioners of Saint Patrick's came on September 28, 1879, the day on which the church was officially opened and dedicated. It appears to have been an all-day ceremony; the Most Reverend Lawrence McMahan presided, his first official act in the Diocese of Hartford. Cardinal Gibbons preached in the morning; Bishop Shanahan of Harrisburg and Father Fitton, the famous missionary, in the evening.

"Firsts" at Saint Patrick's

The first marriage to take place in the new Saint Patrick's was solemnized on September 29, 1879, the day following the dedication. This ceremony united in marriage Daniel McCormick and Elizabeth O'Donnell, the parents of the Most Reverend Patrick J. McCormick, former Rector of the Catholic University of America and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington. A second marriage took place that same day, between Joseph P. Monahan and Annie Lee.

Thomas Ahern, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ahern of the Jail Hill section, was the first boy to be baptized, and it was of him that the Norwich Bulletin said at that time, "May the boy be first in everything good and last in all that is evil." The first girl baptized was Alice, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Royston. Both of these children are said to have died very young.

The first funeral at Saint Patrick's was that of Mrs. McQuirk which took place on September 28, 1879.

Saint Patrick's Named Parish of Norwich

With the completion and dedication of Saint Patrick's, it was named the sole parish church of Norwich. Old Saint Mary's was closed and remained so until 1881 when it became a Chapel of Ease. In 1898 Saint Mary's was restored to parochial status; and on January 17, 1898, according to the records in the Chancery Office in Hartford, Saint Mary's Parish was incorporated, and then there were two parishes in Norwich.

Father Shahan Continues

Father Shahan now turned his mind to other things. On June 17, 1879, he bought the house and land on the corner of Broadway. In August of the same year this became the rectory and has remained such ever since. Father Shahan then became concerned with the education of the young. As has been mentioned above, the old house on the original church property had been moved to the rear, and with the Sisters of Mercy living therein, it was opened as an academy in September, 1872. In January of 1882, this became a free school.

Father Shahan had already started an intensive drive for a new school building, and his efforts bore fruit for on June 21, 1882, the cornerstone of the new Saint Patrick's School was laid. The school was opened in September, 1883, with 650 pupils and 12 teachers. The cost of the school was \$41,500. In 1904 a building, known as the Blackstone barn, was purchased, remodeled, and became what is now the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy on Perkins Avenue.

The Sisters of Mercy

The history of Saint Patrick's would be meagre, indeed, without some reference to the loyal daughters of Mother McCauley, the Sisters of Mercy, who for eighty-two years have faithfully served the parish. The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy had been founded in Ireland by Mother Catherine McCauley in the year of 1831. The first convent of the order was on Baggot Street in Dublin, and it is at this location where one will find the tomb of Mother McCauley. One of the great spiritual experiences of the present Rector of Saint Patrick's was the reading of one of his first masses near this tomb. This was in 1923 on his return trip to the Hartford Diocese from his ordination at the University of Louvain, Belgium.

In 1872 Father Mullin brought the good sisters here from Hartford, and through all these years the Sisters of Mercy have provided the Mary pattern in the Martha and Mary picture of Saint Patrick's Parish. Through the years, priests and laity have been acclaimed, but the Sisters of Mercy, heroically and silently, have been contributing to the spiritual life of the parish for nearly a century. Theirs was the occupation to draw close to Christ themselves, and, by their example and labors, show others how sweet it was to spend themselves in the service of Christ. If Saint Patrick's has served its purpose in the past, no small credit should go to these unselfish heroines of Christ who have served so well and so unobtrusively. They have been here longer than the Cathedral, but to these gallant Sisters, whose thoughts are on eternity anyway, this comes as only minor praise.

The first superior at Saint Patrick's was Sister Mary Rose Maher, the aunt of Doctor Stephen Maher of New Haven, international authority on tuberculosis. Mother Mary Rose later became Reverend Mother of the Community. Another former teacher at Saint Patrick's, Mother Mary Ethelreda, is the present Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Sisters of Mercy opened an academy in what was the house on the original church property, and this academy was the forerunner of Saint Patrick's Parochial School as we know it today. The present superior of Saint Patrick's Convent is Sister Mary Bride who with Sisters M. Bernard Mary, M. Ellen Francis, M. Margaret Miriam, Miriam Clare, M. Rosanna and M. Rose Miriam make up the present faculty of our parochial school.

To the Sisters of Mercy, living and dead, who have contributed so much to the spiritual growth of our parish, we, at this time, extend our deepest sentiments of gratitude and appreciation. To us, it seems something more than mere coincidence that these good sisters, who through the years have been striving to measure up to

the stature of Christ in their personal lives, are not far apart from Christ in their manner of living. Christ, their model, first saw the light of day in an abandoned stable; the good sisters now reside in what once was a barn.

After Father Shahan

Father Shahan finished his labors at Saint Patrick's on February 1, 1892. He was succeeded by the Reverend Peter Kennedy, who served Saint Patrick's until November 27, 1897. It was during Father Kennedy's pastorate that Sacred Heart of Norwichtown was opened. Father Kennedy's successor was the Reverend Hugh Trainor, and it was under Father Trainor's supervision that a bell was installed in the tower of Saint Patrick's.

The Bells of Saint Patrick's

While through the years the voice of God had been heard from the pulpit of Saint Patrick's, and in the hearts of her faithful parishioners, the voice of God had been strangely silent from Saint Patrick's lofty steeple. In the minds of those who planned Saint Patrick's, the steeple was meant to be functional as well as decorative. Father Shahan had plans for a bell which would announce the joys and sorrows of Catholic hearts, but Father Shahan had to content himself with a temporary bell. However, the situation was remedied in 1900 when, through the generosity of John Byrne, a member of the famous theatrical family known as the "Eight Bells", a huge bell weighing 3,600 pounds was installed in the tower of Saint Patrick's as a memorial to Mr. Byrne's mother. The bell remains today tolling the Angelus, and taking the place of the very voice of God. The bell was fittingly inscribed with a Latin text, the translation of which reads, "For the greater glory of God, and the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of Saint Patrick, the patron of this Church".

During the 1954 renovation, an electric bell ringer was installed at a cost of \$2,000. This is the gift of a member of the Jewish faith, and a friend of Saint Patrick's. With the installation of this automatic bell ringer, the tone of the bell is heard in its full beauty.

Church Consecrated

In 1908 Father Trainor redecorated the church at a cost of \$11,000. This was done in preparation for the next big event in the history of Saint Patrick's; the date on which Saint Patrick's joined the select few of the churches of the Hartford Diocese free of debt, and ready for consecration. The day of consecration September 24, 1911, was another gala one in the history of the now famous church. The Most Reverend John J. Nilan, Bishop of Hartford, presided at the ceremony when twelve stone crosses, signifying a consecrated church, were installed on the walls. The celebrant of the Mass on that day was the Most Reverend Thomas Beaven, a nephew of Father Daniel Kelly, the first resident pastor in Norwich. The preacher for the occasion was the Most Reverend Louis Walsh, Bishop of Portland, Maine. The Reverend Terrence Sheehy, famous Retreat Master, preached at the Vesper Service in the evening.

History Within Our Time

With the transfer of Father Trainor to Waterbury, the Reverend John Broderick assumed charge of Saint

Patrick's. It was during his pastorate, in 1915 and 1916, that two parcels of land on the corner of Broadway and Otis Street was purchased. This property, known as the Pope property, was bought in the name of Daniel T. Shea, and then transferred to the Church, for the sum of \$6,500. The acquisition of these two lots rounded out the church property, giving it an approach without peer.

On June 15, 1921, the Reverend Michael H. May, later to be named a Domestic Prelate by the Holy Father, Pius XI., succeeded Father Broderick. Monsignor May maintained the parish property in a manner worthy of the monumental character of the church, and it was during his pastorate that the fiftieth anniversary of the church was celebrated. Monsignor May died in 1936, at which time the genial Rev. Alexander F. Mitchell became pastor. Father Mitchell made extensive improvements to the church property; the church basement was renovated at a cost of \$42,000; school repairs totaled \$31,000; rectory improvements amounted to \$20,000; repairs to the convent cost \$2,500. It was shortly after Father Mitchell came to Norwich that the 1938 hurricane destroyed the beautiful Saint Patrick's window in the transept of the church, and caused other damages which amounted to \$25,000. Father Mitchell had planned to renovate Saint Patrick's, which was now showing the effects of the years, but his plans were not completed; for, worn out in body and never fully recovering from the heartbreak of the hurricane destruction, he was called to his heavenly home on January 2, 1950.

On the death of Father Mitchell, the Right Reverend John J. Reilly, former curate at Saint Patrick's in the years from 1924 to 1935, and on loan to the Catholic University of America serving as Director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, was recalled by the then Bishop O'Brien of Hartford. His instructions were to renovate the church in preparation for the Diamond Jubilee in 1954. The present pastor, on his return to Norwich in 1950, found the faithful with the same enthusiasm and love for their church which had always been characteristic of the parishioners of Saint Patrick's. Plans for the renovation were immediately placed in motion, and in January of 1953 the actual work was begun.

Details of the Renovation

The architectural firm chosen for the renovation of Saint Patrick's was that of Alfred Reinhardt and Associates of Manchester, Connecticut. Local firms were employed insofar as possible to do the work. Every shingle on the roof, and every stone in the structure, was examined and cared for. Every inch of the interior was examined and plastered, and strengthened where necessary. As the former murals were found to be cracked beyond repair, it was decided to do the walls and ceiling in one tone of gray. Complete new heating and lighting systems were installed. Pews of modern design replaced the old ones, and it was found possible to use the ends from the original pews on the new ones. The entire floor space was tiled with rubber — marble had been considered, but the condition of the old beams did not warrant its use. The galleries were re-

moved, and the choir loft brought down to scale. New confessionals and Stations of the Cross were erected. Screens were added to the sanctuary to give it the cathedral look. The reredos at the main altar, a familiar sight through the years, was found to be in a defective state and had to be removed. The true canons of Christian art were observed when a baldachino was raised over the marble mensa of the old altar. The altars were moved forward and placed so that they would be visible from every angle of the church. Sacristies were refurnished and re-equipped. Oriental rugs were placed in the sanctuary and on the Bishop's throne. The organ, which had been purchased in 1879 from the Cathedral of Buffalo, was rebuilt and a manual added; the work being done by the Skinner Organ Company of Boston. Doors of oak, to replace those of pine, were set up at the entrances. Shrubbery, which had been planned when the church was built, was finally placed at the entrance of the church. The pavilions at the sides of the church were removed so that the height and lines of the church might be enhanced. The school yard was resurfaced to provide parking space for parishioners.

The screen work in the Cathedral was done by the Gothic Studios of New York, the firm which produced the screens in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, New York. Statues and Stations of the Cross were by Robert Robbins, internationally known artist of New York. Lighting fixtures and wrought iron hinges were out of Rambusch Studios of New York.

Throughout the period of renovation, one thought dominated those in charge, namely, that the beautiful lines of the church be preserved, and that the Tabernacle be the focal point of the entire church. The cost of the renovation approximated \$400,000.

The Cathedral of Norwich

In the midst of all the activity of the renovation project, the glorious news reached Norwich on September 2, 1953, that the Diocese of Norwich had been created as a Suffragan to the Archdiocese of Hartford, and that Saint Patrick's had been made the Cathedral of the Norwich Diocese.

Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, named the Rt. Reverend Bernard J. Flanagan, then Chancellor of the Diocese of Burlington, as the first Bishop of Norwich. The work on the renovation was accelerated, and on December 9, 1953, the gracious Bishop Flanagan arrived to be installed as Bishop, and to take possession of his cathedral. This was a never-to-be-forgotten day in the history of Saint Patrick's! There must have been supreme joy in the mansions of heaven occupied by the faithful who through the years had worshipped in Saint Patrick's, and by the priests who had served there. To the everlasting glory of those whose sacrifice in the past had made Saint Patrick's possible, it must be said that the grand church took on the dignity of a Cathedral as if to the manner born. Considerable interest was aroused at the time in an item which appeared in the Norwich Bulletin just fifty years before, under the date line of January 1904, which read, "Hartford Diocese to be divided — Saint Patrick's to be Cathedral". Like a graceful lady, Saint Patrick's had waited patiently through the years to receive the honor. If her stones

could have cried out at the news, undoubtedly they would have said something to the effect, "I felt this coming all the time".

Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Jubilee of this grand church is being celebrated on Tuesday, September 28, 1954, and at this point history leaves off and current events begin. Under the consecrated hand of our beloved Bishop Flanagan, the first Bishop of Norwich, the priests and faithful associated with Saint Patrick's Cathedral find only joy and expectation in the thought of what the future in Christ holds for the church we all so dearly love.

The End is the Beginning

Thus ends the seventy-five years of spiritual activity in the shadows of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. This end, however, should be but the harbinger of bigger things to come. One can not read the story of our development without indulging in a little display of legitimate pride. We hope that today all will be mindful of those heroic laity and priests who, in spite sometimes of prejudiced and even hostile surroundings, kept strong the faith which was given them, and who had the courage, even the effrontery, to build such a church. Comparisons are not always advisable, yet we can't but wonder if such a work could be undertaken today.

Norwich has nothing more outstanding to show at this time than Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Just as in Europe, in the cities of Rheims, Chartres, Amiens and Cologne, the city is never seen completely until the Cathedral has been visited; so today Norwich is not grasped unless Saint Patrick's Cathedral has been understood. Behind these walls there are many heartaches, many sacrifices, many secrets known only to God, but, when a church has done what Saint Patrick's has done — sheltered Divine Life, it's the most beautiful sight your eye can see — "It's the House with Somebody in it".

Catholics of Norwich can hold their heads high during these jubilee days. They have a noble heritage. By following God's holy precepts they have, in a sense, possessed the land. From exiles, and from even the status of the despised, they have risen to a stature and a level worthy of their illustrious heritage, worthy of that priceless thing — Sanctifying Grace, which their forefathers cherished above all else and passed on to them.

On this occasion, then, our only remark, our only advice, our only prayer uttered from the depths of our hearts is this, "Catholics of Norwich be worthy of the glorious heritage which is yours — be bold, be proud, be steadfast, be confident — we have what it takes to be saints!"

Sanctity is the surest sign of aristocracy. May the end of this temporal era be the beginning, if not the continuation, of your spiritual and eternal supremacy.

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Norwich Bulletin
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OUTSTANDING DATES IN THE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

- 1868 — Rev. Daniel Mullin arrives in Norwich to take over the pastorate of St. Mary's Church.
- August 25, 1869 — Appleton Meech property of two acres with 120 feet on Broadway bought by Joseph Connor from Henry Peale for the Church.
- September 2, 1869 — Land in rear of recently purchased Meech property acquired by Church.
- April 4, 1870 — Fifty-foot strip connecting property with Otis Street purchased. House on Meech property moved to the rear to be used as a convent and academy (house presently used as an apartment).
- March 17, 1870 — Mass offered in St. Mary's Church, followed by a procession to the newly acquired site on Broadway where the first sod was turned.
- April 1, 1871 — Good Friday. Excavation for new church begun.
- September 1, 1872 — Academy opened in house which was moved from Broadway site to property in rear.
- July 13, 1873 — Cornerstone laid.
- March 3, 1878 — Father Mullin dies in Hartford.
- March 17, 1878 — Rev. P. P. Shahan appointed pastor of St. Mary's Parish.
- March 26, 1878 — Saint Patrick's incorporated as a parish.
- March 16, 1879 — First Mass celebrated in St. Patrick's Church.
- June 17, 1879 — Land and building, Broadway and Perkins Avenue, purchased for a rectory.
- August, 1879 — Rectory occupied.
- September 28, 1879 — Dedication of St. Patrick's Church. St. Patrick's named parish church of Norwich.
- January 1, 1882 — Academy becomes a free school.
- June 21, 1882 — Cornerstone of St. Patrick's School laid.
- September 3, 1883 — St. Patrick's School opened for classes.
- 1900 — Bell installed in tower of St. Patrick's.
- September, 1904 — Present convent building purchased.
- 1908 — St. Patrick's Church redecorated.
- September 28, 1911 — St. Patrick's Church consecrated.
- 1915 - 1916 — Property Broadway and Otis Street purchased.
- January, 1953 — Renovation of St. Patrick's started in preparation for the Diamond Jubilee.
- September 2, 1953 — St. Patrick's named Cathedral of the new Diocese of Norwich.
- December 9, 1953 — Most Rev. Bernard Joseph Flanagan installed as the first Bishop of Norwich.
- September 28, 1954 — Diamond Jubilee of St. Patrick's.

ASSISTANTS WHO HAVE SERVED SAINT PATRICK'S

Through the years, Saint Patrick's Church never could have accomplished the work it set out to do, if it had not been blessed by devoted assistants as well as pastors. This, we hope, is a complete list of those assistants who were appointed to Saint Patrick's. (Listed in order chronologically.)

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 Mrs. Ellen Mahoney)

Honorable Edward G. Moran
 Mrs. Joseph Drew (in memory of
 Patrick and Elizabeth Fitzgerald)
 William O'Neil, Jr.
 Rita and Mary Powers (in memory of
 Laura Foley)
 Mrs. Witter K. Tingley (in memory
 of John Tingley)
 John Ward (in memory of
 Mrs. John Ward)
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wheeler and
 Mr. William Sample

