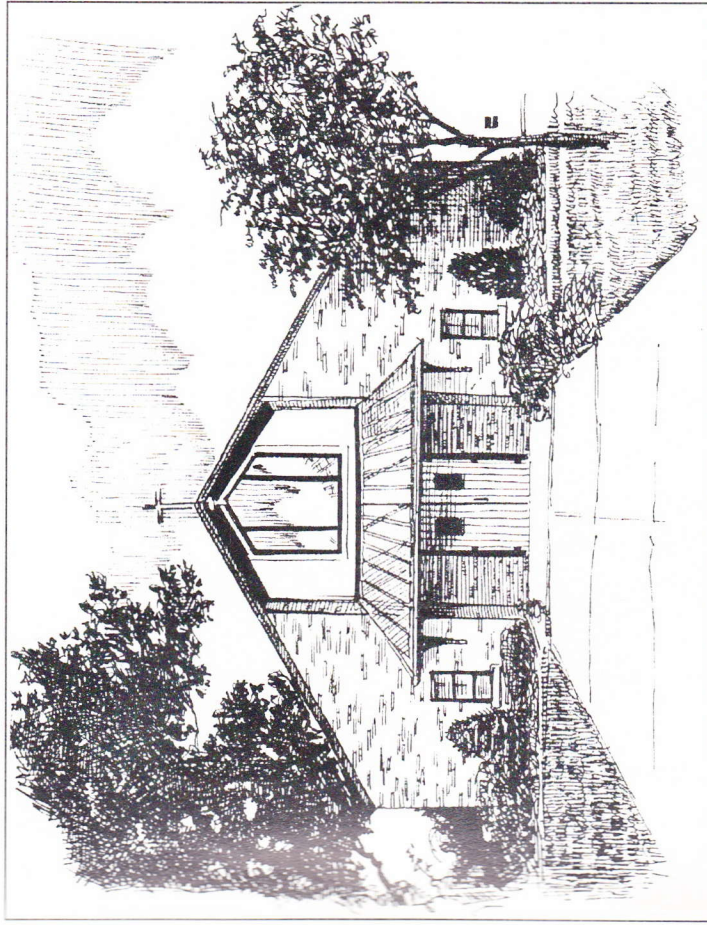
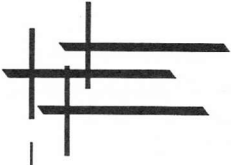


50 YEARS



**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH
FREWSBURG, NEW YORK**

1950 - 2000



AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

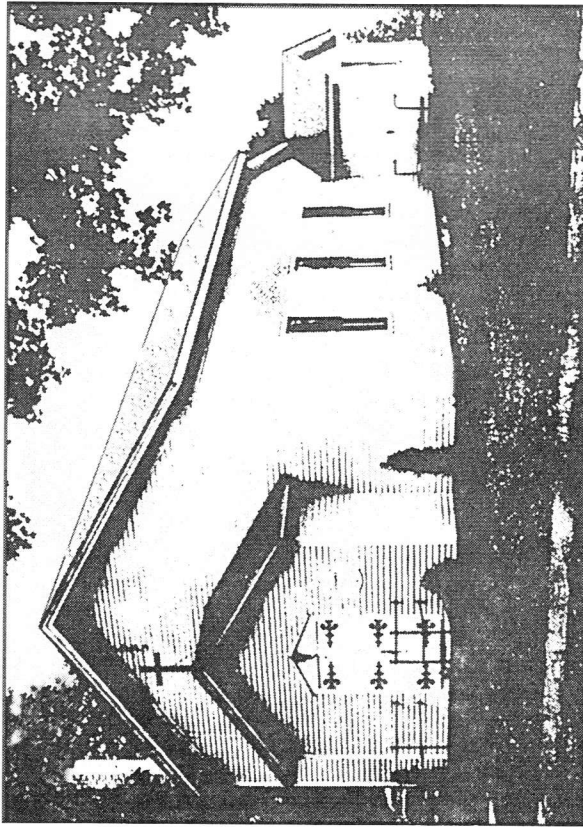
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH

50 YEARS



Mission Statement

“By reason of our Baptism, we the Church of Our Lady of Victory are called to be Disciples of Christ to assume ministerial roles in our parish community. Using our God-given gifts and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, we unite to foster spiritual growth and love. By discerning what God wants, we will attend to human needs and social growth and love. By discerning what God wants, we will attend to human needs and social justice for those who touch our lives in our local church as well as our extended community”



**Our Lady of Victory Church
Frewsburg, New York**

1950 - 1957



**Rev. John H. Smith
1950 - 1957**



**Rev. David V. Roche
1957 - 1966**



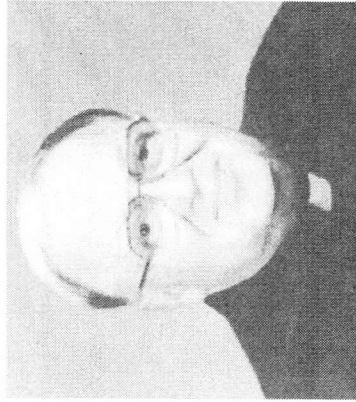
**Rev. James Hayes
1966 - 1971**



**Rev. Thomas L. Kemp
1971 - 1976**



Rev. Claude H. Bicheler



Rev. Duane G. Fimbel



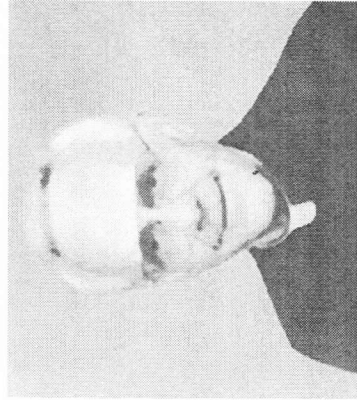
Rev. Carlton J. Westfield



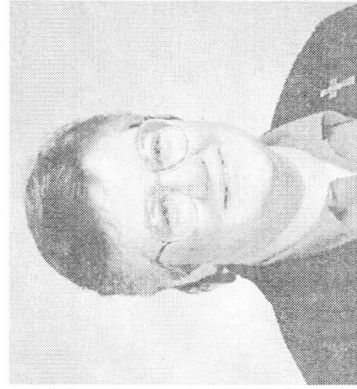
Rev. Donald J. Balogh



Rev. Joseph C. Carlo



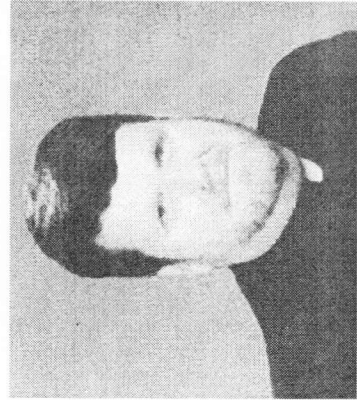
Rev. Francis T. Cybulski
(Temp. Admn.)



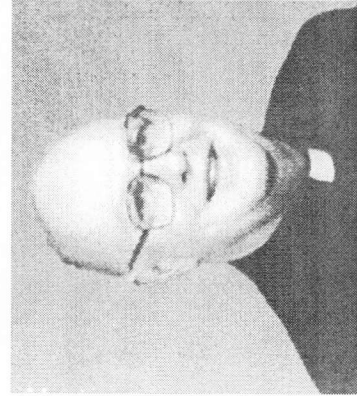
Sister Diane Swanson



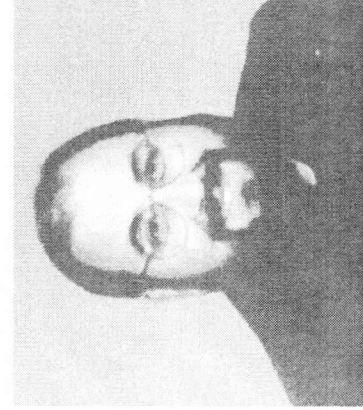
Rev. Michael J. Barone



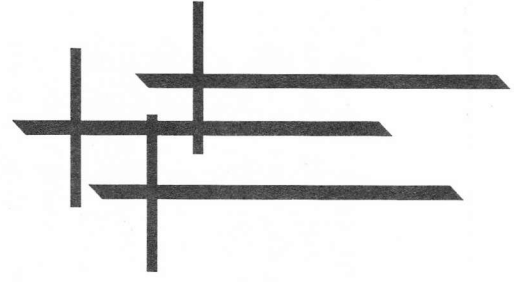
Rev. Robert E. Waters



Rev. Martin L. Pavlock
(Temp. Admn.)



Rev. Joseph A. Gullo



There was a man with a dream. The dream was to establish a Catholic Church in every village and hamlet of the Buffalo Diocese. Father James J. Nagagh had that dream; and his Bishop Most Reverend John A. Duffy, D.D. gave him the "green light" to put his plan into action. Bishop Duffy offered the services of the newly ordained priests to serve for one year under the missionary apostolate. The headquarters for bringing Christ's message to churchless and priestless communities in this area was established in Mayville, New York. The young priests, aided by seminarians, began ringing doorbells throughout the County to take a census of the Catholic population.

In Frewsburg, there were initially three Catholic families: Joseph Dallas, Francis Jacobson, and Raymond Sittinger, who offered their homes for Sunday Mass, until a building could be obtained to serve as a church.

On September 13, 1940, the Diocese of Buffalo purchased a building which formerly housed the Swedish Evangelical Church. The property was acquired from Ernest L. Danielson, and included a frame building on a lot measuring 160 feet by 232 feet on the north side of Institute Street. The building was named Our Lady of Victory Chapel. Mr. Danielson owned a large home on the corner of Institute Street and Falconer Street, and rented an apartment to the young priests who staffed the church.

Rev. Eugene Wagner was the first priest to celebrate Mass in the Chapel followed by Rev. Walter J. Waligora in 1941; Rev. Hubert Reiman in 1942; John J. Neylon in 1943 thru 1945; Rev. Paul C. Shreck in 1946; Rev. Joseph

D. Joseph in 1947; Rev. John E. Nugent in 1948; and Rev. Paul V. Durkin in 1949. As new families came into the community, they were welcomed into the church. Through the endeavors of the various priests, many converts were baptized in the Catholic faith. The half-dozen, or more, parishioners who originally enjoyed the benefits of a church building, and were responsible for its care, saw the number of worshippers increase gradually to a total of 70 families.

Catherine Seekins, daughter of Alvin and Mary Groghan Seekins, was the first to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in the Frewsburg Chapel on June 8, 1941. The first Baptism in the Chapel was Patricia Loughlin, daughter of Charles and Alice Osborne Loughlin, on September 20, 1941. The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered either in Mayville, N.Y. or Bemus Point, N.Y. Later, Florence Seekins was the first from the parish called to religious life and she entered the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy.

The ladies of the church organized an Altar and Rosary Society. They held their meetings in the homes of the members, and contributed much to the care and upkeep of the church.

A room in the rear of the Chapel building was equipped with a stove, sink and refrigerator and, for several years, was used to cook and serve a public dinner on the church lawn. Social functions that required a larger indoor space were held in the basement of the Myers Memorial Library.

On June 12, 1950, Bishop John F. O'Hara established Our Lady of Victory Parish with boundaries including the Townships of Carroll, Kiantone, South Valley and parts of Ellicott and Poland, south of Willard Street Ext. Installed, as Pastor of the parish of 75 families was Reverend John H. Smith. He served as pastor until October, 1957.

A rectory was constructed, east of the church building, by Mr. Earl Eaton, husband of a parishioner, who was a contractor. A two-story building and attached garage was erected, featuring a pastor's suite, housekeeper's suite, office, dining room and kitchen. The house was opened for inspection, August 5, 1950.

The first ceremony of confirmation was held in Our Lady of Victory Church on October 19, 1953. Bishop Siebald B. Kurz, O.F.M., conferred the sacrament to 29 children and adults.

Father David V. Roche was appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish on October 9, 1957. He helped the youth of the parish to organize a C.Y.O., which met in the basement of the rectory. They conducted many activities in conjunction with other area organizations. A religious summer school was established and several Seminararians and Nuns conducted classes for six weeks each summer with a picnic held at either Allegany or Midway Park at the close of the session. Such spiritual functions as a weekly Novena to Our Lady of Victory, Forty Hours Devotion and Holy Week Mission were conducted. After the Second Vatican Council, when many changes were introduced in the Catholic faith, the Ministerial Association in Frewsburg developed Ecumenical services

held in various churches in the form of Hymn sings, with choirs and parishioners joining forces.

As the Parish grew larger and the original church building grew older, the need for a new building became more apparent. Plans were drawn up by architects: K.G. Schmill & C.J. Hoffmeyer J.Y. Sloan & H.D. Schneoder, for a brick building with choir loft and seating capacity for 145 people. The Barnes Construction Company of Falconer was low bidder for the project.

The crucifix hanging in Our Lady of Victory Church is one of a kind. The artist Jamie Andrews of New York, was a classmate of Father Roche's brother, John A. Roche. The ceramic cross was made in New York and donated and delivered to Frewsburg by John Roche. A similar cross hangs at Bishop Timon High School, Buffalo, NY.

The old church building was moved back of the rectory and converted into a church hall, complete with kitchen facilities and rest rooms. Over the years, many social functions of the Church have been held in the hall and it has also been used for meetings for Girl Scouts and Senior Citizens.

Bishop Leo E. Smith dedicated Our Lady of Victory Church on July 3, 1960. Members of the Knights of Columbus served as a Guard of Honor for the Bishop and forty priests and the Rev. Msgr. Frances E. Growney preached the sermon. The Parish Children's Choir sang for the ceremony under the direction of Mrs. James McKeever, organist.

On January 13, 1966, His Excellency, Bishop James McNulty, appointed Rev. James Hayes. His mother accompanied him to Frewsburg and served as a housekeeper. Father Hayes had a keen interest in the youth of the parish and kept the C.Y.O. active. He also was instrumental in organizing outings for various groups of young people. The High School seniors attended a weekend retreat at John XXIII Center, near Cassadaga, as part of their religious education. The Altar Boys were recognized for their devotion to serving Mass and were treated to a church sponsored picnic each summer. A breakfast was served in the hall on the first Friday of each month after the morning Mass.

Rev. Thomas L. Kemp was appointed to the pastorate of Our Lady of Victory Church on January 17, 1971. He immediately started making necessary repairs on the parish property such as; a new roof on the hall, painting the interior of the Church and the exteriors of the hall and rectory. He installed a new carpet in the church sanctuary. In order to finance these improvements and continue to make payments on the church debt, he instituted many moneymaking activities. He divided the Parish into four geographical areas and once a year the parishioners of each area sponsor a social and moneymaking event. Children of the Parish also help with a candy sale each year plus swimming parties. The Annual Lawn Fete, which is held each July, has also been continued.

Sister Diane Swanson, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Charles W. Swanson, entered the religious life as a Sister of Mercy and received her vows of Final Profession at Our Lady of Victory Church, Frewsburg N.Y. on August 8,

1970. She has been a member of the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy for 36 years. Her ministry for thirty-three years has been elementary education. The last fourteen years she has been principal of St. Bernadette School in Orchard Park and continues in that capacity. Sister Diane has a Masters Degree in special education for children with learning and behavioral disorders.

May 31, 1975 Rev. Michael Barone son of Mr. And Mrs. Charles Barone was ordained at Mt. Carmel Church, Silver Creek, N.Y. by Bishop Thomas Tschoepe of Dallas, Texas. His first Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Victory June 8, 1975.

His twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood was celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Church July 16, 2000. Father Barone is now at Sacred Heart Church, Nacogdoches, Texas, and is liturgical director for the diocese of Tyler, Texas.

May 15, 1976 Father Claude H. Bicheler was appointed pastor. In accordance with various changes promoted by the second Vatican Council, the tabernacle was moved from the main altar to the side altar. The religious education program for children of the parish kindergarten through twelfth grade was conducted on Sunday morning between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Parish members have volunteered their help as instructors under direction of the Feliecan Sisters. A social club was formed for adults and meeting once a month in the church hall. The "Hoo Ba Dee A Yah" church fair (named by Fr. Bicheler and a chairman) was a successful parish function for many years. Father Bicheler introduced a folk Mass on Saturdays, and

during the summer months it was offered at a pavilion at Homestead Park.

In 1977 Father Duane G. Fimbel was designated pastor, he served the parish until August 23, 1980.

August 30, 1980, Father Joseph C. Carlo was installed at Our Lady of Victory Church. Members of the parish volunteered their time and knowledge on many improvements. Storm windows were installed in the church, plus a new roof. Ceiling fans were installed in the church, new siding was installed on the rectory and sidewalks on the property were replaced. In 1982 drawings were on display regarding the removal of the altar rail and one side altar. After that project was accomplished, the organ was moved from choir loft to the front of the church and a piano was placed there too.

In the summer of 1982, seminarian Joseph Gullo was sent to Our Lady of Victory Church to assist Father Joseph C. Carlo with the parish census. He encouraged parishioners to become more active members.

The altar society was re-organized so more women of the church would accept the responsibility of keeping the sanctuary clean and preparing the altar for special occasions.

A Catholic Youth Organization was re-established in the fall of 1981. Religious education space was lacking to accommodate all the classes adequately. The parish council proposed that an addition be built on the church hall.

The plans called for a building with a hall and a basement containing six separate classrooms. Church members were asked to pledge, or pay toward the debt involved and their response was gratifying. The addition was completed and paid for by the end of 1983.

September 18, 1987 Rev. Francis T. Cybulski was temporary administrator.

October 30, 1987 Rev. Robert E. Waters was appointed pastor. Father Waters implemented the vision of Vatican Two in the liturgy and empowering the people. He was the first parish priest to go to the rest home in Frewsburg to offer Mass. Father Waters also started the "Little Rock Bible Study" group

August 19, 1992 Father Waters was appointed pastor of Corfu/Crittenden, N.Y. Churches. This meant Frewsburg would no longer have a priest in residence. Father Martin Pavlock was appointed temporary administrator. The New Vision for Pastoral Ministry Commission requested and received permission from the Bishop to meet with parishioners from Frewsburg and Falconer to discuss the possibility of both parishes sharing a pastor. An open meeting at Frewsburg was held and approximately 60 parishioners from Our Lady of Victory Church parish attended the meeting. Statistical information regarding the diminishing number of priests and lay ministry were shared and discussed. The proposal of sharing a pastor with Falconer was then introduced. This did not come as a surprise since parishioners were aware of the previous meeting with the Parish Council.

October 31, 1992, Rev. Carlton J. Westfield was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church and pastor of Our Lady of Loreto Church. Father Westfield was instrumental in the installation of the stained glass windows in the church. Parishioners purchased stained glass windows in memory of families and past clergy. The large window in the front of the church was replaced with a stained glass window of "Our Lady of Victory".

With the renovation of the entrance of the church, a new roof was included and the two side doors were removed leaving the two main doors. In 1993 a new Baldwin organ was purchased to replace the old organ.

September 15, 1996, at Our Lady of Loreto Church, a Mass was celebrated by Father Carlton J. Westfield for his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. A reception was held at Our Lady of Victory Church hall.

In 1996 Rev. Donald J. Balogh a retired priest from Parma, O.H. residing in Onoville, N.Y. assisted in weekend Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church. In April 1999 Father Balogh celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. A reception after Mass was held in his honor at the church hall.

On May 1, 1999, "Feast of St. Joseph the Worker" Bishop Henry J. Mansell appointed Father Joseph A. Gullo as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church and Our Lady of Loreto Church. September 12, 1999, Father Gullo was installed by Msgr. Attea at the morning liturgy a parish reception followed. In the past year he has reached out to all.

In the Jubilee year 2000 on December 10, 2000, Bishop Henry J. Mansell celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving to almighty God for the blessings received in these fifty years and celebrated the sacrifices of the people of God of Our Lady of Victory Church. A parish reception was held after the Mass at the church hall.



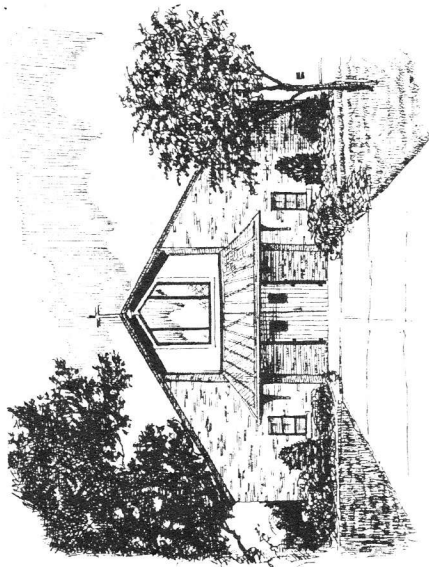
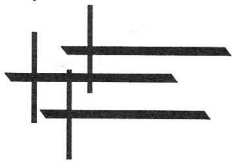
Special Recognition of Parishioners

Parishioners that have received the "St. Joseph the Worker" award:

Izora Scott	1972
Charles Barone	1983
John Dwyer	1985
Rose Sluga	1987
Joseph Lombardo	1990
William Paul	1996

Joyce Emley was the first female Eucharistic Minister.

Joseph Lombardo and Robert Coffey were the first male Eucharistic Ministers.



“Cover Drawing of Present Church”

Wesley P. Bossman



"2000 Historical Book Committee"

Patricia A. Jones Chairwoman

Charles B. Barone

Mary J. Lombardo

Anne C. Seekins

Rose J. Sluga

Ann U. Turk