



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
NEW YORK

From the Bishop

October 21, 2017

The Vicar, Wardens and Vestry, and People of
St. Paul's and Trinity Parish

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a privilege and delight for me to extend greetings and congratulations to all of you in our wonderful St. Paul's & Trinity Parish, on the occasion of your bicentennial. I know your story and rich history well, and that your parish was not only the church of the Livingston family, but the childhood congregation of our most-beloved Eleanor Roosevelt.

I remember some years ago standing behind the church in the cemetery. A light snow was beginning to strengthen, and in the quiet of the snow settling and deepening among the trees, I looked about me at the Livingston family mausoleums under the church, and the headstones of the many others buried in your sacred ground, and was deeply moved by the thought of the generations which have maintained the fabric of prayer and praise in your church, and been a light to the community among whom you have ministered for what is now two hundred years. I bring those thoughts and memories to you in these greetings, and thank you for continuing that long beautiful legacy into your own day.

Through Provoost Park and the Community Carousel in particular, in the offering of your vicar as chaplain to the Tivoli Fire and Rescue Squad, and in the day to day love, service and self-offering which you make to the people of Tivoli, you have continued a stalwart witness to the love of God for all people through our Lord Jesus Christ. As your bishop, I am proud of who you are and what you do, and grateful for the constancy of your faith and service. May God richly bless you in this celebration, and quicken your hearts at the promise of miracles and wonders yet to be revealed among you. And always, with much love, I am

Yours,

The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche
XVI Bishop of New York



Where Faith, Hope and Love Abide

From the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's & Trinity Parish,

On behalf of the Wardens, Vestry, and People of this historic parish, I welcome you and thank you for joining us in this jubilant celebration of our life and ministry. For two hundred years we have been a vital presence in Tivoli, the Mid-Hudson Region, and the Episcopal Diocese of New York. With joyful thanksgiving, we continue in the faithful tradition of the many who have gone before us to be a caring spiritual home for members of the parish; and to engage a broad range of supportive outreach ministries, responding to the spiritual and other human needs of those in Tivoli and beyond.

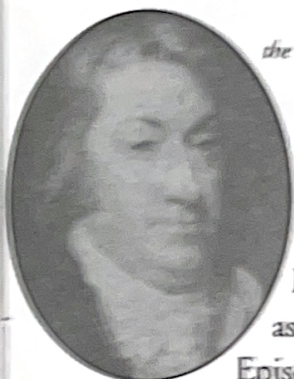
The center of our parish life is the worship of God—celebrating the life, message, and ministry of Jesus—who inspires, strengthens, and guides us to live in faithful relationship with both God and our neighbor. Throughout the years it has been, and continues to be, the commitment of the Parish to be dedicated to God and to God's mission to bless all with whom we come in contact.

Our spiritual ancestors lived through many joys and challenges within the parish, as well as through the ever-changing social and political landscape of the larger society. Much has happened during the past two hundred years—in the parish and in the world. Both have witnessed many changes. Yet, we experience and are convinced that it is God who is the faithful, Life-giving "Constant" who supports us through the countless ever-evolving circumstances. It is God who calls us to be— and enables us to be our better selves amid the on-going chances and changes of life, and inspires us to continue to offer God's blessing to others.

So now in this our 200th year, we not only celebrate our past, we also focus on the present and look towards the future—ever seeking ways in this *our* moment in history to offer the blessing of God to those among us, as well as to those in the surrounding community. It is God's desire—and ours—to bless all.

May each of us experience, and offer to others, the blessing of God—always,

Fr. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF
Vicar, St. Paul's & Trinity Parish, Tivoli



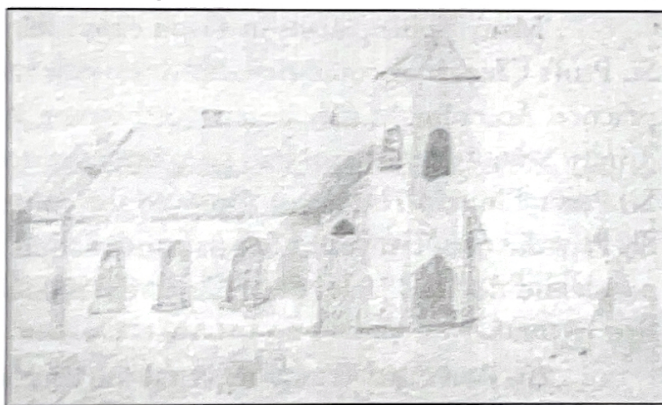
the Chancellor

A Brief History of St. Paul's Church

St. Paul had its beginning at the end of the 18th century. Perhaps as early as 1787, the gentlemen of the Livingston Manor, led by Robert R. Livingston, known as "the Chancellor," asked the rector of Christ Church in Poughkeepsie to lead Episcopal services at the private homes of families having their summer estates along the Hudson River. Several years later, the Episcopal Bishop of New York, the Right Reverend John Henry Hobart, reported the prospect of an Episcopal congregation being established and, on Oct. 21, 1817, a formal congregation was organized and admitted into the Diocese.

On June 20, 1818, a site consisting of one and half acres was purchased for \$150 on present day Route 9G and Broadway. On July 7, 1818, the cornerstone was laid. The church building was completed and consecrated by Bishop Hobart on May 27, 1819, and was known as "The White Church."

Among St. Paul's first wardens, vestrymen, and parishioners were members of the Robert L. Livingston family. These estate owners initially conceived St. Paul's primarily for their own benefit, although others were welcomed. A note in the Diocesan registry in 1838 indicates that St. Paul was "a summer congregation consisting principally of wealthy families who have country seats in the vicinity."



Sketch of Old White Church by Estelle Platt

The number of communicants varied between twenty and twenty-seven until about 1850. There were, however, large numbers of marriages, baptisms, confirmations, funerals, and students attending school. The Livingston family felt that a larger and more fashionable church building was needed. Therefore, on May 25, 1867, Eugene A. Livingston deeded one and one-half acre and J. Watts De Peyster deeded one quarter acre to build the existing church located on Woods Road in Tivoli, NY.

The present church building, designed by Lawrence A. Valk, was first used on Christmas Day, 1869 and consecrated by the Right Reverend Horatio Potter on October 11, 1870.

*Tiffany Window
(c. 1920)
photo by
Sally Delmerico*



**We salute St. Paul's and Trinity Parish
on your Bicentennial.**

**We join you in celebrating your past,
rejoicing in your present,
and looking forward to your future.**

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