

History and Development ...



75 years: A Journey of Faith and Transformation!

In early 1941, many people started to come to San Diego from all over the country for work in the aircraft plants and shipyards. People were being hired in large numbers to help facilitate war efforts and San Diego quickly became overwhelmed with people. At the rate of 1,500 people a week pouring into San Diego,



Dirt roads and a sea of newly finished or nearly finished houses were characteristic of Linda Vista during 1941-42.

living space eventually became a problem. Afraid that it might impact the productivity of the defense work, the federal government intervened and started the largest single housing project here in Linda Vista. That was also the beginning of Holy Family Parish community. Having a faith community is an absolute necessity to help Linda Vista's Catholic pioneers get through the uncertain time of the world-war and to support each other while being away from families and home.



- LOCATION MAP
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
DEFENSE HOUSING PROJECTS, DEFENSE PLANTS & MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
SAN DIEGO AREA, c. 1945
1. Camp Pendleton - U.S. Marine Corps
 2. Coronado - 346 Units
 3. Fallbrook - 50 Units
 4. Camp Miramar - U.S. Navy
 5. Lantieri - 274 Units
 6. Camp Elliott - U.S. Army
 7. Radio Station - U.S. Navy
 8. Lees Ferry - 428 Units
 9. Silverwood - 1127 Units
 10. Linda Vista - 846 Units
 11. Imperial - 300 Units
 12. River View - 706 Units
 13. Imperial - 400 Units
 14. Navy No. 2
 15. Navy No. 1 - 400 Units
 16. Naval Training Center
 17. Consolidated Junior Aircraft Corp.
 18. Naval Aeronautical Corp.
 19. Naval Aircraft Corp.
 20. Naval Aircraft Corp.
 21. Naval Station
 22. Naval Electronics Laboratory
 23. Naval Air Station
 24. Coronado Homes and Camps - 750 Units
 25. The Oaks - 700 Units
 26. Chatham View - 500 Units
 27. Coronado - 300 Units
 28. Alpha - 175 Units
 29. 11th Naval District Headquarters
 30. The - 135 Units
 31. Navy No. 10
 32. Naval Station
 33. Naval Amphibious Base
 34. Olivebrook - 896 Units
 35. Cottonwood - 238 Units
 36. Sweetwater Park - 125 Units
 37. South Bay Park - 175 Units
 38. Vista Square - 700 Units
 39. Hilltop Village - 300 Units

On a Wednesday in September 1942, a small group of people gathered at the home of Joseph Brennan on 2076 Coolidge Street, Linda Vista, to plan a Catholic Mass for the residents in the area. Because there was no

other place to celebrate Mass, Mr. Brennan offered his home. On the first Sunday, about 25 people were gathered and mass was celebrated by Father Daniel O'Donoghue. Within a few weeks, mass attendance in the Brennan home swelled and plans had to be made to find or build a larger place of worship. While making plans to build a permanent home, a new church, the community moved the celebration of the Eucharist to the temporary Housing Administration Building on Linda Vista Road which was later removed and replaced by Canyon Ridge Baptist Church.

Father John W. McDonagh was sent to replace Father Daniel Donoghue in 1943 as the first pastor. He continued the plan by starting a fundraising campaign to build the church. The pioneers of this parish did something that didn't seem doable at the time. Despite the many hardships of war and sacrifices that come with war-rationing of labor and materials, plus the fact that many parishioners were temporary residents, Holy Family Church was completed and dedicated on September 19, 1943 by Bishop Charles Buddy. Bishop Buddy commented to



Outside of the original 1943 Church.



Inside of the original 1943 Church. Wedding Mass of longtime parishioners Bill & Rita Phares, 1957.

the eight hundred parishioners overflowing the three hundred and twenty-five seat capacity of the church that “this beautiful Church of the Holy Family is a Cathedral to our Lord.” The community continued to increase in numbers and God’s blessings.

Father Joseph Stadler replaced Father McDonagh in 1948 and in 1949 Father Daniel O’Donaghue returned as pastor. The community was well established by then. A new plan to open a school to provide Catholic education to the children of Linda Vista came to fruition in 1951. Under the direction of



Holy Family School viewed from Ulric Street.

Father Daniel O’Donaghue, construction began in March and the school was open in September of that same year. Sister Mary Kostka was the first principal of the new school.



Class of 1960 with Fr. Noonan (Pastor), Sr. Albert (Principal), Mrs. Sanders (Teacher). Some of the students who attended Holy Family School in the early days are still parishioners today: Barry Quinn, Yolanda Minton, and many others.



Msgr. Ned celebrating daily Mass for school & community, 2017.

Holy Family Catholic School, originally named Holy Family Academy, was staffed by the School Sisters of Nortre Dame until 1977 when lay professionals took over the administration and teaching duties.

2017

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NOW ENROLLING!

Call or stop by today for a tour.

A collage of images showing students in a classroom setting. Some are wearing safety goggles and looking at a project on a table, while others are holding books.

We are committed to
faith, integrity and academic excellence
in a loving and caring environment.

The school currently serves students in Grades Kindergarten through 8th grade and includes a Preschool that serves children ages 3 to 5. Providing faith formation remains and is the heart of our school’s philosophy and mission as our Catholic faith is integrated into every aspect of the school’s life.



Annual Christmas Pageant, Holy Family School 2016.



May Crowning 2016

In 1953, Father John P. Bland arrived at Holy Family Parish. The ten-year old Church, with the capacity of 325 seats was getting crowded and getting to be inadequate so a campaign for a building fund was initiated to build a larger church. Father Bland was able to acquire properties that became the old rectory as well as land for a parking lot. In 1959 Father Michael J. Noonan replaced Father Bland. Father Noonan continued the building fund drive until he went home to God on April 15, 1969.

As it was the will of God that “one sows and another reaps,” Father Lloyd V. Bourgeois became pastor and completed the work on the new Church. In February 1970, the foundation of the new church was poured. Groundbreaking was in October 1970. With many years of preparation, sacrifices and endurances, building the new church did not take very long. The



Photo taken on May 9, 1971, three months after work started.

new church was up and ready for the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament on July 3, 1971. Solemn dedication of Holy Family Church was officiated by

Mass to mark transfer to new church facility

Persons of all faiths are invited to attend a mass at 8 p.m. Saturday in the new Holy Family Catholic Church following transfer of the Blessed Sacrament from the old church at 1957 Coolidge.

New schedule of masses at Holy Family is as follows: Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30, 9, 10:30, 12, and 5. The 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. masses are guitar masses.

Solemn dedication of the church is to take place some time in the fall.



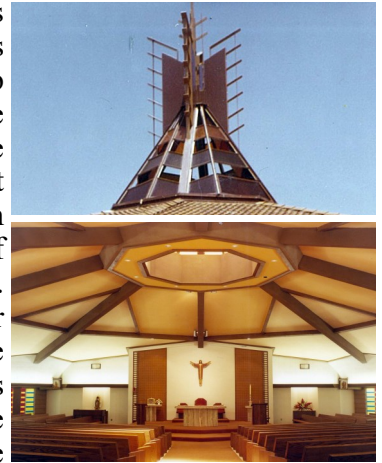
Bishop Leo T. Maher dedicated the new 750-seat sanctuary, 1971.



Old 1943 church got renovated into the Parish hall. Here it's being used for the new Church dedication reception, 1971.

Bishop Leo T. Maher on October 10, 1971 and is presently in use today as our main sanctuary.

The design of this church building imitates the Indian tipi. The top structure that supports the cross resembles the feathers of the birds that plays an important role in the belief system of Native American Indians. Including the red color scheme, the Native American theme reminds us that we are all once foreigners and are



welcomed to make our home here in this land. On that same note, the shape of the Church is an octagon which represents the eight directions of the world, meaning we come from all different paths and directions of life, and are all welcome here. Once entered inside the Church, it becomes one space, meaning everyone is the same and united as one.



A baptism, 1990

Welcoming, hospitality and inclusiveness have always been the founding principles of Holy Family Parish community.

Indeed, Holy Family has welcomed numerous groups of people here throughout it's journey. Some, like the Hmong and Koreans who came for a time and then moved on as people moving out of Linda Vista, others like the Filipinos whose presence dated back to the early 1950's and are still active here today. They were part of the defense effort as



Last day of Simbang Gabi celebrations, 12/23/1998.

semi-skilled, skilled and laborers, professionals and military officials who arrived to San Diego over different periods of times from other states and from their homeland. Almost all of the Filipino speak English so there was never a need for a separate mass in Filipino (Tagalog), but they have always been an active group that functions and supports the missions of Holy Family.



Preparing food for the Annual Festival, 2016.

This principle of hospitality was being realized once more when in the 1970s and 1980s, Linda Vista became a destination community for Pan-Asian immigrants fleeing the Vietnam War. Holy Family was the first of five parishes that welcomed the first wave of Vietnamese immigrants who started to arrive in 1975 through Camp Pendleton. As families and individuals became more



Vietnamese Choir is one among the many groups within the community: Eucharistic Youth, Catholic Mothers, Catholic Fathers, Cursillo, Vietnamese Cultural & Language School, Vietnamese Religious Ed., etc.



Vietnamese celebrating their faith - Palm Sunday procession, 2007.

affluent, many relocated to other communities in the city such as Clairemont, Serra Mesa, and what was then brand-new tract communities such as Mira Mesa, Rancho Peñasquitos, Rancho Bernardo, etc. Despite their move away from Linda Vista, a great number of people and families are still making Holy Family their home parish and driving great distances to attend weekend masses and other parish activities.



Vietnamese Community sets up Christmas decorations, Nativity scene inside the church and place of repose for the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday in the Hall.

A NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

- Terry Clark, Pastoral Council Chair.

In 1953, my parents, three sisters and myself moved from Massachusetts to San Diego. We lived on Templeton Street, in the "temporary housing" built for workers in the war efforts. Things at Holy Family were much different then. Our church was in what is now Ave Maria Hall and the priest said Mass in Latin with his back to the congregation. Linda Vista was a huge mixing pot of people from all over the United States. Virtually no one came from here, we all came from somewhere else. Almost no one had extended family in the area, so we all became family for each other. It made it easy to make friends, even ones you would never have had "back home". Linda Vista was remote from other parts of San Diego then. The buses ran seldom, so all the kids went to the recreation center, and later, a skating rink for social activities. The building itself was a quonset hut that was renovated. It was in the shopping center, the first in the nation, dedicated by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. There was a movie theater in the center of the plaza. (When the movie "The Moon is Blue" played, it was condemned by the church and the associate pastor, Fr. Mullaly (sp), stood outside the theater, watching to see if any kids would sneak in.) Some things were the same. We had an annual fundraiser, but it was called the Bazaar. The school was newly opened and my mother taught there for several years. We had a Holy Name Society (all men) and they held monthly Communion breakfasts and my sisters and myself learned how to wait on tables from Mrs. Dobson and Mrs. Signorelli. They were tough taskmasters! But, it was great fun. All those men were like uncles to us. Holy Family Church became our extended family and I believe that is why we were able to enjoy the changes that happened over time. We welcomed the Southeast Asian refugees who came here, just as we were welcomed by the war-worker families who had welcomed us as we arrived. And later, they helped us welcome the Hispanic people who have come lately. One Holy Family!



Posada, re-enactment of Mary and Joseph searching for room to stay, 2015.

into its membership. Within a few years, the Hispanics became more involved and more visible in number of people and in active participation in ministries. The founder and coordinator of the Guadalupanas group, Catalina del Rio, requested we have a Spanish Mass and it was approved in 1976 to have a mass celebrated at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon on Sunday by Father Luis Bernal. Other priests that came to minister the Hispanic Community were Fr. Rene Juarez and Fr. Miguel Diaz when Mass was changed to the present 12:00 p.m. time. At the arrival of Fr. Maximo Garcia and priests after that, new groups begin to form and ministries continue to grow in the heart of the parish community.

Going back all the way to the beginning, there was another group that was quietly involved in the parish community, until in 1971, Fr. Lloyd Bourgeois approved the Guadalupanas group to be formed as a parish organization. The community continued to welcome the Hispanics



Celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mañanitas & Mass, Dec. 12, 2015.



Grupo de Oracion, founded in 2006
Night Adoration Group, found in 1986



Holy Family has truly become a multicultural community that welcomes all!

In 1977, Monsignor Jeremiah O'Sullivan succeeded Father Bourgeois. The most pressing needs were to assist the refugees who were streaming into Linda Vista from Southeast Asia, mainly the Hmong and Vietnamese people. They often arrived with just the clothes on their backs and very few resources. Then Paul Davidson, who was soon to be ordained a permanent deacon was given the task of forming the social outreach ministry. Father Bourgeois decided that a conference of the St. Vincent De Paul Society was the most practical vehicle to accomplish the needed tasks and something that Paul would be comfortable doing. They began to collect clothing to



distribute. Deacon Tom and Marge Dougherty's home quickly was filled, garage, living room and outside storage. It was clear that more space was needed. Deacon Paul Davidson was able to get a trailer donated and the permits to put it on the parish grounds. Marge Dougherty named it the Christian



Christian closet



Closet. It is still in service today, open Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Sponsoring families at Christmas, 2015.

During this time, the Knights of Columbus were also a very active group. The council of St. Jean Vianney No. 4820 was found in 1959 under the guidance of Fr. Noonan that lasted until the late 1970's. The present council of Fr. Thomas B. Austin No. 4958 came from St. Catherine Laboure in 2001, when the parish went through a major and massive structural renovation that left the council no place to meet. Fr. Mike Ortiz welcomed them with open arms.



A \$2,500 check was presented by St. Jean Vianney council to Fr. Bourgeois for the new Church in 1971, which today would be equivalent to \$15,000.00



Since then, the Knights have provided and contributed to our parish community in many ways, such as setting up and taking down the annual festival, taking up projects in the parish and supporting the school and different groups to accomplish their missions.



2016 festival kick-off dinner, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Besides this wonderful group of gentlemen, there is also group of ladies that added to the life and growth of the parish community. Like people said "behind every successful man is a woman," in this case, behind every successful parish or pastor is the Altar & Rosary Society. Simply because its existence is to keep the altar beautiful with laundered linens and meticulously maintained holy vessels. Without these being taken care of on an ongoing basis, there is no Eucharist. No Eucharist means no Church. This group is one of the oldest organizations in our church's history, dating back to the early days of the parish



and school. The members consist of the ladies of the parish. Anyone interested may join. Using their cooking, baking, and hostessing skills, they join with other organizations of the parish to help where they can. But, mostly to do what the pastor requests!



Latest gift from the Altar & Rosary Society: Chalice and Ciborium for the occasion of the 75th anniversary, 2017.

In 1984 Father Donald Walsh replaced Monsignor O'Sullivan as the 8th pastor. In 1985 Father Gerald Palcheck became pastor. In 1992 Father Ronald Hebert who embraced the multicultural diversity and focused on forming disciples for the mission of Christ through the Bread of the Word and the Bread of Life. Father Bruce J. Orsborn became the pastor in 1996 to give special attention to the struggling school. Father Michael Ortiz became the pastor in 1999 and started a renovation



PASTORS & ASSOCIATES FROM 1942-PRESENT

1942-1948: Rev. John W. McDonagh, Pastor
Rev. Gerard Arnold-Assistant, 1948

1948-1949: Rev. Joseph Stadler, Pastor
Rev. Stephen Koloszar-Curate, 1949
Rev. John Farrell-Curate, 1949
Rev. Francis J. McKeown-Curate, 1949
Rev. Joseph F. Stang-Curate, 1949

1949-1953: Rev. Daniel O'Donoghue, Pastor
Rev. John Farrell-Curate, 1949-50
Rev. John J. Lyons-Curate, 1950-51
Rev. Patrick Dalton-Curate, 1952
Rev. Edwin H. Hoppel-Curate, 1953

1953-1959: Rev. John P. Bland, Pastor
Rev. Daniel W. Cadonic-Assst., 1956-58

1959-1969: Rev. Michael J. Noonan, Pastor
Rev. Edmond Barrett-Assst., 1962-63
Rev. John Sistrich-Assst., 1964-66

1969-1977: Rev. Lloyd V. Bourgeois, Pastor
Rev. John B. Nesbitt, 1969-72
Rev. Raymond G. O'Donnell, 1972-76
Rev. Henry A. McDonnell, P/T, 1974
Rev. Donald E. Coleman, 1976-80

1977-1984: Msgr. Jeremiah O'Sullivan, Pastor
Rev. Giles A. Conwill, 1980
Rev. Michael C. Diehl, 1980-81
Rev. Stephen P. McCall, 1981-82
Rev. Elpidio T. Quinton, 1982-86

1984-1985: Rev. Donald Walsh, Pastor
Rev. Emilio V. Maldonado, 1984
Rev. Desmond F. Maguire, 1985-92

1985-1992: Rev. Gerald Palcheck, Pastor
Rev. Roque P. Vaño, 1986-87
Rev. Joseph Khuyen Van Lai, 1987-92

1992-1996: Rev. Ronald Hebert, Pastor

1996-1999: Rev. Bruce J. Orsborn, Pastor

1999-2001: Rev. Michael Ortiz, Pastor

2001-2003: Rev. Jovencio Ricafort, Pastor

2003-2014: Rev. Michael Pham, Pastor
Rev. Gerardo Fernandez, 2003 - 05
Rev. Joseph Freeman, 2005 - 06
Rev. Alexander Aquino 2006 - 07

2014 - present: Rev. Peter Vu Lam, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Ned Brockhaus, Retired

campaign for inside the Church.

In 2001, Father Jovencio Ricafort became the pastor and continued beautifying the church with the stained glass windows. Father Michael Pham became the pastor in 2003. Among other projects such as the new roof for the Church, underground electrical system, etc., in 2005, Fr. Michael replaced the old dome glass and the front panels of the church with the present beautiful stained glass.





All of this was possible because under his leadership, the community had truly “gathered as one” for the mission of the Church in this local vineyard.

in many ways over the years. We have so many volunteers with all of our ministries from lectors to Eucharistic ministers and so much more.

As our community continues to grow, we face the challenge of having outgrown our space once again. Under the leadership of our current Pastor, Father Peter Vu Lam, and with the support of the

72 panels made up this cone shape piece. 12' tall with a 16' diameter base. Installer had to repel from the top to install the panels.

Today Holy Family has so much to be thankful for. We are blessed with an abundance of active groups and ministries. The multicultural communities are so vibrant and is evident through our seven multicultural masses we have every year as well as our multicultural fall



Bishop Robert McElroy signing the book of the elects, Lent 2016.



Multicultural Choir, Christmas 2015

festival celebration. We have an incredible number of altar servers that you can see at any mass that you attend. Children are becoming more excited to serve at mass, to sing in the choir and to find something to do that makes mass more meaningful for them. The Youth and Religious Education Program have grown

parish councils and the generosity of this parish community, we raised the funds needed and built a new 940 square foot multipurpose room, renovated the old common room and guest quarters to make a larger and more welcoming parish office fit with ramps and handicap rails to make it easily accessible to all.



For 75 years, as a parish community, we have always come together and established an atmosphere of kindness, sincerity, and welcoming. Together, we work toward our future by ceaselessly garnering our efforts to continue our journey of faith and transformation in teaching, sanctifying and serving one another with eagerness and love.

God bless us!



Altar Servers training, 2015

Planting of the Anniversary Tree in front of the newly renovated office. In the background is the dome that just got fixed with extra layer of tempered glass to prevent the longtime leaking problem.