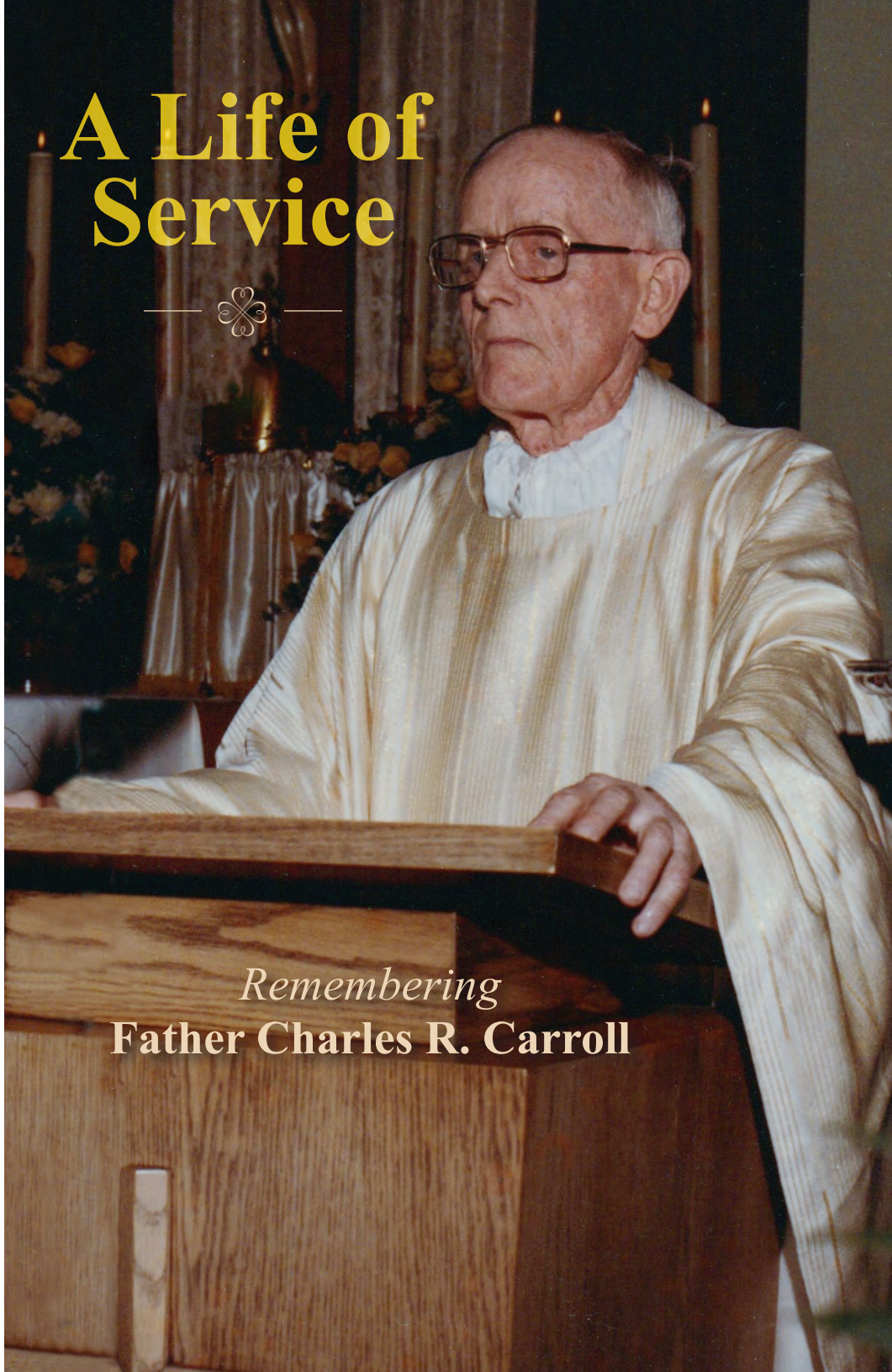
All Saints
Catholic Church

All Saints Catholic Church
317 East Main Street
Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

P.O. Box 230
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

A Life of Service



Remembering
Father Charles R. Carroll

Father Charles R. Carroll
Born: November 25, 1904
Baptized: December 19, 1904
Ordained: June 10, 1933
Died: December 6, 1993

Thomas said to him: "Master, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus told him: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." John 14: 5-6

The scripture text "I am the way and the truth and the life" from John 14 above was chosen by Father Carroll to be carved into the base of the Sacred Heart statue (left) that stood in front of the 1954 All Saints Catholic Church, and is now located near the entrance to the 1992 church.

A Life of Service

Reverend Charles R. Carroll was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on November 25, 1904 and baptized on December 19, 1904 at St. Joseph Cathedral. His Godparents were Frank and Ada Carroll. He was one of nine children of John James Carroll and Susan Riester Carroll.

He graduated from St. Joseph Cathedral Elementary School, attended Wheeling Central Catholic High School for one year and then entered St. Charles Seminary, Catonsville, Maryland in 1922. For his final two years of college and his theological studies he attended St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland from 1927 until his ordination June 10, 1933 in the Cathedral by the Most Reverend John J. Swint, D.D., Bishop of Wheeling.

Following his First Solemn Mass, June 18, 1933 Father Carroll was assigned as Chaplain to St. Mary's Hospital in Clarksburg, with residence there. He also had the care of St. Francis Borgia Church in Grasselli, and its Missions.

St. Francis Borgia Church was established in 1924 as a Mission of St. Margaret Mary Church (1924) in Clarksburg (North View). In 1927 the parish name was changed from St. Margaret Mary to St. James.

Beginning in 1930 the Missions of Wendel, St. Joseph (1919) Galloway, Little Flower (1923), Bear Mountain (1927) and Rosemont, St. Mary (1923) changed from the care of Grafton, St. Augustine (1852) to the Chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital (1900), Clarksburg. In 1931 Grasselli, St. Francis Borgia also was assigned to the Chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital.

When Father Carroll arrived in June of 1933 to serve as Chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital, he also had the responsibility of five (5) Missions.

He opened Bridgeport as a Mission in 1934 and regularly offered Mass and heard confessions in the homes of parishioners. He also established an elementary school at St. Francis Borgia in 1934, with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Wheeling, and one lay person as teachers.

From 1935 to 1938, Father Carroll served the Missions of Flemington (1892), Simpson (1927), and Berryburg (1927). In addition to his duties at the hospital, and only two years as a priest he had the responsibility for nine (9) Missions and an elementary school.

In 1938 St. Francis Borgia was raised to the status of parish with Father Carroll as its first pastor.

In 1939 Father Carroll was relieved of his duties as Chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital in Clarksburg to devote all his time to St. Francis Borgia

Church and School, as well as the care of eight (8) Missions.

Father Carroll moved to Bridgeport in 1939. A large home was purchased as a Rectory at 317 E. Main Street in 1943. Mass was offered in the Rectory until 1954 and it served as his residence until 1980.

In 1940, Father Carroll also established Sacred Heart Mission in Brownton and revived the Mission in Philippi, established in 1925 as a Mission of Grafton and dormant since 1929.

Throughout these years Father Carroll drove a small, green, school bus to transport children morning and afternoon to and from St. Francis Borgia School.

By 1945 the Bridgeport Catholic population was growing and Father Carroll petitioned Bishop Swint to elevate All Saints to the status of a Parish. This took place in 1946, and Father Carroll was appointed, Pastor of All Saints Church, its nine Missions and St. Francis Borgia School.

From 1946 to 1959 there were nine Missions. St. Joseph, Wendel was suppressed by the Diocese of Wheeling in 1959.

In 1948 Reverend James Pietersma was appointed Assistant Pastor to Father Carroll.

In 1949 newly ordained Reverend Robert C. Nash was appointed Assistant Pastor and served in that capacity until 1955.

In 1954 Rachel Chapel (Methodist) directly across the street from the Rectory was dedicated as All Saints Catholic Church on Sunday, May 16 by Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, D.D., assisted by Father Carroll and Father Nash.

1954-1980 were years of growth and change for All Saints Church and School. After having an assistant priest from 1948 to 1955 Father Carroll now had the parish, a school, six (6) Missions and three (3) Stations (infrequent services in private homes) for a total of ten (10). Although the new school building did not open until September 1956, classes were held for two years in the sacristy and lower level of the church beginning the fall of 1954.

In 1966, the Philippi Mission was attached to Grafton.

In 1969 lay teachers were hired to help the Sisters in the School.

In 1973, All Saints School as an educational entity, was consolidated into the newly established Harrison County Catholic School System, comprised of All Saints, Bridgeport, St. James, Clarksburg (North View) and St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg.

In 1974 the Stations of Flemington, Simpson and Berryburg were no longer viable and were suppressed by the Diocese.

From 1976 to 1980 the Official Catholic Directory for the United States lists All Saints Catholic Church, 317 E. Main Street, Bridgeport with Rev. Charles R. Carroll, Pastor.

SCHOOL

Harrison County School System

MISSIONS:

Anmoore, St. Francis Borgia
Brownton, Sacred Heart
Galloway, Little Flower
Rosemont, St. Mary

In 1980, due to Father Carroll's declining health, Bishop Hodges appointed Reverend Hilarion (Larry) V. Cann as Pastor of All Saints and Father Carroll as Pastor of the Missions with residence in the former Convent, 300 E. Main Street. These appointments were effective August 31, 1980.

From August 1980 to August 1982 Father Carroll cared for his Mission Churches as zealously as he had for decades. His health diminished, however, and at age 77 he fully retired to Wheeling residing at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home.

After 49 years of priestly service to the people of North Central West Virginia and 60 years as a priest, Father Carroll died at age 89 on December 6, 1993. He left instructions for his body to be given to science for study purposes.

On December 10, the Most Reverend Bernard W. Schmitt, D.D., Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston presided at Father Carroll's Memorial Mass, along with many priests, faithful parishioners, family and friends. The Eucharist was celebrated in the new All Saints Church, which opened in 1992, on the site of the first rectory and the 1956 school. Since his own priestly ordination in 1955, Bishop Schmitt had known Father Carroll. They both were natives of Wheeling.

Father Carroll's ashes are buried in the Bridgeport Cemetery.

He was a priest for his people.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

St. Joseph Cathedral, Wheeling
Circa 1930

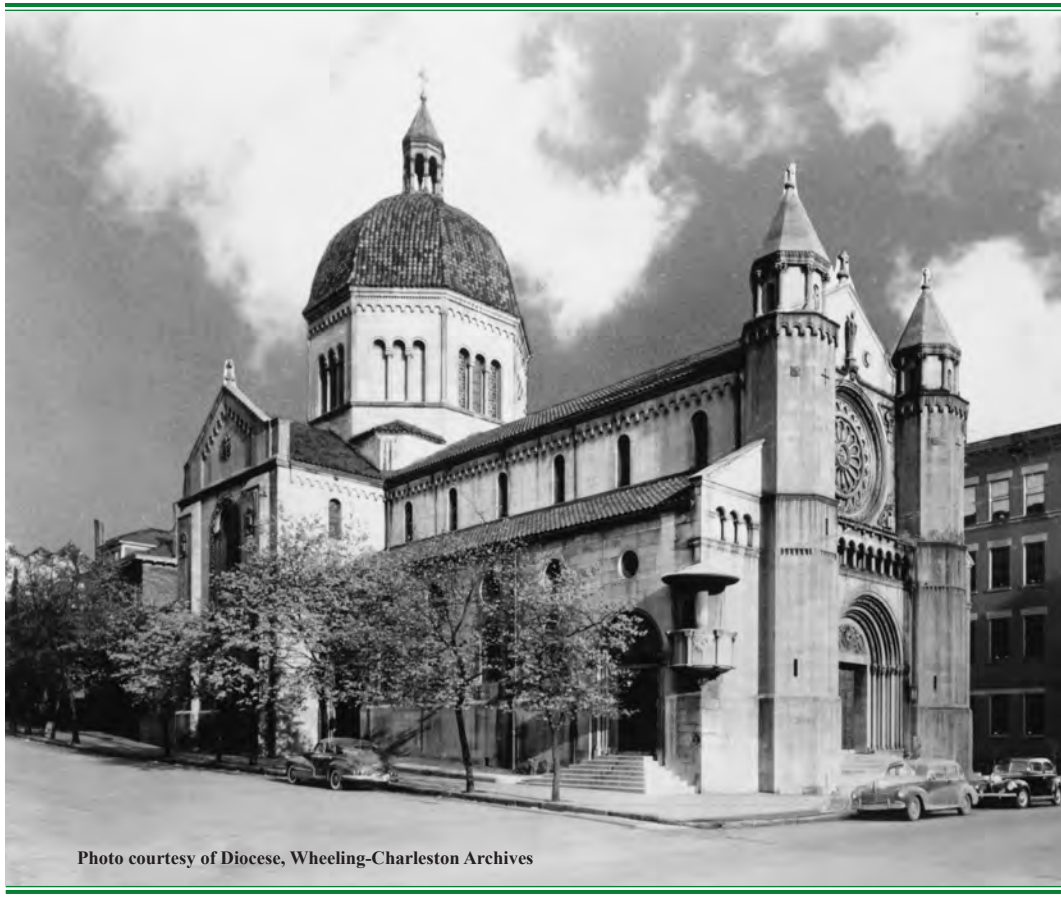


Photo courtesy of Diocese, Wheeling-Charleston Archives

All Saints Catholic School, Bridgeport, West Virginia (1954-1982).
Photo courtesy of West Virginia Regional Historic Center and Stephen Pishner.

SUNDAY BULLETIN
All Saints Church
Bridgeport, West Virginia
August 13, 1978

Bridgeport, until 8:45 p.m.
in Anmoore at 5:45 p.m.
and in Bridgeport at 7:30 p.m.

We ask your prayers for the happy repose of the soul of our beloved Pope Paul the Sixth, the Vicar or Jesus Christ on earth, the Bishop of Rome and so the Head of the Roman Catholic Church. As you must know by now, Pope Paul died last Sunday, August 6, 1978, and was buried under St. Peter's in Rome, the world's largest and most important church. Added to the above named titles that rightly belonged to him, Pope Paul was our Holy Father, and so he was near and dear to our hearts. We loved him. We respected him. We listened to him. We obeyed him. We were inspired by everything we saw in him and heard from him. Can you think of any other man on earth who could have so many tributes paid to him as we were thrilled to hear and to read during the past week? The whole world seemed to realize that this man stood for something truly good. Everybody knowing anything at all about religion knew this man was a real leader worthy of the name, and that this man seemed to stand between heaven and earth. Can you think of any other man who could have had such crowds honor him in death by assisting at his funeral services in such tremendous numbers? Can you think of any other man who could have had countless millions in every country under the sun follow every part of his long funeral service? All that we have seen and heard this past week should make us truly proud of our Catholic Faith, and happily indeed to be numbered among the spiritual sons and daughters of such a Holy Father. He is now gone to his well deserved rest, but he will never be forgotten in our minds nor will his place in our hearts grow cold. Please pray for the Cardinals who will have to choose his successor during the next few weeks. Ask the Holy Ghost to enlighten their minds and to move their will that they may choose the most worthy one available as the successor to this truly outstanding Pope Paul the Sixth who will stand out in history as one of the great Popes with whom our beloved Church has been so richly blessed!

All Saints Catholic Church Dedication, Bridgeport
May 16, 1954

Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Archives

Word of Tribute For Father Carroll Triggers an Outpouring of Affection

I hadn't been in the office five minutes on Labor Day when the phone rang. Since it was a holiday, I expected to hear the voice of a friend or family member. I was a bit surprised to hear the long distance crackle that for quite a number of days now, has been greeting my ears. The caller? Yet another person wanting to tell me about a man who seems to be one of the most popular priests in the Diocese.

When word spread that we were going to do a story about Father Charles Carroll who retired August 26, as pastor of All Saints parish, Bridgeport, the phone here at *The Catholic Spirit* started jumping off the hook.

Even though Fr. Carroll will still serve the missions he has taken care of over the years (St. Francis Borgia, Anmoore; Sacred Heart, Brownton; Little Flower, Galloway; St. Mary's, Rosemont), people from all those places and Bridgeport and Philippi have been calling–two and three calls at a time. And the ol' typewriter ribbon will certainly be put out to pasture by the time this story is complete.

This is one of those stories that comes along only so often. It's the kind of thing that rests inside of hearts. Then one day, the hearts start talking, and more often than not, words are really put to the test.

At least that's what the people who know Father Carroll seem to be saying to me. They usually start with, "We all just love Fr. Carroll. He has been like a father to us. I wish I could find the words..."

So rather than ask them to tell me how they felt about this priest who for so many years provided the sole means of transportation for school children (driving 90 miles round trip per day, back and forth to the schools and missions), I asked them to tell me their stories. When I put them all together a picture appears.

Charles Riester Carroll was born in Wheeling on November 25, 1904, the seventh of nine children, four boys and five girls, born to Dr. John Joseph Carroll, DDS (October 15, 1867-February 12, 1939) and Susan "Susie" neé Riester Carroll, (June 1, 1869-November 17, 1940). They were married February 17, 1892.

He was preceded in death by Frank Nicodemus Carroll, DDS, (April 10, 1893-June 26, 1980), an infant brother (July 7, 1897), Mary Margaret Carroll, (October 5, 1898-January 5, 1899), Virginia Claire Carroll who entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on March 19, 1919 and became Sister Claire Agnes, (August 17, 1899-August 15, 1988), John James Carroll, (January 20, 1901-May 5, 1954), an infant sister, (November 27, 1903), Helen Susan Carroll who entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 1926 and became Sister Theophane, (March 23, 1907-February 8, 1991). His only living sister is Gertrude Carroll Parker of Fairmont, West Virginia.

One of the first people I called was Father Joseph Brumfield, pastor of St. Joseph's, Kingwood, who spent his seminary years as one of Father Carroll's classmates.

They both attended St. Charles' College, Catonsville, MD, and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. Fr. Brumfield told me that while he and Fr. Carroll were in the seminary, "it was amazing the way the whole class turned to him."

That kind of statement has been made so many times since I talked with Fr. Brumfield I couldn't count them.

Father Carroll was ordained to the priesthood June 10, 1933, in St. Joseph Cathedral, Wheeling, by Bishop Swint. His first assignment was that of chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Clarksburg.

Mary Humphreys is one of the people who remembers when Fr. Carroll was sent from the hospital to St. Francis Borgia parish, Grasselli, of which she was a member. At that time, she said, the bishop had sent him to close the churches there because they were supposedly beyond repair. But after three months, "he decided he would try to re-build them," she says.

In some parts of the state Catholics were little known and less welcome in days gone by. Many callers have told me how children in several areas threw stones at Fr. Carroll when he first arrived in town. Apparently, some people in various areas were not accustomed to going to church or having strangers in town–especially Catholic priests.

Little by little, the Catholic congregation began to grow. When Father Carroll first began working to restore the churches, he had virtually no one helping him with the immense task. For quite a while, he was both carpenter and mason. Eventually people began to pitch in with the construction.

Mrs. Loretta Robinson said that Father Carroll started the food fairs in the area which served as a great way for folks to get together and make friends. She told of how he would travel to all the missions, collecting the home-made cakes and pies which were sold at the fairs. Meatball sandwiches and fish were also available and she says that those "Catholic" items really helped to break the ice with the local people.

Father Carroll, we were also told, has always been a real baseball enthusiast. He is credited with having started the first little league ball teams in the northern district of West Virginia. He was an avid Red Sox fan.

One woman, Mrs. Ann B. Zekan Quagliotti, who has known Father for 47 years, told about one of her uncles who owned a grocery store where Fr. Carroll often bought supplies. Her uncle had several sons who helped out with the chores around the store. One day when Fr. Carroll stopped by, Mrs. Quagliotti's uncle said, "Father, I'd like you to come and live with us." When Fr. Carroll asked why, the answer was, "Well, every time they see you coming, they run after you. And if you were living here, maybe I could get some work out of them."

Mrs. Quagliotti also recalls one of the things Father Carroll emphasized when delivering a sermon. "He always says, 'I didn't become a priest to preach the almighty dollar. I became a priest to preach about Almighty God.'" That seems to be one of the things that people love the most about him.

Most of the callers said they believe they are better Christians for having had him as their priest. One parishioner, Mr. James Bower, wrote a letter to Father Carroll which he shared with me. Excerpts from that letter echo what everyone has been saying: "You have watched us raise our families, and you have been with us in our pain and suffering, and in our happiness and joy.... Parents, their children, and their children's children will always hold your name in honor and esteem, for you have touched them with your goodness, and they have seen Christ."

I'm sure that many people would like to know Father's secret when it comes to his health. People have told me about the two times when Fr. Carroll broke a hip, and three days following the injury, they'd rub their eyes a bit as they watched him being carried up the church steps so he could say Mass for them from a wheelchair.

"He never thinks of himself first. He's always there when you need him," they say.

The people I talked to claim that Fr. Carroll has never been known to take a vacation. But many of them remember the good times he brought them as children. Many talked about the picnics he took them on, and the times he took them to the country churches to sing. Some of them were growing up in the heart of the Depression. But Fr. Carroll seemed to bring them joy at a time when it was not so readily available.

Many people told of how Father Carroll's face was the first one they'd see following surgery. On many occasions, he'd travel to Cleveland Clinic to visit a parishioner and be back in time to say a Mass in Bridgeport or Philippi.

Mrs. Mary Pishner, who came to this country from Italy in 1922, said that Fr. Carroll "never had a luxury church. He was always interested in opening up schools for the kids and bringing people in the Church."

One of the people who converted to Catholicism as a result of Fr. Carroll's encouragement, was Mr. Robert Barnett, who for many years has made sure that Fr. Carroll's car is in good shape. Mr. Barnett said he attended one of Fr. Carroll's Masses, enjoyed it, and decided to become a Catholic.

"There's no better man to save souls than Fr. Carroll," said Mr. Barnett, who added, "they said there'd never be Catholics in Philippi but there are now."

When he first arrived in Rosemont, said Mary Humphreys, Fr. Carroll sort of set up shop in an abandoned pool hall. He made an altar from beer cases, and arranged the old theater seats in the building as pews. The confessional was set up directly behind the altar and an old slot machine was used as a divider. The floor was part wood and part dirt.

Mrs. Humphreys remembers the day she and several other children received their First Communion in the pool hall church of St. Mary's. After the ceremony, "Father Carroll wanted to get a picture of us, so he took us outside and lined us up on the steps in front of the saloon," she said. The reason the picture has always been a favorite with the First Communicants is that directly above them hung a sign which read–"Beer, Fireworks, and Camel Cigarettes." (We were hoping someone could find a print of the photo. We're sure it has to be one of a kind.)

Mrs. Humphreys says that Fr. Carroll "would find beauty in everything." She said that at one point, when the church at Rosemont was being painted, she questioned the combination of colors which the painter had used in the church.

"We looked in one day, and there in the front of the church was a very pale blue. And where the congregation sat, it was painted green. When we asked Fr. Carroll about it he said: 'What color is the grass?' We answered, 'Green.' 'And what color is the sky?' We said, 'Blue.' 'Could there ever be a better painter than the Lord?' was his reply."

One of the more amusing stories was told to me by Mrs. Anthony Fragale. She said that during an Ash Wednesday Mass at Rosemont, she

walked to the front of the church with her two-year-old daughter, Sheila. As Father Carroll was about to place ashes on Sheila's forehead, the girl said: "Father Carroll, I love you and everything, but please don't dirty my face." Fr. Carroll told Mrs. Fragale that she couldn't blame Sheila for wanting to keep a clean, pretty face.

Mrs. Fragale said that Fr. Carroll never became angry or impatient if the children were crying or talking in church. She recalled another time when during one of Fr. Carroll's sermons, her son, Anthony, got away from her and went to the front of the church and sat in front of Father Carroll the whole time. When he had finished talking, he said, "Now Mary Jane, you can't blame Anthony for wanting to get close to the Lord."

Letter from Sister Patricia McCabe, SSJ, who worked with Fr. Carroll for many years in Bridgeport

Dear Miss Link,

"Love is the complete giving of oneself to the person or persons beloved without ever counting the cost to self."

That thought has been the theme of many of Fr. Carroll's sermons. It is also the theme that epitomizes his life.

He has given himself willingly, tirelessly, selflessly, and joyfully to his God, and to the service of God's people, whether that service meant repairing a roof, building a road, hanging a bell from a three story building, organizing baseball teams, driving a school bus a hundred miles round trip every day, running a lunch program, having home Masses and face-to-face confessions, private instructions, group classes, teaching school religion classes and CCD, visiting the sick in many hospitals, staying with grieving families or driving miles to assist at the country funerals, organizing Rosary Rallies, trying to find dogwood at three a.m., then trying to find lost glasses or keys, sharing the joys and sorrows of his families in six churches over three counties, trying to live simply, poorly, and prayerfully...Taking hurts, and disappointments, and much pain with peace, and resignation, and joy.... "Without ever counting the cost to self."

That kind of love has truly been the thread that has beautifully woven, and warmly colors the tapestry of his life.

Many Share Experiences of Father Carroll

Several people have told me that Father Carroll is a great fan of the fire department. "He'd go chase the fire trucks with the kids," said Sister

Patricia McCabe. Parishioners said he always urged them to support their fire departments because "they're always there when you need them."

Father Robert Nash, chancellor for the Diocese, worked with Fr. Carroll from 1948 to 1955 as his assistant pastor. Fr. Nash remembers him as "one of the few priests who people never complained about" when it came to listening to his sermons.

"He was able to communicate what was going on," says Fr. Nash, who also said Fr. Carroll really "has been part of the lives of the people. He is a very pastoral priest."

Sister Frances Clare Marker, SSJ, who last year had to give up her teaching duties at All Saints because of a broken hip, says that during the 18 years she worked with Fr. Carroll, she can never remember anyone ever hesitating to approach him.

"They loved him, idolized him. He never neglected the parish for his own pleasure," she said.

Sister Renee Bell, SSJ, who also worked with Father Carroll, said that during Fr. Carroll's last Mass at Bridgeport, "the spontaneous applause that resounded through the church spoke far more eloquently than mere words. Father Carroll is a priestly priest whose one and only goal in life is to win souls for heaven."

Father Carroll often remarked, "I would not want to serve a parish without a Catholic School."

When I talked with Mrs. Louie Pishner, who has known Fr. Carroll for 23 years, she said that he has been with the parish during times of illness, death, baptism and weddings. "We are very close to him," she said.

Her son, Stephen, who for the past year has been the organist at All Saints, said Fr. Carroll taught him and others his age "how to be a better person. He's the old fashion kind of priest, and all the kids like him. Whenever he needs us to serve Mass or help with chores around the parish we are there," he said.

By now I guess you have a pretty good idea of what Father Charles Carroll is all about. As his parishioners have said, "We'll never see another one like him."

This article, written by Bridget Link, was published in *The Catholic Spirit* on September 5, 1980. The text was updated with new information discovered in 2025.

LAST SUNDAY BULLETIN AS PASTOR
All Saints Church
Bridgeport, West Virginia
August 24, 1980

1/ SCHEDULE for the WEEK:
Sunday Masses: Bridgeport - 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Saturday Evening - 7:30 p.m.; Rosemont - 9:30 a.m.; Galloway - 5:45 p.m.; Anmoore - Saturday Evening - 5:45 p.m.
Week Day Masses: Bridgeport - 8:00 a.m. every day, except Wednesday - 6:30 p.m., confessions before and Novena after the Mass.

Since we have heard nothing to the contrary from our new pastor, we shall presume that, for this week at least, the order of services we have followed for many years will still be in effect. After that, of course, it will be up to him to make any changes he may wish. For on Tuesday of this week All Saints will have a new pastor, Father Hilarion Cann, who will come here from Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston. He certainly is well known to many of you, since he was born and reared in Clarksburg.

In the name of all the parishioners of All Saints, as well as in my own as long the pastor here, I extend a most hearty welcome to Father Cann. We know that he will soon come to love Bridgeport, and even more to love you good people. Personally, I can say that I have known Father Larry for the greater part of his life. His good father, Jimmy Cann, was one of the first and best friends I made in my long period of service in these parts. I can never forget all that he did for me up to the time of his death. It was a real privilege and a genuine pleasure for me to be asked to preach the sermon of the joyful occasion of the First Solemn High Mass of Father Larry Cann in the old St. John's Church in Clarksburg, after his return from his ordination to the Holy Priesthood in Rome.

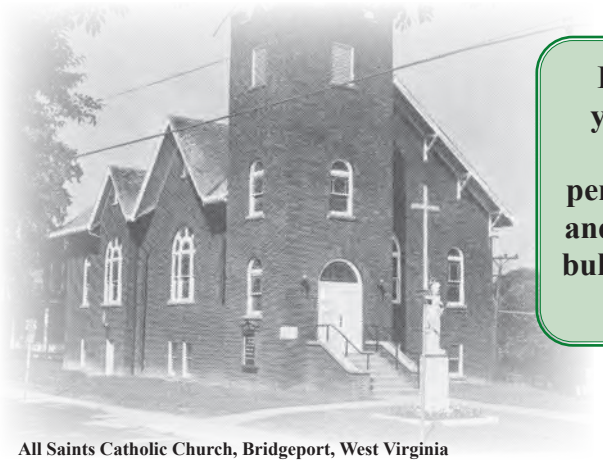
Ever since that time, I have truly appreciated the fine work he has done in all his priestly assignments. All this while, too, he has been truly most thoughtful of me and very kind to me. I urge you good people of All Saints to give to him, with all your hearts, the same wonderful encouragement and support that has made me so very happy in this territory that I have never had the slightest desire to be anywhere else.

But, as you know, the Bishop has decided to make a change in this parish. Bridgeport, and everything concerning it, will now be under the care of Father Cann. The four other churches, Anmoore, Rosemont, Brownton and Galloway will continue to be served by Father Carroll. After his arrival, Father Cann will set up residence here. After needed work on the property, Father Carroll will reside at 300 East Main Street, where his new telephone number will be 842-5224.

When he appears before his new Sunday congregations for the first time next Sunday Father Cann will tell you of any changes he may have in mind.

But on this, the last Sunday of my pastoral care of the five churches, I do want to pass along to the people of what we have called our mission churches the schedule for Sunday Masses, which will go into effect next Sunday August 31. The Mass in Anmoore will continue to be on Saturday evening at 5:45 p.m., Rosemont will have Mass every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. There will be Mass in Brownton at 9:45 a.m., on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, and in Galloway, also at 9:45 a.m., on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Confessions will be heard before all Masses.

In this my last Bulletin as pastor of All Saints, I want to ask your pardon for all my faults, failings, weaknesses and sins that you have noticed in my long time with you. At the same time, I want to thank you from the very bottom of my heart for your goodness to me in every way possible. I can never forget all that you have done for me and have meant to me for so long. God reward you, as He alone can do, for all your goodness!



All Saints Catholic Church, Bridgeport, West Virginia
Photo courtesy of Diocese, Wheeling-Charleston Archives

For his entire 49 years of ministry, Father Carroll personally composed and typed the weekly bulletin, always using green ink.

SUNDAY BULLETIN
St. Francis Borgia Church
Anmoore, West Virginia
June 21, 1981

Mass every Saturday Evening (fulfills Sunday Obligation) 5:45 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ROSEMONT, WEST VIRGINIA
Mass every Sunday Morning - 8:30 a.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH, BROWNTON, WEST VIRGINIA
Mass the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday Mornings 9:45 a.m.

LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH, GALLOWAY, WEST VIRGINIA
Mass the 2nd & 4th Sunday Mornings - 9:45 a.m.

Father Charles R. Carroll 300 East Main Street, Bridgeport, West Virginia
Telephone 842-5224 or 842-3212

SCHEDULE for the WEEK:
SUNDAY: Feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ). May Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar be praised, adored and loved, with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time!

Saturday Evening Mass - in Anmoore- 5:45 p.m.
Confessions - before Mass.

This lovely Feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ), being celebrated today, should indeed prompt us all to try to appreciate, at least a little bit better than ever before, what a wonderful privilege it is for us to have our Lord and our God living among us for us all the days of our lives in the Holy Eucharist or the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. In all our parish churches, small and humble as they are, every time your unworthy priest goes to the altar, in loving obedience to the command of the Master, "Do this in remembrance of Me," Jesus Himself the Priest and Victim of Calvary's bloody sacrifice, renews here and now for us that offering of Himself, to praise His Father, to thank His Father, to beg pardon and help from His Father, all for us poor

sinners. Likewise, in all our small churches, Jesus lives among us and for us in the tabernacle of the altar to which He invites us to come, we who are weary and heavily burdened that He might refresh us. Further, He begs us to come to the Eucharistic Table, to eat of His Body and to drink of His Blood, that He might put His life in us, and that He might raise us up on the last day. We all take the Holy Eucharist entirely too much for granted, because we have it with us all the years of our lives. We would come to realize how much Jesus in the Holy Eucharist has done for us, and how much He has meant in our lives, only if and when, by some cruel fate (God forbid!) this great Sacrament might be taken away from us. Thank God for it **today**, and make fitting return every day for this infinite, divine love of God for us all.

St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church (1924-1982) and School (1934-1954), Grasselli/Anmoore.
The top floor served as the church, first and second floors served as the school.
Photo courtesy of Diocese, Wheeling-Charleston Archives

SUNDAY BULLETIN
St. Francis Borgia Church
Anmoore, West Virginia
July 4, 1982

Last week on the last Sunday in June, the month of the Sacred Heart, we talked about the origin of this devotion, the revelations concerning His Sacred Heart that were made to Saint Mary Margaret Alacoque, a French Visitation nun. In this area for nearly 50 years we have urged greater devotion to that Sacred Heart, and increased participation at Mass and other devotions on the First Friday of each month, and the joyful making of the nine First Friday Communions of reparation called for by the Lord to make up for the "coldness and indifference, sacrilege and contempt" He receives from the greater number of people, especially in the Holy Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament of His love. Several people have asked where the Twelve Promises to persons having devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which were communicated to Sister Margaret Mary by Christ the Lord in 1675 might be found. Here they are:

1/ I will give them all the graces necessary in their state in life.
2/ I will establish peace in their home.
3/ I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4/ I will be their secure refuge during life and, above all, in death.
5/ I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6/ Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7/ By devotion to my Heart tepid souls shall grow fervent.
8/ Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9/ I will bless every place where a picture of my Heart shall be set up and honored.
10/ I will give priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11/ Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart, never to be blotted out.
12/ I will grant the grace of final penitence to those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months.

St. Mary's Hospital, Clarksburg
Circa 1930

Photo courtesy of Diocese, Wheeling-Charleston Archives

Photo courtesy of West Virginia & Regional History Center on loan by Richard Duez

Father Charles R. Carroll

Beloved & Compassionate Man
Tireless Worker
Zealous Pastor

Born November 25, 1904 Wheeling
Baptized December 19, 1904 Wheeling
Ordained June 10, 1933 Wheeling
Died December 6, 1993 Wheeling

Chaplain, St. Mary's Hospital, Clarksburg 1933-1939

Pastor of St. Francis Borgia, Anmoore 1938-1946

Founding and first pastor:
All Saints Catholic Church Bridgeport 1946-1980
Sacred Heart, Brownton 1940-1982

Mission Churches under his care
St. Francis Borgia, Grasselli/Anmoore 1933-1982
Little Flower, Galloway 1933-1982
St. Mary, Rosemont 1933-1982
St. Joseph, Wendel 1933-1959
All Saints, Bridgeport 1934-1946
St. Elizabeth, Philippi 1940-1966

The Years these Mission Churches were under Father Carroll's Care

Photos courtesy of All Saints Catholic Church website, Bridgeport, West Virginia

St. Francis Borgia (Grasselli), Anmoore (1933-1982)

Little Flower (St. Thèresé of Lisieux), Galloway (1933-1982)

St. Joseph, Wendel (1933-1959)

St. Mary, Rosemont (1933-1982)

Sacred Heart, Brownton (1940-1982)

St. Elizabeth, Philippi (1940-1966)

Memorial Mass Set Friday For Father Carroll

Photo courtesy of Archives & Records Retention Office of the Congregation of St. Joseph Cleveland, Ohio

The Rev. Father Charles R. Carroll, 89, a well-known priest who maintained several parishes throughout the area for four decades, died Monday December 6, 1993 in Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Wheeling. A memorial Mass is planned for noon-Friday, December 10, 1993, at All Saints Catholic Church, Bridgeport, with the Most Rev. Bernard W. Schmidt, D.D., as Celebrant.

Father Carroll established All Saints as a Mission Church in 1934. In 1946 it was raised to the status of a parish and he served as its first pastor until 1980 when the Rev. Hilarion V. Cann was appointed as pastor due to Father's ill health.

Father Carroll continued, however to serve the missions that remained in Anmoore, Galloway, Brownton and Rosemont until his retirement in 1982 when he returned to his native Wheeling.

Following his ordination in 1933, Father Carroll's first assignment was as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Clarksburg, a pastorate which included the care of the mission churches.

Know for his stamina, he had a special devotion to the young, and can be remembered driving a bus to pick up children from throughout the area to take them to the Catholic school in Anmoore and later in Bridgeport.

Father Charles R. Carroll was born in Wheeling on November 25, 1904, one of nine children, four boys and five girls, to the late Dr. John J. Carroll DDS, and Susan Riester Carroll.

He graduated from St. Charles College, Catonsville, MD, did his theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, MD, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1933.

Survivors include one sister, Gertrude Carroll Parker of Fairmont, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Frank N. Carroll, John J. Carroll, an infant brother, and four sisters, Mary Margaret Carroll, an infant sister, and Sister Claire Agnes Carroll, SSJ, and Sister Theophane Carroll, SSJ.

Excerpts from an article published in the *Clarksburg Exponent* (West Virginia) on Thursday, December 9, 1993. *This text and photo updated with new information discovered in 2025.*

January 1994 Newsletter
All Saints Parish

My dear fellow parishioners:

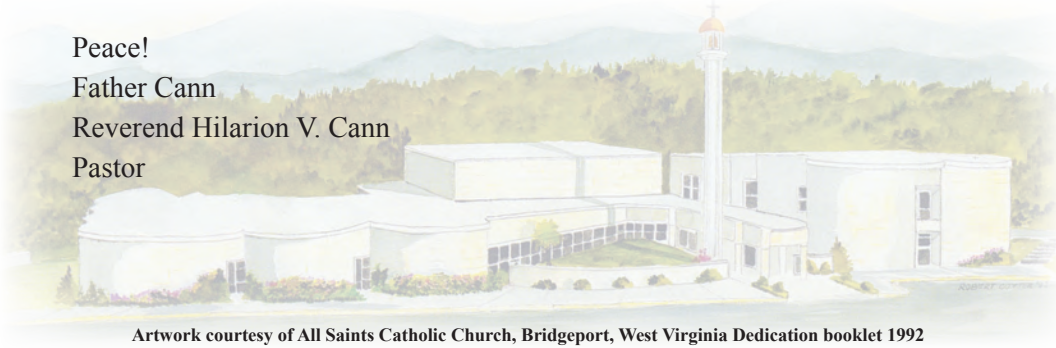
In his homily at Father Carroll's funeral Mass, December 10, 1993, Bishop Schmitt said something to the effect that if we stand too close to a person's life, we easily get distracted by unimportant details. But if we stand back to view a life in a broad context and with a long perspective, we get a more accurate picture of what a life has really meant.

When we look at Father Carroll's life in this larger framework, we begin to appreciate what he really accomplished. He came to this area when a truly pioneer climate prevailed. There were few Catholics, and practically no church life. He preached, anchored and nourished the faith in many communities: Grasselli (Anmoore), Rosemont, Flemington, Wendel, Simpson, Brownton, Galloway, Philippi, Bridgeport–these names read like a litany. For nearly fifty years he touched the lives of almost everyone in these places, and grew to be loved and admired throughout.

His energy and dedication were limitless. He moved constantly from church to church in all kinds of weather, juggled liturgy and activity schedules for as many as seven churches at one time, drove children to the Catholic school and home again in his own bus, broke his hip and said Mass from a bar stool placed at the altar–it is little wonder that his life prompted such a rich treasure of stories and legends!

In the last analysis, his efforts laid the groundwork for the church we enjoy today. What he did for so many years with such energy and commitment in fact provided the foundation on which our parish is built. His image will always be the backdrop against which the life of All Saints will be viewed. We will not see his like again.

Peace!
Father Cann
Reverend Hilarion V. Cann
Pastor



Artwork courtesy of All Saints Catholic Church, Bridgeport, West Virginia Dedication booklet 1992

Prayer for the Cause of Father Charles R. Carroll

Eternal Father, you alone grant us every blessing in heaven and on earth, through the redemptive mission of your divine Son, Jesus Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit. In every age you raise up men and women outstanding in holiness, whose faithful service has contributed significantly to the apostolic mission of the Church.

Among those faithful servants are some priests, one of whom, Father Charles R. Carroll, labored for many years in the North Central region of West Virginia and whose soul we commend to your loving care.

We pray that you may look kindly on this pastor of souls, whose service inspired great numbers of Catholics and other people to grow in faith and virtue and to be of service to their brothers and sisters in need. We humbly ask that, if it would be for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, you move the Church to begin the process to investigate Father Carroll's life and ministry so that he might be declared a **Servant of God** with a possible path toward sainthood.

Meanwhile, we pray for the happy repose of the soul of a priest revered by many Catholics in the parishes and missions where he served. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Imprimatur

+ Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan, D.D.
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

June 25, 2025

Zeal for your house consumes me.
Psalm 69:10a

The Cause of Father Charles R. Carroll
Attention: Stephen Pishner
All Saints Catholic Church
317 E. Main Street • Bridgeport, WV 26330
revcrcarroll@gmail.com

*To receive a prayer card and booklet or to share any personal knowledge of Father Carroll such as letters, photos, life experiences, or to report any spiritual or physical favors granted in his name please send to the address above, along with a self-addressed and postage paid return envelope. To send information only, use **revcrcarroll@gmail.com**.*

In memory of
Reverend Charles R. Carroll (1904-1993)

Mary C. McAvoy Bower (1909-1995)
&
James W. Bower (1910-1988)
All Saints parishioners beginning in 1951.

This booklet is the gift of
Mary S. and David A. Bower in grateful thanks.

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