



AVE MARIA

NASCENS



NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH

1906 Jubilee Year 1981

CELEBRATING  
OUR 75th YEAR  
and  
MARY'S 2000th BIRTHDAY



OZONE PARK

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## DEDICATION

It is with heartfelt humility, gratitude and joy that we come to the celebration of this seventy-fifth anniversary of our parish. Almighty God has showered us with countless blessings and favors throughout these years of remarkable growth and change.

This heritage book endeavors to outline the history of the parish and to recall the dedicated service of its priests, religious and laity. It also attempts to picture the parish and its people "as we are" in this Jubilee Year, 1981. We are most grateful to the many parishioners who have given of their time and talent on the various jubilee committees to help make our celebration a memorable one.

As we begin the final quarter of the first century of our existence as a parish let our prayer to the Almighty Father be that found in Eucharistic Prayer III of the Holy Mass: "Grant that we, who are nourished by His Body and Blood, may be filled with His Holy Spirit and become one body, one spirit in Christ, and, Father, hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love unite all your children wherever they may be."

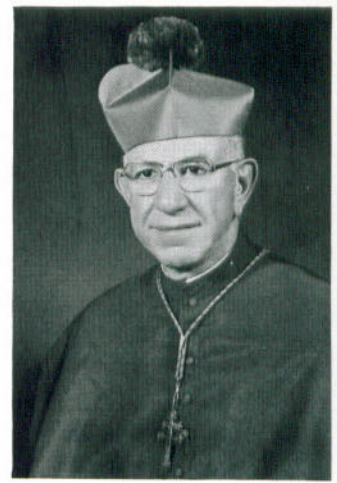
May we also echo the Magnificat song of our patroness, Mary, as we pray that the soul of this parish may continue to magnify the Lord and the spirit of Nativity always rejoice in God our Savior who has done wonderful things for us.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

*Father Adessa*

Rev. Domenick J. Adessa, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph Nosser  
Rev. Dennis Farrell  
Rev. Edward Cassar





Feast of the Nativity of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Father Adessa:

It is indeed a pleasure to extend heartiest congratulations and prayerful best wishes to you, your associate priests, devoted religious and wonderful laity on the joyous occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Having spent some very happy years of my early priestly ministry in this parish, I have a personal attachment to it and indeed a great appreciation of all that has been accomplished in the past and of its great expectations for the future.

At this significant time, in a spirit of joy and gratitude, I join with you in prayerful thanksgiving to Almighty God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon the parish and all associated with it. During these seventy-five years Nativity Church has been a living symbol of Christ's abiding presence among us. It has touched not only the lives of its own parishioners, but has reached out to become a source of strength and an inspiration to the entire community.

It is my fervent prayer that as the parish embarks on a new era in its history it will continue, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to grow as a faith community in spreading the Good News to all the People of God,

With every blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

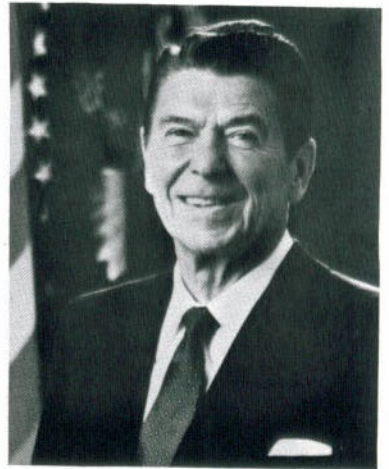
*Francis J. McGuire*  
Bishop of Brooklyn

Reverend Domenick J. Adessa  
101-41 91st Street  
Ozone Park, New York 11416



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1981



Father Dominick Adessa:

Congratulations to the Parish of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

Religious faith remains the essence of strength for America. From the day when Columbus determined to reach land "with God's help" to the time when Jefferson committed the trust of our liberty and freedom to the "protection of Divine Providence," through the present day, the American people have been a religious people.

This faith cannot long exist without the endurance of thriving institutions reflected among our nation's churches.

As a community of believers gathered to mark this anniversary today, you affirm a living hope which has secured through many dark, and shining, hours the wondrous blessings a beneficent God has bestowed on a free people. May it always be so.

Nancy and I join our hearts and our prayers to yours on this joyous occasion.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

Father Dominick Adessa  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish  
101-41 91st Street  
Ozone Park, New York 11416



## CELEBRATING OUR 75th YEAR AND MARY'S 2,000th

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary! An historical fact that heralded the redemption of mankind 2,000 years ago. A parish in Ozone Park established 75 years ago to honor the birth of Mary. This heritage book is dedicated to these two concepts, the one basic to the history of Christianity, the second to the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the founding of a parish in Ozone Park in the City of New York. To put these celebrations together, the bi-millennium with the Diamond Jubilee, has been the objective of our anniversary year, 1981.

Let's begin, as Christianity did, with Mary. Tradition tells us that Mary was a young lady of 15 or 16 years when the Angel announced to her the glorious news that she would be the mother of the Savior. Allowing for the four year miscalculation in the calendar reform of Pope Gregory XIII (placing the birth of Jesus at 4 B.C.) the birth of Mary took place 2,000 years ago. The Marian Center of the Montfort Fathers in Rome places the 2,000th Anniversary of the Virgin Mary's birth among the days ending in 1981.

Enter Father John E. Garbottini, a Montfort priest, who founded our parish in 1906. As a follower of St. Louis deMontfort, he had a deep devotion to the Virgin Mary. As an Italian from the Milan area, he remembered the magnificent sanctuary dedicated to Mary's Nativity a thousand years before. This Shrine started in a small way through the devotion of a Milanese man called Falcorino. At first he built a small church and invited the clergy of the Order of St. Ambrose to celebrate the feast of the Nativity of Mary each year on September 8th as a private

devotion.

Pope Innocent IV had been held in exile in the North by the Emperor Fredrick II. When the emperor died in 1250, the Pope was allowed to return to Rome. Passing through Milan and visiting the Shrine of Mary's Nativity, he was duly impressed by the great reception given him by the faithful and on his return to Rome celebrated Mass in thanksgiving to Mary for his freedom on September 8th and declaring this the feast of Mary's birth for celebration throughout the Church.

The Milanese, heartened by this attention from the Holy Father, intensified their efforts to honor Mary and from 1387 to 1572 everyone that could volunteered their services, resulting in the magnificent Shrine of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary consecrated by St. Charles Borromeo, Cardinal Archbishop of Milan in 1572.

The rich history of the original Shrine in Milan is paralleled by the shorter one of our parish in Ozone Park, which we will endeavor to recount in this commemorative book. The seventy-five year history can be nicely divided according to the four pastorates, all in neat round numbers:

Fr. Garbottini-25 years  
Msgr. Arcese-35 years  
Msgr. Testagrossa-10 years  
Fr. Adessa-5 years

Each pastor was appointed by a different Bishop of Brooklyn, thus spanning 4 of the 5 Episcopal eras of the Diocese of Brooklyn. For convenience then, the history of Nativity parish will be considered in these four time periods.



## OUR FIRST PASTOR FATHER JOHN B. GARBOTTINI 1906-1931

Our beginnings came in 1904 when the Montfort Fathers from the newly established parish of St. Mary Gate of Heaven on 101st Avenue and 103rd Street realized that the burgeoning Catholic population of Ozone Park was no longer able to be properly serviced by their staff and St. Elizabeth's, the only other Ozone Park parish. So, Father John Garbottini was asked by Father Rene Le Cair, Pastor of Gate of Heaven, to explore the possibilities and Mass began to be offered in the home of Carmine Napolitano on 102nd Avenue in late 1904. About 60 persons were able to be accommodated in the Napolitano home when the rolling doors separating the two rooms were opened. The family piano was used for musical accompaniment at Sunday High Mass. So successful was this initial attempt at holding regular services as a mission of St. Mary Gate of Heaven, that soon Father Garbottini, encouraged by Mr. Napolitano and other worshippers, decided to petition Bishop Charles E. McDonnell for permission to start planning for a Church building. Recognizing the spiritual needs of the now established Italian immigrant community, Bishop McDonnell granted permission for the new parish Church to be erected between the two other predominantly ethnic communities of St. Elizabeth (German) and St. Mary's (French).

Property was purchased at 102nd Avenue and 88th Street and the contract was given out to Luigi Lucarelli for \$10,000 to erect a small Church.



Mr. Napolitano and other parishioners gave much assistance with the project and by November the Church was ready for services.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, 1906, the first Mass was celebrated by Father Garbottini and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was officially a parish of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

The first Baptism to be recorded for the parish was that of Luigi DiRosa on December 22, 1906 and the first wedding to take place in the new Church was that of Guiseppe Miele and Maria Capozzoli on April 14, 1907. Realizing that they needed school rooms under the Church, the men of the parish, enthusiastically pitched in, dug down a few more feet to meet the building department specifications and finished off what turned out to be a temporary school. Nativity Parish began to thrive.

As more families began to build one and two family homes in the area surrounding the small Church, it became apparent that they had underestimated the needs of Ozone



Park. In 1919, Father Garbottini with the assistance of Father Weertz, his associate pastor and religious superior, established the mission station of St. Fortunata on Crescent Street, just on the Brooklyn line.

New families moving into the parish gave it a good ethnic mix with Italian, Irish, German, Polish and French, the predominant nationalities. The pastor, a solidly spiritual as well as practical man, now realized that if his work were to bear lasting fruit, a good Christian education had to be provided to the growing number of children coming to Religious instruction. So, a building behind the Church was divided into classrooms and the Daughters of Wisdom, also founded by St. Louis de-Montfort and the counterparts of the Montfort Fathers, were asked to staff the new Parochial school. Mother Lucia, D.W., foundress of the school, with a staff of five sisters, remained until the end of 1918.

The next four years of growth were culminated by the milestone in 1922 of the first building on Nativity's permanent site, our present school building on 92nd Street and Rockaway Blvd. Father Garbottini and Father Weertz took residence in the new building occupying the northern end of the upper floor. The expanded school facility now served to consolidate the parish and the basement portion was fittingly decorated and furnished as a temporary Church. The beautiful stained glass windows still in place are reminders to our older parishioners of the many Masses, Weddings, Baptisms and other liturgies attended in that very devotional setting.

Meanwhile, with the parish seat

having been moved to its present site, the Polish community of Ozone Park petitioned the recently consecrated Bishop Thomas E. Molloy for permission to found a new parish, utilizing the Church and school formerly used by Nativity. This new Canonical entity was to serve the Polish Catholics of the western Queens area and Father Alexander L. Cizmowski was named the first pastor in 1923.

With the need for more Sisters for the expanded Nativity school, Father Garbottini began to explore the possibility of a new order of nuns being introduced. Contact was made with the Ursulines of the Congregation of Thildonk, Belgium. A branch of the Order founded in Brescia, Italy by St. Angela Merici in 1535, these Sisters came to Manitoba, Canada at the outbreak of World War I. Since their principal mission was the education of youth, Father Garbottini arranged for their introduction to Nativity to replace the Montfort Sisters who returned to the growing Gate of Heaven school.

The sisters were formally installed on September 8, 1924 in time to begin the new school term. Father Garbottini arranged the south end of the upper floor of the school-church building as a temporary convent. Father then occupied two one family houses which were used until the beautiful Nativity Convent building was completed in 1926. This architectural gem, fashioned after the model of a Florentine palazzo, housed more than fifty Ursulines in the years from 1924 to 1979. At present it is used by St. Christopher's Home for Children as an intermediary care facility for mentally re-





Father Garbottini with an early graduation class.

tarded children.

In 1930, two one family houses were purchased on 91st Street and remodeled to serve as the new rectory, thus freeing the upper floors of the school building for additional class rooms. One year later on May 26, 1931, Father Garbottini received the appointment to be Vice-Provincial of the Montfort Fathers, necessitating his return to his native Italy. For over twenty-five years he had devotedly served the people of Ozone Park and one can imagine

the dismay of his beloved parishioners on hearing the news. On his tearful departure he promised to keep his people forever in his prayers and our dear founder remains to this day a legend in the annals of the parish of Nativity. He died on September 6, 1946 and the news was received with great sorrow as the church was thronged with those who loved him at the Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated by his successor, Monsignor Leopold Arcese on September 22, 1946.

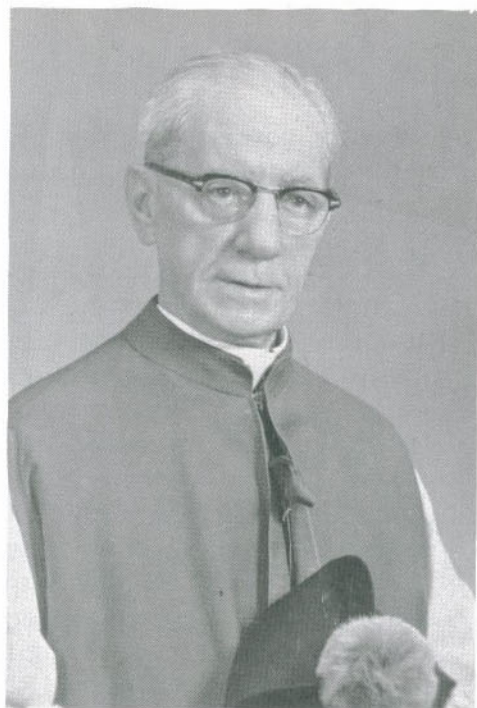


**OUR SECOND PASTOR,  
RT. REV. MSGR.  
LEOPOLD A. ARCESE  
1931-1966**

Leopold Andrew Arcese was born on June 24, 1887 in Arpinum near Rome. His family emigrated to New York when he was quite young and all his schooling took place in the United States. At the time of Father Garbottini's parting from Nativity, Father Arcese was the dynamic and popular pastor of St. Lucy's, a bustling parish in the Navy Yard-Wallabout-Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Known to Bishop Molloy for his successful pastorate at St. Lucy's, he was asked to administer Nativity parish as Father Garbottini was arranging to return to Europe and on December 8, 1931 he was formally installed as spiritual leader of the growing parish.

Having come in the depths of the great depression, the new pastor concentrated his energies on assisting the struggling families of the parish spiritually and materially. His successful management of the new assignment was recognized by Bishop Molloy and on September 29, 1938 he was invested as a Domestic Prelate of the Holy Father with the title of Rt. Rev. Monsignor. He thus became the fourth of the Arcese brothers to be so honored, a fact unparalleled in the annals of the Catholic Church in America and perhaps anywhere in the world.

Now the Church-School building on 92nd Street had definitely become inadequate for the needs of



the people and Monsignor plunged headlong into the planning for a Church-Rectory project on the south end of 91st Street. Property was purchased and plans drawn up by Anthony J. DePace, architect, and as the world was being plunged into World War II, the new buildings began to emerge.

One of the last large celebrations in the old basement Church was a magnificent Eucharistic Congress in October, 1941. A Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated here at midnight by Bishop Raymond D. Kearney and then a solemn procession took the worshippers to Tudor Village Park for outdoor Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament by Bishop Molloy.

Meanwhile, groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Church and Rectory had taken place on April 20th, welcoming of the "shovel" to the building site took place on June 18th and the cornerstone was put in place on October 26, 1941.

The official document for the

occasion, a copy of which is enclosed in the cornerstone, reads as follows:

### **FOR PERPETUAL MEMORY**

On the Feast of Christ the King, October 26, 1941, I, George Metzger, Dometic Prelate of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII and Dean by special delegation of His Excellency, the Most Rev. Thomas E. Molloy, S.T.D., Bishop of the Catholic Church of Brooklyn, have laid the cornerstone of the Church under the title of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed and placed it according to the rite of the Roman Pontifical Ritual. Those who were present were as follows:

Rt. Rev. Msgr.

Leopold A. Arcese, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Towers, Assistant

Rev. Francis X. Oechsler, Preacher

Rev. James H. Griffiths, Chanter

Rev. Edward F. Galmkowski, Deacon

Rev. Eugene T. McCloskey,  
Subdeacon

Rev. Francis J. Mugavero,  
Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Anthony DePace, Architect

Mr. Henry Veit, Builder

While the building of the new Church and Rectory was in process, Monsignor and his assistants, the late beloved Joseph Towers and the now Bishop of Brooklyn, Francis J. Mugavero, took temporary residence at an apartment house on 88th Street. They were able to move into the present rectory on February 15, 1942 and the new Church auditorium was officially opened on St. Patrick's night, 1942.

Many of our present parishioners can well remember the anticipation and excitement experienced

when at last the magnificent new Church was ready for solemn dedication. Families which had sacrificed, at the height of the war, by making monetary pledges, assisting in the fund-raising efforts and now experiencing the anguish of fathers, husbands and sons serving their country in the Pacific, in Europe and here in the States, felt this Church dedication to be a sign of Mary's protection and favor. Over one thousand jammed the Church and many more lined the streets as Bishop Molloy presided at the most solemn occasion. Father William Slattery, Provincial of the Congregation of the Missions was the celebrant, while Fathers John Porazzo and Edward Glamkowski assisted. The future Bishop Mugavero was Master of Ceremonies and a host of priests were present to witness the impressive ceremony. Four days later, by special permission, Bishop Raymond Kearney ordained to the priesthood, the Rev. Cornelius Ryan, a young man of our parish and a member of the Congregation of the Mission. His first Mass was celebrated on June 21st. Nine years later his brother Gerald, now Auxilliary Bishop of Rockville Center, offered his first Mass at Nativity.

Monsignor Arcese was not one to rest on his laurels and he really deserved laurels for what has been accomplished in his ten year pastorate. He delighted in the vocations coming from our midst. He continued to promote spiritual, social and community causes. He continued to plan expansion of services needed for the people served by Nativity. Here are some highlights of the accomplishments of the parish



during the next 25 years until his retirement in 1966:

In 1949 he invited the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallotine Sisters) to serve as social workers to compliment the work of the parish priest staff. Many can remember Mother Julia, the Superior who served for many years in many ways among which were organist and Choir Director.

In 1952 the building of the Exempt Firemen of Woodhaven on 101st Avenue was purchased to serve as a youth center.

In preparation for the Golden Anniversary, 1956, elaborate plans were made to provide a complete interior refurbishing of the Church with imported marble and devotional mosaics honoring St. John the Baptist, St. Pope Pius X, St. Maria Goretti and on the exterior front wall a beautiful mosaic of Mary with the legend "Ave Maria Nascens" which honors her Nativity. This parish logo also appears on the summit of the altar baldachinno. The mosaic of Our Lady of Sorrows capping the sanctuary entrance is a copy of a painting which is an heirloom of the Arcese family.

The brilliant Florentine mosaic of the pelican, a symbol of the Eucharist, the massive cast bronze tabernacle, the beautiful altar of sacrifice, fabricated of Carrara marble are all evidences of the great love and esteem of the people of Nativity for Our Lord in the blessed Sacrament—the center of our parish life.

Later with the increasing demand for Catholic School education, the decision was made to provide six classrooms for 7th and 8th grade children at the Youth Center on

101st Avenue for our school.

Because of the enlargement of the school population more living quarters had to be added for the additional Sisters and the construction of the convent annex was necessitated.

Alternately extra classrooms were provided in the new convent basement and in the rectory basement as the need presented itself.

A new convent for the Pallotine Sisters was constructed adjacent to the Ursuline convent to provide expansion for their mission and social work.

During all the years of Msgr. Arcese's pastorate an up-to-date census of the entire parish was kept. The parish priests would conduct a door to door canvass of all houses within the parish boundaries every other year. The object was that knowing the families and their needs, the parish would be better able to provide the spiritual and social services required.

The Father Coletti Council, 5024, Knights of Columbus, was established by men of the parish in 1957.

The Catholic War Veterans Nativity Post was established by men of the parish in 1945. The Post Auxiliary was founded in 1956.

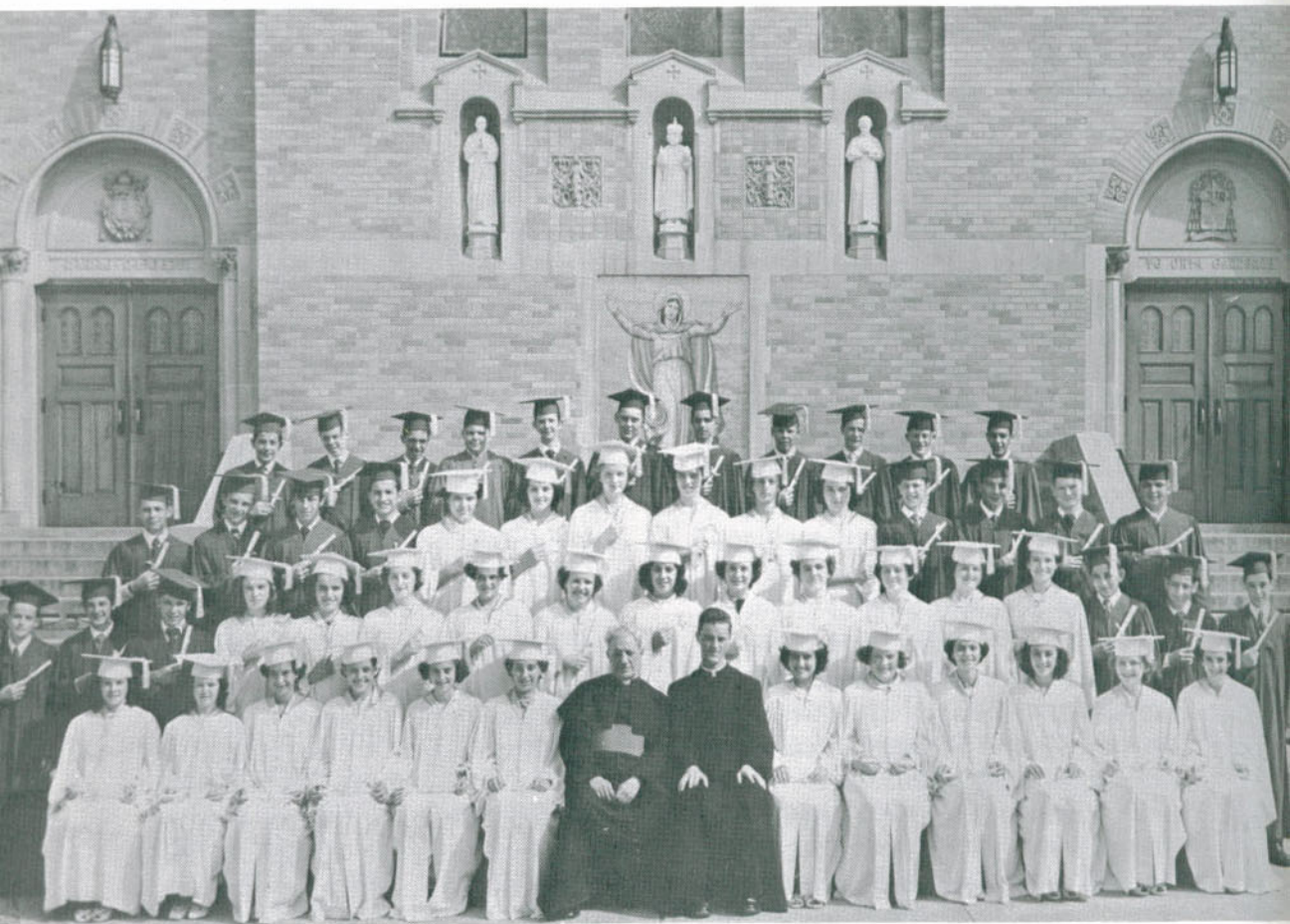
On June 10, 1961 the parish celebrated Monsignor Arcese's 50th Anniversary with a solemn mass of Thanksgiving.

In 1966, after 55 years of priesthood, Monsignor Arcese retired as pastor of Nativity following new Diocese of Brooklyn policy requiring priests to retire at age 75. He remained in residence at Nativity, welcoming his successor, Monsignor Raphael Testagrossa.





Father Adessa with the Class of 1949.



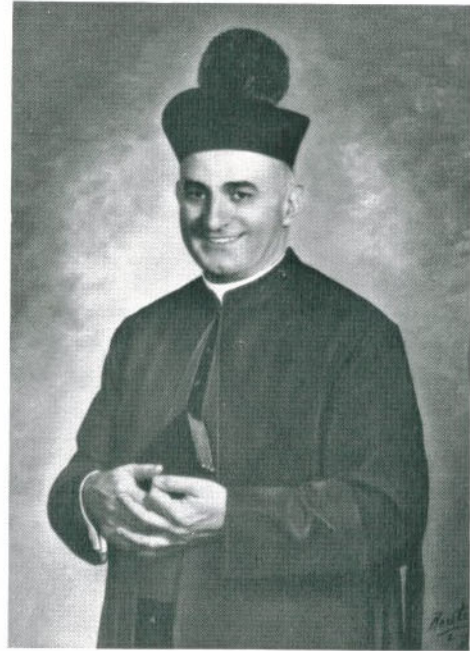
Msgr. Arcese and Bishop Gerald Ryan with the Class of 1950



**OUR THIRD PASTOR  
VERY REV. MSGR.  
RAPHAEL J. TESTAGROSSA  
1966-1976**

As Nativity Parish began its 60th year, transitions resulting from Vatican Council II were affecting the entire Roman Catholic Church as some difficult changes began to be formulated. One of these changes resulted in our beloved Msgr. Leo's retirement and the appointment by Bishop Mugavero of one of the very popular priests of the Diocese to succeed as pastor. Father Testagrossa was ordained on June 10, 1933 and served as pastor of St. Rita's Church, Essex Street, Brooklyn from 1944 to 1950 and as pastor of St. Joseph's Suydam St., where his dedicated pastoral accomplishments were rewarded by Pope Pius VI as he was named a Papal Chamberlain with the title of Very Rev. Monsignor. Knowing that his predecessor's 35 year pastorate would be a "hard act to follow", Msgr. Testagrossa nevertheless accepted the assignment with great enthusiasm and quickly set about implementing the changes that Vatican Council II had mandated.

One of the first acts of the new pastor was to lead a grateful parish in a testimonial to Msgr. Leo. A scholarship fund was established in his honor and a gala inaugural fund-raising dinner took place at Riccardo's on March 5, 1967. It was a grand



success which continued for several years and provided high school scholarships for deserving Nativity graduates. But more importantly it was a great opportunity for the people of the parish to demonstrate their love and appreciation for their retired pastor.

In quick succession, under the leadership of the new pastor, such innovative ideas as parish council, home-school association, lay lectors at Mass, use of vernacular in the liturgy, changes in sanctuary furnishings and arrangements, began to take shape. There were difficult tasks of explaining the "changes" to the congregation, gaining their understanding and good will and enlisting volunteers to assist in putting new ideas and programs into effect. Each challenge was met with good will and effectiveness as the great spirit of Nativity Parish continued to prevail.

On January 30, 1970, Msgr. Leo

Arcese died after a brief illness and the sad task of final farewell to this beloved spiritual leader, in the sixtieth year of his priesthood, had to be faced.

Now some of the unexpected by-products of Vatican II began to appear as vocations to priesthood and the religious life began to lessen, costs of conducting a parochial school began to soar, and Catholic school enrollments began to diminish throughout the Diocese.

One of Monsignor's most difficult decisions, as these events began to drain parish reserve funds, was to close the 101st Avenue Annex to the school and to begin consolidation of classes.

Another challenge was to make the changes necessary to conform the liturgy to Vatican II guidelines. The sanctuary, so carefully and beautifully arranged in its original form, had to be rearranged. Largely by utilization of the marble already in place, the new altar of sacrifice was constructed and the surrounding environment was modified accordingly. The result is the present attractive sanctuary with baptistry now in place in the area which was the right side altar.

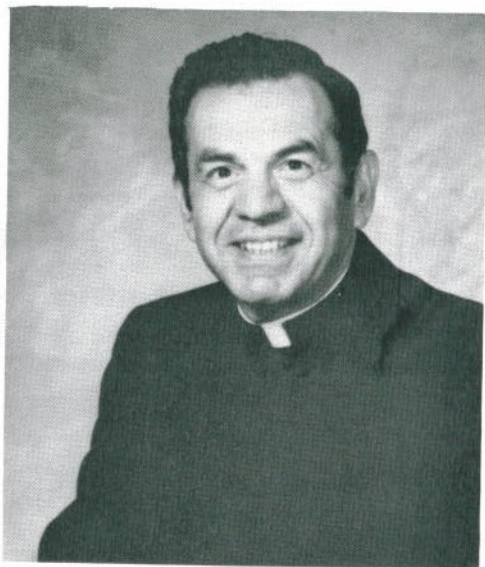
When the Pallotine Sisters were no longer able to staff the convent built for them, and had to leave Nativity, Monsignor very kindly offered the opportunity for a residence to the Sisters of St. Dominic who were retiring from their teaching duties at his former parish of St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, Brooklyn. We presently have four Dominicans in residence and they provide such services as care of the sanctuary and Church, keeping records of parishioners' weekly contributions, preparing the collection envelopes for distribution and most importantly praying for our Parish and its people. Rarely is their convent chapel empty. We are most grateful for their presence, prayers and edification.

Monsignor Testagrossa's health began to fail in the early 70's and caused him to ask Bishop Mugavero for retirement in May of 1976, leaving him in residence in the parish's small former convent of the Pallotine Sisters on 92nd Street. The illness proved fatal and Msgr. Testagrossa succumbed on January 16, 1977 in the 44th year of his priesthood, having served at Nativity for more than 10 years.





## OUR PRESENT PASTOR FATHER DOMINICK J. ADESSA



Ordained on May 31, 1947, his first assignment was to Nativity B.V.M. when he reported to Msgr. Arcese on June 21, 1947. Exactly 29 years later he was installed as our fourth pastor. Having served here until 1954, he retained a good familiarity with the parish and its people and this would seem to be a prime reason for Bishop Mugavero's request that he return.

After experiences in five Brooklyn Parishes as an assistant, Father Adessa was designated by Bishop McEntegart in 1961 to be executive director of the Ferrini Welfare League of Queens and the Italian Board of Guardians of Brooklyn. The Ferrini Welfare League was founded by Msgr. Arcese and a group of concerned men and women from the Ozone Park area in 1940 to service the needs of Italian families, particularly children. Father Francis Mugavero, a Nativity Assistant at the time, became its first executive director, continuing in that capacity for twenty years. When Bishop McEntegart appointed him Secretary for Charities of the Diocese, Father Adessa was designated as his successor in Ferrini. Having no formal Social Work experience, he enrolled in the Fordham University School of Social Service and received his Masters degree in 1964. Later he became executive director of St. Christopher's Home for children in Sea Cliff, New York

and in 1973 received his first pastorate, St. Frances Carbrini Parish in the Bath Beach section of Brooklyn.

Thus Father Adessa arrived here with a diverse background of assignments and experiences. He found a warm welcome by his "old" parishioners and the newer ones at his installation ceremony, and quickly addressed himself to some of the problems of the parish. Consulting with parish leaders, several important steps were taken to improve parish morale, stabilize the deteriorating parochial school situation and bolster the financial picture.

A complete census was organized in which volunteers canvassed the entire parish, brought our records up to date, and provided an opportunity for contact with all our parishioners.

The parish council which had lapsed a few years earlier, was reconstructed and became a great support to the pastor in planning needed changes.

Nativity school was consolidated so that all classrooms were now lo-

cated in the original school building.

The School Annex on 101st Avenue was sold, thus gaining needed revenue for the parish while returning the empty building to the City tax rolls and providing a much needed medical center for the neighborhood.

Parishioners were urged to increase their regular weekly giving and this resulted in much needed improved revenue.

A second Bingo night was added to the existing Friday occasion and both have continued to be most successful and a great boon to our financial condition.

Yearly Bazaars coupled with other socials conducted by the various parish societies provided additional revenue and always helped bring our people together.

Parish Renewals and Missions have been regular occurrences.

Our C.C.D. "released time" program was progressively strengthened to provide more religious training for our youngsters attending public schools.

Liturgically, the ideas and reforms of Vatican II continued to be implemented. The use of lectors at Mass and other functions was increased and improved. Special Ministers of the Eucharist were trained and commissioned in 1977. The old Confessional "boxes" were transformed into Reconciliation rooms. The votive candles were "electrified". Mr. Charles Mallia was engaged as Director of Music and he developed the present excellent Choir of which we are so proud. Their concerts became regular occurrences eagerly awaited.

One regrettable result of Vati-

can II for Nativity was the closing of our Ursuline Convent in 1980. With the decreasing number of Sisters and because many were becoming over-qualified for primary grade teaching and opting for other Ministries, it was no longer feasible to house so few Sisters in so large a facility. Father Adessa's former association with St. Christopher's Home was helpful in an agreement to transform the former convent building into an Intermediate Care Facility for Retarded Children. This was happily inaugurated in March 1981 and Nativity became host to ten handicapped youngsters.

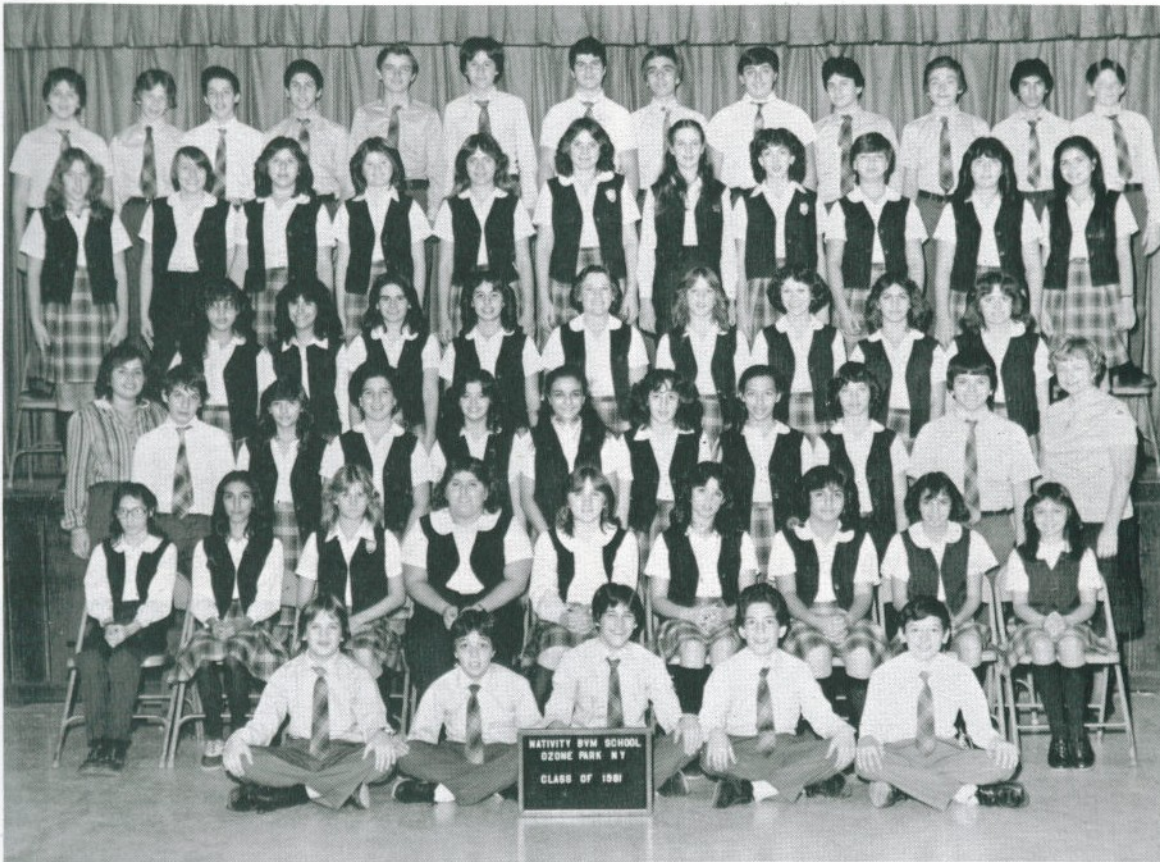
The Convent "Annex" added by Msgr. Arcese over 20 years ago became the home of our C.C.D. program and also provides meeting space for our Music Department and Pre-Cana Program.

The under-utilized parking lot across from the Church and School had become a difficult eyesore to manage. Arrangements for its sale to a local developer for housing took place during 1980 and we expect the result to be a great improvement for the area which is the heart of Ozone Park.

In 1978 the traffic triangle in front of the Church building was designated a New York City Park and named Msgr. Leopold A. Arcese Park to perpetuate the memory of the prelate who did so much for our parish community.

Our Parochial school, which had been the pride of our parish for so many years, experienced steep decreases in enrollment in the early seventies due to diverse factors such as the drop in birth rate, increase in costs of catholic education and a





Class of 1981

secularized society's changing mentality regarding the values inherent in Religious Education. In 1978 stabilization of the school population was achieved by the reintroduction of a kindergarten program which ironically had to be terminated seventeen years earlier because of lack of space.

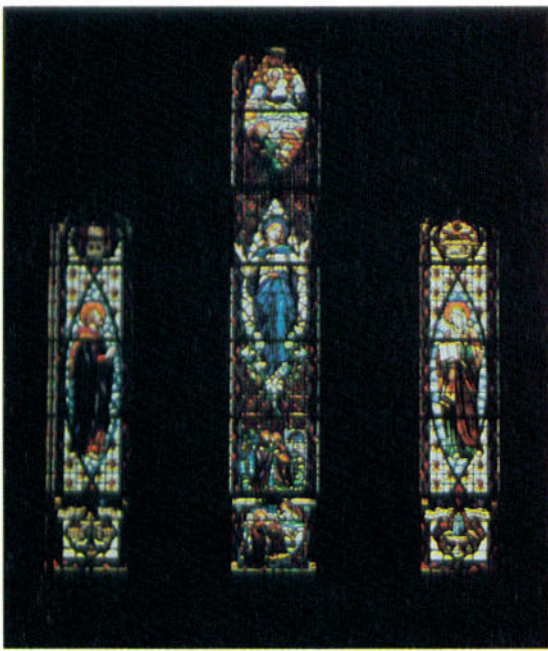
During the summers of 1978, 1979 and 1980 extensive renovations took place in the school building including modification of the huge windows which had begun to deteriorate. The resulting smaller, more manageable windows helped energy conservation as well as the general

appearance of the building.

In 1979 a new library on the third floor was dedicated to Msgr. Arcese. Thanks to enthusiastic volunteer mothers the library program provides increased learning and recreational opportunities for our young readers.

The Home-School Association, always blessed by good leadership, has been a great source of help to the administrative staff in planning school events involving family participation. Their fund-raising efforts have provided the means to purchase current instructional materials for the students.





Clerestory Window



Christmas Sanctuary



Church and School



Shrines





Choir at Easter



Bob Barraca, Agnes Machado,  
Anthony Diecidue and Father Adessa



Jubilee Variety Show



Jubilee Chorus Line



Easter Morning



## THE PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

A parish is people. People worshipping their God, honoring His House, being nourished by His Sacraments. People interacting in many ways to improve their relationship to their God and to encourage one another to follow His way. Here at Nativity as we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee year we proudly look to our heritage of Christian spirit reflected in every one of those years, sparkling like the many facets of a precious gem.

These 'comings together' known as parish societies or organizations continue to flourish in our parish and it is not difficult to enumerate at least thirty of them. Telling the story of these parish groups is to give the reader a good picture of our parish 'as we are'. Of necessity these will have to be brief profiles and that is regrettable, because there have been so many unforgettable events that are worthy of recollection in the histories of our parish groups. However, space does not permit such a luxury.

### The Parish Council

Mandated for all parishes by Vatican Council II, the Parish Council was started here at Nativity in the late sixties and made good headway until the mid-seventies when it lapsed for a few years. An enthusiastic group of parishioners came together in the fall of 1976 as a task force to reestablish the Council according to Diocesan guidelines which state that it should fulfill two great functions: a channel of communication among all the people of the parish and a vehicle for Apostolic Action. We have been working toward those goals, sometimes haltingly, for the past five years. We have been blessed with great leadership with the successive presidencies of Ann Pitaro, George Brandin, Michael Rosa, Robert Barracca and Andrew Marcello. Many of the events described earlier were the results of decisions made by the Council. During this Jubilee year the Council acted as coordinator of all Anniversary Celebrations beginning with the Gala Kick-Off Dinner September 1980 and concluding with the Jubilee Mass on December 8, 1981 at which Bishop Mugavero presided.

### The Holy Name Society

This is most likely the oldest of our existing parish societies. The venerable Joseph Lascari, now 92 years old and the sexton under Father Garbottini remembers its beginning back in 1908. Always a vital force in the parish, bringing men of strong faith and good will together, it has demonstrated the fatherly element of protective concern for Nativity parish and its welfare. Its purposes of increasing our faith in the Divinity of Christ and promoting honor, respect and love for His Holy Name have been admirably fulfilled by the succession of Holy Name men over the years. The Holy Name Rallies back in the forties and fifties had strong representation by Nativity men as did our interparochial Eucharistic Congresses. Family Communion Breakfast, Monthly Communion Mass, Old Timers Night, Flea Market, and many other socials mark the annual repertoire of activities. Donald Sapienza has been president for the past six years.

### The Rosary Altar Society

This major "Women's Society" of the Parish has numbered as many



as six hundred members at times. Always inspiring a deep loyalty to the parish, a good number of its seniors can claim membership of over fifty years.

The primary purpose of this Church Confraternity established in 1475, was to praise and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and to secure her patronage by the recitation of the Rosary for mutual spiritual benefit throughout the world.

Besides fulfilling this spiritual mandate of dedication to Mary and the Altar, our ladies continue many other devotional traditions such as monthly Mass, Living Rosary and support of designated "Foster Children".

Their Social programs are many and diversified and the joy of "being together" is evident in all their activities. Card Parties, Flea Markets, Musical and Variety Shows, Luncheons, Communion Suppers and a multiplicity of other Fund Raisers for the Parish, the Ursuline Guild, and the School are evidences of their love for Nativity and for the Church. The president during this Jubilee year is Lillian LaBarca, and under her leadership a series of Anniversary events have marked our celebration. In the fall of 1981 a magnificent "Ethnic Fair" recreated in so many ways the roots of our Parish at its inception, emphasizing Italian, Irish, Polish, German and French traditions, foods and entertainments. This spring a Variety Show depicted the parish history and changing customs over the eight decades of Nativity's life span and gave us all reason to rejoice in our past accomplishments.

Madeline Burghardt is our newest president.

### **Home School Association**

Parents, teachers and administration of School and Parish come together in this important organization to insure ongoing betterment of the educational and social develop-

ment of our student body. Members of the HSA give such aid as lunchroom supervision, homeroom parents and library administration. In addition, they initiate fund-raising programs to provide financial backing for special school projects and equipment.

The Jubilee Year presentation of Godspell, and the very successful Jubilee Luncheon were highlights of the social program this school term. John Baymack, the president of the Home School Assn. and its Executive Board, has constantly sought out new ways to involve the Parish in School matters and the Board has worked successfully in presenting programs of interest for parents' meetings. Alice Martin is now president.

### **The Choir**

From the earliest days, when an impromptu choir sang at Mass in Mr. Napolitano's house, Nativity has always boasted a fine group of volunteers to raise their voices in praise of the Lord and to fulfill the musical needs of our Parish programs. Many of our present Parishioners remember well the leadership of Mother Julia who for many years labored for musical excellence for our Parish.

Mr. Charles Mallia became our Parish Musical Director in 1976 and has assembled over these past years a choir in which we can take great pride, with a full range of voices and abilities. Their annual Christmas Concert is eagerly awaited to bring us the full spirit of the season. Their 75th Anniversary presentation was outstanding, combining the Adult Choir, Nativity School Choir, Ballet and the Queens College String Quartet.

The Music Department has shown an admirable sense of responsibility for their sacred ministry by their faithfulness at meetings, involvement in fund-raising to support the musical programs of the parish and being dedicated to excellence.



## **The Glee Club**

Nativity School provides us with an eager group of boys and girls whose voices blend together at the Family Mass each Sunday and at special school liturgies. They were also featured at the Christmas Concert and will certainly become more involved as they advance in age and ability.

## **The Folk Group**

The 10:30 Mass on Sunday has been dubbed the "Folk Mass" because of these talented teenagers who use guitars and voices to present their contemporary songs of worship and thus enhance our liturgy. This has been our best-attended weekend Mass, so many are expressing their pleasure at the Folk Group's contribution to the sacredness of that Mass. They also participate in special Masses, such as Christmas Midnight for the overflow attendance in the Church Hall and at Weddings.

## **The Youth Club**

Each year a good number of elementary school graduates join the Youth Club to continue and broaden the friendships already formed. Under Father Farrell's direction, they conduct their own meetings and discussions usually about contemporary issues of faith and morality. Many social events take place in the course of the year to solidify their comradeship and give the parish occasion for helpful and joyous events such as square dances, car washes, Church sprucing-up at Christmas and Easter, ski outings and retreat days.

## **Scouts and Altar Servers**

Rounding out our youth programs are Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cub Scout groups supervised by dedicated Scout Leaders. We salute also our Altar Servers, some forty boys from fourth to eighth grade, who fulfill their assignments with regularity.

## **The Golden Age Club**

Seemingly always "on the go" these Senior men and women of Nativity have constantly amazed us by their full schedule of hectic activity throughout the year. Their bi-weekly regular meetings are often packed to capacity in the Church Hall and they are interspersed with many special days, outings, luncheons, and liturgies. When other organizations conduct a dinner, dance or other activities, our Golden Agers can always be counted on for their support. Nativity is indeed fortunate to have these loyal and enthusiastic activists in its life stream.

## **Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers**

Soon after Vatican II encouraged liturgical reforms, we had our first lectors. Msgr. Arcese authorized the program and seventeen volunteers responded to the call to proclaim the word of God at Mass. The first women were invited by Msgr. Testagrossa in 1975. Presently there are twenty men and women lectors and an expansion of the team is being considered.

A later introduction was that of our group of Special Ministers of the Eucharist now in its fourth year of service. After special training courses, they were formally installed by our area Vicar, the very Rev. Celsus Collini and commissioned to minister to the elderly and shut-ins who so eagerly await their weekly visit with the Holy Eucharist. These men and women also assist in distribution of Communion at Mass, especially when Communion is given under both species. Having experienced complete acceptance by the Parish at large and with the number of elderly and shut-ins increasing, more are expected to be commissioned to this important ministry each year.

## **The St. Vincent De Paul Society**

Our poor box contributions are put to good use by the men of the St. Vincent De Paul Society who have



the Parish mission of ministering to the needy, particularly in emergency situations. When a request for assistance comes to the rectory, a member is assigned to make a house call to assess the needs, and dispense aid in the form of food, furniture or medical supplies. Last year's efforts amounted to over one thousand dollars in assistance in addition to grants or loans of hospital beds, wheelchairs, etc. Forty-seven families were assisted. The after-Mass door collection taken by our ushers supplements our poor box resources, so we can all share in this work of charity.

### **Our Ushers**

Almost fifty faithful men comprise our corps of ushers who maintain order and decorum at our Church services. We can boast of two ushers who have served the Parish for more than fifty years, four for forty years and four more for twenty-five years. That's dedication! And almost all these men are members of our other men's societies and supporters of all Parish programs. The parish is grateful to these generous and loyal men members.

### **Parish Fund Raisers**

Wouldn't it be great if our Parish finances could be managed completely by voluntary offerings from our Parishioners and tuition payments by School parents? Alas! few parishes find this possible and ours is no exception. Bingo has been a fixture at Nativity going back to the forties and a faithful team has consistently made it an important revenue producer each Friday. In 1978 the Rosary Altar Society ladies decided to sponsor a second Bingo game on Tuesday nights. This too has proved most successful. Coupled with our popular annual Bazaar, these fund-raisers have kept the Parish financially healthy and enabled us to subsidize the school deficit. Again, most of the volunteers for our fund-raisers are men and women

who have great loyalty and love for their Parish and are regulars in our other organizations. They are ever ready to pitch in for any activity that will benefit Nativity.

### **Jean's Jaunts**

A unique parish group headed by Mrs. Jean Buonocore is dedicated to "Fun Raising." Back in 1965 Jean organized the first of her continuous series of bus trips. It was to the Westbury Music Fair to see South Pacific. The outing proved so successful that before long they were counting three, four and went as far as caravans of 13 and 14 buses. If one has started with Jean's first trip and participated in each one to date, that person would have enjoyed virtually all the major attractions shown in our area.

But, Jean's Jaunts, as they eventually became known, did not limit themselves to the metropolitan area, as one day tours grew to bigger events such as weekends to Washington, Virginia, Maine and included nine day tours of Florida.

Bus trips to Atlantic City have added to the repertoire in the last few years. Assisted by Mrs. Jeanette Machado, and other Rosary Society Ladies Jean has raised close to forty thousand dollars for various organizations with our own parish being the principal beneficiary. We hope Jean's Jaunts will be beckoning us for many more years.

### **CCD Program**

The religious education of our children has always been of dominant importance in the parish life of Nativity. From the beginning, each pastor has assumed the responsibility of providing our children the basic truths of our Faith. Children enrolled in Nativity School were always assured the best instruction possible by the Daughters of Wisdom and the Ursuline Sisters in the context of regular Catholic School curriculum. These devoted Religious



also undertook the more challenging mission each year of training the hundreds of children not attending our parochial school.

With the advent of the "Released Time" plan in the forties, Wednesday became the day in which children from our surrounding public schools come to Nativity School after being released from their regular schedule, arriving at 2:00 p.m. for a 75 minute session.

As the needs arose, lay volunteer teachers were added to the staff of Sisters and Priests who supervised and taught. Today the staff is entirely made up of lay persons under Mr. Michael Rosa our Director of Religious Education. Our own school teachers are joined by a goodly number of men and women who generously give of their time to teach the children about God and His Church. Our Religious Education Center is now located in the annex of the former Ursuline Convent and classrooms are located in that building, the rectory, the church basement, the school rooms and every other nook and corner available.

Many will recall the "good old days" of the forties and fifties when we were able to gather hundreds of high school youngsters into our school on a Friday evening for religion classes and followed it up with a social hour. Television and other modern complications have made it virtually impossible to approach those results in our day but we will work toward the goal of serving our high school and college age parishioners in the teaching ministry of Nativity parish. With determination and good will we will bring new life into that part of our Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Program.

### **Our Parish Lay Franciscans**

Monsignor Leopold Arcese invited Father Durgolo, a Franciscan, to begin the Third Order of St. Francis back in 1937. Essentially a group of Italian speaking women, the

group quickly flourished under the presidency of Mrs. Filomena Pepe with more than 200 enrolled. The late Lena Amendolara and Mrs. Louisa Morlando were among the other dynamic leaders who helped instill Franciscan Spirituality in the parish under the direction of Mother M. Julia the Pallotine Sister who served as moderator for many years.

Besides their monthly Mass and Communion, they enjoy a special spiritual meeting and promote spiritual and social events among the Italian speaking parishioners. Present officers are Mrs. Rosalie Vuoso, President, Rose Antoncic, Vice president and Anna Errico, Secretary.

Father Zachary Grant, O.F.M. was invited by Msgr. Testagrossa in 1972 to form a new lay Franciscan group for English speaking parishioners. Canonical establishment was achieved in 1972 with the formation of our Queen of Heaven Fraternity. Our Franciscan Parish Family seeks to follow the simplicity and faith of St. Francis of Assisi by promoting Gospel attitudes among themselves and setting a good example of prayer and service to their fellow parishioners.

### **Pre-Cana Conference**

Preparation of our young couples for the joys and responsibilities of marriage has always been a major concern of our priests. Changes in popular thinking about life styles that occurred during the sixties and early seventies prompted the diocese to advise more intensive and comprehensive programs for parishes in this regard. At the same time the Marriage Encounter Movement had become very strong and a number of these encountered couples approached Father Edward Cassar in early 1976 offering assistance. Gratefully acknowledging the enhancement of their own marriages as a result of their Encounter experiences, they stood ready to help our young couples with spiritual, moral



and practical preparation.

Our In-Home Pre-Cana program has lovingly helped to prepare hundreds of couples in more than five years and with great success. Four or five times a year groups of couples to be married in our church are organized for a six week schedule of meetings with Father Cassar and the married couples. The first and sixth sessions are held at the parish while the other four are sectionalized and held in the homes of the married couples. Frank discussion and expression at these sessions help to establish excellent rapport for the transmission of ideas and attitudes regarding marriage.

The success of our Pre-Cana program is highlighted by the fact that many of the prepared couples continue to relate after marriage to our staff couples. Hopefully they in turn will take up the task of preparing others for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

### **Closely Associated Organizations**

The following three well known and active service organizations can surely be called "Nativity's Children" because they originated in our parish and with our people, and have always been closely associated by reason of joint membership of Nativitans to the parish and to the group.

### **THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, FATHER PAUL COLETTI COUNCIL NO. 5024**

In 1960 the founding team decided to name the new Council in memory of Father Paul Coletti, our popular young assistant priest whose untimely death occurred only one year before. Now in its 21st year, the Council has remained vigorously active and always devoted to the four cardinal principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism which characterizes the Knights of Columbus. Our parish is ever grateful for the loyalty and support of these devoted men.

### **THE URSULINE GUILD**

Founded in 1942 by Mrs. Emily Skerrett and other Nativity School mothers, the object of this organization is to be a support to the Ursuline sisters. From the first card party held in Mrs. Skerrett's house to the latest annual Luncheon attended by more than 400 at the Milleridge Inn, the ladies of the Guild have always succeeded in attracting full attendance to their fund raising events. The Ursuline Sisters and the parish of Nativity are indeed grateful to the hundreds of women who have served in the Guild in the almost forty years of its activity.

### **NATIVITY B.V.M. POST #369, CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS AND AUXILIARY**

The Post is celebrating its 36th Anniversary, having been chartered in 1945. In that time, hundreds of Veterans of both World I and II, as well as the Korean Conflict, have devoted themselves to Nativity Post. This year, the Ladies Auxiliary will observe its 25th Anniversary with a Dinner-Dance just prior to the Parish Liturgical celebration of its Diamond Jubilee. Both the men and the women of the Post have served fellow Veterans in local Veteran's Administration Hospitals in New York City, St. Albans and Northport. They've participated in local and national Charities and have served Nativity B.V.M. parish in many various ways. The Ladies Auxiliary is remarkably strong and very actively work side by side with the Post members. The Post and Auxiliary are very proud of their meeting-clubhouse at 95-09 101st Avenue, which they now can call their own.

Sadly, during this Parish Jubilee Year, the Post has experienced the loss of a beloved "Old Timer" Conrad Zweier, and the untimely death of their commander, Durigeo "Tony" Buccello. May God give them Eternal Rest along with the many other valiant members of our Armed Forces who have preceded them into His Almighty Kingdom.





Rosary—Altar Society

## AMONG OUR MANY PARISH SOCIETIES



Holy Name Society



Catholic War Veterans



Third Order—St. Francis



Parish Council





C.C.D. Teachers



School Faculty



Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers



A Few Of Our Golden Agers



The Folk Group



Glee Club



## NATIVITY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Sr. M. Ignatius	Sr. M. Evangelist	Sr. Maria Christi
Sr. M. Xavier	Sr. M. Gabrielle	Sr. M. Catherine Gardiner
Sr. M. Benignus (Sr. JoAnn)	(Jean Redigan)	Sr. M. Lucetta Darragh
	Sr. M. Teresita	Sr. Marguerite Torre
	Sr. M. Bernadette	

## PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED AS ASSISTANT PASTORS

Rev. Domenick J. Adessa	Rev. Raphael Florido	Rev. Mario R. Peluso
Rev. Thomas Anastasio	Rev. Nunzio R. Fuoroli	Rev. William Pinkus
Rev. Joseph Belfiore	Rev. Gerald Goulette, S.M.M.	Rev. Mario Piombini
Rev. Cornelius D. Buckley	Rev. Ralph J. Guarracino	Rev. Michael Ricottone
Rev. James F. Byrnes	Rev. John J. Keane	Rev. Edmund Romagnano
Rev. Edward Cassar	Rev. Vincent R. La Rocca	Rev. George A. Rubley
Rev. Charles J. Clark	Rev. Rosario J. Lo Gatto	Rev. Dominic J. Schiraldi
Rev. Paul J. Coletti	Rev. Paul J. Macknits	Rev. Nicholas W. Sivillo
Rev. Ivo Corazzo	Rev. William E. Maher	Rev. James J. Somerville
Rev. Michael Corella	Rev. John S. Malone, C.S., Sp.	Rev. Nicholas G. Spina
Rev. Mario C. Costa	Rev. Charles Mangini	Rev. James E. Sullivan
Rev. John C. Daly	Rev. Francis J. Mugavero	Rev. Cyrus Tortora
Rev. Salvatore D'Anna	Rev. Daniel J. Nelson	Rev. Joseph A. Towers
Rev. Francis Del Vecchio	Rev. Charles Nichols	Rev. Rev. Vasque, S.M.M.
Rev. Gerard J. Deenen	Rev. Thomas J. O'Rourke	Rev. John J. Wall
Rev. Michael P. Donatelli	Rev. Leonardo Pavone	Rev. Hubert Weerts, S.M.M.
Rev. Dennis J. Farrell	Rev. Alfonso Pecchio	

## SISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR PARISH

Sr. M. Alice	Sr. M. Cecelia	Sr. M. Laurentine	Sr. M. Patrick
Sr. M. Alphonsus	Sr. Celestine	Sr. M. Lawrence	Sr. Peter Marie
Sr. Anastasia	Sr. M. Claire	Sr. M. Loretta	Sr. Pius
Sr. M. Angela	Sr. M. Damien	Sr. M. Louise	Sr. M. Raphael
Sr. M. Anna	Sr. M. Daniel	Sr. M. Lucetta	Sr. M. Regina
Sr. M. Anthony	Sr. M. Donna	Sr. M. Marguerite	Sr. Regina Corde
Sr. Assumpta	Sr. M. Elieen	Sr. M. Mairead	Sr. M. Rita
Sr. Augustine	Mother Evangelist	Sr. Marie Christi	Sr. M. Robert
Sr. M. Barbara	Sr. M. Francis	Sr. M. Margaret	Sr. M. Ruth Henry
Sr. Barbara Wright	Sr. Genevieve	Sr. Margaret Mary	Sr. M. Stephanie
Sr. M. Baptist	Sr. Helen	Sr. Mary Ann Mazzella	Sr. M. Teresita
Mother Benignus (Sr. JoAnn)	Sr. M. Igantius	Sr. Mary Ellen Dowd	Sr. M. Terrence
Sr. M. Bernard	Sr. M. Imelda	Sr. Mary Ellen Theriault	Sr. M. Thomas
Sr. M. Bernardette	Sr. M. Immaculata	Sr. Mary Francis	Sr. M. Ursula
Sr. M. Bridget	Sr. Jamesetta	Sr. Mary Grace	Sr. M. Virginia
Sr. M. Catherine Gardiner	Sr. M. Jean	Sr. Mary John	Sr. Virginia Marie
Sr. M. Catherine Talia	Sr. M. Joseph	Sr. Mary Schramm	Sr. M. Winifred
	Sr. M. Josephine	Sr. M. Michael	Sr. M. Xavier
	Sr. M. Lorraine	Sr. M. Patricia	



**EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS**

Frank & Veronica Scott



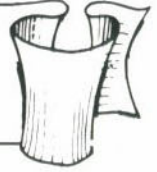
Jean's Jaunts



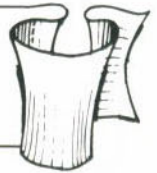
Rosary-Altar Society



Mr. & Mrs. George P. Martin  
In Memory of Frances and David Stimus  
and Rose Martin

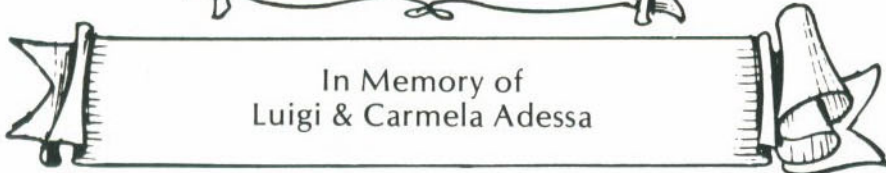


Tillie Prisino Family

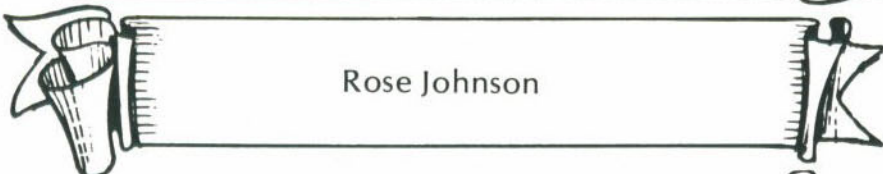


**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS**

In Memory of  
Luigi & Carmela Adessa



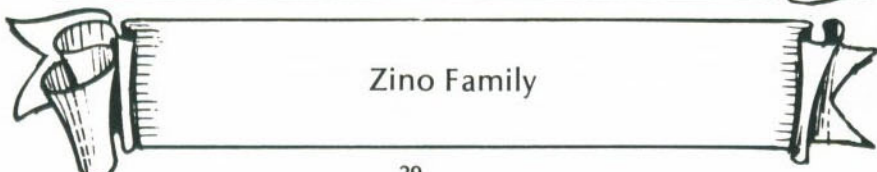
Rose Johnson



Jerry & Helen Wolfe



Zino Family







JUBILEE FAMILY

The Addabbo Family

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bonkowski

In memory of our Father—Durigeo (Tony) Buccello

In memory of my husband—Durigeo (Tony) Buccello

Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Camera & Family

The Cooley Family

Mr. & Mrs. Louis F. DeSena

Filippi Family

Gangemella Family

The Joseph Garibaldi Family

Golden Age Club of Nativity

John Grieser

The Hayes Family

Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Isopo

The Machado Family

In Memory of Caesar & Assunta Mauri & James Mantone

Mr. & Mrs. John Matazinski & Son

McCarthy & McDonald Families

Sam & Grace Meo

Mr. & Mrs. Pat Molfetto

Thomas & Louise Morlando

Nativity Holy Name Society

In memory of Katherine G. O'Brien

Hon. & Mrs. Nicholas L. Pitaro & Family

Rudkowski Family

In memory of Florence Zollo





PEW MEMORIALS

- In memory of Michael A. Abarno  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Abate
- In memory of Carmine Agerenza  
Rose & Henry Alfieri
- In memory of Christina & Joseph Algieri  
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Allocco
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Amatuccio  
Amendola Family  
Anthony & Mary Ania
- Annunziato & Pasquale Families  
Carmine & Rose Artura
- In memory of Michael Aurora  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Baer  
Charles Barbera  
The Barracca Family
- In memory of Edward J. Basumak  
Brady Family
- In memory of Catherine & Leo Brasile  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. Bruy
- In memory of Domenick, Durigeo, Armando  
& Anthony Buccello  
Rachel & Durigeo (Tony) Buccello  
In memory of Tony Buccello  
Orlando Buonocore Family
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Buonocore  
The Burghardt Family
- In memory of Jean Calise  
Vito & Mary Calise  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Caminiti
- In memory of the Cammaroto & Maggiolo Families  
In memory of Josephine & Marco Lacagnina &  
Lillian & Joseph Cannizzaro
- In memory of Angelo & Vito Carbonaro  
Dave, Jean, Marie & Jeanne Carraro  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Celeste  
Mr. & Mrs. Carmine Cennamo
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. P. Chernauskas  
The Ciappa Family  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Cifarelli  
Giuseppe and Rosa Citarelli
- In memory of Mrs. Rosaria Cola  
In memory of Francesco Colace  
Joseph Colangelo Family



PEW MEMORIALS

In memory of the Collella Family  
In memory of Joseph & Maria Composto  
In memory of Guy Cordes  
Cotellessa Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Curiale & Family  
The Currie Family  
Mr. William H. Daly  
In memory of the D'Abundo Family  
Louis & Constantine D'Ambrosio  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Felice DeFalco  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeMaio  
Louis & Frances DeMartino  
In memory of Francesco Denaro  
Josephine Denaro  
In memory of Henry Denison  
DeRiso Family  
In memory of Serafino & Josephine DeSimone  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Diecidue  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DiGangi  
In memory of Henrietta & Carmine Donofrio  
Dowler Family  
James E. Duchman  
Josephine Duncklee  
In memory of Thomas Earl, N.Y.F.D.  
Eaton Family  
In memory of Ida & Henry Ehrler  
Frank & Lena Ernst  
In memory of Catherine Esernio  
In memory of Margaret & John Esposito  
In memory of Mr. Saverio Esposito  
Nestor D. Fagnant and John Ardizzone  
In memory of LoriAnn Falcone  
Mary V. Falls  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Farrelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Carmine Ferrara  
Ferricane Family  
In memory of Eugene J. Finn  
In memory of the Fiorentino Family  
Frank & Nancy Florido  
In memory of the Fostel Family  
In memory of Minnie & Elvira Frattelo  
Lena Galati, Daughters & Families  
Lena Galati, Catherina Pacella & Family, Millie Jacovelli  
& Family





PEW MEMORIALS

In loving memory of William G. Gallagher

In memory of Mary Gargiulo

Mr. & Mrs. Dominic J. Giamundo

The Giaquinto Family

Mr. & Mrs. Ignazio Giglia

Mr. & Mrs. Saverio Giugliano

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ignatius Grande

The Granickas Family

Joseph & Helen Greco

In memory of Frank and Susan Green

Heinrichs Family

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Henrich

In memory of John A. Herbert

In memory of Mary Herbert

In memory of Domenick Iadevaio

Thomas Iorio

Peter & Lucia Iovino

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony G. Ippolito Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Jablonski

The Jacobs Family

In memory of Mr. Charles T. Just

Gloria J. Kearney and Mr. & Mrs. J. Kearney

In memory of James A. Kelly Jr.

Kiely & Mulholland Family

The Kistner Family

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. P. Klimas

Krauss Family

Kreppin & Delaney Families

In memory of Anthony J. Krieske Jr.

The Kubek Family

Tony & Lillian La Barca

The Lampart Family

In memory of Salvatore La Spisa

Marie and B. Wayne Lawson

In memory of Lucy Liotta

In memory of The McNeil Family

In memory of James Joseph Mackey

Mr. & Mrs. James Maffucci

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Maffucci

Frank & Frances Maiello

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Mangiapanello

Maraffi Family

The Martiniello Family In Memory of

Michele Martiniello



PEW MEMORIALS

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Matuszak  
In memory of Carmella Mazzella  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. McGuigan  
The McIntosh Family  
Sister Michael McKenna  
The McNeil Family  
The Melville Family  
In memory of Casper Mendolia  
John L. Mendolia Family  
In memory of Elena & Ralph Merenda  
The Micozzi Family  
In memory of Mr. William F. Mills  
Joseph & Mary Monaco  
Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo M. Montana  
In memory of George H. Mooney  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. James J. Mulligan  
In memory of my parents—Joseph & Caroline Murat  
Cosmo Mustacchio  
The Muto Family  
Napodano & Bacciocco Families  
In memory of Carmine & Giovanna Napolitano &  
The Maria Ciccone Family  
Edwin A. O'Brien  
In memory of Helen and Jeremiah O'Shea  
In memory of Brigida Pagano  
In memory of Frank Parnese  
In memory of Michael & Theresa Parrella  
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Lorenzo Pergola  
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In memory of Joseph Pisani  
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In memory of Antonio and Caroline Rainone  
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In memory of Epifania Ranni  
In memory of Edward Rates  
In memory of John & Gertrude Re  
The Gaspare Rimpici Family





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In memory of Mr. Adolph J. Rupp  
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Hock, Mrs. Evelyn S. Hock  
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In memory of Cosmo Stallone Sr.  
In memory of David & Frances Stimus and  
Patrick & Ellen Leydon  
In memory of Stuart & Blasi Family  
In memory of Britt and Sullivan Families  
In memory of Arthur and Anne J. Swanson  
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Vincent & Hilda Terracciano  
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 & Santo Versacio  
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### 85 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary Stewart, our office manager and Vito Pepe, our plant manager, are seemingly permanent fixtures at Nativity. Mary began as a volunteer assistant to Sr. Raphael, our parish social worker back in 1941 and later began to do secretarial work for



the rectory and later for the school as well. Vito's involvement began in the mid thirties and except for a brief tour of military service, all the intervening years were spent caring for the Nativity buildings and as Church Sacristan. We thank the Lord for giving us these two dedicated and hard working parish servants who have maintained a youthful aspect over all these years. In recognizing Vito and Mary we are also remembering the dozens of other office, church and school employees that have kept Nativity parish functioning so smoothly over the years.

### THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Our year long celebration has been made possible by the efforts of the Committees created for the occasion by the Nativity Parish Council: Journal, Entertainment, Bazaar, Liturgy, Dinner Dance and School Committees.

We list the individual members of the Jubilee Committee under one grouping and in alphabetical order because so many have served in a variety of ways. We are most grateful to each one for helping us to experience a memorable year.

Father Domenick Adessa  
Nancy Ania  
Rose Antonicich  
Joanne Barracca  
Robert Barracca \*Dinner Dance  
Florence Baymack  
John Baymack  
Ed Boes  
Sally Bono  
George Brandin \*Dinner Dance  
Ida Brasile  
Jean Buonocore \*Entertainment  
Madeline Burghardt  
Sr. Helen Butler  
Joseph Caminiti  
Father Edward Cassar  
Patricia Colosanti  
Dorothy Cooley

Neil Cremmins  
Sr. Lucetta Darragh  
Tony Diecidue \*Bazaar  
Mary Duncklee  
Julie Falcone  
Father Dennis Farrell  
Judy Ferrara  
Lucy Florido  
Lucille Fostel \*Heritage Book  
Lena Galati  
Theresa Giuffre  
Colleen A. Grady  
Carmen Ioveno  
Gerry Kiely  
Mary Kiely  
Jacquelyn Kingsley  
John Kingsley  
Lillian LaBarca

Agnes Machado \*Bazaar  
Marie Mackey  
Marie G. Mackey  
Andrew Marchello  
Alicemarie Martin  
Father Joseph Nosser  
Joseph Perro  
Michael Rosa \*Liturgy  
Jeanette Savino  
Joan Scarlett  
Betty Scipione  
Mary T. Stimus  
Sr. Marguerite Torre  
Mary S. Tufano  
Millie Visone  
Anthony Vuoso  
Rosalie Vuoso

\*Committee Chairpersons



NATIVITY of the  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
CHURCH

Ozone Park, New York