



Key Moments in St. Peter's History

A series of historical highlights from the first 200 years of St. Peter – Libertytown.

Memorial of the Tombless Dead and St. Peter's Respect Life Ministry

Decades prior to the organization of a Respect Life Ministry at St. Peter's, a Memorial to the Tombless Dead was erected by Fr. William H. I. Reaney in our Cemetery. Located in the Holy Family section of the Cemetery, this memorial was built 132 years ago in 1890, and was etched with an inscription from Revelations at the top right hand side of the front of the structure (covered with ivy in this picture):



*Figure 1 Memorial to the TombLess Dead
about 1920*

In Memoriam of the
TombLess Dead

“Blessed are the dead who die in
the Lord”.

Also etched on stones at the bottom
right hand side of the edifice (and
also covered in ivy in this picture)
is Fr Reaney's name and the year
the Memorial was constructed:

W H I A D
REANEY 1890

This 1890 structure stood in the cemetery for just over 100 years, until Patrick (Pat) Spielman, (Parish maintenance manager from 1990 to 2015), declared the structure unsafe in 1998 – it was crumbling. Pastor John Dietzenbach determined that it should be rebuilt and the inscription to the un-tombed, gave him the idea to restore it as a Memorial to the Unborn. Stone mason and parishioner Tim Fazio, along with his two brothers, were contracted to reconstruct the structure.

They retained the original cross at the top; and on the right, those stones from the original Memorial which contained the original inscription, Fr. Reaney's name, and the date of the original structure.

Added to the re-built memorial, on the top left, is the following the inscription:

In Memoriam to the Unborn
"Come to Me, all you who are weary
and find life burdensome."
Matthew 11:28



*Figure 2 Rear view of Memorial to the Unborn
July 2022*

In addition to the stone memorial dedicated to the unborn, St. Peter's has a Respect Life Ministry which is very active throughout the year. This month, as has been done for many years, the Ministry will sponsor a bus for parishioners to attend the annual March for Life which takes place in Washington DC, to mark the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. A giving tree for Birthright donations is also set up in the Narthex of the Church each January. In February parishioners will be invited to attend the March for Life in Annapolis, MD and the members of this ministry organize volunteers during Lent and in the fall for 40 Days for Life in Frederick, MD. In September, at the Memorial to the Unborn in our cemetery, the Ministry organizes a service for the National Day of Remembrance for the Unborn; and in October, which is Respect Life Month, parishioners participate in a life chain in Frederick, MD.

St. Peter's is one of the parishes in the area that partners with Gabriel Network in helping women in crisis pregnancies. 20 years ago in 2002, parishioners Robert Laneve and his wife, the late Bea Laneve, purchased a house in Union Bridge, now known as Mary's house. Operated by house parents, pregnant women can live at Mary's House while having their baby and for about a year afterwards, until they can live independently. Both St. Peter's and the Unionville Bible Church support this effort, with the Knights of Columbus recently holding a baby bottle drive to benefit the residents of Mary's House.

As these stories reflect, the good actions of St. Peter's former pastors, Reaney and Dietzenbach, are continued with the good works of today's parishioners at St. Peter's.