

OUR LADY
OF FATIMA

40th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
1948 - 1988



Our Lady of Fatima Church

OUR LADY OF FATIMA
New Castle, Delaware

Fortieth Anniversary Dinner

Welcome: Vy. Rev. Stanley J. Russell

Invocation: Vy. Rev. Stanley J. Russell

Dinner

Introduction of Guests: Ron Albence

History of Our Lady of Fatima

Program

A blend of music and memories conducted
by Pat Maley, Tony Romano and our Folk Group



History of Our Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima Parish dates back to August 5, 1948, on land donated to the Diocese of Wilmington by the Stahl family.

Rev. Edmund J. McDonough was named first pastor of the new parish of 300 families. The first Mass was celebrated in August 1948, in the Wilmington Manor Civic Hall. By February 1949 a new parish church and hall were completed - this same building is now known as Fr. McDonough Hall.

In the beginning of our parish, Fr. McDonough had interested men and women of the parish to form the Holy Name and the Blessed Mother Sodality. It is with these two organizations that the parish life grew with many groups to serve our people, such as, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, C.Y.O., Youth Groups, C.C.D., Home and School, Parish Council and Liturgy. It is through all of these organizations that we have enriched and enlarged our parish life.

The first class of the new parish school was opened in September 1949, in the parish rectory by Benedictine Sisters. There were 35 first and second graders. The sisters commuted daily from Sacred Heart Convent in Wilmington. By 1953 the first convent, a converted motel on DuPont Hwy, was purchased. In 1959 a new convent was completed and dedicated on the parish grounds. Since 1975 the convent has been used as a semi-retirement home for the Franciscan Sisters of Glen Riddle, PA.

Our school now has an enrollment of 532 students, and 28 lay teachers and aides, 18 classrooms, a library and a multi-purpose hall.

There are those of us who remember our humble parish beginning. Through the years we have built three churches, a two story school building and a convent.

You sure have come a long way Fatima!

Pastors at Our Lady of Fatima

Rev. Edmund McDonough (1948-1952)
Mgr. Roderick B. Dwyer (1952-1961)
Mgr. Francis J. Desmond (1961-1967)
Rev. Leo F. Montgomery (1967-1972)
Vy. Rev. John F. O'Brien (1972-1982)
Vy. Rev. Stanley J. Russell (1982-94)