

Forward, into the Past




solicit pledges from the congregation, conduct a wide range of fundraising activities within the local community, and, in time, construction would occur. No such opportunities were available to Father Killion's "parish," composed of individuals with little access to money or public activities.

Early in 1961, Correction Officer Frank Walpole raised the question of collecting and redeeming trading stamps. After the laughter and scoffing subsided, Father Killion realized that the suggestion had real merit and, what's more, the support of the current Superintendent, Charles L. McKendrick. The idea gained support from other institution officials and spread outside the correctional community.

An article in the *Ellenville News* issue of July 5, 1984, by Timothy Murphy, Eastern's Superintendent of Volunteer Services, relates: "There was Erwin Ettin who explained the phenomenon of trading stamps to Father Killion. There were New York businessmen such as Larry Bell, Joe Kavanaugh, and Frank Krause who helped formulate a plan of securing enough donations of trading stamps to build a chapel. There were the representatives of all the trading stamp companies, including the President of the Trading Stamp Institute of America, Eli Strassner, who agreed on the final formula."

The plan was that stamps of all kinds would be solicited from throughout the United States, and inmates would sort them and paste them into books. The stamps would be returned to their respective companies to be redeemed for cash or building materials. Famous New York Yankee pitcher Whitey Ford (*below, with Father Killion looking at sheet of S&H Trading Stamps*) and TV's Ed Sullivan served as Honorary Co-Chairs of the campaign.

An undated form letter from Father Killion (from 



Saint Jude's Within the Walls

by Marion M. Dumond

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New York State's Department of Corrections is a major employer, indeed, a major force in the Ellenville area, with an assortment of prisons located in Napanoch and Woodbourne, as well as in nearby Wallkill and Fishkill, plus the *Colony Farm* in Wawarsing.

The first correctional institution in Napanoch, known as the *Eastern New York Reformatory*, was officially opened on October 1, 1900. Its name was changed several times until the 1970 designation was chosen, and *Eastern New York Correctional Facility* it has remained. Local residents refer to it as "Eastern" or "the institution" more frequently than its longer and more formal name.

One of the most far-reaching projects at Eastern was the establishment of a Catholic chapel, named *St. Jude's Within the Walls*. It all started in the 1950s when Eastern's Catholic Chaplain, Reverend Matthew Killion (*photo above, rear right, with architects Dr. & Mrs. Frederick Bentel, right and left*), became convinced that the more than 500 Catholic inmates should be able to worship in a setting more conducive to prayer and meditation than the institution's gymnasium. Of course, a chapel within the grounds would be the ideal choice, but the reality of raising the money for such a project was overwhelming.

Under normal parish circumstances, the parish priest, with diocesan approval, would propose a building program to the parishioners, who would organize committees,