



A Timeline for the History of Immaculata and Holy Cross Churches

1842 - Approximately four acres of land on what was then Mt. Ida is given to the Cincinnati Astronomical Society by Nicholas Longworth as a site for an observatory.

1843 - John Quincy Adams lays the cornerstone for the observatory. Mt. Ida's name is changed to Mt. Adams.

1845 - The observatory opens and houses the second largest telescope in the world.

1848 - Bishop John Baptist Purcell purchases land on Mt. Adams two blocks east of the observatory.

1854 - Pope Pius the IX proclaims the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

1859 - Archbishop Purcell (he was named Archbishop in 1850) lays the cornerstone for the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Mt. Adams.

1860 - Archbishop Purcell builds wooden steps to Immaculata and prayers on the steps begin. First Mass and dedication of Immaculata on December 9th.

1861 - A parochial grade school is begun at Immaculata. The American Civil War begins.

1862 - Artist Johann Schmidt begins the large oil paintings in the sanctuary.

1865 - A one-room brick school is built at Immaculata.

1868 - A four-room stone school replaces the one room school at Immaculata.

1871 - The Passionist Order of Priests come to Immaculata under Superior Fr. Guido Matassi. A third story is added to the four-room school building. The observatory closes and moves to Mt. Lookout.

1872 - Fr. Matassi purchases the now empty observatory for use as a monastery and begins construction for a church on the observatory property for the English speaking families attending Immaculata.

1873 - Archbishop Purcell dedicates the new Holy Cross Monastery and Church.

1874 - 900 pound bell placed in the Holy Cross Monastery steeple.

1876 - Mt. Adams incline opens and spurs growth on the Hill.

1877 - Sisters of Charity begin teaching at Immaculata School. Classes are conducted in German.

1885 - Immaculata Church celebrates it's silver jubilee.

1888 - Holy Cross begins its own school in two rooms at the Immaculata School.

1891 - A new Holy Cross School building is opened and staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

1895 - A new Holy Cross Church is built on the site of the original church.

1898 - Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is built in the Holy Cross Church basement. Holy Cross celebrates its silver jubilee.

1900 - A new Holy Cross Monastery building is begun on the site of the original monastery.

1902 - A house is purchased to serve as a convent for the Sisters of Charity serving at Holy Cross.

1903 - Two new bells are added to the original 1860 bell at Immaculata and a statue of Mary is placed on the pinnacle of Immaculata's roof. Electricity is used to light the church.

A Note from Our Historian...

This is the sixteenth and final edition of the historical bulletin inserts in celebration of our 150th anniversary. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have researching and writing them.

A special thanks goes out to Larry Gilb for designing the masthead and layout.

If you have remembrances or photographs that you would like to share or place in the HCI Archives, please contact me at (513) 684-0101 or jamessteiner@hotmail.com

~Jim Steiner



1904 - Holy Cross begins a commercial high school.

1907 - First Holy Name rally in Cincinnati held at Holy Cross Church.

1909 - Immaculata celebrates its golden jubilee.

1911 - Concrete steps replace the original wooden steps Archbishop Purcell had constructed. A stone portico is added to the front entrance of Immaculata.

1912 - A side entrance and stone portico are added at Immaculata.

1914 - Immaculata School drops tuition.

1917 - An addition is added to Immaculata School. America enters World War I.

1922 - Fr. Alexis Quinlan begins as pastor at Immaculata and serves until 1945.

1927 - Holy Cross Commercial School closes.

1929 - A novena to St. Gabriel is begun and continues for forty years. The Great Depression begins.

1934 - Immaculata celebrates its 75th anniversary.

1941 - America enters World War II.

1945 - First Sunday Bulletin is published.

1946 - Immaculata School closes and becomes a commercial high school. Retreats for the laity begin at Holy Cross Monastery.

1947 - Original Immaculata rose window installed in 1860 is removed and the opening closed with concrete blocks.

1948 - Passionists celebrate seventy-five years on Mt. Adams.

1950 - Korean Conflict begins.

1951 - Immaculata bells are automated and no longer rung by hand ropes.

1952 - The Immaculata roof is declared unsafe and the church is closed. A concrete block storage building is built on the northern edge of Immaculata's property.

1953 - Immaculata reopens after the roof is repaired. Immaculata is designated a Marian Year Shrine.

1958 - The 1911 steps used for the annual Good Friday Pilgrimage are replaced.

1959 - Immaculata celebrates its centenary. Immaculata Commercial High School closes.

1962 - Holy Cross School is renovated.

1963 - Springer School opens in the vacant Immaculata School staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

1970 - Holy Cross Church closes. The St. Patrick statue is "stolen" from Holy Cross and moved to Immaculata.

1971 - Ancient Order of Hibernians begin the annual ritual of "stealing" St. Patrick from Immaculata.

1972 - First Navy Sabbath held at Immaculata; now known as Armed Forces Sabbath. First Pastoral Council is formed.

1973 - Concert held for the dedication of the newly restored Koehken and Grimm Organ which was moved from Holy Cross to Immaculata. Passionists celebrate their centenary on Mt. Adams.

1974 - Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is moved to Immaculata.

1976 - Holy Cross School closes.

1978 - A small chapel is built for daily Mass at Immaculata. Holy Cross School and Convent sold by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

1979 - Holy Cross Monastery and Church are sold by the Passionists.

1996 - Passionists leave Mt. Adams after 125 years and diocesan priests return.

2000 - Immaculata Rectory is remodeled and expanded.

2002 - Church roof in need of immediate repair. Parish raises \$500,000 to make repairs.

2005 - A rose window from St. Bonaventure Church is installed in the south facade of Immaculata.

2009 - New steps for the Good Friday Pilgrimage are dedicated. The steeple bells are restored by Verdin Bell Co. Immaculata begins a sixteen month celebration of its 150th Jubilee.

2010 - A sculpture commemorating the Sisters of Charity's ninety-nine years on Mt. Adams is dedicated. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr says a Mass commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first Mass at Immaculata.