



Key Moments in St. Peter's History

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

Fathers Monteverde, McNulty and Farrell

Fathers Thomas Monteverde, Martin McNulty and Phillip Farrell each served but a short time at St. Peter's. Combined, their pastorates at St. Peter's totaled only 15 years which may explain why there is a relative lack of information about their time at St. Peter's. Father Monteverde was only 45 when he died and Fr. Farrell, who succeeded Fr. McNulty, was not ordained until nearly 45 years of age.

Fr. Thomas J. Monteverde was born in Baltimore in January 1860. His parents had emigrated from Genoa, Italy. He attended St. Leo's parochial school and St. Charles College. He then entered St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained by Cardinal Gibbons.

He first served at St. Peter's, Libertytown, and like his predecessors, he also served the faithful at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mechanicstown (Thurmont). The Frederick News specially noted that he said his first sermon at Libertytown on November 13, 1892, and his first at Mechanicstown would be November 20.

During his short stay at St. Peter's, Libertytown, one notable event occurred. On June 27, 1893, the first Commencement of Notre Dame Academy was held in the Church Hall (the first church, turned hall). Fr. Charles Ebert, of the Pins Memorial Church, Baltimore, made some remarks, noting that religion was the guardian of all virtues, including morality, honesty, civic, and patriotic.

It was noted by the Frederick News on January 27, 1894, that Fr. Monteverde had been appointed assistant priest at St. Joseph's in Baltimore.

Fr. Monteverde served at St. Joseph's in Baltimore (1895-96), St. Jerome's in Baltimore (1897-99), St. Joseph's in Ammendale (Prince Georges County) (1900-1903), and St. Leo's in Baltimore (1904-1905).

It was at St. Leo's that he developed tuberculosis of the throat. While visiting a friend in Baltimore on June 16, 1905, he hemorrhaged and was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he later passed away. A Solemn High Requiem Mass was said at St. Leo's on June 19 and he was buried at New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

Fr. Martin Leo McNulty was born November 18, 1887, in Ashland, MD (near Cockeysville in Baltimore County).

He received his early education in the public schools but entered Loyola High to continue his education. Loyola College came next and then he studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary. He was ordained on May 28, 1914, by Bishop Owen Corrigan.

His first assignment was to St. Francis de Sales in Charles County and Our Lady Star of the Sea on Solomons Island, from 1915-17. In 1918 he served at Saints Philip and James in Baltimore. After the death of Fr. Samuel Kavanagh on April 24, 1923, he was assigned to St. Peter's, where he had the

unenviable task of following a much beloved priest. In 1929 he moved to St. Joseph's in Texas, MD where he stayed until 1935. He next moved to St. Jerome's in Baltimore where he served from 1936-48. He was at St. Cecelia's in Baltimore in 1949 and 1950. He entered Bon Secours Hospital on June 23 and passed away on June 24, 1950.

Interestingly, Fr. McNulty received a sum from the estate of James M. Sappington, who died on June 7, 1923. Mr. Sappington left \$500 to Fr. Kavanagh, or in the event of his death, to his successor. There is no record of what the money was used for.

Funeral services for Fr. McNulty, who was pastor of St. Cecelia's at the time of his death, were held on June 28 at St. Cecelia's. The Solemn High Mass was said by Archbishop Francis Keough. Burial was at the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.



Figure 1 Fr. Philip Farrell, undated

Fr. Philip L. Farrell was born on November 16, 1875, in Albany, New York. He studied at St. Charles College. He studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY, and at Mt. St. Mary's. He was ordained by Bishop Owen Corrigan on June 15, 1919.

He began his priestly career in Frederick County. He was assigned to St. Joseph's, Buckeystown, from 1920-28, which parish also included missions at St. James, Point of Rocks, and St. Ignatius, Urbana. He then moved to St. Peter's and remained there from 1929 to 1937. He was then on sick leave for several years, returning to priestly duties at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, from 1942 to 1948. He retired in 1949.

While at St. Peter's, Fr. Farrell chaired the preparations for the annual parish picnic on August 4, 1937. It drew an estimated 10,000 people, the largest attendance ever, snarling parking and traffic at Pine Mountain Park. The afternoon tournament was well received. In the evening, over 600 dinners were sold, and the quantities of food consumed ran to 2200 rolls, almost 400 pounds of country ham, several hundreds of chickens, and 143 cases of soda water.

Fr. Farrell was very active in community relations while in Frederick County, especially the Lions Club. There are several mentions of him relative to the Lions Club in the Frederick press, including giving invocations and talks, and being a member of the Memorial and Major Activities Committees. Fr. Farrell gave a speech on citizenship at the Club's weekly luncheon, to celebrate Citizenship Week, which would start on the upcoming Sunday, October 23, 1932. He discussed how a betterment candidate won the election over the party candidate in his home city, and proceeded to pave city streets, close open wells, extend the sewer system, and block typhoid fever.

He died on November 28, 1951, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, New York City, after a long illness. A requiem Mass was said at St. Peter's Church, Poughkeepsie, New York on December 3. He is buried in Poughkeepsie.