



*Parish growth necessitated a school, built in 1932, and a convent, added in 1935*

from Blessed Sacrament Grade School.

Blessed Sacrament Parish — which stretches from the west side of 98th Street in Corona to the east side of 88th Street in Jackson Heights, and from the north side of Roosevelt Avenue to the south side of Northern Boulevard — had, in ten years, managed to build a complete church complex. In desperately hard financial times, the parishioners had amply proved their overwhelming generosity to their church. At the same time, these building projects provided jobs to many men who might otherwise have been unemployed during the Depression years.

The completion of the new LaGuardia Airport, the Long Island Railroad, and the elevated IRT (Interboro Rapid Transit) stations at Willets Point, and the elevated railroad at Main Street in Flushing assured the Jackson Heights area of rapid, convenient transportation both to Manhattan and points east. With this full complement of transit facilities, the remaining open land in Jackson Heights began to disappear rapidly. Mt. Edward Clark, Sr., an early parishioner, could recall the Leverich mansion that occupied the space where P.S. 149 now stands. The

gatehouse of this estate stood on the present site of the parking lot at 34th Avenue and Junction Boulevard.

Clearly it can be seen that until the end of the 1930's, Jackson Heights still had a rural flavor. Eventually the area evolved from farm land to a large, prosperous suburb with a brief hiatus during World War II. Much of the remaining open land saw service again along agricultural lines as it was used for "victory" gardens. Fathers Joseph G. Konrad, Francis H. Leonard, and John F. Hayes came to replace former curates in the parish at this time.

Father McDermott, now the chaplain at St. John's Hospital, Elmhurst, was assigned to the parish. About the same time, there came the realization that the little wooden church could no longer accommodate the ever-increasing number of parishioners. Additional Masses were already being offered in the school auditorium each Sunday to meet the needs of the people. The last religious services were held in the old church on July 19, 1948, and on August 3, 1948, ground was broken for a new structure. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on January 16, 1949. Now the auditorium was used for all religious