

A message from Father Lou

Honoring a memory

Those who are familiar with the Church in Cleveland know that over 50 churches are being closed or consolidated.

It will hit close to home in June when my childhood parish, St. Lawrence, passes into history. (See pictures below.) The remnant of that Slovenian community that sprung up from that 1902 church is grieving. But in losing their spiritual home they are offering hope to others who have lost their earthly homes.

On Sunday, May 16, I celebrated the Eucharist at St. Lawrence and began a two-week long Food for the Poor appeal to build as many houses in Haiti as possible in memory of Msgr. John J. Oman, who was pastor from 1915 through 1962, one of the longest pastorates in diocesan history. Msgr. Oman's birthday is May 22.

Msgr. Oman was called to St. Lawrence from the St. Cloud, Minnesota, Diocese to respond to the growing number of Slovenians in the young St. Lawrence community. The appeal for houses in his honor in Haiti is an appropriate symbol of his generosity of spirit living on after all these years.

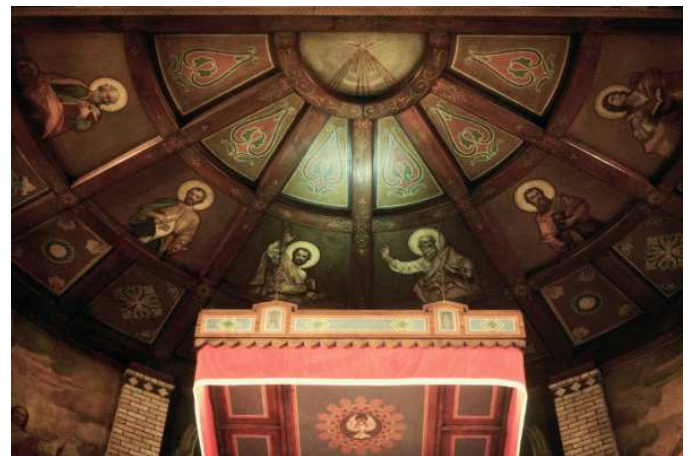
If you wish to donate to this special memorial, send your donation payable to Food for the Poor, 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073. Indicate that the donation is for the St. Lawrence Memorial # 73307.



Msgr. John J. Oman, Pastor, 1915-1963



The stunning stone crucifixion scene towers over the brass tabernacle.



The ceiling throughout has painted pictures and symbols on choice mahogany.



Traditional Forty Hours symbolized the parish's love for the Eucharist.



Christmas in the past featured a nearly life-sized Nativity scene (right).