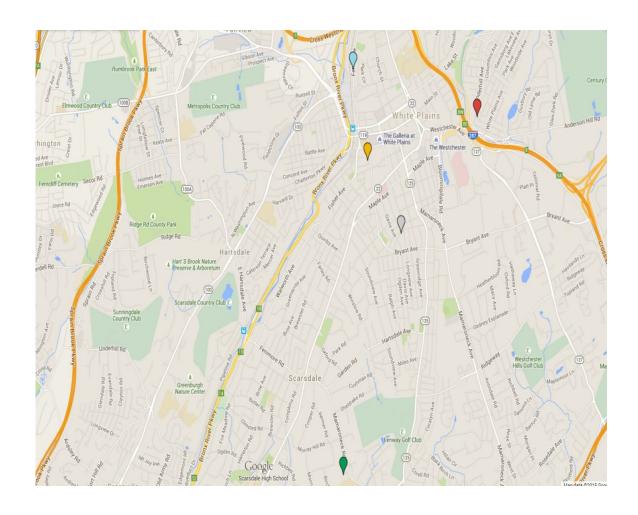
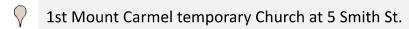
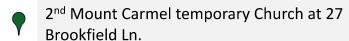
CHAPTER FIVE: OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL and Assumption – White Plains, NY



All the addresses below are in White Plains, NY:







St. Anthony Mission Church at Columbus Ave.

Our Lady of Assumption Mission Church at Ferris Ave.

CHAPTER 5 - WHITE PLAINS TABLE OF CONTENTS 322

Table of Contents:

[1]	PART	ONE: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains, NY	324
	1.	Early Times; 1st Pastor; the Smith Street period [1889 - 1915]	325
	II.	2 nd Pastor; the Brookfield Street period [1915 - 1922]	326
	III.	The beginning of the Stigmatine Era; the construction of the definitive Church and of the mission churches [1922 – 1934]	337
	IV.	6 th Pastor, Father Rosa, a great spiritual leader	343
	V.	7 th to 10 th Pastors; the liquidation of the Church debit [1952 – 1970]	344
	VI.	11 th to 15 th Pastors; the 'renaissance' [1970 – 2002]	345
	VII.	The Centennial [2002]	347
	VIII.	The Stigmatines leave Mt. Carmel after over 90 years [2012]	348
	IX.	The Parish situation, presently [2015]	349
[2]	PART	TWO: St. Anthony of Padua Mission Church in White Plains, NY	352
	l.	The Stigmatine Era [1922 – 1952]	353
	II.	The Archdiocesan Era [1952 – present]	355
[3]	PART	THREE: Our Lady of Assumption Mission Church in White Plains, NY	357
	l.	Early times; the first Rectors [1927 – 1949]	358
	II.	Continuous prosperous times [1949 – 1979]	359
	III.	Lack of Priests and financial hardship force the closure [1989 – 1994]	360

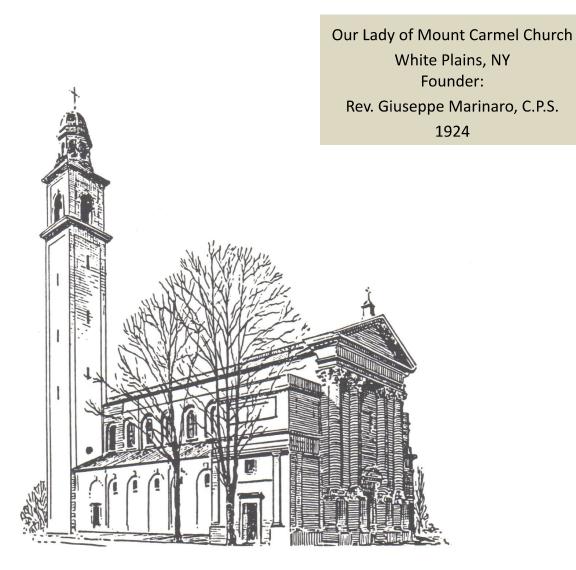
CHAPTER 5 - WHITE PLAINS TABLE OF CONTENTS 323

List of Appendices

Appendix 5.1: Mt. Carmel Church Fair [1903]	361
Appendix 5.2: Certificate of Sacred Promise	362
Appendix 5.3: Assumption – Early Times Photos	363
Appendix 5.4: Centennial Book [2002]	420
Appendix 5.5: From the Sisters of the Divine Compassion	366
Appendix 5.6: From the Claretian Priests [Advent, 2013]	385
Appendix 5.7: Press Account [2015]	386
Bibliography	390
Special Thanks	393

PART ONE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains, NY

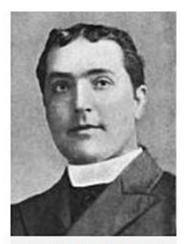


"Property was purchased on May 1, 1924 on South Lexington Avenue to build a permanent Church, the present structure. ... On July 1, 1924 the first Mass was said in the hall on South Lexington Avenue."

Larly Times; 1st Pastor; the Smith Street period [1889 - 1915]

The nucleus of this parish came into being in 1889 when Father Paolino Sapienza¹ gathered a small group of new, Italian speaking Americans around him for Mass. They met first under the auspices of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, and later in the club-rooms of the Society of the *Stella D'Italia* and in Saint John's Hall.

In 1902, the trustees of this pioneering group, Natale Bambace and Anthony Richards, bought a house and grounds at number 5 Smith Street, near the Harlem railroad station, the first property the church was to own.



Father Joseph Marinaro 1st Pastor [1902 – 1915]

We have little information about the Smith Street period of the parish other than that **Father Joseph Marinaro** was the first Pastor, from 1902 to 1915. This is due in great part to the fact that the otherwise detailed annals of Westchester County studiously avoid mention not only of Italian American activities but also those of other ethnic groups. It was a period of such harsh discrimination as to cause many new Americans, in the struggle for survival in their new communities, to abandon the ways of the Old Country as well as their faith.

The first Baptism was recorded on November 16, 1902; the first marriage on April 15, 1903. From 1902 to 1915, Father Marinaro baptized 1,550 children and

performed 289 marriages.

On July 11, 1903 *The Eastern State Journal* reported that a Church fair would be opened by Father Marinaro in St. John's Hall, on Hamilton avenue, on July 20, and continuing for one week, in aid of 'a new church to be erected at 5 Smith Street for the spiritual good of the Italian residents in this vicinity'. This account can be found on **Appendix 5.1**.

A small wooden chapel next to the original edifice was built and for 13 years services were conducted there.

¹ No picture of Father Sapienza was found, but some information on him can be found on the General Appendix, of short biographies.





Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Smith Street property [1902 - 1916]

II. 2nd Pastor; the Brookfield Street period [1915 - 1922]

Father Marinaro was a Diocesan priest. He was transferred in 1915, and was succeeded by another diocesan priest, **Rev. Angelus Michael Jacobucci**², who was pastor up to 1922.

Just after Father Jacobucci's arrival, the Westchester Highway Commission announced that all buildings in the area were to be razed to make way for the Bronx River Parkway³. Father Jacobucci was able to secure a building at 27 Brookfield Street⁴, then the heart of the business section, in White Plains also. This was in 1916. Mass was celebrated in the basement of a four story building, but soon it became imperative to find larger quarters.

² No picture of Father Jacobucci was found, but some information on him can be found on the General Appendix, of short biographies.

³ The sight of the church is the land now occupied by the County Center Auditorium and Exhibition Hall.

⁴ This place is covered over today by the New County Court House complex.



The building at 27 Brookfield Avenue

During Father Jacobucci's term as pastor, the First Confirmation was administered by Archbishop Hayes on November 25, 1917. Also Father Jacobucci baptized 992 children and officiated at 178 marriages.

III. The beginning of the Stigmatine Era; the construction of the definitive Church and of the mission churches [1922 – 1934]

The first Stigmatine Pastor in White Plains was **Father Leo Sella, C.P.S.**

Early in his tenure he obtained approval from Patrick Cardinal Hayes for the Italians to build their own church.

He was able to obtain the Elks Club on **South Lexington Avenue**, which at one time had been the City Hospital. This three-story building was used for the rectory. Behind this was another building with two big halls. These were later the rectory and the classroom building.

The property was purchased on May 1, 1924 and the Brookfield Street building was sold. On July 1, 1924, the first Mass was celebrated on the new premises.



Rev. Leo Sella, C.P.S. 3rd Pastor [1922 – 32]



The Certificate of Sacred Promise



The three-story building on South Lexington Avenue

The Certificate of Sacred Promise is presented here in full page size on **Appendix 5.2**.

St. Anthony's Mission Church⁵

To serve the needs of Italians in the Silver Lake district, a hall, later to be called St. Anthony's, was bought in 1922 and administered by the Stigmatines until 1952, when it was given over to the administration of the Archdiocese of New York clergy. That was the first mission church.

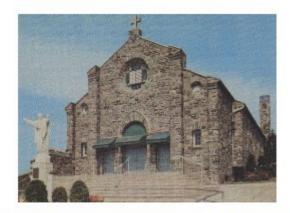


St. Anthony Church on Columbus, Avenue, in 1923

⁵ The chronicle of St. Anthony Mission Church is presented here in part two of this same chapter.

Our Lady of Assumption Mission Church⁶

Because of the rapid growth in the number of Italian speaking people in White Plains, the construction of a second mission church, **Our Lady of the Assumption** on Ferris Avenue, was begun in 1926; and on April 10, 1927, the first Rector of that church, **Father Joseph Rosa** celebrated the first Mass.



Our Lady of Assumption Mission Church, on Ferris Avenue

The construction of the definitive Church at South Lexington St.

At this time, designs for a new Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church were drawn up with the approval of Cardinal Hayes. The foundation of the church was laid and a campaign initiated, partly in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the parish and, at the same time, to raise funds. More than \$70,000 was pledged but, as all pledges were not redeemed, the Church found itself with a debt of \$270,000. It took many years to eliminate it and each succeeding Pastor, by his individual arduous efforts, contributed to its lessening.

The photos below⁷, themselves, taken during the construction of the Church, tell us also part of this history:

⁶ The chronicle of St. Anthony Mission Church is presented here in part two of this same chapter.

⁷ Construction photos courtesy of Rocco Briante.











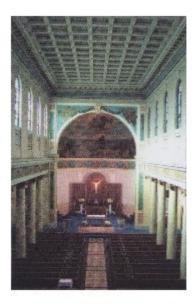
The facade of the Church is a reproduction of the Church of *Santa Maria Della Pietà* in Venice, Italy and the interior modeled after *Santa Maria Maggiore* in Rome, Italy. The campanile, 200-feet high with a gold-leaf dome is designed after the tower of the Church of San Lorenzo, the Cathedral of Lugano, Switzerland.





From the left: the facade of the Church of Santa Maria Della Pietà, in Venice, Italy, and the one of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains, NY





From the left: the interior of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, in Rome, Italy, and the one of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains, NY





From left: the tower of the Church of San Lorenzo, the Cathedral of Lugano, in Italy, and the one of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains, NY

Next two pastors, for short term

When Father Leo Sella left White Plains, he was succeeded by Father Michael Madussi and then by Father Raymond Dalla Porta, both of whom served as Pastor for one year.



Rev. Michael Madussi, C.P.S. 4th Pastor [1932 – 33]



Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, C.P.S. 5th Pastor [1933 - 34]

IV. 6th Pastor, Father Rosa, a great spiritual leader [1934 – 1952]



Rev. Father Rosa, C.P.S. 6th Pastor [1934 – 52]

In 1934, **Father Joseph Rosa** came to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, doubtless unaware that he was to spend 18 years with his new flock, although many were known to him through his term of office as Rector of Our Lady of the Assumption Mission Church.

Needless to say, from the beginning he was hampered by the debt and many projects had to be held in abeyance while he coped with the amortization and paid interest.

These financial burdens notwithstanding, he was an extraordinary spiritual leader and his personal impact was felt not only by parishioners but by the community at large. One might almost say he was "ecumenical" before it became official. Many instances of his long-reaching kindness and generosity are recalled to this day by friends of every faith.

After his departure from White Plains in 1952, he returned to Massachusetts to become Rector of St. Ann's Church in West Springfield.

After his death in 1964, "The Friends of Father Rosa" presented the Stigmatine Provincial in his memory with a handsome burse for education of students for the priesthood in the Stigmatine Congregation.

At Saint Anthony's Mission Church in Silver Lake, another Stigmatine Father became a much loved figure. Father Richard Zambiasi, who stayed with us from 1934 to 1952, brought to both Saint Anthony's and to Our Lady of Mount Carmel not only his spiritual dedication but also his brilliance as a musician/composer. A disciple of the great Vatican organist Lorenzo Perosi, he was at his happiest when playing the fine new pipe organ at Mount Carmel, and directing his two choirs.



Rev. Richard Zambiasi, C.P.S. 1934 - 1952

V. 7th to 10th Pastors; the liquidation of the Church debit [1952 – 1970]



Rev. William Ludessi, C.P.S. 7th Pastor [1952 – 61] 1889 - † 1969

When **Father William Ludessi** (1952-1961) assumed Father Rosa's mantle, he must have realized it would have been a heavy burden to bear. However, he soon won many friends and during his nine year tenure, he succeeded in finally liquidating the church debt. He managed also to make some repairs and refurbishing. A two story building on South Lexington Avenue and four homes on Orawaupum Street were purchased and demolished to make way for a parking area.

In 1961, **Father Leonard Della Badia**, a native of nearby East View, was appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He brought great zeal and kindness to his pastorate. He continued his ministry as a Pastor in Canada and, upon retirement, returned home to us at Mount Carmel.



Rev. Leonard Della Badia, C.P.S. 8th Pastor [1961 – 64] 1889 - † 1969



Rev. Carmen Russo, C.S.S. 9th Pastor [1964-67]

Father Carmen T. Russo succeeded Father Della Badia and one of his first steps was to petition Cardinal Spellman for permission to build a new rectory. Permission was granted in 1964 and later that year construction began.

The new building was completed in July of 1966 and dedicated on September 18, 1966. Once again the church had a debt to deal with and it was towards the liquidation of this debt that the succeeding pastors were obliged to focus their efforts.

In 1967, **Father Dino Giampaolo** came to White Plains as Pastor of Mount Carmel. Father Giampaolo undertook renovations in the sanctuary of the church in accordance with the prescriptions of the Revised Liturgy. During the latter part of his term he was plagued with ill health which necessitated his transfer to allow some time for recuperation. Unfortunately, his condition worsened and he was called to his eternal reward in 1976. Through the generous gifts of his friends and parishioners, a wood carved statue of the Stigmatine Founder, Saint Gaspar Bertoni was purchased in Father Giampaolo's memory. It is located at the rear of the church.



Rev. Gino Giampaolo, C.S.S. 10th Pastor [1967-70]

VI. 11th to 15th Pastors; the 'renaissance' [1970 – 2002]



Rev. Samuel Fayad, C.S.S. 11th Pastor [1970 - 82] -14th Pastor (1989 – 94)

The next Pastor, **Father Samuel J. Fayad**, presented his plans to the parishioners for the revival of the parish, in which he pleaded for their support in the complete "renaissance" of the church interior and exterior. Phonea-thons and voluntary contributions opened the way for the renewal, not only of the church itself but, also to the church hall and the CCD classrooms.

As funds came in additional work was done to the church's interior design and columns. New pews were purchased, their style in keeping with the sanctuary furnishings. As Father Fayad hoped all of this was in readiness for the Diamond Jubilee Mass at which His Eminence Terrence Cardinal Cooke said that he felt he was transported to one of the great basilicas of Rome. It was also during this period, at the request of parishioners, the *Festa* and Procession on the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel were re-instituted.



Father Samuel Fayad in the interior of the renovated Church

After Father Samuel Fayad, the church was under the leadership of **Father Gerald Goggin** (1982-1985), **Father Rinaldo Ribezzi** (1985-1989), and a second tenure of **Father Samuel Fayad** (1989-1994).



Rev. Gerald Goggin, C.S.S. 12th Pastor [1982-85]



Rev.Rinaldo Ribezzi, C.S.S. 13th Pastor [1985-89]

Under Father Fayad's second term as Pastor, the Parish Campaign was begun and the interior of the church was completely renovated. Also during this period, Mount Carmel's Mission Church, Our Lady of the Assumption, was closed due to a lack of priests to staff it and financial hardship. The Church was later sold to an Indian Orthodox congregation of an eastern rite of Christianity.

Father Albert Azrak, the 15th pastor, is credited with a host of new projects and renovations, which were much needed and appreciated by the parishioners.

Major improvements included the construction of the elevator which gave greater access to the elderly and disabled parishioners, the construction of the Saint Francis Garden, a new roof with restoration of the terracotta tiles, the repaving of the parking lot, the re-landscaping of the grounds and the restoration and gold leafing of the bell tower's cupola. Also the Carmela bell was re-mounted so it could ring for future generations.



Rev. Albert Azrak, CSS 15th Pastor [1994 – 2013]



St. Francis Garden

Other projects included the public address system, air conditioning, refinishing of the pews and restoration of the Austin pipe organ.

VII. The Centennial [2002]

In commemoration of the Centennial Anniversary, a new electronic Carillon bell system was installed for Christmas 2002 and the glorious music played again. Parish projects for the future include an addition of the second floor to the classroom building to accommodate the family growth of our parish, the opening of a historical museum, creating a time capsule to be opened for the bicentennial celebration and a website for the parish community.

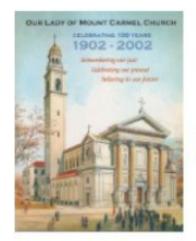
On December 1, 2002 the Centennial Mass was offered by Cardinal Edward Egan the Archbishop of New York, and concelebrated by the Stigmatine Superior Provincial, Father Gregory Hoppough, CSS, the Pastor, Father Albert Azrak, CSS and other priests.

Follow some pictures of the Centennial Mass:









A beautiful Centennial book was published in commemoration, and some highlights of it are shown here on Appendix 5.4.

A beautiful parish website was also published, and its web-address is:

http://olmcwp.org/



Both the City of White Plains and the Westchester County Board of Legislators proclaimed Sunday, December 1, 2002 as "Our Lady of Mount Carmel Day". Both documents below are presented in full page size on the Centennial Book (Appendix 5.4).





Press accounts on the Centennial celebration can also be found on Appendix 5.4.

VIII. The Stigmatines leave Mt. Carmel after over 90 years [2012]

Because of lack of priests, the Stigmatines left Mount Carmel parish on 2012, after over 90 years. Father Albert Azrak still stayed in the parish for a few months for pastoral passing, and then retired to St. Joseph Hall, in the Stigmatine property in Waltham, MA. And Father Joseph Henchey, also Stigmatine, who was helping as Weekend Presider, from that time started full dedication to St. Joseph Seminary ("Dunwoodie"), where he was Professor of Theology and a Spiritual Director.

On Saturday evening, October 20, 2012 a "Mass of Farewell and Thanksgiving" was offered at Mt. Carmel's, with the presence of the Stigmatine Provincial and Councilors, besides the Stigmatines Father Albert Azrak and Father Joseph Henchey.

On that opportunity, Sister Susan McCarthy, RDC ("Sisters of the Divine Compassion") published in the newspaper White Plains Patch an article on the farewell of the Stigmatines. This can be found on **Appendix 5.5**.

The parish was assumed by the Claretian Congregation, and the new pastor, since then, has been Father Ralph Berg, C.M.F.

And on December 22, 2013 – 4th Sunday of Advent – the new pastor, Father Ralph Berg, CMF and the parish vicar Father Gaspar, CMF kindly expressed their gratefulness "for the dedication and service of the Stigmatine Fathers who established our Parish and served our people with faith and love for nearly a century", naming especially the last Stigmatine Pastor, Father Albert Azrak, CSS, "who has given so much of himself and of his life to serve our Parish for twenty years". They also celebrated "Father Gus Badgley's⁸ years of ministry, not only to our Parish but also to White Plains Hospital". This message is presented here on **Appendix 5.6**.



Parish Bulletin Dec. 22, 2013

⁸ Father Augustine (Gus) Badgley is a Diocesan priest who served for many years in Mount Carmel, in assistance to the Pastor, Father Albert Azrak.



From left to right: Father Joseph Henchey, CSS (Weekend Presider), Father Augustine Badgley (Parish Vicar) and Father Albert Azrak, CSS (Pastor) in the rectory of Mount Carmel parish, on January, 2010

IX. The Parish situation, presently (2015)

On November, 2014, the Archdiocese of New York issued a list of parishes to be merged or closed, because of lack of priests and financial difficulties. Mount Carmel in White Plains was not in that original closure list, but was proposed for closing or merging in a second round announced in December. However, Mount Carmel was given last-minute reprieve in the final list issued on May, 2015.

It was considered that the Claretian Fathers, the order that runs Our Lady of Mount Carmel, presently, will expand its ministry.

An excerpt of a press account presented here on **Appendix 5.7** reads:

"The archdiocese granted reprieves to both **Our Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains** and Our Lady of Pompeii in Dobbs Ferry on Friday. Rather than closing, the two will merge with nearby parishes and remain open for regular Mass and sacraments."

Blessed be the Lord!



PART TWO

Saint Anthony Mission Church in White Plains, NY

St. Anthony Mission
Church
White Plains, NY
Founder:
Rev. Joseph Rosa, C.P.S.
- 1927



St. Anthony Church on Columbus Ave., in 1923

"To serve the needs of Italians in the Silver Lake district, a hall, later to be called St. Anthony's, was bought in 1922 and administered by the Stigmatines until 1952..."

1. The Stigmatine Era [1922 – 1952]

To serve the needs of Italians in the Silver Lake district, a hall, later to be called St. Anthony's, was bought in 1922. That was the first mission church.



Rev. Father Rosa, C.P.S. 1st Rector [1922-34]

Father Joseph Rosa was appointed Rector of the 600 families. Under his guidance the community became very cohesive and extremely active. Because many were related by blood in the community, the Parish became truly a family community. Father Rosa resided at the Rectory of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains, during this time.

In 1934, when Father Rosa was appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains, **Father Richard Zambiasi** replaced him.

Father Zambiasi, who stayed among us from 1934 to 1952, became a much loved figure to both Saint Anthony's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, not only for his spiritual dedication but also for his brilliance as a musician and composer.

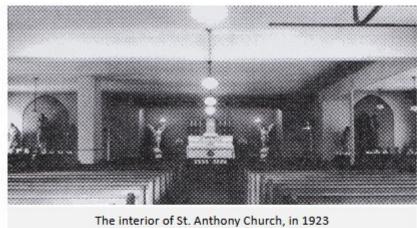


Rev. Richard Zambiasi, C.P.S. 2nd Rector [1934 – 1952]

A disciple of the great Vatican organist Lorenzo Perosi, he was at his happiest when playing the fine new pipe organ at Mount Carmel, and directing his two choirs.

St. Anthony's was administered by the Stigmatines until 1952, when it was given over to the administration of the Archdiocese of New York clergy.

The photos below can also count a little of St. Anthony's history:







Father Zambiasi with St. Anthony's children - 1940's





St. Anthony's procession, 1940's



Father Zambiasi with St. Anthony's Choir (circa 1940)

II. The Archdiocesan Era [1952 – present]

In 1952, the parish came under the care of the Diocesan priests of New York. Monsignor Francis Boyle was appointed Pastor. Two years later he moved into a house made into a Rectory by the members of the community.

In 1957 the Parish Elementary School was completed and opened, to the joy of the Catholic community, many of whom had labored manually to complete its construction. The Religious Community of the Divine Compassion was invited to staff the School.

By then the 600 families of 1923 had grown to be about 1,000. The continuing growth of the Catholic community made it necessary to consider the building of a new Church edifice to take the place of the old one-room schoolhouse. The new Church building was completed in 1967 at 85 Harrison Street, in West Harrison, NY. It was dedicated in 1968 for the service now of more than 1,500 families.

In compliance with the policy of the Archdiocese, Monsignor Boyle retired from the Pastorate of Saint Anthony's in 1975 and was succeeded by Monsignor Francis X. Duffy, who remained Pastor until June 1987.

In accordance with the New York Archdiocesan ruling that no Pastor may serve more than twelve years within any one parish, Monsignor Duffy was given a new assignment and Monsignor Victor S. Pavis was appointed Pastor of Saint Anthony's for six years, until his retirement in June 1993.

In 1990, while he was Pastor, Monsignor Pavis sold the Rectory which housed the clergy since 1954 and, with the consent of the parish community, a new Rectory was built at a more convenient location adjacent to the Church. In September 1993, Reverend Salvatore A. La Sala was appointed by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of the Archdiocese of New York and served as Pastor until his untimely death on December 8, 1994.

On March 18, 1995, Reverend Lawrence Inzeo, appointed by the Cardinal to succeed Reverend La Sala. In 1997 the church was renovated and in 2002 two classrooms were added to the school.

In July 2003 Monsignor Rudolph J. Eisler succeeded Fr. Inzeo and was appointed Administrator and in September 2005 appointed as Pastor. He faithfully served the people of Saint Anthony of Padua parish until sadly he was called home to the Lord on July 20, 2007.

On December 1, 2007 Reverend Christopher W. Monturo was appointed as Pastor.

Father Peter Scaramuzzo has faithfully served the parish as Parochial Vicar from 1994 until his retirement in 2014.

The current Pastor (2025) is Rev. Thomas Byrnes.

The parish holds a beautiful website⁹ at: http://www.saintanthonyofpaduawh.org/



The Church of St. Anthony of Padua website

Deus det nobis plures annos venire!

May God grant us many more years to come!

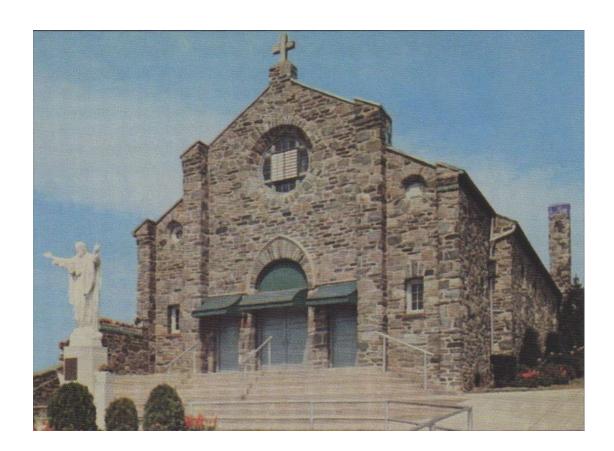


⁹ Besides Stigmatines sources, information on this parish was taken also from this website.

PART THREE

Our Lady of Assumption Mission Church in White Plains, NY

Assumption Church
White Plains, NY
Founder:
Rev. Joseph Rosa, C.P.S.
- 1927



"Excavation began on June, 1926 and the Church opened its doors for public worship on Palm Sunday April 10, 1927, when Father Rosa celebrated the first Mass in it."

I. Early Times; the first Rectors $[1927 - 1949]^{10}$



Rev. Father Rosa, C.P.S. 1st Rector [1927 – 34]

Because of the rapid growth in the number of Italian speaking people in White Plains, the construction of a second mission church, Our Lady of the Assumption on the corner of Ferris and Park Avenues, was begun in 1926; and on April 10, 1927, the first Rector of that church, **Father Joseph Rosa** celebrated the first Mass.

At Our Lady of the Assumption, Father Rosa had supervised the actual construction of the church. On his appointment to Mount Carmel, in 1934, Father Gioacchino Bortignon and Father Dante Turri continued the administration of the Assumption Mission for three years.

Father Louis Zuliani followed Father Rosa as Rector of Assumption Church. He is remembered especially for his apostolate among the youth of the parish, opening the church hall every Saturday for movies for the children. Weekly dances were held for the teenagers.

In 1945, after Father Zuliani's return to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, **Father Paul Zanini** was appointed Rector of Our Lady of the Assumption. This dynamic priest was able to pay off all debts during his four year tenure. He founded the Sodality of Our Blessed Lady, the Holy Name Society and played a great part in organizing events for financial assistance to the church.



Rev. Louis Zuliani, C.P.S. 2nd Rector 91937 - 451



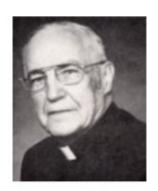
Rev. Paul Zanini, CSS 3rd Rector [1945 – 49]

While Father Zanini was Rector, the inspirational statue of the Sacred Heart, overlooking the whole area from Westchester County Center almost to Hartsdale, was blessed and dedicated in Thanksgiving for the safe return of the parish's men in the armed forces in World War II.

¹⁰ Some photos of the early times can be found on Appendix 5.2.

II. Continuous prosperous times [1949 – 1979]

In 1949, **Father Adolph Ferrari** was Rector of Assumption Mission Church. He carried on all the parochial activities initiated by his predecessors and generously expended his labor, even physically, for "the little church on the hill". He planned an addition to the church but, before he could execute his plans he was transferred in 1957.



Rev. Adolph Ferrari, CSS 4th Rector [1949-57]



Rev. Julius Valentinelli, CSS 5th Rector [1957-72]

Father Julius Valentinelli succeeded Father Ferrari as Rector of the Assumption and soon became known as the "Second Founder of Assumption Church". This title was rightfully earned for the vast improvements made during his term as Rector. He added a sacristy and office to the church in 1960 and erected a beautiful statue of Our Lady of the Assumption in the church yard in 1962. The church roof was replaced and the entire structure repainted in 1969.

At 75 years of age "Father Julius" as he is affectionately called, retired to the Espousal Center, in Waltham, Massachusetts. His popularity was demonstrated in the large number of parishioners from the parish, and outside of the parish and from various states and the number of civic officials who attended his Golden Jubilee Mass and dinner given in his honor shortly before his retirement.

The sixth Rector of the Assumption, **Father Charles Grady**¹¹, was appointed to this post in June, 1972. He continued some of Father Julius' projects. In 1973, he had the exterior of the parish house on Ferris Avenue completely renovated. The interior of the church was painted in 1974. The CCD center's interior also was completely removed and repaired.



Rev. Charles Grady, CSS 6th Rector [1972 -]

¹¹ The year Father Grady ended his tenure as Rector is unclear, but still under searching. [Note of Authors]

III. Lack of priests and financial hardship force the closure [1989 – 1994] ¹²

During Father Fayad's second term as Pastor of Mount Carmel [1989 - 1994], the mission Church Our Lady of the Assumption was closed, due to a lack of priests to staff it and financial hardship. The Church was later sold to an Indian Orthodox congregation of an eastern rite of Christianity.

Some early times photos of Our Lady of Assumption Mission Church are presented here on **Appendix 5.3**.



¹² The year Assumption Church was closed is not precise yet, but still under searching [Note of Authors]



MT. CARMEL CHURCH FAIR.

The fair in aid of the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, an edifice to be erected at No. 5 Smith street for the spiritual good of the Italian residents in this vicinity, Rev. Father Marinaro, pastor, will open in St. John's Hall, on Hamilton avenue, on Monday, July 20, and will continue for one week.

Explanatory of the work he has in view and the aid he solicits, Father Marinaro has issued the following call:

Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, No. 5 Smith street, White Plains, N. Y.

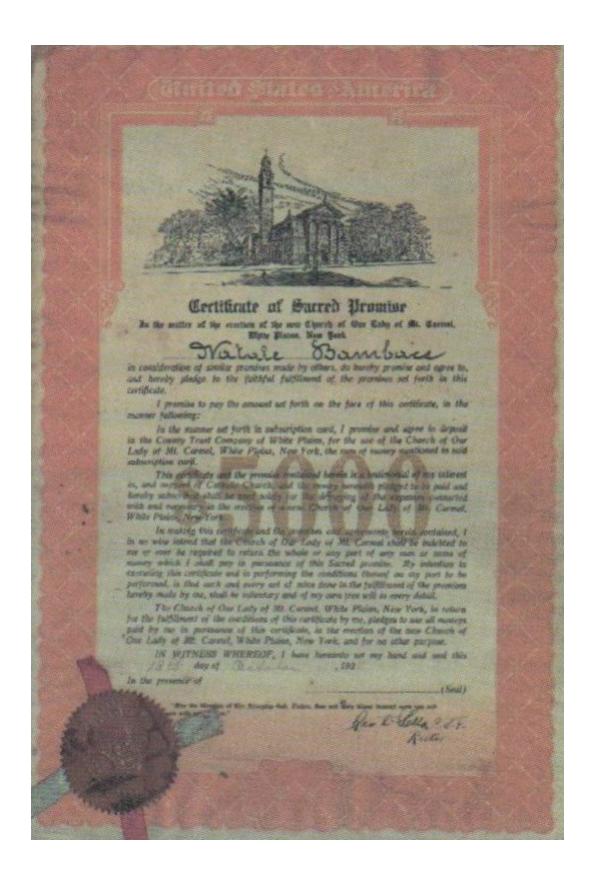
Ladies and Gentlemen-Religion is a necessity; it is the first act of the civilization; it is the support of the republic; it protects the hearts and justifies the actions. Therefore I am trying to make my Italian brethren religious and good citizens and to be worthy sons of Italy among you. I teach them not only in the gospel of Jesus Christ, but in any other thing they need of. I am building for them a new church to worship God in their own language, but I have not means enough. Ever lover of progress and civility can understand my work and position among my poor people. I make an appeal to your kindness and generosity for contributing something to the fair or bazaar which will be held in St. John's Hall, from the 20th to the 25th instant, for the benefit of the same. I will deeply appreciate any donation you may send me and promise to remember all benefactors in my prayers. Hoping to hear from you and calling God to bless you, I am

> Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ, Rev. Joseph Marinaro.

Source:

 $\frac{http://fulton history.com/Newspapers\%2023/White\%20Plains\%20NY\%20Eastern\%20State\%20Journal/White\%20Plains\%20NY\%20Eastern\%20State\%20Journal\%201903-$

1905/White%20Plains%20NY%20Eastern%20State%20Journal%201903-1905%20-%200151.pdf



Lady of Assumption Mission Church

Some photos that count themselves part of the history of its early times:

First Holy Communion:





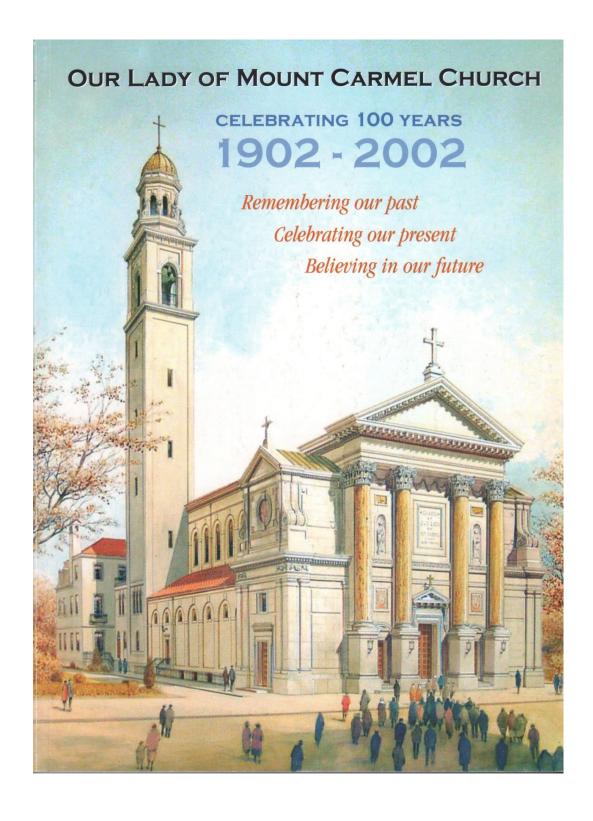


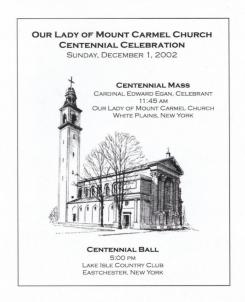
Procession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Our Lady of Assumption parish:





Excerpts of the Centennial Book:





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REVEREND ALBERT AZRAK, C.S.S.

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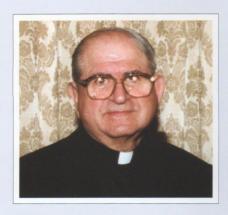
FRANCESCO MASTRACCHIO, PRODUCER FRANCESCO GANGEMI, CAMERA MAN

GEOFFREY CLARONI, VINCENZO CRITELLI, CHRISTOPHER HICKEY, VICTOR SPINELLI



The Centennial Journal Committee would like to dedicate
this Commemorative Journal to all of the Pastors
who have served our Parish, and especially to
Father Albert Azrak

in honor of his leadership during his tenure and especially for his enthusiastic participation and orchestration of this year-long Centennial Celebration.



We would also like to recognize and thank the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers for their devoted ministry to our parish family throughout the years.



Acknowledgements:

Heartfelt thanks to Andrea Conacchio Caridi for her selfless dedication to this project.

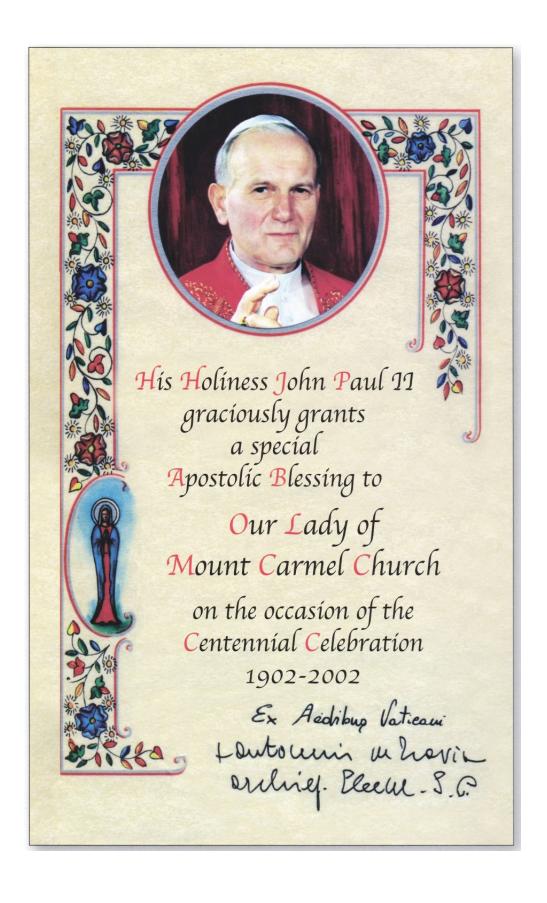
Her creative, artistic and design talents were instrumental to the creation and beauty of this Commemorative Journal. Her tireless effort and great sacrifice played a prominent role in the completion of this journal, which is one to be cherished!

Special Thanks to:

Geoffrey Claroni and Vincenzo Critelli for their countless hours and dedicated contributions,
Victor Spinelli and Ann Rago for their leadership and support,
the various committees, ALL the people of the parish family
and our generous supporters for their contributions.

Thanks to:

The Archdiocesan Archives at Saint Joseph's Seminary, White Plains Public Library,
Renoda Hoffman and the White Plains Historical Society,
Harrison Historical Society, Elaine Massena and the Westchester County Archives,
Saint Anthony of Padua Church, The Journal News, Martinelli Publications, The White Plains Watch,
Catholic New York, and all who contributed documents and photographs.





OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL IOII FIRST AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-4134

December, 2002

Dear Father Azrak:

It is with great pleasure that I greet you and the entire parish family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Permit me to extend to all of you my cordial and prayerful best wishes as you celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of your wonderful parish.

The celebration of one hundred years of service to the Lord and His People is truly a joyous event. I look forward to joining you on December 1, 2002. At that time, it will be my privilege to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for you and your parishioners.

The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a great blessing to the Archdiocese and is deeply appreciated by your Archbishop. Please be assured of my esteem and my gratitude to the Stigmatine Order for its splendid pastoral service to the Catholic community of Central Westchester.

It is my fervent prayer that your Centennial celebration will be a time of grace and renewal for you and your parishioners.

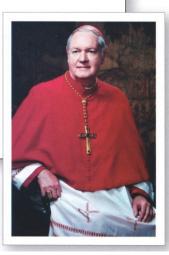
Begging the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel that you and all of your parish family will remain ever in the loving care of her Divine Son, may I remain

Very truly yours in Christ,

Edward Cardinal Egan Archbishop of New York

· Edward Caes.

Reverend Albert Azrak, C.S.S. Pastor Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Stigmatine Fathers 92 South Lexington Avenue White Plains, New York 10606





STIGMATINE FATHERS AND BROTHERS

Office of the Provincial

554 LEXINGTON STREET WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02452-3097 Tel: (781) 209-3100 Fax: (781) 894-9785

Very Rev. Gregory J. Hoppough, C.S.S., S.T.D. Provincial Superior

October 30, 2002

Reverend Albert Azrak, C.S.S., Pastor Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church 92 South Lexington Avenue White Plains, New York 10606

Dear Father Azrak,

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes as you celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. Along with your wonderful associates, staff and loyal parishioners, you have every reason to be proud of the rich faith and heritage that has always been the *hallmark* of your parish community.

Our Stigmatine Community rejoices in the wonderful ministry that has been offered over these past *one hundred years*. We are indeed fortunate and blessed to have been able to serve God's people at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Please convey our deepest gratitude to your parishioners for their long-standing and faithful hospitality to each and every one of our Stigmatine priests and brothers.

This time of anniversary is a time of remembrance and gratitude. All of us thank Almighty God for the graces He has so generously bestowed upon the community of faith at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. May the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary continue to sustain, protect and guide your wonderful family of faith.

Sincerely in Christ, Gregory J. Hoppough

(Very Rev.) Gregory J. Hoppough, C.S.S., S.T.D.

Provincial Superior



92 SOUTH LEXINGTON AVENUE WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 914-948-5909

December 1, 2002

Dear Parishioner and Friend,

It is my personal honor to greet and welcome you on this occasion of our community's One-Hundredth Anniversary Celebration. It is said that we human beings are the only living creatures who ever ask ourselves, "Why are we celebrating?" Tonight, we are proudly celebrating our personal and uplifting motivations of belief, faith, friendship, affection, appreciation, beauty, steadfastness, determination, achievement and love that have bonded us together as "The Family of Mount Carmel."

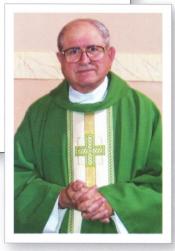
For some one hundred years, as a family we have shared our Catholic belief and faith together in our daily and Sunday worship. We have shared our friendship and affection in times of joy and sorrow. We have expressed our sense of beauty and appreciation by building and maintaining our inspiring devotional church. We have remained steadfast and determined to achieve a sense of the whole people of God by becoming a more diverse and enriched community that continues to this day to live by Jesus' simple exhortation "TO LOVE GOD AND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

To all, past and present, who have been part of the "Mount Carmel Family Journey of Faith and Love" that had made this One Hundredth Anniversary possible, all my fellow Stigmatine Fathers join me in saying: "CONGRATULATIONS."

God Bless You,

Reverend Albert Azrak, C.S.S.

Pastor





THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

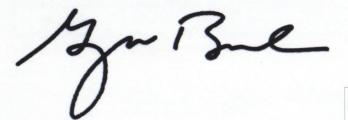
December 20, 2002

Congratulations on celebrating the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. This milestone provided a great opportunity to rejoice in your accomplishments and to look back with fond memories at your service to the people in your community.

America has a strong spiritual foundation, and the celebration of faith is central to our lives. It gives meaning to our pursuits and provides us with the strength we need to face the challenges of each new day. I commend your commitment to provide teaching, comfort, and assistance to local individuals and families.

May your community continue to grow in faith and friendship. Also, may the love that you share with others be a reflection of the common values we all share.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for the future.







MUNICIPAL BUILDING • 255 MAIN STREET • WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10601

JOSEPH M. DELFINO MAYOR (914) 422-1411 FAX: (914) 422-1395

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS, I EXTEND MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE TO THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ON ITS CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR CITY.

MOUNT CARMEL'S LONG AND RICH HISTORY OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY BEGAN AFTER THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK APPROACHED THE STIGMATA FATHERS TO CARE FOR THE LARGE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT POPULATION WHO SETTLED IN AND AROUND WHITE PLAINS.

THE PARISH HAS CONTINUED ITS SERVICE TO THE ITALIAN-SPEAKING POPULATION AND OTHERS THROUGHOUT OUR AREA. I, MYSELF CAN REMEMBER SPENDING EVERY MORNING AT ASSUMPTION CHURCH FOR EIGHT YEARS SERVING AS AN ALTAR BOY AT THE 7:30 A.M. MASS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH. THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, AND I PERSONALLY, OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE SERVICE AND COMFORT YOU HAVE PROVIDED THROUGH THE PAST 100 YEARS.

CONGRATULATIONS.

OSEPH M. DELFINO

MAYOR

"THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK" http://www.mayorPO@ci.whiteplains.ny.us





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1902-2002

PASTORS THAT HAVE SERVED OUR PARISH

Reverend Joseph Marinaro, 1902 - 1915

Reverend Michael Jacobucci, 1915 - 1922

Reverend Leo E. Sella, C.S.S., 1922 - 1932

Reverend Michael Madussi, C.S.S., 1932 - 1933

Reverend Raymond Dalla Porta, C.S.S., 1933 - 1934

Reverend Joseph Rosa, C.S.S., 1934 - 1952

Reverend William J. Ludessi, C.S.S., 1952 - 1961

Reverend Leonard Della Badia, C.S.S., 1961 - 1964

Reverend Carmen T. Russo, C.S.S., 1964 - 1967

Reverend Dino Giampaolo, C.S.S., 1967 - 1970

Reverend Samuel Fayad, C.S.S., 1970 - 1982

Reverend Gerald A. Goggin, C.S.S., 1982 - 1985

Reverend Rinaldo A. Ribezzi, C.S.S., 1985 - 1989

Reverend Samuel Fayad, C.S.S., 1989 - 1994

Reverend Albert Azrak, C.S.S., 1994 - Present



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1902-2002

SOME OF THE STIGMATINE FATHERS THAT HAVE SERVED OUR PARISH



Father Amodio



Father Bonan



Father Corigliano



Father Cunningham



Father Dalla Porta



Father Geraci



Father Giampaolo



Father Gonnet



Father Henderson



Father Ludessi



Father Madussi



Father Ribezzi



Father Russo



Father Torretta



Father Zambiasi



Father Zanazzi



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1902-2002



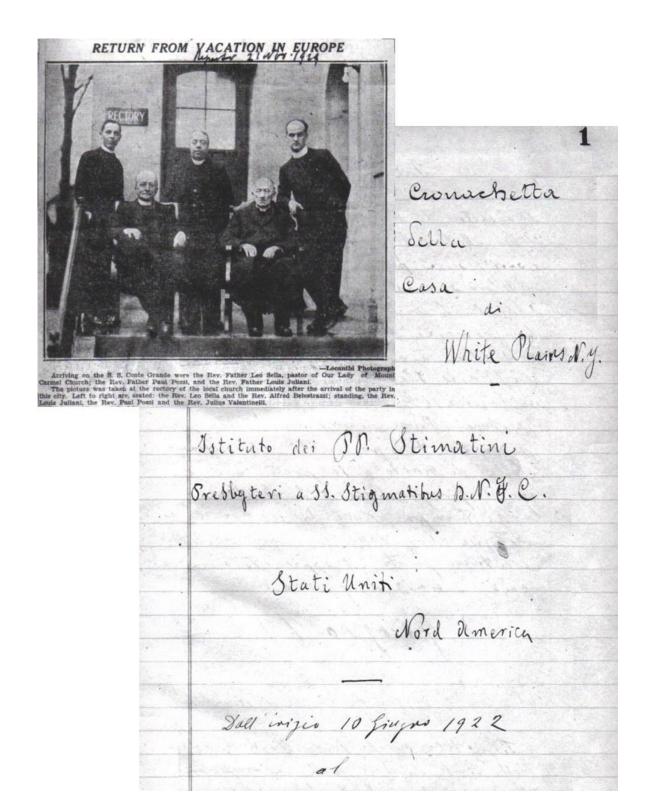
Father Sella and the first Stigmatine Fathers to serve Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, circa 1922



Father Nicolodi with Pope John Paul II, 1983



Father Ruscetta and Father Zuliana in Waltham, Massachusetts, 1945



Chronicles of Father Sella

WhitePlainsPatch

November 5, 2012

Saying Goodbye to Good Friends

Farewell and God bless to the Stigmatine Fathers, who are leaving Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in White Plains after more than 90 years of loving service and presence here.



by Susan McCarthy, RDC (Sisters of the Divine Compassion)

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted..."

These lines from the Book of Ecclesiastes were a fitting introduction to the "Mass of Farewell and Thanksgiving" held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Lexington Avenue on Saturday evening, Oct. 20.

Parishioners and good friends attended the Mass and Reception to honor the contribution of the Stigmatine Fathers to the spiritual life of White Plains for over ninety years! Mayor Thomas Roach remarked on the wonderful goodness and generosity of this congregation of men not only to the parish of Mt. Carmel but also to the entire City of White Plains.

In their history (found on the <u>website of the parish</u>), there is a recollection of Mt. Carmel that many long-time White Plains citizens can relate to: "The late renowned author of *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, Fulton Oursler, wrote in 1952 that he always looked forward to passing through White Plains on the train for the pleasure of seeing the inspiring gold-crowned campanile of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, the bell

tower of the Stigmatine Fathers' parish." Many of us remember the sounds from the bell tower, as well.

In recent years, two Stigmatine Fathers have been living and working here in Westchester County. Father Albert Azrak, who has served as pastor at Mt. Carmel for the last nineteen years, was lauded for his pastoral care of the parish. His motto of 'heart over head,' which implies loving and compassionate care of all parishioners, was passed on to all who served at Mt. Carmel. Father Azrak will move to a parish in Massachusetts. Father Joseph Henchey is a Theology teacher at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers.

We Sisters of Divine Compassion have been honored to work alongside these wonderful priests since their founding days in White Plains. As they provided spiritual nourishment to us (Mass, weekly Confession, etc.), we served as catechists in the religious education programs of both Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of the Assumption Churches.

Today, though we know in our heads that there is a time for the Stigmatine Fathers to move on from this place, our hearts are sad that they will no longer be physically present among us. As we bid them farewell, we pray (in the words of Joyce Rupp): "Go, God be with you. [We] entrust you to God. The God of strength, courage, comfort, hope, love, is with you. The God who promises to wipe away all tears will hold you close and will fill your emptiness. Let go and be free to move on."

+++

Christmas Greetings

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Christmas is a special time of joy and gratitude, of peace among People of Good Will. This Christmas we have many reasons to be thankful for the coming of our Savior, and for the blessings that his birth has brought to us. As we look back on the many seasons of Christmas that Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish has been in existence, a great blessing that we have enjoyed has been the dedication and service of the Stigmatine Fathers who established our Parish and served our people with faith and love for nearly a century. In the more recent past, we celebrate the loving and kind dedication of our former pastor, Father Albert Azrak, who has given so much of himself and of his life to serve our Parish for twenty years. His kindness and spirit of loving service have left in the hearts of all of us,



treasures of blessings that are too many to count and which will last forever. Father Azrak and all the Stigmatine Fathers who have served Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish with the dedication and love will forever live in our memories. We also celebrate Father Gus Badgley's years of ministry, not only to our Parish but also to White Plains Hospital. The Claretian Missionaries who have accepted the ministry of the Parish and Hospital in June of this year are grateful for the ministry of those who have preceded us. We pray that God will give all of us the grace to serve as they did, with love, dedication and compassion.

We Claretian Missionaries are also grateful for the welcoming support that we have received from you, the people of our Parish, and for your encouragement and acceptance of this time of change. As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas, we pray that the joy and peace of this Holy Season will fill your hearts and your lives, and that our Parish may continue to grow in faith and love so that this spirit will make us the loving messengers of the Good News that Jesus Christ is born, and that his life, death and resurrection are, for us, the new world come to birth in our hearts.

We wish you and your families the blessings of Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings from the hand of our loving and saving Lord.

- Father Ralph and Father Gaspar

Iohud the Journal News

2 Catholic churches set to close get

last-minute reprieve



Jane Lerner, <u>ilerner@lohud.com</u>

2:40 p.m. EDT May 12, 2015



'Our faith should not be about a building.'

(Photo: Ricky Flores/The Journal News)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

Archdiocese announces a final list of churches throughout the region that it is closing or merging

Two Westchester Catholic churches set to shutter under a parishreorganization plan got a late-minute reprieve Friday from the Archdiocese of New York.

The archdiocese granted reprieves to both **Our Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains** and Our Lady of Pompeii in Dobbs Ferry on Friday. Rather than closing, the two will merge with nearby parishes and remain open for regular Mass and sacraments.

"For the parishioners of these two parishes, the impact of this merger will be minimized because people will still be able to celebrate Mass in what has been their parish home," archdiocese spokesman Joseph Zwilling said.

In addition, St. Matthew in Hastings-on-Hudson will unite with Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ardsley. While St. Matthew will be designated the parish church, Mass will also be celebrated at the Ardsley church.

And in Rockland, St. Paul's in Congers and St. Ann's in Nyack will merge. St. Paul will be the designated parish church but Mass will be celebrated at both.

Parishioners at St. Bernard Church in White Plains also learned that their church will remain independent. Archdiocese officials originally considered merging the church with St. John and **Mount Carmel** and closing **Mount Carmel**, but Cardinal Timothy Dolan decided to keep St. Bernard independent, Zwilling said.

All of these churches were not mentioned in the <u>original closure</u> <u>list announced in November, but were proposed for closing or merging in a second round announced in December.</u> (Final Westchester-Rockland list at end of this story)

The archdiocese also said that the <u>Claretian Fathers</u>, the order that runs <u>Our</u> <u>Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains</u>, will expand its ministry.

Read: Archdiocese announcements and archdiocese-wide lists of mergers, closings

Locally, the plan calls for 28 parishes in Westchester to merge into 14 parishes. In Rockland, it calls for five parishes and one in Orange to merge into three parishes.

The mergers will take effect Aug. 1.

Seven of the merged churches will no longer offer regular Mass but will be used on special occasions. In other cases, one church will be designated as the parish church, and both churches will continue to be used for Mass and sacraments. No Putnam parishes are being merged.

The changes are painful for many, Zwilling acknowledged. "Our faith should not be about a building," he said. "But we are all human and we love our churches."

The archdiocese announced Friday that it is still considering a plan for the Salesians of Don Bosco religious order to "undertake pastoral ministry in all of Port Chester." The order has developed a proposal that has been presented to Cardinal Dolan. The plan will be announced at the end of the month.

COMBINING PARISHES

These parishes will merge, with the starred church becoming the parish church. Masses will not regularly be celebrated at the second church:

Westchester County

Mamaroneck: *St. Vito with Most Holy Trinity.

Mount Vernon: *Saints Peter and Paul with St. Ursula; *Our Lady of Victory with Sacred Heart; *St. Mary's with Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Yonkers: *St. John the Baptist with Most Holy Trinity; *St. Peter with St. Denis.

Rockland County

Haverstraw: *St. Peter with St. Mary of the Assumption.

MERGING PARISHES

These parishes will merge but will continue to celebrate Masses and sacraments at both churches. The starred church will be the parish church:

Westchester County

Ardsley/Hastings: *St. Matthew, Hastings-on-Hudson, with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ardsley.

Dobbs Ferry: *Sacred Heart with Our Lady of Pompeii.

New Rochelle: *St. Gabriel with St. Joseph.

Northern Westchester: *St. Christopher, Buchanan, with St. Patrick, Verplanck.

Pelhams: *Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Pelham Manor, with St. Catharine, Pelham

Tuckahoe: *Immaculate Conception with Assumption

White Plains: *St. John the Evangelist with Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Yonkers: *Annunciation, Crestwood, with Our Lady of Fatima.

Rockland County

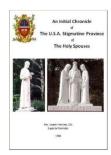
Congers/Nyack: *St. Paul, Congers, with St. Ann, Nyack.

Sloatsburg: *St. Joan of Arc, Sloatsburg, with Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tuxedo Park.

Twitter: @JaneLernerNY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Besides the sources already quoted along this document, the following ones were fundamental sources of information:



An Initial Chronicle of the U.S.A. Stigmatine Province of the Holy Spouses – by Rev. Joseph Henchey, C.S.S., Superior Provincial – 1986 ("Typed Book")



A Brief Chronicle of the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ — translated from Italian by Rev. Joseph Henchey, C.S.S. — 2005.

Original Title: *Breve Cronaca* – by Rev. Giuseppe Fiorio, Stigmatine (1876 - † 1958). Originally printed by *Verona Scuola Tipografica "Casa Buoni Fanciulli"* – 1917.



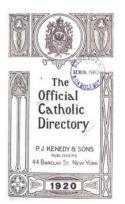
Confrades.com – website created and updated by Rev. Silvano Zanella, C.S.S., with general Stigmatine information, including short biographies of the Deceased Stigmatines (under the menu *Persone*).



The Catholic Church in the United States of America – Undertaken to Celebrate the Golden Jubilee of His Holiness, Pope Pius X – by Catholic editing company, New York. Published: 1912 – 1914 (for the different volumes).

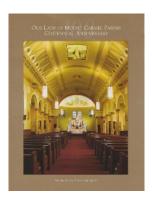
Online Edition:

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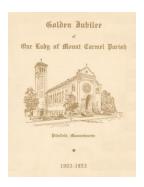
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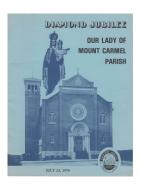
Online Edition by Google Books: https://books.google.com/

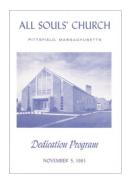


Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Springfield, Massachusetts – Centennial Anniversary – 2002;

and many other historical documents of this parish kindly permitted by the Archdiocese of Springfield and the Province of the Holy Spouses as well.





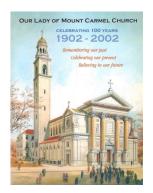


Golden Jubilee of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Pittsfield, Massachusetts – 1953;

Diamond Jubilee of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – Pittsfield, Massachusetts - July 23, 1978;

All Souls' Church Dedication Program – November 5, 1961;

and many other historical documents of Mount Carmel Parish and All Souls' Mission Church in Pittsfield kindly permitted by the Archdiocese of Springfield and the Province of the Holy Spouses as well.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, White Plains, NY - Celebrating 100 Years - 1902 - 2002.

Remembering our past Celebrating our present Believing in our future

§§§§

SPECIAL THANKS

- To the Archdiocese of Springfield, for the permission of historical documents;
- To the Stigmatine Priests of the Holy Spouses' Province, for providing us information and documents:
 - Father Gregory Hoppough, CSS, Superior Provincial
 - Father Robert White, CSS, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Springfield, MA
 - Father Geoffrey Deeker, CSS [1933 +2008], *In Memorium*, former Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Pittsfield, MA
 - Father Albert Azrak [1932 +2020], *In Memorium*, former Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in White Plains, MA
- To Father Ésio Juncione, CSS, from the Province of the Holy Cross, in Brazil, for the restoration of some pictures;
- To St. Gaspar Bertoni, for the inspiration and intercession;
- To the Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph, for their protection;
- And, above all, to God!

THE END (of this volume)

† +++

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