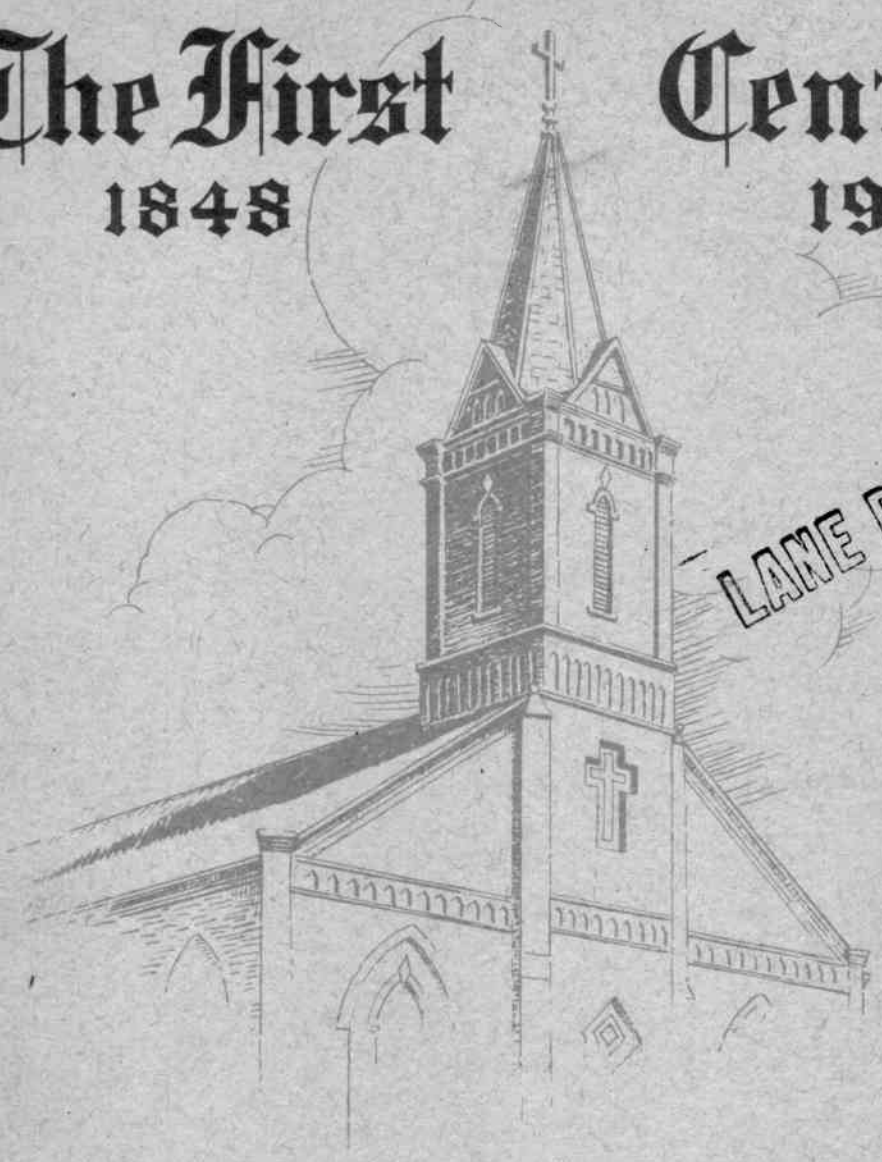


HAMILTON - CHURCHES

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The First Century
1848 1948



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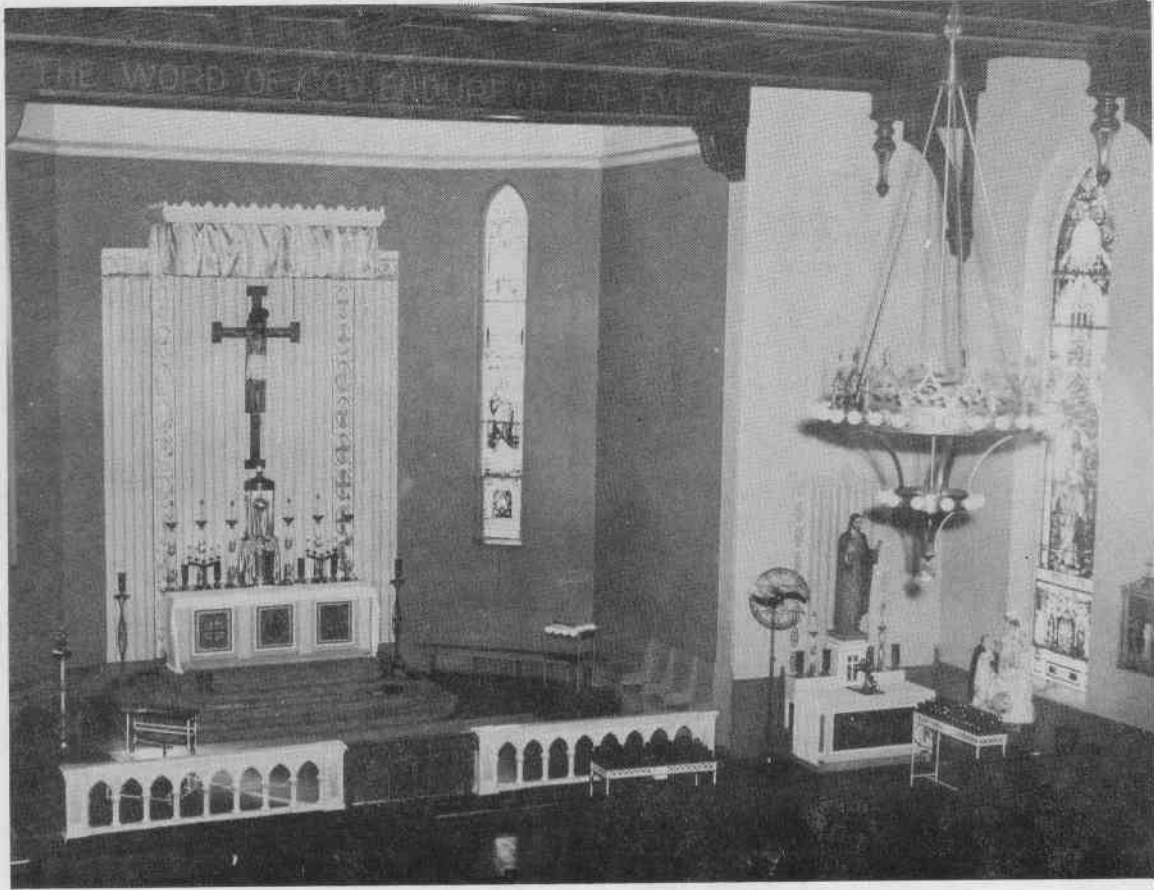
HAMILTON, OHIO

REV. L. L. DENNING, Pastor

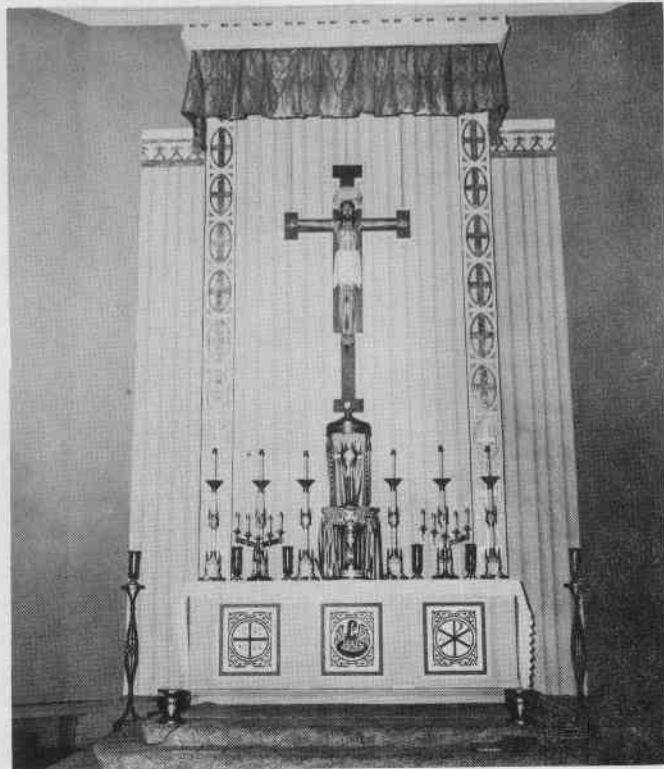
REV. LEO T. HERLIHY, Assistant

THE CHURCH INTERIOR

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The first century, 1848-1948
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... photographed from the balcony

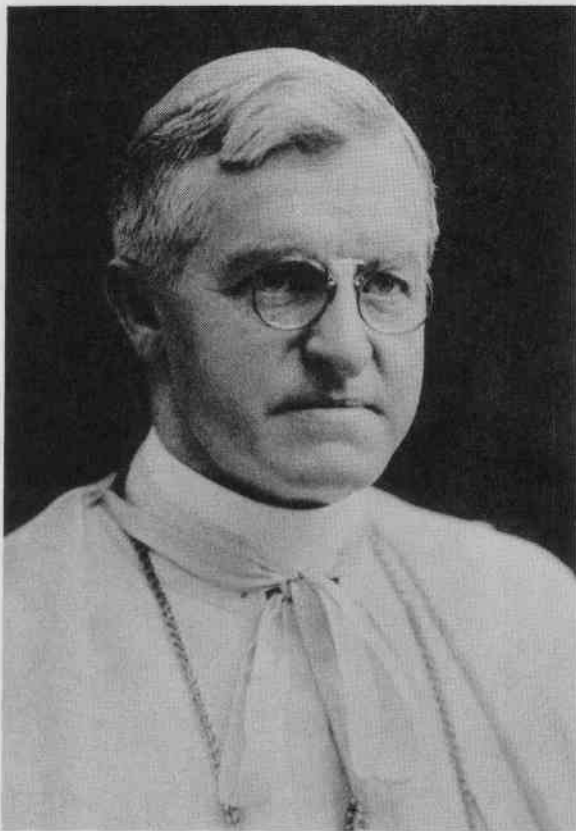


The Altar, recently renovated

ST. MARY CHURCH



... still stands on its original location



**Most Reverend
John T. McNicholas
Archbishop of Cincinnati**



**Most Reverend
George J. Rehring
Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati**

Foreword

IN PRESENTING this booklet commemorating the one-hundred years of our church, we wish in the name of the parish to thank those responsible for this souvenir.

THE INFLUENCE of the parish on the community has been marked from the first great meeting at the Court House where the citizens, irrespective of religious belief, met to inaugurate its birth. Much of the money necessary for the building was furnished by men and women who were not Catholic. We have tried to return that feeling in a spirit of gratitude.

WE THANK those of one-hundred years ago and those of today who have united with us to promote a spirit of brotherly love for our neighbor in our community, a blessing that Hamilton has in abundance.

L. L. DENNING

LEO T. HERLIHY



Rev. L. L. Denning, Pastor

For the last thirty of St. Mary's first one-hundred years, Father Denning has served as its pastor. Since he succeeded Rev. James F. McNary in October of 1918, Father Denning has commanded the love and respect of his parish as well as that of innumerable other Hamiltonians of every faith. His great kindness, charity, and indomitable and enterprising spirit have characterized his remarkable pastorate.

The recently-decorated interior of the Church as well as the modern, well-equipped school, which was built under his guidance, stand as testimony to his boundless energy in preparing for the worship of his parish and the education of its children.

His efforts in behalf of better understanding between the Protestants and Catholics of Hamilton represent perhaps his most significant achievement in his lengthy and successful tenure as Pastor of St. Mary Church.

The people of St. Mary Church and those of Hamilton as well will long remember the kindness, wisdom and true humility of Father Denning.

THE FIRST CENTURY

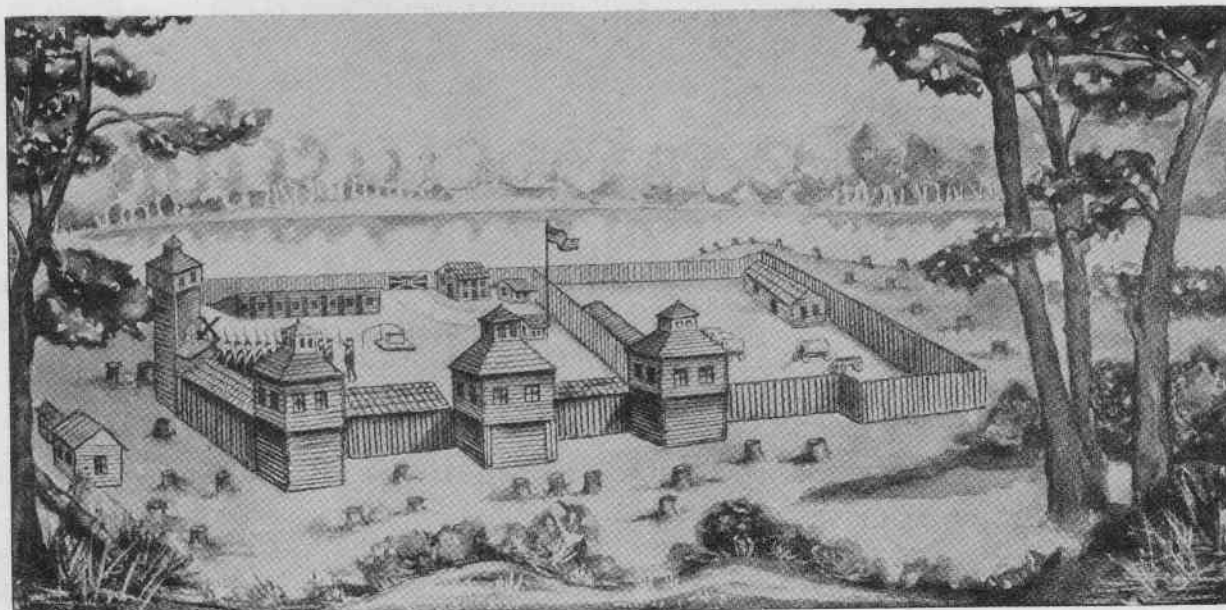
A History of St. Mary Church, 1848 - 1948

In 1791, the State of Ohio was a vast wilderness and stealthy Indians lurked in the shadows of the Buckeye forests. There was, however, even then a settlement of whites at Marietta, on the Ohio River; another at Columbia, above Fort Washington, Cincinnati's present site; a smaller settlement at Dunlap's Station on the Great Miami River, about eight miles from Hamilton, and several other obscure outposts. An Indian attack on Dunlap's Station, near Venice, on January 10, 1791, prompted the government to take action against the restless redskins. General Arthur St. Clair was directed to take charge of an army concentrated

at Ft. Washington and head an expedition to punish the Indians. In mid-September, the assembled forces reached the site of the present city of Hamilton, where they decided to erect another fort to be used as a base for operations, since it was near the scene of the anticipated conflict.

The actual site of Fort Hamilton was selected on September 17, 1791, and by October 1, the buildings had been completed. The outpost was named to honor Alexander Hamilton, then Secretary of the Treasury

(Continued on page 9)



Fort Hamilton in 1791



Rev. Leo T. Herlihy, Assistant Pastor

In 1937, Father Herlihy came to St. Mary Church to assist Father Denning. His tenure was interrupted in 1942 by a call to duty with the United States Army Chaplain Corps. During his four-year tenure in the service, he rose to the rank of Major and spent nearly two years in the European Theatre, serving as spiritual leader and friendly confidante of American soldiers overseas. He was discharged from active duty in April, 1946, and returned to the parish ten months later in February, 1947.

Since then, he has devoted himself wholeheartedly to his duties as assistant pastor, and has won the lasting friendship and admiration of the members of the Parish.

In July of this year, word came that Father Herlihy had received an appointment as pastor of St. Benignus Church, Greenfield, Ohio, effective in August. While his many friends were disappointed that he would be obliged to leave Hamilton, they nonetheless rejoiced in his promotion and wished him well in his new role. St. Mary Church is sure to feel keenly the departure of Father Herlihy.