

Our Beautiful Church

— A SERIES OF ARTICLES DEPICTING THE MAGNIFICENCE OF OUR CHURCH —

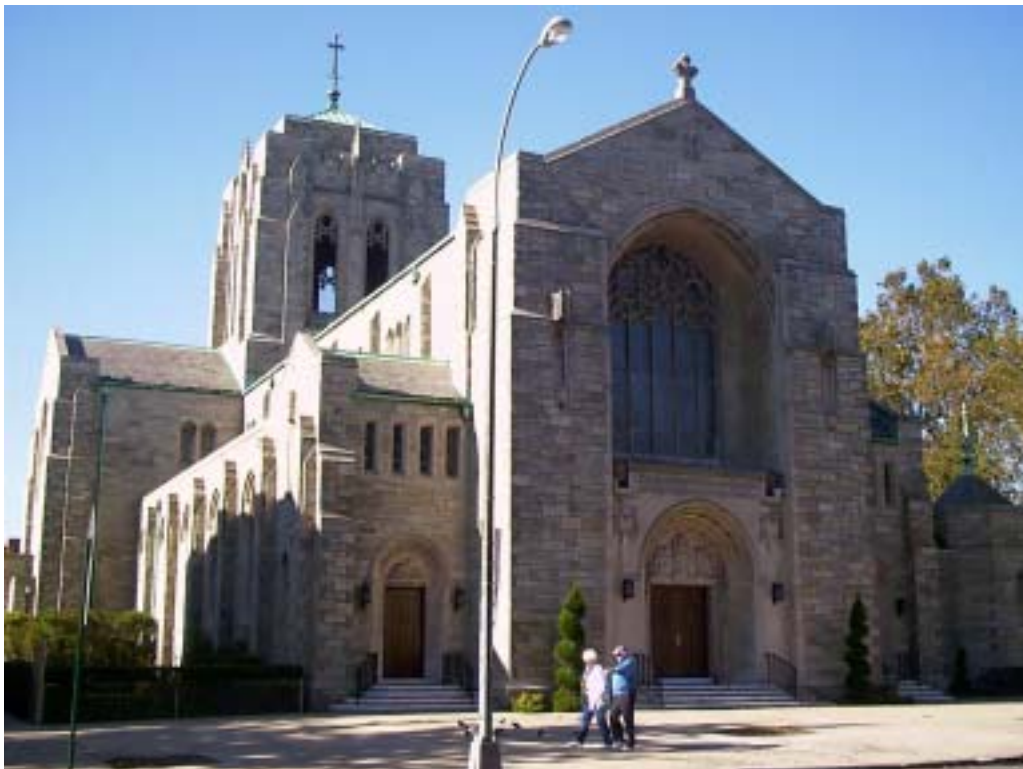
PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

It is safe to say that every parishioner admires the beauty of our church, but not everyone is aware of its history and genesis, not to mention the richness and importance of its manifold artistic and architectural details. This series of articles appeared originally in our bulletins of November 10, 2002 through January 12, 2003. They cover most — but not all — of the inner and outer treasures of our church. The first article provides the only known picture of a truly significant event: groundbreaking day, the very beginning of our church. The subsequent articles analyze most of its main architectural and artistic details, especially the main altar, the stained-glass windows, carvings and decorations. We hope to have uncovered for our parishioners many details that are difficult to discern from the pews and also to have succeeded in explaining the meaning and significance of each major aspect of the veritable work of art that is our church.

Among many sources, one we used frequently is a booklet published by our parish in 1988, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of groundbreaking day (*which took place on May 18, 1938 – see facing page*). The 1988 booklet contains an article on the treasures of our church, written by a very knowledgeable person who wished to remain anonymous; this is an excellent source of information on a number of important details. The photographs we will be using, however, are entirely new — our very talented volunteer photographer, Pepa Tanousis, spent considerable time producing more than 150 pictures, of which we used as many as possible to illustrate this series.

Parishioners can also log on to our website to view this series as well as the latest bulletins:

www.ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org



Our Lady Queen of Martyrs church, photographed in 2002.

Groundbreaking Day – at last!



“Ground has been broken for Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church. It will be completed at roughly the same time as the World’s Fair. Before the huge excavator dug its first shovelful of dirt the pupils of the parish sang several hymns and concluded with “The Star Spangled Banner.” There was no address except for a few words from Father McLaughlin who told the operator of the steam shovel, “Now do your stuff.”

— May 18, 1938
(local newspaper coverage)