

Sacred Heart, Assumption Parishes Change Hands

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Marists To Accept New Area

The parish of Our Lady of the Assumption was established in 1951 by the Most Reverend Gerald P. O'Hara, Archbishop, Bishop of the then Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta. The Archbishop appointed Monsignor Joseph E. Moylan, P.A., who had been serving as Vicar General of the Diocese, as the first pastor of the new parish. The Reverend Charles J. Mahoney, C.S.C., was the first assistant pastor.

Ten acres of land were purchased in Oglethorpe Estates on Hearst Circle as the site for the parish. Construction began immediately on the school-chapel building and the convent. Before the completion of the chapel Mass was offered at the old Lawson General Hospital and later in the auditorium of the Jim Cherry School. The chapel in the school building was first used in May of 1952.

FATHER MAHONEY was recalled by his religious community in May of 1953. He was replaced as assistant pastor by MSGR. MOYLAN P.A., V.G. Father John D, Stapleton, now pastor of St. Jude's. Monsignor Moylan was called to Ireland in January of 1954 by Archbishop O'Hara for six months. During his absence the parish was administered by the late Monsignor Cornelius L, Maloney. Father Richard B, Morrow now pastor at Carrollton was appointed second assistant in May of 1955.

The School opened in 1952 with the first five grades and a kindergarten. There were 176 children registered. Sister Mary Assumpta of the Sisters of Mercy was appointed the first Superior and Sister Mary Christine, R.S.M., the first principal. Also serving on the first faculty were Sister Mary Mercia, R. S. M. Sister Mary Monica, R.S.M. Sister Mary Kateri was appointed the second Superior and principal in 1955. Sister Mary Brigid, R. S.M, is the present principal of the school which now has 840 students and ten sisters. The parish grew rapidly and in 1957 there were 652 children enrolled for school. Construction began on the new Church in May of 1957 and Monsignor Moylan offered the first Mass in the church on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother, September 8th, 1957.

THE NEW CHURCH was designed by a parishioner, Mr. Warren F. Penney, A. I.A., and it was built by DeGive, Dunham and O'Neill, Inc. The opening of school in 1957 found the old chapel being converted into four new class rooms and cafeteria. Since then the school has been enlarged keeping pace with the parish expansion.

In the summer of 1964 Assumption Parish lost a portion of its boundaries to the new parish of Holy Cross, Chamblee, Georgia. But the influx of new families into the area has kept it up to almost its former level.

Archbishop Explains Reason For Change

Two of Atlanta's leading parishes will change pastors and administrations Sunday, September 5, it was announced today. The Marist Fathers, familiar to the Sacred Heart scene for 65 years, will assume parochial responsibility for the large suburban parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in North Atlanta. The Archdiocese of Atlanta will assume the pastorate and administration of Sacred Heart Parish on Ivy Street.

'The reasons for the transfer of these two important parishes are entirely pastoral', Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan stated this week. 'That is, the only consideration is the increase of Christ's Kingdom, the intensification of a deep spiritual life in the thousands of families in these parishes. This reason, uppermost in the minds and hearts of our people, will help to ease the change.

The very natural affection for priests long known, respected and loved is fully appreciated.

“IN THE discussions which have gone on for over a year, certain spiritual advantages stood out. The Archdiocese is moving ahead with its plan to construct the Catholic Center for Lay Activities next to Sacred Heart Church, and later the central offices of the archdiocese in the same block. Because of this, there is logic in having this parish assigned to diocesan clergy. The care of nearby hospitals and convents will require more priests; Sacred Heart Rectory will provide residence for teaching and staff priests of the archdiocese who can assist in this apostolate.

‘The Marists, to whom we are indebted for six decades of education, parish and mission care, will move to the growing parish of the Assumption. Within this parish’ boundaries is the Marist School, our splendid high school which has served generations of Catholics and those of other faiths. The parish will benefit by the long Marist tradition in Atlanta, and the flexibility of priests which was possible when the Marists were all on Ivy Street.

‘That the good of the Church was the main factor in the exchange is clear from the fact that both the Archdiocese and the Marists were in perfect harmony during the entire negotiation. God will bless this step forward, we are sure.’ The Archbishop concluded.

THE NEW PASTOR of Sacred Heart is the familiar Monsignor Joseph E. Moylan, vicar-general of the Archdiocese for many years. The founder and builder of the Cathedral of Christ the King and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Monsignor Moylan now brings his long pastoral experience to the second oldest parish in the city. The present assistants, Fathers Donald Foust and Paul Kelley, will accompany Monsignor Moylan to Sacred Heart. Other priests will be assigned later to reside at Sacred Heart while engaged in teaching and staff appointments.

Monsignor Moylan, a native of Savannah, was ordained in October of 1917. Among the positions held by Monsignor is pastorate of the Immaculate Conception and the Cathedral of Christ the King. Monsignor Moylan is one of our two Vicars-general, an archdiocesan Consultor, Pro-Synodal Judge of our Metropolitan Tribunal, and chairman of our Commission on Development.

Father Thomas J. Roshetko, S.M. becomes the new pastor of the Assumption. For 6 years, he has been pastor of Sacred Heart where, he and his fellow-Marists have initiated new programs for parishioners and downtown visitors. The “service” concept of the Church, so prominent in the new Vatican Constitution, has long been the theme of Sacred Heart’s parish life under Father Roshetko’s guidance. Fathers George J. Meiluta, Philip J. McArdle, Constantin A. Chauve, and James J. McGuckin- all members of the Marist Society have been serving Sacred Heart this year with Father Roshetko as pastor.

THE NEGOTIATIONS began last year with Father Charles Willis, S.M., Provincial, the pastors concerned and the Archbishop. Careful studies of both parishes were made. After many consultations with the Archdiocesan Consultors, and the Marist Provincial Council in Washington, as well as Lay Advisors on practical and legal points, the decision was reached to seek the approval of the Holy See.

The archdiocesan part of the transfer had to be submitted to the Congregation of the Council in Rome, and the Marist part by the Congregation of Religious. Approval was received from the former on July 30, 1965, and from the latter on.

The solemnization of the transfer will take place September 5, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church at the 12:45 p.m. Mass which will be concelebrated by both pastors. Msgr. Moylan will be the principal celebrant and Archbishop Hallinan will preside.

At 6 p.m. on the same day, there will be another concelebration at Sacred Heart Church with Father Roshetko as the principal celebrant. Archbishop Hallinan will preside.