

2018
2019



PILGRIMAGE TO OUR PAST

Celebrating 200/225 Years of Students & Parishioners for Others

The Founding of Trinity Church *A Milestone in American Catholic History*

Holy Trinity, founded in 1787, is the oldest Roman Catholic parish in the District of Columbia. Its longevity is a point of pride for parishioners today. Of further interest is that the establishment of Holy Trinity and the construction of its church represented a major change in the way Catholics of the region had worshipped for the better part of a century.

Going forward, and with the first Mass held in the Chapel in 1784, Catholics would express their faith publicly and free of persecution.

The colony of Maryland, including the area that is now the District of Columbia, was settled in 1634. It is widely known as the Catholic colony because its Catholic founders sought freedom of worship at a time when such freedom was unavailable to Catholics in other colonies. Its leaders and landowners were prominent English Catholic noblemen, but Catholics represented only a sixth of Maryland's early population, the remainder of the settlers being Protestants. Jesuit priests, among the first arrivals in the colony, served the religious needs of the Catholic colonists.

When the Protestant majority eventually gained political control, the Maryland Assembly in 1704 prohibited Catholic priests from saying Mass or performing other priestly functions.

Maryland Catholics adopted a course of private worship by attending Mass at Jesuit manor houses or performing devotions at home. Families sent their children to study at Catholic institutions in continental Europe.

Founded in 1751, Georgetown was a small Maryland port settlement on the Potomac River surrounded by a few upland estates. Catholics were an important element of the growing community, which had ambitions to be a commercial center, as well as the national capital.

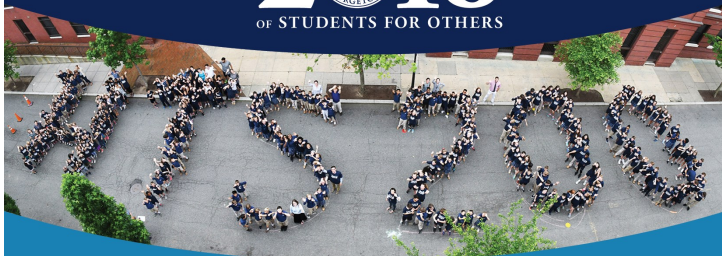
The American Revolution and Maryland's adoption of its Religious Freedom Act in 1776 freed Catholics from the intolerance that had prohibited them from public worship.

October 2018



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

2018
OF STUDENTS FOR OTHERS



**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL
200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND
OCTOBER 20-22, 2018**

STREET FAIR & REUNION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 — 10AM-2PM
36TH & O STREETS NW
RSVP: www.trinity.org/HTS200

200TH ANNIVERSARY MASS & RECEPTION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21 — 2:30PM
CHURCH & TRINITY HALL
RSVP: www.trinity.org/HTS200

27TH ANNUAL GOLF & TENNIS CLASSIC
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 — 12PM START / 5PM DINNER
ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB
Register: www.trinity.org/HTSclassic

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Cont. on page 2

The Founding of Trinity Church, *cont. from page 1*

Trinity Church (the appellation “Holy Trinity” did not appear until 1845) was an early exercise of that new-found freedom. It grew out of a congregational, grassroots desire for such public worship in Georgetown. This contrasts to the later, more familiar, development of the American Catholic Church that was directed by the ecclesiastical hierarchy. Instead, Alexander Doyle, a Catholic layman, merchant, and publisher in Georgetown, served as a principal figure in founding the church. His name appears on the land deed recorded April 24, 1787.

The site for Trinity was a wooded knoll next to a cemetery with graves of the area’s first Catholics. The deed states that John Threlkeld granted to Reverend John Carroll Lot 72 in Threlkeld’s Addition to Georgetown for 5 shillings. Threlkeld was an Anglican whose family owned the estate then called Berleith. The cost for the original 60 by 120 foot lot makes clear that the land was a gift, as similar lots were sold for 20 to 50 pounds. The purpose of the lot was for “erecting and maintaining thereon a Chapple or house for divine worship.”

At the time of the land acquisition, Reverend John Carroll S.J., had been appointed by Rome as the “Superior of the Mission to the United States.” He was the son of a prominent Maryland Catholic family who had been educated and ordained in Liège in what is now Belgium. In 1790, Carroll was consecrated as America’s first bishop. His priority was the establishment of a Jesuit academy, now Georgetown University, and he saw the founding of Trinity Church as only incidental to that goal.

It took five years of fundraising before construction of the church began in 1792. The result was described by one observer the following year as a “plain brick Roman chapel with a clumsy steeple.” Another called it “of a neat and becoming appearance.” There is no record of any consecration or other formal opening ceremonies. The same building is occupied today by the Chapel of St. Ignatius.

Reverend Francis Ignatius Neale S.J., a native Marylander whose family extended back to the early days of the colony, became Trinity’s first pastor. He was educated at the Jesuit academy in Liège and, upon his return to America as a priest, he served at St. Thomas Manor near Port Tobacco, Maryland. Three of Father Neale’s brothers were also priests.

Father Neale arrived at Trinity in January 1792, residing and drawing a salary from the Georgetown academy. His first job was to raise funds for the church. French clergy who had fled the French Revolution sometimes assisted him at Trinity. In 1797, Bishop Carroll decided to reassign Father Neale, but parishioners objected, and the pastor remained in place. In 1810, Father Neale became the president of Georgetown while he continued as Trinity’s pastor. The Neale Room in the parish center is named for the first pastor.

Holy Trinity Church and Georgetown University have been entwined since the beginning, as the establishment of the church coincided with the arrival of the first students at the college. Students, including Protestants, worshipped at the church on Sundays. Georgetown used the church for its academic ceremonies, including a memorial service for Presi-

dent George Washington in 1800. Trinity came under the spiritual care of the college because of the general shortage of priests. It was taken for granted that the clergy would come from the college faculty. The permanent union of Trinity and the Jesuits grew out of this relationship.

The initial size of the Trinity parish population is not clear, but sacramental records demonstrate that it grew rapidly. Parishioners travelled from as far away as Bladensburg and Great

Falls in Maryland and Alexandria and Dumfries in Virginia. No one ethnic or national group dominated the parish. The first congregation was diverse – immigrant, elite, and representatives from every social level. The majority were of English or Irish descent. Thirty percent was African-American, both enslaved people and freemen. Indeed, the first recorded marriage was performed in January 1795 between two enslaved people, David Thomas and Philis. German, French, and Spaniards, some of whom fled Santo Domingo following a slave revolt, were also represented.

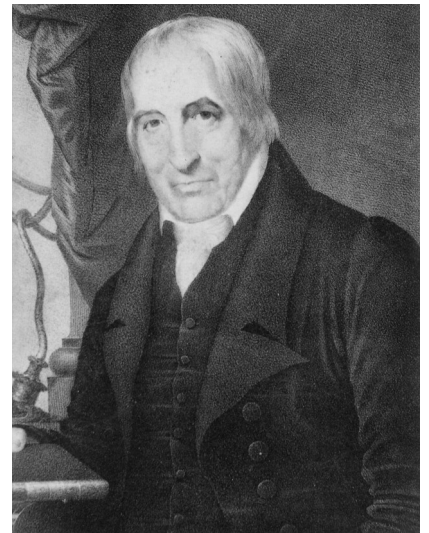
The subsequent history of Holy Trinity will demonstrate its active role in developments in the Washington region, the nation, and the American Catholic Church.

—Richard Rodgers, parishioner

Sources:

Kelly, Laurence J, S.J. *History of Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, DC, 1795-1945*. Baltimore (MD): The John D. Lucas Printing Company, 1945.

Warner, William V. *At Peace With All Their Neighbors, Catholics and Catholicism in the National Capital, 1787-1860*. Washington (DC): Georgetown University Press, 1994.



Rev. Francis Neale, S.J.

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

Email HT225@trinity.org or
call (202) 903-2836

The Student Who Touched My Life



Ann Marie (Santora) Crowley was the first lay principal of Holy Trinity School. She was appointed by Father Jim English in 1979 and served Holy Trinity School in that role for 29 years. She recalls:

“At graduation, I talked about a man walking along the sea throwing starfish back into the water to save them as they had washed up onto the beach. A younger man came along and said that was foolish, you can never save all the starfish. The old man replied, as he threw another one back into

the water: ***But I saved that one.***

“The following Christmas, a former student I had helped get into Gonzaga on a full scholarship, biked from Gonzaga to HTS with a huge box on his handle bars. With a wide grin on his face, he handed me the box. Inside was a beautiful wreath covered with starfish. He said, ‘You remember the story, right? ***I was one of those starfish you saved.***’”

Principals: Then & Now

A Comparison by Holy Trinity School Fifth Graders



Name: Rev. Benedict Fenwick, S.J.

Born: Maryland, 1782

Descent: English & Irish

Status: Died in 1846

Attended: Georgetown University

Favorite Food: Oysters

Motto: The Fenwick family crest shows a Phoenix rising from the ashes with the words *Perit ut Vivat* (He dies that he may live)

Legacy: American bishop; founded College of the Holy Cross; founded *The Jesuit* or *Catholic Sentinel* now known as *The Pilot*.



Name: Kevin McShane

Born: New York, 1966

Descent: Irish & Scottish

Status: Still alive

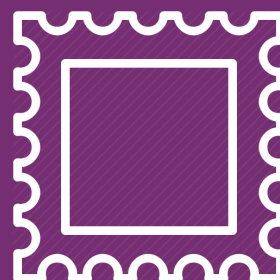
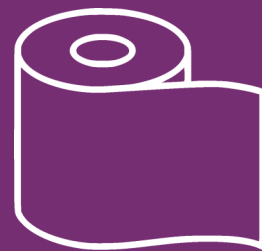
Attended: Harvard University

Favorite Food: Cheeseburger

Hobbies: Reading, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Running, Cycling, Hiking, Golf, and Yoga.

Legacy: When HTS is 400 years old, I hope that it will still be a place where face-to-face relationships matter and, inspired by faith, a place where global citizenship matters. I hope these things will be true both here and at our satellite campus on Europa, the ice moon of Jupiter.

HOLY TRINITY
SCHOOL IS
OLDER THAN
THESE
INVENTIONS!



Parishioner Reflections



50 Years as Parishioners for Others

We met after the 11:30am Mass on a beautiful October day in the late 60s, were married there on April 18, 1970, our children were both baptized at Holy Trinity in 1973 and 1976, and subsequently received all of their sacraments there. We now have two grandchildren who have started this same circle. Both are now in the CCD program. We have been an integral part of Trinity as it continues to grow as a spiritual and intellectual part of our lives. One more than memorable event was that Jim was part of Father Jim O'Connor's Committee when they established the Pledge Program which continues today. While we notice many new parishioners, we also still see those whom we have known/seen since our youthful days. What a beautiful part of our lives - thank you Holy Trinity!

—Mary Frances & Jim Koltes, parishioners for more than 50 years; Jim Koltes is a member of the Knights of Malta



Three generations of the Koltes Family

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. All stories will be added to the parish archives. Please submit stories of 250 words or less to HT225@trinity.org. Photos are also welcome!

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October 20, 2018
200th Anniversary
Street Fair & Reunion

October 21, 2018
200th Anniversary
Mass & Reception

October 22, 2018
27th Annual HTS
Golf & Tennis Classic

January 26, 2019
Lecture Series:
Implementation of Vatican II
Liturgy

February 23 & 24, 2019
Lecture Series: Catholic
Marriage & Family Life with
Tim & Susan Muldoon

March 2, 2019
200th/225th
Anniversary Benefit

March 13, 2019
Lecture Series: An Evening
with Sr. Barbara Reid, O.P.

April 27, 2019
Lecture Series: Tour of
Jesuit Maryland Historic
Sites

October 5, 2019
Founder's Day
Celebration & Mass

Want to secure two tickets to the March 2nd 200th/225th Anniversary Benefit before tickets go on sale in January? Sign up as a Host Committee member now and also receive two Golf & Classic participant packages! www.trinity.org/225/sponsor