

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH - SUMMER 2019

MORE GOOD NEWS

The good shepherds

12 men have
guided parish's
flock for nearly
125 years

PAGE 3



Pastors, parishioners lead parish together

This issue of "More Good News" highlights the cavalcade of pastors who have served this parish over nearly 125 years.

Of course, every practicing and devoted parishioner knows full well that a parish is far more than just the pastor, or even assistant priests or other religious personnel.

But everyone also knows that the pastor sets the tone in many ways. In some cases, the "ways" of the pastor can set a course that helps the parish to survive, thrive, or maybe falter and fail.

Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament has been for so long a time blessed with many dedicated and gifted priests, so many of the Scalabrini order and of the Diocese of Syracuse.

Being a pastor of a Catholic community of faith, a parish household, can be challenging as well as awesomely wonderful.

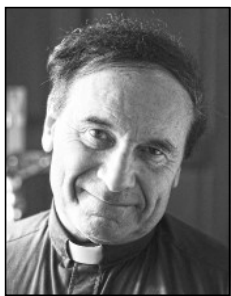
In these days when many Catholics do not practice our faith, or support the parish in any way — but still want it up and running for

baptisms, weddings, funerals and other things (hospital visits, counseling) — it's quite the challenge for the one at the helm of the ship. Unfortunately, some pastors find the situation overwhelming and lonely, seeing the joy of their vocation diminishing.

A good pastor will be generous in sharing the areas of his life that he excels at and recognizing the areas that he is weak. No one can be good at all things, so pulling together and encouraging others to make the parish work is so vital.

Being involved in leading a Catholic parish means some pain, criticism, opposition, along with trying to smooth the rough spots among people on the parish team.

The Mass, which is the source and summit of our faith, is a very good barometer and visible sign of the health of the parish. If the weekend worship encourages more involved and even new members, plus a deeper faith and invitation to enjoy the church experience with glad hearts, then, I believe that's half the battle.



FATHER JIM

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Feast Day Sept. 5

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the tiny woman recognized throughout the world for her work among the poorest of the poor, was beatified Oct. 19, 2003.

Among those present were hundreds of Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded in 1950, as a diocesan religious community. Today, the congregation also includes contemplative sisters and brothers and an order of priests.

Born to Albanian parents in what is now Skopje, Macedonia, Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu was the youngest of the three children who survived.

During her years in public school, Agnes participated in a Catholic sodality and showed a strong interest in the foreign missions. At age 18, she entered the Loreto Sisters of Dublin. It was 1928 when she said goodbye to her mother for the final time and made her way to a new land and a new life.

The following year she was sent to the Loreto novitiate in Darjeeling, India. There, she chose the name Teresa and prepared for a life of service.

After receiving permission to leave Loreto, establish a new religious community, and un-

dertake her new work, Sister Teresa took a nursing course for several months. She returned to Calcutta, where she lived in the slums and opened a school for poor children. Dressed in a white sari and sandals—the ordinary dress of an Indian woman—she soon began getting to know her neighbors—especially the poor and sick—and getting to know their needs through visits.

The work was exhausting, but she was not alone for long. Volunteers who came to join her in the work, some of them former students, became the core of the Missionaries of Charity. Others helped by donating food, clothing, supplies, and the use of buildings. As the order expanded, services also were offered to orphans, abandoned children, alcoholics, the aging and street people.

For the next four decades, Mother Teresa worked on behalf of the poor. She crisscrossed the globe pleading for support and inviting others to see the face of Jesus in the poorest of the poor. In 1979, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

On Sept. 5, 1997, God called her home. Blessed Teresa was canonized by Pope Francis on Sept. 4, 2016.

Source: Franciscan Media



PARISH WEBSITE


Visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com for the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. You can donate online and check out our social media sites and more.

PHOTO GALLERIES



BULLETIN

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Blessed Sacrament

*A Community
on a Journey of
Faith*

Weekend Masses
Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45pm

Weekday Masses
Mon./Tues./Thurs.: 8:30am
Friday 8:30am - Mass or Communion Service
Rosary for the Unborn and Divine Mercy Chaplet
Thursday after Mass
Holy Days consult bulletin

BAPTISM
Congratulations! Please call the parish office to arrange a Baptism, as parents are encouraged to attend the parent class before the birth of your child.

MARRIAGE
Couples must make arrangements six months in advance. We welcome you to our parish family. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community. Please be sure to register by using the parish office. Also listening assisted for hearing, required.

PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Jim Cetta
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Lori Pannico R-C
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Anne Carbone Elacqua T-5
In Residence: Rev. Luis Orsini
Music Director: Peter Elacqua
Business Administrator: Mary Beth LaNeve
Maintenance: Patrick Zosa
Parish Publicist: Fran Perritano

CONTACTS
Office: 735-1482
Rel. Ed./Scalabrini Ctr.: 735-3950 Fax: 735-9896
email: stmarysica@sydnio.net

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - Noon Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
All bulletin items are to be submitted in writing by 12:00 noon

648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501 •
www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mountcarmelblessedsacrament

... AND MORE

- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- Mass schedules
- Parish news
- Ministries
- Event calendar
- Weekly reflection on Sunday's readings
- "More Good News" articles
- Links to our social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



Since 1896, 12 pastors blazed trail of historic parish

By FRAN PERRITANO

When the Rev. Joseph Salerno was named pastor of St. Mary of Mount Carmel in 1991, it came as a bit of a surprise.

He had spent several months training to become a hospital chaplain and expected to become part of the pastoral care team at Community General Hospital in Syracuse.

It didn't turn out that way.

"It was quite a surprise and privilege to be named pastor of the parish that you consider to be your 'home parish,'" Father Joe said. "After all, this is where I was baptized, confirmed, received communion for the first time. I was even ordained to the priesthood at Mount Carmel."

In our parish, there have been 12 pastors, Father Joe was No. 10. When he moved on to the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in September 2002, he was succeeded by the Rev. John Rose 10 months later. When he left, the Rev. James Cesta arrived in 2009.

In 2021, Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament will celebrate its 125th anniversary. In that time, each pastor has made a mark on the parish and the community he serves.

Being his first pastorate, Father Joe had several goals in mind.

"My leadership philosophy was to emphasize the pastoral, to break open the gifts and talents of the entire parish and to find strength in the faith of our ancestors," he said. "The basic philosophy is still on the doors of the church — ALL ARE WELCOME."

How would he like to be remembered?

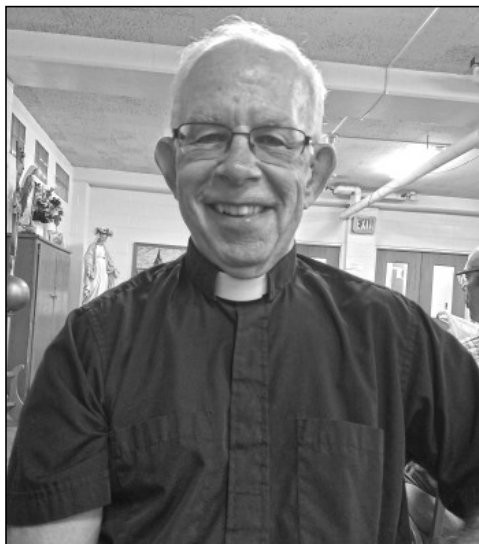
"That Mount Carmel became a community with a renewed sense of faith in a loving God, and that Mount Carmel became a community where both the spiritual and human needs of many were met."

In July 2003, Father Rose took over for Father Joe.

"I am most grateful for the time I spent at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament," said Father Rose, who recently retired. "People there have big and loving hearts. They take much pride in who they are."

Father Rose faced a difficult challenge when the diocese closed Blessed Sacrament Church and merged it with Mount Carmel.

"The community went through a very painful and challenging time as we united two parish communities into one, but the one parish was enriched by the addition of new people and the gifts they brought," Father Rose said. "Being two of the first parishes to merge, we became a paradigm for other parishes in our diocese who were asked to merge subsequently."



The last three pastors to serve in our parish are, from top, the Rev. Joseph Salerno, the Rev. John Rose and the Rev. James Cesta. Father Joe became pastor in 1991, leaving in September 2002 to become pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. Father Rose became the 11th pastor in July 2003. Father Jim came to Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament in July 2009.

The chosen 12

Since 1896, 12 pastors have guided St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church, now Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish.

- The Rev. Antonio Castelli: 1896
- The Rev. Joseph Formia: 1903
- The Rev. John Marchegiani: 1921
- The Rev. William Pizzoglio: 1934
- The Rev. Joseph Berton: 1950
- The Rev. Peter Bortolazzo: 1964
- The Rev. John Corrado: 1973
- The Rev. Carmelo Negro: 1979
- The Rev. Henry Benin: 1983
- The Rev. Joseph Salerno: 1991
- The Rev. John Rose: 2003
- The Rev. James Cesta: 2009

As Father Rose fondly remembers his time in the parish, he hopes he has left something behind, too.

"I pray that despite my many shortcomings that people will remember my legacy is to always trust in the slow work of God and that God is always faithful to those who place their faith in God," he said.

When Father Rose left to become director of Spiritual Formation at St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Maryland, in 2008, it took a while to find another pastor.

Waiting out there was Father Jim.

"I was asked, so I responded in the affirmative, saying that after six months or a year, I would look at it again," he said. "I quickly found this to be a wonderful parish, a spectacular church and a vibrant array of worship and social and educational things present. It's been 10 years, and I look forward to the next 10, at least."

For the last decade, Father Jim said that "leading from behind is better than being a dictator."

"As a pastor, I'm constantly trying to coax and nudge, to invite and solicit folks of all ages to get more involved in parish life," he said. "My wish and prayer is to maintain the existing quality of our liturgical life, the worship of weekends, holidays and special seasons of faith."

The people are what have impressed Father Jim the most.

"The devotion to this parish is something to marvel about," he said. "If only it would catch

Please see PASTORS, Page 7

A CONVERSATION WITH ... JOE FURGOL



Joe Furgol's advice to others is, "Live an honest, hardworking life with integrity, and it is always important to remain faithful."

'I love to serve'

Serving others is in Joe Furgol's DNA. He served the country in the Army in the 1960s, was a Utica firefighter for nearly 30 years and has been and still is an Oneida County legislator. At Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament, Joe continues to serve others.

You attended Brandegee grammar school and Proctor High School. After graduating, you joined the Army in 1961. What was the most important lesson you learned in the Army that helped shape your life?

Self-discipline and comradery.

The war in Vietnam was starting to escalate in the early 1960s when you served in the Army. What do you recall about those times?

The assassination of JFK. This was my reality that we were going to war.

After the Army, you married your childhood sweetheart, Elaine Greco, and have been united for 55 years and counting. How did you meet and how did you know she was the one?

We met at school and it was love at first sight.

What do you love most about your wife?

She keeps me in line.

What has she taught you?

To have faith.

When you came back home to Utica, you served in the Utica Fire Department for

Joe Furgol

Age: 76.

Family: Wife Elaine, two daughters and sons-in-law Graceann and David Guzski, Judy and Randy Crouse. Grandchildren Randy and Kennedy Crouse and Victoria and David Guzski

Past employment: U.S. Army (1961-64), Utica Fire Department (1967-95).

Favorite book: "Black Beauty."

Favorite movie: "Caddyshack."

Favorite TV show: "Hogan's Heroes."

nearly 30 years, retiring as a lieutenant. What was the department like then and what do you remember the most?

The unforgettable great times that I had with my fellow firefighters.

Firefighters put themselves in harm's way. Was there ever a time when you were faced with a dangerous moment?

When the Kanatena Apartments interior collapsed when we were on the fifth floor.

You have been very involved in local politics — appoint as an Oneida County legislator in 2007 as a Democrat, won re-election the next four times and lost in 2016, but re-elected in 2018. You also have been a Utica committeeman for the past 20 years. Why do

you do it?

I love to serve the community. I am loyal to our great Utica area and the great people who live here. I am proud to be their voice and know that I am making the best decisions for them.

In our parish, you're head usher at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, volunteer at the festival and also was a coach in the Mount Carmel Little League. What makes you want to give your time to parish activities?

It is very important to be a good role model to our children. The church has been an important part of my life so this is my way of giving back.

You were good friends with Phil Cornacchia, who died in 2018 at age 102. You brought him to Mass every week, where he also was an usher until his final days. What did your friendship with Phil mean to you?

Phil was like a father figure who was well respected.

You have been coming to Mount Carmel since nursery school. What does this parish mean to you?

A safe place that I can call home.

What is the best advice you would give to someone?

Live an honest, hardworking life with integrity and it is always important to remain faithful.

Gina making a big splash

From swimming, to performing to being a leader, she has it all together

Gina has a lot of irons in the fire. She's on the high school varsity swim team, is junior class president, loves performing on stage and has become a leader at a young age. Through it all, she knows who she is, who she wants to be and how faith plays a role in her life.

You are on the high school varsity swim team. What got you interested in that sport?

I have swum all my life ever since I was a little kid. My family has a membership at Cedar Lake Club, and I have loved swimming ever since I was a little baby.

How do you approach each competition? What goes through your mind?

I can get very anxious depending on the event, but usually I am able to focus on what I am about to do and calm myself. I take some deep breaths and swim the best I can. My teammates also help me feel more comfortable.

What has swimming taught you?

Above everything, it has taught me the importance of friendship and teamwork. It doesn't matter how fast our times are as long as we can count on each other when we need to. It gave me a second family — one with encouragement, love and support for one another.

The stage also has attracted you. This past school year you performed in "Cinderella." How did you become interested in performing?

Although I swim full time now, I used to dance for 10 years. I loved it. It was so much fun to perform on a stage — it's so magical. I had wanted to join masque in junior high, but swim always interfered, but in high school, it was in the spring so I could do it. I plan on continuing through high school.

In school, you joined Leadership Core and were sophomore class president. Please explain what Leadership Core is.

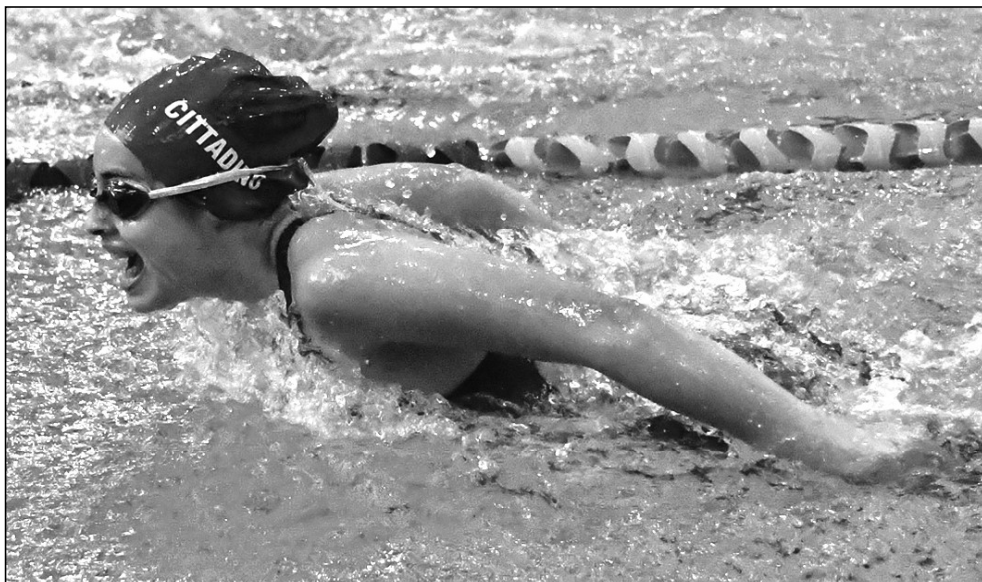
Leadership Core is a school club that helps students realize their potential to be a leader. We have multiple guest speakers come in and talk about their experiences, and we do many things such as our week of gratitude for our staff, and we are participating in World Refugee Day as well as help other organizations. The club helps students become better speakers and be more confident.

What was your motivation in becoming class president?

I have been class president since ninth grade and recently got elected as junior class president for next year. I do it because I want to help my grade be better represented and help our grade with specifics that they want.

Do you have someone you look up to?

I am lucky enough to have more than one person to look up to, including my parents, of course. I have a friend who was my "big sister" my first year on varsity (swim team). I had looked up to her for years before I met her be-



Gina is a member of her high school's varsity swim team. "I have swum all my life ever since I was a little kid," she said. "My family has a membership at Cedar Lake Club, and I have loved swimming ever since I was a little baby."

Gina C.

Family: Mom, dad, brother, sister.

Things you like to do: Swim, perform on stage, learn to be a leader.

Favorite classes in school: History, science, math.

Favorite TV show: "Friends."

Favorite quote: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

Note to readers

Diocesan guidelines prohibit the publication of last names, ages, parents and siblings names, and any other personal information for people younger than 18.



cause she was such an accomplished swimmer. Meeting her just made her more of a role model. She embodies the spirit of optimism, love, support and kindness. She was so humble with all her accomplishments and helped make the team a family. For that, I will always look up to her and try to be as beautifully kind as she was.

You work at the parish festival and sing in the choir. What you enjoy most about both?

The festival is one of my favorite parish events each year. I get to meet new people and see people from our parish come together to create an amazing festival. It's a great experi-

ence and I look forward to it every year.

What kind of spiritual experience does singing in the choir connect with you?

Singing, in general, makes me very happy and puts me in a better mood. Up in the choir loft, everyone is so unbelievably talented and kind, always helping me if I need it. They are also very supportive of me even though I had only recently joined. It makes Mass more meaningful to me. Singing at Mass, to me, makes it more personal. I understand and feel closer to God when I am in the choir. It makes me feel more involved in my faith, and I get more out of singing than anything else.

Do you share your faith with others?

It's not something I do often because lots of people my age don't realize the importance that faith and God have in our lives. But when people go through rough times I will tell them to pray and to have faith that things will get better one day. I also tell them that I will pray for them as well.

What does this parish mean to you?

This parish is much more than a gathering of people — it is a community, a family. We are different people with different cultures, histories and personalities, but we all come together in our faith. I have been to other parishes, but what we have here at Mount Carmel is extremely special and something I cherish.

What do you hope the future holds for you?

I'm not sure what the future holds, but I would like to go to school to become an orthodontist. It has always fascinated me, but I am excited for what the future may hold for me.

St. John the Evangelist: Pillar of the church

In the weeks following Easter, we heard several of the passages from St. John, “the one that Jesus loved,” and the youngest of the first Apostles.

In art we see him at the foot of the cross and asleep on Jesus’ chest at the Last Supper. This writer often thinks of him as Christ’s “chosen little brother.” In fact, from the cross, Jesus charges him to take care of Mary, his mother, and to Mary he says John shall now be her son. (John 19:27)

John’s real parents were Zebedee and Salome. His biological brother was James (The Greater), another apostle. The brothers were followers of John the Baptist.

It is John who reports that when Jesus came into the presence of the Baptist, he proclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:35). John and his friend Andrew asked Christ where he lived, to which Jesus responded to follow him. That was the beginning of the devotion of John to Jesus.

John was with Jesus at the marriage at Cana, the Transfiguration and the raising of the daughter of Jairus from the dead.



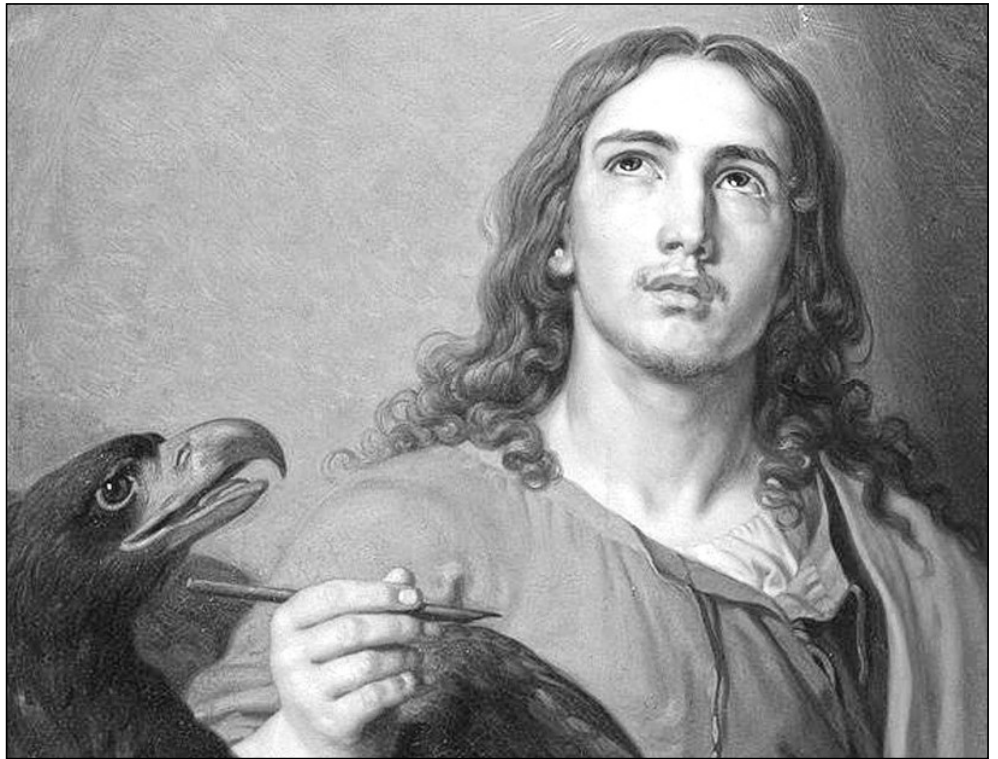
A.J. VALENTINI

John, along with Peter and James, were Christ’s closest followers. They were with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Seeing the closeness of their bond, John and James’ mother was emboldened to ask if her sons might sit at the right and left of Jesus in Paradise (Matthew 20:21). The brothers were given the honorific title, “Boanerges” — or “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17 and Luke 9:9:14) — for their zeal (others say for their feistiness).

John and Peter were the first to get the news from Mary Magdalene of Christ’s Resurrection (John 20:2). When they rushed to the tomb to verify the news, John charged ahead arriving there first. Later, when seven of the Apostles were fishing, it was John who first recognized Christ standing on the shore.

One day, John and Peter went to the temple together (Acts 3:1). At the gate a man who had been lame for 40 years asked them for alms. Peter said he had no money to give but, “what I have, that I give in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, arise and walk.” The man did and the surrounding crowd made a huge fuss over the miracle.

Peter, speaking on his own and John’s behalf, admonished them saying that it was through no power of their own that this happened but



John was the youngest of the first Apostles and was with Mary at the foot of the cross

through the power of God through Jesus. And Jesus was the man they had given up to Pilate. When he didn’t give them the justice they wanted, they further entreated him to let the mob have him and dispatch him.

The Sadducees hearing this brought Peter and John before the Jewish officials who said the Apostles had no authority to preach and do miracles. This only energized Peter and John. Peter made the famous statement acclaiming the legitimacy of Christ: “This is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone (of the church).” (Acts 4:11) They told Peter and John to stop mentioning the name of Jesus. Again, Peter and John held their ground saying, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, decide for yourselves. For we cannot but speak of what we have heard.” (Acts 4:19-20).

There was no way to punish the two as the evidence, a well-known “cripple” was standing together with the Apostles and there was a crowd of witnesses, was more than they could control.

John continued his missionary work among the Jews. He and Peter were the first to convert the Samaritans, whom they had formerly despised, into the Christian fold. Paul asked recognition of his conversion and mission from

John and James (the Lesser). John also faithfully cared for Mary all the days of her earthly life.

John remained in Jerusalem but upon the deaths of Peter and Paul he moved to Ephesus. During the persecutions of Domitian he was taken to Rome, and tradition says he was placed in a cauldron of boiling oil but emerged unscathed. He was then sent to work in the mines of Patmos. When Nerva became emperor, he was set free and went back to Ephesus where he wrote his gospel.

John died at a very old age, and just before he passed, in front of the congregation of Ephesus, he requested, “Little children, love one another.” In the 6th century, dust from the tomb of John in Ephesus was sought for its healing powers.

Paul recognized John along with Peter and James the Lesser as the “Pillars of the Church.” In iconography, John often is pictured with a chalice; he was, after all present at the last supper. Often, the chalice has a dragon emerging from it alluding to a legend that someone tried to poison him once, but the potion had no effect. Another common symbol of John is the eagle, symbol of master of the heavens.

— Sources: Catholic Online, Encyclopedia Britannica, Catholic Encyclopedia: New Advent.

PASTORS

Continued from Page 3

on with others."

All three living pastors have something in common with their ancestors over the last 123 years — they came and built on the legacy of those before them.

The parish's storied history began in the late 19th century. On Sunday, Dec. 20, 1896, parishioners of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church — Santa Maria di Monte Carmela — celebrated Mass for the first time in a church building they could call their own. They were Italian immigrants who started arriving in Utica in the late 1860s and early 1870s and who originally worshipped at St. John's Parish in downtown Utica.

Here's a brief look at the first nine men who guided the parish from its inception:

Rev. Antonio Castelli

The Rev. Antonio Castelli served as an assistant to Monsignor James Lynch at St. John's Church and later became the first pastor of Mount Carmel.

Father Castelli called upon every man and woman and inspired them to one mission — to have a church of their own. Monsignor Lynch's went one step further when he donated an old school building on Catherine Street, which Father Castelli transformed into a temporary church and meeting place.



The old schoolhouse was the inception of what was later to be known as St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church. A parcel of land was purchased, extending from Catherine Street to Jay Street, and excavation began on April 23, 1896. The first Mass was celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 20, 1896, in the new church that, in reality, was only the basement of the building.

Rev. Joseph Formia

In 1902 the Scalabrini Superior of Italy appointed the Rev. Joseph Formia as assistant to Father Castelli. After Father Castelli died of a heart attack on Oct. 22, 1903, Father Formia became the pastor and began envisioning a parochial school. Early in September 1904, the unfinished school building was surrounded with children. Three Sisters of St. Francis organized and conducted classes.



After organizing the school and seeing that the nuns and the children of the parish were adequately accommodated, Father Formia, pastor for 18 years, returned to his native city in Italy in 1921.

Rev. John Marchegiani

On June 21, 1921, the Rev. John Marchegiani was appointed pastor.

During his tenure, the church was enlarged. The church basement was lowered and a stage for dramatic presentations was constructed. The convent was enlarged to accommodate the growing number of nuns who were teaching at the school. Two naves were added to the main church, thus accommodating the growing number of parishioners.



By 1928, the school had been renovated and a new gymnasium was opened, and by 1931, the sanctuary was enriched with beautiful altar railings and a marble floor.

Rev. William Pizzoglio

In June 1934, the Rev. William Pizzoglio, arrived at Mount Carmel. Father Pizzoglio's primary goal was to nurture the spiritual needs of young and old, and so it was that catechism classes were expanded and religious instruction classes intensified for public school children.



Another noteworthy task undertaken by him was the decoration and painting of the church in preparation for the 40th anniversary in 1936. Professor Antonio D' Ambrosio of New York City was commissioned to decorate and paint the church. Three new marble altars were designed and installed by the DaPrato Firm of New York.

Rev. Joseph Berton

The Rev. Joseph Berton succeeded Father Pizzoglio and was pastor in from 1950 to 1964.

During his pastorate, many parcels of property were acquired around the church to provide adequate parking. The most outstanding of his non-spiritual accomplishments is at 648 Jay St., where a new rectory was built in the early 1960s.

Father Berton spent 26 years of his priesthood at Mount Carmel as an assistant and pastor. He died in 1984.



Rev. Peter Bortolazzo

On Oct. 10, 1964, Father Berton was succeeded by another former assistant, the Rev. Peter Bortolazzo.

Father Peter arrived at Mount Carmel during its transitional period. Within a few months, many of the homes that surrounded the church were razed by the city's Urban Renewal pro-

gram and many parishioners moved away.

It was through his guidance that the parish undertook the challenges of Pope John XXIII and Vatican II Council.

Rev. John Corrado

The year 1973 found Mount Carmel under the leadership of the Rev. John Corrado. Father John continued the work that was begun by his predecessors, emphasizing the development of the area surrounding the church.

During his pastorate, many additional physical aspects came to fruition, including the Shrine to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, renovations to the school, the Senior Citizens Center and the construction of Scalabrini Park, a monument to the founder of the Society of St. Charles Borromeo.

He also sponsored the Ashes to Easter program, the inception of a Liturgical Committee, the development of Penitential Services and the installation of lay ministers.



Rev. Carmelo Negro

The Rev. Carmelo Negro became pastor in May 1979. Dedicated to maintaining a beautiful church, he undertook the task of replacing the old organ.

During his pastorate, Father Carmen continued to show a strong concern for the liturgical programs initiated by Father John, emphasizing the lay ministry program and improvements to the school.



Rev. Henry Benin

The Rev. Henry Benin succeeded Father Carmen in the fall of 1983.

The parish was in a period of transition. Father Henry was faced with two major problems. First, the Sisters of St. Francis, who served Mount Carmel for 80 years, were withdrawing due to a lack of vocation and, second, the school was closing because of the Diocesan School Consolidation Plan due to declining enrollment.

Father Henry was the last Scalabrini priest to serve Mount Carmel. He left the parish in June 1991.



Fun at the festival

