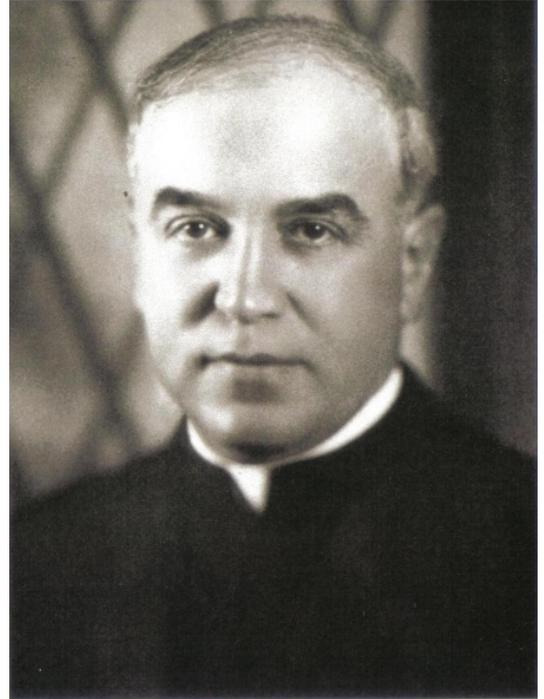


## Father George J. Bullion (1935-1946)

Father Bullion, a man with a "classic and cosmopolitan education" brought his knowledge, administrative ability, and enthusiasm to the parish. In the face of overwhelming financial responsibility and desperate economic times in the country, he set upon the task of reducing the debt. By 1941, though not debt free, the outstanding debt was manageable and all bills were current. Father Bullion could concentrate on the spiritual life of the parish of 1,312 families.

History tells us that Father Bullion was a driving force in establishing the reputation for excellent liturgy that has been Assumption's hallmark. Possessed of a "fine speaking voice" and an education in music, the commemorative booklet honoring the 25th year of his ordination to the priesthood (1938) notes, "There is constant evidence of his spiritual and intellectual appreciation of the liturgy, and his enthusiasm for its right and proper observance in all the church functions and devotions."



By 1941, there were 536 pupils in Assumption School. The number of Sisters staffing the school had grown with the number of students, and the parish realized the need for a larger convent. In 1941, the parish purchased a house next to the rectory on North Sprague Avenue, and 11 Sisters moved into the new convent. Father Bullion and his assistants were a faithful and constant presence in the classrooms. The pastor was keenly interested in all aspects of the school. Under his direction, free books were given to all students, a school doctor, art courses, departmental instruction, and daily instruction in Church music by an expert professor became a reality.

Realizing the need for promoting parish activities and events, the first bulletin was printed on May 19, 1935. Father Bullion instilled new life into existing organizations and encouraged the start of the Lyddacian Club, to which high school students belonged, and the Immacon Club, a group for young adults who had completed high school. Scout troops were organized; the Men and Boys Choir greatly enhanced the liturgical celebrations.

Father Bullion died of a heart attack on March 1, 1946, as he prepared the weekly parish bulletin. The parish issued this statement: "We are sincerely grateful to God for having given us the benefit of Father Bullion's courageous spirit, his culture and talent, and his wholesome influence. May God eternally rest his soul and may he be abundantly rewarded for his manifold and numberless good works. More than this, we choose to have unsaid; the record speaks for itself."