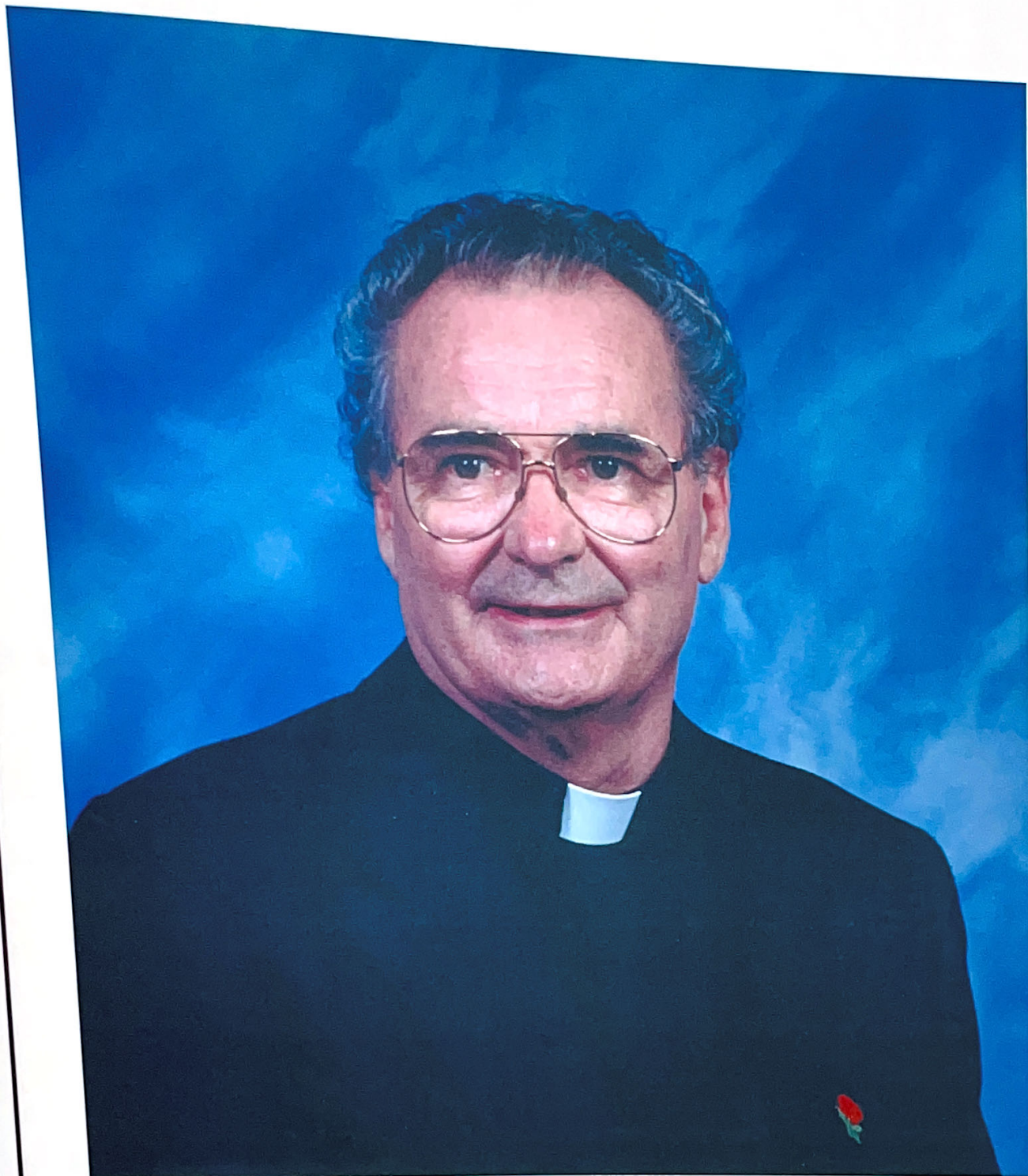


Rev. Charles P. Coen  
Pastor





# OUR HISTORY

## Looking Back and Moving Forward

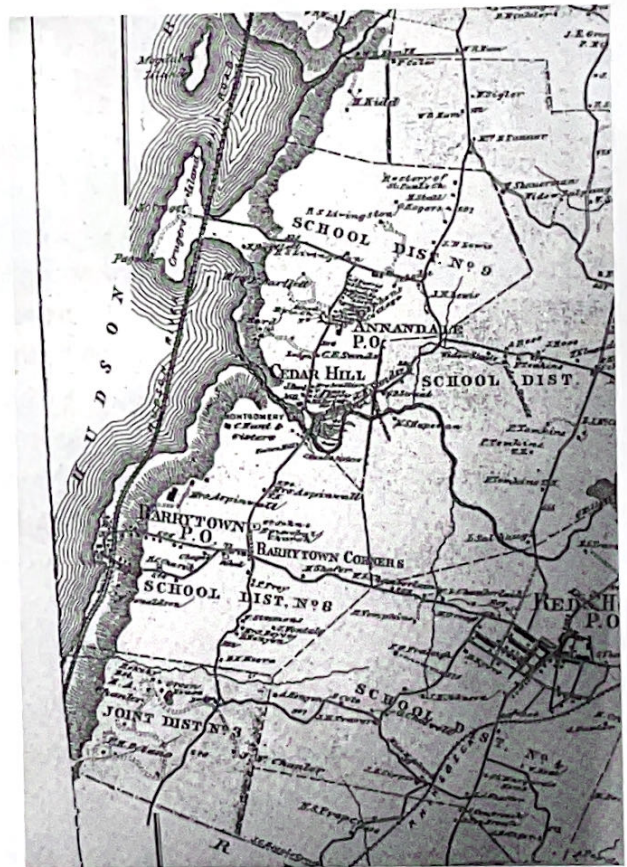
The Church of St. Christopher is a living, breathing parish, with a rich history reflecting that vitality. When you go beyond the dry dates and statistics, you find that our roots are deep and widespread. They were established and nurtured by our founding members and dedicated clergy who built and maintained not only the physical structures of a parish but, more importantly, the practice of the Catholic faith here in Red Hook. They laid the cornerstone; each succeeding generation has accepted the challenge to honor the past, while always dedicating themselves to a future of continued faith and progress. To learn of our parish heritage, we must embark on a journey of discovery.

### EARLY BARRYTOWN/RED HOOK

Our beautiful section of the Hudson Valley was sparsely settled into the early and mid-18th century. But its wooded acres and gently rolling countryside leading to the shores of the majestic Hudson River held attractions just waiting to be discovered.

What formerly was the old Upper Landing is now the Tivoli area, the Lower Landing became Barrytown, and Cedar Hill is now Annandale (seat of Bard College). Red Hook Village originally had been located a little south of the current Columbia County line, along the Post Road (now Route 9). The Red Hook Post Office was situated there and it became a center of information as well as commerce. (The locality now is known as Upper Red Hook.)

The existing Red Hook Village is three or more miles south along Route 9, on the site of a hamlet once called Hardscrabble. No one knows for sure what prompted the change in locale during the latter part of the 18th century, but a good guess would be that the move of the Postmaster of Red Hook to his new home was responsible. You see, David Van Ness moved into Maizeland (the Federal-style brick house still standing on West Market Street near the west line of the present village). He had been the Postmaster of Red Hook at the old site and when he moved to what was then Hardscrabble, he took the title "Postmaster of



Old area map of Red Hook showing districts





## Let's Celebrate!

Fr. Peter Kulandai celebrated his 25th year in the priesthood in 1995



Fr. Charles Coen shares a moment with John Cardinal O'Connor as he celebrated 25 years in the priesthood in 1993.





St. Christopher's  
Holy Name Society



*God Bless our Parish  
and Parishioners*

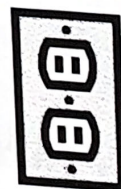
*Happy 75th Anniversary  
and  
Congratulations*

*The Fernandez Family  
Juan, Gloria, John, and Joey*



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