



A Retrospective on a Remarkable Century of Growth and Devotion at J.S. Paluch

J.S. Paluch Company began in 1913 as Merchants Press on Ashland Avenue on Chicago's north side. Founder John S. Paluch initially printed church forms, baptismal and marriage certificates, parish newsletters, and assorted fund-raising materials for local Catholic parishes. As time progressed, he added devotional items and increased the available religious selections. Following the Great Depression, John's children worked at Merchants Press and the company continued to thrive. After the company's name was changed in honor of its founder, John Stanislaus, from Merchants Press to J.S. Paluch Co., Inc., the company's weekly bulletins spread throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

In the 1960's, one of John's sons, Chester John, developed and introduced the Missalette following the Vatican II's significant changes. With Missalette in hand, parishioners began actively participating in English with the celebrant. Through the years, our Missalette developed into an important mass aid, virtually becoming a parish staple.

As the role of music grew, Chester John added music to the J.S. Paluch repertoire and purchased the World Library of Sacred Music in 1971, changing the name to World Library Publications. Through this music and liturgy division, J.S. Paluch greatly expanded the music collections available to parish liturgists, further enhancing parishioners' participation. In 2020, GIA Publications purchased World Library Publications, which continues to serve the signing, praying, and initiating churches.

After Chester John's death in 1980, his wife Margaret A. Paluch assumed a more active role in the company. Under her direction, publications expanded significantly. Reflecting her deep commitment to creating awareness of and developing financial support for vocations, she established the National Vocations Awareness Division (NVAD) in 1985. In 1988 NVAD hosted the first J.S. Paluch Vocations Seminar, inviting leaders from national Catholic Vocation Organizations. This seminar, completely devoted to Catholic Church vocations, continued for 31 years.

The Paluch Family Foundation was established in 1995 to support local seminaries as well as small, local organizations focused in the areas of vocations, stewardship, and liturgy. The foundation continues to honor worthy organizations yearly providing grants to support the various causes they represent. In 1994, Mary Lou Paluch Rafferty, one of Chester and Margaret's daughters, became the third-generation owner of J.S. Paluch to continue its mission of enhancing the spiritual needs of the Catholic community.

Through its entire 110 year history, J. S. Paluch has been dedicated to providing the best possible products and services for strengthening the spiritual messaging to parishioners. Please join us as we thank our blessed founders, John S. and Martha J. Paluch, who in 1913 conceived and introduced the concept of providing printed bulletins for the Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago, and their blessed children, Chester J. and Margaret (Mickey) A. Paluch, and grandchildren, Mary Lou Paluch Rafferty, whose life-long mission has been to expand the vision of their predecessors to churches across the country.

We are most grateful to our parishes for their support, to our many advertisers who enabled the delivery of cost-free bulletins to so many parishes, and to each and every employee who has graced J.S. Paluch with their efforts, creativity, and ambition over the years.

On behalf of the Paluch family both past and present, we wish you an abundance of blessings and Godspeed!