“With gratitude to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for 75 years of Grace and faith in the Diocese of Camden.

May the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of our Diocese draw all of us closer to her Son Jesus.”

Inside

Looking back on the history of the diocese
S5, S7, S9, S11, S13, S15

Born with the Diocese of Camden
S17, S19

Bishop Galante, Vision for the Future
S21

Windows into the Past
S22-S23

Pastoral Priorities
S25, S27, S29, S31, S33, S37, S39

Patroness of the Diocese
S41

Parishes of the Diocese, Mission
Statement
S44

Go Forth and Set the World on Fire
-St. Ignatius of Loyola

St. Joseph’s Prep
salutes
the Diocese of Camden
on its
75th Anniversary
and congratulates
Bishop Joseph Galante (SJP ’56)
for his work there.

Office of Catholic Schools

“Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News.”
Benedict XVI, Washington, D.C., April 2008

We look forward to the next 75 years.
TO THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP JOSEPH A. GALANTE, THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND ALL THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary for Seventy-Five Years of Dedicated Service!

St. Mary Medical Center, Langhorne, PA and Holy Redeemer of Pennsylvania and New Jersey are honored to partner with the Camden Diocese in the formation of seminarians, on-going formation of priest chaplains and deacon candidates through our Clinical Pastoral Education Programs.

The mighty ocean and its beaches, which surround much of your shore areas with gifts of food and revitalizing energy, are a reflection of the goodness and beauty gracing your Diocese. You are also called to respond to the diverse realities that invite challenging expressions of dedicated love and service in ministry.

We pray that the amazing graces that are part of your history continue to unfold in furthering the future of your vision and ministry which is unique to your charism.

God bless the Diocese of Camden!

[TD Bank logo]
The beginnings of the Camden Diocese

A glass factory, established in 1740 on Alloway Creek in Salem County, was the nucleus for four families who became New Jersey’s first regular Catholic mission center. Three years later was the first recorded Baptism.

Catholics who lived in New Jersey were the responsibility of the Diocese of Baltimore until 1808 when South Jersey passed under the authority of the new Bishop of Philadelphia.

Bishop Francis Kenrick dedicated the St. Mary’s Church in Pleasant Mills on Aug. 15, 1830, the fourth Catholic church in New Jersey and the first in the present-day Diocese of Camden. The first parish and school were established at St. Mary’s, Gloucester in 1849 and 1859, respectively.

In 1853 the Diocese of Newark was created. Catholics in the area remained under the care of the Diocese of Newark until 1881 when the Diocese of Trenton was established.

With continued growth in the Catholic population during the first decades of this century, Pope Pius XI on Dec. 9, 1937 established the Diocese of Camden for the people of the six southern-most counties of New Jersey, a region containing nearly 2,700 square miles. This also marked the time that New Jersey, previously part of the ecclesiastical province of New York, became a separate province, with the metropolitan see at Newark.

St. Mary Church, Gloucester City

The idea of making Gloucester a parish took shape in 1848, when a petition was presented to Bishop Kenrick of Philadelphia.

Mass was first said in a private house, but the accommodations soon proved too small for the growing congregation.

In 1849, a Protestant, Mr. Robb, donated the ground for a church. It was built to seat 400 worshippers.

The Rev. Thomas J. McCormack was appointed pastor in the spring of 1886, and soon found there was more work to be done as the number of Catholics increased with the growth of the town. In the autumn of 1886, he secured 12 lots bounded by Somerset, Atlantic, and Monmouth streets.

On March 24, 1888, ground was broken for the current St. Mary Church. The cost of the structure was $65,000.

It is built of hard sandstone of a bluish gray color. The stone trimmings are tool-dressed and the front has a fine stone gable cross. The style of architecture is early Gothic.

The church is 140 feet in length by 70 feet in width. The tower and spire stand 160 feet in height.

The chimes, purchased from the McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore, are composed of 10 bells, the largest 3,085 pounds and the weights gradually decreasing to the smallest, which weighs about 200 pounds. The total weight of all the bells, exclusive of the frames and attachments, is 10,673 pounds. The entire value, including delivery and putting in the tower was $3,200.

The Playing Stand for the bells is made of oak. It is almost square, having 10 levers on brass hinges, a silver plate on each lever bearing the letter denoting the tone of each respective bell, and above the lever is a music rack.

The chimes were of great importance to the parish as the people pledged what was then a great deal of money from their weekly earnings.

The following names are engraved on each bell: St. Mary, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. Michael, St. Patrick, St. Dominic, St. Alphonsus, St. Ignatius, St. Benedict and St. Vincent de Paul.

The Stations of the Cross were requisitioned March 1909 from Germany and installed January 1911. The total cost was $9,600.

The windows in the new St. Mary Church come from the art studios of Megnen, Clamens and Bordereau, Paris et Augers.
Congratulations on 75 glorious years of faith & service

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We welcome you to call or write to us for more information.
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God Grant You Many Happy Years!
Catholics in South Jersey, 1743-1937

At a time when the force of anti-Catholicism limited freedom of worship, clusters of Catholics began to rise across the six counties, and the first recorded baptism and Mass was Oct. 5, 1743.

The place was a glass factory in Salem County and the celebrant was the apostle of South Jersey, Jesuit Father Theodore Schneider from St. Joseph’s, Philadelphia, a university professor and rector.

Father Ferdinand Farmer succeeded him in 1759 and made his last circuit in exhaustion in 1785.

In 1808 South Jersey became part of the Diocese of Philadelphia under Bishop Francis Kenrick. The first church in the present-day Diocese of Camden was dedicated at Pleasant Mills on the Mullica River in Atlantic County by Bishop Kenrick in 1830. Only the cemetery remains as an historic site. The church built in 1845 at Port Elizabeth in Cumberland County, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, was the site of the earliest confirmations, all at the hands of Bishop Kenrick. In May of 1879, most of the church was transported down river and creek to Goshen.

In the mid-1800s Jesuits, Redemptorists, Augustinians and diocesan clergy from Philadelphia traveled across the South Jersey missions on horseback or afoot, crossing streams and rivers, through forests in intolerable heat, with their sack strapped across their backs containing what was needed for Mass and the Sacraments.

Finally, Father Edmund Waldron, the first priest assigned to work primarily in South Jersey, arrived in Gloucester City in 1848 in spite of warning that he might be stoned there. The first Church of St. Mary in Gloucester was blessed by Bishop Kenrick in 1849; it was replaced by the present church in 1889. St. Mary is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Camden.

After Bishop (now St.) John Neumann requested that his Diocese of Philadelphia be made smaller, the Diocese of Newark was established in 1853 headed by Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley. Camden was now part of Newark and in these days Salem, Gloucester and Millville were centers of Catholic worship along with Immaculate Conception in Camden. In 1855, Father James Moran, the first priest ordained in New Jersey, was sent as pastor of the new parish. The first church there was replaced in 1866 with what is now the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is 642 Market Street, Camden.

In addition to being the Mother Church of the Diocese of Camden, it is one of three churches of Immaculate Conception Parish, the others being Holy Name Church at 522 State Street and Our Lady of Mount Carmel/Fatima at 852 S 4th Street.

A multi-cultural parish with English, Spanish and bilingual Masses, it has been staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales since 2008.

The parish is home to numerous ministries and services. Among them:

— Each weekday sandwiches are distributed to the needy. On Tuesdays food bags are distributed.
— Holy Name School.
— The Good Samaritan Clothing Store makes donated clothing available to the needy each Wednesday at no cost.
— Guadalupe Family Services, which offers clinical counseling and direct social services to families in distress.
— The Camden Center For Law and Social Justice, Inc. (CCLSJ) serves the legal needs of the immigrant community and working poor in Camden and throughout South Jersey. CCLSJ concentrates its practice in immigration law, family law, protecting victims of domestic violence, and general civil law. CCLSJ reaches out to approximately 5,500 individuals each year.
— The Holy Child, a social and charitable group for Filipino Americans.
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Congratulations to the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Camden on Your 75th Anniversary

We Salute the Diocese, its Parishes and Schools, along with its Charitable Works.
Thank You for Giving Us All a Faith-filled Future.

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