

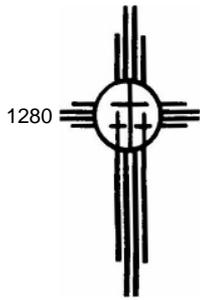
Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Parish Center and Finley Hall

Formal Dedication

Sunday, September 26, 1993

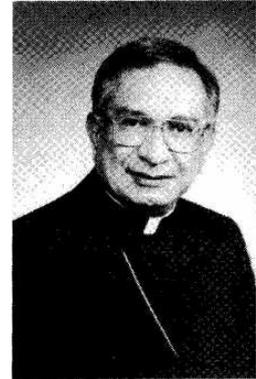


DIOCESE of Las CRUCES

MED PARK DRIVE
MEXICO 88005

LAS CRUCES, NEW
(505) 523-7577

September, 1993



Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral:

On this happy occasion of the dedication of the new Finley Hall and parish offices, I wish to congratulate all who have made this dream possible. The Cathedral parish is very special to me, not only because it is my official parish, but also because I have gotten to know so many of you and have shared your sorrows and joys. If there is a parish in the diocese where I personally experience family, it is at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral.

I wish to thank everyone who sacrificed so much to make possible these new and beautiful facilities. My special thanks go to the Rector, Rev. Thomas Beggane, and Mr. James Lehman, Deacon, who have provided the leadership in this ambitious project. I congratulate the architect, Mr. Lou Castillo, for the outstanding design and to the Banes Construction Company for their participation in this project.

This new portion of our parish plant has been designed to serve the people. What will happen here will be an extension of what we say and do in our worship space. It is here that love and service will be specifically lived out.

May God bless all our parishioners, their families, and the parish staff, as you begin the use of this building, this gift from our loving God.

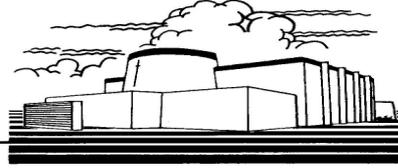
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B.

Bishop of Las Cruces

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHEDRAL

"Proclaim the Good News; Jesus Christ is Lord"



September 26, 1993

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

"This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad!" These words of the psalmist echo the sentiments of joy and happiness we all feel on this very special day in the history of our parish. Today we gather along with our shepherd, Bishop Ramirez, to dedicate our New Parish Center. The dream of a new Finley Hall for all the people of Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral is now a reality.

Our new facility will enable us to gather as a community of faith in the name of the Lord. It will be a center of our many activities, a place where we can gather and come to know one another and give witness to our faith in Christ, a place where all of us will be challenged to deepen our commitment to live as Christ has taught us.

The journey our parish has taken to arrive at this point has been a long and sometimes arduous one, but one well worth the effort. There are so many people to thank for bringing this endeavor to fruition. First and foremost we give thanks to the Lord for gracing us with the Spirit of generosity. To all of the past pastors, priests, religious and lay leaders who have labored in the vineyard of the lord here at our parish, to those who dared to dream the dream, to those who gave so abundantly of their time and treasures to this project, I offer to you my sincerest gratitude. I want to thank Bishop Ramirez for supporting me and the staff of the cathedral throughout this building project. A special word of gratitude is extended to Deacon Jim Lehman for his perseverance and dedication throughout this process. The actual time of construction. I am also indebted to our architect, Mr. Lou Castillo for his professional and artistic expertise. I also want to thank the staff of Banes construction Company, our contractors for their superb job, especially Mr. Chuck Smith, on site supervisor and Mr. Jesse Duran, Project Manager.

Let us pray God's continue blessings upon our parish family as we embark on a new chapter in our history.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas P. Beggane, Rector

Dedication of the IHM Finley Hall and Parish Center

"This building has been the dream of our parish community for many years. It is to serve as a place to build community, as a gathering place, as a place to pray, and a place to play."

The Vision;" Kathleen Leser

When Father David Kirgan of St. Genevieve's parish move to build a mission chapel in what was then a remote section of Las Cruces, only the most faithful of that time in 1947 could have had a vision of what was to come.

Our older members recall "the isolation of the little chapel-of-ease that Father David J. Kirgan built between 1947 and 1948, on what was then the dusty and unfrequented corner of Idaho and Espina, where flash flood still rushed perilously close when the infrequent rains came. Few of the town's Catholics had ever actually seen the chapel; and those who had, it was a glimpse from a distance as they ventured down Solano, that stretch of bad, unsettled road from Lohman to the College. In those days, few of the chapel's 250 seats were ever filled all at one time." (*Immaculate Heart of Mary-1947-1966*; by Dr. Marion Hardman, Professor of English, New Mexico State University)

When today's contemporary Southwestern-design worship center came into use in 1966, the original chapel became the Parish Center.

Our dedication of this new Finley Hall and Parish Center is the acknowledgement of the vision first spoken by its namesake, Msgr. Everett Finley, who led the organization for planning and funding the present Immaculate Heart of Mary physical plant beginning in 1965.

From its small beginnings in 1947, the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish has grown with Las Cruces, to a present enrollment of over 3000 families-an institution touching the lives of as many or more people in this Southern New Mexico community as any other, secular or spiritual. The commitment of today's Parish is demonstrated in the list of hundreds of families and individuals who, following the leadership of our Rector, Father Thomas Beggane, have made sacrificial gifts for the construction, for the artistic sculpture of the Blessed Virgin, and for the beautiful landscaping.

The new Finley Hall and Parish Center completes the installation of a physical plant which occupies the square block bounded by Espina, Idaho, and California streets. The Immaculate Heart church building was completed in 1966. Its beautiful sanctuary seats 800. The Immaculate Heart school was completed in 1957, and offers a Catholic education for 160 students from kindergarten through 8th grade. Containing a spacious 16,000 square feet, the Finley Hall and Parish Center houses space for the Parish's administrative offices, meeting rooms and offices for the great variety of pastoral services and activities for all ages. The youth program will operate in the Papen Family Memorial Youth Room, with a variety of activities including recreation, education, social and fellowship events. The library and meeting room is a special memorial gift from an anonymous donor, honoring the sisters of the Most Precious Blood who were the founding teachers of the Immaculate Heart School. Facilities include a large multi-purpose hall, where students from Immaculate Heart School will be served meals during school season, and where space is available for social, fellowship, and other events for our Parishioners of all ages. The Parish continues to also own the building property diagonally across Espina street which has housed the youth program. At some time in the future, this may be used for a Parish rectory facility.

Those of our fellowship whose witness goes back even to that time in 1947 when this church community's first small steps were taken, join with those of us who share now in the life of IHM as a strong center for personal and family life for thousands of families and individuals, to give thanks to God and to the strong spirit of those whose labors have brought us this far in our journey of faith. As a major goal now achieved, the completion of this Finley Hall and Parish Center is only the beginning for a new and exciting chapter in our continuing service to God and His community of faith in this wonderful city

History of the immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

The seat which grew into today's Cathedral and the Diocese of Las Cruces was planted in 1947, when Fr. David Kirgan, Pastor of St. Genevieve's Parish, built a 250 seat chapel at the corner of Idaho and Espina and dedicated it to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The chapel became a church and parish in 1953 with Fr. William Ryan as Pastor. In 1957, a school was completed and staffed by the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Soon the rectory was built to house the priests' residence and a parish office. Fr. Everett Finley became the Pastor in 1960. He initiated a building fund campaign in 1965 to support the building of a new parish church. Fr. Thomas O'Mahoney then became Pastor and completed the building of the new church. The original chapel became the parish hall.

Fr. Finley return to the parish as Pastor and was elevated to Monsignor. His health began to fail and he move to El Paso in 1975. His Associate Pastor, Fr. John Anderson, had assumed many of the pastoral duties by that time.

Fr. Bob Getz then became Pastor and the Parish Council became a viable decision making body and promoted a parishwide stewardship campaign which was very successful.

Fr. Ed Sullivan became Pastor in 1977, as Las Cruces began its growth toward today's modern city. To accommodate the many new parish activities and a growing staff, the rectory was converted as an office, and the priests moved to other living quarters. In 1980, Fr. Sullivan was transferred to El Paso. Fr. John Tickle became Pastor and later Rector, when the church was designated a Cathedral of the Diocese of Las Cruces in 1982.

Fr. Bob Getz returned to IHM in 1984 and he was succeeded by Fr. Tom Beggane in 1990. Plans for the new parish center were formulated and the building fund campaign to finance the project was held in the summer of 1991.

Under the guidance of Fr. Tom Beggane, the new parish center is now finished and today's dedication as a most joyful event for the whole IHM community. Within the parish center, we have dedicated the large gathering area to Monsignor Finley, with whom this dream started.

IHM Pastors / Rectors

Fr. Bill Ryan

Fr. Ed Sullivan

Fr. Everett Finley

Fr. John Tickle

Fr. Joseph Flanagan

Fr. Bob Getz

Fr. Thomas O'Mahoney

Fr. Tom Beggane