

**Blessed Sacrament Church  
Syracuse, New York  
Dedication Recital  
Casavant Organ (Opus 2335)  
September 30, 1956**

The October 1, 1956 edition of the Syracuse Herald Journal contains an article describing the dedication recital played by Joseph J. McGrath.<sup>1</sup>

Joseph McGrath served as organist and choir director at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse for forty years. He taught composition and harmony at Syracuse University and lectured at the Catholic University Summer School. McGrath was a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists and composer of a large number of organ and choral works.

According to the newspaper article, the recital program included the following compositions:

- Bach chorales and a fugue
- Alexandre Guilmant: “Ave Maria” (the article describes the composer as the “father of French organ music”)
- Charles-Marie Widor: “Organ Symphony Number 1 in C Minor, Opus 13, Number 1, First Movement
- Joseph McGrath: “Christmas Triptych,” Opus 57 (published by McLaughlin and Reilly Company, 1956)
- Joseph McGrath: “Toccatà,” Opus 49, Number 3 (published by McLaughlin and Reilly Company, 1956)

In addition, the church choir performed the following:

- Joseph McGrath (arrangement): “Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament”
- Nicola A. Montani: “Our Father Who Art in Heaven;” Saint Gregory Hymnal and Catholic Choir Book, edited and arranged by Nicola A. Montani (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: The Saint Gregory Guild), 1920
- Jacob Arcadelt: “Ave Maria”

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<sup>1</sup> Syracuse Herald Journal (Syracuse, New York), October 1, 1956, page 10