

INTERESTING VIEWS OF ST. BENEDICT'S PARISH



INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH — BEFORE REMODELING



INTERIOR VIEW AT ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH — TODAY

The Catholic Heritage handed down through the century is still evident in the Catholic community of Carrolltown. Customs of religious devotion are found in the town today that one would expect to find in Europe in the Middle Ages. Chief among these

is the Corpus Christi Procession held in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. In Carrolltown it is customary to see the priest walk the streets clothed in the Benedictine habit. Military rites of service organizations begin with High Mass in the Church.

St. Benedict's Church stands on one of the highest points of the Catholic Community of Carrolltown. In the 110 year history of the town, the church has had a far reaching effect. The site was well chosen because, in view of the people at all

times, it might well serve as an inspiration to them in their daily lives. The tower also can be seen from all roads leading into the community, and is visible as far away as Gallatin and Cresson. The town itself grew around the church building.

The Catholic Heritage

Majestically stands the century-old St. Benedict Church in Carrolltown, sentinel of the passing years.

Overlooking Carrolltown, founded in 1840 by Father Peter Lenka, the church has served as a cradle of Catholicism for this locality, spreading for 100 years the religious principles of the Catholic faith.

From a humble beginning it has grown to a tower of strength. The church is 100 years old. As a building, it is a temporal thing—stone upon stone, brick upon brick. To the people of the Carrolltown parish, the centennial of the church, which will be celebrated Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, means more than that.

To them, the work done in the cathedral-like structure is eternal. The church building through the century has been instrumental in bringing the saving grace of the Divine Redeemer to more than 8,000 souls. Working in the vineyard of the Lord have been many priests, most of whom have passed to their eternal reward.

The church today has a new appearance. A modern and up-to-date church and school are the boast of the parish. This is a tribute to the priests and parishioners through the century. It signifies the zeal, the cooperation and the sacrifices of the early Benedictine Fathers, their succeeding conferees and the faithful parishioners, past and present.



ST. BENEDICT'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

to Carrolltown People

Closely connected with the growth of St. Benedict Parish is the development of the Parochial School. From the earliest times the priests and the brothers provided for the religious training of the people of the parish. In 1870 the first parochial school was opened when three sisters came from St. Mary's Elk County. Eight years later the first school was built and in 1908 it was enlarged to make it double in size.

A total of about 150 students attend the school today and eight instructors are in charge. In 1946 the building was renovated and now has eight large classrooms with a basement containing a recreation room, a meeting room and a kitchen. A faculty of seven Benedictine Sisters and one lay teacher, Mrs. Fred Eves, are in charge of the school. Religious instructions also are given to high school students.

It took the combined efforts of 21 Benedictine pastors and many assistants together with the cooperation of all the parishioners, past and present, to build St. Benedict Parish up to what it is today. From a small congregation back in the mid-18th century, the congregation has grown until it numbers 422 families. A total of 2,234 individuals are enrolled as members of the church.

About 8,000 infants and converts have been baptized within its walls and more than 1,700 couples have exchanged nuptial vows in the presence of one of the Benedictine Fathers.

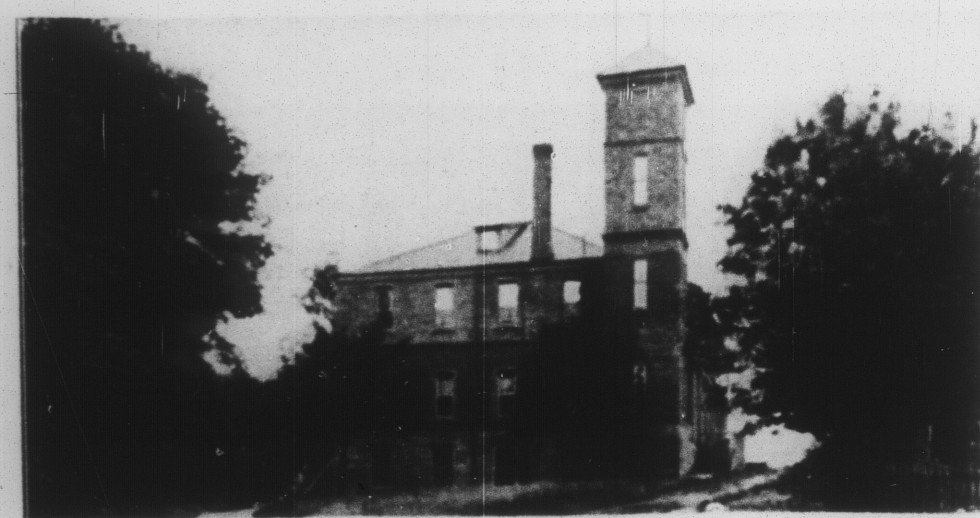
Handed Down Through the Years

St. Benedict's Church, dedicated on Christmas Day, 1850, stands on one of the highest points of Carrolltown. The site was well chosen because in view of the people at all times, the church might serve as an inspiration to them in their daily lives. In the 110 year history of the community, the church has had a far reaching effect. The town, which grew around the church, is noted for its historic Catholicity.

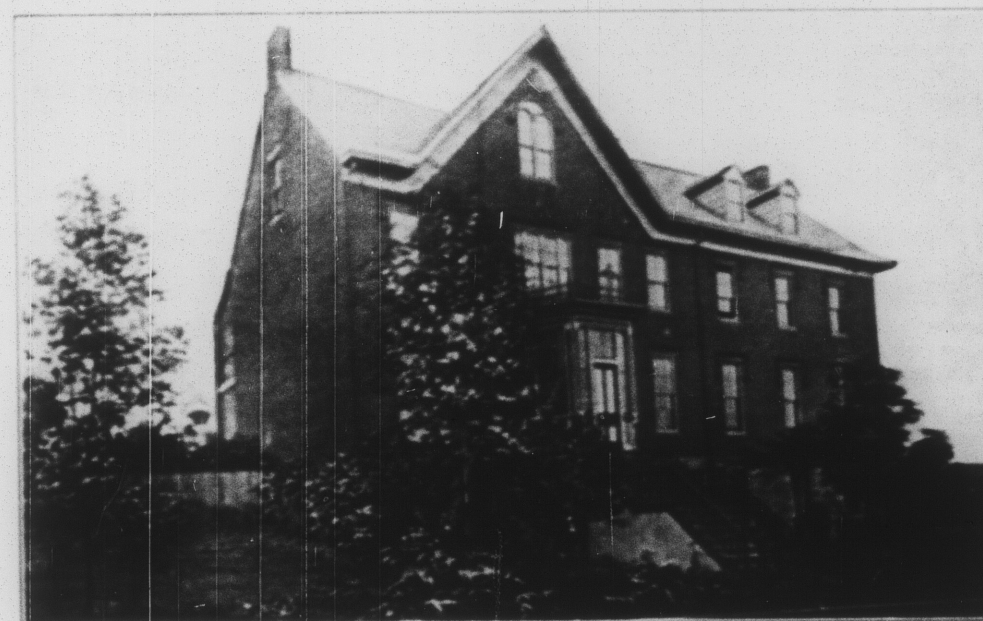
Travelers on all roads that approach Carrolltown can see the tall stately tower for miles. One hundred and seventy-two feet high, it has been a symbol of the Catholicity of Carrolltown since 1872. For 78 years, then, the tower and the large cross atop have been a part of Carrolltown.

The church building, as it stands today, is a large Gothic structure which holds about 1,000 people. It appears as a stone building, but originally it was constructed of brick made in the Carrolltown area. About 26 years ago the exterior walls were covered with cement fashioned in imitation stone to seal the leaks in the walls. The new terrazzo floor gives the appearance of a church constructed in the mid-twentieth century instead of the mid-nineteenth century.

The High Altar in the church is one of surpassing beauty. Imported from Germany in 1885, it is handcarved and is finished in natural oak.



BENEDICTINE MONASTERY



ST. SCHOLASTICA'S CONVENT



THE PRIEST'S VIEW FROM THE ALTAR



SCENES AT ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL