

A CELEBRATION
HONORING

Monsignor
Dominic A. Sclafani

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

*Golden
Anniversary*

OF HIS ORDINATION

*Testimonial Dinner Dance
at El Caribe, Brooklyn, NY*

Sunday, June 9, 1991



Monsignor Dominic A. Sclafani

The priest we honor today is the Pastor Emeritus of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Brooklyn. Born in the heart of "Little Italy" in Manhattan, of parents Mr. & Mrs. Amedeo Sclafani, who migrated from Sciacca, on the beautiful island of Sicily. He spent his early childhood-teenage years in the vicinity of Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral, where his wonderful parents were married on September 26, 1909.

After eight years of elementary schooling in Public School 21, and two years in DeWitt Clinton High School, Dominic Sclafani responded to the call of the Divine Master and attended Cathedral College, the Minor Seminary in New York City. He later studied Philosophy and Theology under the tutelage of the good Vincentian Fathers at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels, Niagara University.

Upon his ordination to the Holy Priesthood, June 7, 1941, Archbishop Molloy, the beloved Bishop of Brooklyn, assigned Father Sclafani to the parish of Saint Rosalie-Regina Pacis where he celebrated his first mass and served under the pastorship of the noble and revered Monsignor Cioffi. Appointed to serve as an assistant to Father Cyrus Tortora in the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue, he also served as chaplain in Camp Upton, the Westhampton Air Base, and

took care of the Italian prisoners of war in the Mason General Hospital (Pilgrim State). He later was assigned to the parish of Saint Michael-Saint Edward to help Monsignor Ciocia serve the needs of the sick at Cumberland and Brooklyn Hospitals, and the inmates of the old Raymond Street Jail. In 1950, he was appointed by Bishop Molloy to the parish of Saint John Evangelist-Saint Rocco, as an assistant to Monsignor Sala and later succeeded him as Pastor.

On January 25, 1970, His Excellency Bishop Mugavero appointed Father Sclafani to succeed the beloved Founder-Pastor Monsignor Salvatore Cafiero as the Shepherd of Our Lady of Grace. His first activity as Pastor was to embark on a series of renovations and repairs in the church, school, rectory and convent. A new Rodgers organ and electric votive lights were installed. Penance rooms and an attractive Church entrance were constructed. The pews were refurbished, aluminum kneelers, new lighting and flooring were put in place. The former convent which suffered much damage due to fire was also renovated. These were but a few of the many changes to the parish plant. But "The Church" isn't buildings, after all: "The Church" is us—the People of God, and the faith, the hope and the love of God which brings us together.

Monsignor Sclafani's prime concern has been for his people. He has dedicated himself totally to the spiritual and temporal good of his parishioners. When he served as Pastor of OLG, the needs of the parish family brought about the return of First Friday Devotions, the formation of the Golden Age Group, Children's liturgy, and Sunday dialogues—to name a few. In addition to all his parish communications, Monsignor has always been actively involved in community affairs.

In 1981, after celebrating his 40th anniversary in the priesthood, Father Sclafani was elevated to the rank of Monsignor. In 1982, Monsignor Sclafani retired as Pastor Emeritus of O.L.G. and was succeeded as pastor by Father Dominick F. Cutrone. We are fortunate Monsignor decided to live in the rectory where his wise counsel is still sought out by the parishioners of O.L.G. In all his priestly appointments, his motto has been:

*“Today I am given to you by God
that I might serve you
And together
We might serve Him.”*