

The 1970's

In the early seventies, Associate Pastor Father Gerard T. Ryan C.S.Sp. was assigned to St. Anthony's.

By May of 1971 the parish bulletin contained this notation, "R.I.P After 14 years of dedicated service, the Altar Society was found to no longer meet the needs of the women of our parish. On April 28, therefore, it was laid to rest. "

The city was growing; the population was now over 105,000 people and St. Anthony's served approximately 900 families. A new parish, St. Patrick's was planned for east Anchorage. The dividing line was Boniface Parkway.

St. Patrick's Parish formally opened on October 4, 1971 with a Mass at Chester Valley School. St. Anthony's lost most of the Sunday music group to St. Patrick's. A bulletin notice stated "The annual St. Anthony's St. Patrick Day dinner and entertainment, spearheaded by former Associate Pastor Father Edward Sterling C.S.Sp., will belong to the new church."



In May of 1972 Dennis Foreman and family joined the parish. In the years to follow Dennis would make the large cross that is used every Lent at St. Anthony's and for many years has been the main cross utilized for the Good Friday Faith Walk. His wife Sandy has would become the long term coordinator of altar Eucharistic Ministry and the behind the scenes coordinator of the majority of funeral, first communion, confirmation and most receptions held at the church even to the present day.

Later in 1972 Associate Pastor Father Carl Able and his Wirehaired Terrier become part of St. Anthony's. Father Able would be the only associate pastor to have a dog in residence at St. Anthony. He was followed by Associate Pastor Father Michael Hornick, the first priest ordained for the Archdiocese of Anchorage. Monsignor Cowgill mentored both.

In May of 1973 the amber, red, blue, green and pink colored glass panels were added to the upper windows in the church at a cost of \$266.00 and in late 1974 St.

Anthony's obtained a new organ just in time for Christmas. Bill Goehring assisted Monsignor in the selection and Tom Gittens and Jim Fuller with the installation.

1975 welcomed Steven and Marsha Foy and family as new members. Steve and Marsha were one of three couples who brought Marriage Encounter to Anchorage. Religion classes were held on Tuesday evenings at East-Benson on the corner of Northern Lights and Bragaw Street. Lillian Tackes served as Principal assisted by Ernestine Fleece.

July 8, 1976, Archbishop Francis T. Hurley was installed as the second Archbishop of Anchorage.

Over the next few years life began to move at a faster pace.

The parish folk group musicians included Mary-Jo Cadieux, Julie Allarding, Jacques and Mary Regat and more. Wednesday mornings found a large group of parishioners studying the Documents of Vatican II with Sister Arlene. Leadership was being developed.

Parishioners became actively involved as leaders in Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter, Beginning Experience, and We the Parish, a program designed to strengthen parishes. We the Parish was planned and implemented at St. Anthony's under lay leaders Joe and Marlys Heinz, Jim and Peggy Egan, Dan and Jane Robertson, Mary Fran and Art Barkshire, Wes and Peggy Bergsrud, the Foys and others.

Newly ordained Father Thomas P. Gillissie was assigned to the parish as associate pastor

In 1978 Sister Arlene left employment at St. Anthony's after nine years with the Parish. She was appointed, by Archbishop Hurley, as Director of Religious Education for the Archdiocese. Her gifts had impacted the entire community. Monsignor then appointed Sister Patricia Collins RSM as the new Director of Religious Education.

Father Michael Shields entered into the history of St. Anthony as Associate Pastor in 1979, his first parish assignment. Monsignor Cowgill, having become quite experienced with newly ordained priests, was now contending gracefully with a

priest saying mass while wearing sandals. Word was Father Mike came bounding into the rectory yelling, "I'm home" with almost boundless energy, Father Mike joined in prayer groups, visited parishioner's homes and began leading Resurrection Trail "Faith" hikes for the parish youth. S.A.Y. (St. Anthony Youth) became the name of a very active youth group.

High School Religious Education classes were held in private homes. A bulletin announcement noted that instructors were Tom and Renee Tunley for 11th and 12th graders, and Wes and Peggy Bergsrud for 9th and 10th graders.

Junior and Senior High youth met to make 200 sandwiches for the poor, to be handed out at Holy Family Cathedral and those interested in building a float for the Fur Rendezvous Parade were to contact 11th grader Shannon Egan. Shannon became the parish Director of Religious Education after graduating from college.

This same year the Ted and Penny Greene family joined the parish and Sister Patricia, in addition to directing the Religious Education program, soon became involved in visiting the sick and elderly in their homes. The parish saw and responded. Soon ministries were formed and in just a few short years Sister Patricia was named St. Anthony's Coordinator of Ministries. Parishioners began taking Eucharist to the sick in their homes, became lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. A new Associate Pastor, Father Charles Crouse came to the community.