

# 2018 2019



# PILGRIMAGE TO OUR PAST

*Celebrating 200/225 Years of Students & Parishioners for Others*

September 2018



History has a way of inspiring the telling of stories. As our ancient ancestors knew so well, telling stories serves to bring people together, fosters shared understandings and promotes a sense of community. Our faith community at Holy Trinity in its three-century existence has more than a few stories. Beginning with the building of the Chapel of Saint Ignatius in 1794, the history of this parish has been a long and grace-filled one. As we commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Holy Trinity School and the 225th Anniversary of our first Mass at Holy Trinity, we will provide this monthly publication recounting some of the stories that comprise our parish's amazing history.

There are indeed many stories to be read and told. Did you ever hear the story of when President Abraham Lincoln, while attending the funeral for a union general, was reprimanded for wearing his hat in church? How about the time in the 1970s when a circus not only came to town, but also performed in our church! Or perhaps you were there in 2008 when two presidential hopefuls, Barack Obama and John McCain, sat together as they attended the funeral of our parishioner, journalist Tim Russert. These and more stories will be recounted throughout our anniversary years. **What is your Holy Trinity story?**

—Rev. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Pastor

## My First Day of School at Holy Trinity



*The author in her first grade uniform.*

I went to first grade in the early 1950s. In those days, we started school on the Thursday after Labor Day and had a half-day on Thursday and Friday. I was a shy six-year old. My mother walked me through the arched gate to the courtyard entrance of the elementary school. I was happy to see a boy I knew, Lidano Boccio, from kindergarten at Jackson School on R Street, NW. Seeing a familiar face made the moment less scary. He and I held hands as we climbed the steps to the first grade classroom.

We were met by our teacher, Sister Mary Noel, R.S.M.—the sweetest, kindest lady. She had taught first grade to my older sister, my cousin, and later, my cousin's daughter. She was a professional, loving teacher. We

had our class in Mrs. Kelly's present-day classroom on the first floor of the Lower School.

On the first day of school, I wore a plaid dress, and Lidano wore a dark green Eton suit. Until October 1, when the weather cooled, we did not wear our school uniforms. Before too long, after hearing about school rules, we went to recess. The girls went to a separate area for recess on the high school side of the church; we always went with the second grade girls. Sister Noel took all the first and second grade boys to recess in the current courtyard.

In our classroom were 60 busy students. It was an important year for us because we received our First Reconciliation and First Communion sacraments in May. On Sundays, the students went to 9am Mass and sat with our classmates and Sr. Noel. Our parents sat in the back and stared at the backs of our heads. We watched the older students walking to receive the Eucharist, imagining ourselves doing the same by the end of the school year. I enjoyed my years as a student in Holy Trinity School.

—Linda Miller Nystrom, alumna and parishioner

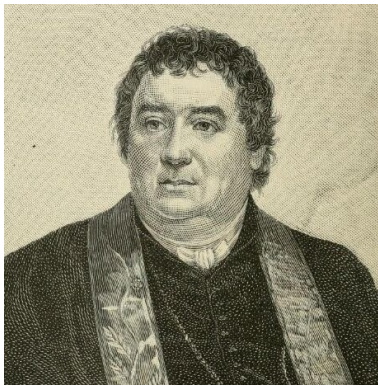
# Holy Trinity School Celebrates 200th Anniversary

Our school was founded by the first pastors of Holy Trinity, two Jesuit priests named Francis Neale, S.J. and Benedict Fenwick, S.J. The school is one of many lasting contributions they made in Georgetown and other parts of the country. To understand our school's place in history, we set our founding in the broader context of the early Catholic Church in our young nation.

The first students of the school we now call Holy Trinity were the sons of some of Georgetown's very first residents. They were some of the first students to receive a Catholic elementary education in the United States, and the Jesuit priests who founded the school also played key roles in the founding of other beloved Catholic institutions. During our journey through HTS's history, you will see reflections of the development of our nation and its capital, too.

Although two hundred years have passed since HTS began teaching young children in Georgetown, so much remains the same—the Jesuit identity, the strong commitment to its students, and the desire to help students become people for others.

## The Founding of Holy Trinity School



*Rev. Benedict Fenwick, S.J.*

The story of our school begins in 1818, when the Jesuit priests who had founded Trinity Chapel began offering a free education to young parishioners and other neighborhood boys. When they opened the Free School for Boys, as Holy Trinity School was called then, the Jesuits made it possible for the sons of working families to obtain an education—something which previously had been

available only to wealthier families who could afford private tutors. The boys who attended the school were Catholic and Protestant, and families that were able to afford a modest tuition fee contributed to the education costs.

The first school building was purchased by Fr. Francis Neale, the founder of Holy Trinity parish, who used his personal fortune to buy land surrounding Trinity Chapel. The school opened at the direction of the parish's second pastor, Fr. Benedict Fenwick. Classes were held in a townhouse which cost Fr. Neale \$550, located on what is now N Street. Enrollment rapidly grew to more than 100 boys, and in 1825, the school moved down the street to another townhouse that had three schoolrooms and was called the "Holy Trinity Schoolhouse."

In the same year that the parish opened the Free School for Boys, neighborhood girls were invited to attend classes on the campus of Georgetown Visitation at a school called the Benevolent School. They learned reading, writing, arithmetic and sewing, and they also were given food and clothes, if needed. Many years later, in 1918, the girls from the Benevolent School would join the boys at Holy Trinity to form the current co-educational Holy Trinity School.



*Students take a picture on N Street to celebrate the 200th Anniversary*

The values we hold at HTS today are reflected in the story of our founding. Through their dedication and personal sacrifice, the early Jesuit priests in Georgetown built lasting institutions that would serve not only their Catholic constituents, but also the broader local community. While tending to pressing matters of Georgetown College and the Jesuit Order, Frs. Fenwick and Neale nonetheless saw the local community's need for a school, long before public education was widely available. They worked hard to raise enough funds so that young boys could attend the school regardless of their families' ability to pay, at a time when people would not have been used to providing financing for Catholic churches and schools. Born of this tradition, Holy Trinity School continues, two hundred years later, to educate its students in the Jesuit tradition to be *students for others*.

*—Elizabeth Goergen Silver, alumna, current parent & parishioner*

## TRINITY TRIVIA

Before Holy Trinity School sports teams were known as the Titans, Crusaders or Trojans, they were the Termites!

They were named the Termites because the parent underwriting the athletic program owned an exterminator company.

The 1948 school yearbook recounts that, "the 'Termites' have become models of good sportsmanship in the eyes of all."

Go Termites!





# Parishioner Reflections

## It Was I, Lord!

In August 2002, I was consumed in grief over my inability to conceive a child. During our weekly telephone call, my mother asked me to write to a federal prisoner to give him hope. Her church had taken the long-serving prisoner's family into their faith community. Phillip Emmert was serving the 10th year of a 27-year sentence for a nonviolent, first offense drug crime.

I easily dismissed my mother's request until October 2002, when Father Bill Byron delivered a homily called "The Lord's Bidding." He reminded us to listen carefully to hear God's call—it may come in a voice we do not recognize. Listen carefully—it may be the Lord asking you to intervene. He then read from Matthew 25: "For I was hun-

gry and you gave me something to eat...**I was in prison and you came to visit me.**" The hymn that day was "Here I Am." As we sang, Father Byron's words pressed on my heart, and I thought: *Is it I, Lord? Could He be asking me to help Phillip through my mother's simple request?*

That afternoon, I wrote to Phillip for the first time. That letter lifted me from my personal grief and began a four-year journey to set Phillip free.

Shortly after I began working on Phillip's clemency petition, a young unmarried woman asked me and my husband to adopt her newborn son.

Timothy Scott Orehowsky was born August 6, 2003, and his first time on an airplane was to visit Phillip in federal prison.



*Karen Orehowsky and Phillip Emmert at the wedding of Phil's daughter, April 2010.*

On December 21, 2006, President George W. Bush commuted Phillip's sentence and sent him home to his wife and young daughter. He had served a total of 14 years in prison.

I have always believed my son is the result, gift, and blessing for responding to His call. *It was I, Lord!*

—Karen Orehowsky, parishioner

You are invited to share stories and memories of how your experiences at Holy Trinity have shaped your life, your faith and your family. Stories will be selected for use on our website and in the bulletin beginning in September. All stories will be added to the parish archives. Please submit stories of 250 words or less to [HT225@trinity.org](mailto:HT225@trinity.org). Photos are also welcome!

## Anniversary Projects

**Lorena Permuy** is leading the 225th Anniversary History committee on several projects including a timeline installation in McKenna Hall and history tours.

**David Pennington** has commissioned a hymn for our anniversary.

**Kathy Byrnes** & **Danielle DeGarmo** are working on a design to be used on t-shirts, mugs and other commemorative items.

**Kathy Byrnes**, **Sophia Pineda**, & **Karen McCooey** are donating works of art of the church and chapel to be auctioned off at the 200th/225th Anniversary Benefit on March 2. Prints of the artwork will also be available for purchase.

**Duane Nystrom** has updated his play *Mystery on Holy Hill*, which will be performed on Founder's Day (October 5, 2019).

**George Ziobro** of our Iconography Guild has begun writing the Old Testament Trinity icon. Learn more about the Guild on page 4 of our September 9 bulletin!

*Interested in joining the History Committee, Founder's Day Committee or Anniversary Benefit Committee?*

*Email [HT225@trinity.org](mailto:HT225@trinity.org) or call (202) 903-2836*

## IN 1818...



- James Monroe was the President of the United States



- Abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass was born in Cordova, MD



- Central heating was installed in the U.S. Capitol Building

# Two Historic Milestones—A Year of Celebrations



## 200th/225th Anniversary Benefit Scheduled for March 2, 2019

The celebration, which will be the only anniversary fundraising event, will be held **March 2, 2019** at Sequoia on the Georgetown Waterfront. The theme of the evening will be “A Night of the Arts” and proceeds will benefit Jesuit education throughout the DC area. The evening will include entertainment, art and silent and live auctions. Tickets will go on sale January 2019.

### Get Involved!

**Donate.** The committee is actively soliciting donations for the auction. Popular items include escapes (think beach house), jewelry, experiences (concerts, sporting tickets), retail and restaurant gift certificates. If you want to donate or have a contact you think we should reach out to, please email [HT225@trinity.org](mailto:HT225@trinity.org)

**Volunteer.** We have a variety of sub-committees. Entertainment, Logistics, Marketing/Communications, design, and auction. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please attend our committee meeting **September 24** at 6pm in Faber Room, or email [HT225@trinity.org](mailto:HT225@trinity.org).

October 20, 2018

**200th Anniversary  
Street Fair & Reunion**

October 21, 2018

**200th Anniversary  
Mass & Reception**

October 22, 2018

**27th Annual HTS  
Golf & Tennis Classic**

March 2, 2019

**200th/225th  
Anniversary Benefit**

October 5, 2019

**Founder's Day  
Celebration & Mass**

## SAVE THE DATE: 225TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES

January 26, 2019

Implementation of Vatican II Liturgy

February 23 & 24, 2019

Catholic Marriage & Family Life:  
A Discussion with Tim & Susan Muldoon

March 13, 2019

An Evening with Sr. Barbara Reid, O.P.

April 27, 2019

Tour of Jesuit Maryland Historic Sites  
with Rev. David Collins, S.J.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

*as of August 15, 2018*

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### Host Committee

*Danielle DeGarmo*

*Gonzaga College High School*

Sponsorship opportunities for the anniversary year are now available at [www.trinity.org/225/sponsor](http://www.trinity.org/225/sponsor)