

July 2018

40th Anniversary: Church of the Incarnation

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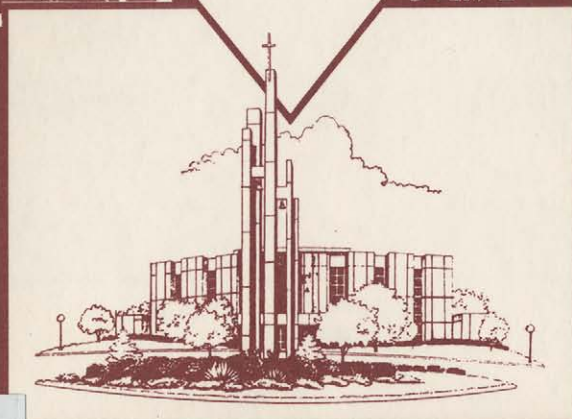
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40TH

ANNIVERSARY



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CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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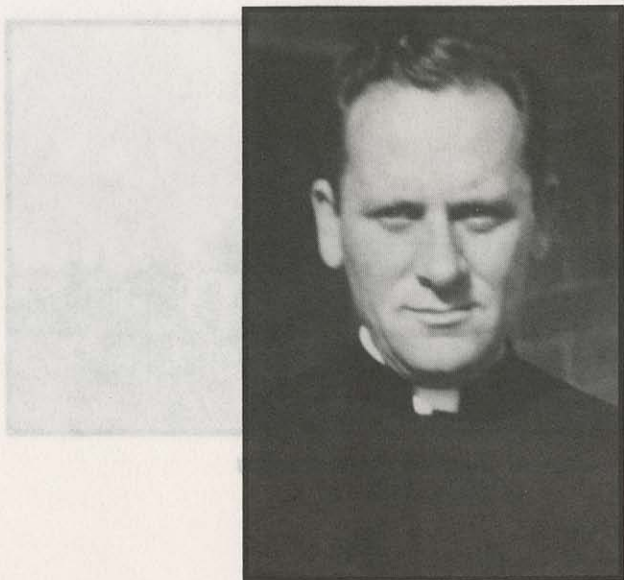
*The Original Church of the Incarnation
(1950 - 1969)*



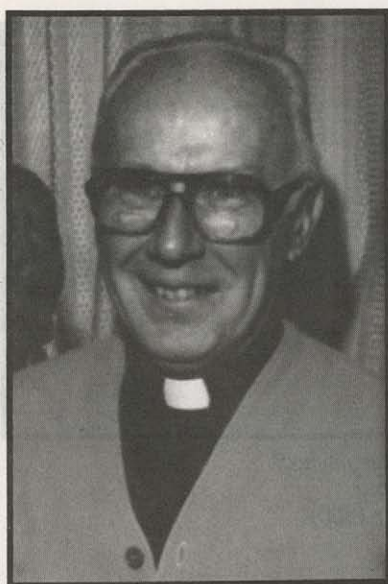
*Incarnation Elementary School
(1957 - present)
(Addition built in 1960)*

Rev. Thomas A. Kuhn
Pastor from 1989 - present

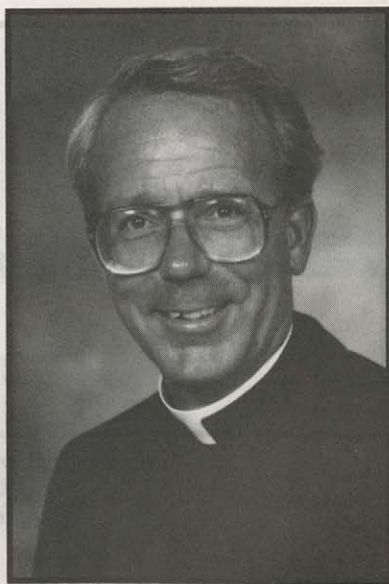
Rev. Joseph C. Haskins
Pastor from 1979 - 1989



*Rev. Raymond C. Kallaher
Pastor from 1951 - 1979*



*Rev. Joseph C. Heskamp
Pastor from 1979 - 1989*



*Rev. Thomas A. Kuhn
Pastor from 1989 - present*

Some Thoughts From Fr. Kuhn...

Dear People of Incarnation Parish,

In 1966, when lay people did not distribute Communion, I was sent as a deacon to help at Incarnation. Father Kallaher was pastor. I do remember that I was sick that day, and that I never saw the inside of Incarnation Church. I drove up from Cincinnati with another deacon, and then lay on the couch all morning. I guess the Lord intended for me to be inside Incarnation Church, it just took Him 23 years to get me here.

I come at a time when we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of our Parish. It is not just a celebration of 40 years, but a celebration of a people who listened to the Gospel, and then lived that Gospel in the best way they knew.

Right now, the Parish is blessed with great associate pastors, great staff, and faith-filled and caring people. In a spirit of living the Gospel of Jesus, it is my prayer that we have even greater reason to celebrate our 50th!

Sincerely,

Fr. Tom Kuhn

Some Thoughts From Fr. Heskamp...

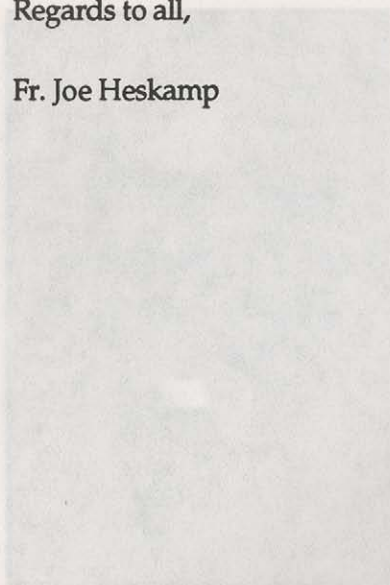
Congratulations to all the people of Incarnation. I wish to thank all of you for accepting me as a partner on our journey to God. It was my privilege to be with you for almost half of the 40 years. I remember the hot, sweltering summer Sundays in the little old frame Church, the noisy Sunday Masses in the gym. We have seen many joys and sorrows together.

I was Associate Pastor at St. Mary's on Xenia Avenue in 1950. The people there contributed the initial fund to start Incarnation Parish. I recall driving the old Pastor, Msgr. Beckmeyer, way out into the country to the little town of Centerville to see the new little Church. I thought, "What a nice, quiet, little place to be." Farthest from my mind was any idea that I would spend a major portion of my priesthood there. I guess I have just been a lucky guy.

I hope we can all continue to grow in God's Grace and Wisdom and live together in peace and joy in His everlasting Kingdom.

Regards to all,

Fr. Joe Heskamp



Rev. Joseph C. Heskamp
Pastor from 1973 - 1989



Rev. Thomas A. Kuhn
Pastor from 1989 - present

Incarnation's Beginning

In 1945, the people of St. Mary Parish, Dayton, gave \$6,000 to the Diocese for a Mission Chapel. The one Archbishop John T. McNicholas designated for this gift was the Church of the Incarnation, in Centerville.

First announcement of this new parish was made in February, 1948, following the purchase of 6 1/2 acres for the new parish late in 1947. Actual construction of the mission-type church began in May, 1950. Reverend Joseph H. Rolfes, pastor of St. Albert the Great Church, was appointed Administrator. The first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1950, by Fr. Charles Hollencamp, who continued to serve the Parish on Sundays for several years. The Church was dedicated on June 3, 1951, by Archbishop Karl J. Alter, D.D. During that first year, the parish had about 88 member families. The parish boundaries were Waynesville, Miamisburg and St. Albert the Great.

On August 31, 1951, the parish became a mission of St. Augustine Parish, Jamestown, where the newly appointed pastor of Incarnation, Fr. Raymond C. Kallaher, resided. Little more than a year later, on October 29, 1952, Fr. Kallaher took up residence at Incarnation. At this time, St. Augustine Parish became a mission of the Church of the Incarnation. A choir was organized which at that time was "men only"; Jerry Schmidt was director, Sue Laidley was organist. The Church had an antique pump organ which was used until an electronic organ was purchased. After a few years, the parish was able to afford a Hammond organ.

Until a school program began, Incarnation students went to St. Albert the Great and to Sacred Heart, in downtown Dayton. A parish raffle was begun in April, 1953, to initiate a School Building Fund. In November, 1953, an additional 8.186 acres west and south of the original plot were purchased for a planned school program. In May, 1955, the Lacy home on Far Hills was purchased as the future residence of the teaching Sisters. On March 17, 1956, a parish canvass for a minimum of \$150,000 got underway to build a bare necessity 8-room school.

Construction of the new school began in March, 1957, with opening day on September 23rd. There were 171 students, 10 classrooms, and 6 teachers (3 Sisters of the Precious Blood and 3 lay teachers). Archbishop Karl J. Alter performed the dedication on October 6th.

Reflecting the growth of the community, in January, 1960, a new school addition was built: 11 classrooms, teachers' lounges, lavatories, and doubling the size of the multi-purpose room.

With the school facilities complete, the rectory was expanded in the fall of 1962, and the following summer the convent was built. This building subsequently became the Religious Education Center, and this past summer was renovated again to become the Pastoral Center. It houses the parish offices, conference rooms, and Community Room.

By 1965, the parish had also outgrown its mission-type Church. The present building was completed at a cost of \$850,000 in time to celebrate the first Mass on Christmas Day, 1969. Blessing of the new Church was March 1, 1970. And, due to the generosity of its family, the Church debt was retired December 26, 1975.

During 1977, yet another successful fund drive was begun for the newest school addition as well as improvements to the multi-purpose room. The Annex and new gym floor were completed by September, 1978.

During the first 10 years of its existence, the parish grew from the original 64 families to 560 families; 55 marriages and 397 Baptisms were performed.

To commemorate this anniversary, the parish danced to the music of Jerry Schmidt's Band at the Tinsel Twirl under a ceiling of stars in the multi-purpose room of the School.

The Sixties

Parish activities also expanded during these years. St. Ann Rosary Altar Sodality sponsored an annual Christmas Bazaar, featuring crafts and handiwork of the women of the parish. Rummage Sale, Card Parties, Spring Dance, Bridge Tournaments, Parish Cookbook, Fashion Shows, Family Picnic, Father and Son Breakfasts, Fish Fry, Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign were other activities sponsored by the men's and women's organizations. The parish monthly raffle provided needed funds for teachers' salaries, and the School Building Fund. The CCD Program was initiated in 1960. The Sunday Nursery was begun; also the practice of welcoming new parishioners with coffee and donuts on a designated Community Sunday. Adult Religious Education had its beginnings.

In 1960, the school enrollment was 351, and by 1970 it had risen to 491. The first principal was Sister Stella, C.P.P.S., with Sister Ermalinda, C.P.P.S., Sr. Mary Canice, C.P.P.S., and Mr. James Abele also serving as principals. During this period, the boys won their first basketball trophy!

On August 6, 1961, Rev. William R. Behringer, S.M. offered his first Solemn High Mass. On May 7, 1967, Rev. David J. Schmitt offered his first Solemn High Mass. In 1964, the Parish had its first Mission. During this 10-year period, the Incarnation family grew to 1,043 families; 218 marriages and 1,038 Baptisms had been performed.

Christmas Day Mass was celebrated in 1969 in the new Church which seats 1,100. The architecture of the Church is unique. The use of poured concrete and rough glass is in the fashion of the work of the architect, Le Corbusier. Symbolically, the exposed aggregate of the exterior walls becomes smaller and more refined as it moves indoors, most fine at the altar. The altar, tabernacle base, lecterns, credence table, sanctuary lamp, and paschal candlestick are all stationary, and were poured on the site. The statue of our Blessed Mother Mary was carved by Walter Cots, in Barcelona, Spain. The statue was given by the ladies of the Madonna Guild, and grows more beautiful as it ages, developing different shades and hues over the years. The crucifix consists of a cross of anodized metal made in Speyer, Germany, and a corpus made of hammered brass in Paris by an Italian sculptor. The design of the Tabernacle also came from Germany, and the stones are genuine cabochan crystals from the Bavarian Alps. The bell tower stands free from the Church structure, as in the great churches of Europe. The tower holds four bells, each inscribed with the name of the family who donated it. The bells came from Aixtl, in Holland. The artistic beauty of The Church of the Incarnation in its architecture and in its appointments surely provides an atmosphere conducive to the development of the faith life of God's people.

Associate Pastors during this period were: Rev. Lawrence K. Breslin, Rev. Louis J. Guntzelman, Rev. Richard J. Donovan, and Rev. Joseph C. Heskamp.

The Seventies

The Rosary Alter Society, now renamed the Madonna Guild to reflect its expanded activities, sponsored sewing groups for Birth-right; spiritual group responsible for Sunday petitions; Martha Guild

acting as a service group for the parish; prayer circles; Thanksgiving Food and Clothing Drive, Sunday Nursery; and various social events.

The Athletic Association was active with Fish Fry, dances and other events to aid the athletic endeavors of Incarnation students. A Teen Club was begun. In 1979, Incarnation School received its charter in the National Junior Honor Society - the chapter to be named Incarnation Academia. By 1980, the school enrollment had grown to 553. Principals during this time were Mr. James Abele, Mr. Frank Mattia, and Mrs. Natalie Steckle. The first professional Director of Religious Education, Kathleen Bryan, was appointed in 1975.

Rev. William C. Pierce celebrated his first Solemn High Mass on Pentecost Sunday, 1971. The parish grew to 1,700 families during this 10-year span, with 262 marriages and 992 Baptisms having been performed.

Fr. Raymond Kallagher retired on August 31, 1979, and Fr. Joseph C. Heskamp was named pastor.

Associate Pastors during this period: Rev. Paul L. Poeppelman, Rev. Richard Walling, Rev. Charles F. Lang.

The Eighties

The Madonna Guild and the Athletic Association continued their successful activities from previous years adding a Time and Talent Auction, Infant Jesus Shower; the Parish Picnic was reinstituted; an annual Golf Outing was begun; the Home-School Association sponsored a Family Spaghetti Dinner; the Welcoming Committee sponsored the Square Dance, Wine and Cheese Party, and Community Sunday. The organist and choir director during this time were Judy and John Velbeck.

The Eighth Grade held annual garage sales for their Scholarship Fund. The Christian Service Committee began in the early 1980's and was responsible for the very successful Toy Project for 7 years, Operation Soup Bowl, and other service activities. The Leisure Club for senior citizens began in July, 1982, with monthly meetings and fabulous trips. St. Vincent Hotel, a shelter for the homeless, was dedicated December 15, 1985. Parishioners have been actively involved in this project through their contributions, food preparation and volunteer services.

Christmas Kindness, a parish effort to provide Christmas gifts for the

needy at St. Mary Center, was initiated in 1989. St. Mary Center provides day care, senior citizen care, and help for the working poor and welfare recipients of that area. So Incarnation was able to reach out to the parish that had helped in the formation of Incarnation 39 years earlier.

Bob Zinck was ordained permanent deacon on July 3, 1982. He is the first deacon from Incarnation.

The first Incarnation Parish Community Retreat was held in January, 1986, which encouraged our spiritual growth as individuals and as a community. Prayer groups and reflection study groups formed as an effect of the retreat, and an annual Day of Recollection and Renewal was held in 1987, 1988, and 1989. Mission in Focus, in 1988, provided the parish with a week of mission awareness with men and women from every corner of the world sharing their experiences of mission. In March, 1990, the Parish Mission theme was "Put out into deep water" encouraging our spiritual growth. A most successful RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is held for those interested in becoming Catholic, in finding out more about the Church, or in updating their knowledge. In 1990, 530 students are enrolled at Incarnation School. Incarnation athletes, boys and girls, won trophies in basketball, track, volleyball, cheerleading and baseball. Mrs. Steckle and Mr. Mattia were principals during this period.

In September, 1990, Incarnation School was awarded the *National School of Excellence Award for 1989-90* by the U.S. Department of Education!

The Office of Youth Ministry opened in 1986 for high school students. Ginny Link was named Youth Minister. The program soon expanded to include activities for Young Adults and Junior High. In 1990, a Pastoral Assistant, Mary Fogler, was appointed, and Linda Lehman became Music Director.

Fr. Joseph Heskamp retired in June, 1989, and Fr. Thomas A. Kuhn was named pastor. During the last 10 years, the parish has grown to 2,400 families. Through September, 1990, 463 marriages were performed, and 1,203 Baptisms. A Parish Council was elected in September, 1989.

Associate Pastors for this period: Rev. Charles F. Lang, Rev. William Kramer, Rev. Thomas Meyer, Rev. Fred McGuire, Rev. John Seaman, Rev. Charles E. Mentrup, Rev. Mark J. Burger. Deacons: Robert Zinck, Joseph Subler.

Incarnation's First Parishioners

M/M John Aylward
 T.E. Ault
 Mrs. Erich Bartsch
 Mr. Gerald Belvo
 M/M Peter Belvo
 M/M George Benner
 M/M Henry Bergamyer
 M/M Frank Berner
 M/M Alex Bodary
 M/M E.C. Bollinger
 M/M J.J. Campbell
 Mrs. Rose Coleman
 Dr./M Richard Debard
 Mr. T.S. Deger
 M/M Joseph Deppner
 Mrs. Edward Easton
 M/M Joseph Eismann
 Mr. Leo Fischer
 Mr. Anthony Fritz
 Mr. Richard Geis
 M/M O.J. Gerheerstein
 M/M Edward Gitzinger
 M/M Edward Grimes
 M/M John Haag
 M/M R.C. Hartshorn
 M/M George Hollohan
 M/M E.S. Hopkins
 M/M William Horst
 Mrs. Frank Huckins
 M/M Charles Keck
 M/M Joseph Kinzig
 Mrs. Richard Kling
 Mr. F.W. Knight
 M/M Edward Kocyba
 M/M William Koverman
 Ms. Margaret Kraemar
 Ms. Bette Krenzer
 M/M Roy Lacy
 Mr. Anthony Lair
 M/M Joseph Lair
 M/M Al Lane
 M/M Andrew Leingang
 M/M Joseph J. Long
 Mr. R.F. Macaulay

M/M C.C. Mahan
 M/M C.C. Mahan, Jr.
 M/M John Mahan
 M/M J.E. Mahlmeister
 M/M Stephen Maloney
 M/M John McCormick
 Mrs. Cecilia McEwen
 Mrs. Earl Mehaffie
 M/M Donald Miller
 Mr. Emery Oiler
 M/M Robert J. Perkins
 M/M H. Piatt
 M/M Ronald Pickett
 Mrs. Catherine Poeppelmeier
 M/M John Repetty
 Mr. D.J. Schell
 Ms. Bette Schweitzer
 M/M Hugo Schweitzer
 M/M M.M. Sheehan
 Mr. Robert Smith
 M/M Charles Stebel
 Ms. Pat Stebel
 M/M W. Stebel
 Mrs. John Steble
 M/M J.M. Troyan
 M/M A.J. Turner, Sr.
 M/M A.J. Turner, Jr.
 M/M Mark Urschel
 M/M Carl Voelke
 Mr. John Vogt
 Mr. H.J. Walsh
 Ms. Laura Wemmer
 Mrs. Elmer Winterland
 M/M John Wiesler
 M/M John Will
 M/M Paul Will
 M/M H.F. Yetter
 M/M Robert Zeiger
 M/M Adam Zengel
 M/M L.T. Zeiger
 M/M William Zentis
 M/M William Zillich
 M/M Carl Zimmerman
 M/M Lawrence Zink

1990 Parish Organizations

Worship

Altar Attendants
Bereavement Team
Communion to the
Sick/Homebound
Eucharistic Ministers
Mass Greeters
Mass Coordinators
Music Coordinators
Petitions
Readers
Sacristan
Ushers
Worship Commission

Education

Baptismal Preparation
Catechumenate/RCIA
Education Commission
Home School Association
Incarnation School
Marriage Preparation
Early Childhood Religious
Education
Elementary Religious
Education
High School Religious
Education
Adult Religious Education

Other

Athletic Association
Bridge Club
Church Cleaning
Cub Scouts
Cursillo
Girl Scouts
Kinship
Leisure Club
Madonna Club
Men's Club
Parish Consulters

Prayer Circle
Prayer Group
St. Vincent DePaul
St. Vincent Meals
South Dayton Separated/
Divorced/Widowed Support Group
Sunday Nursery
Welcoming Committee
Women's Bowling
Young Adult Group
Youth Group/Jr. High
Youth Group/High School

Dear Lord,

Although we are eternally grateful
for our beautiful Church
that provides shelter as we
join together to celebrate,
...that creates an atmosphere
encouraging us to think, to pray,
to believe...

Although we are forever grateful
for our wonderful School
that provides shelter as our children
gather together to learn,
...that creates an atmosphere of hope,
eagerness, and youthful curiosity...

Although we are also thankful
for our new Pastoral Center
that provides shelter as we
come together to work,
...that creates an atmosphere of sharing,
of friendliness, and love...

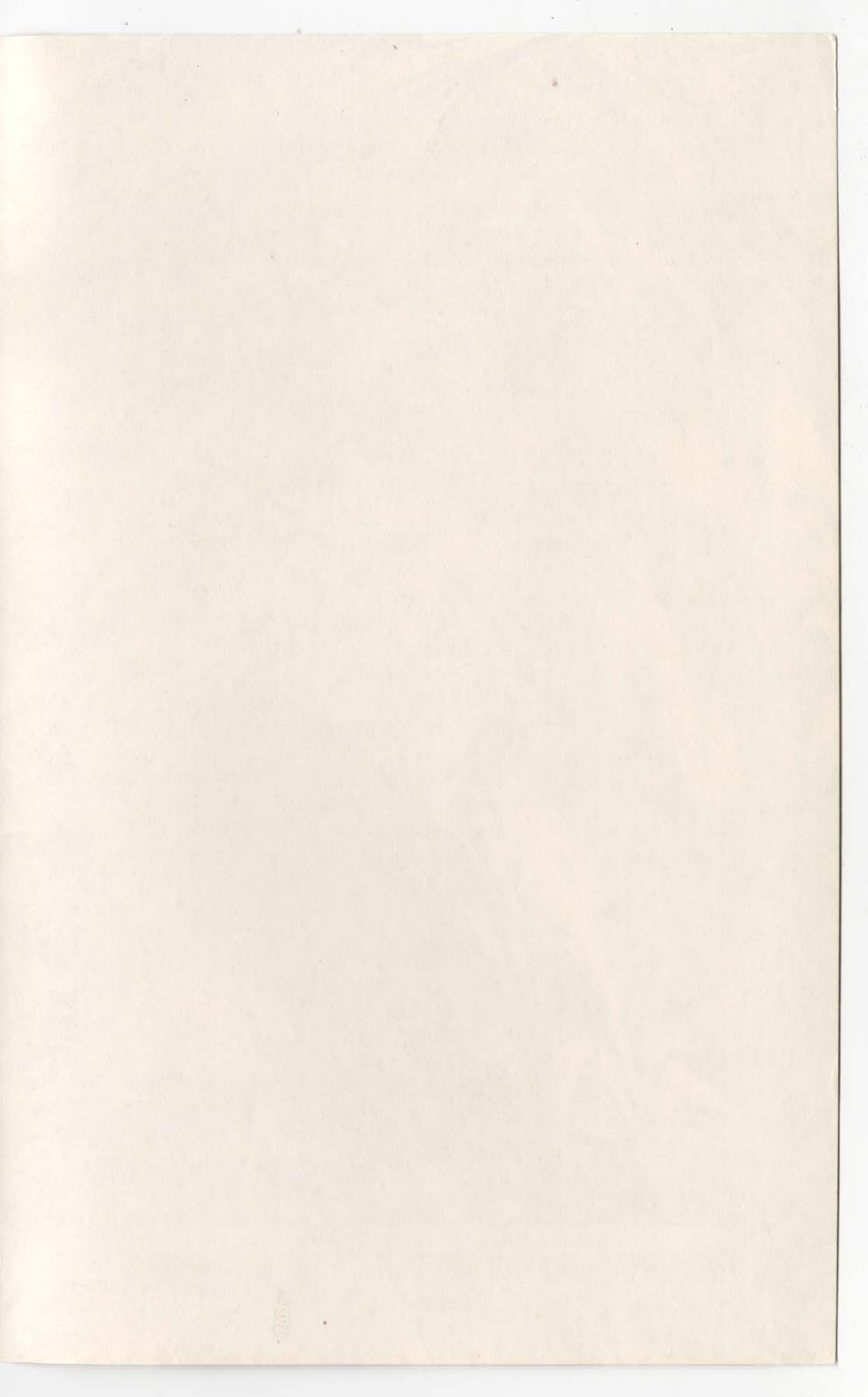
Please help us to look beyond these material gifts,
let us see the real people of Incarnation,
as we smile at each other in the parking lot.
...as we hold the doors open for each other on
the way into Church.
...as we sit next to each other at Mass.

Please help us to love each other.
and to understand our true purpose
here on Earth.

As we reflect over our past 40 years,
let us be truly thankful for each other.
Please bless us on this anniversary,
and on the many more to come.

...through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



The background of the entire page is a traditional marbled paper pattern. It features a complex, organic design of swirling, feather-like, and cell-like shapes. The color palette is primarily dark brown and black, with lighter brown and cream-colored highlights that create a sense of depth and movement. The pattern is dense and covers the entire surface of the page.

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