

There now came to the Parish as pastor one who would bring back the days of Father Gebney in his building activity. He was the Rev. Jerome Holland, a professor from the Seminary of Mary Immaculate at Huntington. However, it ought to be said that when Fr. Holland took over the parish in June 1950 he found the financial condition of the parish favorable to building. There was over \$66,000 in reserve funds; the largest amount the parish had ever set aside. Former pastors might well have wished to make additional improvements, but the funds were not available to do so. Almost immediately Fr. Holland began his improvements, e.g. new sidewalks, new steps to the church (front & sides), improvements within the church and also changes of great improvement to the cemetery property. A notable improvement was the addition of more comfortable living quarters to the rectory for the use of the assistant priest.

Early in the summer of 1952, Fr. Holland planned to build a new parish hall which was to take the place of the old hall which had done such great service to the parish for 80 years or longer. The demise of the old buildings where the first pioneers of the parish had gathered to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion, was not without regret. Within its walls several generations not only came to worship God, but also to be taught the doctrines of faith, which are now so intimately part of their children's lives.

The new St. Agnes' Hall was ready for dedication on Sunday, April 5, 1953. Quite a number of distinguished members of civil and religious figures were present. The building was blessed by the Very Rev. John Brennan, the Dean of this district. The new St. Agnes Hall, which is a solidly built building, will be used next summer for Sunday Masses. The Church is now too small to accommodate our summer visitors. On Christmas 1954, one of the midnight Masses was offered in the new Hall, thereby establishing a link with the old House of Worship under the same name. The new Hall cost \$65,186, a very moderate amount considering labor and material costs now (1955). Perhaps the only bad feature of the building is the heating system. It is heated by electric power. Not only is this dangerous (once almost causing a fire) but it is very expensive. It is planned to install a new oil heating system as soon as possible.

Shortly after he came here, Fr. Holland realized the need of a Parochial School, and in the early winter of 1952, he obtained the necessary permission to purchase a dwelling house adjoining the church property. This house formerly occupied by the Golden family was purchased in the spring of 1953. Early in the summer of 1954, work was begun in this house to make it a suitable convent. The Sisters of Mercy of Belmont, North Carolina had already accepted the offer to come to this Parish and take charge of the Catechetical instruction until a school would be built. The cost of the Golden house and property was \$15,000. A great deal of alteration was necessary to change it into a Convent for six or more Sisters.

The material improvement of the Parish was not the only interest of Father Holland. The spiritual welfare of the Parish was his first concern and interest, as it should be with any priest. The number of Communicants increased every Sunday. The Holy Name and the Rosary Societies were reorganized and their membership increased steadily. The Novena before Christmas was crowded as never before. Also a notable public event took place on September 21, 1952, when the Rally of the Holy Name Society of Suffolk County took place here in Greenport. After a very fruitful four years spent at St. Agnes Parish, Father Holland, together with his curate, Father Carmody, who was not only a diligent co-worker, but now a true friend, were changed to St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Port Washington. There both were offered a wider field of opportunity for their zealous service.

It should be noted that there was then, and there has always existed, a deep and sincere return of affection on the part of the people of Greenport for the person of Fr. Holland. When he died, after spending many very fruitful years in Port Washington, a

bus load of parishioners from St. Agnes drove in to pay their last respects at his funeral. Even to this day (1969) almost 20 years after he first arrived in Greenport, his name is still remembered and spoken of with great warmth and affection. Many, and the non-Catholics which could be mentioned here are not too few, remember with love the memory of this priest of God, who found his way into the hearts of the people of this town. Pray for his soul and the souls of all the priests and sisters who labored here at one time, and are now deceased. Pray likewise for the priests and sisters living today who inherit the challenge left by so many wonderful predecessors who passed on the great work of advancing God's work in this area of our Diocese.

Father James Mooney, who had been pastor of St. Peter Alcantara's Parish in Port Washington for over twelve years now came to St. Agnes in Greenport. The new pastor allowed the continuance of work on the new convent, which had already begun. Instead of over \$66,000 in the Parish treasury, he found only \$11,772.90 in available funds, an amount which was less than that which Father King had found in the treasury during the depression. In addition, he also found debts contracted for the new convent amounting to over \$9,000. However, the Providence of God provided now as in the past, and he was able to pay off more than \$7,000 of this debt from the ordinary Sunday and Special Collections. The entire debt was paid shortly after Christmas. An appeal to the people furnished the chapel of the new convent. Everything from altar cruets to the most elaborate piece of furniture was donated.

On September 29, the Feast of St. Michael, the Sisters came to the Parish. The Sisters who were sent on this new foundation were Sr. Mary Thomas and Sr. Mary Denis. The Mother Provincial, Mother Mary Maura, also came and remained for two weeks. On the same day the Sisters came, Fr. James McGovern also came as an assistant to replace Fr. John Heffernan, who had been here during the summer months. As soon as the chapel was ready, Mass was offered there and a new home for Our Blessed Savior in the Sacrament of His Love came into existence. The Most Rev. Archbishop kindly granted the privilege of reserving the Most Blessed Sacrament in the small but pretty chapel.

By the second week of October the Catechetical work of the Sisters began. Three afternoons a week and on Saturday morning they taught Catechism to the children. The Sisters soon won their way into the hearts of both the children and the people of the Parish. A special Mass was set aside for the children each Sunday.

There are about 350 children of grammar-school age in the Parish and about 90 young people attending the local High School. One evening a week is devoted to the High School students. Several Catholic teachers, together with the priests of the Parish and sometimes the Sisters, give the instructions. About 70 boys and girls attend. All the instructions are given in St. Agnes Hall. In addition, the Sisters also train a girls' choir each week, take care of the altars and vestments and visit the sick and disabled in the hospital and in the homes. Two of the Sisters also teach Catechism to the children at St. Patrick's Parish in Southold once a week.

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and on Christmas, the girls' choir sang beautifully for the Mass. Since the perfection of the Liturgy was an objective near and dear to the heart of Fr. Mooney, this was very gratifying to him.

From a letter written to the present Pastor, Fr. James Mooney, Archbishop Molloy has expressed a wish that a school be built in St. Agnes' Parish as soon as possible. Since this corresponds with the desires of most of the people here, plans are being made to raise the necessary funds. It is hoped that within a year or two that the Parish will be blessed with a parochial school. A parish is incomplete without a school.

The number of people within the Parish boundaries of St. Agnes is about 1,200. This includes children. This figure was determined by the number of people attending the four Masses each Sunday. The Church accommodates about 350 persons.

Compared to other areas of Long Island, growth in population here has been very slow since World War II. This is due to the distance from the city and lack of industry to attract settlers. During the summer, there are perhaps 1,000 more parishioners; thus necessitating two additional Masses to accommodate visitors.

The Passionist Fathers, from their nearby summer villa on Shelter Island, assist the Parish each Sunday during the Summer months. Such then is the history of the first 100 years of St. Agnes in Greenport. While perhaps still lacking many of the buildings and activities of more recent Parishes, It has nevertheless, progressed during these hundred years. The Parish today (1955) is a far cry from the despised and persecuted little group of Catholics who knelt in the small and humble place of worship built by Fr. McCarthy just a century ago; a place of worship once described as a "Poor little frame church in Greenport, 5 miles from Southold, where Catholics of Southold could at length hear Mass once every 3 months".

With the permission of the Most Rev. Archbishop Thomas E. Molloy, the property for the school was surveyed and plans were made in the Spring of 1955 to begin the school.

A meeting of key men of the Parish was held at the Rectory on May 26 and various committee chairmen were appointed. Others were appointed to canvas the Parish in a fund-raising drive. Training was given regarding approach to the homes and various administrative aspects of the program.

Mr. Fred Gage was designated General Chairman, assisted by Mr. Walter Sledjeski and Mr. Sanford Thornhill. The work was begun with a formal religious opening held in the Church on Sunday evening, July 12. The Rev. Fr. Feeney of St. John's Church in Riverhead preached the sermon.

Other workers joined the first group and when the Campaign was over in July about \$83,000 had been pledged. This was a large amount for a Parish of this size. Most of these pledges came from the year-round resident of the Parish. Plans were then made to open classes in St. Agnes Hall in September.

Partitions were ordered and a new heating system to take the place of the expensive and unsafe electric heating was designed. New school equipment was ordered. It is hoped that a regular Kindergarten and First Grade will be ready in September. About forty children have already been enrolled. The foundation has been laid.

St. Agnes Parochial School opens officially on Monday, September 12, the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. About forty children are expected to be enrolled for Kindergarten and First Grade. For the coming year at least, these classes will be held in St. Agnes Hall.

St. Agnes Parochial School began its first classes at St. Agnes Hall on Monday, September 12, 1955, the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. The first classes, which consisted of the Kindergarten and the First Grade, numbered forty-nine. We are keeping the list of these first pupils of the school. In the years to come many will follow. The following is a list of the first pupils attending St. Agnes School on September 12, 1955:

#### Kindergarten

Michael Boken	Denis Bubb	Paul Cervone
Garry Claudio	Beatrice Claudio	Nancy Cottral
Mary DeDuck	John Dinizio	Chris Grattan
Eileen Grattan	Joan Haberland	Peter King
Margaret Lellman	Claire Lindsay	Robert Laub
Wayne Mazzaferro	Karen Mazzaferro	Carol Preston

Lorraine Rhinow  
Corinne Stepnoski  
Eugene Sledzieski  
Joanne White

Marylin Schroeder  
G. Smith-Leverock  
Mary Thornhill  
Daniel Tuthill

K.Stanilaus  
John Simcik  
Barbara Wells

First Grade

Penelope Andrews  
Bruce Finno  
Michael Heaney  
Harry LaPorte  
James Mazzaferro  
Barbara Rutkowski  
Donna Strasser

John Charters  
Fred Hansen  
Francis Kruk  
Kevin Laub  
E. Mazzaferro  
Linda Skwara  
C. VanCura

Paul Dors  
Robert Heaney  
Thomas LaColla  
Elisa Lieblein  
James Rempe  
Leo Sledzieski  
Linda Walden

Owing to delays in transportation all the partitions were put up only after school had begun on September 12, 1955. Yet when all was finished and the Sisters had decorated the temporary classrooms, everything look very well. Transportation delays also held up the desks and chairs, but the public school Superintendent, Mr. Gilbert Banker, very kindly loaned St. Agnes about twenty chairs.

Work also began on the boiler room. We hope to have the radiators in and everything in working order by October 1st. All this would have been done before, as far as building of the boiler room, if it was not held back by the petty bickering of some Village Officials on the matter.

On Monday there was a Mass for all the Catholic children of the Parish. Many attended Mass that morning. It is our intention each year to open the Parochial School year with a religious ceremony at which all the children will attend.