



### *Notes from the Archives*

#### **April: Worshipping, Celebrating and Learning**

*As part of our celebration of the 125th anniversary of St. Mary's, we will feature "Notes from the Archives" on the third Sunday of each month for the rest of 2016. These fascinating and delightful snippets from history have been thoughtfully prepared by Mary Morganti, our Parish Archivist.*

On the Third Sunday of Easter, 1951, St. Mary's Service Record Book noted 450 attendees at the 10:00 AM service of Rededication and Confirmation, with Bishop Karl Morgan Block officiating. The building and renovation program designed by parishioner and noted architect, Warren Charles Perry, had been approved by the Building Committee, chaired by prominent San Franciscan, Arthur W. Towne, in 1934 but construction did not begin until 1947. The Rededication Service celebrated the completion of an ambitious project, which included reorientation of the church interior and entrance from Steiner Street to a renovated atrium space to unify the church with the activities of the Parish House, the first unit built in 1948. An aisle Chapel was added to increase seating capacity from 280 to 390; the organ was renovated; and sacristies and an altar guild work room, as well as rector and staff offices were added, along with modern lighting, heating, ventilating and plumbing plus emergency exits for the congregation. Total cost of the building project was \$53,400, and was funded by the sale of \$90 bonds to members of the parish, paid back at \$5.00/month for 18 months.

Nearly fifty years later, Palm Sunday and Easter of April 1998 again marked the celebration of St. Mary's congregation returning home to Union & Steiner Street, this time following 9 months of renovation and construction during which services were temporarily held at the Presidio Officers Club.

St. Mary's Archives is fortunate to have recently located and digitized a 16mm film of the 1951 Rededication and Confirmation Service. In the coming months, look for clips from the film and still photos of various phases of the construction project on St. Mary's website.