

# A Brief Parish History

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish was canonically founded on July 26, 1928. To build and guide the destinies of the parish The Rev. Edward T. Meagher was appointed its first pastor. On August 1, 1928, Father Meagher took over this herculean task.

On August 15, 1928 the necessary land for our parish buildings was purchased and our church was formally incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on August 24, 1928. The first directors of our church were The Most Reverend Thomas F. Hickey, Bishop of Rochester, The Right Reverend Monsignor John F. O'Hern and The Reverend Edward T. Meagher. The first trustees of the church were James H. Ryan and Elmer Biesenbach.

The construction of our church was begun on September 17 and was completed on October 6, 1928. The church was formally opened on October 7, 1928 when a Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by Our Bishop, The Most Reverend Thomas F. Hickey. Bishop Hickey also preached the sermon on that day.

The first school classes for our children were begun on November 10, 1928 with Sisters Assunta and Josina as the first teachers.

The following day, November 11, 1928 three Masses were celebrated in our new church for the first time. Then on November 26, 1928 the old Shelter farm house was made over and opened as a community house for all of our parish activities.

It was soon decided that an up to date, complete elementary school was needed for our ever growing parish. Work on such plans was immediately begun and completion of the plans for a Collegiate Gothic School took place on February 15, 1930. Excavation for the school was begun on March 1, 1930 and Bishop O'Hern laid the corner stone on July 20, 1930. The school was completed and occupied on September 15, 1930.

The occupation of the school made it necessary to secure more Sisters to teach the large enrollment. Therefore, property for a convent was purchased in May of 1930. The convent was occupied by the Sisters of St. Francis on September 3, 1930.

Our school continued to grow and it became necessary to secure more Sisters. This was done. But the Convent wasn't large enough to house all the Sisters. Remodeling and enlarging was in order. This work was completed during July and August of 1931.

It is given to few people, like the men and women of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish to look back over a span of 29 years and see with their own eyes the blessing that have been showered upon the parish and rarely is it possible for those same grateful people to express to any living pastor their appreciation of these gifts and to accord him the simple friendly tribute of building the addition to our school.

