

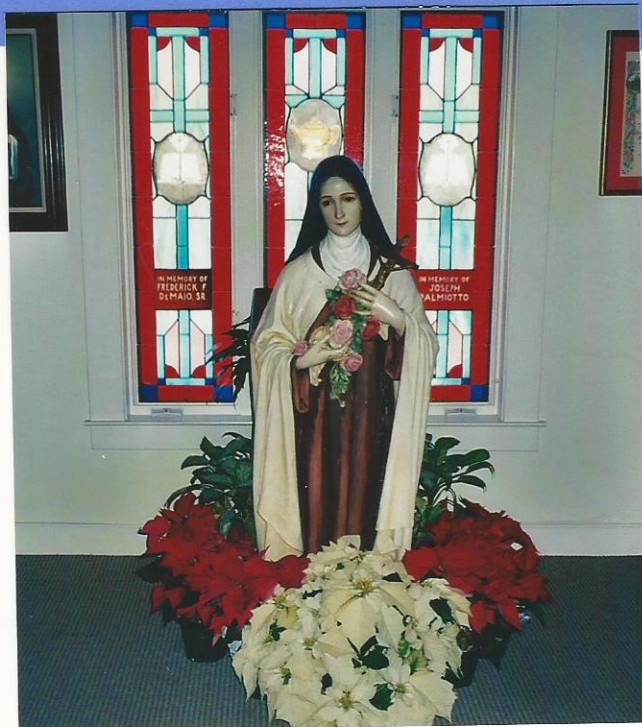
The Life of St. Therese of Lisieux

Therese Martin was born in Alencon , France on January 2, 1873. She was the youngest of nine children born to Louis and Azelie Guerin Martin, and one of five children who survived to adulthood. Her father was a watchmaker/jeweler by trade and her mother, a successful manufacturer of lace. The family lived comfortably and Therese was lavished with affection.

At the age of four, Therese and her family were stricken by the death of her mother. Her father moved the family to Lisieux to be close to his in-laws. Therese's sister, Pauline, only twelve, took over the spiritual education of the family, and the oldest Marie, thirteen, managed the household. When Therese was nine, her sister Pauline left for the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. Therese naturally wished to join her sister. When Marie also entered the convent four years later, Therese's desire for a religious life was greatly increased. (All five girls eventually became nuns.)

Therese showed an unusual spirituality as early as age three. On the Christmas Eve before her fourteenth birthday, she had an intense religious experience. She described that the newly born infant Jesus filled the darkness of her soul with floods of light, made her strong and brave, strengthened her with His own weapons and ridded her of excessive sensibility. Because of this, she became know later as "Therese of the Child Jesus".

The next year she was dissuaded from an early religious calling by both Order officials and the bishop, but continued to pray for her vocation. On April 9, 1888 she was finally given permission to enter the cloistered convent of the Carmelite Sisters in Lisieux. Therese spent the next nine years joyfully and prayerfully living her life. Although she exhibited poor health as early as seventeen, she willingly endured the harsh austerities of the Carmelite life and performed even the smallest jobs as a kind of prayer to God. Therese corresponded frequently with others, including Carmelite sisters in China who she had hoped to join. Because of her increasing illness, she never left the convent in France but prayed fervently for the success of the missionaries of the Church. She died at twenty-four after a long and painful ordeal with tuberculosis. She continues to touch many others: with her example of joyfully giving *all* one has, no matter how small the gift; with her autobiography, *History of a Soul*; and her other writings. She was pronounced a saint in 1925 and the patron, along with St. Francis Xavier, of world-wide missions in 1927. In 1998, she was given the title of Doctor of the Church, one of only three women so honored in the history of the Church.



History of St. Theresa Parish

In 1939, The Fathers of the Precious Blood, from Carthagena, Ohio, established: a Catholic Church in Crewe, Virginia; missions in Blackstone and Farmville; and took over serving the mission in Meherrin. The first pastor, Father Marcellus Fortman, assisted by Father Isadore McCarthy, traveled to Farmville from Crewe to celebrate Mass in a room at the Hotel Prince Edward for the first two years. At the time, there were only 20 Catholics in the area. As the membership grew, including more students from the local all-female college (now Longwood University), it became apparent that this location was no longer adequate. Longwood kindly offered the use of French Auditorium for Sunday Masses.

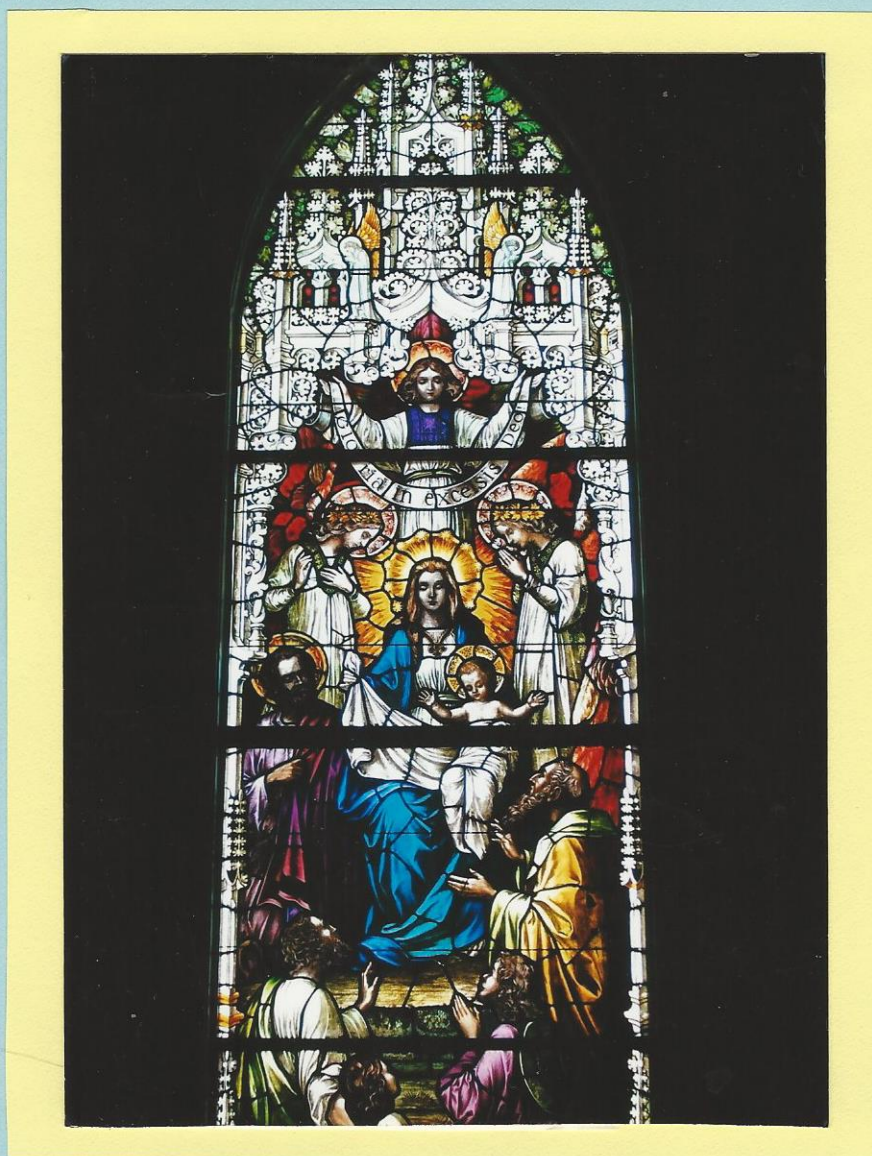
In the late 1940's, Father McCarthy, now pastor, traveled to other parishes to preach for funds to build a permanent building. Businesses were contacted for free or discounted materials. One large donor asked that the church be named for St. Therese of Lisieux (an appropriate name for a mission church). On May 25, 1951, the Rt. Reverend Michael J. Cannon, acting for the Bishop, Bishop Ireton of Richmond officiated at the dedication of St. Theresa Church, the present church in Farmville, which consisted of the current commons area and office space.

Priests at the time lived in a small room above the current parish office. This was a fine arrangement for visiting priests. But in 1964, the pastor and Newman Club Chaplain, Father Carl Reikowsky was assigned to resident pastor at St. Theresa's. From 1967 to 1968, the Reverend Cornelius Fenton, C.Pp.S., served as pastor until the Reverend Urban Dumminger, C.Pp.S. arrived in 1968. Father Dumminger, who served longest as resident pastor (August 1968 to June 1978), was at St. Theresa's when the rectory final moved to Oak Street in the 1970's. Father Dumminger was the last of the C.Pp.S. Order priests to serve at St. Theresa's. In the summer of 1978, priests from the Diocese of Richmond began pastorship of the parish. Under the administration of The Fathers of the Precious Blood, St. Theresa's parish had lost its mission status. Both Order and diocesan priests at St. Theresa's then served other area missions. After Father Dumminger left St. Theresa's in June of 1978, Father Thomas Summers served at St. Theresa's from 1978 to 1979. Other diocesan priests serving at St. Theresa included Father James C. Ditty and Father Gert.

One of the first diocesan priests, Father Robert McEleney, had the distinction of serving as pastor twice, from June 1979 to June 1987 and then from November 1999 to June 2000. He continued to assist when needed. As the parish continued to grow, it was apparent that a parish center was needed and plans *began* under Father McEleney. The building on Buffalo Street was *completed* under the direction of Father Robert Spenser in 1988. Father James C. Ditty stepped in as interim pastor in the early part of the 1990's. In January 1997, work began on our current worship area addition under the direction of Father Joseph Metzger, III.

The new addition was dedicated in June 1998. The parish recently celebrated its 50th anniversary on Buffalo Street with Father Richard Mooney as pastor in 2001. After Father Mooney's reassignment in 2002, Father Carl DeSouza served as pastor until his retirement in 2007. Father James M. Glass, OSB, became pastor of the newly formed Central Virginia Catholic Cluster until his departure in May 2010. In the interim, Father Joseph Wamala served as interim pastor until the arrival of Father Anthony W. Morris in September 2010. Father Joseph Wamala was reassigned to St. Francis Assisi in Staunton. Serving as parochial vicar during this time was Father Emmanuel DeLeon until his departure in 2012. Father Paul A. Kkonde was assigned to St. Theresa as parochial vicar in 2012. After Father Morris' reassignment to the Portsmouth Catholic Cluster, Father Stefan Migac arrived in 2015 and is currently serving as pastor of the Central Virginia Catholic Cluster.

The church in Farmville has grown from a handful of faithful, attending Mass in a hotel room to 300+ families with strong campus ministries at both Longwood and Hampden-Sydney College. We have grown from a mission church with a visiting priest to a parish with two full-time priests and two deacons serving the spiritual needs of the parishes of the Central Virginia Catholic Cluster.





New Catholic Church Building Going Up Here

Stone Edifice To Serve Local Area Congregation

Construction has begun on a Catholic Church building to be located in Farmville at the intersection of Highway 460 and Buffalo street. It is to be built of Burkeville granite and will be of a modified English Norman architecture.

The exterior of the building will be of rubble masonry with quarry end slate roof for both the church and the church study. The interior will be of tinted concrete block on the walls with open truss ceiling and acoustical plaster. The aisle and sanctuary floor will be inlaid with flagstone.

J. Vogel, of the Vogel Construction Co., Cumberland, is personally supervising the construction of the church. Mr. Vogel has said, that, weather permitting, the church will be completed in May.

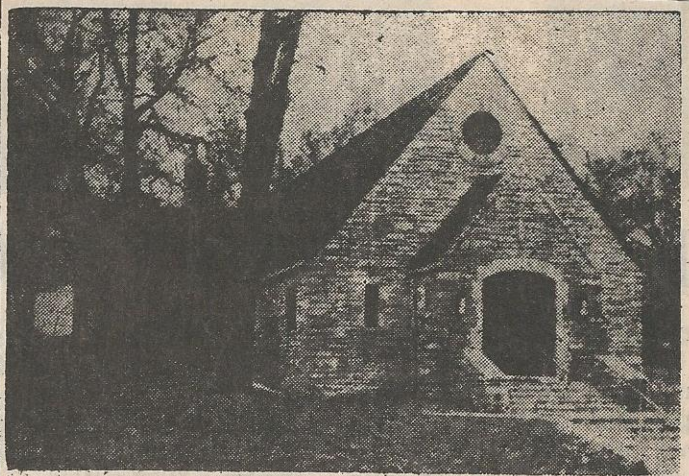
Long Wanted

Building of the church in its present location means the realization of a long sought goal on the part of the Catholic congregation in Farmville. For many years services were held in the parlor of the Prince Edward Hotel. Within the last ten years the congregation was invited to meet in the auditorium of the Student Building at Longwood College where services have been held each Sunday for a number of years.

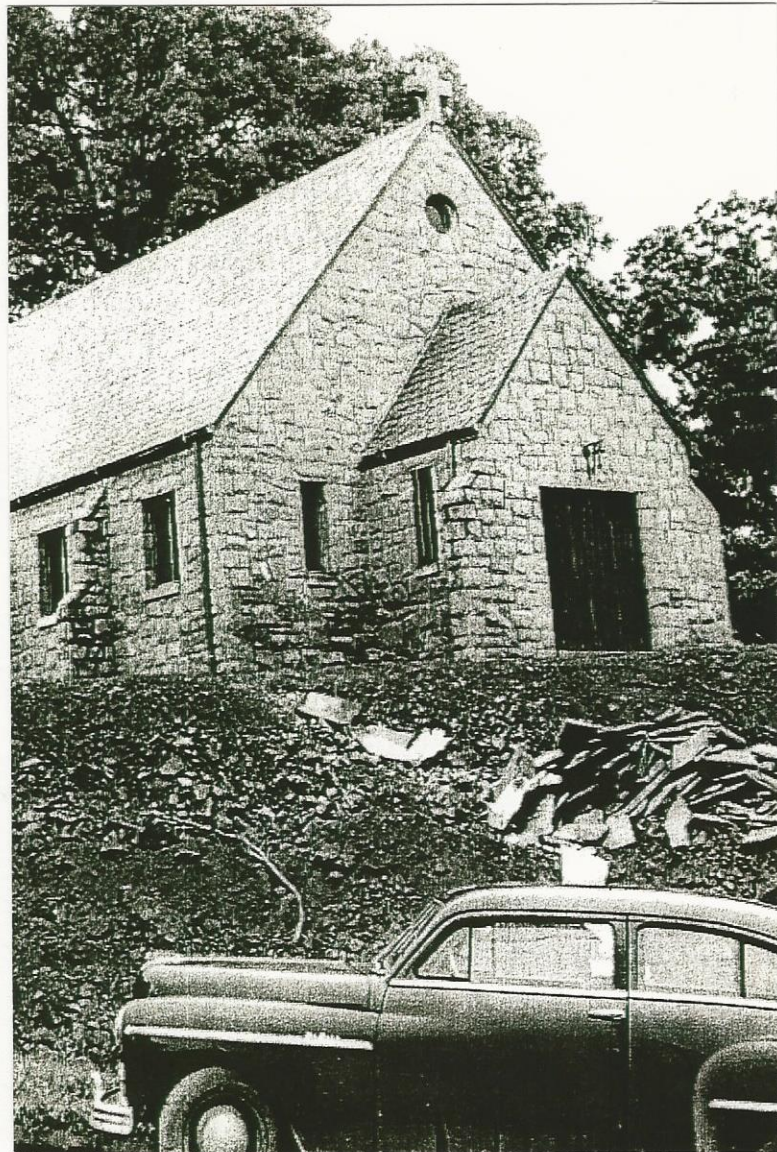
The new building will not only provide a home for Catholic worship each Sunday on the part of the Catholics of Farmville, but, it will also serve a large portion of the tourist trade that comes through Farmville on Highway 15. Last Spring, on his way to Florida for the spring training, Toramy Henrich, of the New York Yankees, stopped off for services.

Construction of the new building was authorized by the Most Reverend Peter L. Irton, DD, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. The pastor is the Rev. I. A. McCarthy, who at present resides in Crewe. He came to this section ten years ago.

Since his arrival, regular services have been held in Crewe, Blackstone, and Meherrin, as well as Farmville, Va. Under his direction church buildings have been completed and repaired in Crewe, Meherrin and Blackstone. An eight-room rectory was built in Crewe in 1942. Father McCarthy is assisted by The Rev. Albert Fey, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the Rev. Robert Silk, a native of Memphis, Tenn.



New Catholic church here will appear as in the architect's conception pictured here.



First Catholic Church In Farmville Blessed

A church to which hundreds of Catholics of the diocese contributed was dedicated at Farmville Sunday morning.

Named in honor of St. Therese, the handsome Burkeville granite edifice of modified English-Norman architecture was blessed by Rt. Rev. Michael J. Cannon, acting for Bishop Ireton.

It is the community's first Catholic church. Sunday Mass had been said in a room of the Hotel Prince Edward for two years until 10 years ago when Longwood College authorities allowed the use of the auditorium.

Father Isidore McCarthy, C.P.P.S., pastor, had solicited funds for the structure from numerous parishes throughout the diocese. The Extension Missionary Society gave a donation; people of the parish provided the statues and Stations of the Cross, and J. L. Vogel, Cumberland, Va., contractor, played an important role in making the project possible.

Lauds Precious Blood Fathers

Rt. Rev. Edward L. Stephens, V.F., of Alexandria said in the sermon that the church will serve as a center of religious life. "Here is where you will find Christ," he told the congregation of 300 that overtaxed the 240-seating capacity.

Monsignor Stephens paid tribute to the work of the Precious Blood Fathers who are in charge of mission churches in the five-county area. In behalf of the Bishop, he thanked the American provincial, the Very Rev. Seraphim Oberhauser, C.P.P.S., "for the high calibre of priests assigned to the Virginia missions."

Father Oberhauser celebrated the Solemn High Mass. The Rev. Marcellus Fortman, rector of the junior seminary at Canton, Ohio, was deacon. Father Fortman was pastor in 1939 when he and Father McCarty established the missions in Crewe, Blackstone and Farmville. The two lived in a hotel room because of the lack of a rectory.

The subdeacon was the Rev. Herbert Eilerman, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church, Elkhart, Kansas, and a former assistant pastor in Farmville. The Very Rev. Robert O. Hickman, chancellor, was master of ceremonies.

Rt. Rev. William J. Meredith of Lynchburg and 10 diocesan priests were seated within the sanctuary.

The St. Therese Choir, directed by Miss Veronica Folkes, sang the Mass of St. Basil.

It is estimated that 35 per cent of those present were non-Catholics.

Mayor Fitzpatrick was there; so were U. S. Representative Watkins Abbott, Col. Leslie Babcock, commandant of Camp Fickett; Judge and Mrs. Garrett of Cumberland, Va., and other town and country officers.

A buffet luncheon was served afterward in the recreation hall of Longwood College, and in the evening 50 priests were present at a reception.

Many Inspect Church

Hundreds of townspeople, most of them Protestants, visited the church during "open house" from 1 to 6 in the afternoon. Sisters of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, who serve the area from their convent in Crewe, were guides.

One of the Sisters heard a visitor tell a friend that the Stations of the Cross were the Ten Com-

mandments. The nun explained there are 14 stations and told of their significance.

The roof of the church is of broken slate, while the walks are of flagstone slate. The 12-inch wall is of concrete block on the interior and granite on the exterior. The pews and aisles are of oak.

The table-shaped altar is of granite, as are the two side altars. Candlesticks and the altar rail are of wrought iron. The dossal behind the main altar is of red velvet.

Living quarters for a priest have been built onto the side of the church in an L-shaped annex.

Assistants to Father McCarthy are Father Albert Fey, C.P.P.S., and Father Robert Silk, C.P.P.S.

Dedication Service Will Open Church Sunday Morning

Richmond Bishop To Hold Blessings; Residents Invited

The new Catholic Church erected at the corner of Buffalo and Third streets, will be dedicated Sunday at 10 a. m. Dedication will consist of the blessing of the altar stone; blessing of the church building; and the blessing of the new altar.

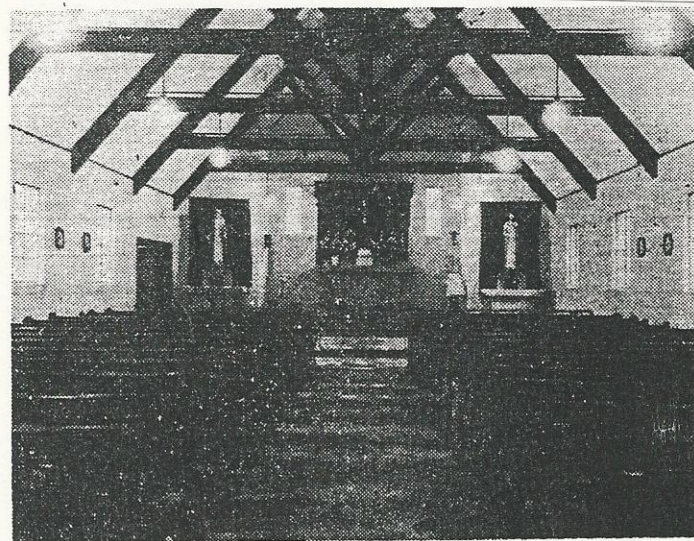
The most Rev. Peter L. Ireton, bishop of Richmond, will officiate at the blessings.

Following these ceremonies, a solemn celebration of the holy sacrifice of the mass (Eucharist), will take place with the very Rev. Seraphim Oberhauser, superior of the Fathers of the Precious Blood as celebrant. The priests who serve in Farmville and vicinity are members of the congregation of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. Assisting Father Oberhauser will be two priests who formerly served in the vicinity of Farmville. They are Rev. Marcellus Fortman and the Rev. Herbert Eilerman.

The new church is of modified English Norman architecture. It is built of granite quarried in Burkeville. The inside walls are of concrete block. The sanctuary and aisles are of Manassas flagstone. The altars placed in the sanctuary are constructed of the same stone as that used on the exterior of the building.

The church has been constructed by the J. L. Vogel Construction Company, Cumberland. Mr. Vogel himself designed the church and supervised its construction. Through his efforts, the church has been built at a remarkably low cost in proportion to the quality and the size of the building.

Father I. E. McCarthy, pastor, wishes to assure all the residents of Farmville and vicinity that they are more than welcome to attend. In the afternoon from 2 to 6, there will be an opportunity for all who wish to do so to inspect the building. Arrangements will be made for the church doors to be opened each day hereafter, so those who wish may go there to pray.



Interior view of the new St. Therese Catholic Church at Third and Buffalo streets in Farmville.

300 Attend Dedication Of St. Therese Church

About 300 citizens attended the dedication of St. Therese Church last week. The handsome Burkeville granite Catholic Church of modified English Norman architecture was blessed by the Rt. Rev. Michael J. Cannon, pastor of St. Peter's Church, Richmond, acting for Bishop Ireton.

A buffet luncheon was served after the first service of dedication, Sunday, May 20, in the recreation hall of Longwood College. In the evening, 50 priests were present at a reception.

Hundreds of townspeople visited the church during open house from 1 to 6 p. m. Sisters of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, who serve the area from their convent in Crewe, were guides.

First Church

St. Therese Church is the first Catholic church in Farmville. Sunday Mass was held in a room of the Hotel Prince Edward for two years until 10 years ago when Longwood College allowed the use of the small auditorium.

Father Isidore McCarthy is

pastor of the church that has a seating capacity of 240. He solicited funds for the church from numerous parishes throughout the diocese. The Extension Missionary Society gave a donation; people of the parish provided the statues and Stations of the Cross; and J. L. Vogel, Cumberland contractor, played an important role in making the project possible.

Slate Roof

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