Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Zamorski, Rector
Rev. John Werner, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David J. Wejnerowski, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Timothy A. Christy, In Residence

Deacon J.P. Saggese
Deacon Rick Fortune
Deacon Emeritus Frank J. Cammarano
Deacon Emeritus Paul G. Licameli
Deacon Emeritus Guido J. Brossoni
Deacon Emeritus Ed Olegario, M.D.

RECTORY 32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840
Office Hours Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Phone 732-548-0100
Emergency Phone 732-710-1416
Website www.StFrancisCathedral.org
Live Stream http://cvp.telvue.com/player?id=T05325

SCHOOL 528 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Ann Major, Principal (732-548– 3107)
www.StFrancisCathedralSchool.org

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday Vigil 5:00 and 7:00 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am; 12:00 noon

HOLY DAY MASSES
Vigil 5:00 pm
Feast Day 7:00, 8:00 am; 12:10, 7:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday-Friday 7:00, 8:00 am;
12:10 pm (Rosary 11:45 am)
Thursday 7:30 pm Communion Serv. monthly
Saturday 8:00 am

MORNING PRAYER Monday-Friday 7:40 am

EUCARISTIC ADORATION 7:00am—11:00pm
(Monday—Friday) Lady Chapel - Parish Center

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Penance)
Saturdays 1:00-2:00 pm and 6:00-6:30 pm
or by appointment.
NEW PARISHIONERS are welcome to register by completing a form available in our Parish Office as soon as possible after moving to the area.

EUCARIST FOR SICK/HOMEBOUND: Phone Rectory (548-0100) and arrangements will be made.

BAPTISM: 1:30pm by appointment only (most Sundays)
Baptismal Seminar: Pre-registration is required. Attendance during pregnancy is preferable. 7:45 pm, Rectory Meeting Room.

MARRIAGE: Registered parishioner(s) preparing for marriage should contact the rectory one year in advance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES: Mon, Thurs: 4:00 - 5:05pm.; Tuesday evening: (8th grade) 6:30-7:35 pm.

MARIAN NOVENA/ROSARY: Saturdays after 8:00 am Mass.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Those wishing to learn more about/be received into the Catholic Faith - please phone 548-0100. (Sara Sharlow).

SPONSORSHIP: Active practice of the faith, together with registration, is needed for sponsorship certificates and, possibly, the administration of some sacraments.
Masses For The Week...

SUNDAY, July 1 - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am  - Jim DeMary r/o Brian & Mary Ellen DeMary
9:00am  - Dolores Schneller r/o Social Concerns
10:30am - Lenny Klein r/o Jane & Art Paltz
Noon   - Sara Crowe r/o Michele Natishyn

MONDAY, July 2
7:00am  - Vincenzo Russo r/o Maria Augustino Pugliese
8:00am  - Ernest Dragos r/o Urso, Long, Natkie & Bridgeman Families
12:10pm - John Mahon r/o Mahon Family

TUESDAY, July 3 - Saint Thomas
7:00am  - Karen McIver r/o Stephen & Debra Guralchuk
8:00am  - Leon Ferrari r/o Bernie & Mireya Yaros
12:10pm - Thomas A. Dunn, Sr. r/o Calantoni Family

WEDNESDAY, July 4 - Civil Independence Day
9:00am  - Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners

THURSDAY, July 5 - Saint Elizabeth of Portugal & Saint Anthony Zaccaria
7:00am  - Eugenio Regis, Jr. r/o Family
8:00am  - Giuliana Velona r/o Family
12:10pm - Angelo Colasuonno r/o Family

FRIDAY, July 6 - First Friday - Saint Maria Goretti
7:00am  - Maria Miro r/o Joseph Soriano
8:00am  - Victor Lopez r/o Suzanne Kover
12:10pm - Henry Cackowski r/o Wife Mary Ann

SATURDAY, July 7
8:00am  - Steve Walsh r/o Family
5:00pm  - Maria Rosa Lumauig r/o Joel & Berris Lumauig
7:00pm  - Henry Cackowski r/o Sam & Elaine Convery

SUNDAY, July 8 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am  - Paul DuBois r/o Nora Kenny-Eidson
9:00am  - Ting Kiang Koh r/o Barbara & Steven Reilly
10:30am - Michael J. Rapach r/o Maureen Rapach
Noon   - John A. Wolt r/o Lignell Family

The Sanctuary Candles for this week have been donated
in loving memory of
Michael & Mary Rapach
by Maureen Rapach
(in the Cathedral)

in loving memory of
Carol Gronroos
by Bernadette & Bill Kaiser
(in The Lady Chapel)
SERVING OVERSEAS: for all those serving in Covert Operations

SICK: Joseph Wejnerowski, Janice Grigo, David Brennan, Michael Schramm, Mary Ann Christensen, John Sorber, Margaret Smith, Ralph Quaglia, James Gazzale, Dee Rodemier, Jane Parker, Daniel Campbell, Donna Serdnikki, Kaye Young, K.J. Phillips, Niece of Andrea & Tom Hansen, Diana Yashinski, Becky Lapoint, Mary Thompson, Nicole Miller, Joseph Sudnick, Sr., Ellie Markano, Dee Burner, Eileen Nielsen, John Gazis, Rose Pollifrone, Mark Annichiarico, Michael McCauley, Arthur Hamilton, Rudy Maldonado, Nathan Minucci, Jeanine Kachersky, Mary Kelton, David Klem, Kathy Werner, Joyce Martin, Margaret Swarbrick, Kathy Byram, Baby Genevieve Bonk, Nadia Ruiz, Mary Anne Hale, Peter Barnes, Sr., Kathleen Carroll, Patricia Mulkerin, Kathleen Cremona, April Quinn, grandson of Sue & Bill Martin,

DECEASED: Therese Morgan, John Mac Arthur, Mary Lecky, Eileen Schreck, John DeAmorin, Rosalei Vinez

...and all those recommended in the Book of Intentions

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

Tithing
Thank you for your generosity the weekend of 6/24:
- Envelopes & Loose Cash $19,011
- Electronic Offerings $ 8,437
Total $27,448

e-Giving: Please consider using our parish e-Giving program.
Sign up at: http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/ FaithDirect

Religious Education Registration
Registration for 2018 - 2019 school year is currently open. Please make sure to re-register your child(ren) as soon as possible, especially if you need a certain program model. Registration forms were sent home with the students and can also be found online at the Parish website (www.stfranciscathedral.org). Click on the Religious Ed tab. If you have any questions, please call the Office at 732-548-0100 x226 or email us at ReligiousEd@stfranciscathedral.org.

Opportunities For Memorials
Did you know that in addition to Mass intentions for your loved ones you may remember them through the following memorial opportunities:

The Cathedral Pipe Organ Restoration Fund:
Memorials in the name of loved ones may be made to support the restoration of the Cathedral pipe organ. Memorial pipes of various sizes are available for $100, $300, $500, or $1,000. Major gift opportunities also are available. Please inquire at the Rectory Office at 732-548-0100 x210.

Altar Flowers: Available weekly in the Cathedral at the High Altar for memorials, weddings and other occasions. Please contact Rectory Office for details.

Sanctuary Candles: Available weekly in the Cathedral and The Lady Chapel. Donation: $20. Please enclose in an envelope with information and place in collection basket or mail or bring to the Rectory.

Msgr. Behl St. Francis School Endowment and The St. Francis Scholarship Fund: Memorial gifts may be made to either of these funds which are used to enhance the academic excellence of the parish school and offer tuition assistance. Please inquire at the parish or school office for further information.

Nails in the Wall Gallery at St. Luke’s, Metuchen invites artists 18 + years to submit up to 3 pieces by July 15 on the topic: Animals. Artists are asked to share images that allow us to catch a glimpse into the soul of the animal. All media are welcome. Questions? Contact Exhibits@StLukesMetuchen.org.

Advance Directive for Health Care
The Catholic Perspective
Documents which provide guidance when a person is no longer able to make health care decisions are called “advance directives.” It is recommended that those completing an advance directive also appoint a health care representative who is someone who is trusted and authorized to evaluate what the patient would want and to make those health care decisions. The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides clear guidance on end of life issues. The N J Catholic Conference (NJCC)of Bishops has Advance Directives for Health Care form which reflects the Catholic perspective. Copies are available from the Respect Life Office at 732-562-1990 x1629/15435 or be downloaded from diocesan website at www.diometuchen.org/deptministries/respect-for-life/catholic-advance-directives-living-wills/or NJCC website: www.njccatholic.org. Forms are also available in Spanish. A Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions provides a clear explanation of Church’s teaching on end-of-life care, including advance directives and physician assisted suicide. Go to www.njchcenter.org for copies.
Parish Notes...

**Rectory Summer Hours**
Throughout the summer, the Rectory Office will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00am - 5:00pm; on Fridays from 9:00am - noon.

—TUESDAY: Our weekly Prayer Group meets at 1:00pm in Joseph Room.

—WEDNESDAY: Independence Day holiday; the Rectory Office will be closed and one Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 9:00am; the Summer Camp program will not be in session.

—THURSDAY: Body of Christ Prayer Group meets at 8:00pm in the Cathedral Community Room.

—FRIDAY: Members of the Legion of Mary gather at 11:00am in the JP II Room; our Widows & Widowers Group meets at 7:00pm in the Solarium.

—NEXT SUNDAY: Participate in Summer Choir at 10:30am Mass; The Filipino-American Community will gather in the Solarium at 1:00pm.

—Advance Notice: Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday, July 9. It runs from 9:00am - noon, and the children should gather in the Community Room; they will be dismissed from the CCR at noon. This year’s VBS adventure is GAME ON! As kids grab their megaphones, lace up their cleats, and tune up their instruments, the players, cheerleaders, and band members will realize God has given them His ultimate playbook. He wants them to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation and encourage one another.

Teen Travel Camp Week 1 starts on next Monday, July 9 with attendance at 8:00am Mass.

—Sincere thanks to those Givers who so faithfully contribute to the “Poor Box.” Their gifts really help needy people in our area.

Summer Choir will sing on Sundays, July 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 10:30 Mass, with a meet time of 10:15am. It is informal and open to anyone of any age. Leaders from the year-round music ministry are present to encourage and support new singers. If you are interested, come to the choir loft at 10:15 on any of these Sundays.

This weekend the Altar Flowers have been donated in loving memory of John & Emily Coakley on the occasion of the marriage of their granddaughter Kerry Smyth to Sean Diehl

A Thank You from Msgr. Joseph G. Celano
It was just a year ago I left St. Bernard in Bridgewater, where I had been pastor for the past 18 years, to become the Vicar for Administration at Bishop Checchio’s invitation. The past year has been a time of new beginnings, of transitions and new adjustments as I settled into a new position, a new rectory, and as I completed a Masters program in Ecclesial Administration and Management from the Catholic University of America. However, there is one more transition Bishop Checchio has asked me to undertake. I will be leaving the cathedral parish to become the new pastor of St. Peter the Apostle University Parish in New Brunswick while continuing in diocesan administration. In many ways, this new assignment is a full-circle moment for me. I am returning to the parish where I served as chaplain to Rutgers University nearly 25 years ago.

Although I have only come to know a few of you over this past year, I am very grateful for the way in which you welcomed me to the parish and made me feel at home here. I am especially grateful to Msgr. Zamorski for his hospitality, kindness, and support this past year. You are blessed to have him as a pastor and rector. I am also grateful to the other members of the parish clergy, religious, and staff who also made me feel at home among you. They are very dedicated men and women who are truly animated in their service by the love of the Lord and of you.

Thank you for your goodness to me. Please keep me in prayer in the days to come, and know you are always welcome to visit St. Peter the Apostle University Church in New Brunswick.

—Msgr. Joe Celano

Please Note: Parishioners and visitors are asked not to put literature in the pamphlet racks. All reading material must be brought to the Rectory and approved by Monsignor Bob before being distributed in the Cathedral pamphlet racks. Thank you for your cooperation.
Baptisms
The following children were recently welcomed into our Church/Parish Family through the sacrament of Baptism:

Michelle Maria Antonini
Matthew Edward Corley, Jr.
Gianna A. Darnell - Eric Gregorius Dionisio
Zachary Dean Crawford - Connor James Kehoe
Bodhi Ryan E. Manatch - Alessandro Renda
Pablo Perez Rodriguez - Ricardo Alexandre Santos, Jr.
Madeline Amelia Scheller - Meadow Margaret Stoecker
Joseph Synosky IV - Alliana Brooklyn A. Tabernilla
Owen Baltazar Agulo Unson - Gary Carter Yetsko

Novena To Saint Ann
The Annual Novena to Saint Ann will once again be hosted by Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish. These days of prayer and praise will begin on Tuesday, July 17. Daily Mass, novena prayers and veneration of the relic will take place at Holy Trinity Church, 315 Lawrie Street, Perth Amboy on weeknights at 7:00pm. On Saturday, July 21, Mass will be celebrated at 4:00pm. On Sunday, July 22, Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am. On Thursday, July 26 at 7:00pm, bilingual Mass will be celebrated in honor of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim and the Closing of the 2017 novena will take place. Call Sharon at 732-442-0512.

Widows & Widowers Social Group
Our group is comprised of widows and widowers who gather for enjoyment and participate in a variety of social activities. If you enjoy laughing, making new friends and being busy on weekends, then our friendly group is definitely for you. Meetings are usually scheduled on the first Friday of the month in a Cathedral meeting room. Our group continues to meet throughout the summer, and our next meeting is on Friday, July 6 at 7:00pm in the Solarium. If you are interested, please email naunijud@hotmail.com and include your phone number. We will return your email or phone you.

A Special Gift: Why not take the opportunity this summer to enrich your marriage? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next WWM EW will be July 20 - 22. Call 1-732-904-9636/ www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

Bearing Hope
Bearing Hope is a peer-led support group for women who have experienced infertility or pregnancy loss through miscarriage or still birth. The group, which is sponsored by St. Gregory the Great Elizabeth Ministry, Hamilton, Square, meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is on July 3 from 7:30 - 8:30pm in the Bachmann Room of the Parish Center. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE - October 21, 2018-4pm
Gold& Silver Wedding Anniversary
Prayer Service with Bishop Checchio
details to follow in a later bulletin

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Luncheon
Come join us at 12:10pm Mass on Monday, July 16 for the annual commemoration of the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Following Mass we will go to Charlie Brown’s Restaurant (Plainfield Avenue, Edison) for those who wish to attend. Come and enjoy a lovely luncheon as you celebrate this beautiful feast day of Our Lady and honor her. Deacon Guido will join us and give a blessing and reflection. If you are interested in attending, phone Carmela Guarnera:732-549-7587.

Steubenville Retreat
A weekend getaway for high school teens (8 - 12 grade), highly recommended, inspirational, grace-filled gathering of 5,000 youth from all over U.S. Ours will be held at St. John’s University (8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens NY 11439) on July 20 - 22, 2018. Cost for the weekend is $400. Cost includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, coach bus, tips, conferences. Leave CYO parking lot at noon on Friday, 7/20 and return 2:30pm on Sunday, 7/22. Parents, please encourage your child to join us to build his or her relationship with Jesus! Steubenville helps to ensure that all teens have an encounter with the God who loves them through Gospel message, prayer and fellowship. Provide email/phone # to Sister Maria Lan for permission slip. View website https://steubenvilleconferences.com/youth.

HELP!!!
Scripture is filled with stories of desperate people who turn to Jesus for help. In all of the stories, Jesus turns to those who seek Him with tenderness and care. He answers people's spoken and unspoken needs. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about Jesus who responds to all of us tenderly, or about being a follower of Jesus in the tradition of the Catholic Church, come to RCIA Inquiry Session. Inquiry sessions DO NOT assume a commitment to join the Catholic Faith family. Inquiry sessions are opportunities to ask questions about God, Jesus, the Catholic Faith. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another faith denomination, or baptized Catholic but have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, are invited. Inquiry sessions are for those who wish to inquire, explore, and search for ways to grow in relationship with God. Call 732-562-1990 x 1633.
You changed my mourning into dancing;  
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.  
-- Psalm 30:13

JESUS' EXAMPLE OF HELPING OTHERS

In today's second reading Paul offers a wonderful argument to his converts at Corinth for seeking to help those in need. He is dealing with a practical problem, arranging a collection for the poor of the church of Jerusalem; but as he often does, he develops an important teaching about Jesus to make his point.

After asking that they show their faith by generous gifts, he reminds them of the "gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). In the Incarnation our Lord assumed our human nature, certainly becoming poor for one who is God. The ultimate gracious act of this poverty was going to the cross with all its terrible sufferings. By this act of poverty we definitely become rich. Now our sins can be forgiven; we can share in the very life of God through the sacraments; we can attain eternal salvation!

O LORD, BE MY HELP

Today we encounter readings that draw us into the mystery of suffering and death. In the past few years we have witnessed the devastation of life and property through hurricanes and killer storms. So many lifted their lament to God, simply asking, "Why?" This is an honest expression of anger toward a God who we believe is the giver of life. When we lose a loved one, we can wonder why the presence of Christ is not enough to make that person rise, even from death, as did the little girl in today's Gospel passage. Again we raise our voices and ask, "Why?" At moments such as these, let us make the prayer of the psalmist our own: "Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; O Lord, be my helper." Let us pray that our mourning will one day be turned into dancing.
JusticeWorX
JusticeWorX is a weeklong service immersion retreat offered by the Center for FaithJustice, designed to help high school age students explore connections between their faith, the Gospel call to service and justice, and their everyday lives. Our Trenton program is a great choice for a first time or fourth time service immersion experience! Participants must have completed 9th - 12th grade in the 2017 - 2018 school year. Our Trenton program offers both a city and suburban experience for participants. Service sites are within walking distance or a short NJ Transit bus ride from the lodging site. Lodging will be at the former convent at St. James Parish in Trenton. The cost is $580 per person and covers all expenses. Call Sr. Maria Lan: 732-770-2506.

WHEN: Sunday, August 5 - Saturday, August 11, 2018
WHERE: Trenton, NJ
TIME: Leave CYO 5:00pm on Sunday, August 5.
COST: $580 until June 2; after June 2, $600.

Typical Schedule: After an early breakfast and Morning Prayer, depart for Service Site at 9:00am. Have lunch at noon and continue to work until 3:00pm, when you return to Host Site for showers and recreation. Dinner at 5:30pm and evening activities tying faith to action and social justice. Free time starts at 9:45pm and 10:30pm is Evening Prayer. 11:00pm is Bed Time.

Mother Seton Regional HS
Clark, New Jersey
732-382-1952; www.motherseton.org

Seton Summer Academy
July 23 - 27, 2018 for Girls Grades 5 - 8
Various Courses
8:45am - 3:15pm
$275 half-day; $400 full-day
To Register: log on to website or phone

BGA Boys Basketball Camp
Bishop George Ahr High School (One Tingley Lane, Edison) offers this sports camps during the summer at its own campus.

Date Mon., July 16 - Fri., July 20
Time 9:00am - 2:00pm
Cost $150, payable to BGAHS
Place BGA High School
For additional information, call 732-549-1108 or email Mwolfthal@bgahs.org.

Youth Group Teen Travel Camp
Youth Group Teen Travel Camp 2018 for 6 - 8 graders. All days begin with 8:00am Mass in Cathedral in modest attire. Deposit of $50 due right now to reserve a space/B’way Tickets. Return Form Now - $25 late fee non-returnable. Included is transportation, lunch, drink, snacks. Bring extra $$, sun block and hat.

WEEK 1 - July 9 - July 13. Fee: $400/week or $85/day or $325/week or $80/day with Season Passes. Return form and non-refundable $50 deposit and $25 late fee. Monday - Six Flags; Tuesday - Plant vegetables/Movie; Wed’day - Jesus Show in Lancaster; Thursday - Veterans Nursing Home/ cook Vietnamese egg rolls; Friday - Foodbank/Monster Mini Golf.

WEEK 2 - July 16 - July 19 - 4 days. Fee: $320/week or $85/day or $300/week or $80/day with Season Passes. Return form and non-refundable $50 deposit and $25 late fee. Monday - Hurricane Harbor; Tuesday - St. Vincent de Paul/Bowling; Wednesday - B’way Show in NYC Aladdin; Thurs.- Vets Nursing Home/cook Vietnamese egg rolls

WEEK 3 - July 23 - July 27. Fee: $400/week or $85/day or $325/week or $80/day with Season Passes. Return form and non-refundable $50 deposit and $25 late fee. Monday - Foodbank/I Play American; Tuesday - Trip to Metropolitan Museum, NYC; Wednesday - SVDP/Movie; Thurs-- Hurricane Harbor; Friday - Elijah Promise/Duke Farm Biking.

WEEK 4 - July 30 - August 3 Fee: $400/week or $85/day or $325/week or $80/day with season passes. Return form and non-refundable $50 deposit and $25 late fee. Monday - Hurricane Harbor; Tuesday - Foodbank/JMonster Mini Golf; Wednesday - B’way Show in NYC, Wicked; Thursday - Veteran’s Nursing Home/Movie; Friday - Six Flags.

Call Sister Maria Lan: 732-770-2506 or 732-548-0100 x306. Please provide your email address and phone number. Thanks.

RCIA Training
A series of training sessions has been taking place at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Piscataway on consecutive Wednesdays this summer from 7:30 - 9:30pm. Registration will be accepted online at http://diometuchen.org/offices-and-ministries/evangelization-and-communication/rcia-events. Contact Sara Sharlow: ssharlow@diometuchen.org or 732-243-4577

DATE TOPIC
July 11 Purification & Enlightenment
July 18 Triduum & Mystagogy

SMARTER START
The Diocese of Metuchen has schools near you! From Pre-K to 8th Grade, we offer a Smarter Start in school and in life. Call 732-562-2446/metuchencatholicsschools.org/schools/
Social Concerns

45 Library Place - Metuchen 08840 - Parish Center
548-0100 x225

–We thank the Metuchen Elks for their very generous donation of food to our St. Francis Food Pantry. Parishioners Tom & Maryann Slater assisted with the drive and we are grateful to them for their efforts in donating their time and talent.

–Help Support Catholic Charities: Please support our local poverty relief services by donating gently used clothing, bedding, shoes, small household items. A Drop Box is located in our CYO parking lot and at Edison Family Service Center, 26 Safran Avenue, Edison. Contact 1-877-343-3651.


Did You Know...?

As Independence Day draws near, we think of the men and women of the military who serve with courage and competence, some very far away from home. How does the Church accompany them? In 1939, Pope Pius XII created an independent jurisdiction of the Catholic Church called the "Military Vicariate." In 1985 Pope John Paul II created the "Archdiocese for Military Services, USA." Spanning the globe and serving nearly 1.5 million Roman Catholics, more than one thousand priests minister in hospitals, on military bases of all the armed forces, on ships at sea, and on the battlefield.

In 1824 a Jesuit priest named Adam Marshall enlisted in the Navy and died at sea in 1825. He was assigned as a "schoolmaster," but he sought out and ministered to Catholic sailors. Twenty years later, President Polk was worried that the war with Mexico was seen as anti-Catholic, so he recruited two Jesuit priests to serve in the army as chaplains. At the time of the Civil War, only about ten percent of Americans were Catholic. Military policies forced Catholic soldiers to attend Protestant services. The Church protested this rule, and many priests volunteered to become chaplains. Their witness and the courage of the "Nuns of the Battlefield" (several orders of sisters who assisted Civil War victims) helped temper prejudice against Catholics and pave the way for the life and ministry of this vigorous and unique archdiocese.

–Rev. James Field