



*Monsignor
Salvatore B. Cafiero
Pastor
1935-1969*

*THE 60th
ANNIVERSARY OF
OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH
1935-1995*

Every parish has its own unique beginning and remembers its early years of development. So, what is so special about Our Lady of Grace Parish? Was there anything majestic about attending Mass in an old storefront building on Avenue X, or in a tent erected on an empty lot on West Street. Not really. Our claim to fame began with our founding pastor, Monsignor Salvatore B. Cafiero.



*Monsignor
Dominic A. Sclafani
Pastor
1970-1983*

In the Summer of 1935, Bishop Thomas Molloy directed Father Cafiero to start a new parish in the Gravesend section of Brooklyn. On June 28, Father was officially appointed its first pastor, and on July 2, he received permission from the bishop to dedicate this new parish to Our Lady of Grace, with the authority to build a church. In 1935, we were in the midst of the Great Depression—a time when day-to-day living was a struggle. But the people of this new parish, inspired by their pastoral leader, Father Cafiero, dedicated themselves to make this new parish a symbol to the greater glory of God. The parish church, school and buildings we see today are testimony to the sacrifices of Father and the early parishioners. In 1954, in his nineteenth year as pastor, Father Cafiero was elevated to the title of Very Reverend Monsignor. The parish was saddened on October 14, 1969, when Msgr. Cafiero's death was announced. Msgr. Cafiero's most meaningful memorial lives on in the hearts of the people for whom he worked and loved...and who still cherish his memory throughout their lives.

God must have known how great our loss was, so He sent us a compassionate successor, Father Dominic A. Sclafani to become the new shepherd of Our Lady of Grace. Father embarked on a series of renovations and repairs on all its buildings. A monument to Msgr. Cafiero's memory was erected on the church grounds. In 1972, a new Rodgers organ and electric votive lights were installed. In 1981, Father Sclafani himself was elevated to the rank of Monsignor and in 1983, after 41 years in the priesthood, Msgr. Sclafani retired as pastor and was succeeded by Father Dominick F. Cutrone.

Our energetic Father Cutrone instituted new religious programs. He appointed Sister Jane Talbot as head of Pastoral Ministry. In 1983, in anticipation of the parish's Golden Jubilee, to occur in 1985, Father launched a successful fund-raising campaign to have the church renovated to conform to the new liturgy. Part of the renovations included a Saints' chapel built in the extension. Beautiful stained glass windows were also installed. All through 1985, religious and social observances were held to commemorate the parish's fifty years of existence.

The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was established and blessed by Bishop Daily on October 25, 1992. This chapel located in our convent has become an inspiration to everyone throughout the community. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all to come and adore the Blessed Sacrament in peace and prayerful silence.

When we reflect on anything that has been successful, we are wise enough to know that it is not the physical edifices and not the various organizations, but its people and their dedication, pride, courage and prayers which make all things possible and, it is so true here at our beloved parish whose motto is, "**Our Lady of Grace—a Family Tradition.**"