

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH'S 350TH ANNIVERSARY

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350th Banquet

On June 9, 2012, St. Francis Xavier Parish celebrated its 350th anniversary on the grounds of the historic church. The event started off with mass being offered by Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington DC and then a dinner on the lawn. Over 450 people attended the celebration which was started with St. Maries Milita firing muskets to signal the beginning of the dinner. St. Maries Musica performed and Billy Breslin provided musical entertainment for the evening. The parish was also blessed with the attendance of William and Temperance Bretton portrayed by Frank and Pat Greenwell who read the original deed granting the land for the local Roman Catholics to build a church or chappell and to establish a cemetery .



Fall Lecture Series

During the months of September, October and November, the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee will be sponsoring a lecture series on St. Francis Xavier Church, Newtown Hundred, the Newtown Manor House early Catholics and the history of the local area. The committee has contacted local archeologists and historians to help understand the significance of our historical parish and the surrounding area.

HEADLINES

“Oldest Catholic parish in the U. S. celebrates 350th anniversary”

When America is able to celebrate the 350th anniversary of an event there is a big cause for celebration. And this is precisely what happened in Maryland’s St. Francis Xavier Parish last Saturday, in the presence of Cardinal Donald Wuerl. The parish church which has been dedicated to St. Francis Xavier has really set a record: it is the oldest Catholic Church in the United States in all the country’s founding states, that is, the legendary “13 colonies”.

“Let us look forward to the future with the same faith and confidence that has sustained us in our faith for so many centuries,” said Washington’s pastor referring to the Catholic community which help build the city of Newtowne.

Vatican Insider, June 11, 2012
Turin, Italy

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