



Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

KEEPING OUR *Pride*, CELEBRATING OUR *Culture*, REMEMBERING OUR *Past*

Program Notes for February: Biography of Bishop John Smith

Bishop John M. Smith (b. 1935, Orange, NJ), is the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Smith. He has two brothers, Gregory Smith of Westboro, MA and brother Benedictine Father Andrew Smith of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown.

Bishop Smith attended St. John's Parochial Elementary School in Orange and St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark. Prior to beginning studies for the priesthood in 1955 at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, he attended John Carroll University in OH. In 1957, Bishop Smith received a bachelor's degree in Classical Languages from Seton Hall University and a second bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology from Catholic University of America in D.C.

Ordained in 1961, Bishop Smith was appointed to the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of Newark. He was later assigned to graduate studies at Catholic University of America where he

received a doctorate in Canon Law in 1966.

Bishop Smith served as Assistant Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark, Defender of the Bond in the Archdiocesan Matrimonial Tribunal, and Archdiocesan Coordinator of the English Cursillo Movement. He has been a visiting professor in pastoral theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. In 1971, Pope Paul VI named him a Papal Chamberlain with the title of Monsignor. Monsignor Smith was appointed by Archbishop Boland to the first team ministry at St. Joseph's Church in Oradell in 1973, where he served as a parish priest until 1982. He was then appointed to the faculty of the pontifical North American College in Rome as Director of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education and Program Director of the United States Bishop's Consultation IV.

After his return from Rome in 1986, Archbishop Gerety appointed him pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Dumont. Archbishop McCarrick named him Chairman of the Archdiocesan Vocation Board and appointed him Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

Pope John Paul II named him an Auxiliary Bishop of Newark in 1987 and he was ordained a Bishop in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark in 1988. Pope John Paul II appointed him Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL in 1991. In 1995 he was named Coadjutor Bishop of Trenton and formally welcomed into the Diocese in 1996 by the Pope.

In 1997, he succeeded Bishop Reiss and became the ninth bishop of Trenton. In 2001, he was named Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Metuchen.