

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

“MEMORIES 1911 – 2011”

OCTOBER 2, 1931

“THE CRUCIFIX OF LIMPIAS”

In the back of St. John’s Church, near the entrance to the ushers’ room and choir loft, is the **“Crucifix of Limpias”**. The crucifix is thought to portray the final moments of “Christ in Agony” on the Cross. The eyes of Our Lord are open and looking towards Heaven.

Imagine yourself climbing a ladder to clean the face of the figure. As you are cleaning the face, the eyes gradually close, remaining shut for five minutes. Filled with consternation, you fall from the ladder to the floor of the church. ¹

Or, you are the Pastor and while hearing confessions, children enter the confessional and tell you the eyes of Jesus Christ had closed. Adult parishioners tell you that the eyes were opening and closing, the gaze turned from side to side, and that perspiration was covering the figure’s neck and chest. Climbing a ladder to investigate, your fingers are moistened by the perspiration. ²

Pilgrims soon visit the crucifix and witness tears in Christ’s eyes and drops of blood run from the temples pierced by the crown of thorns. Others report miraculous manifestations and cures after touching the crucifix. ³

The previous accounts are taken from the over 8,000 testimonies of people who have seen apparitions attributed to the original **“CRUCIFIX OF LIMPIAS”** in the Church of St. Peter in Limpias, Santander, Spain. The sculptor was Pedro de Mena, who died in 1693 and Don Diego de la Piedra Secadura of Limpias gave the crucifix to the church. The crucifix has been involved with various recorded miracles since 1914.

“In the year 1931, the church of St. John the Evangelist in Green Bay, Wis. celebrated the hundredth anniversary of it’s founding.” Rev. Therien.

“The Right Rev. Bishop Paul Rhode, Bishop of Green Bay, on the evening of Friday, October 2nd, blessed and dedicated a souvenir crucifix which was erected in the church to commemorate the centenary. This crucifix is known as the Crucifix of Limpias – representing the Savior in His agony on the Cross. The cross is 12 feet high; the corpus is 6 feet high. The crucifix was purchased from the Daprato Statuary Company of Chicago, ILL. and cost, with the bronze tablet, \$218.00.” Rev. Therien. The inscription on the tablet reads:

Souvenir of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of this Parish.
1831 – 1931

The Daprato Statuary Company founded in 1860 is now called
The Daprato Rigali Studios, Inc.