




### DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all the faithful who have helped, and who are helping, to build up the Body of Christ in the world — especially to all the pioneers who, like their patroness, Mary Immaculate, brought forth Jesus into the generations to follow.

*Mary . . . shines forth to the whole community of the elect as the model of virtues . . . as a sign of sure hope and solace to the people of God during its sojourn on earth.*

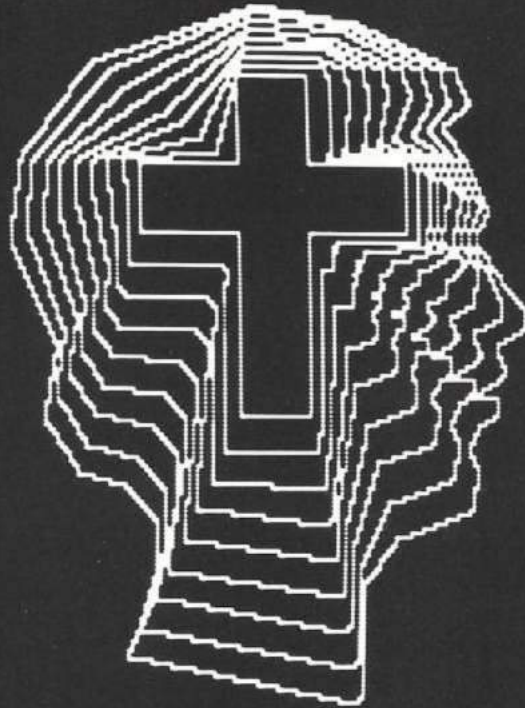
Lumen Gentium, Ch. VIII, Nos. 3, 4  
(Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 1964)



Over a century has passed between the founding of the Catholic community in East Aurora and the Dedication of the New Immaculate Conception Church in 1978. Countless changes have affected its people. Yet a steady tradition, a constant vision, and a shared hope join today's congregation with yesterday's pioneers. The way to today's bright accomplishments has been illumined by a light of faith kindled generations ago. Perhaps it is a happy coincidence that Aurora itself meaningfully names our Christian heritage: it is the Latin word for "dawn, light." What dawned so many years ago was spirit to live together in the light of Christ, Whom the Second Vatican Council called the Lumen Gentium, "the Light of the Nations." We parishioners at Immaculate Conception are Aurorans, then, from the glimmering hopes and beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century to the intense midday light of the challenging seventies. This story attempts to trace the path of that light as it has enfolded many lives.

Rev. Alfons M. Osiander





A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, used in the Dedication Mass, October 15, 1978, is a lesson to all builders — not only as they build physical structures, but as they themselves are built up to become temples of the Living God.

*We are God's co-workers, while you are his cultivation, his building. Thanks to the favor God showed me I laid a foundation as a wise master-builder might do, and now someone else is building upon it. Everyone, however, must be careful how he builds. No one can lay a foundation other than the one that has been laid, namely Jesus Christ. If different ones build on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, the work of each will be made clear. The Day will disclose it. That day will make its appearance with fire, and fire will test the quality of each man's work. Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

I Corinthians 3: 9-13, 16-17