

Dedication October 29, 1967



St. Joseph's Church
Ferndale, Washington



MOST REVEREND
THOMAS A. CONNOLLY, D.D., J.C.D.
ARCHBISHOP OF SEATTLE



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE
907 TERRY AVENUE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98104
October 9, 1967

Rev. John O'Sullivan
St. Joseph's Rectory
Ferndale
Washington

Dear Father O'Sullivan:

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity of extending my sincere felicitations and, through your good offices, to your generous-hearted parishioners. Your combined zealous and energetic efforts are responsible for the dedication of this new Church and Rectory.

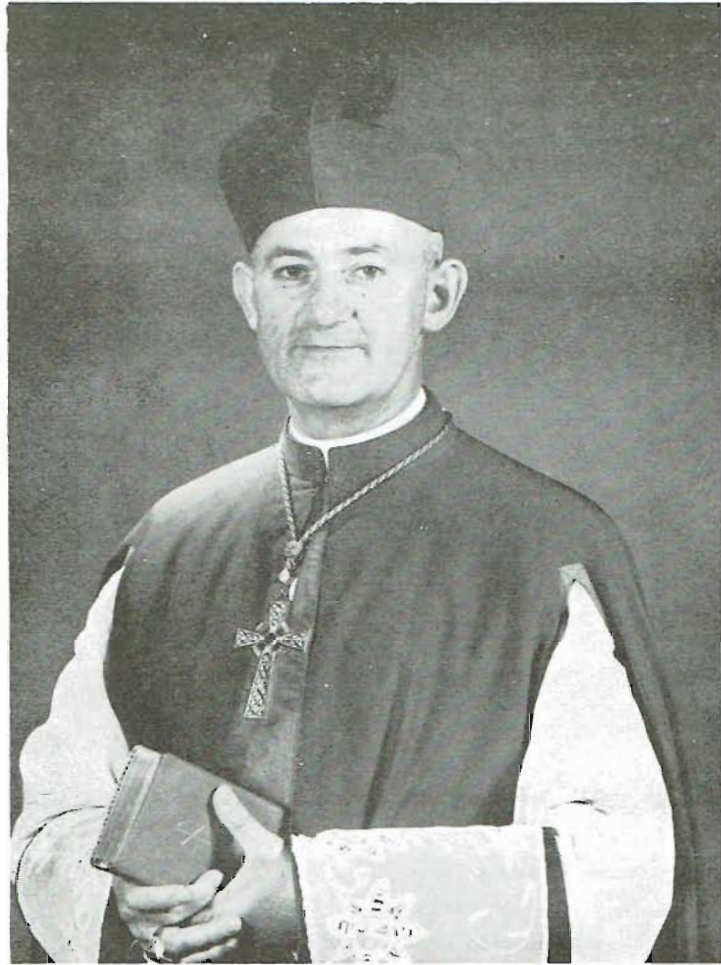
The erection of this new plant to the honor and glory of Almighty God and for the religious education of your children is at once a tribute to the indefatigable zeal of an energetic pastor, as it is a manifestation of the vibrant faith of a self-sacrificing people. It is a pledge and a promise of a fuller and finer Christian life in all who shall avail themselves of its facilities in generations to come.

The pastor and parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish have every reason to be happy and proud of this glorious achievement and I welcome the opportunity to rejoice with them on this historic occasion.

Praying every blessing upon you and with every best wish
I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Thomas A. Connolly
Archbishop of Seattle



MOST REVEREND
THOMAS E. GILL, D.D., V.G.
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SEATTLE

In Grateful Appreciation

to Almighty God for His many blessings. For allowing us to have such a beautiful sacred edifice devoted to His service, in which we can approach His Holy Altar, offer to Him the homage of our adoration, assist at the Holy Sacrifice, hear His Divine word preached to us, and receive the graces and blessings of His Sacraments.

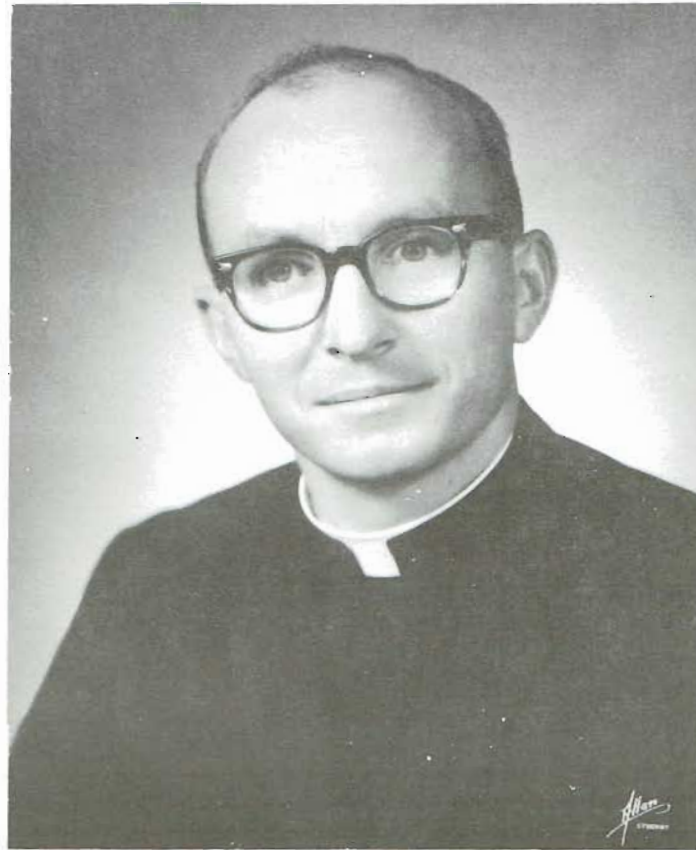
To those builders for God, the loyal, devoted and generous parishioners, go my sincere congratulations. This is indeed your day - a day you have made possible. It is a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving. It is the day on which your dream has come true.

To Our Spiritual Father - our Archbishop - we are most grateful to you for your guidance, advice and help.

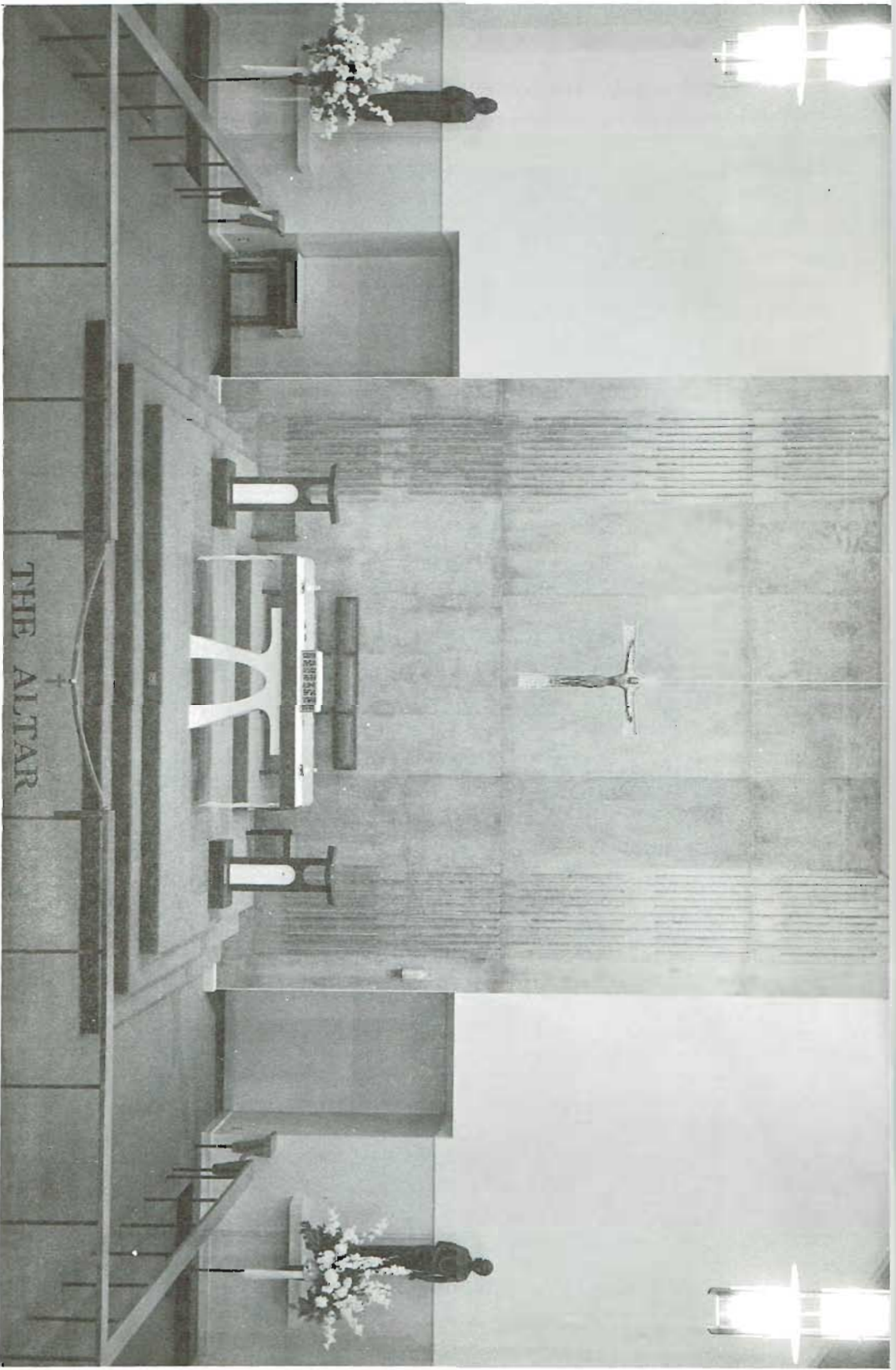
To the architect - Harry E. Botesch, the contractor - Ed Schmidt, the construction engineers and sub-contractors, thank you all for a job well done.

These buildings will provide the opportunities and the means for spiritual growth and development. I trust that in God's Providence they will serve as aids to worship, for the Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.

Father John O'Sullivan, Pastor



REV. JOHN O'SULLIVAN



Historical Sketch of Parish

When His Excellency, Archbishop Thomas A. Connolly, dedicates the new, modern church of St. Joseph's, Ferndale, Sunday, Oct. 29, he will be writing a new chapter in the spiritual growth of an area that has been a seed-bed for Catholicity in the Pacific Northwest for more than a century.

Originally a mission established to serve the Lummi and other Indian tribes in the area, its first "pastor" was the intrepid Oblate missionary, Father Casimer Chirouse. Father Chirouse is reputed to have been the first priest to be ordained in the present state of Washington. He received Holy Orders from Bishop A. M. A. Blanchet in the latter's little-more-than-a-hut episcopal residence in Walla Walla. So lacking in pomp and pageantry was this solemn occasion that Bishop Blanchet had to borrow a nightshirt from an obliging layman to serve as Father Chirouse's ordination alb.

The Oblate priest and his co-missionaries labored at Ferndale until 1878 when they left the then Nesqually Diocese for British Columbia, ending a period of two decades of preaching the Gospel and teaching the Indian. Some 30 years later, the Oblates were invited to return, not to minister to the Indians of the diocese, but to shepherd some of the established parishes.

The departure of Father Chirouse left the Ferndale area without a priest. Seven pioneer families banded together to respectfully request the bishop appoint a priest to minister to them. The choice fell to Father John Baptist Boulet who was named first official pastor of St. Joseph's when the establishment of the parish was formalized.

Father Boulet, like Father Chirouse deserves a volume of history to himself. A layman, he labored shoulder-to-shoulder with the missionaries working among the Indians before he began study for Holy Orders. He knew the Indian mind and culture well.

Taking up his new duties, Father Boulet brought with him a small - but effective - printing press. On this, printing in both Snohomish and English languages, he turned out a monthly magazine for the Indian children called "The Youth's Companion."

So able was Father Boulet in his transactions with the Indians and, so trusted by them, that he was named the first director of the newly organized Catholic Bureau of Indian Affairs, an agency that continues to function in matters of Indian missions and welfare.

more Historical Sketch

The first St. Joseph's was built on the banks of the Nooksack River. Previously, Mass had been celebrated in a building provided by Bernard N. McDonough, a Dublin Irishman who had served in the Civil War. After being mustered out of the service he had returned to the West and opened a trading post on the Lummi reservation. Both he and his wife were staunch in their faith and helped instruct the Indians in the tenets of Catholicity.

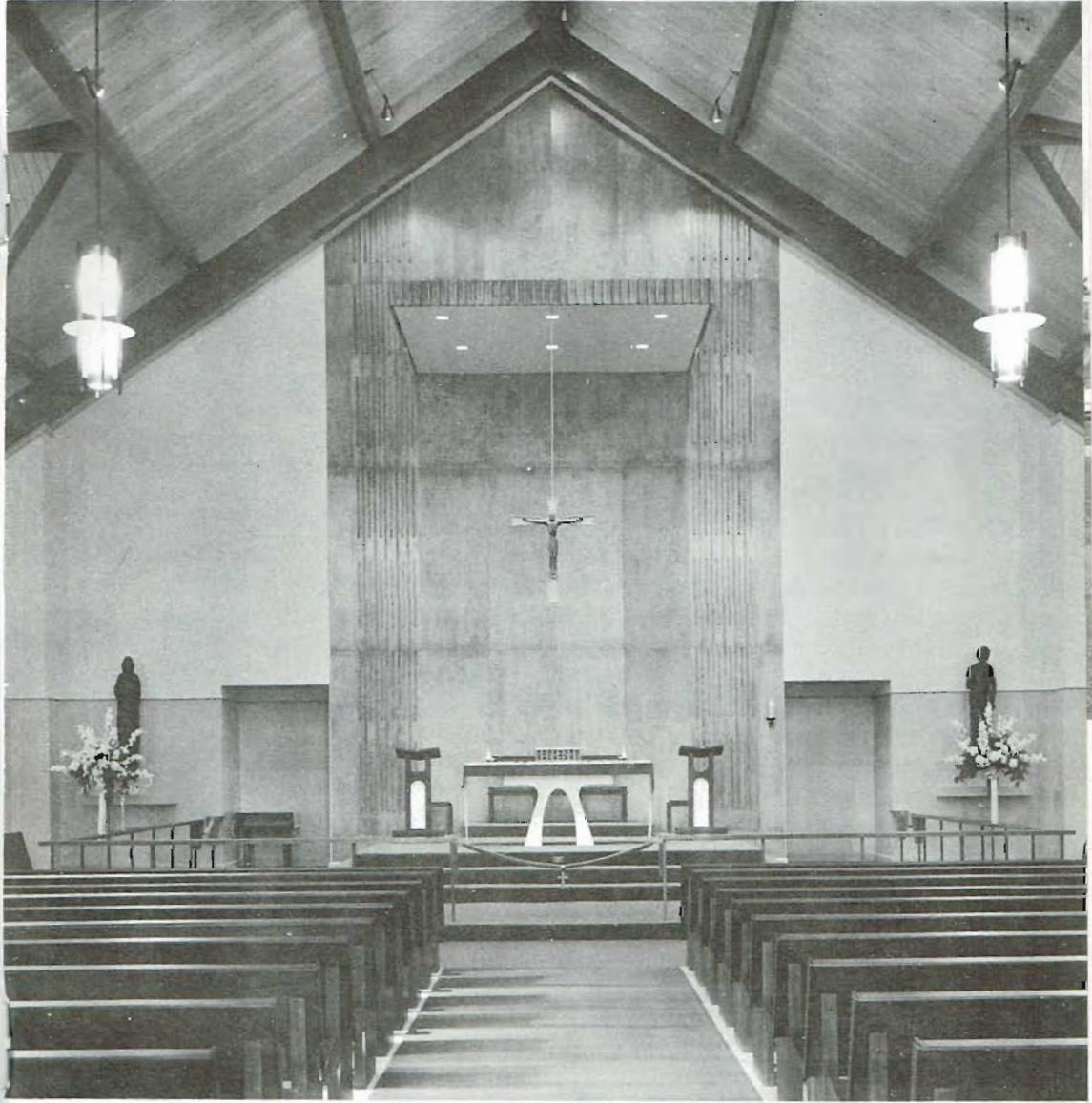
The church was moved to its present site on Third Street, Ferndale, in 1900. It was dedicated by Bishop John O'Dea on September 23, 1900. Over the period of years it has been enlarged and redecorated several times until the present new building was constructed.

Father Boulet is buried in the "Priests' Plot" in Calvary Cemetery, Seattle, while Father Chirouse, who is believed to have died about 1890, is reputed to have been buried on the banks of a river in British Columbia near the Indians he loved so well.

Over the years, St. Joseph's, Ferndale, has had several missions attached to it. It continues its work among the Indians through its St. Joachim mission on the Lummi reservation. St. Anne's, at Blaine, is also a mission attached to the Ferndale parent church.

Over the years a number of diocesan priests have served the parish, finding the faithful cooperative and staunch. Over the past two decades, its pastors have been Father James Buck, now at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Seattle, who was at Ferndale from 1949 to 1954; Father Joseph Dakin, currently at St. Joseph's, Chehalis, who was pastor from 1954 to 1964; and the current pastor, Father John O'Sullivan who is entering the third year of his pastorate.

Other pastors at St. Joseph's who are now serving in appointments elsewhere in the archdiocese are: Msgr. Michael O'Callaghan, St. Edward's; Father Martin Duggan, Holy Cross, Tacoma; Father Robert Dillon, St. James, Vancouver; Father William Greier, Queen of Heaven, Tacoma; Father William J. O'Brien, All Saints' Church, Puyallup; Father Donald Conger, Holy Family, Kirkland; and Father Kevin Coyle, St. Mary's, Marysville.



CHURCH INTERIOR

The New . . .

The new church and rectory of St. Joseph's parish, Ferndale, have combined the functional, and traditional to provide the congregation with both the spiritual climate and physical comfort conducive to worship.

The Church construction is of reinforced concrete with brick veneer finish. The roof system is composition shingles over insulation, and roof decking. The front, or east, facade shows a high Roman tower to the left side and, at the center over the main entrance, a large ceramic portraying St. Joseph. The bronze window heads are circular, with free-form colored cathedral glass.

The Baptistry has a wrought iron gate set with glass jeweled tears, fishes, and water surrounded in bronze shapes. The wall separating the Narthex from the Nave is a natural wood screen set with colored plastic glass and solid panels.

The Nave forms a cruciform, the main Nave seating 364 and the side Naves seating 112 each, for a total capacity of 588.

The light fixtures are bronze with jeweled reflections. Carpeting in green tones covers the Sanctuary.

The interior appointments were done by Sorger Church Interiors, Vancouver, Washington.

The Old . . .

But still classic trim lines will always hold a place in the affections of its parishioners.

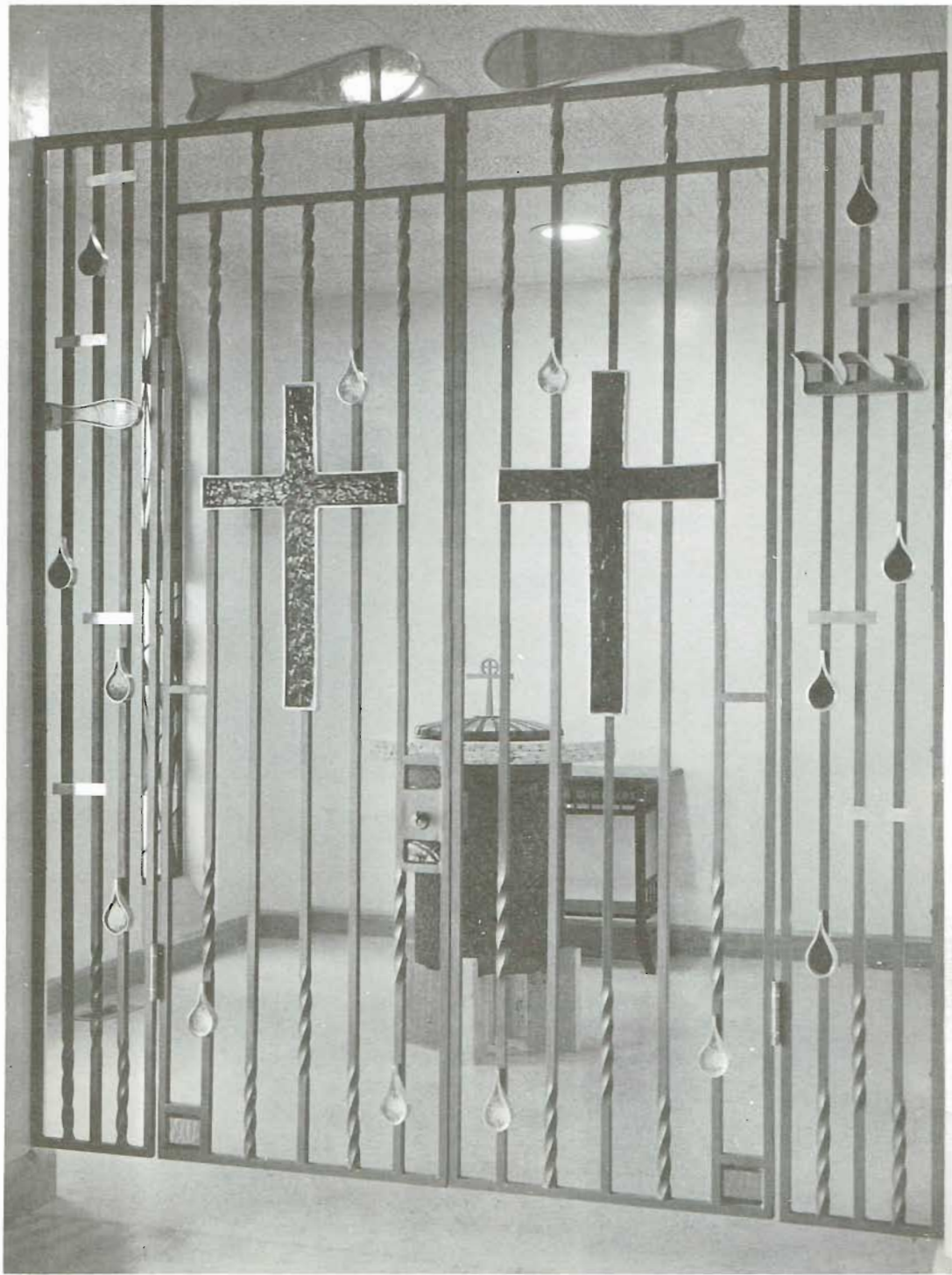




THE RECTORY

Memorial Gifts

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Baker, Mr. Thomas	Harksell, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Brownrigg, Mr. & Mrs. Howard	Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle
Bryant, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur	Imhof, Mr. & Mrs. Frank
Burgler, Mrs. Mary	Imhof, Mr. & Mrs. John
Dittman, Dr. & Mrs. John	Iverson, Mr. & Mrs. Leo
Donnellan, Mr. & Mrs. Frank	Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Ebe, Mr. & Mrs. Aloys	Levien, Mrs. Carl
Ebe, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard	Reilly, Mr. & Mrs. George
Ebe, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar	Reynolds, Mrs. Beatrice
Flaherty, Mr. & Mrs. Dennie	Sanders, Mrs. Leo
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