

Saint Andrew's Parish History:
The New Church on Madison Avenue

First Mass:

Midnight Mass Christmas Eve

1956

By

Raymond T. Caffrey

**Christmas Eve
24 December 2006**

Fr. David Kosmoski
Pastor

Celebrated Midnight Mass

To mark

The 50th Anniversary

Of the

First Mass celebrated

By

Fr. John J. Eagan

In

Saint Andrew's

New Church on Madison Avenue

Succession of Pastors

Rev. Charles A. Dusten	1941-1944
Rev. John J. Eagan	1944-1971
Rev. Chester C. Genecki (Adminstrator)	1971-1973
Rev. Gerald J. Callahan (Administrator)	1973-1974
Rev. James J. McGovern	1974-1981
Rev. Edward. M. O'Neill	1981-1985
Rev. Thomas A. Pieochicinski, Ed.D	1985-1990
Rev. Robert G. Lynam (Adminstrator)	1990-1990
Rev. David B. Kosmoski	1990

Succession of Pastoral Assistants

Rev. Bernard J. Curtin	1951-1953
Rev. Charles La Covera	1953-1954
Rev. Amedeo L. Morello	1954-1957
Rev. Edward J. O'Connell	1957-1958
Rev. Armand A. Pedata	1958-1962
Rev. Chester C. Genecki	1962-1971
Rev. Michael Hackett	1976-1980
Rev. David Lawler	1980-1981
Rev. Thomas Steckel	1981-1982
Rev. Charles Costello	1982-1984
Rev. Thomas Alppat	1984-1985
Rev. Sebastian M. R. Pillai	1985-1985
Rev. Ralph Movaian	1985-1987
Rev. Joseph Krajewski	1986-1987
Rev. Roger LaBonte	1987-1988
Rev. Blaise Baran	1987-1990
Rev. Edward Czarcinski	1988-1990
Rev. Virgillio Chagas	1988-1990
Rev. James Nibler, OMV	1990-1993
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV	1990-1995
Rev. David J. Nicgorski, OMV	1991-2002
Rev. Stephen McAndrew	1993-1994
Rev. Gregory Cleveland, OMV	1994-1999
Rev. James A. Wather, OMV	1995-1999
Rev. Alan Hall, OMV	1999-2001
Rev. Mark Yavarone, OMV	2000-2003
Rev. Andrew Huhtanen, OMV	2001-2003
Rev. Shawn Monahan, OMV	2001-2003

St. Andrew's Parish History

The First Church on Avenel Street

Through 1935 there was but one Mass, an 8 AM on Sundays, and there was no weekday Mass at Saint Andrew's. Baptism, Confirmation, weddings and funerals continued to be held at Saint James in Woodbridge. Parishioners who chose to attend daily Mass went either to Saint James or Saint Mary's in Rahway. Fr. Dusten's is the first annual report to count the number of families in the parish: there were 115 in 1935. Six people died, two couples were married, eleven received their First Communion and four were Baptized. In his report for 1936, dated 29 January 1937, Fr. Dusten signed himself as "Administrator." The parish grew to 150 families; the Holy Name Society had 50 members; the Rosary and Altar Society 75; and the report suggests the formation of a Boys' Club with 150 members.

Msgn. McCorristin, then Fr. McCorristin, who would serve as pastor of Saint James from 1937 until 1966, relieved his assistant of responsibility for Saint Andrew's and submitted his 1937 report without the benefit of Trustees' signatures, and for 1938 his report bears the names of new Trustees, James J. Crowley and John J. Godby. He counted 100 families, 100 men, 100 women and 200 children: his numbers are suspiciously rounded, but it was in 1938 that he persuaded Bishop Kiley to invest the parish with a church of its own.

Fr. McCorristin, it would appear, bore responsibility for the construction of Saint Andrew's first Parish Church which was located "on church property next to the public library." He secured a mortgage from the diocese of Trenton and returned the unpaid principle of the loan St. Andrew's made to St. James in 1929. The West New York firm of Frank J. Ricker and Louis Axt, Architects, designed the church, a brick and hollow tile structure with slate roof, copper gutters, and

elegant wooden doors. The church, with seating for 350, cost "in the neighborhood of \$28,000." The building was "approximately 90 x 40 feet" with a choir loft and bell tower with a room below for the sexton to ring the bell. Beneath the church was a hall with kitchen facilities and a stage.

According to the article in the *Independent Leader* for 29 September 1939, the cornerstone, a donation from the Woodbridge Monumental Works, was laid at 2 PM on Sunday, 1 October, by Monsignor Peter J. Hart. Monsignor Edward C. Griffin addressed the assembly. The church was blessed on 17 December 1939, and Rev. Thomas E. Carney, assistant to Saint James parish since 1938, was Fr. McCorristin's choice to man the new Mission church of Saint Andrew.

The New Church on Madison Avenue

By the mid-1950s, the size of the parish exceeded all expectations. Fr. O'Farrell, who predicted in 1920 that the area would one day develop and grow, would be shocked by the vengeance with which his prophecy was fulfilled.

In 1956, 1,298 families attended Mass in a church built to accommodate 350 people, and Fr. Eagan recognized that he needed to build a larger church and expand the rectory at 248 Avenel Street.

1955

Fr. John J. Eagan was Pastor and Fr. Amadeo L. Morello served as his assistant till 1 September 1957.

2 January: President Jose Antonio Remon of Panama assassinated.

3 January: Top Songs

Chordettes	“Mr. Sandman”
Joan Weber	“Let Me Go, Lover”
Ames Brothers	“Naughty Lady of Shady Lane”
Webb Pierce	“More and More”

Jee Jay Records produced:

Chuck Berry began to make an impact.

Ellis McDaniel--Bo Diddley appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Dee Clark: “Hey Little Girl,” “How About That,” “Rain Drops” (high register)

(Jee Jay records had the first Beatles singles in the US and since their first release did not sell well, they shelved the rest of the tracks and in 1963 Capital took over and the Beatles became the Beatles.)

19 January 1955: 1st Presidential news conference filmed for TV (Eisenhower).

"Millionaire" TV program premieres on CBS.

"Scrabble" debuts on board game market.

20 January 1955: 1st atomic submarine, USS Nautilus, launched at Groton, Connecticut.

25 January 1955: Russia ends state of war with Germany.

United States and Panama sign canal treaty.

27 January 1955: *Plain and Fancy* opens at Mark Hellinger Theater New York City for 476 performances

29 January 1955: John Williams Cox buys Yankee Stadium, sells grounds to Knights of Columbus, later leaves structure to Rice University (1962).

31 January 1955: RCA demonstrates 1st music synthesizer.

8 February Nikolai A. Bulganin becomes Soviet premier.

12 February: President Eisenhower sends four US advisors to Vietnam.

13 February: Israel acquires 4 of the 7 Dead Sea Scrolls.

15 February: Production announced—first pilot plant to produce man-made diamonds.

17 February 1955: Fr. Eagan had in hand a new survey of parish land, and he contracted with Ricker and Axt, the West New York architectural firm that designed the first church, to design a large one: the new church would seat 859.

24 February: *Independent-Leader* reported under the Chain o' Hills Park Reports that "Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Tranovitch, also of Woodruff Street, celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary, Washington's Birthday. They have as house-guests Mrs. Leon Tranavitch and Mr. and Mrs George Kofsky and son, Bob, Norwood, Mass." (P. 11).

4 March: First radio facsimile transmission sent across the continent.

7 March: Mary Martin as Peter Pan is televised.

24 March: First oil drill seagoing rig placed in service.

Tennessee Williams' *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* opens on Broadway (694 Performances).

25 March: East Germany granted full sovereignty by occupying power, USSR.

26 March 1955: "Ballad of Davy Crockett," becomes the #1 record in US.

6 April: [Churchill](#) resigns and [Anthony Eden](#) becomes Prime Minister of England.

9 April: United Nations Charter hearing.

15 April: Ray Kroc starts the McDonald's chain of franchises.

28 April 1955, Thursday: *The Independent-Leader* Page 1.

Headline: **"Founder of Iselin Fire Co. Honored by Service Clubs."**

"Distinguished Citizen Award for Cooper"

"Woodbridge: Frank E. Cooper, Iselin Dairyman and founder of Iselin Fire Company 1 was named "Citizen of the Year" at the annual dinner of the Council of Civic Clubs last night at Oak Hills Manor.

In making the award, Dr. John P. Lozo, High School Principal and member of the Rotary Club, noted that Mr. Cooper, who is a member of the Iselin Lions Club, has served as fire commissioner and treasurer of the board of Fire Commissioners. He has been a member of the Iselin Fire Company for 33 years."

Cooper helped build an addition to the firehouse two years earlier—1953, and he donated equipment.

"In 1938, Mr. Cooper built a ball field on his land for the children of the community and he has sponsored and equipped both girls' and boys' teams. The teams entered the New York World's Fair competition and they defeated every team in their age group."

"A few years ago, Mr. Cooper became alarmed when he saw Iselin children trying to swim in a local brook. He hired a steam shovel, had a pond dug on his own property and diverted a stream to obtain water. He then had the water tested and when he received approval from the Board of Health, he sanded the bottom and opened the pond to the children."

1 May: Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians threw the 15th 1-hit or less game.

5 May: "Damn Yankees" opens at 46th Street Theatre in NYC for 1,022 performances.

West Germany granted full sovereignty by 3 occupying powers.

Indies Parliament accept Hindu-divorce.

West Germany granted full sovereignty by 3 occupying powers.

6 May: Western European Union (WEU) comes into being.

7 May: West Europe Union established.

11 May: Israel attacks Gaza.

Top Songs:

Perez Prado	Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White.
Les Baxter	Unchained Melody
Art Mooney	Honey-Babe
Webb Pierce	In the Jailhouse Now

13 May: Mickey Mantle hits three consecutive Home Runs of at least 463 feet.

14 May: Warsaw Pact formed.

16 May: American author and critic James Agee died in NY.

19 May: Top Songs:

Nat King Cole	<i>A Blossom Fell.</i>
Perez Prado	Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White.
Les Baxter	Unchained Melody
Art Mooney	Honey-Babe
Webb Pierce	In the Jailhouse Now

19 May 1955, Thursday: *The Independent-Leader* Page 3.

Headline: “Crowning Ceremony Slated Sunday at Avenel Church”

“AVENEL--Miss Joan E. Jaeger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius E. Jaeger, 14 Burnett Street, will be the crowner at the annual May crowning rites Sunday at 4 P.M. at St. Andrew’s Church.

Miss Paula Syby will be her personal attendant and other attendants will be Miss Mary Ann Servchuk and Miss Jean Cursi. Patricia Jaeger, niece of the

crowner, will be the crown bearer and Laura Eak, Ann Silakoski and Joyce Subyak will serve as flower girls.

Members of the Middlesex Council, Knights of Columbus, will serve as honor guards and Rev. Gustave Napoleon, St. James' Church, Woodbridge, will be guest speaker. Rev. A. J. Morello will preside.

Benjamin Eagan, Metuchen, brother of Rev. John J. Eagan, will be the organist.

Girls who will be received into the Sodality will be Loretta Bryan, Pricilla Kennedy, Arlene Krisanits, Joan O'Halloran, Shirley Sampson, Janet Sedor, Andrea Suan, Marcia Suan, Ginny Sysock.

Other Sodalists who will participate are Rosemary Basarab, Barbara Chapman, Barbara Choma, Barbara Kaye, Joyce Karmazin, Charlotte Kisieleski, Carol Matis, Patricia Murphy, Dorothy Obriopta, Marcella Pinkos, Kay Podraza, Arlene Quinlan, Margaret Silakoski, Lorraine Swetits, Mary Lou Wranitz.

The final rehearsal for the crowning will be held tonight at 7:30 o'clock in the church. All participants are requested to attend."

27 June 1955: First automobile seat belt legislation is enacted in Illinois.

2 July 1955: *Lawrence Welk* show premieres on ABC Television.

11 July 1955: New USAF Academy dedicated at Lowry AFB in Colorado.

17 July 1955: Disneyland opens its doors in Anaheim, California.

18 July 1955: First electric power generated from atomic energy sold commercially.

19 July 1955: Balclutha ties up at Pier 43 and becomes a floating museum.

21 July 1955: First sub powered by liquid metal cooled reactor launched: the Seawolf.

22 July 1955: Richard Nixon is the first US Vice-President to preside over cabinet meeting.

27 July 1955: Austria regains full independence after 4-power occupation.

12 August 1955: President Eisenhower raises minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1.00 per hour.

20 August 1955: First airplane to exceed 1800 mph.

Hundreds killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.

31 August 1955: First sun-powered automobile demonstrated in Chicago, Illinois.
First microwave television station operated in Lufkin, Texas.

10 September 1955: *Gunsmoke* premieres on CBS Television.

16 September 1955: Hank Bauer and Yogi Berra homer in the 9th inning to beat the Red Sox 5-4 and take over First Place.

19 September 1955: [Argentina](#) ousts [Perón](#).

24 September 1955: President Eisenhower suffers heart attack on vacation in Denver—illness did not prevent him from running and winning re-election next year.

30 September 1955: James Dean died in an automobile accident: head-on collision.

2 October 1955: *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* Premieres on Television.

3 October 1955: Mickey Mouse Club premieres.

Captain Kangaroo premieres.

4 October 1955: Brooklyn Dodgers defeat New York Yankees to win the World Series.

3 November 1955: First virus crystallized (announcement)

13 November 1955: First live telecast from non-contiguous foreign country, Havana, Cuba.

16 November 1955: First speed-boat to exceed 200 mph.

26 November 1955: Emergency Crisis declared in Cyprus.

1 December 1955: Rosa Parks, a black lady, arrested for refusing to move to back of bus. She refused to surrender her seat on bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama and opened the way for the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1956.

5 December 1955: AFL and CIO merge.

15 December 1955: *Independent-Leader*:

Headline: “**Expansion to Start at Avenel Church**” (page 1)

“Woodbridge—Building permits were issued yesterday to St. Andrew’s Parish, Avenel, for construction of a new church on Madison Avenue and an addition to the present rectory.

The church will cost \$245,000 and the addition to the rectory \$18,000.

The church to be made of stone and brick and a tile roof will be built on the lot near the present church which faces Avenel Street. It will have a 56 foot front, 148 foot depth and will be 48 feet high.

The rectory addition will be two stories high and will also have a cinder block garage. Work will start immediately.”

Fr. Eagan secured mortgages for the new church (\$200,000 at 3.5%) and the addition to rectory (\$50,000 at 3.5%) from the Emigrant Savings Bank in New York, and by September 1956, he entertained bids to furnish the church with marble altars, a pulpit, pews, and stained glass windows.

15 December 1955: *Independent-Leader*: (Thursday)

Headline: “**Holy Name to be Hosts to Altar Boys Sunday**” (page 9)

“AVENEL—Plans were completed for a Christmas party for the altar boys Sunday at 2:30 P.M. in the church hall by the Holy Name Society of St. Andrew’s church at a meeting held Monday in the church hall, under the chairmanship of John Wranitz.

Tentative plans were made for activities for the society for 1956, with the following schedule: a minstrel show in February, jointly with the Rosary Society and the Young Ladies Sodality; a raffle on a color television set, some time in the near future; and an outdoor carnival in June.

Michael De Stefano, president, announced that the retreat for 1956 has been scheduled for Sunday, May 5.”

22 December 1955: *Independent-Leader* (Thursday)

Headline: “**Christmas Dance Set by Sodality**” (page 3)

“AVENEL—Miss Mary Ann Sevchuk, prefect of the Young Ladies Sodality of St. Andrew’s Church led in the prayer for the opening of a meeting held Monday evening in the church hall.

Plans were completed for a Christmas dance next Wednesday from 8 P.M. to 12:30 A.M., in the church hall. It was decided that each member be allowed to bring three guests. Miss Patricia Murphy was named as chairman of the decoration committee and Miss Janet Chapman will be in charge of entertainment.

Refreshments will be furnished by the society. Two members of the Rosary Society have volunteered to serve as chaperons.

Tentative plans were made to hold a raffle of a blanket.

Miss Marcella Pinkos, vice prefect, resigned and the group named and elected Miss Mary Lou Wranitz to serve as vice-prefect for the completion of the term.

Miss Deanna Penny was welcomed as a new member.

The meeting was (c)losed with a prayer and the singing of the hymn, ‘Mother Beloved.’”

Headline: “**Cake Sale Planned By Parochial PTA**” (page 9)

(article about St. Cecelia’s PTA)

Headline: “**Holy Name Elects Michael DeStefano**” (page 14)

“AVENEL---Michael De Stefano was reelected as president of the Holy Name Society of St. Andrew’s Church, at a meeting held in the church hall.

Other officers elected were: Philip Miceli, vice-president; Henry Karmazin, treasurer; John Findra, recording secretary; George Cosgrove, financial secretary; John Wranitz and James Nazarro, delegates and Patrick Coogan and William Moran as alternate delegates.

The new slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee which was made of all past presidents. Plans for activities for the coming year will be

made at an executive board meeting which will be held in January. Installation of officers will take place at the next scheduled meeting.

Peter Connell, Emil Moscariello and Edward Malone were welcomed as new members.

It was announced that Nocturnal Adoration will be held on Saturday January 7, between 5 and 6 A.M. at St. Mary's Church, Perth Amboy. Members of the society will meet in front of the local church at 4:40 A.M., for transportation.

Plans were discussed for the society to attend the quarterly meeting of the County Federation of Holy Name Societies, to be held January 18 at St. Michael's Church, Perth Amboy."

1956

5 January 1956: *Independent-Leader* (page 1)

Headline: **“Tax Hike in ’56 Foreseen By Mayor as Growth Result”**

“Woodbridge—Mayor Hugh B. Quigley warned that taxes will be increased this year to pay for ‘more or greater municipal services at more and greater costs,’ in his annual New Year’s message read at the organization meeting of the Town Committee Tuesday at noon.

Continuing, the mayor pointed out that the tremendous growth of the Township has resulted in ‘an ever increasing demand not only upon our existing public facilities, but for additional public services.’

He declared that more policemen will be needed, that other departments need increased help and equipment, that an addition to the Municipal Building must be constructed and many older roads will have to be resurfaced or reconstructed.

However, the mayor said, ‘there is a little ray of sunshine in the offing,’ with the certainty that ‘one of the leading pharmaceutical manufacturers of the country will soon build a very large and expensive plant in our Township’ and the possibility that other plans will soon locate here.’

The need of publicizing the advantages of the Township to industry was also brought out by the mayor who advocated the appointment of ‘some individual who will devote his efforts in enticing and convincing the inquiring industries . . . to settle in this Township which, we believe is on the threshold of a period of industrial expansion.’”

(full text of speech appears and concludes on page 8).

8 January: Elvis Presley’s “Don’t Be Cruel/Hound Dog,” single goes to #1 for a record 11 weeks (for a single).

26 January: *Independent-Leader* (Page 3)

Headline: **“DeStefano Heads Holy Name Society”**

“AVENEL—Michael De Stefano was installed as president of the Holy Name society of St Andrew’s Church at a meeting held in the church hall.

Others inducted were: Philip Mucelli, vice-president; John Findra, recording secretary; George Cosgrove, financial secretary; and Henry Karmazin, treasurer.

Appointed to the retreat committee were James Crowley and George Ludwig. Other committee chairmen appointed were Thomas O'Neill and William Bernath, good and welfare; James Kissane, Joseph Godby and Charles Price, membership; Joseph Imbriaco, entertainment; Frank McKenna and Carmine Mucelli and Charles Pega, sports; John Wranitz, nocturnal adoration; and William Leahy and James Nazzare, publicity.

It was announced that due to the minstrel show to be held in the Avenel School on February 12, 13, and 14, the next business meeting will be held on February 8."

26 January 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 7)

Headline: "St. Cecelia's PTA Honors Church Pastor, Rev. Wilus"

"ISELIN—Mrs. Henry H. Glover, president of St. Cecelia's PTA presented a gift to Rev. John Wilus, pastor of St. Cecelia's Church, on his tenth anniversary as pastor, at a meeting of the group in the church hall.

Rev. Wilus in extending his thanks and appreciation for the gift lauded the members of the PTA for their past cooperation.

The priest announced that a mission conducted by the Passionist Fathers, would be held February 12-26.

Lawrence Moran spoke on tentative plans for the St. Patrick's Day dance sponsored by the Holy Name Society.

The PTA will hold a cake sale after all misses on February 5 and the mothers of pupils of Mrs. Carmela Clemens' afternoon Kindergarten will serve on the committee directed by Mrs. Marguerite McEwen, Mrs. Anne Kidd and Mrs. Marie Nahl.

Attendance prizes were awarded to Sister Fideles' second grade class and Mrs. Mary Reilly's third grade class."

28 January 1956: Elvis Presley's first TV appearance on the Dorsey Brothers Stage Show.

9 February 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 1 and 6)

Headline: "Mrs. Fred H. Albee, Widow of Famous Surgeon, Dies"

9 February 1956 --Thursday: *Independent-Leader* (Page 3)

Headline: “**Rosary Announces Spring Activities**”

“AVENEL—A schedule of spring activities was set up by members of the Rosary Society of St. Andrew’s Church at a meeting Monday in the church hall.

Plans were formulated for an Easter candy project under the chairmanship of Mrs. Lawrence Martin. Mrs. George Ludwig was named chairman for the sale of decorative church plates and she will be assisted by Mrs. Robert Fischer.

Mrs. Henry Hones, president, welcomed the guests as follows: Mrs. John King, Mrs. W. Winn, Mrs. Robert Fuchs, Clark Township; Mrs. J. Kiley, Mrs. Vernon Cano, and Mrs. Michael Zocchi all of Elmora; Mrs. John Caldwell, Mrs. Theodore Lewis, and Mrs. John Bilarczyk, all of Rahway, and Mrs. Raplh Miranda, Avenel,

Pat Coogan of the Holy Name Society spoke to the members on the Legion of Mary, and suggested that the Rosary Society take steps to form an auxiliary to the Legion of Mary.

A card party was held after the business session with winners as follows: Mrs. T. Lewis, Mrs. R. Fuchs, Mrs. William Denvich, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Cano, Mrs. Miranda, Mrs. King, Mrs. Frank Blash, and Mrs. Anthony Maffia.

Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Richard Pryce, Mrs. William Selby, Mrs. Wiliam Chaffey, Mrs. Lewis Dudas, and Mrs. Andrew Introne.”

12, 13, 14 February 1956: The Societies of St. Andrew’s Church held a Minstrel show on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Avenel School Auditorium. The program was entitled: “**Minstrel**” **sponsored by Societies of St. Andrew’s Church.**

On the first page of the program was this message from Fr. Eagan and Fr. Morello:

“Greetings

FRIENDS:

The purpose of this demonstration is to unite out friendship, hospitality and loyalty to St. Andrew’s Parish of Avenel. All participating in any way served these qualities unselfishly.

Your Priests thank you most sincerely, too, because of your zeal, not only in this performance, but also in all parish activities.

The Parish Societies—the Holy Name, Rosary-Altar, Sodality—with their members, although few, are of excellent quality, having given of their time, efforts and energy to this fine show.

Let us continue in this same spirit, keeping Saint Andrew's Parish always before our minds with the view to its future growth in matters spiritual as well as material. To each and all, we thank you sincerely, and may God love and bless you always till you reach your eternal reward.

Rev. John J. Egan (sic), *Pastor*
Rev. Amadeo Morello, *Asst.*

Program

Interlocutor

Mr. James McHugh

ENDMEN

<i>Rastus</i>	M. DeStefano	<i>Jambo</i>	W. Bernath
<i>Amos</i>	G. Ludwig	<i>Sambo</i>	W. Silby
<i>Snowball</i>	P. Coogan	<i>Andy</i>	S. Albrecht

COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman and Producer</i>	Sam "Bud" Albrecht
<i>Co-Chairmen</i>	M. Albrecht, H. Huglemeyer, M. DeStefano
<i>Publicity</i>	Mrs. H. Jones, Geo. Ludwig
<i>Program</i>	Mildred and Sam Albrecht

MUSIC

Piano—Buddy Albrecht

<i>Drums</i>	Philip Franko	<i>Saxophone</i>	Ed. Mann
<i>Guitar</i>	Pete Connell	<i>Saxophone</i>	Jas. Nazarro
<i>Boosters and Program</i>			Charles Pega
<i>Costumes</i>			Mrs. Charles Pega
<i>Tickets</i>			James Crowley, Tom O'Neill
<i>Sound Equipment</i>			Richard McHugh, Bill and Geo. Albrecht

CHORUS

Carol Obruapta	Jacqueline Sauers	J Steinbach
Ruth Steinbach	Charlotte Kisieleski	S. Chapman, Jr.
Barbara Roff	Jerry Litivin	B. Albrecht
Carol Dronicka	Audrey Litivin	P. Aguaglieri
Verne Petrone	Mary Ellen Apostol	G. Ludwig, Jr.
Arlene Krisavits	Carol Dalia	G. Moroz, Jr.
Veronica Macaulaitis	Geraldine Sepack	D. Kager

Patricia Koch
Janet Chapman
Rose Basarab
Pat Murphy

Pat Pelkey
Carol Podrazza
A. Maffia
R. McHugh

J. Yanga
J. Dunda
R. Brennan

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. HI NEIGHBORS: <i>Smiles</i> | CHORUS |
| 2. TEDDY BEARS DANCE ROUTINE | AVENEL "TOTS" |
| 3. WHEN YOU'RE SMILING: <i>Four Leaf Clover</i> | BUD ALBRECHT |
| 4. PANTOMIME | CHARLOTTE KESILESKI |
| 5. LET ME GO LOVER | JACK YANGA |
| 6 CAROLINA IN THE MORNING | GEO. LUDWIG |
| 7. ACROBATIC DANCE | MARY ELLEN APOSTOL |
| 8. NO ARMS CAN EVER HOLD ME | VINCE KELLERS |
| 9. HE | DENNIS KAGER |
| 10. MOTHER MACHREE | MRS. A. MAFIA |
| 11. ACORDION SELECTION | JAMES DUNDA |
| 12. HELLO SWANEE: <i>After You're Gone</i> | M. DE STEFANO |
| 13. PANTOMIME | JERRY AND AUDREY LITIVIN |
| 14. SECRET LOVE | PATRICIA KOCH |
| 15. GLOW WORKS DANCE ROUTINE | |
| 16. LOVE AND MARRIAGE: HEART OF MY HEART— | AVENEL ACRES GIRLS' QUARTET |
| 17. MR. BANJO | PAT COOGAN |
| 18. HAWAIIAN DANCE | CAROL DRONICKA |
| 19. WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING | MRS. JOHN MAHON |
| 20. YOU DON'T HVE TO BE A BABY TO CRY | JAMES McHUGH |
| 21. CHARLESTON | JACQUELINE SAUERS, GEO. LUDWIG,
CAROL R. BRENNAN, RUTH STEINBACK
DALIA, B. MANGER, GERALDINE SEPACK |

INTERMISSION

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 22. IDA: TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE | CHORUS |
| 23. GUITAR & PIANO SELECTIONS | PETE CONNEL & SON |
| 24. ALL I WANT IS A CHANCE | JOS. MARCAZIA |
| 25. I DO | JANET CHAPMAN, ROSE BASARAB, PAT MURPHY |
| 26. ROBT. E. LEE: SWANEE | BILL BERNATH |
| 27. BALLET: CAN CAN | JACQUELINE SAUERS |
| 28. EXPERIENCE UNNECESSARY | MILDRED ALBRECHT |

29. ACROBATIC DANCE	CAROL DRONICKA
30. APRIL SHOWERS	BILL SILBY
31. PANTOMIME	MRS. M. KISIELESKI
32. A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND	RAMONA ELLIOT
33. HANDS OFF OF HIM	PAT PELKEY, VERNE PETRONE
34. ACCORDION SOLO	JOHN BATTIATO
35. DINAH: BILL BAILEY	BUD ALBRECHT
36. STUMBLING ROUTINE	JAMES NAZZARO
37. SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD	GEORGE LUDWIG
38. WEDDING BELLS	G. MOROZ, R BRENNAN, G. LUDWIG, B. MANGER, P. AGULIERO
39. 16 TONS	PAT AGULIERO
40. THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO	JAMES MCHUGH
41. ROCK AND ROLL DANCE	MRS. M. ALBACK, C. KISIELESKI, C PODRAZZA, MRS. A. INTRONE, MRS. H. WATTS, MRS. F. MOYLE
42. GOD BLESS AMERICA—FINALE	ENTIRE COMPANY

The program included pages of paid ads from sponsors throughout Avenel and Woodbridge.

16 February: *Independent-Leader* (page 7)

Headline: “**Over 300 Honor Rev. Wilus at 10th Anniversary Fete**”

24 February 1956: [Nikita Khrushchev](#), First Secretary of USSR Communist Party, denounces Stalin's excesses.

1 March 1956: *Independent-Leader* (p. 3)

Headline: “**Sodality Plans Future Program**”

“AVENEL—Miss Mary Ann Sevchuk, prefect of the Young Ladies’ Sodality of St. Andrew’s Church, welcomed Miss Verna Petrone as a new member, at a meeting held Monday in the church hall. The meeting was opened with the singing of the hymn, “Christ the King” and a prayer.

Miss Sevchuck announced that a Day of Recollection will be held on March 4 from 11:30 A. M. to 5 P.M. Anyone interested in attending is asked to meet in front of the church at 1 P. M.

Each member of the sodality is asked to sell one booster, for the Union Sodality dance program. A well known band will furnish the music.

Tentative plans for the near future include a project to entertain aged people. Plans were discussed for the preparation of an Easter food basket for a local needy family. It was decided to collect clean white or pastel materials to be donated to the local cancer dressing group. These materials, which are sorely needed, may be left at the church or with any member of the sodality.

The Maryknoll Sisters are asking for donations of old rosary beads and crosses which will be prepared by them and then donated to missionary priests in various countries.

John Wranitz and Charles Pryce of the Holy Name Society, guests at the meeting, spoke on the newly-formed Legion of Mary, and asked for active members to become a part of the new society by being praying members, to pray for help for the intentions of oppressed Catholics. No dues and no meetings are connected with this group. Those who have already signed up are on probation for a three month period, and they will receive prayer leaflets at the next sodality meeting. Members, friends, or anyone interested may join at this time.”

8 March 1956: *Independent-Leader* (p. 9)

Headline: “**Routine Meeting Held by Avenel Rosary Unit**”

“AVENEL—Rev. Amadeo Morello led in prayer for the opening meeting of the Rosary Society of St. Andrew’s Church. Mrs. George Ludwig, chairman for the decorative church plate project announced that orders may now be made. The deadline for ordering Easter candy has been set for Mach 14, Mrs. Lawrence Martin stated.

Plans wee furthered to form an auxiliary to the Legion of Mary. Anyone interested in joining may get in touch with the president, Mrs. Harry Jones, Jr.

The program featured a white elephant sale, under the direction of Mrs. Samuel Albrecht. A hat social will be featured for the April meeting.”

15 March: *My Fair Lady* opens at Mark Hellinger Theatre in NYC.

22 March 1956: *Independent-Leader* (p. 14)

Headline: “Holy Name Society Plans Breakfast”

“AVENEL—Plans were formulated for a father-son Communion breakfast at a meeting of the Holy Name Society of ST. Andrew’s Church in the church hall.

The affair will be held April 8 under the chairmanship of Thomas O’Neill. The society will receive Communion in a group at the 8 A. M. Mass and the breakfast will be served at the Howard Johnson Restaurant, Route 1. Clifford Dennery will be the guest speaker and tickets may be purchased from the ushers after each Mass Sunday.

Members planning to attend the county banquet of the Middlesex County Federation of Holy Name Societies at the Pines April 11 are requested to meet in front of the church at 7:15 P. M. for transportation.

Plans were made to attend a meeting of the Middlesex County Federation of Holy Name Societies at St. Michael’s Greek Catholic Church, Perth Amboy.

Frank Mozeliski and Joseph Wukovets were welcomed as new members. Plans were discussed for the retreat at West End May 25, 26 and 27; for an outdoor carnival in June and a picnic September 9 to Roosevelt Park under the chairmanship of Joseph Hollo. Mr. Hollo was also named chairman of a trip to Jersey City to attend the Dodger Giant game on August 15 in the Roosevelt Stadium. Tickets are now available and may be purchased through him.

Meetings henceforth will be held on the Tuesday after the second Sunday of the month.

Feature films were shown on New Jersey and underwater sea life under the direction of John Urban.

Refreshments were served by Joseph Imbriaco and Joseph Tarsitano.”

23 March: Pakistan becomes independent within British Commonwealth.

29 March 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 5)

Headline: “Avenel Rosary Society to Receive Communion”

“AVENEL—The Rosary Society of St. Andrew’s Church will receive Holy Communion in a group next Sunday morning at the 8 o’clock mass. The society will hold its regular meeting Monday at 9 P. M. in the church hall at which time plans will be completed for the spaghetti supper April 26, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Vincent Buonocore. Tickets for the ‘Mother’s Day’ communion breakfast

may be purchased at this meeting. Rev. Amadeo Morello will answer questions from the question box. An Easter hat social will be held with prizes to be awarded for the funniest, most original and the prettiest hats. Mrs. Edward Bolcer, hospitality chairman, will be assisted by Mrs. Robert Brennan, Mrs. Joseph Duncan, Mrs. Herman Kamback, Mrs. Charles Pega, Mrs. J. Armour, Mrs. Ernest Ridley, Mrs. George Faxio and Mrs. Thomas Knox.”

29 March 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 6)

Headline: **“Sodality to Aid Family for Easter”**

“AVENEL—Plans were completed to give an Easter food basket to a needy family at a meeting Monday of the Young Ladies Sodality of St. Andrew’s Church in the church hall. Miss Mary Ann Sevchuck, prefect, is in charge.

Old rosary beads and crosses were collected by members to be donated to the Maryknoll sisters who repair them and donate them to missionary priests. Clean white materials were collected, and will be turned over to Junior Red Cross of Woodbridge High school for distribution.

Tickets for the Union Sodality dance to be held at Our Lady o Peace Church, Fords, April 18 were distributed to the members who are also seeking boosters for the program.

John Wranitz and Charles Pryce of the Holy Name Society, guests at the meeting, spoke on the newly-formed Legion of Mary and distributed prayer leaflets to those who signed for this apostolic organization. Additional members were signed up and all members will be on a three-month probation period.

Miss Janet Chapman gave a report on the life of St. Mary Grotti.

Plans for the May Crowning will be discussed at the next meeting.”

5 April 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 3)

Headline: **“Father—Son Breakfast to be Held on Sunday”**

“AVENEL—Members of the Holy Name Society of St. Andrew’s Church will meet in front of the church tomorrow at 9:40 p. M. to leave for Perth Amboy where they will attend their Nocturnal Hour of Adoration from 10 P.M. to 11 P.M. at St. Mary’s Church.

The society will hold its annual father and son communion breakfast Sunday under the chairmanship of Thomas O’Neill. The members will receive Communion in a group at the 8 A. M. Mass and breakfast will be served at the

Howard Johnson Restaurant Route 1, Woodbridge. Clifford Dennerly will be the guest speaker.

The society will meet next Tuesday at 8 P. M. in the church hall.”

19 April 1956: *Independent-Leader* (page14)

Headline: “**Bake Sale Date Set by Sodality**”

“AVENEL—Plans were made to hold a bake sale April 29 after each Mass by members of the Young Ladies’ Sodality of St. Andrew’s Church at a meeting Monday in the church hall.

Miss Mary Ann Sevchuck, prefect, presented the past prefect, Miss Joan Jaeger, with a gift of letter holder with an engraving of the Blessed Virgin on it.

It was announced that an Easter food basket was presented to the nuns at Strawberry Hill, and that material collected by members for cancer dressings was donated to the Junior Red Cross and the local cancer dressing group. Old rosary beads and crosses collected by the group have been sent to the nuns at Maryknoll to be repaired and sent to missionary priests.

Plans were discussed for the May crowning with the date to be announced in the near future. Miss Veronica Maculaitis was welcomed as a new member.”

26 April 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 1 and 8)

Headline: “**Reckless Teens Get Stern Warning in Toll Aftermath**”

“WOODBIDGE—As a result of last Friday’s tragic accident in which three Iselin boys were fatally injured and three others hospitalized, Police Chief John R. Egan said today that orders have been issued to all members of the police department to check all cars in which teenagers are riding, especially at night.

‘You can say,’ the chief said, ‘that we are declaring war – a war to try to prevent such accidents. If the teenagers cannot give good accounts of themselves they will be brought in and their parents summoned to headquarters.’

At the same time, the police chief revealed the death car will be placed at the intersection of Oak Tree Road and Middlesex Avenue across from St. Cecelia’s Church as an object lesson to other teenagers. The car will be placed later in other sections of the township.

‘We hope the young folks will look at that wrecked car and realize that the same thing could happen to them if they drive recklessly or drive while under the influence of liquor,’ the police head commented.

Meanwhile funeral services have been held for three victims and complaints of drunken driving and causing death by auto have been filed against John Bahr, 18, Bunns Lane, the driver of the car who up to press time was still hospitalized at Perth Amboy General Hospital. Also still in the hospital are William McCarthy, 16, 204 Ridgeley Avenue and Daniel Reynolds, 19, 109 Berkeley Boulevard.

The dead are Thomas F. X. McGinley, 20, 67 Berkeley Boulevard, a sailor home on leave; Richard G. Vesce, 16, 128 Bloomfield Avenue and Harry King, Jr., 15, 182 Ridgeley Avenue.

Tavern Accused Formal complaints were signed yesterday against Iselin and Perth Amboy Tavern owners for selling liquor to the boys, all minors. They were against the Pioneer Tavern and Package Store, 41 Marconi Avenue, Iselin with the owners listed as Elizabeth and Anthony Moscarelli and Jane Giddes, and against the Boulevard Tavern, 751 Convery Boulevard, Perth Amboy. The latter complaint was filed by Perth Amboy police. The complaint against the Pioneer Tavern will be heard in Magistrate's Court, May 1.

Police said that the six boys in the death car and at least nine other Iselin boys had participated in a drinking spree a short time before the accident. The car, driven by Bahr failed to negotiate a turn and ran into an abutment on Route 9 and Green Street. The car was wrecked and beer cans were strewn over the road.

The State Department of Alcoholic Beverage control is making a separate investigation and it is expected hearings will be held with owners of both taverns as defendants in the near future.

A blood test taken at Perth Amboy Hospital shortly after the crash showed that Bahr's blood had an alcohol content of 15% over the level of sobriety, according to Captain Elmer Krysko. Assisting Capt. Krysko were Detectives Anthony Zuccaro, Fred Leidner and John Govelitz and Sgt. Daniel Panconi.

Services Held Funeral services for Richard Vesce were held yesterday morning from the Greiner Funeral Home, 44 Green Street, Woodbridge and at St. Cecelia's Church, Iselin. Rev. Thomas Dentici was celebrant of the mass. The pallbearers were Ronald Pellegino, Franklin Acquila, James King, John Mastrangelo, Robert Lang, and Thomas Ahearn. Burial was in St. James Cemetery, Woodbridge.

Thomas McGinley resided with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Poreda. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. Michael Bickley; three sisters, Margaret, Mary and Judith Ann Bickley; and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Fisher, all of Jim Thorpe, Pa. The body was on view at the Greiner Funeral Home Tuesday and then sent to Jim Thorpe where services were held yesterday.

Henry King is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. King; three brothers, James E. Edward and Robert, all at home and three sisters, Mrs. Steven Lewka, Iselin, Mrs. William McCarthy, Rahway, and Mrs. Vincent Mannel, Clark.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning from the Higgins Funeral Home, Rahway.”

27 April 1956: Rocky Marciano retired from Boxing.

Thursday, 3 May 1956—Independent-Leader (page 3)

Headline: “**Holy Name Society Lists Activities**”

“AVENEL—Members of the Holy Name Society of St. Andrew’s Church will meet in front of the church tomorrow at 10:40 P. M. to leave for Perth Amboy, where they will attend Nocturnal Hour of Adoration, from 11 P. M. to 12 midnight at St. Mary’s Church.

The society will meet May 15 in the church hall. Immediately after the session, a film will be shown. The group will receive Holy Communion on May 20 at the 8 A. M. Mass, instead of Mother’s Day as previously scheduled.

A retreat will be held on May 25, 26 and 27 at St. Alfonso Retreat House, West End. Members planning to attend will meet at the church May 25, at 6 P. M. for transportation. The group will return May 27 after the closing exercises at 2 P. M. Reservations may be made through James Crowley or George Ludwig, co-chairman.

The society, with the cooperation of the Rosary Society, has made arrangements to hold a carnival on the church grounds the week of June 25.”

Thursday, 10 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 3.

Headline: “**Crowning Rite to Be Held Sunday in Avenel Church**”

“AVENEL—Miss Mary Ann Sevchuk, 94 Demorest Avenue, will be the crowner at the annual May crowning rites Sunday at 4 P. M. at St. Andrew’s church.

Rev. Amedeo Morello will deliver the sermon and will preside in the celebration of benediction. Benjamin Eagan, Merucxhen, brother of Rev. John J. Eagan, will be the organist. Members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will form the honor guard.

Miss Jean Cursi will be the crowner’s personal attendant. Other attendants will be Miss Mary Lou Wranitz and Miss Barbara Kaye. Patricia Jaeger will be crown bearer and Marsha Mayer, Patty Esmerado and Ann Silakowski will serve as flower girls.

New members to be received into the Sodality are: Francis Pilecki, Carole Decibus, Beronica Petrone, Lillian Miller, Veronica Maculaitis, and Christine Meglis.

Other Sodalists who will participate are Rosemarie Basarab, Loretta Bryan, Janet Chapman, Barbara Choma, Marion Della Sandros, Joyce Karmazin, Charlotte Kiseleski, Joan Jaeger, Patricia Murphy, Joan O'Halloran, Kay Podraza, Arlene Quinlan, Janet Sedin, Margaret Silakowski, Andrae and Marcia Suan, Lorraine Swettis, Dorothy Obropta and Beverly Jacobs.

The final rehearsal will take place tonight at 7:30 o'clock in the church sanctuary. All soloists and flower girls are requested to attend."

Thursday, 10 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 9.

Headline: **"Church Begins Drive For Clean Literature"**

"ISELIN—St. Cecelia's Church campaign for clean literature, which began Sunday, is off to a very successful start. All stores selling magazines, books, comic books, periodical, and pocket editions, have been contacted and have been most cooperative.

Stores that have joined the campaign will display a shield issued by the committee for clean literature. This shield will designate them as a cooperative dealer. Parish members have been asked to take an active interest by patronizing only those dealers who display the shield."

Thursday, 10 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 9.

Headline: **"Over 1,000 Works of Art in Iselin Madonna Exhibit"**

"ISELIN—Bishop Fulton J. Sheen has lent the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary that is viewed by millions on the Bishop's weekly telecast, to the Madonna Art Exhibit.

More than 1,000 portrayals of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be displayed in this Mother's Day Tribute to Mary, Mother of Mankind, the theme of the exhibit. Joseph Little's original painting of that name will be shown, through the courtesy of Maryknoll Fathers, Ossining, N. Y."

Thursday, 10 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 20.

Advertisement for Iselin Flower Shop 1172 Green Street. Telephone listed as LI-8-1399

St. Andrew's Mass Schedule printed: pastor is listed as Rev. John Eagan.
Weekday Mass at 7:30 P. M. (?) Sunday Masses: 7:00, 8:00 9:00 10:00 and 11:00 A. M.

St. Cecelia's Mass schedule: Rev. John Wilus, Pastor. Sunday Masses, 6:30. 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 A. M. Weekday Masses, 7:30 and 8:00 A. M. Wednesday 8:00 P. M. continuous Novena to St. Jude, Patron of Hopeless Cases.

Theatres advertised on Page 8:

Walter Reade Theatres included:

Majestic—Valley 6-5529 showing *Jubal* with Glen Ford, Ernest Borgnine, Valerie French, Rod Steiger. Next attraction *The Man In The Grey Flannel Suit*.

The Strand—Hillcrest 2-9635 showing *Marty* with Ernest Borgnine through Saturday with special cartoon matinees on Saturday. Sunday Monday and Tuesday, *Blond Bait* and *Swamp Women*.

Woodbridge Drive-In (apparently a Walter Reade Theatre) was showing: *The Rose Tattoo* with Anna Magnani and Burt Lancaster with a second show, *The Fighting Chance* on Thursday night—opened at 6:30; on Friday and Saturday May 11 and 12 *Fury at Gunsight Pass* with Shelly Winters and Jack Palance; the late show is a horror film, *I Died A Thousand Deaths*. Sunday and Monday Robert Mitchum in *The Man With The Gun* and *The Second Greatest Sex* and *Canyon Crossroads* with cartoons. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday May 15, 16, 17 *Helen of Troy* and *Twenty Four Hour Alert*. CinemaScope and Color.

State Theatre in Woodbridge: *Carousel* with Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae Wednesday through Saturday. Sunday through Tuesday, Walt Disney's *Song of the South* Ruth Warrick and Bobby Driscoll plus Van Heflin and Ed Begley in *Patterns*. Wednesday through Saturday Cyd Charisse and Dan Dailey in *Meet Me In Las Vegas*. (CinemaScope).

Fords Playhouse also had *Carousel* and second feature, *Twenty Four Hour Alert* Thursday through Saturday. Sunday through Tuesday, *Never Say Goodbye* with Rock Hudson and Corneli Berchers and *Day of Fury* with Dale Robertson and Marz Corday. Hungarian show on Wednesday May 16 from 2 P. M.

Jefferson Motor, Inc. 160-166 New Brunswick Avenue Perth Amboy Valley 6-0015 and Valley 4-0010 advertised the new 1956 Chevrolet. Page 12.

12 May 1956: Top Songs

Elvis Presley	Heartbreak Hotel/I was the One
Morris Stoloff	Moonglow and Theme from 'Picnic'
Four Lads	Standing on the Corner
Carl Perkins	Blue Suede Shoes
Gogi Grant	The Wayward Wind.

16 May 1956: Kraft Theatre presented an act from *Profiles in Courage*.

Thursday, 17 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 1 and 8.

Headline: "Tavern Involved in Youth Auto Tragedy Before Court"

"WOODBRIDGE---Magistrate Andrew D. Desmond today stated he expects to discuss the case of the Pioneer Tavern, 42 Marconi Avenue, Iselin, with officials from the Alcoholic Beverage Control before reaching a decision on a complaint made against the firm for selling intoxicating beverages to a minor.

It was alleged that teenagers in a car in which three Iselin youths were killed April 20 had purchased beer at the tavern. Magistrate Desmond last Thursday night reserved decision following a hearing against Elizabeth and Anthony Moscarelli and Jane Giddes of the Pioneer firm.

The same night, John Bahr, 18, 5 Bunn's Lane, Woodbridge, driver of the death car, was found guilty of reckless driving and his license revoked for two years. He was not fined. The magistrate dismissed two other complaints against him, one of driving while under the influence of liquor and the other for careless driving. Oliver Kovacs, attorney for Bahr waived a preliminary hearing on a complaint of causing death by auto and the case was referred to the grand jury. Bahr was released in the custody of his attorney and his brother, Charles Bahr.

The drunken driving complaint was dismissed because the blood test taken from Bahr at Perth Amboy General Hospital was without his consent. The intern, Dr. Waclaw Olejnik, who attended Bahr testified that Bahr was unconscious when the blood sample was taken from him.

William McCarthy, 16, 204 Ridgeley Avenue, and Daniel Reynolds, 20, 198 Berkeley Boulevard, two other survivors, also took the stand. Killed in the accident were Harry King, 15, 182 Ridgeley Avenue; Richard Vesce, 16, 127 Bloomfield Avenue, and Thomas F. McGinley, 20, 67 Berkeley Boulevard.

McCarthy appeared on the stand with a plaster cast up to his chin. He related he met the other boys in Jimmy's Sweet Shop. He said there were 11 boys in two cars. He testified that they drove to a farm on Route 27 where they drank beer from 8:20 till 11:15 P. M. It was about the latter time that they got into the cars and decided to go to a dance in Carteret. The accident happened at the Green Street traffic circle.

Bahr testified, in the complaint against the Pioneer Tavern that McGinley was the only one to enter the tavern" . . . (Continued on Page Eight)

Thursday, 17 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 1.

Headline: "Ban on Indecent Magazines Adopted"

"WOODBIDGE—The ordinance banning indecent magazine and comics was passed on final reading Tuesday night by the Town Committee, but just how the new law will be enforced is problematical.

No one spoke against the ordinance, but two news dealers present wanted to know how they could determine whether or not a magazine or comic book came within the ordinance.

Albert Bleiwess, Avenel, said: 'I own a confectionery and am in favor of the ordinance, but I wish to be enlightened as to which magazines are proper to place on sale.'

Mr. Bleiwess mentioned one or two magazines which he felt were distinctly indecent, but mentioned that magazines come in block packages from the distributors and they are more or less forced to take them.

Township attorney Nathan Duff said the matter was clearly defined in the ordinance, but H. Dambeck, Fords, wanted to know who was going to decide which magazines and comic books are indecent. When informed it would be up to the police department he asked what would happen if one policeman said in his opinion a magazine passed inspection and then the 'cop at night said it didn't.'

Mr. Duff admitted there was no . . ." (Continued on Page Eight).

Thursday, 17 May 1956—Independent-Leader page 3.

Headline: "Crowning Held in Avenel Church"

(story appears below a photograph of the young ladies in their finery)

“AVENEL—Members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus formed a guard of honor for Miss Mary Ann Sevchuk, prefect of the Young Ladies’ Sodality of St. Andrew’s Church, who crowned the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at a service held Sunday at the Church.

Rev. Amedeo J. Morello, St. Andrew Church, gave the sermon and presided in celebration of benediction.

Muiss Sevchuk wore a white lace over satin gown with accordion pleats and a pearled crown with a finger-tip veil. Her personal attendant, Jean Cursi, was dressed in a blue gown. Her other attendants, Barbara Kaye and Mary Lou Wranitz wore orchid gowns and the crown bearer, Patricia Jaeger was attired in a blue and white gown, Marsha Meyer, Patty Esmerado and Ann Silakowski served as flower girls.

The four girls received into the society were Francis Pilecki, Carole Decibus, Veronica Maculaitis and Christine Meglis.

Other sodalists who participated were: Rosemary Basarab, Loretta Byron, Janet Chapman, Barbara Chapman, Barbara Choma, Marion Della Sanchose, Joyce Karmazin, Charlotte Kisieleski, Joan Jaeger, Patricia Murphy, Joan O’Halloren, Kay Podraza, Arlene Quinlan, Margaret Silakowski, Marcia Suan, Lorraine Swetits, Dorothy Obropta, Beverly Jacobs and Arlene Krisanits.

After the crowning, Miss Sevchuk held an open house at her home, 94 Demorest Avenue, with Rev. Morello, Members of the Sodality, flower girls and others as guests.”

21 May 1956: Atomic fusion (thermonuclear) bomb dropped from plane in Bikini Atoll.

23 May 1956: World Trade Center dedicated in Ferry Building.

27 May 1956 : French raid in Algiers.

28 May 1956: Eisenhower signs farm bill allowing government to store agricultural surplus.

Top Songs:

Elvis Presley	Heartbreak Hotel/I Was the One
Gogi Grant	The Wayward Wind
Don Robertson	The Happy Whistler

24 May 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Msgr. M’Corristin to Mark 45th Year in Priesthood**” (page 1 and 8)
“**WOODBRI**DGE—St. James Parish members will gather in the school auditorium Tuesday night to pay honor to their pastor, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles G. McCorristin, V. F. who is celebrating his 45th anniversary of ordination as a priest.” (continued)

24 May 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Mutual Supermarket opened on Rahway Avenue and Main Street across from Town Hall. Page 10.

31 May 1956: Mickey Mantle Home Run just misses clearing Yankee Stadium’s roof.

4 June 1956: Kruschechev denounces Stalin in speech at Communist Party Conference.

5 June 1956: Federal Court rules racial segregation on Montgomery buses violates Constitution.

Top Songs:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Gogi Grant | The Wayward Wind |
| Four Lads | Standing on the Corner |
| Fats Domino | I’m in Love Again |
| Carl Perkins | Blue Suede Shoes |

13 June 1956: After 72 years, Britain gives up Suez Canal to Egyptian control.

Top Songs:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Elvis Presley | I Want You, I Need You, I Love You |
| Ray Price | Crazy Arms |
| Fats Domino | I’m in Love Again |

14 June 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Mrs. Shortz Heads Rosary Society**” (p. 11)

“AVENEL—The Rosary Altar Society of St. Cecelia’s R. C. Church, with Rev. Thomas Dentici as its spiritual moderator, elected a new slate of officers for the ensuing year. Officers elected were Mrs. Joseph Schortz, president; Mrs. Paul Silance, vice-president; Mrs. George Brooks, recording secretary; Mrs. Richard Smith, treasurer.

The Rosary was recited and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dentici at the meeting which was held in the school cafeteria. A purse was presented to and congratulations given by the society to Rev. Dentici on his third anniversary.

A representative of Welch Farms presented a film depicting the unsanitary way of handling milk previous to pasteurization and the sanitary way of handling milk at Welch farms. Several quarts of ice cream was donated to the group and served as sundaes.

Installation of newly-elected officers will be held in October.”

21 June 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**‘Rock and Roll’ Dance Successful**” (p. 9)

“ISELIN—The first Rock and Roll Dance was held Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Todd, 39 Correja Avenue. Miss Carolyn Todd assisted by Miss Barbara Mahon was hostess. Mrs. Martin Mahon and Mrs. Todd were chaperones.

The next dance will be a Rock and Roll Dungaree Dance July 23 at the Todds from 7 P.M. to 10:30. Any teen age boy or girl who is a resident of Iselin may attend. Admission is free but soda will be sold.

The two young ladies pondered over the idea of keeping teenagers out of mischief and finally decided to hold the dances.

Parents are encouraged to come at any time to see their teen age sons and daughters have fun. Parents may also serve as chaperones. The dances will be held once a month.

Some visiting teenagers from Irvington and Jersey City attended the Saturday dance.

The girls are making an urgent appeal for all teenagers to attend the dance.”

28 June 1956: Workers' uprising against Communist rule in [Poznan](#), Poland is crushed (**June 28–30**); rebellion inspires Hungarian students to stage a protest against Communism in Budapest (**Oct. 23**).

12 July 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Annual Iselin Fair Opens July 23; Many Attractions**” (page 7)
“ISELIN—The annual Iselin Fair sponsored by St. Cecelia’s Church under the direction of the pastor, Rev. John M. Wilus, will open Monday at 7 P. M., July 23, and continue through Saturday, July 28.

John Mack Brown, the all-American cowboy with Joe Phillips and his wonder horse will be the feature attractions. They will make two personal appearances each night at the Mid-way stage, offering a thrilling western revue with music and comedy.

The 160-foot kitchen tent will offer many varieties of food specialties including pizza pies made to order and delicious submarine sandwiches. Other refreshment stands will be located on the grounds.

There will be nine adult and kiddie rides including a Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, whip and the bullet.

Admission is free and ample parking facilities are available in the church parking lot one block from the fair grounds.

Fair grounds are located opposite the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Green Street.”

12 July 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Franks’ No-Hitter Gives Sox 9-0 Win**” (page 17)

19 July 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Iselin Fair to Feature Noted Western Cowboy**” (page 9)

19 July 1956: US refuses to lend Egypt money to build Aswan Dam.

20 July 1956: Yankee pitcher Whitey Ford ties AL record of 6 straight strike-outs.

25 July 1956: Italian liner Andrea Doria sinks off Nantucket Island after collision with the Stockholm.

26 July 1956: Egypt seizes Suez Canal.

30 July 1956: Motto of US "In God We Trust" authorized.

16 August 1956: Ricker and Axt, the contractors responsible for building the new church, apparently recommended the stained glass window company, Edward W. Hiemer & Co. of Clifton, New Jersey, to Fr. Eagan.

On 16 August, Edward Hiemer wrote to Ricker and Axt to advise that he met with Fr. Eagan and to thank them for their recommendation. Judith Hiemer Van Wie, Edward's daughter, found another thank you letter from Edward Hiemer to a Father Lease, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima on New Market Road in South Plainfield, thanking him for recommending him to Fr. Eagan.

"This morning I had an interview with Father Eagan. We discussed the various types of windows and even though he wanted rather plain windows, he is willing to have windows with figure groups if he can find enough donors.

He definitely wanted an elaborate Rose window over the Main Altar which is to show the calling of St. Andrew and the sixteen side windows should also have figure groups.

It was difficult to write a clear estimate because of the uncertainty of just what window will be ultimately used and the total price shown is for rich ornamental windows with symbols but figures groups would alter the price upward.

We submitted a special sketch to Father, ornamental with symbols and I also showed him a selection of sketch(s) from which he selected windows he wanted to show to the people. I marked the price per window on the back of the sketch for Father.

Since the Church is well on its way, it would be well to reach a decision just as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your recommendation.”

6 September 1956: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**School Jam Hits Peak, Is Growing**” (page 1)

Sub headline: “10,950 Pupils Expected to Enroll Monday and 1,400 More Due Soon”

“WOODBIDGE—Announced the opening of School 18, Indiana Avenue in Iselin and the new Woodbridge High School.”

21 September 1956: Yankees set dubious record stranding 20 men on base; Mantle hit a 500+ foot home run, but Red Sox prevail 13-9 in Fenway Park.

24 or 25 September 1956: First trans-Atlantic telephone cable in use—
Newfoundland to Scotland.

27 September 1956: *Independent-Leader* (Page 1)

Photo of St Andrew’s nearly completed new church with caption: “Nearing Completion: Above is the new church being constructed for St. Andrew’s Parish in Avenel, Adjacent to the old church. The new church faces Madison Avenue instead of Avenel Street, Rev. John Egan, pastor of St. Andrew’s Church estimates that the new structure will be ready for midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.”

2 October 1956: First atomic power clock exhibited in NYC.

24 October 1956: Between 16 August and 24 October 1956, Fr. Eagan must have shown Hiemer’s sketches to the people of the parish, developed some donors for the windows and decided that in addition to the single window featuring St. Andrews, the stained glass windows would feature the apparitions of the Blessed Mother.

“We, Edward W. Hiemer & Company of Clifton, New Jersey, propose to furnish and install the Stained Glass Windows listed below in the St. Andrew’s Church, Avenel, New Jersey, Rev. John J. Eagan, Pastor; for the sum of Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Dollars (\$9,460.00).

16	Nave Windows in pairs, to have Apparitions Of the B.V.M.	@\$500.00	\$8,000
1	Sanctuary window with figure of St. Andrew	@\$1000	\$1,000
2	Octagonal Sanctuary side windows, rich Ornamental with symbols	@\$230	<u>\$460</u>
		Total	\$9,460.00

The contract price includes freight, installation and donor’s inscriptions inserted in the windows.

All work is guaranteed as to artistic and technical execution.

This Agreement signed this 24th Day of October 1956.”

The document carries the signature of Rev. John J. Eagan.

Why did Fr. Eagan choose to feature the apparitions of the Blessed Mother in a church whose patron is St. Peter’s brother, St. Andrew? Some refer the choice to Fr. Eagan’s particular devotion to the Blessed Mother.

29 October 1956: Israeli paratroopers drop into Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula to open Straits of Tiran and drive toward Suez Canal

1 November 1956: Imre Nagy announces Hungary's withdrawal from Warsaw Pact

3 November: *Wizard of OZ* first televised.

4 November: Israeli troops reach Suez Canal.

Soviet troops enter and reclaim Budapest

5 November 1956: British and French invade Port Said on the Suez Canal.

6 November 1956: Cease-fire forced by U.S. pressure stops British, French, and Israeli advance.

13 November: Supreme Court struck down segregation of races on public buses.

15 November: *Independent-Leader*

Photo on page 9 with caption: “Confirmation Rites: One of the largest groups to be confirmed in the history of St. Cecelia’s Church was confirmed Saturday by Auxiliary Bishop John J. Navagh, Raleigh, N. C. acting in behalf of Bishop George W. Ahr. The Knights fo Columbus served as color guard for the Bishop. Left to right are Rev. Joseph Brozowski, Lady of Peace church, Fords; Rev. Edward Creager, St. Joseph’s Church, Bound Brook; Bishop Navagh, Rev. Thomas Raywood and Rev. Thomas Dentici, St. Cecelia’s. In the foreground are members of the confirmation class and sponsors.”

15 November: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Catholic Welfare Bureau to Open**” (page 9)

“ISELIN—At the last meeting of St. Cecelia’s Rosary Society Christmas party plans were completed. The party is to be held on December 5 and Mrs. Carl Anderson was named as chairman. Members from Menlo Park Terrace and Shore Crest will be hostess. It is important that each member bring a fifty-cent gift for the grab bag. Guest Speaker was Rev. Robert Maxwell, M. M., a Maryknoll Missionary who showed films on missions. Rev. Thomas Dentici, assistant and spiritual advisor, announced that the Catholic Welfare Bureau of Trenton is opening a division in Fords that will serve Middlesex County. A forum will be held in St. Mary’s Church, Perth Amboy, December 11, with the purpose of raising funds for the work of the charity. The forum is open to everyone and anyone interested is to get in touch with Mrs. Anthony Sanseviere, 1 Falmouth Road, Westbury Park. Movies will be shown”.

17 November: Fullback Jim Brown of Syracuse scores 43 points in NCAA game against Colgate.

25 November: Top songs:

Elvis Presley “Love Me Tender”

Eddie Fisher “Cindy, Oh Cindy”
Frank Sinatra “Hey! Jealous Lover”
Marty Robbins “Singing the Blues”

30 November: Floyd Patterson knocked out Archie Moore to become Heavyweight Champion.

1 December: Leonard Bernstein’s musical “Candide” opens at Martin Beck Theatre in NYC for 73 performances.

13 December: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Famous Relic of St. Anne to be Shown at Church Devotion in Iselin Thursday**” (December 20) (page 1)

18 December: Japan admitted to UN.

22 December: First gorilla born in captivity is born at the Columbus zoo in Ohio.

27 December: Top Songs

Guy Mitchell	“Singing the Blues”
George Hamilton IV	“A Rose and a Baby Ruth”
Joe Valino	“Garden of Eden”
Marty Robbins	“Singing the Blues”

Samuel Beckett: *Malone Dies*

Nobel Prize: J. Ramon Jiminez (Sp).

Film:

Elvis Presley starred in his first film, *Love Me Tender* with Debra Paget. He played a farm boy who stayed at home while his three brothers fought the Civil War.

“Giant” with Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor. James Dean’s last show before his death in a car crash. *Giant* was the best of the year’s epic size films. Dennis Hopper, Sal Mineo were in the movie. The film is based on Edna Ferber’s novel. The Director, Stevens, chose Rock Hudson over others

to star and he chose Liz Taylor over Grace Kelly and others. The story goes that Grace Kelly was so distraught over missing the role, that she agreed to marry the king of Monaco and became Princess Grace of Monaco. She left Hollywood because she thought the new generation, the younger women, would squeeze her out of the film business.

1950s were the years of the giant screen epic shows. *Giant* is about Texas. In 1956 the studios produced *The Ten Commandments*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The King and I*, *War and Peace*

Best Picture: *Marty*

Hazlet New Jersey: opened its first drive-in movie theatre. The theatre survived until 4 September 1991 when it closed. The last shows were *The Fly* and *The Girl Who Couldn't Help It*.

[Morocco](#) gains independence.

[Ingmar Bergman's](#) *The Seventh Seal*.

[Woody Guthrie](#) composes "This Land is Your Land."

[Allen Ginsberg's](#) *Howl*.

Births:

- 6 June: Bjorn Borg, Tennis player.
- 11 June: Joe Montana, Quarterback of SF 49ers.
- 9 July: Tom Hanks
- 26 July: Dorothy Hamil, Olympic Gold Medal ice skater.
- 24 August: Jerry Cooney, Boxer.
- 22 September: Debie Boone—Hackensack, NJ.
- 29 September: Sebastian Cove, British distance runner.
- 6 October: Stephanie Zimbalist, NYC—Remington Steele.
- 21 October: Carrie Fisher in Beerly Hills—Star Wars—Princess Lelia.
- 20 November: Bo Derek, Long Beach California.
- 7 December: Larry Bird.

1957

Fr. Eagan's report to the diocese for 1956, written in early January 1957, indicates that the church and rectory were under construction, and correspondence dated

April 1957 suggests that the church was a recalcitrant project, reluctant to be finished.

President is Eisenhower; Governor of New Jersey is Robert B. Meyner; Mayor of Woodbridge is Hugh Quigley. Chief of Police in Woodbridge is Egan.

5 January 1957: Eisenhower Doctrine calls for aid to Mideast countries which resist armed aggression from Communist-controlled nations.

7 February 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Mesh Fences to be Erected on Parkway Bridges in Area**” (page 9)
Photo of pencil drawing of chain link fence and a child standing on the sidewalk next to a walk bridge over the Parkway.

8 February 1957: San Francisco Public Library’s bookmobile initiated in front of City Hall.

14 February 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Photo with caption on page 3: “**CORNERSTONE CEREMONIES: The laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Andrews’ church, Avenel, took place Sunday. Left to right are Rev. Amedeo Morelli, assistant pastor; Rev. John J. Eagan, pastor; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael McCorristin, Trenton, representing Bishop George W. Ahr, shown spreading the mortar. The church, to seat 800 will be officially dedicated in the Spring.**”

20 February 1957: Mother Monica Francis, Mother General of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement wrote to Edward W. Hiemer from St. Francis Convent in Graymoor, Garrison, New York in answer to his inquiry about a photograph or picture of Our Lady of the Atonement.

“Dear Mr. Hiemer:

We are very happy to know that Our Lady of the Atonement will be represented in a stained glass window in St. Andrew’s Church, Avenel (sic), New Jersey.

We hope the enclosed will be a help to you. We will pray that this window will be beautiful and an inspiration to all who see it, and will foster love for Our Lady under the title of Our Lady of the Atonement.

There is no expense attached to this. With every good wish . . . ”

6 March 1957: Gold Coast gains independence—Ghana.

22 March 1957: Earthquake rocks San Francisco.

28 March 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Groundbreaking for Avenel Library on Sunday 24 March 1957

A&P Ad—store is at 113 Main Street, Woodbridge and 540 New Brunswick Avenue, Fords.

Mutual Supermarket at Rahway Avenue and Main Street Woodbridge, Opposite Town hall

Iselin Theatre advertised showing of *The Song of Bernadette* starring Jennifer Jones on Thursday 4 April 1957 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to benefit the Building Fund. P. 11:

28 March 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “*Song of Bernadette April 4 in Iselin*” (page 11)

“ISELIN—A special Lenten motion picture show will be sponsored by St. Cecelia’s Knights of Columbus at the Iselin Theatre, Thursday evening, April 4. The showing will benefit the Columbian Club Building Fund.

The Song of Bernadette a former Academy Award-winning (film) will be the featured presentation with other short subjects. Jennifer Jones plays the role of

Bernadette. There will be two complete, continuous performances starting at 6:30 and 8:45 P. M.”

Iselin Theatre also advertised:

Thursday: *Wings of Eagles* and *Rock Pretty Baby*. Friday through Wednesday April 3: *Full of Life* with Judy Holliday and Richard Conte and *Top Secret Affair* with Kirk Douglas and Susan Haywood.

Other Theatres advertising in the paper for 28 March 1957 were the Majestic in Perth Amboy, the Strand, Woodbridge Drive In, State Theatre in Woodbridge, Fords Playhouse.

6 April: New York City ends trolley car service.

15 April 1957: Edward W. Hiemer & Company identified their order for Saint Andrew’s Church as Job # 422.

On 15 April, they could identify each window with a number and an image, and they had the list of the majority of donors’ names to be inscribed in each window.

Wd. 1	Christ The King	IN MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM KUZMIAK AND FAMILY DONATED BY MRS. SUZANNE KUZMIAK
Wd. 2	Queen of the World	(to be sent later)
Wd. 3	Our Lady of Lourdes	THE GIFT OF MR. & MRS. ERNEST RIDLEY
Wd. 4	Our Lady of Fatima	THE GIFT OF MR. & MRS. WILLIAM PRYCE AND MR. & MRS. RICHARD PRYCE
Wd. 5	Our Lady of Guadalupe	IN MEMORY OF VICTORIA, EUGENE AND VICTORIA URBAN GIVEN BY MR. JOHN URBAN
Wd. 6	Our Lady of Czestochowa	(To be sent later)

Wd. 7A	Our Lady of Hope	IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL, VERONICA AND JOHN JAKUBIK GIVEN BY MRS. ANNA URBAN
Wd. 8	Our Lady of La Salette	(SEE ATTACHED MEMO) (Missing)
Wd. 9	Our Lady Seat of Wisdom	IN MEMORY OF CIEGATURA FAMILY
Wd. 10	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	IN MEMORY OF THE BUONOCORE AND MAFFIA FAMILIES GIVEN BY MR. & MRS. VINCENT J. BUONOCORE
Wd. 11	Our Lady of the Rosary	THE GIFT OF FRANK AND BLANCHE WUKOVETS
Wd. 12	Our Lady of Mercy	THE GIFT OF JOSEPH AND ELIZABETH WUKOVETS
Wd. 13	Our Lady of the Atonement	IN MEMORY OF THE MANAKER FAMILY
Wd. 14	Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal	IN MEMORY OF SIMON AND GRACE
Wd. 15	Immaculate Heart of Mary	IN MEMORY OF THE PEGA FAMILY
Wd. 16	Sacred Heart of Jesus	(to be sent later)

18 April 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Photo with caption on page 1: **“EMBARKING FOR TRIP: The eighth grade graduating class of St. Cecelia’s Parochial School is shown leaving for its three-day trip to Washington last week as parents wave goodbye. Supervising the pupils were Rev. John M. Wilus, pastor, Sister Mary Aquinas, and Sister Rose Helen Mrs. Henry Glover, president of the PTA; Mrs. Andrew Dapuzzo, Mrs. Frank Ciccone, Mrs. William Duerscheidt, Mrs. Robert Wills, Mrs.**

Edward Smith, Mrs. Cominic Montazzoli, Mrs William Nichols, Mrs. Vincent Quarto, Mrs. John Tinnesz, Mrs. James Dingwall, Mrs. William Adams, Mrs. Kenneth Hathaway, Mrs. George Sepanski and Mrs. Fred German.”

Page 5—St. Andrew’s Holy Week Schedule

25 April 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Photo of St. Andrew’s Church on Easter Sunday with caption: **“First Easter at New Edifice: Township churches were crowded with worshippers at Easter Services Sunday and the photograph above shows some of them leaving St. Andrew’s Church Avenel. The new building was recently completed and this is the first Easter it has been in use.”**

25 April 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Iselin Little League announced tryouts in the same edition.

25 April 1957: Edward Hiemer wrote to Ricker & Axt to send a copy of the floor plan of St. Andrew’s church with indication of the location of the various windows.

“Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a floor plan, showing the windows so far installed and ordered by Father Eagan. As you will notice, so far, he only placed the order for the 16 side windows and the 2 hexagon windows and the St. Andrew Rose window. Father sent us a list of inscriptions, and it appears that more than two-thirds of the above list of windows, have been sold.

We are anxious to get Father to order the 8 short windows above the confessionals, since the interior of the church will no look complete without them. Of course, there is still the large, front window, which hasn’t been ordered yet either.”

2 May 1957: *Independent-Leader* (p. 5) reported that the government of the township promised sewers.

2 May 1957: Edward Hiemer wrote on 2 May 1957 to request that Fr. Eagan send a partial payment for the windows already installed.

“Reverend and dear Father:

We are working steadily on the Nave Windows for your church and are already painting a number of them.

Due to tax payments and other expenses, we wonder if you could help us a tthist time with a partial check of \$4,000.00.”

Fr. Eagan apparently obliged Edward Hiemer with a check for \$4,000 dated 9 May 1957.

12 May 1957: The Bishop's formal blessing of the church bears the date 12 May 1957, a Sunday, when he celebrated Mass and dedicated the church.

9 May 1957: *Independent-Leader* (page 9)

Photo of Fr. Wilus with caption: “Pastor marks Anniversary: Rev. John M. Wilus, pastor of St. Cecelia’s Church, Iselin, was honored by Parochial PTA Nos. 1 and 2 on the twentieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Left to right are Rev. Wilus, Mrs. Henry Glover, first vice president and Mrs. Frank Ciccone, president.”

On the same page is the announcement of elections of PTA officers at St. Cecelia’s and plans for a dance on 18 may under the chairmanship of Frank Jacobs who will be assisted by parents of pupils of the second grade.

9 May 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: **“Tryouts in Iselin League Continuing”** (page 22):

“ISELIN—Tryouts for the Iselin Little League will continue Saturday at 1 o’clock at the stadium and Cooper Avenue fields according to an announcement made this morning by league president Charles Bahr.

Veteran players from last summer are requested to report to Saturday’s drills along with the new recruits. Each boy in the 8 to 12 age bracket is requested to bring along a glove. Bats, balls and catcher’s equipment will be supplied by the Little League.

In an effort to accommodate the 300 boys who turned out for the tryouts, the local organization plans to increase its facilities to eight Little League teams and eight minor league teams.”

13 May 1957: Top Songs:

Jimmy Dorsey So Rare

15 May 1957: 18,000 people fill Madison Square Garden for Billy Graham’s crusade.

16 May 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: **“Crack-down Warning Given By Mayor, Chief to Stores Selling Obscene Magazines”** (page 1)

Photo with caption: **“Obscenity for Sale: Above are some of the headings cut from ‘smut’ literature, all of which was purchased by an Independent-Leader staff member at stores in various sections of the Township. These magazines, featuring lewd pictures as well as highly offensive stories, can be obtained by youths as well as adults.”**

“WOODBIDGE—(Ruth Wolk’s by-line) Magazines and scores of paper-bound books filled with suggestive and obscene articles and pictures have been flooding the various news stands, stationery and candy stores throughout the Township, *The Independent-Leader* found this week in an independent investigation.” (more)

16 May 1957: *Independent-Leader*

Page 19: Babe Ruth League, president George Sedlack announced that there would be 8 teams with sponsors including The Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Duffy’s

TV, Breen's Plumbing and Heating. Games will be played on Wednesday and Friday at two Diamonds.

16 May 1957: Yankees involved in Copacabana incident that leads to Billy Martin trade.

22 May 1957: South Africa government approves race separation in universities.

22 May 1957: Stephen J. and Stella C. Cohorsky of Avenel, donated to St. Andrew's Parish an undeveloped tract of land on the corner of Pocohant Street and Madison Avenue. The Indenture says that the lot, a combination of two smaller lots, was transferred to the Parish "for and in consideration of One or more Dollars."

23 May 1957: Bishop Ahr paid a second visit to the new church on 23 May 1957 when he confirmed 169, 159 children and 10 adults, 104 more than the parish's first Confirmation of 65 in 1945.

23 May 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: "**Jean Cursi to be Crowner at Avenel May Ceremony**" (page 3)
"AVENEL—The annual crowning of the Blessed Virgin will take place next Sunday at 7:30 P. M. at St. Andrew's Church, with Rev. Amedeo Morello, director of the Young Ladies Sodality, presiding in celebration of benediction.

Miss Jean Cursi, prefect of the Young Ladies Sodality, will be the crowner and her personal attendant will be Miss Barbara Kaye. Other attendants will be Miss Joan O'Halloran and Miss Mary Lou Wranitz.

Eight girls will be received into the Sodality at this ceremony, including, Betty Ann Kavcsak, Francis Agugliaro, Carol Podraza, Dolores Poll, Patricia Potts, Ann Marie Risso, Janet Sigley and Joan Zultak.

Also Participating in the procession will be ten girls from the First Communion Class who will be led by Lois Estok and Rose Mary Agugiaro, also eight flower girls and Joseph Cumacchio the crown bearer.

Benjamin Eagan will serve as the organist and members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will form an honor guard for Miss Cursi, the crowner.”

Page 9: Photo of Fr. Thomas Raywood of St. Cecelia’s with paintings for exhibit of Japanese paintings next month.

Page 9: St. Cecelia’s Rosary Society under direction of Fr. Thomas Dentici announced plans for a Retreat weekend and a Communion Breakfast in October.

27 May 1957: Permission granted to Dodgers and Giants to leave New York.

1 June 1957: Don Bowden is first US runner to break 4-minute mile.

3 June 1957: Howard Cosell’s first TV show.

4 June 1957: First commercial coal pipeline placed in operation.

6 June 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Miss Jean Cursi Crowner at St. Andrews May Rite**” (page 2)
“AVENEL—Rev. Amedeo Morello director of the Young Ladies Sodality, delivered a sermon at the annual May Crowning at St. Andrew’s Church.

The crowner, Miss Jean Cursi, prefect of the sodality wore a white embroidered eyelet gown and a headpiece of seed pearls. Her personal attendant was Miss Barbara Kaye. She as attended by Miss Mary Lou Wranitz and Miss Joan O’Halloran who wore matching blue gowns, a blue flowered headpiece, white capes. Each carried a blue and white colonial bouquet.

The crown bearer, Joseph Cumacchio, nephew of the crowner, carried the crown of white carnations.

The flower girls were Jill Cogan, Theresa Campiglia, Margaret Gilliam, Alison Friel, Faith Carcy, Ann Silakowski, Patricia Esmerado and Marsha Meyer. They were attired in white dresses, wore flowered headpieces and carried small blue and white colonial bouquets.

The attendants and flower girls formed the letter “M” before the shrine with their bouquets.

Francis Agugliarro, Betty Ann Kavcsak, Carol Podraza, Dolores Poll, Patricia Potts, Ann Marie Risso, Janet Syby and Joan Zultak, who were received into the Sodality were dressed in white and were given medals and capes at the altar.

Also participating were Veronica Maculatis, Carol Lee Mates, Christine Meglis, Marcia Suan, Margaret Silakowski, Andrea Suan, and Lorraine Swettis. These girls carried long stemmed blue gladiolas and bleu daisies which were presented to the Blessed Virgin.

Ten girls from the First Communion Class led by Los Estok and Rose Mary Agugliarro were also in the procession, Ellen Buer, Mary Lou Head, Pat imbriaco, Ann Ludwig, Mary An McCloskey, Lois Ann Poltrak, Barbara Seeman, Pat Sohl, Shirley Yuhas, and Linda Mitchell.

Benjamin Eagan served as the organist and members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus formed an honor guard for Miss Cursi.”

6 June 1957: Top Songs:

Pat Boone	Love Letters In the Sand
Ricky Nelson	A Teenagers Romance/I'm Walkin'
Marty Robbins	A White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation
Jim Reeves	Four Walls

12 June 1957: Paul Anderson of US back lifts a record 2,850 kg.

13 June 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Rosary Society Plans for Year**” (page 16)

“AVENEL—The Rosary Society of St. Andrew’s Church formulated plans for the coming year at the closing meeting of the season in the church hall.

Rev. Amedeo Morello gave the opening prayer and Mrs. Joseph Imbriaco, president, welcomed Mrs. Alfred Orlando, Mrs. Henry Reich, and Mrs John Brobowski as new members.

Mrs. Frank Peticca was named chairman of a cake sale July 28 in the new church.

A hot-dog and soda sale is being planned for Vacation School children in July under the direction of Mrs. Henry Kwasnieski. Tentative plans were made to

attend an evening of recollection at the New Jersey Cenacle, New Brunswick, in charge of Mrs. Imbriaco. A drive for new kitchen equipment for the church will be under the direction of Mrs. Richard Pryce. A communion breakfast is being planned for October with Mrs. John Mahon as chairman. Mrs. Charles Pega was named chairman for the Christmas Card sale to be assisted by Mrs. Anthony Maffia, Mrs. R. Pryce, Mrs. Peticca, and Mrs. George McCollins. Plans for a dance in November were formulated under the direction of Mrs. William Chaffey assisted by Mrs. Vincent Buonocore, Mrs. Mahon, Mrs. William Larsen, Mrs. Peticca, Mrs. Robert Neelheim and Mrs. Kwasnieski.

Mrs. Imbriaco, chairman, announced that a committee meeting for all chairmen of the church carnival will be held at her home 299 Avenel Street, June 13, 8 P.M.

Hospitality for the social hour was under the direction of Mrs. John Virchik.”

12 July 1957: First president to fly in helicopter, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

18 July 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Photo with caption: “ATTRACTION AT FAIR: Gene Jimae and His Harmonics, famous stage and TV harmonica and magic act, scheduled to appear nightly at the annual Iselin Fair which opens Monday and runs through Saturday, July 27”

Headline: “**TV, Stage Stars to Appear at Iselin Fair July 22-27**” (page 9)

“ISELIN—Television and stage stars have been signed p to appear at the annual Iselin Fair, sponsored by St. Cecelia’s Church, which opens Monday night at 7 and will continue through Saturday. The fair is under the direction of Rev. John Wilus, assisted by Rev. Thomas H. Raywood, Rev. Thomas Dentici, Rev. Mr. Ernest J. Siska, and Rev. Mr. William Catron.

Hading the list of stars will be Buster Crabbe of Olympic motion pictures and television fame. Mr Crabbe is currently appearing as Captain Gallant in the TV series, “Foreign Legion.” In swimming, he is the holder of five world records, 16 world and 35 national championships. He has appeared in nearly 170 motion pictures, but was best know, perhaps, for his Tarzan series.

Also booked by the fair are Gene Jimae and His Harmonicas. This 14 year old harmonica player appears with his parents and has appeared throughout the world since he was five years old.

The group has played in Italy, France, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Palace Theater and TV shows including six engagements with ED Sullivan's "Toast of the Town."

Ross and Ross, a team of accomplished artist, will perform remarkable feats in boxing. An unusual act, they have appeared with Ed Sullivan and on other TV shows.

Back by popular demand again this year is Joe Philip and his Wonder Horse and trick dog. Last year, this cowboy won the hearts of young and old.

As an added attraction to the admission-free fair, Henry King and His Kingsmen will provide the music.

There will be nine adult and kiddie rides including a Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, chair-o-plane, whip and bullet. There will be 30 booths on the fair grounds including a booth in which religious articles will be featured and another at which St. Cecelia's School faculty will sell aprons and jewelry.

A 160-foot kitchen tent will offer many varieties of food specialties including pizza, pies, submarine sandwiches, barbecued spareribs, corn on the cob and many other home-made delicacies. Other refreshment stands will be located on the fair grounds.

The fair grounds are located on Green Street, opposite the Pennsylvania Railroad Station."

19 July 1957: First Rocket with nuclear warhead fired in Yucca Flat, Nevada.

25 July 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: "**Typical Country Fair, Sponsored by St. Cecelia's, Draws Big Crowds**" (page 5) (8 photos on page 5 with story listing names)

Headline: "**'Come to the Fair' is Theme Song of Iselinites.**"

26 July 1957: Mickey Mantle hits career Home run #200.

29 July 1957: International Atomic Energy Agency established by UN.

29 July 1957: Jack Paar's *Tonight Show* premieres.

1 August 1957: First commercial building heated by sun in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

5 August 1957: American Band Stand goes on Network TV.

6 August 1957: Edward W. Hiemer & Company sent an invoice for the balance owed for the sixteen nave windows on 6 August 1957.

“16 Nave Windows in pairs, With Apparitions of the B.V.M. @ \$500.00 each	\$8,000
Payment 5/9/57	\$4,000

Balance	\$4,000”

Below the “Balance” in handwritten script are two notations: the first indicates that on 9/16/57 Fr. Eagan paid and additional \$1,000 and the second indicates that he paid a the balance of \$3,000 by 11/5/57. Additional notations indicating deposits paid on 10/1/57 and 11/4/57 and a final notation indicating that the invoice was paid in full on 2/7/58 suggest that Fr. Eagan paid Hiemer & Company in installments.

26 August 1957: USSR announces successful test of intercontinental ballistic missile.

28 August 1957: Senator Strom Thurmond begins 24-hour filibuster against civil rights bill.

29 August 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Holy Communion for Rosary Group**” (page 14)

“AVENEL—The Rosary Society of St. Andrew’s Church will receive Holy Communion in a group next Sunday at the 8 A. M. Mass. The society will hold

their first meeting of the season September 4 instead of next Monday as previously scheduled, due to the holiday, in the new church hall. The group will meet in the church previous to the meeting for the recitation of the Rosary. Plans will be discussed for the parish Mother and Daughter Breakfast, to be held October 6, following the 8 A. M. Mass. Mrs. Joseph Imbriaco, chairman for the trip to New Brunswick Cenacle on October 30, announced that reservations must be made through her, by October 7. An executive board meeting will be held this evening at 8 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. William Chaffey, 46 Chase Avenue.

Mrs. Richard Pryce, chairman of the project for raising funds to purchase equipment for the new church hall announced that at committee meeting will be held at the new church on September 9. Parishioners will be canvassed for donations within the next few weeks by members of the committee.”

29 August 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Braves Champions of Iselin Circuit in Form Reversal**” (page 16).

29 August 1957: Strom Thurmond ends 24-hour filibuster against civil rights.

31 August 1957: Malaysia gains independence from Britain—National Day.

1 September 1957: Fr. Morello saw the new church completed and gave way on 1 September to a new assistant, Fr. Edward J. O'Connell.

2 September 1957: Frank Torre (brother of Joe Torre) of the Milwaukee Braves scores 6 runs in one game.

4 September 1957: Ford Motor Company introduces Edsel.

15 September 1957: Bachelor Father with John Forsythe premieres.

San Francisco Seals of Pacific Coast League play their last game.

18 September 1957: *Wagon Train* premieres

21 September 1957: *Perry Mason* premieres.

24 September 1957: The “Little Rock Nine” integrate Arkansas high school.
[Eisenhower](#) sends troops to quell mob and protect school integration.

Elvis Presley makes 3rd appearance on Ed Sullivan Show: he sang "Love Me Tender." Elvis bought Graceland in 1957--*Jail House Rock* was produced by MGM--the movie company of the musical--Fred Astaire, etc

Ricky Nelson released his first record.

Brooklyn Dodgers play last game at Ebbets Field—defeat Pirates 2-0.

26 September 1957: Musical, *West Side Story* opens on Broadway.

4 October 1957: USSR launches Sputnik I the first artificial earth satellite: the Space Age begins.

Leave It To Beaver debuts on CBS.

8 October 1957: Brooklyn Dodgers announce their move to LA.

10 October 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Flu Closes Parochial Elementary**” (page 1)

Sub Headline: “**St. Cecelia’s Closed ‘Til Tuesday; 20% Out in Public Schools Here**”

“WOODBIDGE—Due to an epidemic of colds and influenza in St. Cecelia’s School, Iselin, Rev. John Wilus, pastor, has ordered the school closed until Tuesday, Health Officer Harold Bailey reported to the Board of Health this week.

‘Father Wilus called me and told me that 42 per cent of his enrollment was absent due to colds and respiratory ailments and asked what I recommended,’ Mr. Bailey related. ‘Since 42% is pretty stiff—there was only one thing I could do, I advised him to close the school for a few days.’

However, the health officer noted not one doctor has reported a case of Asiatic flu officially.

Meanwhile in the public schools of the Township the office of Superintendent of Schools Patrick A. Boylan reports approximately 20 % of the student body out with colds. However, a spokesman for Mr. Boylan, who is out of town attending a convention of District Boards of Education, said no plans are being made to close the schools as State Education Commissioner Frederic M.

Raubinger urged that schools remain open unless too many teachers become ill.”
More on page 6.

10 October 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Township Shows Rise in Voters**” (page 1)

Two Guys From Harrison advertised a Columbus Day Sale on page 18—They posted hours as 9:30 A. M. to 10 P.M. Monday through Saturday. They claimed to be open on Sunday from 9:30 A. M. till 9 P.M. The ad said they were located in Fords-Woodbridge on Route 9 ¼ mile from Turnpike Exit and 100 yards from exit 128 on the Garden State Parkway. They offered sale prices on clothes, bedding, Halloween costume; appliances; Lionel Train Sets with transformer for \$13.95.

10 October 1957: Lew Burdette of the Braves defeats the Yankees 3 times in 1 World Series.

17 October 1957: Queen visits White House.

Albert Camus awarded Nobel Prize for Literature.

26 October 1957: Vatican Radio begins broadcasting.

2 November 1957: First titanium mill opened in Toronto, Ohio.

3 November 1957: USSR launches Laika first animal in orbit.

7 November 1957: Thursday: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Plans Completed for Parish Dance**” (page ?)

“AVENEL—Mrs. Joseph Imbriaco, president of the Rosary Society of St. Andrew’s Church welcomed Mrs. Philip Svoboda and Mrs. J. E. Yadvish as new members at a meeting Monday in the new church hall. Twenty guests from St. Anthony’s Church of Port Reading were also greeted.

Plans were completed for a parish dance to be sponsored by the Holy Name and Rosary Societies, November 16. Tickets may be purchased from Mrs. William Chaffey and Frank Maculatis, co-chairmen, or any member of the committee.

Mrs. Leon Silakowski, chairman, presented a slate of officers for nomination and election consisting of Mrs. Anthony Maffia, president, Mrs. Samuel Albrecht, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Pega, treasurer; and Mrs. Joseph Oldak, secretary. Installation will take place at the January meeting with Mrs. Harry Jones, Jr., installing officer.

Plans were discussed for the annual Christmas Party, December 2. Reservations may be made with Mrs. Robert Meelheim, chairman, or any member of the committee.

It was announced by Mrs. William Hugelmeyer that a new merchandise club will be formed after the first of the year.

Starting in January, the society will conduct regular meetings on the first Wednesday after the first Sunday of each month.

Mrs. Richard Pryce was the winner of the dark horse prize, and hospitality was under the direction of Mrs. Vincent Buonocore and Mrs. Frank Blash. Rev. Edward O'Connell led prayer and addressed the group."

14 November 1957: Thursday *Independent-Leader*'

Page 1: At a Board of Health meeting held on 12 November, The Prison Farm agrees to stop dumping their garbage on their land—they had to place rat poison on the garbage dump to control the infestation of rats on the property—and take the trash to the incinerator each day at 2 P. M.

Page 2—Fire on Main Street Shore's Luncheonette, Vivian's Kiddy Shop, Terry Shop, Boot Shop and Modern Men's Shop were burned out.

Page 12—St. Cecelia's Holy Name Society had Communion Breakfast after the 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday—350 people attended.

21 November 1957: Thursday *Independent-Leader*'

Page 12 featured a story about the Sputnik

Iselin Theater advertised *Jail House Rock* from Friday till Tuesday and Victor Mature and Anita Eckberg in *Pick Up Alley*.

22 November 1957: Mickey Mantle beats Ted Williams by 1 vote for the MVP.

25 November 1957: President Eisenhower suffers slight stroke.

26 November 1957: Top Songs

Elvis Presley	“Jail House Rock”
Sam Cooke	“You Send Me”
Bobby Helms	“My Special Angel”
Everly Brothers	“Wake Up Little Susie”

27 November 1957: Independent-Leader reported on page 1 that according to the new census, the population of Woodbridge had reached 72,000—First Ward reported 13,405; Second Ward reported 44,832; Third ward was still to be counted.

2 December 1957: First full-scale atomic electric power plant power generated in Pennsylvania.

4 December 1957: First edition of Chase’s Annual Events published.

5 December 1957: Thursday *Independent-Leader*

Page 1—Photo of snow fall in Woodbridge Park.

6 December 1957: First US attempt to launch a satellite fails—Vanguard rocket blows up.

12 December 1957, Thursday *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Priest from Famous Shrine to Conduct Iselin Service**” (page 1)
“ISELIN—Of interest to many people in Woodbridge Township will be the visit of Rev. Laurent Levesque of the famous Shrine of Ste. Anne De Beaupre of the Province of Quebec, Canada, to St. Cecelia’s Parish, December 19.”

(He brought a relic famous for its reputation of curing illness)

Page 2 Modern Men's shop advertised a smoke sale.

12 December 1957, Thursday *Independent-Leader*

Headline: **“Tumulty Speaker at Iselin Fete”** (page 11)

“ISELIN—T. James Tumulty former Hudson County Congressman, addressed 450 members of St. Cecelia's Holy Name Society at a Communion Breakfast and meeting in the recreation center, after the group had attended the 8 o'clock Mass. Renowned for his oratory and considered a leading exponent of militant Catholicism, Mr. Tumulty commended Rev. Hugh Halton for his stand in the present controversy at Princeton University, labeling him “the champion of all things we believe in.”

Kenneth Becker, president and general chairman, announced committee appointments for the New Year's Eve charity ball as follows: reception, John Belz, chairman; Gene Limoli, Frank Foley, George Emery, Joseph Puma, Frank Rirrell, David Burell, Hugh Hanley, Robert Reamer, Andrew Falco, Charles Hull, Salvatore Graziadei, Anthony Kaliontgis; publicity, George O'Brien; boosters, Charles Terzella, chairman, Larry Moran, Anthony Sanseviere, Raymond Caffrey, William North Grave, Thomas Costello, John Brennan, John Marrren; decorations, Charles Wich, chairman, Robert Zymewski, Neil Quinlan, Kevin McCartin, Walter Swift, Robert Matthews, Daniel Swarts, Andrew Anderson, Joseph Custode.

Also, tickets, George Cox, chairman, Alfred Pante, Robert Wilms, Fred German, Frank Ferisse, Joseph Muzikowski, Evan Lindner, Angelo Calabreca, Art D'Amrore, Fred James, Philip Michaels; journal, Gene Connolly, Robert Deerin; financial, Raymond Caffrey, George Cox, Joseph Shield.”

On the same page is a photo of Vivien's Kiddy Shop conducting a fire sale in new quarters—a crowd of people on the side walk of Main Street.

19 December 1957: *The Music Man* starring Robert Preston opens on Broadway.

26 December 1957: Thursday *Independent-Leader*

Headline: **“‘Growing Pains’ Principal Concern of Town in 1957”**(page 1 and 5)

“The Year in Review”

Wham-o Toy Company sells 25 million hula hoops in 2 months.

Homosexuality decriminalized in UK.

European Economic Community established.

Best Picture: Around the World in Eighty Days.

1958

1 January 1958: [European Economic Community](#) (Common Market) comes effective.

3 January: Edmund Hillary reaches South Pole overland.

8 January: Bobby Fisher won the United States Chess Championship for first time at age 14.

20 January 1958: Elvis Presley was inducted into the army--he received a personal deferment to make his fourth film, *King Creole*--James Dean was cast for the show, and when he died, Hal Wallace reconstructed the main character to suit Elvis.

23 January 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Holy Name Unit Inducts Slate**” (page 3)

“AVENEL—Installation of officers was held by the Holy Name society of St. Andrew’s Church, with Rev. John Eagan as installing officer and moderator.

Alfred Harned was inducted as president; William Bernath, vice-president; William Leahy, treasurer; Richard Bray, recording secretary and Thomas Tozzi, financial secretary.

Mr. Harned announced the committee chairmen as follows, James Crowley and Patrick Coogan, retreat; Lawrence Bryan and Richard Haythorne, good and welfare; James Kissane and George Cosgrove, nocturnal adoration; Joseph Hollo and Mr Leahy, sports; Joseph Lovas, publicity; Joseph Wukovets, Michael De Stefano and Michael Vanitsky, membership; James Yanga, Roy Fox, Peter Bitwinski and John Basarab, entertainment; Joseph Imbriaco and Joseph Tarsitano, delegates to the county federation of Holy Name Societies.

Samuel Albrecht, chairman of the fourth annual minstrel show, announced tickets are now available for the event scheduled for February 14 and 15 in the church hall. Rehearsals are being held each Tuesday and Friday at 8 P. M.”

30 January 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Photograph of Fr. Dentici and Dr. Bella Dodd with caption: “**Former Communist is Speaker: Dr. Bella V. Dodd, former member of the Communist National Committee, is shown with Rev. Thoms Dentici of St. Cecelia’s Church, Iselin, after a talk before members of that parish Sunday Night**”

Headline: “**Reds’ Greatest Threat Told by DR. Bella Dodd**” (page 9)

“ISELIN—‘Communism’s greatest threat to the United States is from within,’ said Dr. Bella V. Dodd, New York Attorney and former member of the Communist

National Committee, in her talk before the parishioners of St. Cecelia's Sunday night.

The Communist Party in the United States has succeeded in integrating its people into key positions deep within our business, scientific, educational, and government worlds. They are constantly at work advocating the Communist philosophy in our radio, television, newspapers, even to the extent of reaching and affecting many various religious groups as well. The Communists are continuing their efforts to confuse and mislead the American people on the true world issues to supplant the love of God with the love of the materialistic things in the world.

Dr. Dodd, once listed among the top 55 Communists in the United States, told her audience that it would be suicide for the American Democratic system and its people to be lulled to sleep by the Communists seeming inactivity in the United States today.

'There are 25,000 Communist Party members in the United States today.' Dr. Dodd said 'the same number that took control over Russia after the First World War. These 25,000 seem small in number; however, they are the elite, the nucleus and the power of the Communist Party in the United States. Their sole effort is to gain control of the United States from within by the Fascists' method of divide and conquer, pitting neighbor against neighbor, race, creed and religion against one another by creating mistrust in our democratic system and reducing any patriotic intentions to ridicule.

Dr. Dodd continued by saying that the time for straight thinking is upon us. Every individual, no matter what church he belongs to, or political affiliation he advocates must take greater interest in his church and in his local political world.

Dr. Dodd's talk was the first in a series of lectures to be given by nationally known speakers on the last Sunday of each month at St. Cecelia's Parish School".

Page 14: "Members of the Iselin Little League will meet on February 6 at Oliver's Tavern, Oak Tree Road at 7:30. Anyone interested in the league, please write Henry Happel, 40 Adams Street, Iselin."

31 January 1958: Army's Jupiter-C rocket fires first U.S. Earth satellite, [*Explorer I*](#), into orbit.

1 February 1958: Egypt and Syria merge into [United Arab Republic](#).

2 February 1958: By 2 February 1958 Edward W. Hiemer & Co. of Clifton, New Jersey had in had a typed work order on letterhead from St. Andrew's Rectory, 248 Avenel Street, Avenel, New Jersey designating the names to be added to four large windows already installed and the names of six of the possible eight donors to be inscribed in the eight smaller windows. Hiemer sent a copy of the work order to Fr. Eagan on 10 February 1958 to verify the names and their spelling and to acknowledge receipt of his order for the eight new windows.

“WRITING UNDER WINDOWS ALREADY INSTALLED

Our Lady Queen of the World

IN MEMORY OF EUGENIE AND FANNY
GIVEN BY MR. RAY MAIER

Our Lady of Chzestochowa

IN MEMORY OF ADAM SWITALSKI AND
JOSEPHINE TROJANOWSKI

Sacred Heart of Jesus

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES AND MARY
DAVIS GIVEN BY MRS. ALICIA SCHUBERG

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom

Change from in Memory of the Ciegatura Family
to:
IN MEMORY OF THE CIEGOTURA FAMILY

NEW SMALLER WINDOWS

1. Queen of Angels

THE GIFT OF MR. & MRS. JOHN GODBY

2. Queen of Apostles

STANLEY AND PAULINE CHAPMAN FROM
BARBARA, JANET AND STANLEY JR., THEIR
CHILDREN

3. Queen of Martyrs

THE GIFT OF MR. & MRS. HOWARD. G.
SMITH

4. Queen of Confessors

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD REGAN AND
ANGELO DI LEO GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS.
HARRY DI LEO AND MRS. EDWARD REGAN

5. Queen of Virgins

Inscription to be given later

6. Queen of All Saints

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH WUKOVETS SR.
GIVEN BY MRS. JOSEPH WUKOVETS SR.

7. Queen of the Rosary

IN MEMORY OF MRS. CATHERINE TURKE
GIVEN BY MARY ANN SEVCHUK

8. Queen of Peace

Inscription to be given later

CHOIR WINDOWS

The Assumption

IN MEMORY OF CATHERINE LARKIN'

13 February 1958: Thursday : *Independent-Leader*

Photo of people from St. Andrew's Minstrel Show with caption: "**Have Featured Roles: The above group of men, women and young stars have lead roles in the minstrel show which will be presented tomorrow and Saturday nights in the new church hall of St. Andrew's Church, Avenel. In the top row are A. Bourdeaux, Patricia Koch, Samuel Albrecht, Jr., Mrs. Albrecht, Philip Michell, William Leahy, William Bernath, Mrs. John Mahon, Michael DeStefano, Joseph Imbriaco, Middle row, Mrs. Rita Fennely, Mary Lou Head, Jill Cogan, Elaine Bernath, Katherine Denvich and Carrie Maffia. Bottom row, Mary Ann Schmall, Diane Aquila, Donald Roselle, Miss Schmall, Dennis Kager, Bernadette Schmall and Miss Knox.**"

Headline: "**St. Andrew's to offer Annual Minstrel Revue**" (page 3)

"AVENEL—The fourth annual minstrel show of St. Andrew's church under the combined sponsorship of the Holy Name Society, Young Ladies Sodality, Legion of Mary, and the Rosary Society will be presented February 14 and 15, 8 P. M. in the new church hall under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Albrecht, Jr. with James McHugh as master of ceremonies." (The article lists the songs to be performed.)

13 February 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: "**Priest Speaker on Good Books**"

"ISELIN—St. Cecelia's Holy Name Society held its monthly Communion breakfast meeting Sunday with more than 400 members and sons receiving Holy Communion and attending the breakfast and business meeting.

Rev. Joseph F. X. Cevetello, Montclair, prominent author, was the principal speaker.

In his talk, Rev. Cevetello stressed the importance of reading good literature. He related the story of a college student, who, as a boy, was permitted by his parents to choose a religion. As a result, he made no selection. Today he is an atheist. 'The articles written by this young man,' the priest said, 'reflected indifference toward religion. He was brought to censure by his college paper and it was revealed that 95 per cent of the books he read were condemned by the church. By reading such literature, the boy had lost his faith. A so-called 'adult book,' will not escape the curiosity and hands of your children. We have a strong obligation to read books pertaining to our religion. We must read the history of the church. We cannot learn everything from weekly sermons at Mass. The priest and teachers are limited in their efforts to bring full knowledge. We must supplement their teachings with our own reading. In this way we may fill in the necessary gaps.'

In conclusion, Rev. Cevetello, assisted by Ray Caffrey, operating the slide projector, told the story of 'The Holy Shroud of Christ.'"

13 February 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Page 16: New Taft Cleaners opens on Route 27 in Colonia next to Food Fair.

14-15 February 1958: The Societies of St. Andrew's Church held a Minstrel show on Friday and Saturday evenings at the Avenel School Auditorium. The program was entitled: "**Minstrel Show' sponsored by Societies of St. Andrew's Church.**"

On the first page of the program was this message from Fr. Eagan and Fr. Edward O'Connell:

"Greetings

FRIENDS:

The purpose of this demonstration is to unite out friendship, hospitality and loyalty to St. Andrew's Parish of Avenel. All participating in any way served these qualities unselfishly.

Your Priests thank you most sincerely, too, because of your zeal, not only in this performance, but also in all parish activities.

The Parish Societies—the Holy Name, Rosary-Altar, Sodality—with their members, although few, are of excellent quality, having given of their time, efforts and energy to this fine show.

Let us continue in this same spirit, keeping Saint Andrew's Parish always before our minds with the view to its future growth in matters spiritual as well as material. To each and all, we thank you sincerely, and may God love and bless you always till you reach your eternal reward.

Rev. John J. Egan (sic), *Pastor*
Rev. Edward O'Connell

Cast

INTERLOCUTOR
MR. SAM ALBRECHT

END MEN

<i>Rastus</i>	M. De Stefano	<i>Andy</i>	W. Leahy
<i>Amos</i>	P. Miceli	<i>Snowball</i>	J. Imbriaco
<i>Sambo</i>	W. Selby	<i>Jambo</i>	W. Bernath

CHORUS

John Basarab	Tony Dalia
Dick Bray	Eddie Mann
George Cosgrove	Jane Head
Bill Denvich	Kathy Chapman
John DeLuca	Karen Barmgaertel
Frank Maculaites	Caroline Knox
Joe Wukovets	JoAnn Cosgrive
Carmen Miceli	Ann Citerella
Joe Schirget	Stella La Salle
Joe Tarsitano	Recnda Suan
Mike Vanitsky	Tom Mulford
Jim Murphy	Eleanor Hople
Tom Tossi	Judy Fabian
Dick Rummage	Bobby Mann
Jeff Slater	Pat DeMarco
Charles Corra	

COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman and Producer</i>	Sam Albrecht
<i>Co-Chairmen</i>	Mrs. MacMahon, Mrs. Sam Albrecht
<i>Publicity</i>	Jim Nazzaro, George Ludwig
<i>Program</i>	Jim McHugh, Sam Albrecht

MUSIC

<i>Piano</i>	Charles "Buddy" Albrecht
<i>Guitar</i>	Ralph McHugh
<i>Saxophone</i>	Jim Nazzaro
<i>Costumes and Curtain</i>	Mrs. Chas. Pega, Mrs. Mac Mahon, Mrs., Wm. Larsen
<i>Back Drop</i>	Jean Cursi
<i>Tickets</i>	Tom O'Neill, Jim Crowley
<i>Program and Boosters</i>	Charles Pega
<i>Sound Equipment</i>	Dave Weller, George Albrecht

Program

1. KEEP YOU SUNNY SIDE UP—THERE ARE SMILES	The Chorus
2. TWIRLING TROUPE	
3. THE DANCING TOTS	
4. BECAUSE OF YOU	Barbara Taillafer
5. TAP DANCE	Diane Aquila
6. ACORDIANIST	Beverly Kisieleski
7. WRITE MYSELF A LETTER—SWEET SUE	Joe Imbraico
8. TILL	Patricia Koch
9. GOODY GOODY	Jill Coogan
10. TOE DANCE	Misses Apostle & Manning
11. OH BOY	Jackie Yanga
12. ACCORDIANIST	Kathy Denvich
13. TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE—APRIL SHOWERS	Bill Selby
14. HAWAIIAN DANCE	Carol Dronigke
15. PANTOMIME	Charlotte Kisieleski
16. TAMMY	Carrie Maffia
17. GIRL OF MY DREAMS—BYE BYE BLACKBIRD	Phil Miceli
18. TWO GUITARS	Dennie Kaeger and Don Rosselle
19. BYE BYE LOVE	Schmoll Sisters
20. TOE DANCE	Mary Ann Zulyak
21. SMEBODY STOLE MY GAL—BEST THINGS IN LFE ARE FREE	Bud Albrecht

INTERMISSION

20 February 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Price of the newspaper rose from 8 cents to 10 cents.

Snow on Monday 17 February

Page 1: Board of Education Elections: “Winfield J. Finn elected President of Board of Education. Dr. Ralph Barone elected vice-president to replace Harry Burke. Barone, John Jewkes and John Csabal” (sp).

Teachers were hired for \$4,250 and \$3,700.

27 February 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Photo on page 7: Anti-Smut campaign. St. Cecelia’s Holy Name Society’s “Clean Literature Campaign” headed by Anthony Sanseviere.

Headline: “**St. Cecelia’s Civic Club Receives Charter**” (page 9)
“ISELIN—The Junior High Civics Club of St. Cecelia’s School this week received its official charter from the Commission on American Citizenship in Washington, D. C.

The Charter formally recognizes the affiliation of the local unit with the national organization headquartered at the Catholic University of America. Pupils of Grade 7-8 comprise the local Club members.

The officers of the newly organized Club are: Kenneth Burkhart, president; Karen Pruden, vice-president; June Schweers, recording secretary; George Haytko, corresponding secretary; and Paul Murphy, sergeant-at-arms.

Junior High Civics Club is one of the thousands of Catholic Civics Clubs chartered in the United States for the express purpose of fostering training for good citizenship.”

6 March 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Annual St. Patrick’s Dance Set for Mar. 15**” (page 15)

“ISELIN—St. Cecelia’s Holy Name Society has completed plans for the annual St. Patrick’s Dance to be held in the school cafeteria March 15.

Irish and American music will be played by Baron Bobick’s Orhestra, which has been a regular feature of the annual affair. . . . Mr. Boyle announced to the members: “This dance provides the main financial support for the activities of the Holy Name Society.” “Through the efforts of past committees this affair has always been an outstanding success and I know that with your help and support we will continue this tradition.”

Page 3: Robert Hall opened on Route 1 and 9 at the Green Street Circle. Kinney Shoes also opened in the same vicinity (Page 6) Ad for both on pages 20 and 21.

Page 2: Kay’s Clothing and Milton Gift Shop at 75 Main Street in Woodbridge.

Page 5: Drawings for proposed new schools in Woodbridge to include five elementary schools: Lafayette Estates in Fords, Cosy Corner in Avenel, Kennedy Park in Iselin, Oak Ridge in Colonia, and New Dover Road in Colonia.

Polio battle in news.

Jitterbug Contest in Fords.

27 March 1958: [Khrushchev](#) becomes premier of Soviet Union as Bulganin resigns.

8 May 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Headline: “**Miss Mary Lou Wranitz Crowner at Avenel Rite**” (page 13)

“AVENEL—Miss Mary Lou Wranitz crowned the statue of the Blessed Virgin in St. Andrew’s Church Sunday at the annual May crowning ceremony of the Young Ladies’ Sodality. She wore an ankle length white embroidered polished cotton gown and a crown of blue and white carnations and carried a bouquet of white carnations.

Miss Lorraine Swetits was maid of honor and Miss Janet Syby and Miss Barbara Ludwig were personal attendants. The crown bearer ws Allan Dragos and

flower girls were Ann Silakoski, Patty Esmerado, Elen Bauer, Marcia Mayer, Maureen O'Halloran, Jean Steinbach, Lynn Zescone and Barbara Monica.

New sodality members who received their medals and capes were Misses Marie Buonocore, Joanne Cosgrove, Carol Czap, Ann Marie Drabin, Pat Connelly, Valerie Fox, Arlene Grabowski, Nancy Kelly, Carolyn Knox, Marcia Knox, Irene Mayer, Mary Ann McNally, Linda Mulvilhill, Pat Nazzaro, Joyce Obropta, Jaon Ordemann, Roberta Padilla, Susan Pepsin, Suzanne Polony, Suellen Rumpelton, Olga Senesy, Mary Ann Shymko, Carolyn Savage, Mary Ann Sanfilipo, Joanne Stachelski, and April Butwinski.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. Amedeo Morello, New Brunswick and Rev. Edward O'Connell delivered the benediction. An honor guard was formed by the Knights of Columbus, Woodbridge and memes of the sodality sang hymns."

8 May 1958: President Eisenhower orders National Guard to Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Vice-President Nixon is shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by protesters in Peru. (See 13 May)

13 May 1958: French settlers riot against French army in Algeria

Jordan and Iraq form Arab Federation

Rioters attack US VP Nixon in Venezuela.

19 May 1958: US and Canada form North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

22 May 1958: Top Songs

Everly Brothers	All I have to Do is Dream
Dean Martin	Return to Me
Chuck Berry	Johnny B. Goode
Marty Robbins	Just Married

24 May 1958: President Batista opens offensive against Fidel Castro's rebellion.

UP and International News Service merge into United Press International.

27 May 1958: Ernest Green and 600 whites graduate from Little Rock's Central High School.

1 June 1958 by Fr. Armand Pedata replaced Fr. Edward J O'Connell who arrived on 1 September 1957 and served only nine months as Fr. Eagan's assistant. Fr. Pedata survived till 1962.

Gen. [Charles de Gaulle](#) becomes French premier—remains in power until 1969.

12 June 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Page 9: New officers for St. Cecelia's PTA 1 and PTA 2

Page 19: Iselin Little League started Season with divisions: Red and Blue Divisions. They announced fund raisers: stickers and tag sales.

6 June 1958: Premier Charles de Gaulle says Algeria will always be French.

26 June 1958: Top Songs:

Everly Brothers	All I Have To Do is Dream
Bobby Freeman	Do You Want To Dance
The Monotones	Book of Love
David Seville	Witch Doctor

30 June 1958: Development of transistor announced by Bell Laboratories.

4 July 1958: Top Songs:

Elvis Presley	Hard Headed Woman
The Coasters	Yakety Yak
Perez Prado	Patricia
Sheb Wooley	The Purple People Eater

15 July 1958: Eisenhower orders U.S. Marines into Lebanon at request of President Chamoun, who fears overthrow.

17 July 1958: *Independent-Leader*

“Barbara Autry, Gene Autry’s daughter will appear at the Iselin Fair which opens Monday 21 July to 26 July.”

24 July 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Picture of Iselin Fair in progress.

7 August 1958: *Independent-Leader*

Page 1: “Two Guys from Harrison will test law by staying open on Sunday.” (ad for 2 guys suggests that they stay open on Sunday)

The newspaper is advertised for 10 cents a copy and \$3.50 per year.

28 September 1958: French adopt new constitution. Charles de Gaulle elected president of 5th Republic.

9 October 1958: “John XXIII (reigned from 1958-1963) replaced Pius XII.”

“Giuseppe Roncalli, born 25 November 1881, was just shy of his 78th birthday when, after twelve ballots, he was chosen to succeed Pope Pius XII who died on 9 October 1958. Shortly after he ascended the Papacy as John XXIII, he announced his inspiration to convene an ecumenical council, the sort of thing Papal Rome liked to avoid on the principle that chaos rides the wake of a Vatican Council. Pope John XXIII conceived of his council as necessary "to bring the church up to date" and to infuse it with the regenerative powers of the Holy Spirit. Vatican II was to be a ‘New Pentecost.’”

27 November 1958: Top Songs

Conway Twitty

“It’s Only Make Believe”

The Teddy Bears
Elvis Presley
Ray Price

“To Know Him, is to Love Him”
“One Night”
“City Lights”

Kean University: New Jersey State Teachers College at Newark becomes Newark State College, pulls up roots and settles into brand new campus in Union Township on the grounds of the former Kean family Green Lane farm under the leadership of President Eugene Wilkins.

Orson Wells: *Touch of Evil*.

Nobel Prize: Boris Pasternak (USSR)—Russia forced him to refuse the award.

Best Picture: *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

Deaths:

Pius XII--reigned from 1939-1958

1959

Fr. Eagan's annual report to the diocese for 1959 was seconded by Lay Trustees, James J. Crowley and John G. Wranitz.

Fr. Pedata's influential interest in the young adults of the parish appeared in the designation of "the old church" as the "CYO Hall".

The parish required seven Sisters and three lay teachers to man the CCD and Religious Vacation School programs. Mr. Charles Pryce was the sexton.

Fr. Eagan, whose salary was largely paid by the State and supplemented by the parish, described his attention to the Rahway State Prison Farm: he said Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, heard confession, gave instruction and was available for conferences with inmates.

The census of 1959, taken by Fr. Eagan, Fr. Pedata, unnamed Seminarians, and the men of the parish who were members of the Legion of Mary, counted 1,101 families, 5,210 parishioners, 1,291 men, 1,339 women, and 2,580 children under the age of 17.

The Holy Name Society ended the 1950s with 201 members; the Altar and Rosary society with 220; the Legion of Mary 15; the Sodality 64; and the Legion of the Sacred Heart 421. Twenty-four couples were married; 120 infants and 7 adults were baptized; 8 died; and Bishop Ahr must have worn himself out on 17 October when he Confirmed 269: 126 boys, 128 girls and 15 adults, 100 more than he found in 1957.

Saint Andrew's Church had grown from a fledgling Mission to a parish of significant proportions.

1 January 1959: Cuban President [Batista](#) resigns and flees—[Castro](#) overthrows the Cuban Government and takes power.

8 January 1959: Charles de Gaulle inaugurated as President of France's fifth Republic.

31 March 1959: Tibet's [Dalai Lama](#) escapes to India.

7 April 1959: Oklahoma repeals Prohibition, making Mississippi the only dry state.

25 April 1959: St. Lawrence Seaway opens, linking Great Lakes with Atlantic Ocean.

4 May 1959: Pulitzer Prize awarded to Archibald Macleish (again) for his poetic drama, *JB* based on the Book of Job.

7 May 1959: Top Songs

Fleetwoods	Come Softly to Me
Dave Baby Cortez	The Happy Organ
The Impalas	Sorry (I ran All The Way Home)
George Jones	White Lightning

8 May 1959: Triple Deck Nile Excursion steamer springs a leak panicking passengers who capsized the ship—200 drown just yards from shore.

28 May 1959: Johnson and Bart's musical "Lock Up Your Daughters" premieres in London.

Monkeys Able and Baker zoom 300 miles (500 kilometers) into space on Jupiter missile. They became first animals retrieved from a space mission.

11 June 1959: Postmaster General bans DHL's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*—overruled by US Court of Appeals in March 1960.

26 June 1959: Queen Elizabeth and President Eisenhower open St. Lawrence Seaway.

19 July 1959: Top Songs:

Paul Anka	Lonely Boy
Fabian	Tiger
Frankie Avalon	A Boy Without a Girl
Stonewall Jackson	Waterloo

27 July 1959: Top Songs

Paul Anka	Lonely Boy
Johnny Horton	Battle of New Orleans
The Drifters	There Goes My Baby
Stonewall Jackson	Waterloo

11 September 1959: Congress passes bill authorizing food stamps for poor Americans.

1 December 1959: First color photograph of Earth received from outer space.

St. Cecelia's tore down the Quonset Hut that housed 4 classrooms and a large auditorium where organizations met for dances, Communion Breakfasts, etc. (Ruth Wolk, *History of Woodbridge*, p. 161). Sr. Rose Helene had a class room in the building.

First motorway opened in UK

Nobel Prize S. Quasimodo (I).

Best Picture: Gigi

The Convent

By 1966 the parish stabilized at 1,470 families with 2,722 children. There were 30 marriages, 103 Baptisms, 131 First Communicants, and Bishop Ahr visited to Confirm 244 on 4 June. Fr. Genecki recruited lay teachers from the parish and instituted a Saturday morning program of religious instruction for residents of the Woodbridge State School. Although the size of the school-aged population of the parish did not change, the number of available religious did: 3 Sisters of the Sacred Heart replaced 7 Sisters of Mercy, and the parish was required to provide religious instruction to the Prison and the State School: if the Church Fathers who attended Vatican II had not decided to invite the laity to take a more active role in the business of the church, the demands of the parish would have decided for them.

On 25 March 1967 Fr. Eagan signed an agreement with Albert Garlatti of Highland Park who would serve as General Contractor for the new Convent which would be built on the site of the old church. Fr. Eagan expected the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts to have a permanent presence in the parish and personalized the convent by choosing for the front door a stained glass window with a design of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The convent was originally planned as the first phase of a building program that would include a new school and a rectory to replace the house at 248 Avenel Street. Thomas A. Vail & Company of Somerset drew plans for a building to accommodate 10 Sisters.

The first floor will contain chapel, refectory, kitchen, common room, porch and two offices. The second floor will have 10 cells, a combination sick or guest room, superior's office and cell . . . Heating and Plumbing work will be done by McGowan and McLean of Middletown, and Klein Electrical Contractors of Perth Amboy will do electrical work.

The diocese had begun to inquire, as part of the annual parish profile, what number of parishioners were students, and in 1967, Fr. Eagan reported 935 in public and 90 in Catholic grammar schools; 310 in public, and 26 in Catholic high schools. The numbers warranted consideration of a parish school and the new convent was apparently designed to house rather a large group of Sisters who would eventually teach in the proposed school.

In June 1967, Pope Paul VI, who wrestled with the difficult task of implementing changes proposed by Vatican II, issued Sacerdotalis Caelibatus, which affirmed the Church's traditional value of religious celibacy. His encyclical "evoked much harsh criticism," and he later

likened the large numbers of priests leaving the ministry to 'a crown of thorns.' He also was disturbed by the growing numbers of religious men and women asking for release from vows or who were abandoning out of hand their religious vows.

In the following year, Pope Paul VI issued Humanae Vitae, which argued for traditional doctrinal, opposition to artificial methods of birth control.

In many sectors this encyclical provoked adverse reactions that may be described as the most violent attacks on the authority of papal teaching in modern times.

The first news from Vatican II was no news. Paul VI insisted that the "Catholic Church in the 20th century should be a faithful witness to the tradition of the past, except when tradition was obviously anachronistic." His posture favored changes in liturgy and in the role of the laity, but he struggled with questions raised by the Council to be certain that he identified the baby before he tossed the bath water. Many among religious and laity alike who looked forward to a lifting of traditional restrictions, found themselves in conflict with the church and a Pope whose interpretation of the Council's purpose seemed to contradict the spirit in which John XXIII convened Vatican II.

The spirit of unrest and conflict that attended the church was also apparent in the country's attitude toward the progressive escalation of the war in Viet Nam, where, in 1967, Lyndon Johnson deployed 390,000 American military personnel:

sentiment against U. S. involvement in the war mounted steadily from 1967 on and expressed itself in peace marches, demonstrations, and acts of civil disobedience. Growing numbers of politicians and ordinary citizens began to question whether the U. S. war effort could succeed, or even whether it was morally justifiable in a conflict that some interpreted as a Vietnamese civil war.

The late 1960s were difficult, troublesome times. The New Frontier proclaimed by John Kennedy and, in his way, by John XXIII was a confusing, contradictory territory, and its paths were neither clear nor straight. The future was unpredictable: Fr. Eagan could not know in 1967 that the parish would not build a school, that his convent would become a Parish House and then a rectory. Neither would he have predicted that Bingo, first introduced under the sponsorship of the Holy Name Society in September 1967, would endure through the years as the leading parish fund raiser!

John C. Reiss, DD, ordained 31 May 1947, succeeded Auxiliary Bishop of Trenton, James J. Hogan on 21 October, and was Consecrated on 12 December

1967. On 16 October 1968 he paid his first Canonical visit to St. Andrew's to administer Confirmation to 222 children and 15 adults, and to assess the progress of the new convent.

Mother Mary Leobin was attended by three Sisters of the Sacred Hearts in 1968, and in July, three more visited for the month to help with Religious Vacation School. Fr. Michael McNulty replaced Fr. Daley as the Sisters' Ordinary Confessor; Fr. William Roos replaced Msgr. Griffin as their Extraordinary Confessor; and Fr. John Gerity, in his third year of service, continued to provide monthly spiritual conferences. In the following year, Rev. Gabriel M. Coless, a Benedictine Father and college professor, who specialized in the history of liturgy, began to serve as a weekend assistant. His paternal and cheerful spirit created a sense of stability for the next twenty-three years.

Construction of the convent was completed before 9 January 1969 when Fr. Eagan received word from the Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, Edward U. Kmiec, that Bishop Ahr granted permission for him to bless the new convent and "to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the Convent Chapel."

The Sisters of the Sacred Hearts were installed in their new home and in an article published by The News Tribune on Saturday, 22 February, Fr. Eagan explained that Sister Gail Ann, Sister Jane Marie, and Sister Muriel Louise were responsible for religious education of elementary school children and assisted Mr. Thomas O'Neill director of the secondary school program which was held on Sundays in the Avenel School.

Old Church New Look

The task of rearranging the church to accommodate radical, liturgical change fell to Fr. Genecki. When stonemasons disassembled the rather large pulpit installed when the church was built in 1956, they built a smaller one, and used the remainder of the marble to create a sanctuary platform for the altar. They turned the original altar toward the people, cut the marble levels on which the original altar stood to provide a platform for the celebrants' chairs, and used the remainder of the marble to complete the sanctuary platform. When they removed the altar rail, they left a short stretch of the original rail in front of the side altar on which sat the original tabernacle until Fr. O'Neill replaced it with a smaller version. Removing the Baptismal font from the rear of the church to left side of sanctuary was less complicated a matter.

Call it the Parish Hall

When Sr. Jane Donnelly led four Sisters of the Sacred Heart to Fairhaven for the summer months of July and August, she returned with only three who were joined in January 1975 by a fourth. And when the Sisters left for the months of July and August 1975, they returned with a new Superior, Sr. JoAnn McKenzie, and their numbers had dwindled to three. By 1976 Fr. McGovern recognized that the convent was too elaborate and too large a facility to house no more than three or four Sisters, and asked the diocese to approve the purchase a house nearby to accommodate the Sisters. Bishop Ahr agreed and on 30 August 1976 the parish acquired a house at 245 Avenel Street that would serve as a convent. The Convent was renamed the "Parish House" and altered to make classrooms for the CCD program.

Elevator

During his pastorate, Fr. McGovern refurbished the pews one section at a time and installed carpeting in the church. Around that time, during the later months of 1975, he sought permission to install an elevator in the church to make it accessible to the handicapped. He had the Bishop's permission by 29 January 1976 and on 16 July 1976, contracted with Albert Garlatti Construction Co. of Highland Park, the firm who built the Convent, to make necessary changes and install an elevator at a cost of \$82,882. Paul Engineering of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, architects, designed the alterations to the church, which included removal of one pew on either side of the church near the center to create an aisle for wheel chairs. The elevator was one of the first in the Trenton Diocese.

Fr. Dave's Doors, etc.

Questions about the Church Old and New

Almost everyone asks me what became of the money Fr. Eagan raised to build a school.

Memories of the Old Church:

Some called the old church the small church.

No Baptismal Font for a long time

Raise money for the curtain for the stage down stairs in the old church

Almost everyone remembers the Minstrel shows people put on to raise money for the church.