

## History Church of the Resurrection Ellicott City, Maryland

The history of our parish is linked to the mother church, St. Paul Church, Ellicott City, Maryland. On September 13, 1838, the fifth Archbishop of Baltimore, Samuel Eccleston established St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church on College Ave. in Ellicott City. That church served the spiritual needs of the residents of both Howard County and Baltimore County and serves those needs today. In the 1950's and 1960's, Howard County began to change from a rural county to part of the Baltimore suburban metropolitan area. Both the membership of St. Paul's Parish and the school enrollment for the elementary school which it conducted increased.

In an effort to meet the expanding needs of the parish and at the same time to alleviate the increased traffic congestion which was developing in the Ellicott City area associated with its services and activities, the parish undertook a building program. The Ramsburg family donated a parcel of land containing 12 acres to the church and later they donated an additional 5 acres to the parish. This land was immediately adjacent to the commercial shopping center district which was also owned and developed by the Ramsburg family.

In 1966, the people of St. Paul Parish donated over \$400,000 and the parish embarked on a building project for a new school and church facility. The total cost of the project was approximately \$1,000,000. In addition, the parish anticipated an increased enrollment and the building was constructed to accommodate a second floor to meet this expansion. The building, which now accommodates the religious services, was originally constructed as an auditorium and was supposed to serve the parish's religious needs on a temporary basis. A church was planned for later construction.

The facilities as first constructed served for a number of years as part of St. Paul's parish. In 1974, Cardinal Shehan, in his last official act as Archbishop before his retirement, established a new parish under the current name of Church of the Resurrection. The school still serves the needs of parishioners from both St. Paul's and the Church of the Resurrection. The two parishes work closely and in harmony in serving the religious needs of the people of the Ellicott City area. In 1985 Richard and Hazel Awalt donated five-acre parcel which has been incorporated in the parish expansion of facilities plan.

Resurrection Church is continually reviewing its academic programs and its religious liturgies in order to serve the changing needs of children and people of the parish. New programs must be developed, existing programs must be improved and enriched and other requirements as necessary to meet demands. In 1990-1991 the parish added four classrooms to the school building and erected a daily Mass chapel and parish offices.

The parish has approval from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Howard County to add the second floor to the school, install a new lobby with elevator to link all floor of the facility. In addition, the parish has permission to build a 1450 seat church and a two level multi-purpose building/gymnasium.

The parish has grown from 1100 families in 1974 to 3400 families in 1998. The median age is 38. The religious education program has over 1000 children enrolled; the Resurrection-St. Paul School has 350 children enrolled. The parish has a youth ministry program.

Despite the energy it focuses on its growth, the parish is concerned of the needs of others. It supports a sister parish in San Bartolo, El Salvadore, with about \$10,000 per year in cash contributions, as well as school equipment.

Among other things, Resurrection gives the Baltimore city St. Ambrose Outreach 1 percent of its total budget for a much needed staff person. The parish also has an extraordinarily active St. Vincent de Paul society, one which contributes about \$20,000 a year to help the needy among its Howard County neighbors paying rent, utilities, or even buying gasoline to keep on the road until the next payday. The parish has an active food pantry. The youth ministry does hands on social action by participating in projects like Habitat for Humanity in Sandtown, Baltimore, Maryland and Morgantown, West Virginia.

The parish is particularly proud of an award it won which indicates its concern for people with special needs. It is the 1995-1996 Opening Doors Award, given to Resurrection by the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities which recognizes the parish's "innovative and creative approach to building meaningful inclusion into the worship and activities "of the church. Sunday liturgy at 9am is signed; hearing loop is operating in church and hall. It is an ongoing project, established by an inspired and creatively involved pastoral council, that is making the entire parish complex accessible to the handicapped, from the design of its drinking water fountains to cutting down pews so that people in wheelchairs can sit with their families.

There are over ninety groups or organizations active in the parish.

