

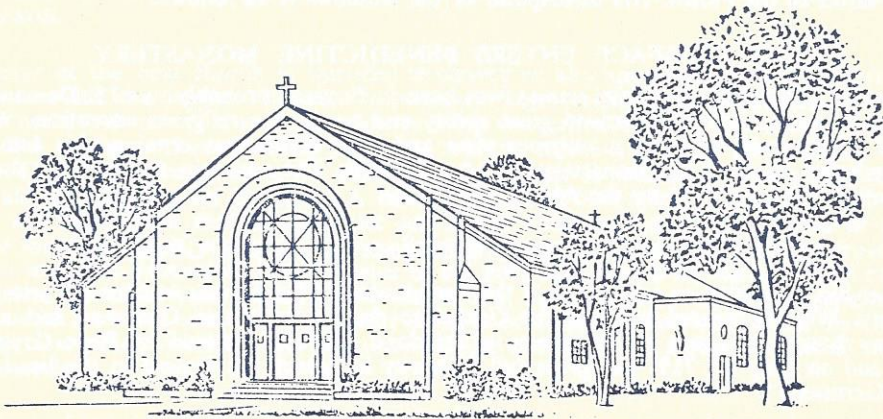
SOUVENIR

THE SOLEMN DEDICATION

Church of Saint Boniface Martyr

SEA CLIFF, NEW YORK

MAY 3, 1964



HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REVEREND WALTER P. KELLENBERG, D.D.
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PONTIFICATING

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REVEREND VINCENT J. BALDWIN, S.T.D., V.G.
AUXILIARY TO THE BISHOP OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PREACHER

REVEREND JOHN J. FEE
PASTOR

The Architect's Description Of The New Church

The new church building we dedicate today replaces the old St. Boniface Martyr Church which stood for more than sixty years on the same site. Much local affection was held for the old church which had become a landmark in town. However, time had run its course and parish growth demanded an enlarged, more up-to-date church. In the demolition of the old St. Boniface, Father Fee hoped that something of the original building might be incorporated in the new design. The original church bell atop the front facade of the old church was in excellent condition and would provide auditory as well as visual memories of the former place of worship. To bridge this old and new, the old bell has been placed in the new free standing bell tower, and has been made automatic, with clock and manual controls inside the new church.

The design of the new St. Boniface Church is of a simplified Romanesque with contemporary feeling. This design is typified by the large entrance arch of limestone, the slate roof and the circular head windows in the nave and transepts. The short walls of the transepts, facing Glen Avenue, carry carved limestone statues; one of the Patron of the Parish, and the other of the Patron of the Diocese. Bishop Kellenberg's Episcopal Seal graces the Carpenter Avenue entrance to the Church.

St. Boniface Martyr is the Patron Saint of Germany and because he destroyed the Pagans' sacred oak tree, oak leaves and acorns are symbolic of him and are found in most German churches. Except for the roof spans, we have designed all the nave woodwork of oak including the church doors. The Communion rail and sanctuary wood work is of walnut to set it off from the rest of the church. An oak leaf and acorn design has been incorporated in the Communion rail, the votive stands, the lectern and the speaker grilles.

The eight windows in the transepts depict scenes from the life of St. Boniface Martyr. The stained glass designer conducted extensive research in Germany to produce historically accurate events from the life of the Patron of the Parish. His description of the windows is as follows:

"ST. BONIFACE ENTERS BENEDICTINE MONASTERY.

Winfrid (the saint's baptismal name) was born in England probably in 675. Descended from a noble family, he showed great ability and received a religious education. Winfrid felt himself called to a religious state and after difficulties obtained his father's permission to enter the monastery of Adescanastre. The scene in the window shows Winfrid being received by the Abbot Wolfhard.

"ST. BONIFACE SENT TO GERMANY BY POPE GREGORY

After his profession as a member of the Benedictine Order he was ordained a priest at thirty. Winfrid wanted to bring the Gospel to the old Saxons in Germany and after many honors at home and missions in Friesland, he was received by Pope Gregory II, and on May 15, 719, was given full authority to preach the Gospel to the heathens in Germany.

"ST. BONIFACE BAPTISING.

Following the Pope's instructions, he traveled throughout Germany and, even in sections considered Christian by Rome, he found sad conditions. Great numbers had lapsed into heathenism. He traveled about with tireless energy, preaching fearlessly and baptizing as he went.

"ST. BONIFACE CONSECRATED BISHOP.

Winfrid, after the years of missionary work in Germany, sent one of his disciples with a letter to Rome recounting his labors and asking further directions. Pope Gregory summoned him to Rome and consecrated him a regional bishop with the name, Boniface. He was sent back to Germany. He administered the Sacrament of Confirmation everywhere and continued his missionary work.

"ST. BONIFACE CUTTING DOWN THE SACRED OAK.

To show the heathens how utterly powerless their gods were, Boniface felled the oak sacred to the thunder god, Thor. He had a chapel built out of the wood. The heathens were astonished that no thunderbolt from the hand of Thor destroyed the offender and many were converted.

"ST. BONIFACE BUILDS A CHURCH.

The number of the faithful increased, including many of the nobility and the educated of the country. These assisted him in the building of churches and chapels. Boniface took care to have institutions in which religious life could be fostered.

ST. BONIFACE DEDICATES MONASTERY IN FULDA

Pope Gregory II died and was succeeded by Gregory III who congratulated Boniface and in recognition sent him the pallium, making him an Archbishop. St. Boniface built many other churches and monasteries notably the great Monastery of Fulda which had been established under his supervision by St. Sturm. It was to this monastery that Boniface went every year to train the monks. And it was this monastery too, which became his last resting place. The window shows the dedication ceremony and the installation of Abbot Sturinius.

ST. BONIFACE'S MARTYRDOM

On June 5th, the day before Pentecost, Boniface prepared to give the converts the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since there was not enough room in the church, he decided to give Confirmation in an open field. Tents were erected and while St. Boniface was waiting "for the converts a band of wild heathens from Friesland came out of the forest and massacred him and 52 of his companions. He held the book with the Gospels to his chest to the last. He was 70 years old."

The stained glass windows in nave illustrate four of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and the large entrance rose window depicts the fifth; the Coronation of the Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The interior of the new church is intended to convey an airy appearance which is achieved largely by the generous width and height. The nave is purposely kept simple in order to draw attention to the sanctuary. To make best use of the site, a wide building was called for, and the laminated timber arches supporting the roof permit enclosure of the space without columns or other obstructions. The church will seat 900. The attic space serves as an accoustical treatment as well as a source of distribution of heat, chilled air, and lighting for the nave. A decorative line of blue spines down the center of the ceiling leads the eye to the blue roof of the tester and to the visual and devotional center of the church; the altar. The sanctuary itself curves and the wall tones deepen as the high altar is approached; all to draw attention to and to accentuate the brilliance of the gold background for the altar and crucifix. The priest approaches the altar from behind the dossal so that the sanctuary wall is uninterrupted by doors and distractions of the usual sort. The main altar front is of a red Levanto marble and has inscribed on it a book and knife, which symbolize the martyrdom of St. Boniface. The table stones of all the altars are of Botticino marble.

The designs of the side altars are simple, with the textured plaster walls behind having carved wood statues mounted thereon. Each side altar has a devotional votive stand in front of it. The catenary and post separates each of the side altars from the main sanctuary..

The original pipe organ from the demolished church was removed before demolition and stored. It now has been more than doubled in size and completely renovated. The new church has this fine instrument installed and parishioners will enjoy it for the life of the new building.

The parish was able to purchase some desired quality and longer lasting materials and finishes within the budget due to favorable general construction bids. Additional alternates were added for lighting protection, and for a slate roof. The original designs had masonry walls exposed on the interior as have many contemporary buildings of this type. All were happy that the walls could instead be plastered, and also that the floor finish would be terrazzo throughout.

The most attractive additional alternate from the standpoint of comfort for all is the air conditioning system. At the time of acceptance, this constituted a first in the Diocese.

It is hoped that the parishioners and priests of St. Boniface Martyr Church will find the new edifice a worthy successor to the original building, so long cherished, and that the new church be found in keeping with the pleasant village which provides its setting.

John J. Andres, Partner

KNAPPE AND JOHNSON, ARCHITECTS

April 2, 1964

OFFICERS OF THE PONTIFICAL MASS

Assistant Priest RT. REV. MSGR. WILLIAM J. GATELY

Deacons of Honor VERY REV. MSGR. THOMAS W. SMIDDY
REV. JAMES F. BRADLEY

Deacon REV. GEORGE F. O'MARA

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Masters of Ceremonies VERY REV. MSGR. FRANCIS J. WILLIAMS
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