



MARY HELP
of CHRISTIANS SCHOOL

50*years*

Tampa, Florida

Directors of Mary Help of Christians School 1928-1978

Rev. Rinaldo Bergamo, S.D.B. 1928-1929

Rev. Alvin Fedrigotti, S.D.B. 1929-1932

Rev. Louis Rinaldi, S.D.B. 1932-1941

Rev. Dominic Battistello, S.D.B. 1941-1947

Rev. Joseph Korman, S.D.B. 1947-1950

Rev. Emil Fardellone, S.D.B. 1950-1956

Rev. August Bosio, S.D.B. 1956-1961

Rev. Alvin Manni, S.D.B. 1961-1965

Rev. Vincent Duffy, S.D.B. 1965-1966

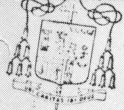
Rev. Alvin Manni, S.D.B. 1966-1967

Rev. Vincent Duffy, S.D.B. 1967-1971

Rev. Alvin Manni, S.D.B. 1971-1974

Rev. James F. Jeffcoat, S.D.B. 1974-1976

Rev. August Kita, S.D.B. 1976 . . .



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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The Reverend August J. Kita, S. D. B.
Director of Mary Help of Christians School
6400 East Chelsea Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33610

Dear Father Kita:

I am writing to extend to you and the members of your Community sincere congratulations and prayerful best wishes of the Diocese of St. Petersburg on the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of Mary Help of Christians School this year.

Your school, during the years since its beginning in 1928, has served both the needs of Church and community very well.

Formerly the school took in only orphan and homeless boys. Now it is serving the needs of those boys whose family lives leave much to be desired.

This work is truly an apostolic one and certainly must be very close to the heart of our Blessed Lord. I consider Mary Help of Christians School a great asset not only to the Diocese of St. Petersburg, but to the State of Florida. The generous support that the school has received from throughout the state, I think, attests to this fact.

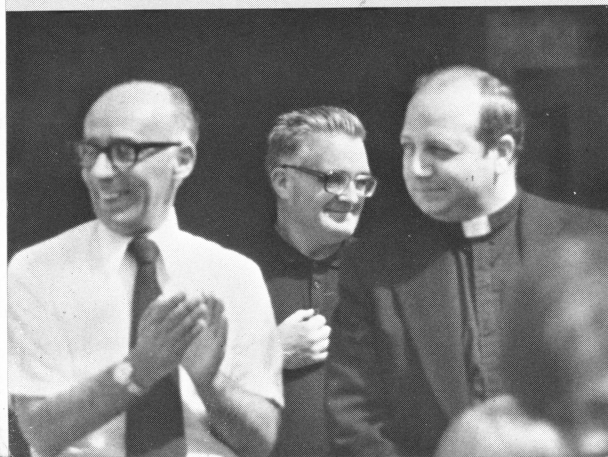
May our Blessed Lord continue to bless you, the priests, brothers, laity and students associated with Mary Help of Christians School and continue to grant you every needed help and grace for a continuation of this magnificent, apostolic work for boys.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Charles B. McLaughlin
Charles B. McLaughlin
Bishop of St. Petersburg



Very Rev. Salvator Isgro (right corner) our Present Provincial



SALESIANS OF ST. JOHN BOSCO

148 MAIN STREET
NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK 10802

PHONE: (914) 636-4225

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

February 15, 1978

Reverend August J. Kita S. D. B.
Director
Mary Help of Christians School
6400 E. Chelsea
Tampa, Fl. 33610

Reverend and dear Father Kita,

I want to send you and Mary Help my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the happy occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the school. It is truly a day on which to rejoice and we have many reasons to be grateful.

Mary Help is a very special school, rising out of the generous heart of Mrs. Alicia Neve and carried forward by the hard work and sacrifices of so very many Salesians. It is founded on charity and it continues to exist through the assistance and charity of its Mama Margaret Guilds and friends. It is, indeed, a miracle of charity. We take this opportunity to thank God for so many friends and to thank them for their goodness towards the school.

We are proud of our Mary Help, of its Superiors, Staff, and boys, and, with the blessing of Our Lady and St. John Bosco, we hope and pray that the next fifty years will be even more fruitful.

Ad multos annos!

Devotedly yours in Christ Jesus,

Salvatore Isgro

Very Rev. Salvatore J. Isgro S. D. B.
Provincial

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS SCHOOL GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY 1928-1978

50th

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In Memory
Rev. Rinaldo Bergamo, S.D.B.
Rev. Louis Rinaldi, S.D.B.
In Gratitude
Rev. Dominic Battistello, S.D.B.
Rev. August Bosio, S.D.B.
Rev. Vincent Duffy, S.D.B.
Rev. Emile Fardellone, S.D.B.
Rev. Emil Fardiglioni, S.D.B.
Rev. Alvin Fardiglioni, S.D.B.
James Jeffcoat, S.D.B.
Joseph Korman, S.D.B.
Rev. Alvin Mann, S.D.B.

May 21, 1978

Dear Friends,

I have been privileged to serve as the Director of Mary Help of Christians School for these past twenty years, and I can sincerely say that these years have been busy and happy ones.

What amazes me most in my work is the interest, loyalty and dedication of the many friends of our school. Mary Help of Christians is what it is today because of the loyalty and love of friends who have been part of our Salesian Family during these past fifty years.

This Golden Jubilee Celebration gives all of us the opportunity to look back and to give thanks to Almighty God and His Holy Mother for the many blessings bestowed upon our school during these past fifty years. As we look to the future and begin our second half century we pray that God who has begun this work will continue to shower His divine graces upon it.

This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

August J. Kita

Rev. August J. Kita, S.D.B.
Director

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James Jeffcoat, S.D.B.
Joseph Korman, S.D.B.
Rev. Alvin Mann, S.D.B.

May 21, 1978

Dear Friends,

It has been a delightful and enlightening experience for me to be asked to coordinate all of the functions for our Jubilee Year. I have had the pleasure of having worked with all of the organizations involved in making all of the events successful. We had a truly fine start with the New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance (West Coast) and that gave us the impetus needed to make all of the activities that followed function with enthusiasm: The Zephyrhills Club that followed Catholic Daughters of America Dinner-Dance, the East Coast Margaret Guild's activities, etc., - all these events exuded enthusiasm and unity while they made each one of the organizations aware that the sole purpose was to help Mary Help.

The Italian organization which not only helped us financially but also helped us make the proper contacts, etc., plus the Jubilee Cabinet so ably headed by our Mr. Dow Sherwood, have been very active in all phases with their expert assistance.

We do want to thank everyone for being so close to Mary Help and we do want you to remember us for our next 50 years as you have so faithfully and generously done during these past 50 years.

A big thank you to our Dear Lord, our Mother, Mary Help of Christians and our founder, St. John Bosco, for having guided us in all our efforts throughout the past 50 years.

Sincerely yours in Don Bosco,
Bro. Charles Todel, S.D.B.
Coordinator.

Mary Help of Christians School was founded as an orphanage in 1928. An outstanding Tampa woman, Mrs. Alicia Neve, was touched by the plight of so many homeless boys and girls roaming the streets of Tampa. At the suggestion of Rt. Rev. Patrick Barry, D.D., who was then bishop of the St. Augustine diocese, which included practically all of Florida, she contacted the Apostolic delegate asking for help. The Holy See appealed to the Sons of Don Bosco to come to the help of these boys as well as to the spiritual rescue of thousands of immigrants of Italian, Spanish and Cuban descent. Thus it was that the Salesians were entrusted with three Tampa parishes, and a home for boys. Our Lady of Mercy, (now O.L.P.H.), the Church of the Holy Names, now phased out because of the Ybor City urban renewal, St. Joseph in West Tampa and Mary Help of Christians School for boys. The Salesian Sisters came to help in each of these parishes and started a school for girls on East Columbus Drive, the present Villa Madonna School, to parallel the work of the Salesian Fathers and Brothers of Mary Help.

The founding and continued existence of Mary Help, is rooted in supernatural intervention. This assertion cannot be gainsaid by anyone, who, like the writer of these lines, has spend over 30 years in this school. Mrs. Neve had no child from her marriage. Still she had been assured by a saintly Jesuit priest that she should cast aside all doubt about her state in life and get married, for she was "destined to have many, many children." After the death of her beloved husband she literally gave everything to the poor. She offered the Salesians her forty acres of land on East Lake and the necessary funds to build the initial building. The same was done for the Salesian Sisters for their girls' school, on East Columbus Drive.

To make room for these girls she moved out of her very own home. As the years passed she was the only mother hundreds of boys and girls knew. The priest's prophecy had come true. She had now "many, many children!"

Mary Help of Christians School was dedicated on the Feast of Christ, the King in October, 1928. The Holy Father, Pius XI, cabled his paternal blessing, and the third successor of St.

John Bosco, Father Philip Rinaldi, whose cause of canonization is now in progress, sent a most affectionate message. Father R. Bergamo, who may be called the founder of the Salesian work in Florida, was the school's first director while at the same time functioning as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy's (O.L.P.H.) church. Along came the first boys - shy, frightened little fellows, hungering for attention, for care and love.

Present Frontal View of Mary Help of Christians School



After Father Bergamo, came Father Alvin Fedrigotti as the school's director. Among the many accomplishments of what he described as "his most fruitful years of priestly apostolate and the most enjoyable ones" was the establishment of a solid music program at the school. He was mindful of Don Bosco's words, who affirmed that music is to a school what the soul is to the body. Father Alvin, after having served as provincial in California and Mexico and having held the second highest post in the Salesian Society, is now spending the rest of his years as the custodian of St. John Bosco's Shrine in Don Bosco's native village in Italy. When insistence was brought upon him to come and enjoy with us this fiftieth anniversary, he declined, suggesting that the money that would have been used to pay for his trip be used instead to provide shelter for needy boys in our Salesian missions.

When Father Louis Rinaldi, nephew of the same sainted Father Philip Rinaldi, was appointed director in the fall of 1932, Mary Help embarked on what it fondly terms "ITS GOLDEN AGE". The number of boys reached

an incredible number. All rooms available had to be put at the service of the ever larger number of newcomers. Even the first aid station, the library and the priests' own private quarters, all of these were used to provide a bed and a chair, not much else, as the stark poverty of those early years - they were the depression years! - made it impossible to provide much more for these homeless boys. However, the boys did have a home. They all say it emphatically, those veterans from these first heroic years! They had a real home because they had a loving father, Father Rinaldi, a loving mother, Mrs. Neve, and a small group of dedicated Salesian priests and brothers who shared their life and gave themselves to their service, not out of hire but out of dedicated love.

Miniature shops for the boys' vocational training soon made their appearance and the boys began to learn trades as cabinet makers, printers, bookbinders, shoe repair men and young agriculturists.

Brother Anthony Wolfe, at present stationed in Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson, N. J., was one of the foremost pioneers in

the start of this vocational training. Boys began coming to Mary Help not only from Tampa, but from every part of the Sunshine State. When they came they hardly expected to find themselves rowing on their own private lake, surrounded by palm trees and orange groves. The lake on which our school borders is now called East Lake. But in the dim past it used to be called "Lake Bellows" because of the number of alligators bellowing at night. Later on the name





Mary Help of Christians, Our Patroness

took on a more dignified name as "Lake Lee", still quite southern in ring and appropriate, I thought. However, in the recent past the developers have brought in their own brand of civilization with ribbons of asphalt roads. The denizens of the wildly beautiful subtropical vegetation have been put to flight by the unmerciful bulldozer and the lake has acquired the commercial soubriquet of "East Lake".

When B. J. and Chucky were roaming the streets of some Florida town they hadn't taken much time out for prayer, but now they found themselves somehow, regularly stopping to kneel in front of the simple and impressive shrine of Our Lord, the good Shepherd Who had gone looking for them too; they found themselves whispering an "Ave" a greeting to their heavenly Mother, Mary Help of Christians, who had gathered them under her maternal care in her home. Their startled faces gradually warmed as they gazed on the altar of sacrifice where every morning they witnessed the sense shattering renewal of the miracle of Christ's reappearance at the Eucharistic sacrifice. In those days, the Rosary was recited daily to Our Lady.

Our Lord, under the sacramental species was daily raised in benediction over their bowed heads, and the unadorned zest of their youthful voices sang out their prayerful tribute of love and adoration.

From the school's inception policies of non-discrimination because of race and creed were adopted. In this Mary Help was a couple of generations ahead of its time. I still remember the happy crowds of black boys who used to come to our lake and mingle with our boys for fun and games. I remember how many boys did overcome the then rather prevalent fear of anything Catholic, once they experienced the human kindness and genuine religious concern of the Fathers and Brothers, free from any compulsory proselytism, and free from any unfavorable disparagement.

When the tenth anniversary of Mary Help of Christians School came around, a new building, the Anna Pitsch Memorial Building, was added to the original central section now aptly called "Neve Hall."

This new structure was "bold" in design for it incorporated a new concept in its structure. For

the first time a spacious dormitory that could house over 100 children was built unobstructed by columns and partitions, flanked by private showers and toilet facilities, with windows on all sides, to let in the lovely Florida sunshine and to catch its seasonal breezes. Like the original building this one too, and all the others that followed were constructed by the W. I. Sultenfuss building company, who not only built with professional competence, but who scrupulously

Mrs. Alicia G. Neve, foundress of Mary Help



avoided every waste and gave the boys their best for the least money. How many people are still amazed when they are told that our buildings are of such vintage. Few structures were ever built as well and for as little. Our school owes the Sultenfuss family and their company a great debt of gratitude.

This building also comprised the new cafeteria and kitchen on the bottom floor, as well as two large homerooms that housed all of our little scholars during the school day.

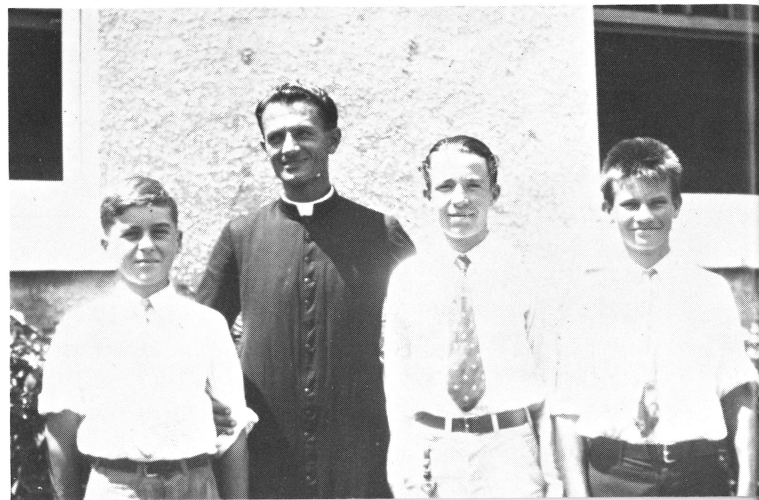
This very important new construction was made possible by a bequest from one of the many generous souls whom God inspired, to come to our aid, as our existing buildings were bursting at the seams with boys needing help.

The donor, Mr. Gustav Pitsch, was not of the Catholic faith and had come as an immigrant to our land from Germany. Hard work and thrift had helped him accumulate a good fortune and from his Grantwood, N. J. home, he and his wife, Anna, used to vacation every year in Tampa during their declining years.

Mary Help is built on a location of Hillsborough County where the ground rises to a

higher level than elsewhere. Hence most of the area's cemeteries are also near the school. During one of their weekly walks, a group of our boys chanced by Myrtle Hill Cemetery, a mile from the school, where they noticed a freshly covered grave. The Salesian Brother who was with them invited them to say a prayer for the soul of the deceased who had been laid to rest there. Unbeknown to them, Mr. Gustav Pitsch was standing behind a tree grieving over his lost

(L. to R.) Bernard Justen, later provincial of the California Province, Fr. Louis Rinaldi, Alex Flynn and Jas. Dooley



wife who had just been interred. What he saw and the prayers he heard touched him deeply . . . When he died Mary Help fell heir to his hard earned fortune and thus was the Anna Pitsch Memorial Building erected.

On June 8th, 1941, through the generosity of the late Mrs. Amelia M. Hardin the dream of larger and better equipped shops became a reality. Mrs. Alicia Neve cut the ribbon at the entrance of the four buildings and Abbot Francis of St. Leo Abbey imparted the ritual blessing.

Fr. Dominic Battistello succeeded Fr. Louis Rinaldi as Superior at Mary Help. He took over during the difficult period of the second world war. During his administration in spite of war restrictions he managed to increase further the number of boys. God sent other angels of mercy to help the school carry on, like Abbot Francis of St. Leo, who never failed to send food when our cupboards were bare. During these years too, Mr. Marcello Regis, who had started caring for our groves during Father Rinaldi's time, and who, by his own very hand, put in the first sidewalks around the school, continued and increased his help caring for our grove and

farm land. He confided to me one day that he did all this to fulfill a vow he had made to St. John Bosco in thanksgiving for having been brought back to the practice of his faith through the paternal care of Father Louis Rinaldi. He is still survived by his widow, a daughter and a son, who live near Brandon.

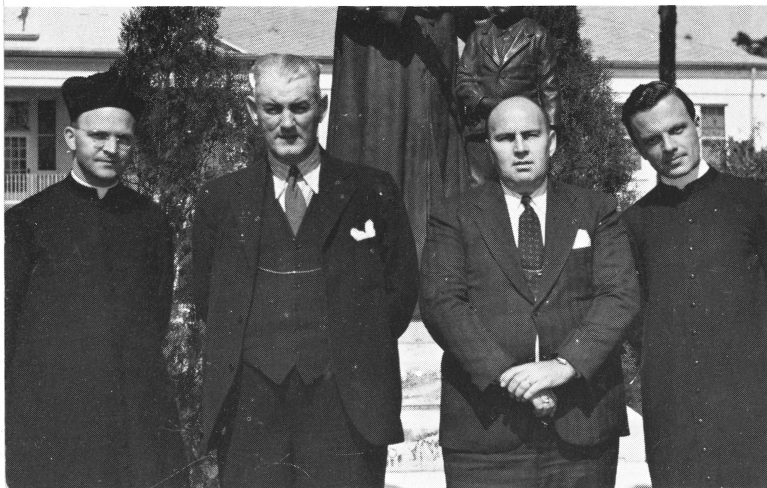
During Father Dominic Battistello's tenure of office another benefactor was sent by Providence to help our work. One of the first Ameri-

Starting with front row (L. to R.): Fr. Louis Rinaldi, Fr. Alvin, Bro. Joseph Negro, Bro. Michael Sersen, Bro. Anthony Huwyler, Bro. Camastra and Bro. Henry Caudara.



can newspaper women of note was Mrs. Mary Hayes Davis, of Chicago, Illinois. Besides other qualities she had an indomitable pioneering spirit and a love for young people caught in the trap of unfortunate circumstances. In her middle years she moved to the Florida Everglades, looking for new frontiers where to expand her energies. She gradually moved towards the south west section of the State near Fort Myers. She was also a very capable business woman

Fr. Dominic Battistello, M.H.C. Director, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Tew and Fr. Peter Rinaldi



and there formed a small chain of theatres, whose management subsequently she entrusted to her brothers. Her dream was, at first, to found an institution for needy girls in the Fort Myers section. However, her advancing years were taking their toll. Through one of those so called "accidents" which are but a link in the loving plan of Divine Providence, she met with an ardent admirer of our school, Mr. Harold Laird. Mr. Laird told her about the existence of Mary Help where help was being provided for young people in need of care. It could be, he reminded her, that God was prompting her to lend the material help the Fathers and Brothers needed to care for Florida's needy boys. She came to Tampa, and she loved what she saw being done at Mary Help. She immediately set to work, like her predecessor Mrs. Neve, to help out the school, fixing up a new dormitory for the larger boys. She continued the work of Mrs. Hardin improving the equipment of our shops. The school got its first car from her generous giving. At her death in 1948, Mr. Harold Laird was surprised to find himself designated as the executor of her will, entirely on behalf of

Mary Help of Christians School. Mr. Laird told me a most moving story regarding her heroic spirit of unselfish giving. On one of his visits he was invited by her to remain for lunch. His eyes had that strange gleam of deep emotion as he told me that, after the first serving of potatoes, she asked him whether he cared for more food. When he answered affirmatively, along came another serving of boiled potatoes. For awhile he held his peace. Then he made bold to ask her what else she had on her lunch menu . . . with the utmost sincerity and warmth she answered that she wasn't allowing herself anything but the most severe kind of fare, "to," as she put it, "save up for my boys in Tampa." Needless to say, Mr. Laird left her home with a glowing feeling that pervaded his soul in a far more delicious way than any sumptuous meal could have done.

During the last year of Father Dominic's directorship and the first years of Fr. Korman's, she was the one single friend that Divine Providence used in a special way to give stability to our work.

Mr. Laird puts me in mind of the beginning and the continuance of a very important feature in the life of the boys at Mary Help. At that time, the boys were constantly with us and had no diversion such as movies, even on weekends. Through Mr. Laird, who was the Tampa distributor for Republic Pictures, and Mr. Jim Harrison, his personal friend and his wife's brother-in-law, who was the Atlanta distributor, both equipment and films were obtained to brighten

"Lake Lee" of yesteryears. The setting was more primitive but the exuberant enjoyment was unparalleled.



The "MAMA MARGARET GUILD" with its president Mrs. A. Neve and Fr. Dominic, on the front steps of Sacred Heart Church in downtown Tampa. The Jesuit Fathers, who staff the church, were always among our staunchest supporters.



and cheer the boys' weekends. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Laird were responsible for the first curtains in the boys' dining room; for the large movie screen and stage curtains, and for the hosts of friends from the movie industry who did what they could to make the lot of our boys a more pleasant one. When one of our boys once pointedly asked Mr. Laird whether he wasn't getting tired of coming up and spending his time, his energy and the little money he had on behalf of "these boys, some of whom can be very trying", he answered: "I consider it a labor of love" and such remained his attitude 'til the day the good Lord took him to himself. His wife, Bea, now carries on in the same spirit of her beloved husband, as one of the mainstays of our Mama Margaret Guild, the first organization ever founded by Mrs. Neve herself in 1929 to help the school. "Margaret" was the name of St. John Bosco's mother, who was also his first helper in caring for his boys.

During Father Korman's term as superior of the school, the place continued to grow. A larger tract of land was added to our property, and a new grove was planted. His spirit of true

and unselfish poverty and love for boys made him an example to all and attracted many more friends to our school. During his term, the Mama Margaret Guild purchased new uniforms for the Band who were still wearing the capes made by the WPA during the Depression period. Brother Clementi had taken over the music program in 1942 at the request of Father Dominic, then director of Mary Help.

Now, back at the school as a priest he resumed, besides his other duties, the very important task of teaching band and choir. The primary end of music teaching at Mary Help is both to heal the spirit and to build self-confidence in the boy. The secondary one is the refining and the strengthening of the artistic qualities of the student, and the third purpose, also very important for the life of the school, is to bring before the eyes of the people, in a most appealing way, the fact that we are a vital part of the community; the fact that we do carry on our work for the needy youths of all Florida, and to remind these people that we need their help, for Mary Help was built by the charity of the people and it can only carry on if the people are aware

of our needs and come to our assistance. Father Clementi has now been at the musical helm of M.H.C. for 32 "melodious" years.

After Father Korman's term as director, Fr. Emil, a native New Yorker, took over as the Father of the family at Mary Help. We were now entering a new era. The population boom of Florida in the post-war years was unprecedented in our history, and the reasons for it must be placed both on the experience and knowledge that hundreds of thousands of young G.I.'s acquired while doing their stint in the military in Florida's beautiful and balmy

Fr. Rocco, of St. Peter Claver Church, leaves our chapel after a solemn liturgy.



weather, and, believe it or not, to the invention and wide-spread use of the air conditioner. Later on, in the early '60's, during Frs. Manni's and Duffy's administration came the Cuban exodus which added another substantial number of hard-working and highly motivated people to Florida's population.

In the meantime, this population explosion affected the economy, ethnic composition of the state and, more importantly for Mary Help at least, it affected the status of the family in Florida.

Indeed, the Catholic Church began experiencing tremendous growing pains as well. New schools and churches had to be built, at a dizzying speed, to take care of the unforeseen growth of the Catholic population. The policy of having orphans together under one roof was declared obsolete and a policy of adoption was introduced instead. The help from our diocese ceased to be forthcoming as every penny had to be diverted to the local needs of parishes and other institutions that had to be built. Florida itself was now divided into several dioceses and the new ecclesiastical regions had to do hard

pioneering and costly work to establish themselves firmly. Therefore, it wasn't at all surprising that the very reason for the existence of Mary Help of Christians school began to be questioned in certain quarters. Some were asking themselves whether Mary Help had now ended her usefulness to the young people of the State. What identity did Mary Help now have? The events provided the answer. A "new" kind of modern orphan began surfacing

Fr. Larry Urban puts our choir through its paces.



Fr. Clementi's Musicians at work during one of our picnics.



from these turbulent and exciting years. The **boy** who needed help because of the break-up of his family and the frequent impossibility of being suitably grafted onto a different family by adoption; the boy who was neglected and without parental care after school hours at home, because both parents were working, and since American society is so mobile, there, generally, were no other relatives around to replace parental care; or again, the boy found himself

Fr. Emil is welcomed as M.H.C. Director.



uprooted from his original environment and found himself in a new strange world, surrounded by elements that impeded his stability and growth along the lines of good citizenship.

Here was the new breed of young people whom Mary Help was now to take in within its friendly and avowedly Christian environment. These boys, like those of the depression years, had to be cared for. St. John Bosco himself was somewhat in the same condition as a boy when his step-brother made life so miserable for him that he had to leave home for a few years till things at home reached a degree of normalcy. Surely, Don Bosco must feel a special affection for the modern boy, the victim of family tragedy or insecurity. He is now looking at Mary Help to preserve its identity as the loving replacement, as far as possible, of the normal environment of the family. The boys at Mary Help are in their pre-teen or early teen years, when home care is absolutely necessary; when characters are molded; when the seed of future convictions are planted; when the virgin soil of their souls can be receptive to the seed of God's Word and take deep root.

During Father Emil's term of office, a heating system was installed in the school. Forty acres of land were added to the campus and our boys were able to play on their own turf. Also, the lake was ridden of the pesky water hyacinths that used to move in large patches with the wind and had to be regularly pushed offshore by hand to clear the swimming area. Towards the end of his term he was able to realize a long cherished dream with the construction of a beautiful gymnasium on the side of the grove and near the lake. During the rainy season our boys now had a place to play in. The school was thus able to start forming a basketball team to give the boys a chance for outside competition.

Our beloved Mrs. Alicia Neve, whom hundreds of boys had called by the sweet name of Mother, passed away serenely, poor in human resources - only a few hundred dollars were left in her account to take care of the funeral expenses - but rich and laden with merits before God. Her spirit still lives on at Mary Help and her example is what has sustained the organization she founded, the Mama Margaret Guild,

and which has inspired other groups to organize for the same purpose as well.

In 1957 two Tampa young men were ordained Salesian priests. Father James Jeffcoat had been practically raised by the Salesians. Now he was invested with the supreme dignity of the presbyterate, and would come back later on as a director of the school that saw him grow from boyhood to manhood.

The other newly ordained priest was a well known Tampa person, fresh from the Korean

Fr. Clementi with two of his musical hopefuls.



conflict from which he had emerged with the rank of Major and with an adopted Korean boy, Paul.

He had also recently embraced the Catholic Faith. Thus it was that the legal father Orlando Molina, became also the spiritual Father Molina. He was principal at M.H.C. for several years, as well as its athletic director. And now "Big Mo", as he is affectionately referred to, still conducts his priestly ministry in the Bahamas in the little church at "Eight Mile Rock".

To succeed Father Emil came Father August

Bosio, who had served as a teaching brother under Father Rinaldi. He had vast plans of expansion for the school. In March, 1958, he turned over the first spadeful of dirt in the ground-breaking ceremonies of a new classroom wing, properly called Savio Hall in honor of St. Dominic Savio who was one of Don Bosco's pupils and was raised to the honors of the altars even though he died at the early age of 14. Father August had envisioned a continuing program for our boys to ease the transition from our school to the outside world. He intro-

Bro. Anthony Wolfe, who started the vocational training in all sectors, is shown here with his pioneer printers in the 30's.



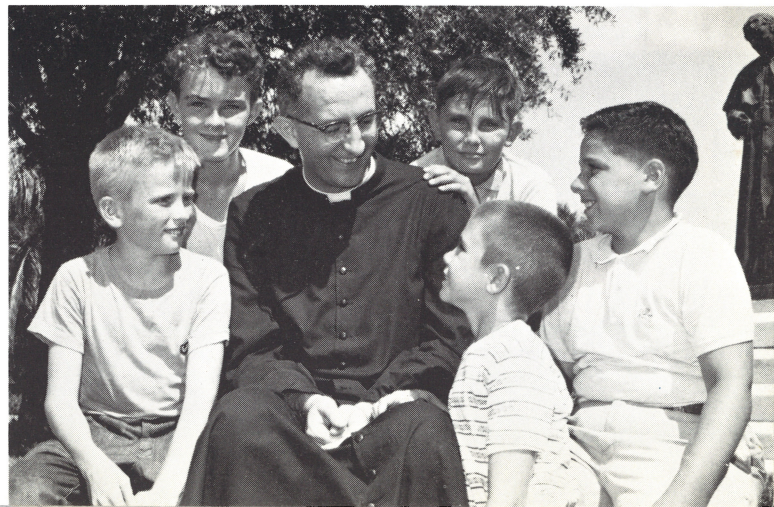
duced for a few years a Senior High School, added on to the existing grades. Also, day students were admitted for the first time, to give the resident boys a greater feeling of normalcy, rubbing shoulders with boys from neighboring homes. Of course, even in this new venture, the condition for acceptance was always the need of the boys who found at Mary Help what their family could not give them.

Another friend of the school who helped us greatly during this period of expansion in the mid 50's was Mrs. B. L. Herman. She lent of her services for many years without ever wishing nor accepting any recompense. Her help was especially valuable in lending her help and professional guidance regarding the school's bookkeeping. Her first gift to the school was a check covering the entire cost of new uniforms for our band now numbering 70 members. Fr. Clementi could now take part in the local parades without fear that his young musicians would feel inferior to any of the other public school bands. This came about in 1954.

The tumultous sixties saw a new dynamic and saintly priest take the helm at Mary Help of

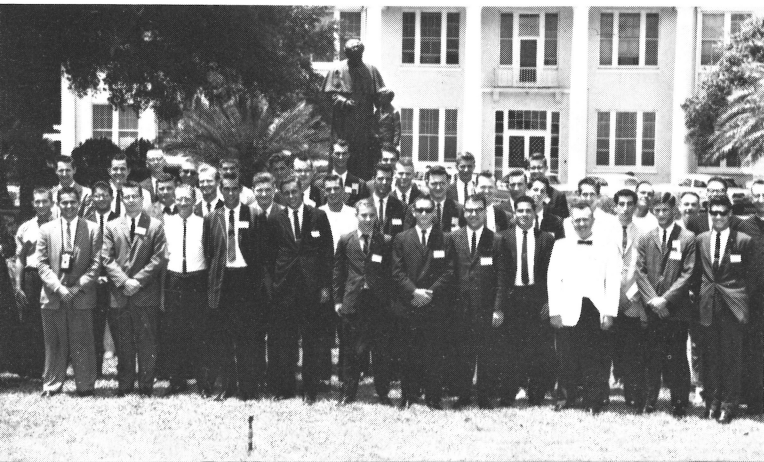
Christians. Fresh from our school in West Virginia, where he had spent over a dozen years of successful pioneering work came Father Alvin Manni. As he read the chronicle of the school he was struck by the remark made by our Superior General, Very Rev. Renato Ziggitti, who in his visit to the schools throughout the Salesian world had spent three happy days with

Father August and his new M.H.C. family.



the boys at Mary Help. I still remember his words of encouragement and admiration at the work being done in Florida. The phrase that struck Father Manni was, "You have a very beautiful school here, yet you seem to have relegated the Lord, Who gave you all of this, to the most unassuming place of worship. You should show your gratitude to Him and your Patroness, Mary Help of Christians, by erecting a shrine worthy of the overwhelming bounty with which the Lord has blessed your endeavor

First Alumni Group with their Founder Fr. Manni (L.) and the then provincial Very Rev. August Bosio.



ors on behalf of poor and neglected youth." Father Manni set about looking for Divine Providence to help him realize this wish of our Superior and the longing that for many years had been in the hearts of the Salesians and boys alike - the building of a beautiful shrine to Mary Help of Christians as a worthy "THANK YOU" to the GOOD SHEPHERD and His Mother who had sheltered and taken care of us.

Divine Providence did send an outstanding benefactor in the person of Mr. Francis J. Vocke. He had come from Germany as an immigrant, and by thrift and hard work had accumulated a small fortune. Through Father Emil he had come to know and love our school. When his wife, Odelia, passed away he decided that he would leave his savings to help build a shrine to our Lady for our boys in her memory. Thus it was that a sizeable sum of money came to the school during Father Manni's administration. That sum, plus the hundreds of small donations that came flooding in, did build a magnificent shrine to our Lady, to Mary Help of Christians. This shrine is considered by many to be one of the best in the whole State of Florida.

The John Sultenfuss Building Company received the task of building the Shrine. John's

brother Bill was the "impresario" who with professional expertise and unparalleled love for the Mary Help of Christians School, inherited from his father, saw to it that the Sacred edifice erected as a place of worship on the school grounds was a real masterpiece. He was the true interpreter of the wishes of his brother, John, and the Salesian Fathers at the school. Mr. Bart Azzarelli did all the clearing and paving in front of the Church free of charge.

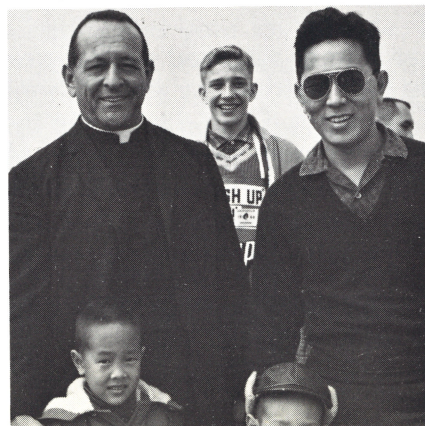
In October, 1964, Msgr. William Barry, brother of the much beloved and still remembered Bishop Patrick Barry, consecrated the main altar and the two side altars in our new church. The following day, Father August Bosio, former director of the school and now provincial of the Eastern USA and Canada, offered the first solemn Mass. July 10, 1966 saw one of our former boys, Robert E. Grant, ordained a priest of God in the Chapel of his Alma Mater. The Most Reverent Charles B. McLaughlin, Auxiliary Bishop of Raleigh, N. C., and now bishop of our own diocese, performed the rite of ordination.

Father Manni set about consolidating the work and mission of the school by beginning the

work that was later to culminate in the school's accreditation and, although State aid was not forthcoming, he took in about 30 boys, the innocent victims of the Cuban upheaval.

Father Vincent Duffy, who had previously served as "Prefect of Studies", a term used then to describe the office of Dean of Discipline and Studies, took over as Director. The automotive shop especially was improved and enlarged. A tract of land behind our shops was acquired, thus insuring a perpetual "band of green"

Fr. Orlando Molina, "Big Mo" surrounded by "his family".



around our school as well as more pasture for our beef cattle.

Also during this administration, our olympic size swimming pool was constructed. Most of the cost was paid for by a legacy from the Malinowski family, after whom the pool was also named. "Why was a pool needed" someone will ask, "when the school already borders on a lake?". Fact is, the relentless urbanization of the Tampa area brought along with itself more and more restrictive regulations . . . The country strongly advised us to provide the boys with a "safer swimming area". Besides, the Malinowski gift was conditioned on the building of such a pool.

In 1971, Father Manni returned as Director of Mary Help. He had headed our new School of Theology in Columbus, Ohio during the interim and had started there a work on behalf of disadvantaged youths in downtown Columbus. His arrival gave impetus and put to completion the work started for the accreditation of our school by the St. Petersburg Diocesan Board. Needless to say, Mary Help received the much sought for accreditation with a "superior" rating.

A most outstanding family that helped our school for the last 20 years or so, is the Raymond Azzarelli family. Mr. Raymond Azzarelli founded the Azzarelli Construction Company in Kankakee, Illinois. When he moved to Tampa he came to know about our work for boys. His generous heart was moved to help us. When he retired, one of his sons, Bart, took over where his father had left off and he greatly expanded his charitable work on behalf of our school.

Brother John with one of his automotive students.



Without his help we would still have raw weed infested sand paths around our classrooms and shops. He paved and built our roads. When the chapel was built he did all the clearing and the paving in front of it. When our pool was set up he took care of all the extensive drainage pipes; he installed the irrigation system in our grove. He cleared our land and drained the swamps and gave our cattle good pasture land to graze on. Our playing fields were put into shape and are still kept in good condition by him. Our blacktop recreation area, is again his gift. As a

Fr. Joseph Korman, former M.H.C. Director, always at work for our boys.



memorial to the family's Mother, a beautiful marble statue to St. Joseph stands now facing the chapel at Mary Help.

Mention should also be made here of Mr. Charles Hansen of the Charles Hansen Music Publications, who became our friend during Father Bosio's (Fr. August) time. Since that time, he has always supplied our band and choir with all of the music needed, without ever charging a penny. He was instrumental in getting published the music written by our Father Clementi. Countless times he has set up our boys and Salesians in comfortable lodgings during our Miami visits. He gave us our first stereo player; our first color TV set; and other items too numerous to mention. God bless you, Charles and your lovely wife, Isabel.

Another outstanding benefactor of the school, who for the last 15 years has given of his time and talent unsparingly to the school, is Mr. Tom Connor, or just plain "Tom" to all of us at Mary Help. During all these years he has been the most potent power force that has helped our sports program to develop. Our own Brother Kevin, as athletic director and

Print Shop teacher, would have found it impossible to conduct such a varied and successful program without Tom's never failing and generous help. He is a real friend of the boys, such as St. John Bosco had envisaged. Many a boy was set right by both his example and guidance. May God keep him with us for many more years. We pray that Don Bosco will obtain for him from God a real generous salary worthy of His divine largess.

Bro. Lino, our Cabinet Making teacher, at work.



Recent patrons of our music program without whom our band and choir would not have been able to perform and function efficiently are Mr. Stephen Horvath, of whom mention is made later on; Mr. P. Morgaman, Mr. George Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. John Kralich, Mr. Jim Manconi, Mr. Frank Rohel, Mr. George Callas, an MHC Alumnus, Mr. Joe Gutierrez, the East Coast Don Bosco Guild, the Alumni Group and their Auxiliary, who purchased the new choir uniforms, and finally Ms. Anne Heublein Rudder who provided new uniforms for our band during this Jubilee year.

Resuming our brief history we come to 1972 when during Father Manni's administration, in line with the recommendations of our General Chapter, who urged us to work hand in hand with the local church, we came to the help of our diocesan school system, which was experiencing serious growing pains. For three years, until the St. Petersburg Diocese was able to carry out the necessary work of enlarging its Tampa High School quarters, Mary Help took in, on its campus, an additional 250 freshmen

students from Tampa Catholic. We shared our facilities with them. Additional room was provided by portable classrooms set up by the diocese. All the administration and teaching for the Tampa Catholic students was, of course, done by teachers hired by the diocese. However, during its first year all freshmen who so desired were admitted to join in the music program at Mary Help, free of charge.

In September, 1974, an event of significant importance took place. A new director came to Tampa who had been practically "raised" from his earliest years by the Salesians. Finally, we had an alumnus as director in the person of the Rev. James Jeffcoat, a native of Tampa. However, a much more demanding job was awaiting him and, after two years, he was assigned as principal to one of our most prestigious schools in Ramsey, N. J., Don Bosco High School, which has an enrollment of one thousand students.

So, in September, 1976, Father August Kita, who had spent some time here at Mary Help as a young scholastic, returned to Mary Help as its director, succeeding Father Jeffcoat. To him

befell the task of preparing for the Golden Anniversary of Mary Help's founding. To help in this work, Brother Charles Todel came down from our Don Bosco High School in Boston and, even though he had other administrative duties, he helped contact and form committees to prepare for this Golden Jubilee event.

Without any doubt the new "providing Angel" whom God sent us to lay plans and help us moving towards our Jubilee Celebration was

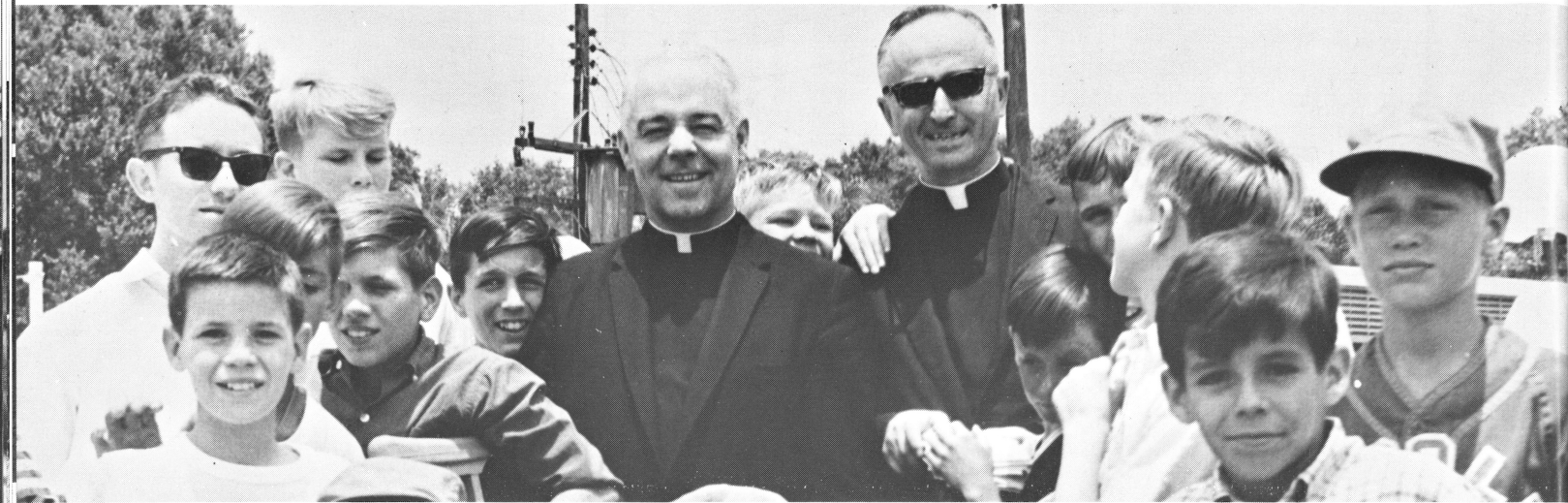
Fr. Vincent Duffy, former M.H.C. Director beams approvingly at one of our graduating Scholars.



Mr. Dow Sherwood, the owner of the Showboat Dinner Theatre. His untiring Christian zeal and love for our school, has drawn others to come and rally around for this, our 50th year of existence. Through his care and effort, several other friends have come lately to our aid for the purpose of perpetuating our work in this new era of frightening inflation and soaring prices. For we must not forget that the need for our work here is on the increase and that God has

called to Himself many of the friends who used to help us in the past. To mention just some such friends we have lost, some very recently, God took to Himself Mr. Antone Pahucki, who for over twenty years had made our boys the object of his love and charity. His wife, Stella, has taken up where her dear Tony left off and has accepted the chairmanship of our Jubilee Celebration. Another who is not forgotten is the warmhearted, heroic figure of Mr. Steven Hor-

Very Rev. John Malloy, former Provincial and Fr. Manni surrounded by a group of our happy youngsters.

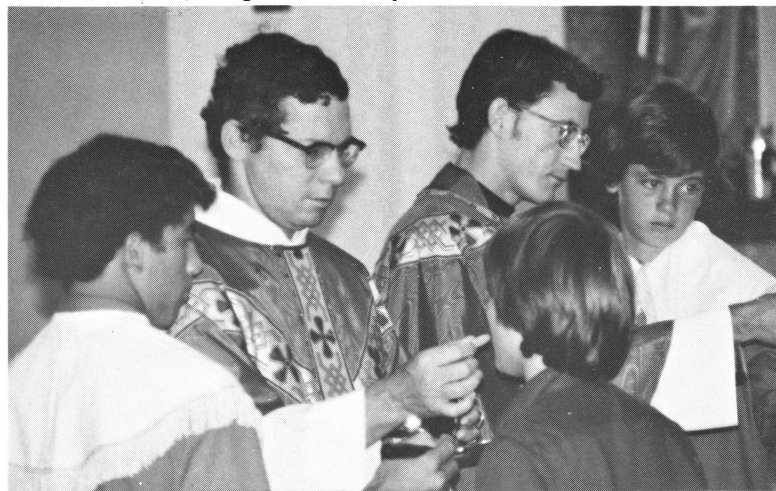


vath, who was, I am told by our Superiors, mainly instrumental in saving our Salesian work in Japan after the war; who, when he came to Tampa, brought with him his wife, Jean, and two boys they adopted while in Japan. He air conditioned the band and choir rooms, changed an old dilapidated classroom into a very inviting choir room. He worked for over three years at jobs that paid less than \$2 an hour, living on his pension, so that he could pay for all the work done. When he died he had started saving up his hard earned pennies to renovate the roof of the band room. For years, more than one can remember, he was the jolly Santa Claus who gave sparkle and joy to our Christmas concerts. His wife, Jean, still lives in Panasoffkee, Florida and continues in the tradition of her husband whose name will ever live in benediction at Mary Help.

Other friends whom we lost recently are: Mr. Elmer White, a pioneer member of our Don Bosco East Coast Guild. Also, the founders of that Guild, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cassidy have been called to their reward. Mr. and Mrs. George Ludwig, founders of our Zephyrhills

Guild, have passed to a better life. Mrs. Joseph Osterman, Mrs. Marcelino Perez, Mrs. Clarence White and Mrs. Joseph Giovenco, zealous members of the Mama Margaret Guild, have gone to eternity during the past few years. And the list grows longer . . . we pray that God will send others to replenish the ranks. Others who will be given the privilege to "give" of themselves and their earthly goods to God Who comes to them in the garb of our boys.

Fr. Jeffcoat, former M.H.C. alumnus is shown here as director of his Alma Mater, along with Fr. Joseph Hannon.



ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP MARY HELP

This year our Alumni had a car sticker made up which read: "HELP MARY HELP". In this brief outline of the history of our school we did not pretend to cover extensively every facet, every event, and every person connected with our School. We hope to do a more extensive and exhaustive study which will be ready to be published, God willing, for the closing of our

Our invaluable helper for 15 years Tom Connor (R.) flanked by Gary Huff, Tampa Bucs' Quarterback, and Brother Pat Logan.



Jubilee Year on November 26, 1978. However, we do want to give recognition to the following organizations which have, as their avowed purpose, the continued betterment and progress of our school.

The Mama Margaret Guild, founded by Mrs. Alicia Neve, the "foundress" of the school. It is still vigorous and the spirit of the founder is ever with them. No school activity or project goes on without their dedicated help.

Mr. Dow Sherwood in the center of this picture, one of our "new providing angels" gives automotive shop trophy to a student while Bro. John and Fr. Kita, our present director, look on.



The East Coast Don Bosco Guild, founded by Father Alvin Manni. It was pioneered by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cassidy, with the cooperation of Mr. Elmer White, Sr. and Dr. Dellizon E. Patterson. It has been a potent arm of the school on Florida's East Coast. Among its achievements were: the purchase of new band uniforms in 1965; a fund raising dinner concert held yearly to raise funds for the school; the purchase of the present school bus and school van; the organization of the first two swimathons, etc. . . .

The West Coast Don Bosco Guild also founded by Fr. Manni. At present it is mainly responsible for the smooth running of the two yearly picnics. They also hold periodical Turkey Shoots to raise funds for the school. The funds for the new language lab were provided mostly by them, the East Coast Guild also helped in this project. This year they also had a successful raffle on behalf of the school. The Jubilee Year Kick-off dance was again their special project and was quite successful.

The Zephyrhills Auxiliary, now celebrating its tenth year of existence. It was founded by

Father Vincent Duffy as an ecumenical group to help our school. Its first president and guiding spirit was Mrs. Loretta Ludwig, wholeheartedly assisted and helped by her husband George. Over the years this group of wonderful helpers have donated over \$15,000 to the school. The first modern kitchen range for the school was purchased by them. They hold a yearly concert for the benefit of the school, and carry on other activities at our picnics and at Christmas on behalf of our school.

(L. to R.) Bro. Kevin our A.D. and Print Shop instructor for the last 13 years, with Brother Mike our former principal and guidance director.



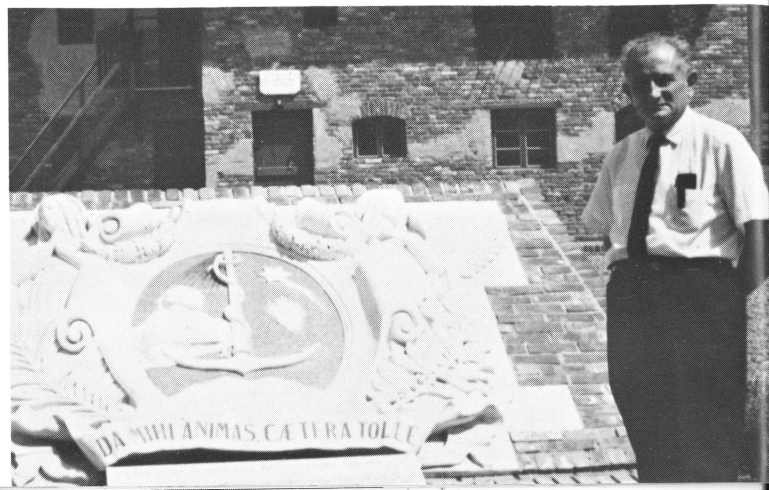
The Mary Help of Christians School Alumni and their Auxiliary, founded by Father Alvin Manni, have provided an opportunity for many a former student of Mary Help to say a "factual" thank you to the school that, for many of them, has been their home during their most difficult years. Their activities are so varied and numerous that it is not easy to even list them. They were the main spirit behind the Jubilee Celebration, with the Jubilee Year's

Our present director Fr. August Kita, the new father of our Family.



Alumni Dance which was held last March 4th. The Swim-A-Thon was revitalized by them too. If our choir this year can boast spanking new uniforms it is also due to them. Lately, they provided over \$1,000 for the concert tour of our Band up north for the Feast of our Province. We hope they will grow in number and that their dedication will be ever at the present high level.

Bro. Francis, who for 33 years has worked unsparingly and with great love and skill on behalf of our boys.



Mary Help of Christians School Board of Advisors: This Board is made up of influential civic and business leaders from different parts of Florida. This most helpful and necessary organization was initiated by Father Manni and is now under the chairmanship of William Haggerty, Chairman of the Board of Tampa Cold Storage and Warehouse. It has provided the school with invaluable help in steering our institution, through these increasingly hard times, in the right direction, especially regarding policies and projects. They are the professional ears, eyes and heart of our school. May God reward their labors on our behalf.

The Salesian Cooperators. The climatic ceremony of the Mass on May 21 will be the induction of 30 Florida Salesian Cooperators. Don Bosco's family in Florida will thus be complete with its three essential branches: The Salesian Fathers and Brothers; the Salesian Sisters and the Salesian Cooperators. These latter are lay people who, without taking formal vows, still strive to work on behalf of youth along with their local pastors or in the way they are able to, according to the spirit of St. John Bosco. Their

moderator is Brother Charles Todel, S.D.B.

The Italian Festa Committee, headed by Mr. Paul Antinori, former Florida State Attorney, has made our school their special project for the last two years. This year, at the end of their "FESTA" they presented the school with a \$5,000 check. "Mille Grazie!"

The Italian Invitational Golf Tournament organized for the first time this year under the leadership of Mr. Joe Mandese, has made Mary Help the beneficiary of the proceeds from this first venture. We look forward to a continued relationship with this group that has chosen to help us on this, our Jubilee Year.

The St. Joseph Feast Committee, formed during Fr. Manni's directorship and directed by the Tampa Sons of Italy Unita Lodge, #2015. For the last six years they have held a special St. Joseph Day celebration with Mass, and traditional meal at which boys are chosen from our school to represent the apostles. The traditional altar of St. Joseph is set up with all the gifts in money and kind around it. All the proceeds are then turned over for the benefit of our boys.

Mary Help of Christians School Chapel
May 21, 1978

Tampa, Florida
4:00 P.M.

SOLEMN JUBILEE MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Ministers of the Liturgy

Main Celebrant:

Most Reverend Charles B. McLaughlin, D.D.
Bishop of St. Petersburg

Major Concelebrants:

Most Reverend Edward T. O'Merea, D.D.
National Director of the Propagation of the Faith

Most Reverend Thomas J. Grady, D.D.
Bishop of Orlando

Very Reverend Fidelis Dunlap, O.S.B.
Abbot of St. Leo Abbey

Very Reverend Salvatore Isgro, S.D.B.
Provincial of the Province of St. Philip

Reverend Ernest Giovannini, S.D.B.

Provincial emeritus of the Province of St. Philip
Representative of the Province of St. Andrew

Reverend John J. Malloy, S.D.B.

Provincial emeritus of the Province of St. Philip
Representative of Province of St. Andrew

Reverend August J. Kita, S.D.B.

Director of Mary Help of Christians School

Reverend Dominic Battistello, S.D.B.

Former Director

Reverend August P. Bosio, S.D.B.

Former Director

Reverend Vincent Duffy, S.D.B.

Former Director

Tampa Airport Holiday Inn - May 21, 1978 - 7:30 P.M.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

French Onion Soup
Jello Mold Salad
Roast Beef
Baked Potato
Creamed Peas-Carrots-Onions
Rolls and Butter
Strawberry Parfait
Beverage

GOLDEN JUBILEE MUSICAL PROGRAM

Villa Madonna Delle Neve School Presents A
Choreographic Prelude to Musical Concert

Acrobatic Act to Star Wars
Tap Dance to Theme from "Rocky"
Ballet - Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

* * *

Presenting the Mary Help of Christians School Choir

Directed by Rev. Larry Urban, S.D.B.

Accompaniment by Mr. Russ Barnes, Music Director of O.L.P.H.

Tom Dooley..... (Bill Hansen)
Kids..... (L. Adams and C. Strouse)
This Land is Your Land..... (W. Guthrie)

* * *

Villa Madonna Della Neve 7th Grade Chorus
Under the Direction of Mrs. Helen Witkoski
Presents

Sing to the Mountain (Album: Earthen Vessels)
Ave Maria
Listen (From Monks of Western Priory)
Music Director and Coordinator: Sister Margaret, FMA

* * *

Musical Selections by Mary Help Golden Anniversary Band
Directed by the Rev. I. Clementi, S.D.B.; N.C.B.A.

Ave Maria Jakob Arcadelt (C. Whitney)
Highlights from the West Side Story Leonard Bernstein
Star Wars John Williams (John Tatgenhorst)
Theme from "Rocky" Conti-Connors-Robbins (Robert Lowden)

**FORMER M. H. C. STUDENTS WHO ARE NOW MEMBERS
OF THE
SALESIAN ORDER**

Rev. Bernard Justen, S.D.B.

Director of our Newton Seminary
Director of our School in Goshen, N. Y.
Provincial of the San Francisco Province
Pastor of our new parish of Laredo, Texas

Bro. John Versaggi, S.D.B.

At present architectural assistant at our
New Rochelle, N. Y. Provincial Office.

Rev. James Jeffcoat, S.D.B.

Director of Mary Help of Christians School
Principal of Don Bosco High School of
Ramsey, N. J.
Awarded National Honors for his contribution to
the study of Biology.

Rev. Robert Grant, S.D.B.

Music teacher in several of our schools. At present associate pastor in our St. John Bosco Church in Birmingham, Ala. God called him to the difficult apostolate of caring for prison inmates.

Rev. Dan Kramer, S.D.B.

Financial Administrator at St. Dominic Savio
High School, Boston, Mass.

Rev. Michael Mendl, S.D.B.

Recently ordained to the Holy Priesthood (May
19th), in Columbus, Ohio.

