

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Celebrating 125 Years on West Vine Avenue



125TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

October 23, 2011

**The Most Reverend
RICHARD F. STIKA
Bishop of Knoxville**

The Story of Immaculate Conception Church

In the 1830s and 1840s, railroad construction brought many Irish Catholic workers to Knoxville. The Diocese of Nashville had been established in 1837, and Richard Pius Miles, a Dominican priest from Kentucky, became Tennessee's first Catholic Bishop. In 1852, Bishop Miles appointed Fr. Henry Vincent Brown Knoxville's first resident priest, with the task of organizing Knoxville's first Catholic parish. Mass was celebrated in a family home at the foot of Summit Hill, today the site of the TVA towers. In 1855, Fr. Brown purchased land on the hill at the corner of Vine Avenue and Crooked (now Walnut) Street. *The Knoxville Standard* observed: "The position entitles it to a superb edifice, and from what we learn we suppose it will not be a great while until a building will be erected which will be one of the chief ornaments of the city."

Fr. Brown planned a small, Gothic-Revival style, stone church, the labor for which was done by parishioners, many of whom were stone and marble workers. It was dedicated by Bishop Miles in the fall of 1855 – "a very happy day for the little congregation," in the words of railroad contractor and prominent Knoxville Catholic, Thomas Fossick, who oversaw the construction. The new church was named for the Immaculate Conception, that doctrine having just recently been dogmatically defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854.

Immaculate Conception parish continued to grow and thrive, and soon enough the little stone church was too small. In 1883, ground was broken for a new church, next to the already built parish school and facing Vine Avenue (then a major thoroughfare across Summit Hill and a neighborhood of fine homes). Knoxville's leading architect, Joseph Baumann, designed a brick structure in the then popular "Victorian Gothic" style. At the time, it was Knoxville's largest church building project, and Nashville's bishop Joseph Rademacher called it "the cathedral of Knoxville." Due to a shortage of brick, the construction lasted three years.

Bishop Rademacher dedicated the new church on Sunday, September 19, 1886. For 125 years, it has served as a vital resource of faith and community in downtown Knoxville and a vibrant sign of the Church's outreach to all who live or work or visit within sight of its tower.

At the time of its dedication, the new church ended with the large arch over the altar. The original church still stood directly behind it, but was soon demolished, making possible the completion of the present sanctuary. Some of the stones from the original church were used in the Walnut Street retaining wall. The three marble altars were installed in 1891. Before being installed in the front of the main altar, the carved relief of the Last Supper was first displayed in a Gay Street store window as a work of art. The present sacristies were added originally as an apartment for the parish priest. The stained glass windows were manufactured in Cincinnati. The City Council proposed putting a “town clock” in the tower of the new church and maintained the clock as a public service until the 1920s.

The church was originally heated by stoves lining the side walls, then by a steam system which radiated heat from exposed pipes in the pews. The present pews were installed at the turn of the 20th century and originally contained small hinged gates. The three oil paintings on canvas in the ceiling date from around 1910 and are the only remnants of the work of a group of itinerant painters whose paintings once decorated the walls as well as the ceiling. The baptismal font and baptistery at the entrance of the church were restored in 2011.

Founded in 1858 by Isaac Thomas Hecker, the Missionary Society of Saint Paul the Apostle (“The Paulist Fathers”) was the first Catholic religious community of priests founded in the United States. Paulist missionaries first came to Tennessee in 1900. In 1973, both Immaculate Conception and Blessed John XXIII University Parish in Knoxville were placed under the pastoral care of the Paulist Fathers. In 2002, the Paulists reaffirmed their commitment “to evangelization in all its forms” as their central mission.

Celebrating the 125th anniversary of our parish church this year presents our community with a distinctive opportunity to remember the accomplishments of the past with joy and gratitude and, encouraged by that history, to recommit ourselves as a parish community to our life and mission in the present, as we live and work (in the words of Servant of God Isaac Hecker) “in the dawning light of an approaching, brighter, more glorious future for God’s Holy Church.”




The present Immaculate Conception Church was dedicated on Sunday, September 19, 1886. One week later, on September 27, 1886, members of the parish posed for a photograph in front of the original stone church, with the new church behind it. Of the parishioners in the photo, 24 have been identified. This familiar picture conveys a sense of the Knoxville Catholic community of the time and their strong sense of identification with their parish church.

Today, 125 years later, we will repeat that parish experience of 1886. A new photograph will be taken in front of the main entrance of the church on West Vine Avenue, immediately after the Solemn Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving. In the future, both pictures will be prominently displayed in gratitude for our parish's past, in celebration of its present, and as an expression of hope in its future.



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
as a pledge of divine favor bestows the Apostolic Blessing upon
Rev. Ronald Franco and the Parishioners
of
Immaculate Conception Church, Knoxville, Tennessee
on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of its Dedication
September 19, 2011

Washington, D.C.

 *Jean-François Lantheaume*
Monsignor Jean-François Lantheaume
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

805 NORTSHORE DRIVE SW • KNOXVILLE, TN 37919-7551 • (865) 584-3307 • FAX (865) 584-7538

September 19, 2011

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church,

I wish to congratulate you all and share in your joy as you celebrate this momentous anniversary, 125 years! As I read the history and get caught up in the thoughts of the early settlers on the frontier and the sacrifices they made and the missionaries who came to offer Mass, I can't help but think of the fortitude and faithfulness of the founding families of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. How dedicated these folks must have been to persevere through hard times on the frontier and actual persecutions by the Covenanters. Yet persevere they did, and they thrived and grew and they joined together as community and they grew in Christ.

That same frontier spirit is alive today in this congregation. When times are tough, when tragedy strikes as it has, you all come together in love and support of one another and you are the face of Jesus to anyone coming through those church doors. You are a community of believers living the Gospel values.

As a community, you have been blessed by wonderful priests, beginning with Father Stephen Badin in the early 1800's up through the Paulist Fathers you are blessed to have with you this day.

And so, it is with a spirit of gratefulness and appreciation that I say to you all, congratulations and God bless you. Commending you all to the care of Our Blessed Mother I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Stika".

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville



Servant of God, Isaac Thomas Hecker (1819-1888)
Founder of the Paulist Fathers

Paulist General Offices



September 19, 2011

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville,

I wish to join the Paulist voice to so many others' in congratulating you, the people of Immaculate Conception Church, as you celebrate 125 years together as a parish. What a blessing...for you, for the city of Knoxville, for the Church!

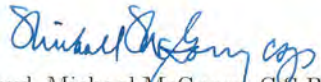
In 1973, around Immaculate Conception's 87th birthday, the Paulist Fathers eagerly accepted the invitation to bring their charism of "giving the Word a voice" to Immaculate Conception Parish (and to the John XXIII Center to serve the University of Tennessee Catholic Community). Although quite different, both the parish and the campus ministry reflect two dimensions of our Paulist mission: to reach out to those who have not heard the Gospel and to be a place of vibrant liturgy around the Table of the Lord. What an incredible blessing Immaculate Conception Parish has been for the Paulist Fathers – just ask all the Paulists who have served there! For them, it has been a place where they have been able to minister with faith, with love, and with effectiveness in partnership with the staff and people of the parish. Yes, Immaculate Conception is a place where Paulists have loved to be stationed.

But today, as we focus on the unique and beautiful history of Immaculate Conception Parish, we know that a parish is not – primarily – for its priests or even its people. Rather a parish is for the sake of its mission to the local community. And what a beacon of God's grace IC has been for so many people in Knoxville.

So we rejoice with you in your faithful witness to the people of Knoxville for 125 years...may there be at least 125 more years of faithful witness.

And let us pray for/with one another.

Sincerely,



Revd. Michael McGarry, C.S.P.
President, The Paulist Fathers



State Capitol

*By Bill Haslam, Governor, on behalf of the people of Tennessee
By virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby confer upon*

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

A Day of Recognition

*Given under my hand and the Seal of the State of Tennessee
in Nashville, this 19th day of September, 2011*



Bill Haslam
Governor



September 19, 2011

Dear Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,

It is my honor to extend congratulations to the congregation of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the dedication of the church's present building.

Since 1855 Immaculate Conception and its members have made innumerable contributions to the City of Knoxville and to its citizens. Your church continues to carry out its great mission today and I am confident it will long into the future.

On behalf of the City of Knoxville, I offer my best wishes on this wonderful occasion in the church's history.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Brown

125TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sunday, October 23, 2011

10:00 a.m.

*With Great Joy and Gratitude to God,
Immaculate Conception Parish
Celebrates the 125th Anniversary
Of the Dedication of our Parish Church*

Principal Celebrant

The Most Reverend, Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville

Concelebrants

The Very Reverend, Michael McGarry, CSP
President of The Paulist Fathers

The Reverend Monsignor Xavier Mankel
Vicar General

The Reverend Ronald Franco, CSP
Pastor

The Reverend Gerard Tully, CSP
Associate Pastor

The Reverend Wilfred Brimley, CSP

The Reverend James Haley, CSP

The Reverend Joseph Ciccone, CSP
Former Pastors

Prelude *Let the Bright Seraphim* G.F. Handel
Amanda Peavyhouse, soprano
Glenda Cloutier, trumpet

Processional Hymn *God, We Praise You* Nettleton

God, we praise you! God, we bless you! God, we name you sov' reign Lord!
Mighty King whom angels worship, Father, by your church adored:
All creation shows your glory, Heav'n and earth draw near your throne,
Singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts, and God alone!"

True apostles, faithful prophets, Saints who set their world ablaze,
Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded, Join one growing song of praise,
While your church on earth confesses One majestic Trinity:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God, our hope eternally.

Jesus Christ, the king of Glory, Everlasting Son of God,
Humble was your virgin mother, Hard the lonely path you trod:
By your cross is sin defeated, Hell confronted face to face,
Heaven opened to believers, Sinners justified by grace.

Christ, at God's right hand victorious, You will judge the world you made;
Lord, in mercy help your servants For whose freedom you have paid:
Raise us up from dust to glory, Guard us from all sin today;
King enthroned above all praises, Save your people, God, we pray.

Sprinkling Rite *Down to the River To Pray* Traditional

Gloria Misa Luna

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51
I love you, Lord, My strength.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

Homily The Most Reverend Richard F. Stika,
Bishop of Knoxville

General Intercessions Sung Response: *Lord hear our Prayer*

Preparation of the Gifts Westminster Abbey

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord, and precious, Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence alone.

To this temple where we call you, Come, O Lord of host, today;
With your wonted loving kindness, Hear your servants as they pray,
And your fullest benediction, Shed in all its bright array.

Grant, we pray, to all your people, All the grace they ask to gain;
What they gain from you forever, With the blessed to retain,
And here-after in your glory, Evermore with you to reign.

Tâm Tình Hiến Dâng
sung by the Vietnamese Choir

Oanh Sông Lam

Sanctus Misa Luna

Memorial Acclamation Celtic Mass

Lord's Prayer Chant

Agnus Dei Celtic Mass

Communion Hymns Ricky Manalo, CSP

Worthy is the Lamb
#619 in *Breaking Bread* (blue hymnal)

Tán Tặng Hồng Ân
sung by the Vietnamese Choir

Vũ Đình Trác & Hải Linh

Post-Communion W.A. Mozart
Alleluia
Amanda Peavyhouse, soprano

Announcements

Final blessing and Dismissal

Salve, Regina
#894 in *Ritual Song* (red hymnal)

Recessional Hymn

Nun danket

Now, Thank We all Our God

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this gracious God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us;
Preserve us in his grace, And guide us in distress,
And free us from all sin, Till heaven we possess.

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Spirit blest, Who reigns in highest heaven,
Eternal, Triune God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Postlude

*All are invited to participate in the Parish Photo
in front of the main entrance of the church on West Vine Avenue,
immediately after the Mass.*

*There will be a reception in the Church Hall,
hosted by the Immaculate Conception Women's Group,
immediately following the Parish Photo.*



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Central Stained Glass Window in the Apse of the Church

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Deacons

Deacon Hieu Vinh
Deacon Joseph Stackhouse

Altar Servers

Russell Emory
Sarah Emory
Abby Morgan
Grace Morgan
Morgan Birdwell
Isabelle Hannah
Gabby Parisi

Lectors

Madeline Elder
Andy Zengel

Gift Bearers

Doug & Debby Stethen
Rosilyn Flanagan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Director of Music Ministries

Karl Jacob

Cantor

Amanda Peavyhouse

Trumpet

Glenda Cloutier

Choir

Vietnamese Choir

Honor Guard

Knights of Columbus Council 645

Photographer

Deacon Patrick Murphy-Racey

