

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Archbishop  
Thomas  
A. Boland lays  
the cornerstone  
of the church

This weekend marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of our parish.

On Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1967, Archbishop Boland signed a Decree establishing the territory of a new parish in Woodcliff Lake. The name of the Parish was to be 'Our Lady Mother of the Church' a title which was promulgated at the recently concluded Second Vatican Council.

Since that time the parish has thrived and grown into the vibrant faith community we know today. We remember and pray for all the priests and pastors who have served here over the past fifty years, beginning with Fr. Mark Dooley and Fr. Joseph Beggans, who came to Woodcliff Lake in 1966 and began celebrating weekday Mass in a house, and Sunday liturgy at the school auditorium.

We remember our first Pastor, Fr. John McCarthy, who came here in 1967 and began the work of building the new church. Fr. McCarthy retired in 1980, and you may not know that he is buried on the grounds outside the church. It would be appropriate for us to have a special graveside service this year to remember him, and to pray in thanksgiving for him.

In the thirty seven years since Fr. McCarthy retired there have only been five other Pastors: Fr. Edward Cooke, Fr. Thomas Arminio, Monsignor Cajetan Salemi, Fr. Rich Kelly and myself. There have been many more priests who have served us as parochial vicars or weekend assistants. And of course, not to forget our one Deacon, Stan Fedison.

This Anniversary is an occasion to remember and pray for the all the clergy who have spent their lives ministering in this part of the vineyard. Many of you have fond memories, of events in your lives - the joyful and the tearful – in which these clergy were integral parts of those experiences.

But a parish is not a parish without the people. It is the parishioners of Our Lady Mother of the Church, past and present, who make this faith community what it is. As Pastor, I wish to congratulate all of you on this Anniversary, and thank you for the joyful experience of ministering to, and with you, here at Our Lady Mother of the Church.

We look back at the amazing things that have been done, and we look forward to the future with hope and excitement at what lays in store for our wonderful church.

Fr. Sean