on the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Reopening of the Church — and to the Rev. O. Salcini on the fifteenth anniversary of his pastorate at St. Rocco's.

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The

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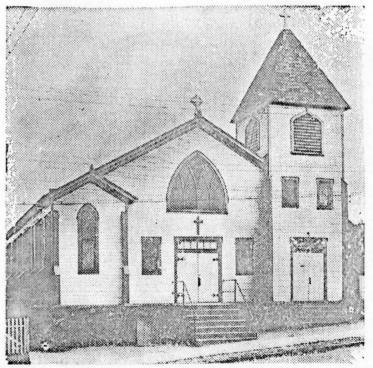
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## The

# Fifteenth Anniversary of the Re-opening of St. Rocco's Church

June 1st - 1933 - June 4th



St. Rocco's Church, Youngstown, Ohio

## To the Members of St. Rocco's Church:

I am very glad indeed to give a word of greeting and congratulation on this occasion of your Fifteenth Anniversary celebration. The years have proved your faithfulness and shown a strengthening of the life and work in your parish. May you have many years of blessing and may your life and ministry become richer in all good work in days to come.

LEONARD W. S. STRYKER, Rector, St. John's Parish.

In the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Re-Opening of St. Rocco's Furch and my ministry to the people of Brier Hill, I wish to thank the Almighty God for His continuous assistance and grace for the fulfillment of my ministerial duty.

·····

I wish to renew my humble obedience and devotion to my Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Warren L. Rogers, D. D., with a prayer that the Almighty will give him long life for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Thanks to all the American and Italian friends who devotedly have co-operated with me religiously and socially for the progress of St. Rocco's Church and the Community in Brier Hill.

REV. ORESTE SALCINI, Pastor.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to our pastor, the Rev. Oreste Salcini, who so faithfully attended the performance of his ministerial duties during the past fifteen years, and to those who contributed morally and materially to the progress of St. Rocco's Church.

We take this opportunity to thank those whose donations and free work made possible the recent redecoration of the interior of the church: We are grateful to Mr. Dominic Marino, chairman of the Funds Campaign; to Mr. Rocco Mele who directed the decoration work and to his co-workers: Michele Gatti, Jim Palermo, Frank Lauria, Frank Cassetta, Joe Ferraro, Albert Olivieri, Andrea Di Menno, Rocco and Domenico Patrone, and Patrick Julian.

We thank also Mr. Tobia Mirto, who donated his time and ability to the erection of the new altar and all those who assisted in one way or another: Mr. Antonio Di Maggio, Luigi Infante, Nicola Cristiano, Angelo Patrone, Joe Cataldo, Raffaele Donnarume, Raffaele Buzzacco, Mrs. Teresa Prezioso, Mrs. Concetta Cataldo, Mrs. Anna Frasca, Mrs. Filomena Di Maggio, Mrs. Madalena Giuliano, Mrs. Leonora Rocca, Mrs. Anna Infante, Mrs. Julia De Riso, Mrs. Felicia Baulo and Miss Maria Donnarume.

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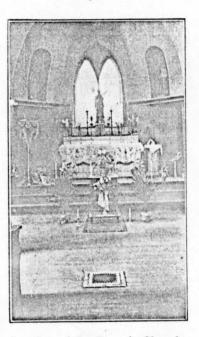
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### Brief History of St. Rocco's Church



Interior of St. Rocco's Church

St. Rocco's, which is one of the several Italian Episcopal churches in America, is located on Calvin St., Brier Hill.

About 26 years ago several members of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, through some difficulties with the Roman Bishop, left his jurisdiction, secured a lot near by, and built on it the present church. In honor of their patron saint they called it St. Rocco's, and formed what was known as an Italian National Catholic Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio on May 17, 1907.

Things were successful for about nine years, then some more difficulties were encountered, the church was sold and

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Rt. Rev. W. A. Leonard, D. D. The Late Bishop of Ohio

the congregation disbanded.

The church remained losed for some time. Then the Rev. Alfred Izon, Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, a clergyman full of activity and missionary zeal, saw a good opportunity of doing some work among those Italians, who were not affiliated with any Church, and having obtained permission for use of the building, started his missionary work at once, with the help of some influential and active members of the old congregation.

The Italian people gave evidence of their willingness and loyalty, but Rev. Izon, detained by his other duties, and unable to speak Italian, was anxious to secure an Italian clergyman,

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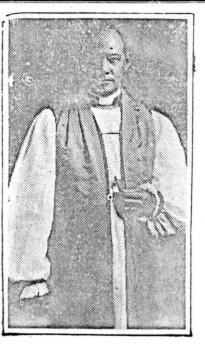
CONGRATULATIONS

and

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The Rt. Rev. Warren L. Rogers, D. D. The Present Bishop of the Diocese of Ohic

who could take full charge of the work.

Under instructions of the Rt. Rev. William A. Leonard, D. D., then Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, the present pastor, Rev. Oreste Salcini, formerly a missionary in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan, took charge of the work on June 15, 1918.

Under his direction the work made a rapid progress, and on Dec. 1, 1918, a reorganized congregation of 80 families were formally received into conmunion of the Episcopal Church.

In 1921 the church building became property of the Diocese and in 1926, with the aid of St. John's Episcopal Church and the Diocese, the congregation succeeded in building a new parish house.

At present there are about

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Rev. Oreste Salcini

150 families in the congregation; 532 children have been paptized and 233 person confirmed.

St. Rocco's is a definite asset to the Italian people of Brier Hill: Religious services are held regularly, and the parish house is a center of many civic and social activities.

It is the meeting place of the Ladies' Guild, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Kappa Beta Kappa, the Boys' Jr. Club, and of several fraternal societies. It is used by the Free Kindergarten Association for the childrens' daily school and for the Mothers' Club meetings, to which the congregation contributes the fuel, light, gas and repairs.

Recently the interior of the church has been redecorated; painters, carpenters and others,

members or friends of the church, offering their services for this work.

Our present beloved Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Warren L. Rogers, D. D., is deeply interested in the spiritual progress of this Italian congregation. His annual visitation for the rite of Confirmation is an increasing joy to the members of the church.



- VOTE FOR -

## Judge Henry P. Beckenbach

— for —

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 ${and}\\ {\tt BEST~WISHES}$ 

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## Anniversary Program

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1933

At 6:30 p. m.—Banquet at St. Rocco's Parish House, 116 Calvin St. The banquet will be followed by a musical entertainment, speeches and dance. Music by Frank Oros and his Students' Orchestra.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1933

At 10:30 a.m.—Celebration of Holy Communion and sermon by the Rector, Rev. Oreste Salcini. The vested choir of the church will render a special musical program, with Miss J. Modarelli at the organ.

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E WISH TO CONGRATULATE the Congregation of St. Rocco's Episcopal Church on their 15th Anniversary of the Re-opening of the Church and the coming of Rev. Salcini.

We know the coming 15 years will produce even greater growth . . . bringing closer together Rev. Salcini and his fine congregation.



We thank the people of St. Rocco's Episcopal Church for their patronage for the past — we know you will be back.

# THE YOUNGSTOWN PAINT & GLASS COMPANY



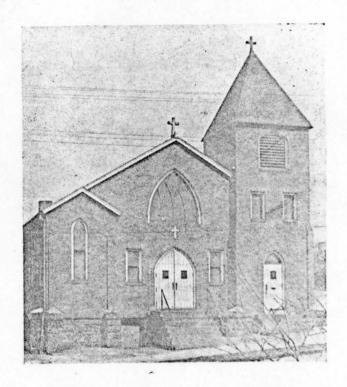
### **BRIEF HISTORY**

OF

# St. Rocco's Episcopal Church

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

1918-1953



by

THE REV. ORESTE SALCINI

Pastor Emeritus

#### **PREFACE**

I retired from active service about ten years ago after thirty-five years as Priest-in-charge of St. Rocco's Episcopal Church, Youngstown, Ohio.

I started my ministry at St. Rocco's in 1918 under Bishop Leonard, whose remarkable strength and charm bonded him to the affection and loyalty of the clergy and laity.

I continued under Bishop Rogers, but a good part of my ministry in Youngstown was under Bishop Tucker, whose spiritual interest and help has left a deep impression in my heart and mind. He visited St. Rocco's on many occasions to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The last twenty months of my active ministry at St. Rocco's was under Bishop Burroughs. I owe very much to him for his continued kindness and thoughtfulness, for which I am ever grateful.

Now I have been asked to write a brief history of the church in order that the second and third generations of its members may know and appreciate the sacrifices and difficulties of their parents and grandparents in making St. Rocco's what it is today, and to be a stimulus to continue the "good work" with enthusiasm and perseverance.

I have written these pages from memory and records, doing my best to give a concise and clear description of the life of St. Rocco's.

I have omitted names of faithful men and women, whose life, devotion, dedication and hard work made possible whatever success this church may have had, for practically every member of St. Rocco's had the church at heart and all faithfully contributed to its progress and support.

Rev. Oreste Salcini

Youngstown, Ohio

#### Dedicated

to

my beloved wife
OLIVE

who so faithfully helped me through the difficult years

and to

ALL THE MEMBERS

of St. Rocco's Episcopal Church
past and present

for their loyalty and support

#### CHAPTER I

The Episcopal Church has been doing very successful work among immigrants, especially among the Italians. St. Rocco's, with its flourishing congregation, is one of several Italian Episcopal Churches in the United States.

The old St. Rocco's Church was located in that section of Youngstown called Brier Hill with a population of about three thousand, of which more than two-thirds were of Italian extraction. Most of these people were employed by the Brier Hill Steel Company, now the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co.

St. Rocco's has been affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio since 1918. However, its history goes back to about 1906.

At that time, several members of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church and their priest, through some difficulties with their Roman Bishop, left his jurisdiction and the church. The priest married a member of his congregation and departed. The dissenting members secured a lot on Calvin Street, near St. Anthony's, and built on it an Independent National Catholic Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio on May 17, 1907. In honor of their patron saint they called it St. Rocco's Church.

Perhaps other particulars about this turmoil, as related to me by those who took part in it would be very interesting, but I omit them as unnecessary to the purpose of this history.

For about nine years, the Independent Church, under the leadership of Rev. Carmelo Carfora, known afterwards as Bishop Carfora, was highly successful. Then things did not go right; Bishop Carfora left for Chicago, taking with him the church records, the Eucharistic vestments, altar linens, etc. Other articles such as statues, candlesticks, etc., were divided among the members of the disbanded congregation for safe keeping. The mortgaged church building remained the property of the Dollar Savings and Trust Company of Youngstown.

This was the end of St. Rocco's Independent National Catholic Church.

#### CHAPTER II

For about two years the property was left without care; occasionally boys were allowed to hold meetings and play games there, with the result that altars and other furnishings were ruined or destroyed.

The majority of the people did not return to the Roman Church. They left their children unbaptized rather than to submit again to the Roman Bishop.

This condition came to the attention of the Rev. Alfred Izon, Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Youngstown, one of our clergymen, who was filled with ambition and missionary zeal. He saw a good opportunity to work among those Italians, who now were not affiliated with any church.

He contacted Mr. Charles Marino and other influential and active members of the disbanded congregation, and, having obtained permission from the bank to use the building, he immediately started his missionary work among them.

Rev. Izon, detained by his other duties and unable to speak or understand Italian, was hindered in his efforts, but was not discouraged.

Having learned that in the Upper Peninsula, in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan (now Diocese of Northern Michigan), there was an Episcopal clergyman of Italian birth, he wrote to me in Hancock, explaining the situation and asking if it would be possible for me to pay a visit to Youngstown, to see what could be done to revive the life of St. Rocco's congregation.

I came to Youngstown and met some of the people. They wanted me to remain, but I only promised to take the matter into consideration, and having reported to the Rt. Rev. Wm. A. Leonard, Bishop of Ohio, in Cleveland, I returned to my missionary work in Michigan.

#### CHAPTER III

Some time later I decided to come to Youngstown and under instructions from Bishop Leonard, on June 15, 1918, I took charge of St. Rocco's Church, but only in an experimental way.

The members of St. Rocco's responded to my call. I ministered to them and soon acquired their confidence and cooperation.

A temporary altar was built, pews repaired and replaced. Many articles kept in custody by some members were returned and regular church services started again.

On several occasions I visited the offices of the Brier Hill Steel Company and was always favored and encouraged by a friendly and helpful attitude.

The work made noticeable progress. On December 1, 1918, a reorganized congregation of over eighty families was formally received into communion of the Episcopal Church by the Rt. Rev. Frank Du Moulin, Bishop Coadjutor, in the name of the Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio.

A temporary church committee was appointed, with Mr. John Mulidoro as Treasurer. He was followed by Mr. Joseph Mangin, who for many years held that office with great trust and ability, being of valuable assistance to the priest-in-charge.

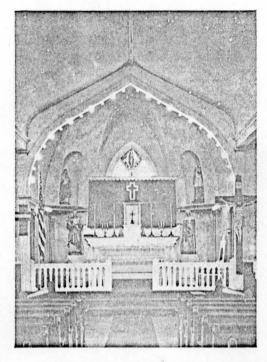
A church school was started and a church choir organized under the direction of Miss Marian Modarelli, first organist, followed by Miss Grace Schultz, Mrs. Edward Carden and Miss Connie Jeswald.

To solve the problem of the older people, who had very limited knowledge of the English language, and the younger ones, who could barely speak and understand Italian, and to make the congregation familiar with the doctrine and liturgy of the Episcopal Church, Prayer Books in Italian and English were introduced. The Communion Service, with the exception of the Epistle, Gospel and Exhortation, was in English. Dual language was used in the sermons, instructions and other functions of the church, as the circumstances required.

Some members were uneasy about the word "Protestant," but readily accepted it after the explanation that its meaning was not negative, as taught by the Roman Church, but positive. The Episcopal Church was PRO-testing in favor and defense of the Primitive Catholic Faith obscured by innovations and additions, abuses and corruption.

On March 22, 1921, Bishop Leonard bought the property from the Dollar Savings and Trust Company of Youngstown, leaving a small mortgage to be covered by the local congregation, which was paid off in due time.

By anonymous donation, the interior of the church was redecorated and a new altar built by Mr. Toby Mirto, who willingly donated his time and work.



The Nave and Sanctuary

On September 11, 1921, Bishop Leonard paid his first visit to St. Rocco's to meet the people and to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

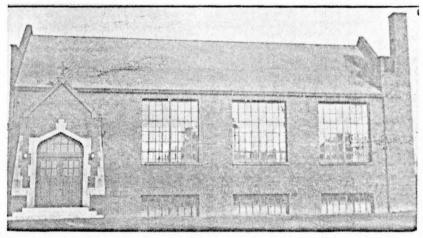
He was impressed by the enthusiastic reception received. The church was crowded. The people were anxious to pay homage and to hear this venerable leader, who had already done so much for them. In his brief address he praised them for their religious attitude and exhorted them to continue "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord!"

Soon after, a Woman's Guild, known as St. Anna's Guild, was organized with about forty members. Mrs. Charles Marino was its first president.

The work was taking shape and progress was being made. The small house (an old building in the rear of the church), although repaired, became inadequate and larger quarters were necessary.

A new Parish Hall of brick and stone, of such size and appointment to meet the needs of the members of St. Rocco's and the Italian colony, was made possible by the contribution of \$4,000.00 each from the Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, the Nationwide Fund, and St. John's Parish; also by pledges and donations of the members of St. Rocco's. The excavation for the basement of the building was made by Mr. Sam Vivolo, as a donation to the church.

On Sunday, June 13, 1926, the Rt. Rev. W. L. Rogers, Bishop Coadjutor, assisted by the Archdeacon Patterson, myself, and other clergy, laid the cornerstone. On November 6, 1926, Archdeacon Patterson, appointed by Bishop Rogers, had the very pleasant opportunity of conducting the services of dedication of this Community Hall. The Rev. L. W. S. Stryker of St. John's and I took part in the service, which followed the procession of the choir and large congregation from the church. Addresses of felicitations were made by the Archdeacon, by Dr. Stryker, by the architect, Mr. W. H. Cook, and by a representative of the Vestry of St. John's, Mr. A. D. Thomas. A social evening followed the service.



St. Rocco's Community Hall

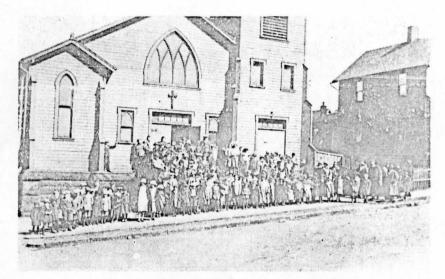
#### CHAPTER IV

Soon St. Rocco's became a definite asset to the Italian people of Brier Hill. It became a center of social and religious activities.

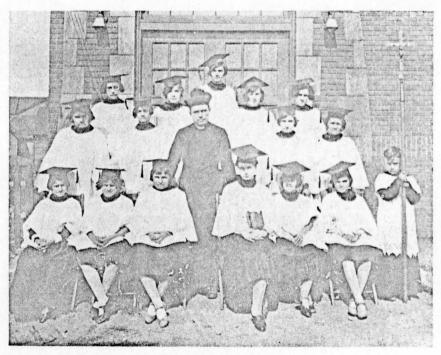
A branch of the Girls' Friendly Society was also organized at a very enthusiastic meeting. Twenty-six members were enrolled. Miss Leah Benchoff, Diocesan Field Secretary of Cleveland, gave an interesting talk on duties and privileges of the society. The late Mrs. Frederick Jones, a very active member of St. John's and of philanthropic ideals, will be gratefully remembered as a frequent visitor to this group, bringing gifts and accompanying at the piano, when the girls were singing. Mrs. Salcini, assisted by Mrs. J. H. Keyser, had charge of this group and gave much of their time and ability to its progress.



Girls' Friendly Group



St. Rocco's Church School



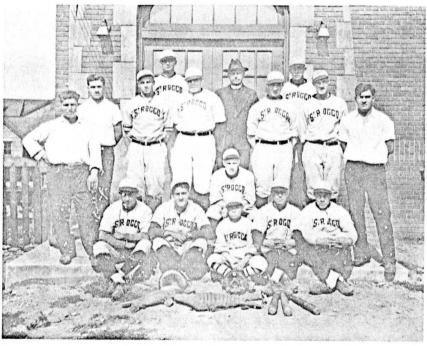
St. Rocco's Choir

The Community Hall became the meeting place for the Boys' Club, organized to entertain the young boys of the church with instructions, games and recreation on Saturday mornings.

Boy Scout Troop No. 3 also held its weekly meetings there under the direction of the Scoutmaster, Mr. Louis Mastropietro.

About the same time, a daily kindergarten was started, sponsored by the Free Kindergarten Association.

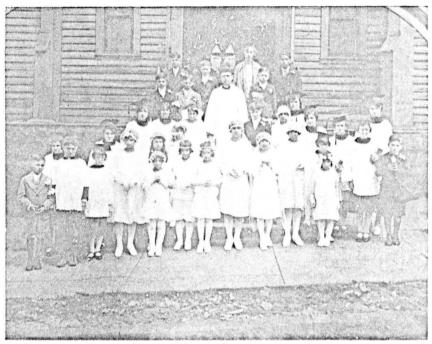
A baseball team, to be known as St. Rocco's Baseball Team, was also organized, and under the brilliant coaching of Al Sebastian, gained a splendid athletic record.



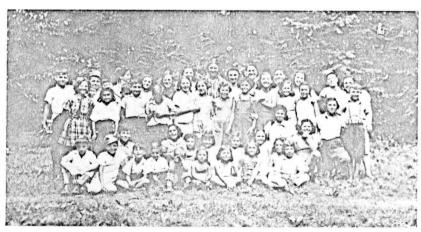
St. Rocco's Baseball Team

St. Rocco's was honored by the presence of two visiting bishops for the Confirmation Service. On May 23, 1943, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Jenkins, D.D., retired Missionary Bishop of

Nevada, and on July 27, 1947, the Rt. Rev. Richard A. Kirchoffer, D.D., Bishop of Indianapolis. Both bishops were very impressed by the activities at St. Rocco's.



Confirmation Class



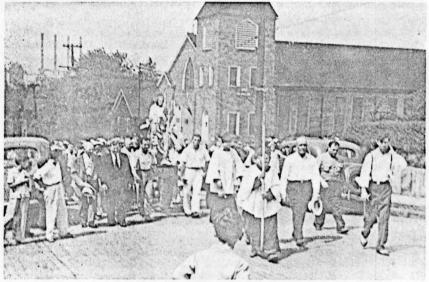
Church School Picnic

There should not be left unnoticed the annual Celebration of St. Rocco's Feast, August 15 and 16, attended by thousands of people from Youngstown and vicinity.

Besides the church services, the program consisted of a procession throughout the Brier Hill district, with a band concert and lawn fete, ending with a display of fireworks.

The entire section of Brier Hill, where the church was located, had to be policed and barred to outside traffic on these feast days.

The Statue of St. Rocco was liberally and literally green with financial donations from the faithful at the end of the journey through Brier Hill.



St. Rocco's Feast, with the Statue of St. Rocco

#### CHAPTER V

Among the major improvements in the church building there should be mentioned the placing of a new roof with material and workmanship donated by the Brier Hill Steel Company in the early years.

The covering of the frame exterior of the church with brick veneer, in 1941, gave it a more solid and neat appearance and made it similar to the Parish House.

A lovely silver chalice and paten was presented to St. Rocco's by the Woman's Auxiliary of Youngstown Region, for which we are very thankful.

Also, a set of beautiful Stations of the Cross was given by the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Rocco's.

On July 10, 1950, having passed the age of retirement, I announced my intention of retiring from active service; the date to coincide with the appointment of a successor.

On July 1, 1951, the Rt. Rev. Beverly Dandridge Tucker, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese, writing to the Church Committee of St. Rocco's said: "I wish to express my hearty approval of your desire that the Rev. Oreste Salcini shall become upon his retirement on September 1, 1951, Pastor Emeritus of St. Rocco's Church."

Nevertheless, at the request of the Bishop, I remained two more years in active service, waiting for the appointment of a successor.

On July 5, 1953, Bishop Burroughs visited St. Rocco's, and on the following day he wrote me: "The large congregation, the good-sized Confirmation Class and the fine attitude of the people left nothing to be desired."

During my ministry there I have officiated at 941 Baptisms, 290 Marriages and 296 Burials and 590 persons received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In conclusion, I may say that the work at St. Rocco's has been very successful through the years.

For this I wish to thank Almighty God for His continuous assistance and grace, for the fulfillment of my ministerial duties.

On October 1, 1953, having been appointed by the Rt. Rev. Nelson M. Burroughs, Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, the Rev. Richard O. Petersen took charge of St. Rocco's.

I want to congratulate him and to express my sincere thanks for his continued kindness and attention, wishing him every success.

Ten years have passed, and I am glad to say that I still enjoy the esteem and affection of the members of St. Rocco's, which I heartily appreciate and for which I am very grateful.

#### A CONTINUATION OF THIS BRIEF HISTORY

by

The Rev. Richard O. Petersen, Vicar

It was on October 1, 1953, that I began my ministry at St. Rocco's, succeeding Rev. Oreste Salcini after his many years of faithful and effective ministry among the people of St. Rocco's Church. Though Rev. Salcini had officially retired in 1951, he continued to serve the congregation of St. Rocco's until my coming. Rev. Salcini and Mrs. Salcini had given 35 years of their lives to the work of the church in Brier Hill. We give thanks to Almighty God for the lives and ministries of Rev. and Mrs. Salcini, and we rejoice that they are both still with us.

Soon after my arrival. I began to hear rumors that a portion of Route 422 was to be relocated in Brier Hill. If that was to take place. St. Rocco's would be absorbed by that relocation of Route 422. It would also mean that many families of the parish would also be forcibly displaced because their homes would also be absorbed by that relocation project. There was a time when all the families connected with St. Rocco's lived in Brier Hill and could easily walk to church. But an exodus of church families out of Brier Hill had been taking place almost unnoticed for at least 15 years prior to the time when the church and many church families were forcibly uprooted because of the relocation of Route 422. And since that time, many other families have voluntarily moved out of Brier Hill, buildand buying new homes elsewhere. Now many families of the parish are scattered all over Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. There are still a goodly number of families living in Brier Hill. But we also have families living on the North Side, East Side. West Side and South Side of Youngstown: in Campbell. Boardman, Canfield, Poland, Liberty Township, Girard, Hubbard, Niles, Warren, North Lima, Lake Milton and New Waterford.

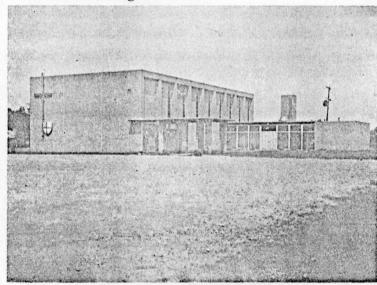
In due time, we were officially notified that St. Rocco's Church and Parish Hall would be absorbed by the relocation of Route 422 in Brier Hill. We received damages for the buildings and land.

The last services in the old St. Rocco's were held on Sunday, May 13, 1956. Rev. Salcini was present with us that day and spoke to the congregation. He also informed us that it was on the second Sunday in May, 1918, that he conducted his first services at St. Rocco's, 38 years before. That Sunday was a sad one for all who were present at the services because of the

many associations they had had with the old St. Rocco's. Many were baptized, confirmed and married there. Many had commended their departed loved ones to God's love and mercy in that hallowed place. Soon after that Sunday, the buildings were demolished, and the new portion of Route 422 now actually runs over the land where the old church and parish hall once stood.

Prior to the time when we knew that we would have to vacate our buildings, the vicar contacted the board of trustees of the Tod Homestead Cemetery to ask them if it were possible for us to have the use of Tod Chapel for services on Sundays and other times. They graciously consented. We worshipped in Tod Chapel for a little over three years before we began to worship in the new church.

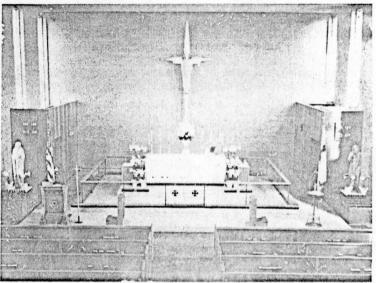
During this same time, committees were appointed to look for a new site for the relocation of the church. After a great many contacts for possible sites, the present location was finally decided upon. A financial drive was started and almost \$35,000.00 was pledged. The Diocese of Ohio presented us with a gift of \$10.000.00. We were also assured by Bishop Burroughs that loans could be secured through the Episcopal Advance Fund. So with these assurances together with the monies we received as damages for our property in Brier Hill an architect was sought. Mr. Donald Bostwick of Niles was engaged. When the final plans were approved and bids were let, Adolph Johnson and Son was awarded the contract to erect the new building.



The New St. Rocco's Church

The church is located at 239 Trumbull Ave., Liberty Township.

The first services in the new church building were held on Sunday, June 28, 1959. Bishop Burroughs dedicated the new church before a filled church on Sunday evening, November 15, 1959. Rev. Salcini was present for the dedication service as well as other clergy and representatives from the community. It was a great day for the congregation of St. Rocco's.



The Nave and Sanctuary

Many beautiful gifts given in memory of departed loved ones were presented by the families and friends of St. Rocco's, which have enhanced the beauty of the church. They were as follows: the Altar, the Cross and Christus Rex, the carved wood Statue of St. Rocco, the Ambry, the Sanctuary Lamp, the Baptismal Font, the sterling silver Bowl and Ewer, sterling silver Cruets, Prayer Desks, Prayer Books, Holy Water Bucket and Sprinkler, Alms Basins, Candlesticks for the Altar in the Narthex, sterling silver Private Communion Set, and the Christus Rex for the Parish House.

The following gifts were presented by individuals and groups. The carved wood Statue of the Blessed Mother and Child was given through a popular subscription list as were the two stands on which are placed the Statue of the Blessed Mother and Child and the Statue of St. Rocco in the nave of the church. The Altar Rail and Kneeling Cushions were presented by the Young Adults and the Episcopal Church Women of St. Rocco's. The Church Women gave the pews; they also executed and presented a white set and a green set of Eucharistic Vestments. The Young Adults Group presented the organ.

The Lectern Bible was presented by a family. The companion Credence Tables were presented by individuals. A member of the parish made and presented a lace hanging for the High Altar and the Altar in the Narthex. Two individuals presented the Episcopal Church Signs, and another individual presented a gift of shrubbery. Other gifts were presented for use in the office, sacristry and parish house.

At this writing, the sanctuary floor, pulpit, lectern and chancel rail still need to be finished. When that is done, the interior of the church proper will be completed. It is hoped that when the present structure is paid for, the Parish House will be enlarged

It is also hoped that by 1968, when St. Rocco's celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, that St. Rocco's will have become a self-supporting parish.