

# Golden Jubilee



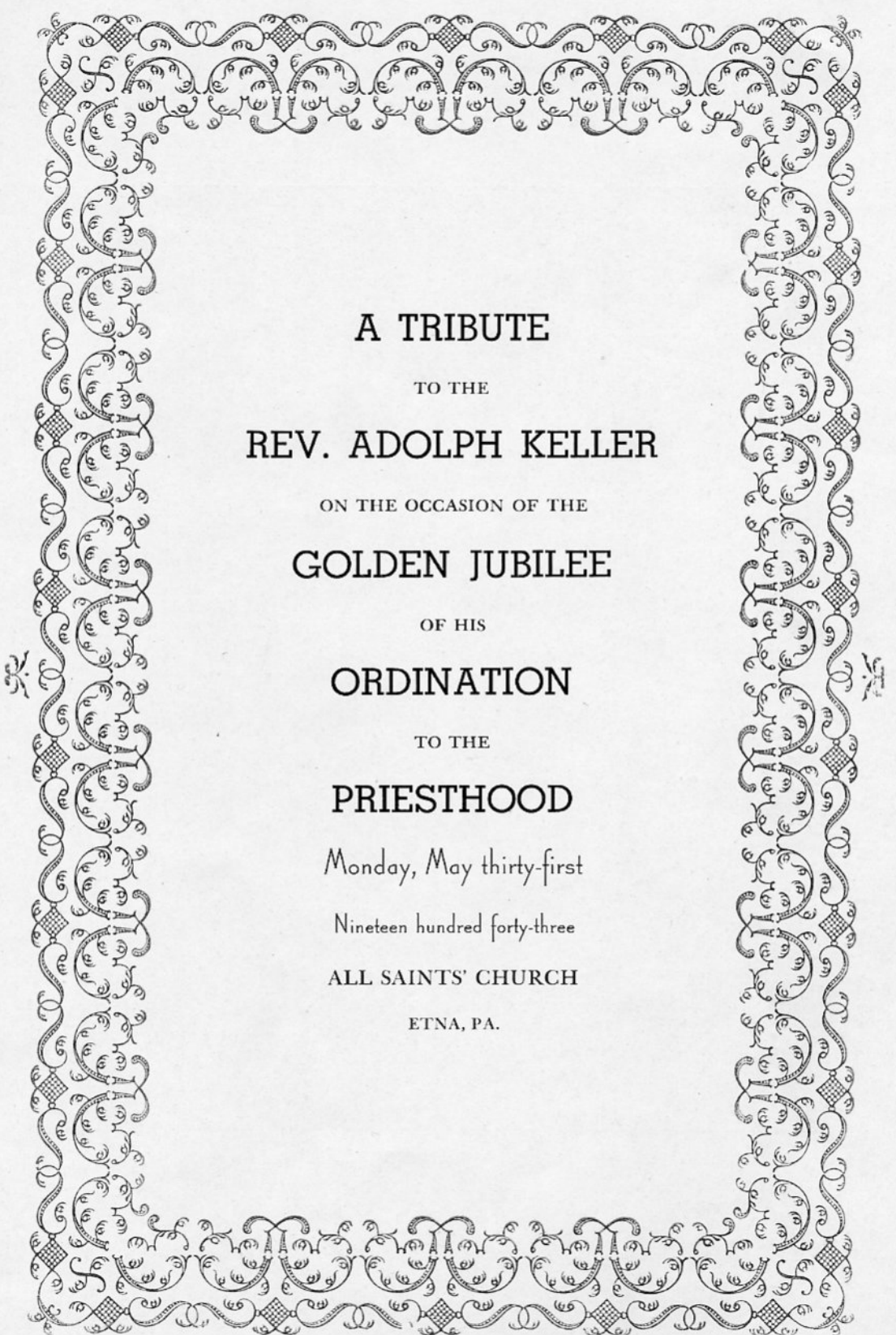
1893 - 1943

Reverend Adolph Keller

Pastor, All Saints Church

Etna, Pennsylvania





A TRIBUTE  
TO THE  
REV. ADOLPH KELLER

ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF HIS  
ORDINATION

TO THE  
PRIESTHOOD

Monday, May thirty-first

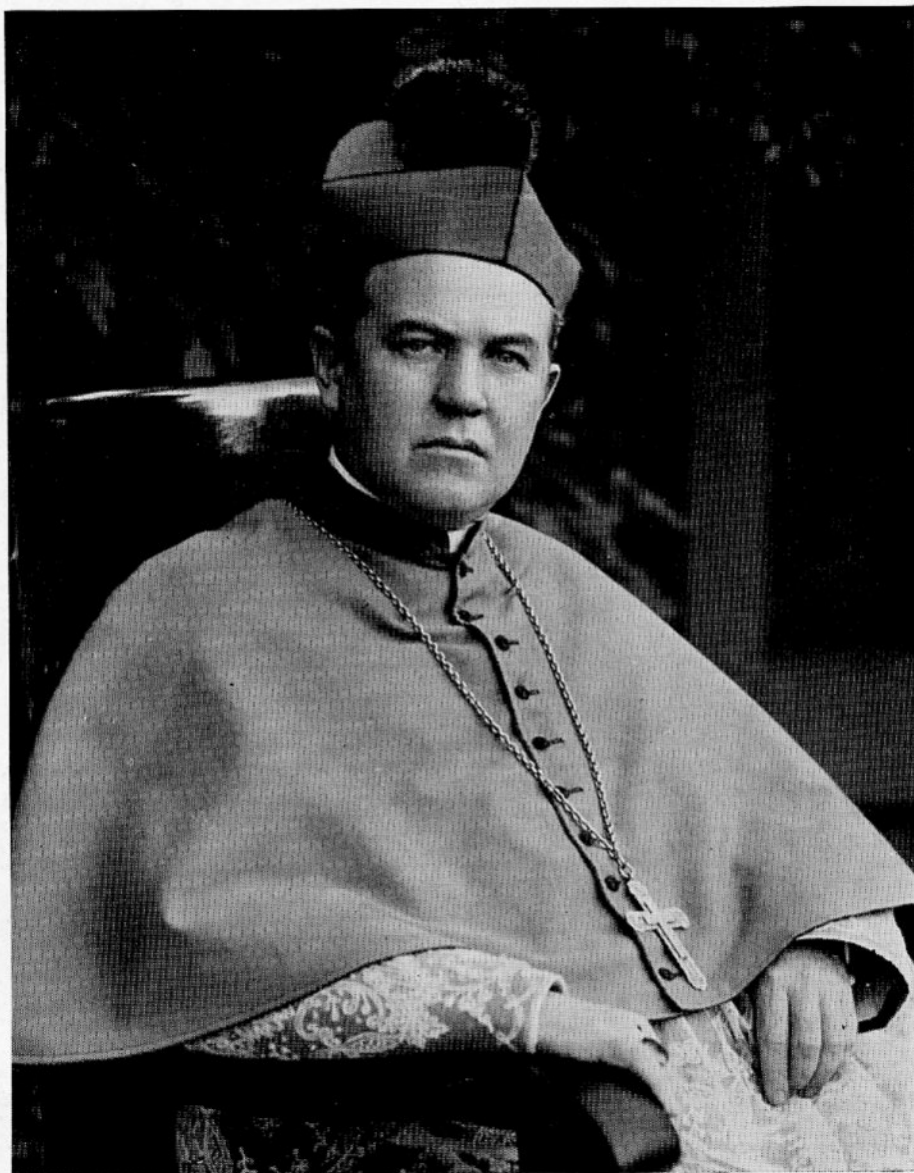
Nineteen hundred forty-three

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

ETNA, PA.



HIS HOLINESS, POPE PIUS XII



THE MOST REVEREND HUGH C. BOYLE, D.D.  
*Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pa.*

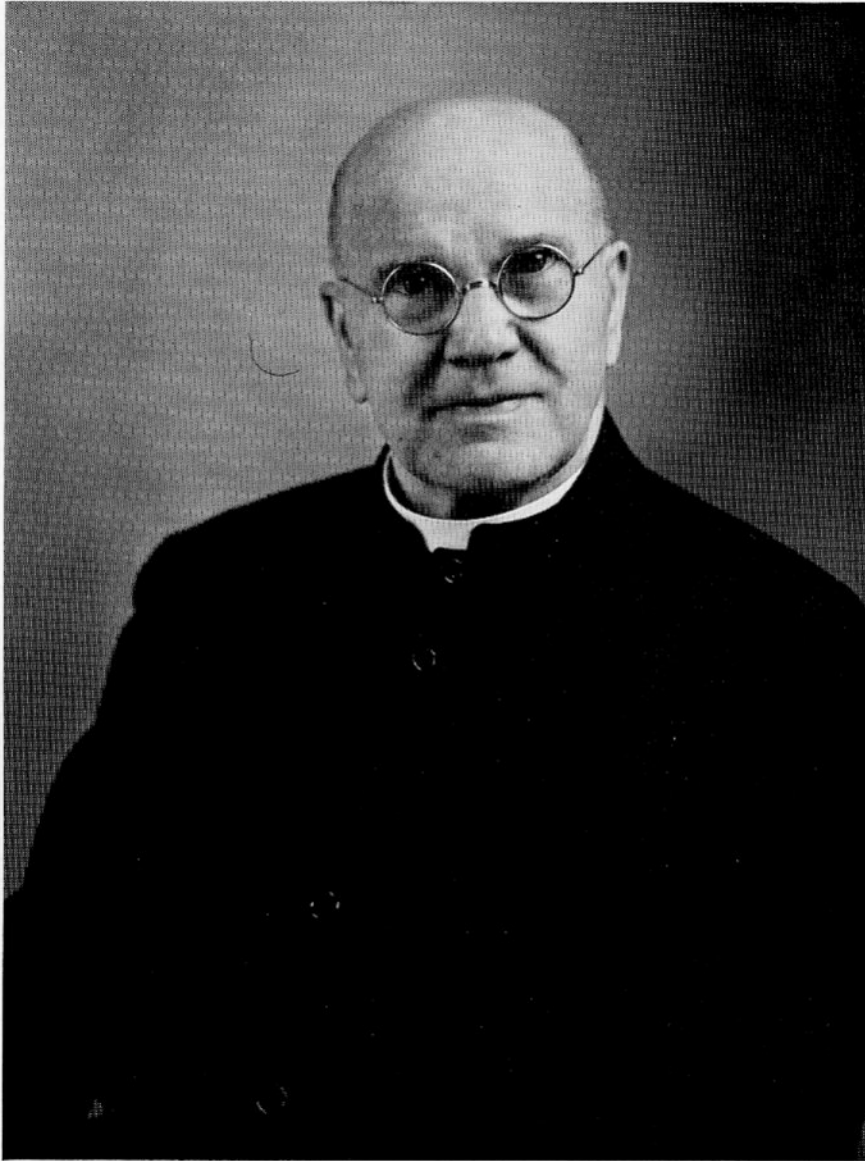




*"To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; to be a member of each family, yet belonging to none; to share all sufferings; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; to return from God to men to bring pardon and hope; to have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity, to teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life! And it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ!"*

—LACORDAIRE.





REVEREND ADOLPH KELLER



## Reverend Adolph Keller

In the Northern part of Baden, Germany, about midway between the cities of Würzburg and Heidelberg lies the small village of Oberndorf. It was here that Father Keller was born on February 4, 1868. A few days later he was taken to the village church, and there in baptism received the name Adolph. At that time the village numbered only about 22 families and 180 inhabitants. The villagers were all given to farming. Their homes were all grouped about the little village church, while the fields which furnished them a livelihood stretched on all sides for several miles. The villagers of Oberndorf were all staunch and fervent Catholics. Under the educational system prevalent in Germany at that time the village was provided with a school and teachers, who, in the case of a Catholic village such as Oberndorf, were always Catholic themselves. Each week the parish priest came to the school to give religious instruction.

It was in such a school that the boy Adolph received his primary education. There were but five students in his class. After completing his course in the village school, Adolph remained at home, helping with the farm work. The boy's mind, however, was directed toward something higher. Geography had been a favorite study with Adolph in school. The study of distant lands and peoples, however, had a deeper meaning in his young mind. It brought home to him how many of these people in distant lands enjoyed no opportunity to hear of God and Divine Revelation such as he himself had enjoyed in Oberndorf. This was the seed of a missionary vocation, and when Adolph expressed his mind to the parish priest, arrangements were made for giving him private instructions.

For the next year whenever the boy was free from farm chores, he could generally be found applying himself to his books. It was at this time, in the year 1884, that the boy's God-fearing mother was called in death, and the large family of 14 children, of whom Adolph was the fifth oldest, was left motherless. In the spring of the the following year



Adolph left his home in Oberndorf and began a journey which finally brought him to Rome. The young man, now 17 years old, made the entire journey on foot. On his way he stopped at the Capuchin Monastery of Altoetting, and the kindly old lay brother who admitted him at the door was most probably none other than the saintly Brother Conrad, recently canonized by our late Holy Father, Pope Pius XI.

Adolph arrived in Rome shortly before the beginning of the school term in November, and was enrolled at the Gregorian University. Here, in the very shadow of St. Peter's dome, he remained for the next eight years pursuing his philosophical and theological studies. He did not return home once during this time. Even the vacation periods were spent by Adolph in the Holy City, furthering his studies that he might the sooner reach the coveted goal of the priesthood. Thus he spent eight full years in the very center of Christendom. It was during his last year here that a certain Bishop Peter Schumacher from Ecuador, South America, was making his "ad limina" visit to Rome. The Bishop took advantage of this visit to the Eternal City to visit the Gregorian University. Here he made an appeal for his own diocese of Puertoviejo in Ecuador. There, according to the saintly Bishop's words, the harvest of souls was indeed ripe, but the laborers were few, as there were not many native clergy. The young subdeacon, Adolph, immediately heeded the plea of Bishop Schumacher and volunteered to labor in his diocese. With definite direction now given to his desire for missionary work, Adolph added to his theological studies that of the Spanish tongue, for this was the dominant language in his future field of labor.

Having completed his theological studies in the spring of 1893, Adolph Keller was elevated to the priesthood on the twenty-eighth day of May of the same year. He was ordained by Cardinal Lucido Maria Parocchi in the Church of St. John Lateran. The following morning, May 29, 1893, he offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time, and had the privilege of doing so at the main altar in St. Peter's Cathedral.

Father Keller's stay in Rome was now at an end, and he immediately made plans to return to his home in Oberndorf for the first time in eight years. The meeting with his relatives was indeed a joyful one. For the father to see his son, for the brothers and sisters to see their brother after an absence of eight years, was a great joy for them indeed. But to be able to greet him as one of God's anointed, and to





INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR VIEWS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH TODAY

receive in return his first priestly blessing was cause for even greater joy. Nor was this jubilation restricted to the members of the newly ordained's family. The entire village appreciated that God had so favored their native son and planned to celebrate the occasion in traditional manner. The village assumed a holiday attitude. Father Keller celebrated his first solemn Mass in Oberndorf on July 17, 1893. It was a gala occasion for the villagers. This was not the first time God had so chosen one from among their small number, but their deep Catholic faith impressed them with the nobility and grandeur of so high a calling. They had an unreserved reverence and respect for anyone to whom God had given such a noble vocation.

After a stay in Oberndorf of two weeks, Father Keller again left his native village to return to Rome. Here he made final arrangements for his journey to Ecuador, and then left for Lisbon, Portugal, where, with two other priests and twelve nuns, he embarked for South America. It was over a month before they arrived at the isthmus of Panama. A good portion of this time on board ship was spent by the missionary party in furthering their knowledge of the Spanish language. Having arrived at Colon, they disembarked and made the journey across the isthmus by train. After arriving at the city of Panama on the Pacific side of the isthmus, they again took to the sea for the last part of the journey to Ecuador. Within a week they landed at Quayaquil and immediately set out for the episcopal residence at Puertoviejo. Here the priests and nuns received their various assignments from Bishop Schumacher.

Father Keller, together with one other priest, was appointed to administer to the inhabitants of the northern province of the diocese, Esmeraldas. The inhabitants of this section, as well as those of other parts of the diocese, were all Catholics, having been converted by the early Spanish missionaries. Little mission churches were scattered here and there throughout Esmeraldas, but there was no resident priest. Periodically the Bishop would send priests to make a complete tour of the territory, and it was on such a tour that Father Keller and his companion now started. This northern province of the diocese, with a population of more than 15,000 souls, was little more than a wilderness. There were no roads at all, only mere foot-paths. The inhabitants here, as well as in the rest of the diocese, were mostly Indians and Negroes. When word was received that the priests were coming, there was universal joy, and at each stop they made throughout the province, the





1. INTERIOR OF FIRST CHURCH.  
2. EXTERIOR OF FIRST CHURCH, BUILT IN 1902.  
3. FATHER KELLER OFFERS THE FIRST MASS IN ETNA. THE SOLEMN  
HIGH MASS OF DEDICATION OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

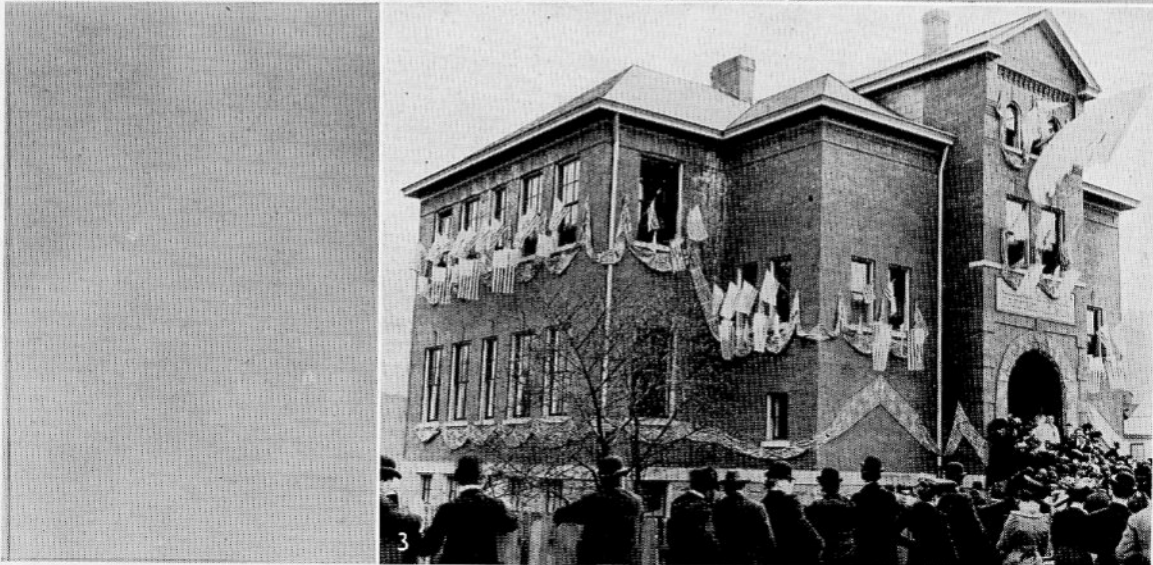
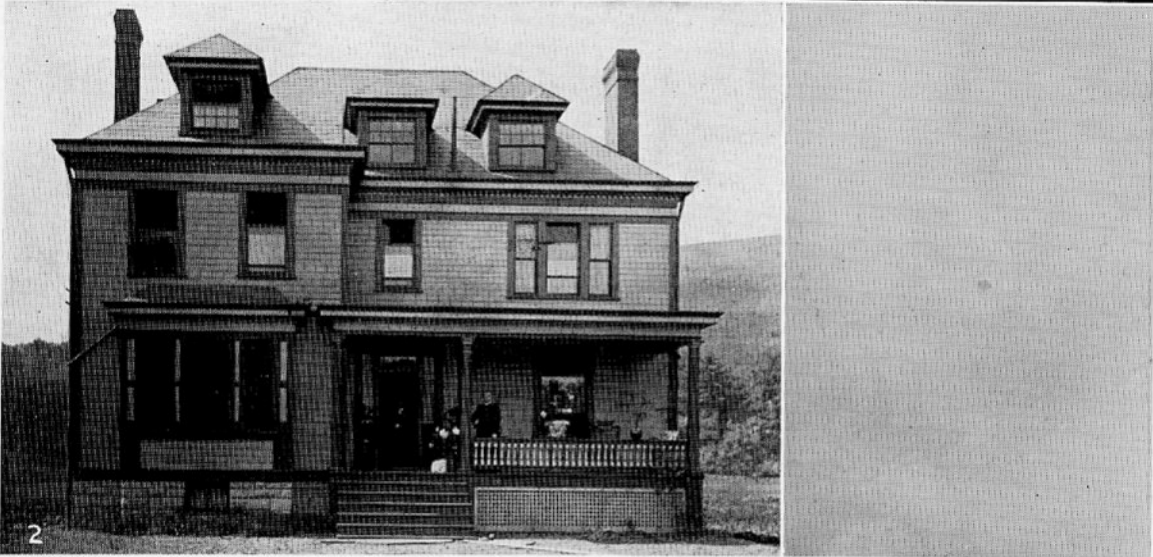
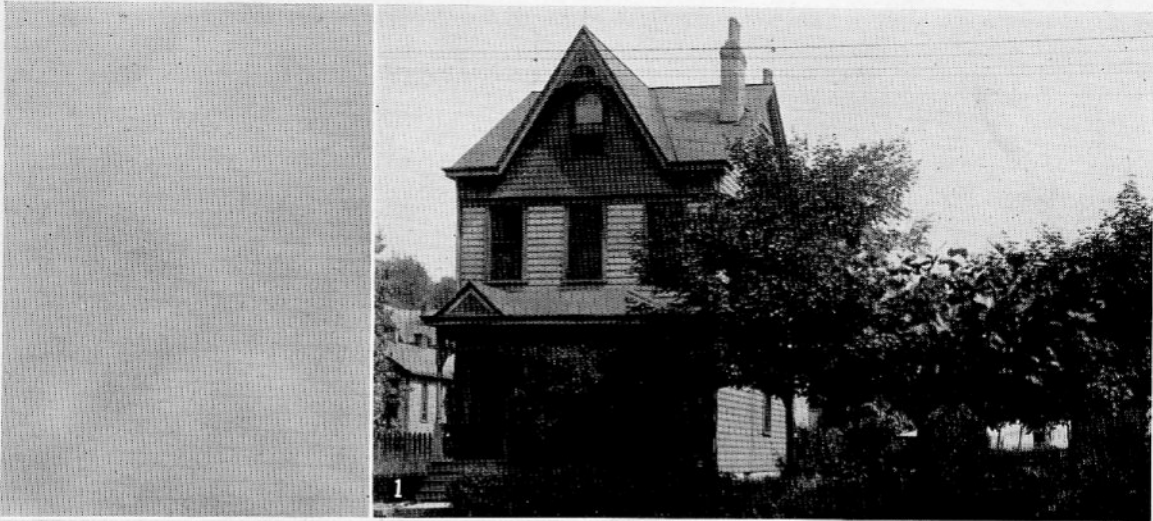
priests were immediately called upon to baptize all who had been born since their last appearance, to witness marriages, hear confessions, administer to the sick, and perform other priestly duties. Considering the very infrequent visits of a priest to these places, the faith of the people was marvelous.

In about six months the two priests had completed their missionary tour and returned to Puertoviejo. Father Keller was then appointed to the parish of Santa Anna which comprised a whole county of more than 10,000 Catholics. Here he had a parish church where Mass was offered every Sunday. Four or five missions were also under his care, but each of these Father Keller was able to visit but once a month. In the fall of 1894 Father Keller was sent to Jipijapa, which is situated just along the coast. Here as pastor of Holy Trinity parish, he administered to the spiritual needs of more than 12,000 Indians, Negroes, and Spaniards. Father Keller held this pastorate for almost a year, when a change in the government of the country put an end to his labor in Ecuador. A group of radicals obtained control of the central government, and succeeded in passing a law exiling all except the native clergy.

There was no appeal from this anticlerical ruling, and Bishop Schumacher, together with all except two of his priests, found it necessary to leave the country. The nuns also, who would thus be left without the administration of the sacraments, found it necessary to leave their work in Ecuador. The motherhouse of these Benedictine sisters was in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and it was towards the United States that they directed their steps. Many of the priests, among them Father Keller, also set out for North America. Having arrived here, they were offered temporary refuge at the Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey. One after another they soon found places in various dioceses throughout the States. Archabbot Leander was at that time head of the Benedictine Archabbey of St. Vincent, at Latrobe, and it was a sister of his who was Mother Superior of the convent in New Jersey. Through these contacts Father Keller, three months after he had landed in the United States, found himself at St. Vincent, and arrangements were then made for him to work in the Pittsburgh diocese.

His first assignment from Bishop Richard Phelan was as assistant to Rev. Anthony Fischer, at St. Joseph's, Mt. Oliver. This being a German parish, Father Keller's native knowledge of the German language stood him in good stead. But of course it was also necessary for him to obtain





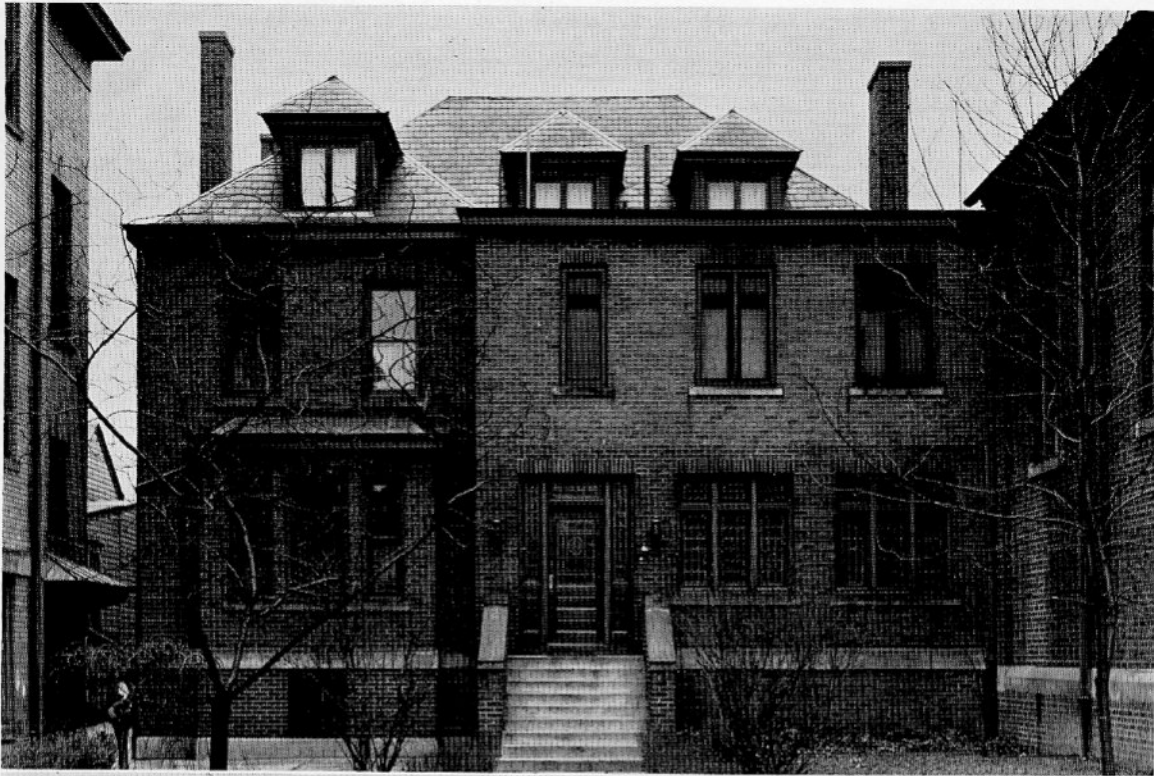
1. THE FIRST RECTORY (1902). THE FIRST CONVENT (1905).
2. THE NEW RECTORY (1905).
3. DEDICATION OF THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL (1903).

a knowledge of English, Thus, for the second time in his short life as a priest, Father Keller took up the study of another language, the better to administer to the souls in his care. It was in September, 1895, that Father Keller took up his duties in Mt. Oliver and there he remained for almost five years. In July, 1900, Bishop Phelan appointed Father Keller chaplain of St. Joseph's Orphanage on Troy Hill. This appointment lasted until April, 1902, when the young chaplain received word from Bishop Phelan that he was appointed pastor of a parish which he was to found in Etna.

There had never been a Catholic church in Etna thus far. The Catholic people of the town and surrounding territory all belonged to either the Sharpsburg or Pine Creek parishes. Father Keller immediately contacted the committee who had petitioned the Bishop for the establishment of the parish, and plans were laid for the foundation of All Saints' Church, Etna. That the young pastor foresaw some of the difficulties that were to arise in this undertaking, is evident from his choosing the title of All Saints for the new parish. In pleading with the Bishop for this title, he remarked rather jocosely, yet in all seriousness, that he would need the help of all the saints in this new undertaking. The Bishop consented, and the parish had a name but no church. As there was no suitable place available in Etna for saying Mass, the erection of a church was an immediate necessity. This brought the first difficulty. Some of the people wanted the church located in what is now known as lower Etna, others desired it to be built on the western end of town. The controversy was finally settled, and the present site in West Etna was chosen. During this time Father Keller still resided at the Orphanage on Troy Hill, and from there he continually visited the new parish, taking up a census of its members and soliciting funds for the building of the church. The results of the census showed 45 families who had promised approximately \$5,000.

An architect had been asked to draw up plans for the church, but both his first and second attempt called for funds far in excess of those available. Under these conditions, one of the members of the committee, who was also a contractor, undertook the building of the church without the aid of an architect. A frame structure costing \$3,500 was erected on property which had been bought on Wilson Street. The building when completed seated about 300 people. Father Keller offered the first solemn Mass in this church on the day it was dedicated, Sunday, August 3, 1902. The parish now had a church but that was all. In lieu of a



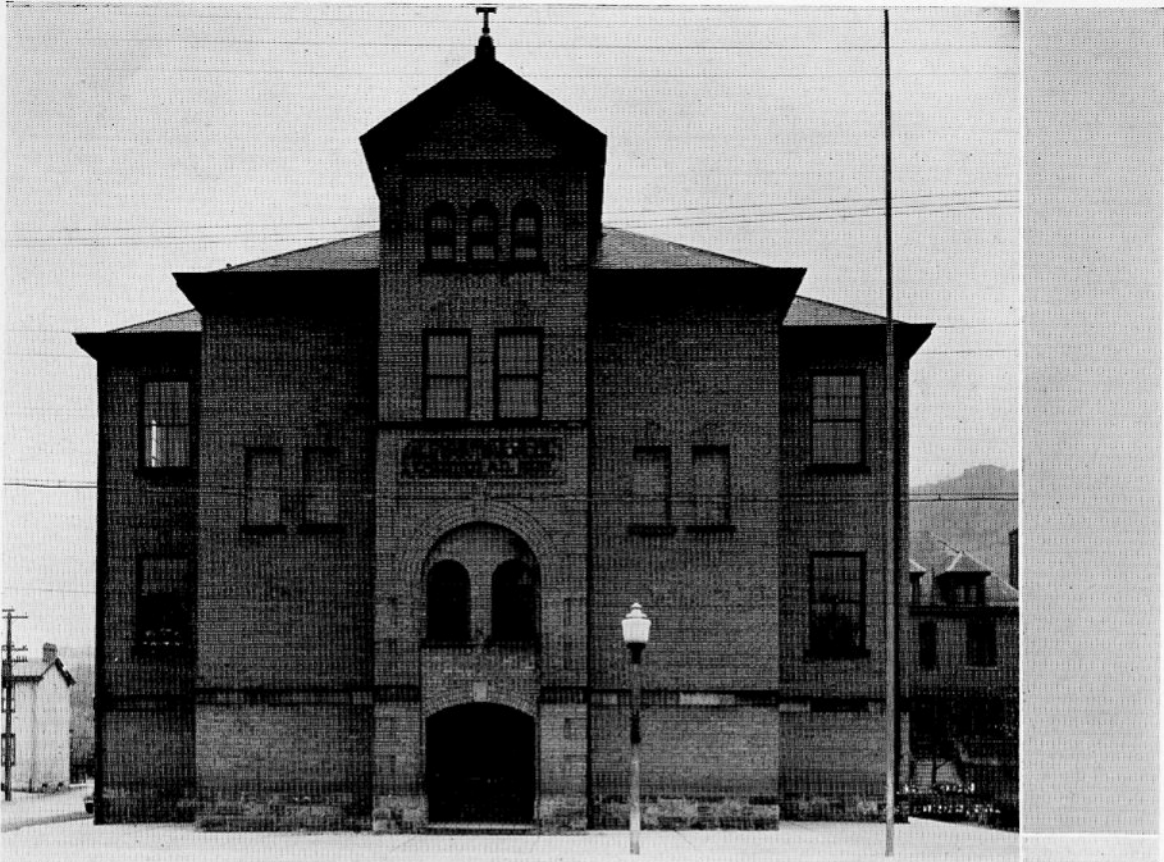


1. THE PRESENT RECTORY.  
2. THE NEW CONVENT.

parish house the young pastor boarded with one of the families of the parish. Both pastor and parishioners however were already looking forward to a fuller parish life. At the very time the church was dedicated plans were made to use the building for a temporary school also, and the opening of the fall school term in September found two Sisters of St. Francis teaching the elementary grades in the church. During the same month, just one month after the church was dedicated, ground was broken for a separate school, a substantial brick building of four large rooms, which was dedicated the following April. In the meantime a house directly opposite the church had been purchased to serve as a rectory, and Father Keller moved in toward the end of 1902. The Sisters of St. Francis continued teaching in the new school, and daily made the trip back and forth from their motherhouse in Millvale. This condition existed until 1905, when a new parish house was erected on the present site. The former rectory was then converted into a permanent residence for the nuns. In the meantime the size of the congregation grew rapidly. Within a year the original number of 45 families had doubled, and by the end of 1904 there were already 135 families belonging to the congregation. Attracted by the convenience of a Catholic church and school, families quickly settled in the valley in which the church was located, and what had been a very sparsely settled locality soon became quite thickly populated.

The quick and early material development of the parish however, left the congregation with quite a debt. Both pastor and parishioners, however, worked hard to liquidate it, and this was accomplished in a rather short time considering the size of the congregation. Father Keller had offered two Masses each Sunday from the very beginning of the parish, and when, because of rapid increase in the number of families, all could not be accommodated in the church, a balcony was built over half the length of the church. This arrangement relieved the congestion somewhat, but it was soon necessary to take other measures. Under these circumstances both pastor and people began considering the erection of a larger and permanent church structure. Efforts were redoubled to increase the parish finances to a sum which would at least enable them to get the project started, and in September, 1914, ground was broken for the new church. The cornerstone was laid November 8, and the church was formally dedicated the following year, December 19, 1915.





1. FRONT VIEW OF PRESENT SCHOOL.  
2. THE PARISH LYCEUM.

The congregation now had a beautiful and large church of which they could justly feel proud. Its erection, however, again left the congregation with a large debt. Furthermore, before this debt could be entirely liquidated it was necessary to consider an enlargement of the school. The old frame church which had been moved in order to make room for the present brick building, had in the meantime served as additional school space. But even this arrangement was now inadequate, and in 1922 the original school building was raised and four more class rooms and a parish hall were added, giving the congregation the substantial and practical school building that continues to serve to this day.

Two masses each Sunday even in the new church now became insufficient to accommodate the still growing congregation. A third mass was an absolute necessity and this was made possible with the appointment in 1922 of Rev. Peter Gottschall as the first assistant pastor of All Saints. For twenty years Father Keller had singlehanded borne the burden of administering to all the spiritual needs of the growing congregation, the while he so capably directed its rapid material expansion. In 1924 Rev. Michael Hinnebusch succeeded Father Gottschall as assistant pastor and served the congregation in this capacity until 1927. In the meantime another material need made itself felt in the congregation. The enlarged school together with its increased enrollment necessitated also more teachers. The Sisters of Divine Providence, who had taken over the direction of the school in 1909, were still residing in what had been the original parish house. This dwelling now became inadequate and, after it had been moved to an adjoining lot, the present beautiful convent building was erected. It was also about this time that the rectory was remodeled. The recurrence of high water and flood conditions made it advisable to raise the rectory which at the same time was also brick-veneered. In 1932 the interior of the church was painted and decorated. This greatly enhanced the beauty of the church and to this day remains a means of edification to the congregation. Early in 1938 the last of five adjoining lots, directly opposite the rear of the rectory on Dewey Street, was purchased to provide ground for the future erection of a new parish lyceum and auditorium. In February of the same year the Rev. Francis Hungerman was appointed assistant to Father Keller, and when, two years later, it became necessary to have five Masses each Sunday, the Rev. Francis Massung was appointed by the Bishop to serve in a similar capacity. The residence of three priests together with the increased



activity of the ever-growing congregation made advisable an enlargement of the parish rectory, and this most recent innovation on the church property was completed in September, 1940.

It will have been noted that a great portion of the life of Father Keller as here stated, is nothing more than a brief history of the material development and expansion of All Saints' Parish. That is as it should be. For the past forty-one years Father Keller's life has been devoted solely to the development of All Saints'. And while it is true that bricks and mortar, buildings and property, are no infallible indication of priestly zeal and endeavor, there could be nothing more logical than to find in the spiritual growth of a parish the real reason for its material development. This has most certainly been true with regard to All Saints'; and, of course, the spiritual life of a parish cannot but mirror and reflect the life of its pastor.

So today, the parish of All Saints', with its beautiful church and convent, its substantial school, its lyceum and rectory, and other properties, is truly indicative of the priestly life and work of the only one it has ever known as pastor. After forty-one years, All Saints' stands, a complete parish institution, an eloquent testimonial of the zeal and labor of Father Keller. When we consider that all this resulted within the span of a single pastorate, that it was Father Keller who came here as the parish's founder, nurtured it in its infancy of forty-five families, and guided and directed it during those intervening forty-one years, we can at least partially imagine what zeal and effort must have been expended by him. To realize it fully were impossible even for those few of the original congregation who still remain. God alone knows what personal sacrifice Father Keller has made in the interest of All Saints' Parish. And God alone can justly reward him for it.

The more than eight hundred families who today constitute All Saints' congregation realize that it would be impossible for them to repay Father Keller for all that he has done and made possible for their spiritual welfare. They are, however, deeply grateful, and on this occasion of his Golden Jubilee join with Father Keller in thanking God for the fifty years He has given him in the priesthood. They are especially grateful for the forty-one years he has been pastor of All Saints'.

*Ad Multos Annos!*

## The Beautiful Hands of a Priest

We need them in life's early morning,  
We need them again at its close,  
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,  
We seek them when tasting life's woes.

When we come to this world we are sinful,  
The greatest as well as the least,  
And the hand that makes us pure as angels  
Is the beautiful hand of a priest!

At the altar each day we behold them,  
And the hands of a king on this throne  
Are not equal to them in their greatness,  
Their dignity stands all alone.

For there in the stillness of morning  
Ere the sun has emerged from the East,  
There God rests between the pure fingers  
Of the beautiful hands of a priest!

And when we are tempted and wander  
To pathways of shame and of sin,  
'Tis the hand of a priest will absolve us,  
Not once but again and again.

And when we are taking life's partner  
Other hands may prepare us a feast,  
But the hand that will bless and unite us  
Is the beautiful hand of a priest!

God bless them and keep them all holy  
For the Host Which their fingers caress,  
What can a poor sinner do better  
Than to ask Him Who chose them to bless?

When the death dews on our eyelids are falling  
May our courage and strength be increased  
By seeing raised o'er us in blessing  
The beautiful hand of a priest!



PARISH PROGRAM  
COMMEMORATING  
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE  
OF  
THE ORDINATION  
TO  
THE PRIESTHOOD  
OF  
THE REV. ADOLPH KELLER



ETNA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

*Sunday, May 30, 1943*

# Program



NATIONAL ANTHEM .....	Ensemble
INTRODUCTION .....	Rev. Francis Hungerman
FORTUNA OVERTURE.....	J. S. Zamecnik Orchestra
WELCOME ADDRESS.....	{ John Perka Teresa Shaginaw
JUBILEE BELLS .....	Gerald Lutz
WHERE DO THE DAISIES GROW? Children of the Primary Grades	
THE VIRGINIA REEL.....	American Folk Dance Farmers and Farmerettes
ANCHORS AWEIGH (dance) .....	Frances Cain
WOODEN SHOES.....	Dutch Folk Dance Fourth Grade Boys and Girls
EAST IS WEST Fifth and Sixth Grade Girls	
THE HEAVENLY COUNCIL .....	Playlet Dramatized by the Seventh Grade
KAMARINSKAIA .....	Russian Folk Dance Sixth Grade Boys and Girls
THE TRUMPET CALL.....	Orchestra
SONG OF THE UNITED NATIONS Children of the Dance Groups	
THE FISHERMEN Eighth Grade Boys and Girls	
PRESENTATION OF SHIP.....	{ John Lo Cascio Richard McIntyre
JURAVIT DOMINUS: TU ES SACERDOS.....	Sodality Chorus
ADDRESS .....	Rev. Joseph Doerr
HYMN .....	Sodality Chorus



## *The Beautiful Hands of a Priest*

- I. TABLEAU ..... *Baptism*  
II. TABLEAU ..... *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*  
III. TABLEAU ..... *Penance*  
IV. TABLEAU ..... *Matrimony*  
V. TABLEAU ..... *Extreme Unction*  
VI. TABLEAU ..... *"Mother, at Your Feet is Kneeling"*

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- PRIEST ..... Rev. Joseph Fabbri  
PIANIST ..... Miss Loretta Zinsmeister  
VIOLINIST ..... Mr. Adam Wisniewski

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MEMBERS OF THE SODALITY CHORUS  
under the direction of Miss Loretta Zinsmeister

Teresa Lo Cascio	Lois Sichler
Margaret Kerr	Virginia Kerr
Dorothy Scheid	Catherine Kerr
Colleta Vogel	Margaret Wirth
Irene Barsh	Dorothy Schmidt
Eleanor Kennedy	Anna Krall

- 
- PRESENTATION ..... George Lutz  
JUBILARIAN ..... Reverend Adolph Keller  
TE DEUM ..... Ensemble



### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last  
gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through  
the perilous night  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly  
streaming,  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting  
in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was  
still there.  
Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the  
brave!

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### HOLY GOD

Holy God, we praise Thy name!  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,  
All in heav'n above adore Thee;  
|| Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign. ||

Hark! the loud celestial hymn,  
Angel choirs above are singing!  
Cherubim and Seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising;  
|| Fill the Heavens with sweet accord;  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! ||