

THE PARISH COMMUNITY  
OF ST. PATRICK  
HUBBARD, OHIO

OUR FAMILY TREE 1865-1972

As we parishioners of St. Patrick's church, drawn by the love of Christ into worship of Him, gather at Mass, we cannot help but remember that the events of one hundred and seven year history and the work of many people lie behind this moment. The shadows of men like Father O'Callaghan, Father Drohan, and Father Maloney, and women like Sister Zita, Sister Clotilda, and Sister Fidelis seem to walk in the light breaking through the faceted windows. Our thoughts revert to events our parents have told us of and what we ourselves have witnessed: the sadness when the doors of the old school were closed during the financial crisis of the 1890's, the joy when the bell of the old church was hung high in the square tower of the new church in 1908, the solemn and proud hush that fell over the church when the bells pealed for the pontifical Mass on May 14, 1967. Among these disjointed and tumbling memories, however, comes one common theme, one recurring idea; it was Christ who made this possible, it was he who brought us together—both then and now. His Spirit had moved the devout Catholics of Hubbard to make that first move toward religious community back in 1865...that Spirit has guided the church in Hubbard for more than a century...and He will be the impetus that will make us work together even more productively in the long history that is to come. We remember, then, that Christ brought us together, with Christ we live together, and Christ will keep us together.

The story of St. Patrick's parish begins in 1865 when a group of Catholics, mostly of Irish and German background, a group including Michael Pigott, Daniel Moss, George Young, Leopold Lumpp, Patrick Heffernon, Michael Mugent, and John Clancey, persuaded Father Eugene O'Callaghan, pastor of St. Columba's parish in Youngstown since 1861, to take Hubbard as a "station". Father O'Callaghan, a ranging six foot tall man with a dark beard and piercing eyes, had only been in America since 1847, but in those years he had graduated from a new little college in northern Indiana called Notre Dame, had attended St. Mary's seminary in Cleveland, and had been ordained in the priesthood in 1859. While pastor of St. Columba's Father O'Callaghan was in charge of three missions and many stations, for he was the only priest within fifty miles of Youngstown. He used to walk or ride horseback from Youngstown to Hubbard to say Mass in the home of Mr. Pigott, at the corner of what is now Henry Street and north Main (in the old Kelly home). When Father O'Callaghan made his trips to Hubbard, he often stayed at the home of Nicholas Donie.

The community of Hubbard that Father O'Callaghan would have seen then would hardly be recognized as the same place by its inhabitants today. What had been little more than a country crossroads had grown rapidly in the years following 1861, when good quality coal from the Jackson, Veach, and Burnett banks to the east of Hubbard (in what is now roughly the Hubbard Estates area) began to be mined in quantity. Many Irish

people had come to Hubbard to work in the mines, particularly from the Pittsburgh and Johnstown districts of Pennsylvania at the time of the construction of the Ohio and Pennsylvania canal. In fact, there was even talk in 1865 that Hubbard might soon grow large enough to be incorporated as a village (a fact that was to become reality in 1868). Hubbard was not only growing in population, but homes were being built, businesses were opening, four churches were in operation, a high school was being talked about. The center of business activity was further to the north than it now is, roughly near the railroad crossing, but much of Hubbard still presented a rural look as Father O'Callaghan, Mr. Pigott, and Leopold Lumppp, a bootmaker, ranged around the area looking for a possible site for a church building, for the Catholics of Hubbard were anxious to have a church established. The opportunity came in January, 1866, when a Mr. Davis agreed to sell a lot on Main Street near Park Avenue (where now the Pennzoil gas station stands) for \$165. The deed was signed in Mr. Lumppp's boot shop on the northeast corner of Main and Park, and the decision was made that the church be put under the patronage of the patron saint of Ireland and be named St. Patrick's.

As the dream became more tangible, Catholics of Hubbard worked together, literally and figuratively, to see it to completion. Michael O'Brien, Michael Mugent, John Clancey, and Leopold Lumppp went to work laying the foundation for the fifty foot long building. In July, 1867, a payment of \$1700 was made for the closing in of the wooden building. During the fall and winter of 1867, the congregation heard Mass in an unfinished church—the people kneeling on scantling or fence boards laid across the bare interior and sitting on window sills at homily time. A carpenter bench served as the altar, a stove pipe stuck crazily out the side of the building, and the chimney was unfinished, so the congregation could look up and see sky through the roof—or feel rain or snow on their heads. In May, 1868, Father O'Callaghan, pressed by increasing work at St. Columba's and preparing for a trip to the First Vatican Council in November, 1868, called upon Father Edward Conway, pastor of the Warren church, to take Hubbard as a mission. Before March, 1869, when Father Conway left, the congregation had raised \$290 on a fair, and with those proceeds had plastered the interior of St. Patrick's and bought pews. Mrs. Lumppp, Mrs. Holzbach, and Mrs. John Mock, like dedicated Altar and Rosary society members today, had taken upon themselves the task of “decorating” the church, hanging their own bed sheets on the wall behind the altar.

Father Peter Baker served the Hubbard church from 1869 to late summer, 1870. He bought statues for the parish, the money for them collected by men like Martin Washington and Leopold Lumppp, who covered the area as far as Wheatland asking for donations. It was in Father Baker's time that parish records begin. The first baptism recorded was for Margaret Snyder, on March 17, 1869, a happy and fortunate date for a church dedicated to the Irish saint. Interestingly, the sponsors of that first baptism, Martin Schidell and Elizabeth Schmidt, were the first couple married, according to St. Patrick's records.

The summer of 1870 initiated a new phase of the growth of the pilgrim church in Hubbard, for a series of firsts occurred during this period which began when Father John Schaffeld, the first resident priest in Hubbard, came. In the fall of 1870 Father Schaffeld

bought from Hiram Bell a lot on Main Street for \$200, on which a rectory would be built in 1871 for \$2250. During 1870 the sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary order from nearby Bedford, Pennsylvania, having come from France only fifteen years before, accepted St. Patrick's as their third teaching assignment in America. The school, only two rooms then, stood near the church, facing Main Street, on a lot which the church had purchased from James Johnson. Outside was a dirt playground, close to the building a buckeye tree made for climbing, and inside each room were pot-bellied stoves, polished to gleaming perfection by the students. By today's standards, the rooms were bare, but the seats were filled with children chanting their spelling or arithmetic facts and getting with enthusiasm a Christ-centered education. And just as parents today come to Home and School meetings, so the parents in the 1870's came "to school" for plays and programs, which were held in the schoolrooms. The nuns were housed for a short time after they began teaching in Hubbard at the Hopes house, close to the church, but later, property on Park Avenue (now the home of Joseph Patrick) was purchased for their convent.

Father Schaffeld turned his attention during the early 1870's to two other vital concerns: the need for a larger church and a parish cemetery. Three and a quarter acres of land were bought from J. Lydee and A. Cowdrey for St. Patrick's cemetery in July, 1872, and in 1873 an addition to the church was built under the direction of carpenter George Vogel. William Schaffeld, Father Schaffeld's brother, built the new altar for the enlarged church. It was truly a proud congregation in 1873 which saw Rt. Rev. Bishop Edward Gilmour of Cleveland dedicate the church formally. At the first Mass there, the choir from St. Columba's in Youngstown sang. Two years later, a bell, bought for \$407 and inscribed with names like Pigott, Weitz, Killeen, McAvey, Buck, Holway, Fox, and Lumpp, was hung. Truly, Father Schaffeld's pastorate, which ended in 1889. Had seen many changes and growth in the little parish in Hubbard.

The decade between 1880 and 1889 saw four pastors serve: Father John Klute (under whose direction an ell providing a third room for the school was added), pastor until 1883; Father Nicholas Pfeil from 1883 to 1884; Father Felix Scullin, a financial wizard who left Hubbard in 1889 after a five year pastorate to supervise the building of the church in Niles; and Father J. J. Clarke, whose ill health made his stay in Hubbard a brief one.

Only twenty five years had passed, but the spirit which had moved Catholics of Hubbard was strong and progressive. A new pastor, Father Nicholas Drohan, coming to Hubbard from the pastorate of the church in Wellsville, Ohio, took charge of the parish on July 4, 1889. He was to be in Hubbard for twenty three years of progress and activity. The improvements and changes Father Drohan made were many. In 1891 he put flag sidewalks in front of the church and school, the first walks to be laid on Main Street in Hubbard. Father Drohan had a special interest in education. He himself took on the duties of teacher of the school in 1893-4 when the financial panic forced the church to relinquish the duties of the nuns, at a time when Father Drohan reported that the parish was in "terrible financial shape". Assisted by Misses Pigott and Duffy and Messrs. Smith and O'Brien, Father Drohan managed the arduous task of teaching as well as worrying

over the financial condition of the parish and citizens, was anew and larger church, and to that end he devoted his time and energy. One of his money-making projects was a complete history of Hubbard, a valuable source of information today about the early community. Considering that the parish census totaled only sixty five Catholic families in 1900, Father Drohan was able to embark on a building fund drive and see the fulfillment of his and his parishioners' dream. The yellow brick, Gothic style church rose in 1908 on a lot at the corner of Main and Water Streets donated by the Weitz family. The church was dedicated in 1909 by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Kodelka of the Diocese of Cleveland, and the sermon at the dedicated Mass was preached by Father Powers of Steubenville.

Father John Maloney, who succeeded Father Drohan as pastor, was equally energetic. The sixteen years of his pastorate fell partly during the dark days of the first World War and the flu epidemic of 1918, when the Blue Nuns both nursed and taught, and when Father Maloney was the spiritual guide of the parish during the dangerous time of the increased Klan activity in the area. During his pastorate two valuable additions to church holdings were made: a new brick five room school, facing on Water Street, was opened in 1915, and a yellow brick rectory next to the church on Main Street was completed in 1920. The frame church, which had stood deserted for more than ten years, was used as a theater for a short time, but in 1922 the church sold the old church, school, and Park Avenue convent for business and residential property to Joseph Ewings and Joseph Patrick. The church was eventually razed to make way for a garage, although some of the wood in the first church was used in the building of three homes on East Park Avenue. After the convent property on Park was sold to Mr. Patrick, Father Maloney moved in to the new rectory, and the nuns moved to the old rectory on Main Street. The center of parish activity (church, school, rectory, and convent) had simply moved from the west side of Main Street to the east, as it now is.

It became obvious during the pastorate of Father Aloysius Suter (1928-1930) that Hubbard's church, growing in both numbers and activities, needed the help of an assistant. To Father John Schaeffer, assigned from 1928-1930, belongs the honor of the first assistant, and since that time there has always been at least one assistant at St. Patrick's. Rev. John Toole, assistant from 1932 to 1945, was the only assistant to return as pastor, Father Toole being made pastor in 1952, exactly twenty years after he came here as assistant.

The list of pastors from 1930 to the present is both familiar and loved. Who can forget Father John Carrabine's interest in the physical fitness of the school children, an interest that lead him to march the children up the undeveloped Water Street in marching lines daily? It was Father Carrabine too who initiated the practice of having school "variety shows", held in the church basement, the stage area being then where the kitchen of the Youth Center Lounge now is. All the school children participated, and many today remember either performing in them or being part of an appreciative audience. These were the "depression days", when money was scarce and spirits were low. Many men desperate for work were helped during this time by the Blue Nuns, who found jobs for them to do in the fields at Bedford. Father William Haggerty (pastor from 1937 to 1938)

came to a parish that was numbering then over 600 families, and Father James Brennan (1938-1943) directed the parish during the chaotic and despairing days of the beginning of the second World War, when uniformed soldiers were a common sight at Mass and when a priest's counsel and sympathy were needed. In 1943, when Rev. William E Degan came to Hubbard as pastor, the diocese of Youngstown was created. Bishop James McFadden, whose motto was "in all things, charity", was our first Bishop. One of the first two young men ordained by Bishop McFadden, Father Ralph Friedrich, came to Hubbard as an assistant in 1946.

When Father Robert G. Moorhead took charge of the parish in 1946, the war was over, and life in Hubbard resumed a more normal status. Both the community and the church were experiencing a steady growth and development, but it was not until the last 1940's and early 1950's that it became obvious that the "baby boom" of the post-war years was making the five room school totally inadequate. The old school had many problems that had to be contended with besides a lack of space. There are few parishioners who attended then who do not remember the billowing smoke from the furnace that managed to infiltrate the rooms at the most inopportune times, or the lack of office space for any of the nuns. Being sent "to the office" then meant facing not only the principal, but the jeering eyes of the big eighth graders! During the pastorate of Father John Toole (1952-1970), in 1953, an eight room addition to the school was erected to the east of the old school. With increased enrollment (school population jumped from 279 in 1952 to 820 in 1962) came an increasing need for faculty, and seven years later, in 1960, made possible through the generosity of the people and the leadership of Father Toole, a large brick convent capable of housing fourteen nuns became a reality.

The decades of the sixties seem to be blessed in St. Patrick's church history with special accomplishment and favor. Like their sturdy predecessors of the 1860's who dreamed of a church building adequate for their needs, the attention of the 1600 families which in the 1960's composed the parish turned to the need for a larger church. Msgr. John Toole, having been honored in 1961 by Pope John XXIII by receiving the title of Domestic Prelate, led his assistants and parish in a building fund drive that resulted in the building of the spacious church that is now the home of Hubbard Catholics. On December 12, 1966, Bishop James Malone laid the cornerstone for the new building, and on January 30, 1967, Msgr. J. Paul O'Connor consecrated the altars. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Saturday, February 25, 1967.

St. Patrick's Church, beautiful in its simplicity, stands as a tangible reminder that working under the guidance of God, man can accomplish much. Surely, if Father Drohan or Father Schaffeld could hear Mass with us today, if Nicholas Donie or Leopold Lumppe could see the varied activities of the parish, if Sister Verona or Father Carrabine could be with the happy children in the new, well-equipped Youth Center, they would be the first to agree that Christ alone is the force that brings men together and it is He who has made and will make all things possible.

When Father Eugene O'Callaghan, the pioneer priest of Hubbard Catholics, died in Cleveland, he requested that no tombstone be erected on his grave, but instead, his financial assets be used to establish a boy's home in Cleveland. That home, St. Anthony's Home for Boys on Detroit Avenue, is still flourishing today. In lieu of a monument, friends of Father O'Callaghan planted a tree on the Irish Priest's grave. That tree has sunk its roots deep into the soil and has towered and spread. Like that tree, the Church he founded in Hubbard has also sunk its roots into the community and has grown proudly and well with the passing years of St. Patrick's history.