

*Dedication  
of  
Saint Gabriel Parish  
Hall of Fame*



DECEMBER 30, 1990

On the occasion of Father Carl McNerney's retirement as our Pastor, we wish to honor him in a manner which will be most pleasing to him.

Today we dedicate to him this main corridor through which all our school children pass as a Saint Gabriel Parish Hall of Fame.

All the persons whose pictures are in this Hall of Fame, including Father McNerney, are from Saint Gabriel Parish. All grew up here; all had their formative years here; and all worshipped here. Almost all attended our school, and all attained among the highest ranks in their respective professions.

It is our desire to honor these men and women, to rejoice with their families over their excellent accomplishments, and to pray for those who are deceased.

We wish also to encourage our children in our school and in our Confraternity of Christian Doctrine to learn from these role models and to make their own contributions in the future.

THE REVEREND CARL J. McNERNEY was raised in Saint Gabriel's Parish. He went to our Saint Gabriel School and to our Archdiocesan seminaries: Quigley Preparatory Seminary, and Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary.

On May 7, 1949 Father McNerney was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois.

His first assignment was to Saint Columbanus Church as an associate to His Excellency William Cousins, D.D., who later became the Archbishop of Milwaukee. Father McNerney served there for nine years, and later served at Our Lady of Hope in Rosemont, at Saint Jude in South Holland, and at Saint Bede the Venerable in Chicago.

In 1975, Father McNerney became the ninth Pastor of Saint Gabriel Parish. During his pastorate and in the years preceding he has had many accomplishments. Among them are: taking additional courses in counselling and regularly attending conventions of the National Catholic Education Association.

Like most priests, his most important accomplishments are acts of mercy, charity, and the guidance of souls done quietly, one-to-one, and without fanfare.

One of his greatest accomplishments was to maintain the integrity of our church building while he implemented the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council. Sensitive to the devotions and the needs of his parishioners, he refrained from any major alteration to the sanctuary or altars. In this he remained true to the designs of Burnham and Root and to the exquisite altars acquired by the second Pastor, Fr. Burke. For this especially we will be forever grateful.

As Father McNerney retires on January 1, 1991, after forty-two years in the Lord's vineyard, we extend our heartiest congratulations, and we pray for his continued health.

AD MULTOS ANNOS !!!

ROSEMARIE McINERNEY BARRY is President and Director of the Thomas McInerney's Sons Funeral Homes, one of the most revered institutions in our Canaryville Community. The funeral home at 46th Place and Wallace was founded by Rose's grandfather in 1873.

In addition to membership in numerous professional associations, Rose has long been active in parish affairs. She was chairwoman both of our Parish-Founding Centennial in 1980 and of our Church-Dedication Centennial in 1988.

Her chapels today are known both for their success, and for their historical and continuing charity in burying numerous deceased from among the homeless persons of our society. She has headed her family's business since November, 1952.

WILLIAM J. BARRY, late husband of Rosemarie, nee McInerney, was a precinct captain of the 14th Ward and of the 11th Ward for many years. He was a great supporter of Saint Gabriel Parish and of Saint Gabriel Grammar School.

From 1958 to 1978 he was Deputy Director of the Ports of Chicago. This was a position held years earlier by his uncle, Billy Lynch.

Mr. Barry's death occurred unexpectedly on January 26, 1985.

A. WILLIAM BURNETT has been dedicated to Saint Gabriel Parish for many years, and has participated most intimately in the major historical commemorations of our parish life.

He has been with Harris Trust and Savings Bank at 111 West Monroe, Chicago, for thirty-four years. He now serves as Vice-President of the Bank's Trust Division, a position which he has held since 1981.

Mr. Burnett is our choir director. Especially in the past decade he and his choir have contributed beautifully to the liturgical enrichment of the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, of the many sacraments conferred in Saint Gabriel's Church, and also of the centennials of our parish and of our church which we have been privileged to celebrate.

SHARON BURNS has worked for the City of Chicago for twenty-two years. She began as a clerk. Today she is the Director of Operational and Informational Services for the City of Chicago.

In her position as Director, she is responsible for the implementation and management of these services, which constitute a twelve million dollar computer programming system.

This Operation and Informational Services system is the fundamental and essential system which must be used by the Purchasing and Financing Departments of the City of Chicago.

Sharon has held this post since 1986.

THE HONORABLE CAROL A. DIVER has been State Central Committeewomen for the Fifth Congressional District since 1985.

A life-long parishioner, Carol received her fundamental education here in Saint Gabriel Grammar School.

Today, she is Director of Damen Federal Bank for Savings. She is also a licensed real estate salesperson.

With a special concern for Saint Gabriel Parish, Carol has been active throughout her life in numerous kinds of parish activities.

Active in politics, especially in the 11th Ward Democratic Organization, she has also conscientiously participated in the many community organizations which have contributed to the quality of life in our parish neighborhood.



JOSEPH FELDMAN, publisher of the Bridgeport News since 1983, was raised in Saint Gabriel's Parish and attended Saint Gabriel's Grammar School.

He has always been an active supporter both of Saint Gabriel Parish and of our parish school. Mr. Feldman co-founded Saint Gabriel football.

A sponsor of the Valentine Boys' Club, he has also been involved in programs for autistic children. For many years he has been active in the Autistic Society, the Special Olympics, and the Little Friends which is located in Naperville, Illinois.

Through the years, by means of his presence and his newspaper, he has with great constancy graciously helped Saint Gabriel build up a warm spirit of concern and cooperation.

SISTER BRENDA FINNEGAN, R.S.M., inspired by the dedication and holiness of the sisters who taught her and so many others in the history of our Parish, entered the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister has held several prominent positions for the Mercy Sisters. The most noteworthy of all the positions she has filled so well is the one she presently holds: Administrator of McAuley Manor and of McAuley Convent. Both are in Aurora, Illinois.

These two residential-nursing facilities are vital to the proper care of elderly sisters. The Manor and Convent provide loving and affectionate nursing care as well as assisted living for over eighty sisters. Many of these elderly and infirm sisters at one time lived in the community of Saint Gabriel's Convent and dedicated their religious lives to the service of God here in Saint Gabriel's parish school.

Sister Brenda has been entrusted with this major and necessary administrative responsibility since 1985.

CHARLES F. FORD was raised in Saint Gabriel's Parish. As a young man concerned about the welfare of his fellow citizens, Mr. Ford joined the Chicago Police Department. That was twenty-nine years ago.

On August 1, 1988, he was made First Deputy Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. In this position he is second in command of our country's second largest police department.

Over the years he has taught the field of law enforcement at Lewis University in Lockport.

Among his most challenging and satisfying responsibilities was that of Director of Community services. This entailed meetings with neighborhood organizations, civic groups, and just plain concerned citizens. It covered the multi-faceted aspects of police work locally and throughout the city: race relations, the effect of gangs, the growing areas of community involvement, the safety of senior citizens.

At the present time Deputy Superintendent Ford is the President of the Saint Jude Police League.

MOTHER M. DOMITILLA GRIFFIN, R.S.M., was the sister of the only bishop from Saint Gabriel Parish. Her brother was His Excellency James Griffin, Bishop of Springfield, Illinois.

She was one of the first of the almost two hundred women of Saint Gabriel Parish who entered religious life. Although many religious orders and congregations are represented by our women who have dedicated their lives to the service of God, Miss Griffin chose to enter the community of the Mercy Sisters.

Her fellow religious in the Mercy Sisters elected Sister Mary Domitilla to the position of Mother Provincial of the Mercy Order. She had in her care all the Mercy Sisters of our area during her term of office: from June 1948 to July 1954.

By the members of the Sisters of Mercy she would be remembered as "Mother Domitilla", since it was the custom of the time to retain that title even after leaving the official role of Mother Provincial of the Order.

Mother Domitilla was called home to our Lord, June 9, 1955, the Diamond Jubilee Year of Saint Gabriel Parish.

THE MOST REVEREND JAMES A. GRIFFIN, D.D., was born on February 27, 1883, shortly after the founding of the Parish of Saint Gabriel in what was then a southern suburb of the City of Chicago. James was the brother of Mother Domitilla Griffin, R.S.M.

While studying for the priesthood in Rome, the seminarian, Mr. James Griffin, was secretary to the Vatican's Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Merry Del Val.

It must have brought a particular joy to the heart of this American to have a very special day for his ordination to the Holy Priesthood: In the Eternal City, Father Griffin was ordained on the Fourth of July, 1909.

Father James Griffin was a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. On November 10, 1923, when Father Griffin was forty years of age, Pope Pius XI named him to be the Bishop of the Diocese of the capital of our State: Springfield, Illinois.

His Excellency James Griffin served in the Diocese of Springfield until his death on August 5, 1948, just a short while before he would celebrate his Silver Jubilee as Bishop of that Diocese. He is buried in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

THE VERY REVEREND JOSEPH HICKEY, O.S.A., raised in Saint Gabriel's Parish, was the first American to become Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, better known locally as the "Augustinians". He was responsible for all the Augustinian Fathers and Brothers throughout the world.

Father Hickey was ordained in Rome in 1906. After his ordination to the Holy Priesthood, he continued his studies. Up to the early twentieth century, there was no universal codification of church law. With the permission and encouragement of his superiors, Father Hickey undertook to specialize in the extremely complicated, and often obtuse, field of uncodified canon law. He received his doctorate in canon law in 1908. The first comprehensive and universal Code of Canon (church) Law was promulgated in 1918.

After receiving his doctorate, Father Hickey returned to the United States for re-assignment. He taught for several years in Saint Rita High School, Chicago.

Because of his outstanding background and expertise in canon law, Father Hickey was called back to Rome and served in the curia (service center for the whole Church) from 1925 to 1953. This span of years included the difficult assignment of being stationed in the Vatican during World War II, and his term of Prior General from 1947 to 1953.

His earthly life drew to a close on July 9, 1955, the Diamond Jubilee Year of Saint Gabriel Parish.

RALEIGH KEAN has very deep roots in Saint Gabriel's Parish, roots which reach out into family relationships which flourish in Saint Gabriel's even to this day.

Raleigh began his own business at age 19. He sold oil at 46th and Halsted. In 1931 he began selling gasoline and moved his business to 43rd and Union.

Today, some sixty-plus years after he started in business, he is President of Kean Gas and Oil. This corporation has many service stations throughout the midwest.

In recent years Raleigh and his family have opened automobile dealerships in Oak Lawn and Berwyn.

Throughout his life he has been active in the Church and in Church related activities, including Mercy Hospital, Saint Rita High School, and Madonna Council, Knights of Columbus, but always with a special affection and loyalty to Saint Gabriel Parish.

THE HONORABLE JAMES J. McDERMOTT, who started his life in Saint Gabriel Parish, was one of the legendary leaders in the Democratic Party for decades.

He was elected to the Board of Tax Appeals. From 1932 until 1947 he was both alderman and ward committeeman of the 14th Ward, a ward which at one time included the area of our church and school.

In 1947 Alderman James McDermott was elected to the judgeship of the Superior Court, a position which he retained for seventeen years.

His Honor became a Circuit Court Judge of Cook County on June 1, 1964. He retained this responsibility until his death, August 19, 1965.

Judge McDermott was active formally in political and civic affairs; but perhaps he was even better known locally for his down-to-earth charity in visiting the sick in hospitals, attending wakes, and assisting the needy in a most respectful and unheralded manner. His memory is held in highest esteem especially by those who were the beneficiaries of his quiet, good-humored caring.



THE HONORABLE JAMES E. MURPHY was born and raised in Saint Gabriel's Parish. Graduating from our Parish School in 1938, he entered Quigley Preparatory Seminary, and completed his high school years in Saint Ignatius High School.

He served our country in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. Upon coming out of service he immediately joined our Chicago Police Department. From 1946 to 1953, while working full-time as one of "Chicago's Finest," he took courses at De Paul University and John Marshall Law School. He received his law degree in 1952.

A well-experienced attorney, he was elected to the Municipal Court bench in 1963. In 1964, he became a Circuit Court Judge of Cook County, a position which he still retains.

Active in numerous organizations, he was an esteemed member of our Church-Centennial Committee in 1988.

COMMISSIONER RAYMOND OROZCO, a parishioner of Saint Gabriel Parish in his earlier years, joined the Chicago Fire Department thirty-two years ago. He has been especially active in providing for the well-being of the new Spanish-speaking citizens of Chicago both for communication and for education in fire safety.

Over the years he has taught in the Chicago City College system, and has been active in community affairs.

For many years the Chicago Fire Department has been the most progressive fire department in our nation, and it has been the model which other cities have emulated.

Commissioner Orozco now directs this major department of city government, a department which is of daily vital importance for all the citizens of our city-community.

Raymond Orozco was appointed Commissioner by Mayor Richard M. Daley on April 24, 1989.

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH A. POWER was an attorney at the time he joined the Navy. During World War II he served as a lawyer in that service. After his return to civilian life, he practiced law with the firm of Daley and Lynch until his election to the Municipal Court bench in 1954. He became a Circuit Court Judge of Cook County in 1964.

From October 17, 1966 until January 5, 1976 His Honor Joseph Power was the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Court.

In 1976, he became chief counsel for the Chicago Park District remaining in that capacity until his death on July 1, 1982.

A life-long member of Saint Gabriel's Parish, he served as coordinator of our Parish's Diamond Jubilee in 1955.

He was active in the Knights of Columbus, both in Madonna Council and as Master of the Fourth Degree.

In many capacities and in many ways he showed his continuing care for the welfare of our community. In this thoughtful concern he performed countless kindnesses.

THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR THOMAS E. REIDY, V.G., was raised in Saint Gabriel's parish and was a student in our Saint Gabriel Grammar School.

Having completed college, he applied for, was accepted, and was later ordained in 1967 for the diocese in which he now serves: The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

On November 4, 1974, he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese by his bishop, the Most Reverend William Baum, now His Eminence William Cardinal Baum, who presently is in Rome as Prefect (the Director) of the Sacred Congregation on Seminaries.

On December 6, 1980, Monsignor Reidy was appointed Vicar General of the diocese by the next bishop, the Most Reverend Bernard Law, now His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston, Massachusetts.

Today, the responsibilities of both Chancellor and of Vicar General are vested in Monsignor Reidy. At the present time he also has another responsibility: He is the Rector of Saint Agnes Cathedral in Springfield, Missouri.

THE HONORABLE FRANK J. SMITH spent most of his life here in Saint Gabriel's Parish.

A long-time member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, he served as Secretary and Coordinator for the Board of Examining Engineers for many years.

He was first elected to the Illinois State Legislature in 1952. He was the State Representative of the 23rd District until 1972.

Among his political activities, State Representative Frank Smith was elected to four terms in the State Central Committee.

At 92 years of age, Frank was called by the Lord on November 15, 1977.

EDMUND J. SWAIN has been involved in charitable and fraternal organizations all his life. These activities include: an active participant in the Ancient Order of Hibernians; an outstandingly active member of Madonna Council of the Knights of Columbus; and a Master of the Fourth Degree.

From 1968 to 1971 he was the Illinois State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus. This is the highest state rank that a Knight of Columbus can attain.

Perhaps his foremost undertaking occurred while he was the Supreme Vizier of the International Order of Alhambra, a specialized charitable aspect of the Knights of Columbus: Sir Knight Edmund Swain led an effort to acquire three hundred and sixty-four scholarships for teachers in special education. In return, these teachers use their degrees for instructing exceptional and autistic children and adults.

In 1987, His Holiness Pope John Paul II named Edmund Swain a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre in acknowledgment of his many years of service on behalf of the Church.

It is with sincere gratitude that I wish to thank the benefactors who made this Day of Dedication a reality:

Richard Haggerty  
Corky Wyman

It is with great appreciation that I acknowledge the following for their time and for their assistance in gathering the necessary data for our Hall of Fame:

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And it is with fullest thanks that I extend my gratitude to all who assisted me in a multitude of necessary details.

Reverend John J. Sullivan  
Associate Pastor of Saint Gabriel Church  
Dedication Director and Coordinator

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