



1932

*Souvenir Program*

*Commemorating*

*the*

*Twenty-fifth  
Sacerdotal Jubilee*

*of the*

*Reverend Michael G. Collins*

*Pastor of St. Peter Parish*

*Harper Woods, Michigan*

1957



**The Reverend Michael G. Collins**  
**Pastor, Saint Peter Parish**  
**Harper Woods, Michigan**

## *Father Michael G. Collins . . .*

Was born within the parish boundaries of Our Lady of Help Parish in Detroit on the sixteenth day of September, 1906, the youngest son in a family of six children born to Michael Collins and Anna Kelly, both deceased. A brother Mr. Joseph Collins, Mrs. Robert Ermiger and Mrs. Madeleine Rayles, sisters of the jubilarian survive. They, with other relatives will be present for the Silver Jubilee.

Father Collins attended grade school at Our Lady of Help Parish. There he was baptized, made his First Holy Communion, was confirmed, served as an altar boy and later on, after his ordination on May 22, 1932 was to offer his first Solemn Mass after having completed high school, college and philosophy courses at Sacred Heart Seminary and theological studies at Mount Saint Mary of the West in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Since his ordination Father Collins has served as assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Grosse Ile, at Saint Gertrude Parish in Saint Clair Shores, at Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral (now Saint Patrick Parish, Detroit) and also at Saint Theresa Parish, Detroit.

While at Saint Theresa Parish, he was assigned to serve as an army chaplain during World War II and upon completion of his military duty he was appointed to serve as administrator of Saint Alexis Mission in Willow Run, Michigan. Shortly thereafter, Cardinal Mooney appointed Father to establish a parish dedicated to Saint Elizabeth in Tecumseh, Michigan. Upon the completion of a Church there he was again appointed to establish the parish of Saint Peter in Harper Woods in 1953. Since that time he has spearheaded the building of a school, temporary Church, convent and rectory.

Aside from his duties as Pastor of this new parish, he is active in many charitable, civic and fraternal organizations.

Presently he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Clergy Aid Society, Chaplain of the Vismara Council of the Knights of Columbus and also department chaplain of the city of Harper Woods, and also Chaplain of the AMVETS Richard S. Hayes—Post 57.

This brief biography is not intended as any eulogy. It's merely a thumb-nail sketch of the one we honor today. And contemplating the facts contained herein we pray that the zeal, enthusiasm and inspiration he has manifested in twenty five years may continue till we meet to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

### Prayer for Priests.

“O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep these Thy servants within the shelter of Thy Sacred Heart, where none may harm them.

“Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Thy sacred Body.

“Keep unsullied the lips purpled with Thy Precious Blood.

“Keep pure and unearthly hearts sealed with the sublime marks of Thy glorious priesthood.

“Let Thy holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion.

“Bless their labors with abundant fruit, and may the souls to whom they minister be here below their joy and consolation and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.”

## *Prayer of a Priest*

*Lord Jesus, Eternal Pontiff, Good Shepherd, Fount of Life, who, through no merit of our own, has raised us to the ranks of Your priesthood by the special favor of Your Most Sacred Heart, accord us the abundant assistance of Your ever helpful mercy, that we may fulfill the desires to which Your grace has moved our mind. You, who for us sanctified Yourself that we, too, might be holy in truth (cfr. John XVII, 9), grant, that never straying from You who are the Way, wise in Your teaching, faithful in following the precepts of Your law, we may bring back the image of Your Most Sacred Heart to our way of living, and in You and through You we may please the Heavenly Father in all things.*

*May all forms of justice shine forth and may the strength of fortitude be joined to the chaste moderation of temperance. May sincere faith dwell in our heart, may hope of eternal reward imbue us with the waters of consolation; and may heavenly fire then inflame those whom Your Most Sacred Heart, a burning furnace of charity, enkindles. Grant that our unending meditation may be concerned with Your words, in which eternal wisdom shines forth, and thus nourished, may we in turn feed the sheep of Your flock, our charge. May those opposed to Your Gospel, be brought into the circle of our unity, and may they find nothing in us any way, that those who are acquainted with sin and shame might ascribe to Your Church, our Mother. Grant, finally, that, seeking not our own advantages, but rather Your glory, we, with the pure conscience of a right will, may be steadfast in our duty to our last breath; and when our body yields to death, may we in the glory of the saints gain the eternal reward of Yourself, whom we have on earth as Leader and Companion. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.*

# *Program*

**Sunday, May 26th, 1957**

12:45—SOLEMN HIGH MASS OF THANKSGIVING

2:00—Luncheon for Priest-friends and relatives

4:00 to 6:00—Reception for Parishioners and Friends  
in Saint Peter School

6:30—Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament



**Monday, May 27th, 1957**

9:00—Mass and Benediction for School Children

8:00 p.m.—Saint Peter school children pay tribute to  
Father Collins. All parishioners and friends  
are invited.

# *Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving*

Celebrant ..... Reverend Michael G. Collins  
Deacon ..... Reverend James P. McCabe  
Sub-Deacon ..... Reverend Joseph M. Conroy  
Master of Ceremonies ..... Reverend Valentine A. Gattari  
Minor Ministers ..... Altar Boys from Saint Peter Parish  
Preacher ..... Reverend Frank J. Walsh  
Music ..... Saint Peter Male Choir

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## *Benediction*

Celebrant ..... Reverend Michael G. Collins  
Deacon ..... Very Reverend Austin Verow, S.M.  
Sub-Deacon ..... Reverend Paul Guertin, S.M.  
Minor Ministers ..... Altar Boys from Saint Peter Parish



## CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER COLLINS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SILVER JUBILEE

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“I wish to sincerely thank all who have made this silver anniversary such a memorable occasion, and in a special way to my brother priests who joined me in the Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving; The Dominican Sisters and the Faculty at Saint Peter School, The Jubilee Committee, The Parish Societies and Organizations—to all my heartfelt “thank you.”

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever.

*Michael G. Collins*

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