



OCTOBER 15, 2023

CATHOLIC TIMES

MAGAZINE OF THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

100
YEARS OF HISTORY

SPECIAL
EDITION

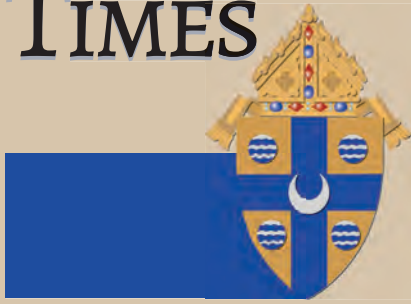
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TO SPRINGFIELD,
DIOCESE CELEBRATES
OUR RICH PAST

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CATHOLIC TIMES



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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS— FROM ALTON TO SPRINGFIELD

1923-2023

100
YEARS
OF HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM IN OUR DIOCESE IS RICH AND UNIQUE

In this special edition of *Catholic Times*, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the translation or transfer of the See city from the Diocese of Alton to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois (Oct. 26, 1923–Oct. 26, 2023). In this edition, we first take a quick look back on the history before this 100-year period. Then, we dive deep into the past 100 years by giving you a historical account and an overview of our bishops and what they did to advance Catholicism in our region. Then, we share the interesting story of how and when the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois was established and why so many were confused at that time when the announcement was made. From there, we take you on a 100-year timeline, highlighting some important events in the life of the Church in our diocese. After that, we feature photographs of treasures of the past — churches that once stood in our diocese. Finally, we showcase 100 years of history through various photographs. Don't forget to also check out the final round of the diocesan trivia challenge. We hope you enjoy reading about our rich history, gain an appreciation for the dedication to Catholicism from those who came before us, and are inspired to build up the Kingdom of God in your family, parish, and community so future generations are left with a solid foundation of faith. Special thanks to the diocesan Office for Archives and Records Management for compiling what you will see in the following pages.

ON THE COVER

ON THE COVER — Bishop William A. O'Connor waves at the crowd upon his arrival in Springfield in March 1949. He served as bishop of our diocese from 1949 to 1975. In this special edition of *Catholic Times*, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the diocese from Alton to Springfield by looking back at our unique history, important events, and photographs and documents that showcase the rich Catholic history in our region over the past century.

Photograph from Illinois State Journal

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Henry Damian Juncker (1857-1868). He helped to create the infrastructure needed for the diocese by establishing numerous schools and hospitals. In the 11 years of his episcopacy, he had created a firm institutional and spiritual foundation that allowed the diocese to flourish.

Date unknown



Peter J. Baltus (1870-1886). He previously served as the Vicar General of the diocese under Bishop Juncker. As bishop, he sought to bring diocesan policies into alignment with the decrees of the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore and the First Vatican Council.

Date unknown



James Ryan (1888-1923). He had the longest tenure of any bishop in our diocese. He served for 35 years and very few records survive from his episcopacy. Parish records indicate that he oversaw tremendous growth and an increasingly complicated path as numerous immigrants to the country arrived in Illinois.

Date unknown

BEFORE WE WERE THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

The story of our diocese spans more than 300 years. The land that our diocese occupies was once the home to Illini Nations and the migration path of the Peoria, Kickapoo, and Kaskaskia tribes of Indigenous People. In 1673, a group of French explorers led by Louis Joliet and Rev. Jacques Marquette arrived in this area seeking a path to the Pacific Ocean.

In 1789, the newly formed Diocese of Baltimore included the territory that is now the Diocese of

Springfield in Illinois. Since then, this area has passed under the administration of the Diocese of Bardstown, Kentucky (1808), St. Louis, Missouri (1826), and Vincennes, Indiana (1834). In 1843, the entire state of Illinois was formed into a single diocese with the See city in Chicago.

In 1852, American bishops and archbishops met in Baltimore for their First Plenary Council. They recommended that Illinois be divided and on July 29, 1853, Pope Pius IX erected the Diocese of Quincy, which was comprised of the current Dioceses of Springfield in Illinois and Belleville. A bishop of Quincy was appointed but declined the honor. On Jan. 9, 1857, Pope Pius IX moved the vacant See to Alton and appointed Henry Damian Juncker as the first Bishop of Alton. In the spring of 1857, he took

Continued on page 9



Shown is the exterior of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton. Today, it is known as the "Old Cathedral" in our diocese.

Photo by Ryan Hanlon (2022)



LEX CORDIS CARITAS

The law of the heart is love



Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

Ninth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Reflecting on history of diocese and looking forward in prayer and with confidence

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Looking forward to our diocese's Eucharistic Congress on Oct. 28 at the Bank of Springfield Center, we will be hosting this event as a way for us to participate in the National Eucharistic Revival, which will culminate in the National Eucharistic Congress next July 17-21 in Indianapolis. The timing of our local Eucharistic Congress on Oct. 28 is also intended to celebrate the centennial of the transfer of our diocese's See city from Alton to Springfield.

As you may know, our diocese was first founded in Quincy in 1853, moved to Alton in 1857, and then relocated to Springfield in 1923. Since the capital of Illinois was moved from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839, well before our diocese was created, one may wonder why our diocese was not founded in Springfield in the first place. There may not be documentation exactly explaining why Quincy and Alton were initially chosen over Springfield, but I suspect it had to do with the fact that there were more Catholics in the Quincy and Alton areas than there were in Springfield. The fact that Springfield was the state capital would not have been the primary factor in determining where to locate the See city or headquarters of the diocese, but where the Catholic population was centered. Perhaps by 1923 the Catholic popula-

tion of Springfield had grown sufficiently to warrant its designation as the See city of the diocese.

Another factor may have been the fact that the Diocese of Belleville was established in 1887. That meant the Diocese of Alton, the Diocese of Belleville, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis were all located in close proximity to each other. Moving the Diocese of Alton to Springfield was a way to give the Catholic Church a more significant presence in another part of our region.

I personally am glad that our Cathedral and my residence are more centrally located in Springfield. Since our diocese covers over 15,000 square miles in 28 counties from the Mississippi River to the Indiana border, getting from Alton to the eastern border of our diocese would have been quite a challenge to do on a regular basis. Last year I needed to drive from Robinson, near the Indiana border, after a Mass there on a Wednesday night, to get to Quincy, on our western border, to teach at Quincy University on Thursday evening. The drive took almost five hours. I left Robinson in the morning, stopped at the Cathedral rectory in Springfield for lunch, and then continued on to Quincy. That experience reinforced for me that I was grateful not to have to make that trip across the state on a regular basis, but instead could make it to almost any point in our diocese from

Springfield in less than three hours.

Another reason why I appreciate being in Springfield is that I am a big fan of Abraham Lincoln. Once when I was chancellor of the Archdiocese of Chicago and was flying to Rome with the archbishop, the late Cardinal Francis George, I was reading a book. Being intellectually curious and a book lover himself, Cardinal George leaned over and asked me what I was reading. I said I was reading a book about Abraham Lincoln. He said, "So you like Abraham Lincoln?" I said yes. Perhaps he remembered that and put in my name to become the Bishop of Springfield in Illinois! If so, I am grateful to be living in close proximity to the Lincoln historic sites.

The fact that my major field of studies was political science when I was in college at Loyola University in Chicago provided me with helpful preparation to be the diocesan bishop of our state capital where the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our state government are located. The Catholic Church faces many challenges these days from an often adversarial if not outright hostile state government, so some knowledge of the political system is useful.

I first visited Springfield on my eighth-grade field trip and again as a high school senior. Although I was already interested in becoming a priest at the time, little did I know then that I would some day return

here as diocesan bishop!

Since my installation as the ninth Bishop of Springfield in Illinois on June 22, 2010, the Memorial of my patron saints, Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher, my greatest joy has been ordaining 33 priests for our diocese, with another five scheduled for ordination next May. Conscious of my responsibility to provide for the pastoral care of over 125,000 Catholics in Central Illinois, I am grateful to all the priests who are collaborators with me in carrying out the mission given by Jesus to the

Apostles and their successors.

Recently I was talking with Bishop Carl Kemme, formerly a priest of our diocese who is now Bishop of Wichita. He told me that they have over 40 seminarians studying for their diocese. I asked him how many Catholics there are in his diocese. He said about 120,000. Given that the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and the Diocese of Wichita are similar in size, I see no good reason why we should not also have over 40 seminarians, which is the goal I set for our diocese in 2015 when I wrote my

second pastoral letter, *Ars crescendi in Dei gratia*, "On Building a Culture of Growth in the Church." To do so will require a concerted and conscious effort on our part, along with fervent prayer and confident trust in God's providence. I know that we can do this if we set our minds and hearts on achieving this noble aspiration.

May God give us this grace. Amen.

+ Thomas John Paprocki



To read more columns by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki or to subscribe, visit ct.dio.org/bishopscolumnn.

BISHOP PAPROCKI'S PUBLIC SCHEDULE

Monday, Oct. 16-Tuesday, Oct. 17

BURLINGTON, VT., BISHOP'S PLAN INSURANCE COMPANY (BPIC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

Wednesday, Oct. 18

SPRINGFIELD, ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH AT THE EVERMODE INSTITUTE, WHITE MASS FOR CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE MINISTRY, 5 P.M. WITH DINNER FOLLOWING.

Saturday, Oct. 21

SPRINGFIELD, CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS FOR PARISHES OF MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP, MARYVILLE (21), AND ST. MARY, ALTON (1), 11 A.M.

Saturday, Oct. 21

VANDALIA, SPEAKER FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF OUR

SORROWFUL MOTHER'S MINISTRY, 4:30 P.M. WITH DINNER FOLLOWING.

Saturday, Oct. 28

SPRINGFIELD, BANK OF SPRINGFIELD (BOS) CENTER, DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, SEE WWW.DIO.ORG/REVIVAL-BOS/ FOR DETAILED LIST OF EVENTS OF THE DAY.

Sunday, Oct. 29

SPRINGFIELD, CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, MASS AND INSTITUTION TO THE ACOLYTE FOR MR. DAVID BEACH, 10 A.M.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Parochial Administrator

Reverend Varghese Puthusery, S.A.C., WITH THE PERMISSION OF HIS SUPERIOR, IS APPOINTED PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, ARCOLA; FORTY MARTYRS PARISH, TUSCOLA; AND SACRED HEART PARISH, VILLA GROVE, WITH FACULTIES OF THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS, AND WITH RESIDENCE AT SACRED HEART PARISH IN VILLA GROVE, EFFECTIVE SEPT. 30, 2023.

Parochial Administrator

Reverend Thaddeus Idanosi Adukus, WITH THE PERMISSION OF HIS BISHOP, IS APPOINTED PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. JAMES PARISH, RIVERTON; WHILE RETAINING DUTIES AS CHAPLAIN OF SPRINGFIELD MEMORIAL

HOSPITAL, SPRINGFIELD; FROM RESIDENCE AT LITTLE FLOWER PARISH, SPRINGFIELD, EFFECTIVE SEPT. 30, 2023.

Medical Leave of Absence

Reverend Rodney A. Schwartz IS GRANTED A MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM HIS CURRENT ASSIGNMENT AS PAROCHIAL VICAR OF ST. PAUL PARISH, HIGHLAND, WHILE RETAINING FACULTIES OF THE DIOCESE, EFFECTIVE SEPT. 15, 2023.

Faculties

Reverend Luis Runde, O.F.M., UPON PRESENTATION BY HIS SUPERIOR, IS GRANTED PRIESTLY FACULTIES FOR MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS, EFFECTIVE SEPT. 18, 2023.

Concluding Appointment

Reverend Angel Sierra CONCLUDES

HIS APPOINTMENT AS PASTOR OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, ARCOLA; FORTY MARTYRS PARISH, TUSCOLA; AND SACRED HEART PARISH, VILLA GROVE; AND IS GRANTED SENIOR PRIEST STATUS WITHOUT FACULTIES, FROM ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE, EFFECTIVE OCT. 2, 2023.

Very Reverend John M. Titus, V.F. CONCLUDES HIS APPOINTMENT AS PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, ARCOLA; FORTY MARTYRS PARISH, TUSCOLA; AND SACRED HEART PARISH, VILLA GROVE, WHILE RETAINING HIS ASSIGNMENT AS PASTOR OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MATTOON, AND ST. COLUMCILLE PARISH, SULLIVAN; AND VICAR FORANE (DEAN) OF THE MATTOON DEANERY, EFFECTIVE SEPT. 30, 2023.

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YEARS
OF HISTORY

A CENTURY-LONG LOOK AT THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS



This undated picture shows what the interior of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton, the former Cathedral of the Diocese of Alton, looked like decades ago. Here, boys and girls are receiving their first holy Communion.

On Oct. 26, 1923, Pope Pius XI translated the diocesan See from Alton to Springfield. In addition, the pope named James Aloysius Griffin, pastor of St. Mary in Joliet, to be the next bishop, who would be responsible for moving the chancery from Alton to Springfield.

Bishop Griffin arrived in Springfield on Feb. 28, 1924. He was met by a crowd of nearly 10,000 people lining the streets from the C&A Train Depot to St. Mary's Church in

downtown Springfield. He was installed as bishop at St. Mary's, which would serve as the pro-cathedral of the diocese for the next four years. However, the building, which was constructed in 1859, was showing its age. In 1927, Bishop Griffin launched the Cathedral Campaign to raise money for a new building.



Bishop James Griffin was installed as the first bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois at St. Mary's, which would serve as the pro-cathedral of the diocese for the four years until the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was built and dedicated.

Bishop Griffin assisted Cardinal George Mundelein in planning and hosting the 28th International Eucharistic Congress June 24-26, 1926, in Chicago. Hundreds of thousands of Catholics attended the congress held throughout Chicago. After the congress, Bishop Griffin hosted several car-

dinals, archbishops, and bishops in Springfield on June 27, 1926, for the Central Verein Convention.

The Central Verein was founded on April 15, 1855, as a federation of parish mutual aid societies of German Catholics. Griffin led attendees on a pilgrimage to the tomb of Abraham Lincoln. He was deeply moved by the show of unity and support for the great American president by leaders from across the Church.



Bishop Griffin participates in the laying of the cornerstone of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield in 1927 as clergy and laity look on.

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our diocese, Bishop Griffin dedicated and opened the newly constructed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The dedication ceremonies took place on Oct. 14-16, 1928. The cathedral complex housed the cathedral, bishop's residence, parish offices, Cathedral School, and convent housing 15 religious sisters to serve as the teaching staff of the school.

Bishop Griffin stood up as an

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advocate for workers in a multi-year labor dispute that at times turned violent. This period, when violence erupted in Springfield and neighboring mining towns, was known as the Coal Miner's War (1932-1937). Bishop Griffin, inspired and motivated by the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (1891), attempted to negotiate fair wages for the workers in the various mines throughout the diocese.



Bishop Griffin, energetic and friendly, is greeted by Catholic school children upon his return from Rome in 1934.

In 1939, Bishop Griffin joined several other bishops in traveling to Mexico to ascertain the status of anti-clericalism in the country. He and his fellow bishops devised creative methods to assist and serve priests in our neighboring country to the south.

No stranger to strife, he led the diocese through the Second World War as 10,286 individuals from our diocese served overseas. Among them, 10 diocesan priests served as chaplains with only one, Lt. Chaplain Thomas Brady, killed in action.

Bishop Griffin served the diocese through times of change and ushered the Church in Central Illinois into the modern era. His death on Aug. 5, 1948, marked a turning point for our diocese.

On Dec. 28, 1948, Pope Pius XII appointed William Aloysius O'Connor to be the next bishop of Springfield in Illinois. Bishop O'Connor was a priest in Chicago, who demonstrated superior administrative skills, serving as a

Latin teacher, school administrator, and director of Catholic Charities. These skills would guide him as he expanded the administrative structure of the diocese. He arrived in Springfield on March 16, 1949. He was greeted by Gov. Adlai Stevenson and nearly 8,000 Catholics at the train station in Springfield. He was installed as bishop on the Feast of St. Patrick, 1949.

Bishop O'Connor's episcopacy began in tragedy when St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham was destroyed by fire on April 4, 1949. Bishop O'Connor oversaw the updating of hospitals and diocesan properties to prevent future fire disasters. He established the Office of Insurance to assist him in this endeavor.

In 1959, Pope John XXIII surprised the world by announcing that he would convene an ecumenical council. The purpose of the Council was to reassess the relationship of the Church with the modern world. Bishop O'Connor was able to attend all four sessions of the Council. After Vatican II, Bishop O'Connor began to execute the mandates of the Council. He established the Office for Worship and the Office for Catholic Education in 1969. They were the first of many curial agencies that opened to assist parishes and other Catholic institutions in the diocese.

Bishop O'Connor witnessed many events of historical importance such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy (1963) and the moon landing (1969), which he recorded, "heard touching down of lunar module on moon at 2 p.m. on the radio and first man to walk on moon – perfect landing after perfect flight."

On July 22, 1975, Bishop O'Connor submitted his retirement, not wanting the diocese to slow down due to his failing health. Pope Paul VI appointed Joseph A. McNicholas as the next

bishop of Springfield in Illinois. Bishop McNicholas, in the spirit of Vatican II was the first bishop of our diocese to have his motto in English, "Come to Serve."



Bishop Joseph McNicholas was an energetic advocate for desegregation and Catholic education. Here he visits St. Patrick School, Springfield (1977) and interacts with the students.

Bishop McNicholas was a staunch civil rights advocate. His assignments in St. Louis as a priest and auxiliary bishop included: Health & Welfare Council of St. Louis, National Association of Social Workers, Missouri Child Welfare Commission, and the National Office of Black Catholics.

Bishop McNicholas was a leader in school desegregation and helped organize the Martin Luther King Day Breakfast. In 1976 he implemented a diocesan-wide pro-life program in response to the *Roe v. Wade* (1973) decision. He also instituted the "Come Home for Christmas Campaign," which used an approach of prayer and personal contact to reconcile Catholics who had fallen away from the faith with the Church.

Bishop McNicholas' episcopacy was short lived as he died suddenly of a coronary thrombosis on April 17, 1983. The diocese suffered a mournful year in 1983, as Bishop-McNicholas' predecessor,

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CENTURY-LONG

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Bishop O'Connor died a short time later, on Nov. 14, 1983.

Pope John Paul II appointed Daniel Ryan as the next bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Bishop Ryan was installed on Jan. 18, 1984.

Bishop Ryan faced a declining number of priests. There were 153 diocesan priests in 1985 and 105 in 1995. He oversaw the Parish Pastoral Plan that was released in July 1995. This plan was designed to study the status of parishes and priests across the diocese and offer solutions for long-term parish vitality.

Bishop Ryan resigned on Oct. 19, 1999, amidst allegations of abuse against a minor, as well as accusations that he concealed similar allegations against other clergy in the Diocese of Springfield.



Photo by Dorothy Dale

Bishop George J. Lucas anoints a *confirmandi* candidate with oil during confirmation Mass at Church of the Little Flower, Springfield, on May 2, 2004.

On Oct. 19, 1999, the Vatican announced the retirement of Bishop Ryan and the appointment of Bishop George J. Lucas as his successor. Bishop Lucas, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, was the first bishop to be ordained as a bishop in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

Bishop Lucas sought to lead with collaboration. He launched the endowment campaign, "Harvest of Thanks—Springtime of Hope." This campaign was devoted to the long-term viability of the diocese including support for the work of Catholic Charities, to assist in the formation of seminarians and deacon candidates, and for the care of retired priests of the diocese.

Jubilee 2003, the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the diocese officially began on Dec. 9, 2002. On June 28, 2003, an estimated 20,000 Catholics from all over the diocese joined in a day-long celebration at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.



CT file photo

Following the "Built on Faith, Renewed in Hope" campaign, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception closed in September of 2008 for 15 months and underwent its only major structural project since being built in 1928. Here, workers paint and clean up the ceiling. The Cathedral was restored, and the new altar was dedicated on Dec. 2, 2009.

In May 2007, Bishop Lucas initiated the "Built on Faith—Renewed in Hope" campaign to raise the \$11 million dollars needed to restore

the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He was appointed Archbishop of Omaha (July 22, 2009) before the renovation was completed, but he was able to return for the Cathedral dedication, Dec. 2, 2009. (Archbishop Lucas is the first bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to be appointed to archbishop.)

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Thomas John Paprocki of the Archdiocese of Chicago as Bishop Lucas' successor on April 20, 2010. On June 22, 2010, Bishop Paprocki, a civil and canon lawyer, was installed the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.



Bishop Thomas John Paprocki is shown in procession with other visiting bishops during Mass at the Illinois State Fairgrounds for the Jubilee 2003.

In 2017, Bishop Paprocki guided the diocese through the Fourth Diocesan Synod with the goal that our diocesan clergy and laity make a heartfelt commitment to stewardship and discipleship as a way of life. Bishop Paprocki has made the connection between sports and faith a focus of his ministry, writing two books *Holy Goals for Body and Soul: Eight Steps to Connect Sports with God and Faith*, and *Running for a Higher Purpose: Eight Steps to Spiritual and Physical Fitness*.

Bishop Paprocki has run 24 marathons. He is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law, Business, and Bioethics at Quincy University's Oakley School of Business. He also serves on the Illinois Catholic Health Association Board and serves as the chairman of the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On Oct. 28, thousands of Catholics from across the diocese will join Bishop Paprocki as he celebrates Mass at the first Eucharistic Congress at the BOS Center in Springfield. ♦



CT file photo

Bishop Paprocki visited with students in Jerseyville with Father Marty Smith and took the obligatory selfie.



The first two bishops of the Diocese of Alton, Bishop Henry Damian Juncker and Bishop Peter Joseph Baltes, are buried at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Alton. The third bishop of the Diocese of Alton, Bishop James Ryan, is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in nearby Godfrey.

Photo by Andrew Hansen

CELEBRATING

Continued from page 3

possession of the diocese and made Ss. Peter and Paul Church the new cathedral. Bishop Juncker traveled to Europe and recruited seminarians to commit to serve in the new diocese. In his 11 years, Bishop Juncker built a solid spiritual foundation that made it possible for our diocese to flourish. Bishop Juncker died on Oct. 2, 1868, having overseen the dedication and erection of over 50 local parish churches and missions.

The second bishop of our diocese was Peter J. Baltes who had served both as the vicar general for the diocese and as Bishop Juncker's

theologian at the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866. He was consecrated at St. Peter's Church in Belleville on Jan. 23, 1870. Bishop Baltes stabilized the administration of the diocese and oversaw continued growth.

In 1887, upon the death of Bishop Baltes, Pope Leo XIII split the diocese in two, establishing the Diocese of Belleville from the southern portion of the diocese. James Ryan from the Diocese of Peoria was appointed as the third bishop of Alton.

Bishop James Ryan had the longest tenure of any bishop of our diocese, serving a little over 35 years. His episcopacy saw a massive rise in immigration to the area. Thousands of immigrants

See and learn history!



See and talk history at the Office for Archives and Records Management booth at Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

Make sure to visit the Office for Archives and Records Management booth at the Eucharistic Congress on Oct. 28 at the BOS Center.

At the booth, located in the lower level with other exhibitors, you will learn more about the history of the diocese, talk with archives staff about genealogy and other archives services, participate in a community archives project, see our history in photographs, and more.

settled in central Illinois, and Bishop Ryan had to contend with providing religious services to more than a dozen ethnic groups. He steered the diocese through a period of growth and change and is best known for his role in expanding the Alton orphanage. Bishop Ryan died on July 2, 1923. ♦

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How fast does news travel?

When did we officially become the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois? Well, it's confusing and an interesting story

Today, news travels fast — instantaneously actually. One hundred years ago, this was not the case. Not only did news travel slowly, it was oftentimes confusing.

One such example is the announcement of the translation of the diocesan See from Alton to Springfield (below). In a letter dated Nov. 3, 1923 (see page 12), from the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Pietro Fumasoni Biondi congratulates Msgr. James A. Griffin, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Joliet, upon his appointment as bishop of Diocese of

Alton.

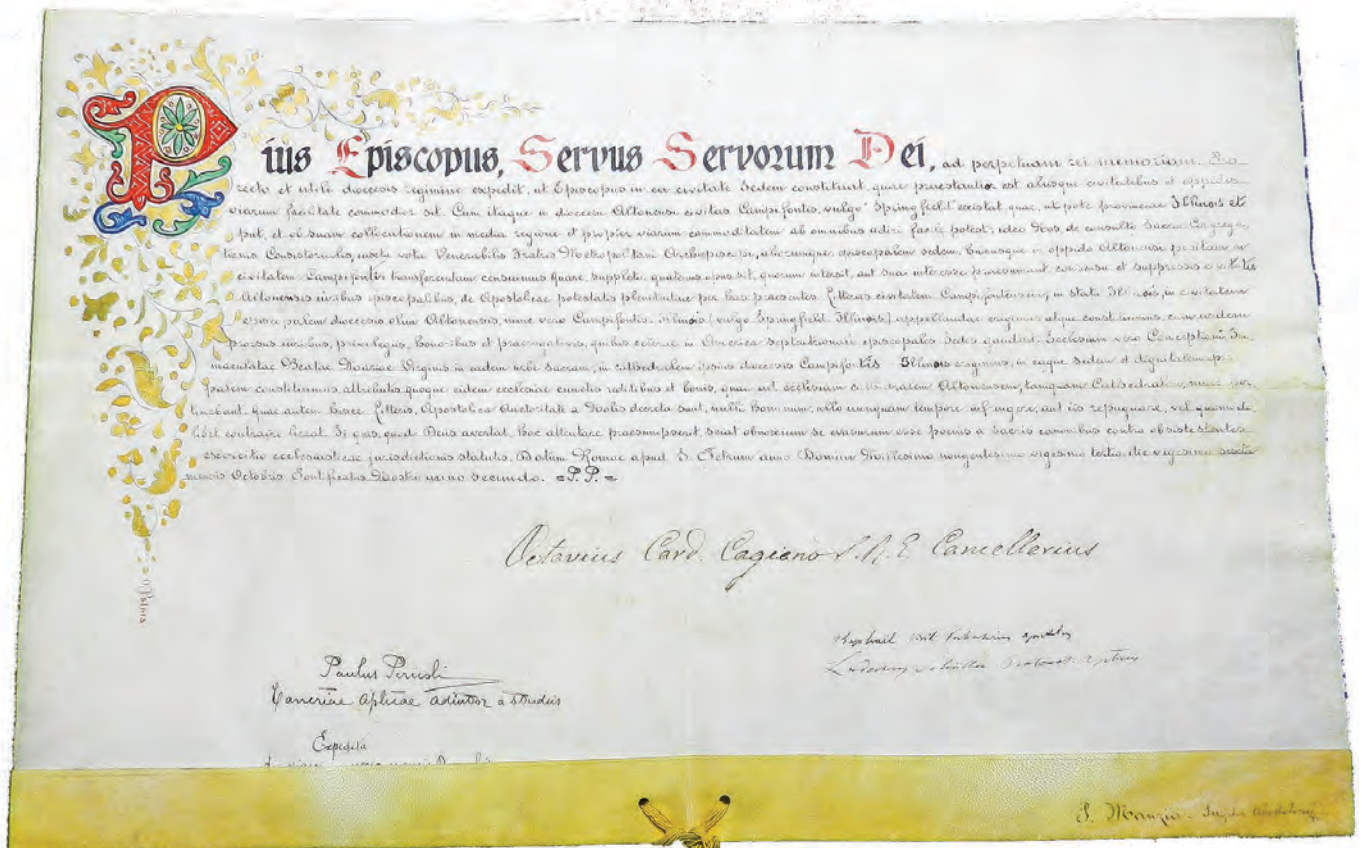
Later that month, a second letter dated Nov. 22, 1923 (see page 13), informs Msgr. Griffin that Pope Pius XI has decided to transfer the See of Alton to Springfield. He also asks Msgr. Griffin to inform him of what church, in Springfield, will be designated as the cathedral.

A third letter dated Jan. 26, 1924, from the office of the Delegate but from the Apostolic auditor, Paul Marella, in the absence of the Delegate, clearly states that the Apostolic Bulls of consecration and of transla-

tion of the See were included with the letter and that a tax must be paid as soon as possible.

The confusing part starts with the Apostolic Bulls (decrees) from the Vatican, dated Nov. 10, 1923. That's because the Bull of translation of the See from Alton to Springfield indicates the decree took place on Oct. 26, 1923. The Bull of consecration appoints Griffin as bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, not

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Shown is the Papal Bull from the Vatican which officially translated the diocesan See from Alton to Springfield dated Oct. 26, 1923 (written in Latin).

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FAST

Continued from page 10

Alton, and is dated Nov. 10, 1923. This points to the fact that while both were written and signed on Nov. 10, the translation of the See city from Alton to Springfield was decreed on Oct. 26 and the appointment of Griffin to bishop of Springfield on the same day. However, that letter of congratulations dated eight days later states that Griffin was appointed bishop of Alton. Thus, the confusion.

Moreover, many letters of congratulations exist from parishioners, family, and schoolmates congratulating Bishop Griffin on his appointment to the Diocese of Alton, not Springfield. The earliest letter or telegram of congratulations is dated Nov. 13, 1923. Many of the letters refer to a publication

where Bishop Griffin's appointment was announced, and they quickly responded with their congratulations on his appointment to Alton. The announcement of Bishop Griffin's appointment did not mention the translation of the diocesan See from Alton to Springfield. Confusing, right? So where does this leave us?

Griffin was appointed bishop of Springfield by the pope on Oct. 26, 1923 (the two Apostolic Bulls), informed and congratulated in a Nov. 3, 1923 letter (even though that letter indicated the Diocese of Alton, not Springfield), and then informed that the diocesan See had been translated from Alton to Springfield in a Nov. 22, 1923 letter. All this evidence makes pinpointing the date of a specific event very challenging. News indeed did not always travel fast. 📶

What is a Papal Bull?

A Papal Bull is any decree or charter issued by the pope. It is called a "bull" because of the seal (*bulla*) that is appended to the end to authenticate it. The seal (*bulla*) is derived from the Latin *bullire*, meaning "to melt or seal — as in wax or lead."

Why do we call it the Translation of the Episcopal See?

Translation is the transfer of a bishop from one episcopal See to another or the diocesan See from one location (city) to another. The word is from the Latin *trānslātiō*, meaning "carry across or transport or transfer."

Why do we call it an Episcopal See? How is it different from the Holy See?

We use the word See because it is derived from Latin *sedes*, meaning "seat, chair, or throne." In the case of a bishop, it is the symbol of his authority. An Episcopal See is the seat of power for a bishop and the Holy See is the seat of power for the pope.



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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1811 Baltimore Street
Washington, D.C. 3rd. Nov. 1923

No 8376-f

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

Rev. James A. Griffin D.D.
Pastor of St. Mary's Church
Joliet, Ill.

Rt. Rev. and Dear Monsignor,

it affords me great pleasure to inform you that His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, has graciously appointed you Bishop of Alton, Illinois. I offer you my cordial congratulations on the appointment, and I beg you to accept the assurance of my best wishes for your happiness and success in the Episcopacy.

I will be obliged to you if, upon the receipt of this letter, you will kindly send a telegram to the Delegation, so that I may know the letter has reached you, and that you accept the appointment.

The information herein contained is still secret and it should remain so until it has been published by the Holy See in Rome. To insure secrecy, therefore, I suggest that, in telegraphing to me, you use the following conventional form: "Your letter has been received and meets with my approval."

Again expressing my congratulations and best wishes, I am

sincerely yours in Xt.,

+ P. Tomasoni - Prondic
Apostolic Delegate.

Then-Msgr. Griffin received this letter from the Apostolic Delegation in the U.S. dated Nov. 3, 1923 informing and congratulating him on being appointed a bishop by Pope Pius XI. The letter indicated he was appointed bishop of Alton, which in fact was wrong, as the Papal Bull had already translated the See from Alton to Springfield on Oct. 26, 1923.


APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1811 Billmore Street
Washington, D.C. Nov. 22, 1923.

No 8496-f

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

Rev. James A. Griffin, D.D.,
Bishop-elect of Alton,
217 N. Ottawa St.,
Joliet, Ill.,

Reverend and dear Father:

I have the honor to inform you that His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, has decided to transfer the present See of Alton to Springfield, the Capital of the State of Illinois, where you will take up your permanent residence.

According to this provision the diocese of Alton will assume the name of "Diocese of Springfield - Illinois", while the present diocese of Springfield will hereafter be known as the "Diocese of Springfield - Massachusetts".

In order to facilitate the publication of the Decree of the transfer, will you kindly let me know as soon as possible what Church in Springfield may be designated as the Cathedral. You will receive the Decree in due time.

Asking for an early reply, I am,

With kindest regards and in union of prayers,

Sincerely yours in Xt.,

+ P. Fumasoni-Biondi *Altp. of D. C.*

Apostolic Delegate.

Then-Msgr. Griffin was informed in this Nov. 22, 1923 letter from the Apostolic Delegation in the U.S. that the diocesan See had been translated from Alton to Springfield and that he must take up his permanent residence in Springfield. In fact, Pope Pius XI had already translated the diocesan See from Alton to Springfield in the Papal Bull dated Oct. 26, 1923.

Photos courtesy of the Office of the Archives



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Drawing to be held December 15, 2023

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Drawing to be held on October 27, 2023

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RULES & DISCLAIMER: Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Maximum 4,000 purchased tickets will be sold. A portion of the proceeds will benefit FMCHS. Tickets are available online. A minimum of 2,500 must be sold or the grand prize will be a 50/50. Go to McGivneyGriffins.com for the official rules.

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Glen Carbon, IL 62034

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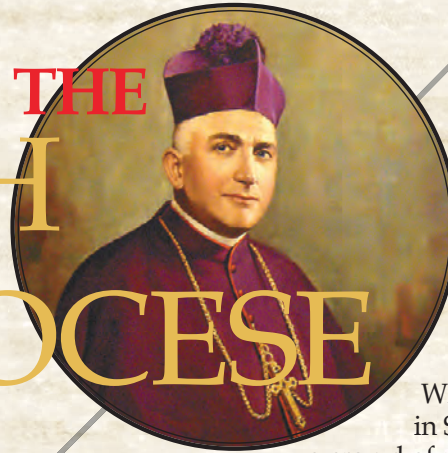
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A TIMELINE OF THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN OUR DIOCESE

100
YEARS
OF HISTORY
1923-2023

OCT. 26, 1923

Pope Pius XI transfers the diocesan See from Alton to Springfield.



FEB. 28, 1924

Bishop James A. Griffin was installed as the first bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois at St. Mary's Church in downtown Springfield.

When Bishop Griffin arrived in Springfield, he was met by a crowd of nearly 10,000 people lining the streets from the C&A Train Depot to the church.

Shown is the crest of Bishop James A. Griffin.



APRIL 1, 1925

Five Sisters from the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George arrived in Alton to begin their community there. Joining them were the Precious Blood Sisters (also pictured) who eventually left.

1920

1930

1940

OCT. 14, 1928

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield was solemnly dedicated.

This is the interior of the church during construction in 1928.



1938

The Great Depression (1929-1939) led to countless of families needing food. This scene of soup and sandwich distribution was common at Catholic Charities' St John's Breadline in Springfield.

Continued on page 16

A TIMELINE OF THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN OUR DIOCESE

1962-1965

The Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) convened. Bishop William O'Connor, shown here at St. Peter's Basilica, attended all four years and promulgated 16 documents addressing changes in the world.



1923-2023

APRIL 16, 1945

Bishop James A. Griffin celebrated a High Pontifical Mass of Requiem for the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Seen here are mourners gathering for the Mass to honor the U.S. president in death. (Photo from Bishop Griffin's personal scrapbook.)



1940

1950

1960

1970

19

JUNE 19, 1959

A fire began in the choir loft that consumed the belfry of St. Boniface Church in Quincy. Seen here, onlookers watch as firefighters battle the blaze that resulted in the complete demolition of the 1848 church.



1964

Springfield Dominican Sisters prepared to leave for Puerto Rico to study Spanish, to then do mission work in Peru. Sister Rene Lawless (pictured third from left), who spent 31 years as a missionary in Peru, became the first full-time minister to the Hispanic community in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

100
YEARS
OF HISTORY



1977-1983

Bishop Joseph A. McNicholas initiated a program to call fallen away Catholics back to Mass and the Church. The “Come Home for Christmas” campaign began in December 1977 and was continued in the parishes until his death in 1983. Seen here is a picture of the Cathedral sanctuary decorated for Christmas. This photo was used for the campaign.

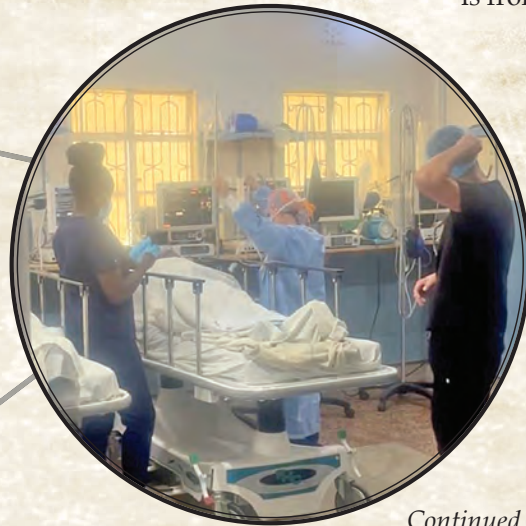
AUG. 20, 2002

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is founded by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield. Mission Outreach works with healthcare providers in the U.S. to redirect usable items destined for landfills to hospitals and clinics in the developing world (this photo is from Africa).



1986

The 1980s witnessed a decline in seminarian enrollment, so the diocese was faced with the difficult decision of closing the Diocesan Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, but the grounds were converted, and the Villa Maria Catholic Life Center then opened in 1986 and remains open today.



Continued on page 18

80 1990 2000 2010 2020



JUNE 28, 2003

The Diocesan Jubilee Day was celebrated at the Illinois State Fairgrounds with approximately 15,000 Catholics in attendance at the outdoor Mass. The event celebrated the 150th anniversary of the diocese.

APRIL 11, 2017

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki opened the Fourth Diocesan Synod at a packed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Synod focused on creating a commitment to stewardship and discipleship as a way of life.



A TIMELINE OF THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN OUR DIOCESE

1923-2023

JUNE 12, 2019

Pope Francis declared Quincy's Father Augustine Tolton "Venerable," the second step of four to becoming a saint in the Catholic Church.



AUG. 15, 2022

The Dominican Nuns of Mary the Queen in Girard had their new monastery dedicated and blessed by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki.



JULY 1, 2023

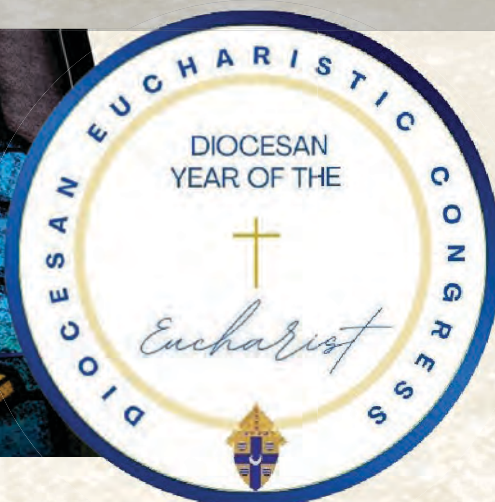
The Norbertine Fathers opened Corpus Christi Priory in Springfield, the former site of the Chiara Center operated by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. The Norbertine Fathers' main apostolate is the Evermode Institute, and they also opened St. Francis of Assisi Church to the public for Mass, prayer, and confession. The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis live in their convent on the property and the Norbertine Fathers serve as their chaplains.

2000

2010

2020

2023



OCT. 28, 2023

The First diocesan Eucharistic Congress will occur at the BOS Center in Springfield. This historic event will celebrate the Year of the Eucharist and the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the See city of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois from Alton to Springfield. Get free tickets now at dio.org.

100
YEARS
OF HISTORY



New Safe Environment Training and Background Check Program for Adults

All **employees** and **volunteers** of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois **must** complete safe environment training and a background check before serving. The diocese now uses Catholic Mutual Group (CMG) for online training and background checks – all in one location!

For more information about the new training and screening procedures, please contact your parish or school Safe Environment Coordinator.



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CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

Highlighting

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Shelbyville

◆ HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital
O'Fallon

◆ HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese
Breese



1923



YEARS

2023



CENTENNIAL TRIVIA CHALLENGE — 100 questions about our rich history

Getting you ready for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the diocesan See city from Alton to Springfield (Oct. 26, 2023)

- Which bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois attended Vatican II from 1962-1965?
 - James Aloysius Griffin
 - Joseph McNicholas
 - William Aloysius O'Connor
 - Peter J. Baltes
- In what year did St. Aloysius in North Arm become a Mission church of St. Mary in Paris?
 - 1855
 - 1858
 - 1860
 - 1863
- How many alumni of Quincy University went on to become a bishop?
 - 5
 - 9
 - 14
 - 21
- How many Catholic cemeteries are there in our diocese?
 - 55
 - 75
 - 88
 - 96
- What American diocese did Bishop Henry Damian Juncker come from before becoming bishop of Alton in 1857?
 - Archdiocese of Baltimore
 - Archdiocese of New York
 - Archdiocese of Boston
 - Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Who was the first person to be buried in the crypt at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield?
 - Msgr. Timothy Hickey
 - Bishop James A. Griffin
 - Bishop Joseph A. McNicholas
 - Bishop William A. O'Connor
- In 1857, a small frame church was erected in Jerseyville. What is the name of that parish?
 - Holy Family
 - Holy Ghost
 - St. Francis Xavier
 - St. Patrick
- What church in our diocese was destroyed by a Christmas Eve fire in 2011?
 - St. Mary in Fieldon
 - St. Mary in Brussels
 - Sacred Heart in Franklin
 - All Saints in White Hall
- About how many students attend Catholic schools in our diocese?
 - 8,500
 - 9,200
 - 10,400
 - 14,600
- On Oct. 28, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will host a Eucharistic Congress at the BOS Center in Springfield. Not counting that Eucharistic Congress, how many Eucharistic Congresses has the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois hosted in its history?
 - 0
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

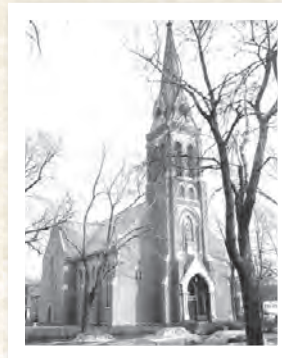
Answers can be found on page 29

TREASURES OF THE PAST



The original church of St. Francis Cabrini in Springfield, shown in 1947. The church was dedicated and located within a Quonset hut purchased by Bishop James Griffin in 1947. To meet the demand of the rapidly rising Catholic population following

WWII, he ordered several Quonset huts to accommodate four new parishes in the diocese.



An exterior view of St. Agnes Church in Springfield that was built on the corner of College and Capitol in downtown (current site of the Stratton Building for the State of Illinois) and dedicated on Sept. 28, 1890. The parish moved to its current site in November 1981. Mass was held at the school gymnasium until the current church was dedicated on Nov. 26, 1989.

Shown is the front entrance to St. Barbara's Church in Springfield, dedicated on April 23, 1911. The building was formerly the Iles School and served the Catholics of southeast Springfield until it was closed in 1956.



Swimmers enjoy the public pool at Camp Pere Marquette in Grafton in 1949.



St. Joseph Hall in Decatur was built in 1906 and originally opened as a Children's Home. In 1947, it was purchased and served as a tertian retreat house for the Missouri Province of Jesuits. Exterior c. 1948.

Shown is the summer parish carnival in the parking lot of Ss. Peter & Paul in Springfield. The school grounds were laid in 1888 and St John's Hospital can be seen in the background.



The 1869 Our Saviour Church in Jacksonville was known as "The Big Brick" to parishioners, due to its red brick construction. In 1974, ground was broken on the site of the current church. A large stone from the steeple was transferred to the new exterior façade of the new church. This church served the community until 1977.



St. Ann Church served the Catholic community in Niantic for more than 80 years. This photo was taken at the 1963 wedding of Nancy Ann Delaney and Fred Luckenbill. The brick church was of Irish Gothic style and was dedicated on Oct. 18, 1925, in the presence of Bishop James A. Griffin. The parish was closed in 2006.



Shown is the interior of the 1848 church of St. Boniface in Quincy, taken in 1928 during the Forty Hour Devotion. The sanctuary carpet was a gift from the St. Elizabeth Society.

Photographer: Raymond H. Brinks



The interior of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Collinsville is shown in 1926. It was constructed between 1880 and 1890 at a cost of \$17,000, not including the land. In 1965, ground was broken for a new church.

Photographer: Frank L. Rissi

Shown is the exterior of Sacred Heart in Dalton City in 1912. The cornerstone for Sacred Heart Church was laid in 1892.



In this photo, shown is the exterior of the 1870 St. Mary Church in Carlinville church and rectory. The church still has the steeple that was removed from the building in the 1930s. (From the collection of Mildred Madden.)



The 1864 St. Mary in Bunker Hill church, taken from a distance. In 1938, a tornado destroyed the steeple, but the church remained. On March 19, 1948, another tornado struck the church, demolishing the building.

Mass is celebrated at Ss. Peter and Paul in Springfield. The church opened in 1866, was closed in 2001, and demolished in 2002.



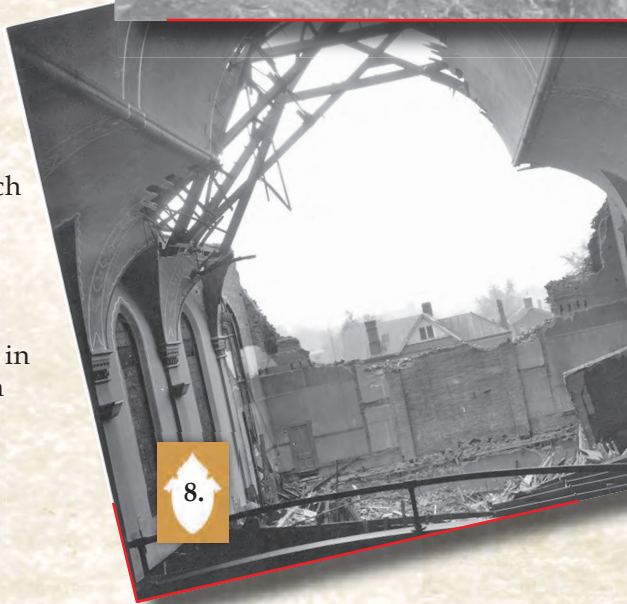
Shown is the sanctuary of the 1871 St. Nicholas in Pocahontas Church. On Jan. 1, 1949, the church was destroyed by a fire.



Shown is the raising and installing of the clock tower bell at St. John the Baptist in Quincy, which was built in the late 1800s. After mergers with local parishes, the church closed for Mass in 2006.

A COLLAGE OF HISTORY

1. Young men play a baseball game at the Apple Bowl at St. Mary's in Brussels.
Date unknown
2. Bishop James A. Griffin sits on a camel (third from left) in front of the Sphinx and Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt on Oct. 28, 1929.
3. A line forms at Catholic Charities office in Springfield.
Date unknown
4. Men to be ordained lay prostrate in front of the altar at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Springfield on May 23, 1959.
5. The St. James in Riverton baseball team were champions of Holy Name League in 1927.
Photographer: Redmon Studio, Springfield
6. Workmen install bells in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Date c. 1928.
7. Shown is the St. Boniface in Quincy steeple in 1919.
8. Shown is the interior of the 1870 St. Peter Church in Quincy, which was damaged by a tornado on April 12, 1945.
9. Shown is the dedication of the Church of the Little Flower in Springfield Quonset hut church 1947.
Photographer: Winfred Helm.
10. Bishop James A. Griffin is pictured with clergy outside St. Mary Church in Springfield following his Installation Mass in 1924.
Photographer: Redmon Studio, Springfield

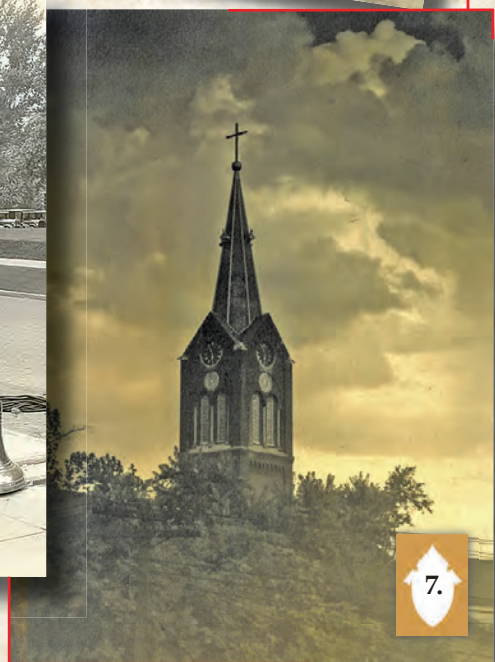




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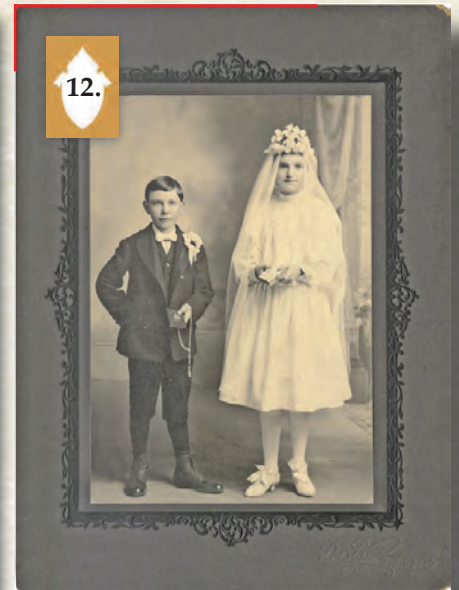


10.

A COLLAGE OF HISTORY

Continued from page 25

11. Shown is an Alois Zimmerman wedding photo, no date. (Possible match to a marriage recorded at St. Francis Solanus in Quincy of Aloys Ludov Zimmermann married Maria Averkamp on June 11, 1885.)
Photographer: Scott photographer, Quincy
12. First Communion photo of Blanch Dernal and Daniel Connolly of Assumption, no date.
Photographer: Du Place Studio
13. Shown is a group photo of first Communion at Ss. Peter and Paul in Springfield c. 1900.
14. Shown is the Sacred Heart Springfield baseball team, 1921.
15. Shown is the Michael Band of St. Michael Church in Michael.
Date unknown.
16. St. Aloysius in North Arm c. 1920, is shown before paved roads were laid down.
17. Shown is a drawing of the Cathedral complex by architect Joseph McCarthy in 1927.
18. Bishop William A. O'Connor tours the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception upon his arrival in Springfield, March 1949.
Photographer: Mercury Studio, Springfield
19. Bishop Joseph A. McNicholas visits Routt High School in Jacksonville on St. Nicholas Day, c. 1981.
Photographer: Billy Wade
20. Men attend a WWI Veterans Dinner at Old St. Mary's in Springfield, 1920.



Special thanks to the Office for Archives and Records Management for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for historic information and photos provided for this edition of *Catholic Times*. If documentation for photo credits was available, those credits have been provided with the photographs.

100
YEARS
OF HISTORY

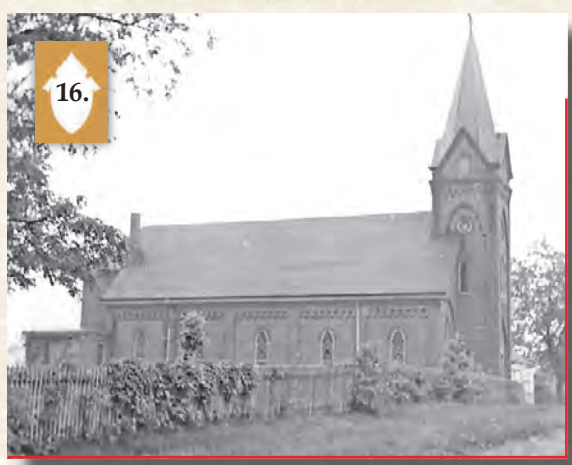
13.



14.



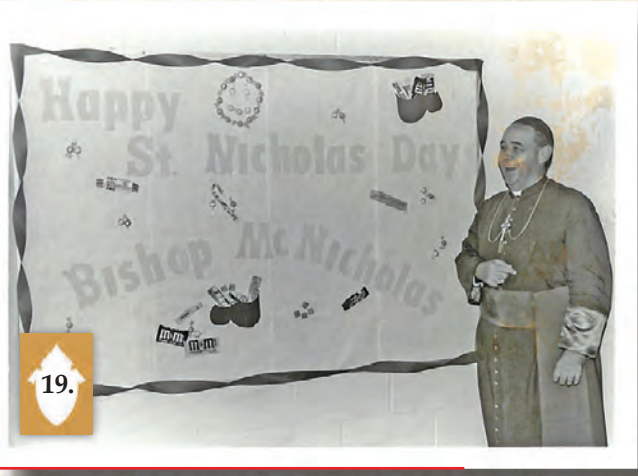
16.



17.



19.



20.





SATURDAY, NOV. 11

JOIN US!

**5:30 PM
START!**

How to participate:

Pregame
5:30 PM

Kick Off
6:00 PM

Broadcast Courtesy of
Bchornetsports1

WATCH PARTY!
HOST
YOUR OWN
FRIENDS AND FAMILY



GET
YOUR
TICKETS
NOW!

SNEAK PEAK
SHOW WALK
THRU:
Friday, Nov. 10th,
4pm-7pm

UP TO
**101 GUNS
TO BE RAFFLED**

INCLUDING 30 GUNS IN 30 MINUTES!

Premium Guns, Classic
Friends Guns, Veterans
Gun Giveaway, A
TRUCKLOAD of Super
Raffle Prizes, LOADED
GUN SAFE, Card Raffles
-See Social Media!

**WEBSTER
AUCTIONEERS
LLC**

No Reserve
Timed
Online Only
Auction!

November 1st - 11th
WebsterAuctioneers.com

TICKETS:
BCdeerclassic.com

OR Kassing Lumber 601 Pittsfield Rd. Mt. Sterling (217) 773-2611

Watch the Live Event at BCdeerclassic.com

Win a Utility Trailer from Cross Country Trailer Sales,
Plus - Bows, Box Blinds, E-Bike and much more!

#bcdeerclassic

Benefiting

Presented By



**St Mary School Farm & Home
SUPPLY**

Indulgences



**MY SOUL IS 100% CLEAN?
SEEMS MADE UP**

DIVE DEEP
DIO.ORG/PODCAST

Dive Deep is the official podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Listen at
dio.org/podcast, [YouTube.com/diospringfield](https://www.youtube.com/diospringfield), or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms.

DATEBOOK

Sunday, Oct. 15

PITTSFIELD — Pork Dinner, St. Mary Parish, 226 E. Adams, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Drive-thru only, \$15.

Monday, Oct. 16

SPRINGFIELD — St. Louise de Marillac Dinner. Christ the King Parish Hall, 6 p.m. \$15. For more information, call Linda at (217) 971-1642.

ONGOING

SPRINGFIELD — GriefShare Bereavement

Ministry, Cathedral. Cycle of weekly faith-based, grief support group. Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Runs from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral School Library (enter through the atrium doors off 5th Street parking lot). Next cycle begins Nov. 7. Runs for 13 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely at (217) 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com. Register online

or call (217) 522-3342 or email Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

SPRINGFIELD — Rosary with Legion of Mary. Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. Christ the King Parish Hall.

SPRINGFIELD — Holy Catholic Mass. Every Tuesday and Thursday, noon, Henry Bunn Chapel, Springfield Memorial Hospital.

SPRINGFIELD — Grief Groups, St. John's Hospital. SOS (Survivors of Suicide), 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 5:30-7 p.m.; SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome), 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 4:30-6 p.m.; Grief Group, weekly Wednesday, 4:30-6 p.m.; SHARE Support Group (for parents who have lost a baby pre-term or in early infancy), weekly Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. All groups meet in the St. Clare Annex (overflow room of the chapel). Contact (217) 544-6464, ext. 55676 for more information.

SPRINGFIELD — Rosary, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 4:45 p.m.

Please email Datebook submissions to: catholictimes@dio.org. Put in the subject line, "Datebook submission."

Please JOIN US!

Who:
Springfield Right to LIFE

What:
Autumn BBQ Dinner Fundraiser

When:
Oct. 19, 5-7 p.m.

How:
Dine-in or Carry-out

Where:
Christ the King Community Center, 1930 Barberry Drive, Springfield

CLASSIFIED CLIPS

To place a classified ad or for more information call: (217) 698-8500

CONFIDENTIAL

Reporting Financial or Adult Sexual Misconduct

Call toll-free: (866) 346-2003

E-mail: reportmisconduct@gmail.com

Classified Clips

LEGAL SERVICES

William Shaffer, Attorney: Accidents, personal injury, liability, wrongful death and workmen's compensation. No recovery, no fee. Free consultation. (217) 522-9880, 1039 W. Wabash, Springfield. 10-15-2023

Delano Law Offices, LLC: Workers' compensation; death cases; serious personal injury cases; cases against intoxicated drivers. Free consultation. (217) 544-2703. 11-12-2023

BUSINESS

RAFFLE TICKETS: Buy direct (and save) from Illinois' largest raffle ticket printer. For info, call (217) 227-4464. Fax (217) 227-4140. 11-12-2023

BOOKS WANTED

Please call (618) 692-5511. 11-26-2023

VACATION

Gulf Shores, AL — 1/2/3 BR luxurious BEACHFRONT condos and 4 BR BEACH RESORT house! Gulf of Mexico — Owner direct saves you \$\$\$ Chris 1 (502) 396-2287. 11-26-2023

Destin, FL — 11th floor, breath-taking gulf views, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, beaches, pools, golf. Call (618) 530-8599. 10-15-2023

HELP WANTED

Work part time from home. St. Louis based, publicly listed company. Feeding 45K children a day. Contact Linda (618) 570-9787. 11-12-2023

CLOCK REPAIR

Service/repair on: wall, mantle, cuckoos, anniversary. 30 years experience. Reasonable rates. (217) 899-1305. Romer's Clock Shop, Springfield. 10-15-2023

TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. c - William Aloysius O'Conner
2. b - 1858
3. c - 14
4. d - 96
5. d - Archdiocese of Cincinnati
6. a - Msgr. Timothy Hickey
7. c - St. Francis Xavier
8. b - St. Mary's in Brussels
9. c - 10,400
10. a - 0



A letter from Bishop Paprocki, inviting you to Eucharistic Congress Oct. 28 in Springfield

Four speakers will inspire, more than 25 Catholic Marketplace vendors coming, Mass with thousands

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many activities, anxieties, and uncertainties fill our lives. That's why it is necessary to make time to spend with the Lord Jesus who is the Prince of Peace. Through the certainty of His presence in our lives, He provides the certitude of faith, calms our anxieties, and helps focus our activities toward His glory and honor.

On Oct. 28, I am inviting you to a historic event, a first for our diocese, a Eucharistic Congress at the BOS Center in Springfield. This an opportunity to spend a day reflecting on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This Eucharistic Congress promises to be a day filled with hope, faith, and love featuring spiritually uplifting and motivating talks from nationally popular Catholic speakers. Dr. Scott Hahn is a former minister of the Presbyterian Church, later converting to Catholicism, and is now a leading evangelist and popular author. Father Chase Hilgenbrinck has one of the more unique stories to the priesthood, walking away from a

life of professional soccer, answering God's call to the priesthood. Father Denis Robinson is president-rector at St. Meinrad Seminary, one of the schools that educates our seminarians. Finally, Sister M. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM, based in Alton, has given talks around the country and is known for her uplifting energy.

The Eucharistic Congress will also include a Catholic Marketplace where you will find unique Catholic products and experiences to enhance your engagement with the faith (see list below). Several motivating videos throughout the day will provide you hope, encouragement, and lift your soul. Praying with fellow Catholics from across our diocese during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession are also part of the day. A large family room for children will also be available.

We will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the diocesan See city from Alton to Springfield. You will see never before seen photos from the past and learn about our rich history.

Finally, we will cap off the day with the source and summit of our faith, the holy Eucharist, during the celebration of Mass with an arena full of thousands of Catholics.

As you can tell, this historic Eucharistic Congress will be an exciting experience that will feed your soul and inspire you in a radical way. It is an opportunity you will likely never experience again. I invite you to join me, your parish priest, your fellow parishioners, and the people of our diocese on Oct. 28 at the BOS Center in Springfield. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with Mass at 4 p.m.

To reserve your free admission, see the schedule of the day, get answers to frequently asked questions, and see who is coming to the Catholic Marketplace, go to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois' website, dio.org. Come and deepen your trust in the peace that only Jesus can give.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend
Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Receive an indulgence at Eucharistic Congress!

In observance of our Centennial Jubilee celebrating the transfer of the See City of our Diocese to Springfield, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki has been authorized by the Holy See to impart the *Papal Blessing* at the end the Eucharistic Congress Mass. The *Papal Blessing* carries with it a plenary (or full) indulgence, as long as one also goes to confession, receives the Eucharist, and prays for the intentions of the pope (praying a *Hail Mary* and *Our Father* for the pope's intentions is suggested). These acts "may be carried out several days preceding or following the performance of the prescribed works. But, it is more fitting that Communion and the prayer for the pope's intentions take place on the day the work is performed" (*Handbook of Indulgences*, Norms for Indulgences, 23.3). So, take advantage of this treasure by going to confession, praying for the pope's intentions, and receiving our Lord in the holy Eucharist! An indulgence is a gift and grace that remits the temporal punishment due to sin, which has already been forgiven but not rectified. Those who cannot attend the Eucharistic Congress but watch the Mass online can also receive the indulgence (youtube.com/diospringfield).

CATHOLIC MARKETPLACE VENDORS:

History of the diocese (Archives), Abbey Caskets, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation, Catholic Bar Association, Catholic Charities, Catholic Family Crate, CareNotes, Cause of Our Joy, Exodus 90, First Step Women's Center, FOCUS, Greater Mission, Hallow, Mercy Tree Adventures, National Eucharistic Revival, Novena Cards, Outpouring of Trust, Quincy University, Rebuilt Parish, Salve Regina Ministries, SockReligious, Springfield Dominican Sisters, St. Meinrad Seminary, Staab Funeral Homes, Steier Group, This Little Fiat



**Stained glass window of 1915 church
of St. John the Evangelist in Medora**



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