

room and dormitories. In 1932, the school enrollment having grown, every room was needed to provide classroom space. Father Simard then acquired two adjoining properties on Saint Louis Avenue (formerly Newton Street), to build a convent. The Sisters moved into their newly built residence in October 1932.

During the pastorate of Father Simard, the Parish of the Nativity developed rapidly. In 1909, at the end of Father Hamelin's pastorate, the Aldenville mission had become the parish of Saint Rosa de Lima. In the '20s a number of families of Polish ancestry had settled in Willimansett. In 1925, these families asked Bishop O'Leary to establish a parish of their own. The Bishop asked the Franciscan Fathers to take charge of this foundation. In April 1925, the new church was dedicated as Saint Anthony of Padua Parish.

THE DREAM OF FATHER SIMARD

The Catholic population of Willimansett continued to expand during the '30s. In 1937, the parish numbered 4,500 souls. Despite the fact that seven Masses were being celebrated every Sunday, the church was hardly large enough to accommodate its parishioners. Father Simard seriously considered building a new church, to be erected between the rectory and the convent, at the corner of Chicopee and Mount Carmel. However, the difficulties of the times constrained him to forego—or at least to postpone—the fulfillment of this dream. Father Simard decided, instead, to restore the existing church. The renewal project was launched in the Fall of 1937. Soon, a newly redecorated church became a source of joy and wonder for all the parishioners.

Father Sauvageau was replaced as pastor of Nativity by Father L. George Clermont. It was during his administration that the Sisters of the Presentation, who had directed and staffed Mount Carmel School since its opening, let it be known that, due to difficult circumstances, they were obliged to withdraw from the school. The parishioners of Nativity, recognizing the immeasurable value of their parochial school, decided to embark upon an ambitious project, one that, until then, had been untried in the Diocese of Springfield. The parish school would heretofore be staffed and directed entirely by lay persons. This challenging venture has been quite successful. Under the principalship first of Frederick Becklo, and since September 1980 of Kathleen Hill, Mount Carmel School continues to provide for our young people a solid basis formation in the secular subjects, and a stable formation in Christian values.

THE DREAM FULFILLED

In 1974, his health failing, Father Clermont retired. Father W. Donald Fournier, who had been his curate, became pastor of Nativity. It was he who, at long last, saw the fulfillment of the dream shared by priests and parishioners of Nativity since the time of Father Simard: the building of a new parish church. [The government sought to take the land occupied by the church built by Father Hamelin for the building of Interstate Route 391. The monies offered for the expropriation of this property were sufficient, in the judgement of diocesan authorities, to launch the construction project. An enthusiastic building fund campaign by the parishioners, generously supplemented by gifts of donors, brought in sufficient funds to complete and furnish a magnificent new church and a spacious parish hall. On Pentecost Sunday, May 25, 1980, His Excellency Joseph F. Maguire, Bishop of Springfield, presided at a Concelebrated Mass marking the dedication of the new Nativity Church, in which the Liturgy has been celebrated since Holy Week 1980.]

In November 1980, Father Fournier answered his country's call, and began a tour of duty as a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy. He has been replaced by Father William Paquin. Beginning in December 1980, Father Paquin assumed the pastorate of Nativity. With the assistance of his curate, and the valuable support of the Parish Council, Father Paquin strives to provide for the spiritual needs of his flock, to maintain the parish buildings, to promote the generosity of the parishioners, to encourage among the faithful a genuine spirit of community—of family.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as we return from the August break, this Congress has one last opportunity to change the current campaign finance system. We have missed earlier opportunities to have a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives for campaign reform. If we fail to act before the House recesses in October we will not see any reform of the current system in the 105th Congress. I urge the leadership of the House of Representatives to allow the Members of Congress an opportunity to vote on campaign finance reform legislation.

It is obvious that the current system is broken and needs dramatic change. Too much money is being spent on campaigns. This has prohibited many qualified individuals from running for office, it has created disgust with the democratic process and it has resulted in some of the lowest voter turnout in years. It is our responsibility as elected officials to change the current system.

As a freshman member who recently went through my first election I understand the problems in the system. I have been working with some of my freshman colleagues to draft and introduce the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. This act would ban soft money and enact more stringent contribution disclosure requirements for candidates and independent groups. This act would take the biggest money out of elections and begin to restore some credibility to the system. The public is demanding that we enact some form of campaign finance reform. The Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act was negotiated between Republicans and Democrats and is the proper piece of legislation to be considered.

Over the next month and a half we will have plenty of opportunities to move a bill forward, through the committee of jurisdiction and to the floor of the House of Representatives. I will be following the committee and floor schedules closely in order to insure that time is available to consider campaign finance reform legislation before the end of this session. I strongly urge the leadership to take quick action to allow a vote on campaign finance reform. If we fail to act now, we will have missed our best opportunity to bring some respect back to this great institution and restore the public's trust in our democratic process. If we don't act now, next year will be too late.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER D.
RAMSAY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Mr. Walter D. Ramsay, an outstanding individual whose untimely passing will be felt and mourned by many in Washington.

Walt Ramsay, an independent consultant for the precious metals industry and a former long-time administrative assistant to Senator Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey, succumbed to lung cancer early yesterday morning at Inova Hospital in Alexandria, VA. I know my colleagues will join me in offering condolences to his wife, Leslie Sorg Ramsay, his son, Sean Ramsay, and his other family members and many, many friends.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself very lucky to have had the good fortune to meet Walt shortly after coming to Congress. I was equally blessed with the opportunity of getting to know him better over the years. As a lobbyist, he did not have any issues of concern which came under the jurisdiction of any of my committee assignments, or, at least, any that he felt compelled to raise with me, yet he was always a friendly face in the office. His many stories and anecdotes, as well as his keen political insight, always made him a welcome participant and a joy to speak to at any office gathering.

Mr. Speaker, quite simply, Walt Ramsay was the best of men. He was intelligent and wise, kind and good natured, friendly and humorous, stoic and humble, and, of course, he was Irish. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an obituary which appeared in the New Jersey Star-Ledger be placed in the RECORD.

[From the New Jersey Star Ledger, Sept. 3, 1997]

WALTER D. RAMSAY, 62, CONGRESSIONAL AIDE
(By Robert Cohen)

WASHINGTON.—Walter D. Ramsay, longtime chief of staff to former New Jersey Sen. Harrison A. Williams and the mentor to many young Capitol Hill aides, died yesterday after a battle with cancer. He was 62.

Ramsay first came to Washington in 1969 as Williams' press secretary and later took over as his top aide, navigating the legislative and political waters for the senator on Capitol Hill while keeping his finger on the pulse of politics back home in New Jersey.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry, who got his start working under Ramsay in Williams' Senate office, said he was "a great teacher" and "as smart and disciplined when it came to politics and policy as anyone I have ever met."

"He taught me how to be a press secretary," said McCurry.

McCurry said Ramsay could be "a very demanding boss," but had a sense of humor, a broad range of outside interests that included literature and music and "a different perspective than your typical overachieving Capitol Hill aide."

Jim Mathews, now the top aide to Rep. Thomas Manton (D-NY) and a former legislative staffer in Williams' office, said he always considered Ramsay his mentor.

"He was the nicest, best-humored person I ever knew," said Mathews. "He never took himself too seriously and understood that