A Brief History of The Liturgical Press, Collegeville
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/37279
Beginnings in 1926 with Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B.

The Liturgical Press traces its roots to April 1926 and the publication of five thousand copies of a booklet entitled "Te Deum," which contained the Ordinary of the Mass arranged for congregational participation. That was followed in July with three thousand copies of "The Spirit of the Liturgy" by Abbot Caronti and a month later with two thousand copies of Dom Beauduin’s "Liturgy and the Life of the Church.

The publication of these booklets was directed by Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B. (1890–1938), who is revered as a founder of the Liturgical Movement and who had studied in Europe in the early 1920s and was familiar with the deep liturgical life at such abbeys as Mont César, Maredsous, Maria Laach, Beuron, and Solesmes.

Father Virgil recognized that the Liturgical Movement in the United States would not become a part of parish life if it remained merely a theoretical idea described in the pages of "Créte Fratres," which he was organizing. There were no publishing houses at that time which printed liturgical titles, and thus it seemed reasonable to establish a house at St. John’s Abbey.
Liturgy. The addition of so many liturgical magazines was symptomatic of the spirit of St. John's at the time. Father Virgil Michel, O.S.B. (the same who was urging the educational advancement of the school) founded the internationally-known magazine, Orote Fratres, in November, 1926, as an organ for the liturgical movement in the United States, of which he was one of the founders and most enthusiastic guides. About the same time he established the Liturgical Press at St. John's, in order to make available the texts and handbooks that would be necessary if the liturgy were to become once more a vital part of the parish life of the Church. Both Orote Fratres and the Liturgical Press flourished within the limited sphere in which they labored, and played a leading role in the liturgical movement in this country.
The Years Following Fr. Virgil’s Death in 1938

Father Virgil, age forty-eight, who had scarcely paused in the last five years from his schedule of teaching, writing, lecturing, translating, and editing, died in the St. John’s Infirmary after a brief bout with pneumonia and infection in November 1938.
The first space other than Father Virgil's office dedicated to the apostolate of The Press was a room opposite the wine cellar in the basement of the main quadrangle at St. John's.
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As the business increased, the need for more space dedicated to The Press continued. The original space in the quadrangle was abandoned in favor of space in the basement of the auditorium building on the campus.

From 75 Years of Grace, p. 17

its basement houses the Liturgical Press, the Bookstore, Typing Room, the Treasurer’s Office, Shoe Shop, and various storerooms. --1942 Scriptorium
Orate Fratres

Thus, with three titles in inventory, Father Virgil in November 1926 published the first issue of Orate Fratres with eight hundred subscribers. Named after the prayer of the Mass when the priest turned to the people and said “Orate, fratres” (“Pray, brethren”), the journal had 1,680 subscribers by October 1927 (a year’s subscription for the twelve issues of forty-eight pages each was $2.00), including subscribers in Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand.

By 1930 Orate Fratres had subscribers in twenty-three countries. Seventy-five years later Orate Fratres is still being published, now under the name Worship.

The famous Catholic artist-critic Eric Gill designed the first covers of the magazine, which depicted the motto “To reestablish all things in Christ.” In the 1930s and 1940s the covers were designed by Fr. Joachim Watrin, O.S.B.
In 1951 *Orate Fratres* was renamed *Worship* under Virgil Michel’s successor as editor, Fr. Godfrey Dickmann.

75 Years of Grace, p. 11-12

Abbey photo on left; on right: cover of 1991 Winter *SJU Alumni Mag* v.30 n.1, http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/9635
In 1951 *Orate Fratres* was renamed *Worship* under Virgil Michel’s successor as editor, Fr. Godfrey Dickmann.

Frank Kacmarcik designed every cover for over 50 years.

*Orate Fratres*

Thus, with three titles in inventory, Father Virgil in November 1926 published the first issue of *Orate Fratres* with eight hundred subscribers. Named after the prayer of the Mass when the priest turned to the people and said *“Orate, fratres”* (“Pray, brethren”), the journal had 1,600 subscribers by October 1927. Issues covered topics such as the consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. By the end of the 1920s, the magazine contained articles on liturgical reform, and by the 1930s it included comments on American and Austrian liturgical developments.

Twenty years later, Virgil and his successors began the period under the motto *“To read is to grow”*. In the 1940s the covers were decorated with designs by Frank Kacmarcik, who designed the motto for the magazine.

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*75 Years of Grace*, p. 11-12

Abbey photo on left; 1964 photo from SJU Archives on right.
Orate Fratres

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Sponsa Regis (later Sisters Today)

The first issue was published in September, 1929, with a subscription fee of $1.00 per year. Its subscription list quickly outpaced that of Orate Fratres.

(The number of sisters was much greater than the number of priests.)
Worship Out In New Format

Changes in format marked the appearance of the December issue of Worship, St. John’s monthly liturgical review.

A less deeply tinted “text” paper is now used for the body of the magazine, which is set in Times New Roman, a graceful type-face famous for its readability.

New initial letters, especially designed for the magazine by Frank Kacmarcik, introduce the separate articles. At the same time, changes have been made in the page margins, which are now similar to those of the latest issue of the University Bulletin.

As before, the color of the covers will vary with season and feast, and the decorative cover symbols will be retained. The
The possibility emerged of the liturgy forming a bridge, as it had already become in such countries as Germany, between American Catholics and their separated brethren of the Christian community. The Baltimore Catholic Review as early as 1930 took editorial notice of the missionizing possibilities of the liturgy and observed:

“For this progress much credit is due the Benedictine Fathers. The world over they are teaching a love of the Mass, the love of sacred music and an appreciation of religious art and architecture.

“If all of us could catch the enthusiasm of the Benedictines in making known the meaning of the Mass, of making liturgical music appreciated by revealing its beautiful lessons, of arousing a greater appreciation in artistic statuary and captivating architecture, the Catholic Church would be more admired and appreciated by our non-Catholic friends.”
Aerial view from the 1953 Sagatagan yearbook, http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/96
Text from 75 Years of Grace, p. 17
Aerial view from the 1953 *Sagatagan* yearbook, http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/96 Text from *75 Years of Grace*, p. 17
Note the building circled in blue: the future location of the Lit Press's expansion.

1952 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6310
Text from 75 Years of Grace, p. 17
aerial photo from 1953 (p.2-3) Sagatagan yearbook
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/96
Aerial photo from 1954 (p. 26) Sagatagan yearbook
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SJUArchives,41927
LP022. Greenhouse, Ascheman photo collection, SJU/SJA Archives
Work Begins On Lit. Press, Print Shop Bldg.

In mid-October a crew of men from the Strack Construction Company began work on an addition to the Liturgical Press and print shop building.

The new structure will be used jointly by the Liturgical Press and the print shop. It will house the addressograph machinery and files, provide storage space and will serve as a shipping section for the Liturgical Press.

The present Liturgical Press building will be used for offices and for storage. Up to now, storage has been kept in the monastery and the auditorium basement.

The addition will measure 72 x 121 feet when completed in early January, and will cost approximately $60,000. Plumbing is being installed by Brother Edward Zwack, OSB, and Brother Victor McMahon, OSB.

The structure will be one-story high and fire proof. It will be made of red brick with concrete pillars and will have a flat roof. It is being built with an eye for further expansion. Architecturally it will serve as a "bridge" between the seminary and powerhouse and the contemporary design of the new monastery wing.
The Record Dec. 7, 1956

The Liturgical Movement Comes

TO AMERICA VIA ST. JOHN'S

Father Virgil Minick, OSB, a monk of St. John's Abbey, knew that the Liturgical Movement had been progressing in Europe for many years. He wanted to help bring

Since very long ago, people in the United States didn't know what a liturgical Mass was. That was in the days of the old prayer books published by St. John's Press.

The Liturgical Press was founded in 1954. It was the first printing shop in the United States to print liturgical books. The Press was established to help promote the Liturgical Movement.

The Press has grown and expanded over the years. It now prints books and journals on various religious topics.

The work on the Press is done by a group of artists. The Press has a great deal of praise in its own right. The work is done by commissioned artists.

The Press has expanded until it now includes many of its own resources. It is now a place where people can come to learn about liturgy and its mysteries.

The liturgical press at St. John's is run by Brother Alphonse, who has been in charge for many years. He is assisted by Mr. John Dwyer, who is the manager.

The work at the Press is published on a large scale. The Press has its own printing plant and the work is done by skilled artisans.
LITURGICAL MOVEMENT COMES
TO AMERICA VIA ST. JOHN’S

By Jim Corne

Not very long ago, people in the United States didn’t know what a missal was. That was in the days before Virgil Michel and the Liturgical Press.

Father Virgil Michel, OSB, a monk of St. John’s Abbey, knew that the Liturgical Movement had been progressing in Europe for some time. It was 1938, and Father Virgil wanted to help bring America into the Movement, too.

So he began editing and publishing a magazine he called Osus Priores, as a journal of expression to advance the growth and information of the Movement among American Catholics.

Thus was founded the Liturgical Press. Maintained by St. John’s Abbey for the purpose of furthering the growth and popularity of the Movement through publications on the Liturgy, the Press has continued to enlarge and expand operations in order to meet public demand.

As interest in the Liturgical Press mounted, the Press was consequently kept abreast of the growth. In 1962, Spesus Rex, a magazine for nuns, was introduced by Father Joseph Kreutzer, OSB, to add to the original publication by Father Virgil.

Soon reprints from the original magazines were printed in pamphlets. Then full-length manuscripts, submitted to the editors or solicited by them, began to be published in book form. Now the Press also publishes holy cards and religious prints, and Chas

Bob Becker and Herb Pflueger

1956-12-07-0-002
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30883
The Record Dec. 7, 1956

Fred Reker

Processing, filing, packaging and mailing orders keep Bob Becker, Herbert Pfanner (above) and Fred Reker (below) flooded with business during the Christmas rush.

Andemonium

Adventure with the shop was Prof. Rehling once made it clear that proper books are only in the bookshop, not the shop itself. But he formed it to be sure that proper books are written and that the books are properly stored.

Andemonium

Berns arrived at SU a few days after the first edition of the new Liturgy for Holy Week as decreed by Pope Pius XII. Both works are indicative of the apostolic spirit of St. John’s Ab-

1956-12-07-0-002
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30883
First Building of the Second Century

The first building erected during St. John's second century and the second stage of the one hundred year building plan is this new home of the St. John's printing department and the Liturgical Press. The print shop occupies one half of the structure while the Press has moved its shipping department, addressograph equipment, and part of its stock room into the other half. The frame building attached to the north end of the new building will be used by the Press for offices and storage space.

1957-06-14-0-004 The Record
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,30812
More Construction Underway
As Church Progress Continues

By Norm Vondr

Building construction at St. John's recently hit an all-time high as work was begun on the Liturgical Press addition, while construction continued on the Church and Chapter House. Construction engineer Ted Hoffmeyer reports that the buildings are moving ahead on schedule.

The excavation of the ground to the west of the Liturgical Press has been completed and at present the forms for the foundation wall are being erected. The pouring of the foundation will begin shortly.

Plans for the 147 x 48 foot structure were designed by Traynor and Hermanson, architects from St. Cloud, to match the existing building. When finished, the addition will extend east and west and will be faced with red brick.

Progress on the Chapter House, located to the east of the new abbey church, contin-

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31695
More Construction Underway

1960

Aerial view ca. 1960  http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/517
New Addition To Lit Press

A new addition to the Liturgical Press building is now nearing completion. The 160’ x 40’ concrete block wing, constructed on architectural principles similar to that of St. Thomas Hall, extends west from the rear of the present building.

The McGough Construction Co., which is also building the abbey and university church, began the structure in mid-August and will give the wing its finishing touches by Nov. 15.

Mr. John Dwyer, Liturgical Press manager, reports that the new wing will serve as a storehouse for publications. This will allow the room now used for storage in the present building to be used for the increased volume of printing the Liturgical Press is engaging in.

August 24, 1962: yet another addition

The Record 1960-11-04-0-001
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31515
The Record 1962-08-24-0-003
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33260
The Cover:

The four Evangelists and the chalice of the Mass (Bible and Liturgy) was executed by Brother Placid Stuckenschneider, OSB. The work adorns the entrance of the new Liturgical Press office building. The new structure is located between the Seminary and the convent on the site of the razed greenhouse. See the August issue of THE RECORD for a feature-story about the building.
The Cover:

The four Evangelists and the chalice of the Mass (Bible and Liturgy) was executed by Brother Placid Stuckenschneider, OSB. The work adorns the entrance of the new Liturgical Press office building. The new structure is located between the Seminary and the convent on the site of the razed greenhouse. See the August issue of THE RECORD for a feature-story about the building.

July 1963 SJU Alumni Magazine
The Record
August 23, 1963

sjr-1963-08-23-0-002
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33260
Surrounded by shelves of pamphlets and pictures, Miss Jane Pfleuger, the Liturgical Press receptionist, reads orders for processing. The display and reception area is at the east end of the three building complex and faces the road which separates it from the monastic gardens.

"Miss Jane Pfleuger" in the Lit Press — later known as Jane Simon in the Registrar’s Office
1966  http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/14295
?? NOT 18/2 Winter 1979:p.20, which is what it says in the Periodicals in-house index
1978-09 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 18 Number 01 Fall
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/6278 and
Durken photo 1986-07 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 25 Number 04 Summer p. 3
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/9289
Once upon a time when Saint John's seniors were a macho lot and freshmen were cowering “slaves” during the fearful weeks of initiation, an upperclassman handed a pair of wrinkled trousers to his flunky-for-a-month and told him, “Take these pants to The Liturgical Press and tell them to put in the crease!”

John N. Dwyer, SJU '50, may not have been either the senior nor the freshman in that story, but he is one alumnus who has learned that The Liturgical Press is not the place to get your pants pressed.

Two years after his graduation with a degree in the social sciences, John left a teaching position in Wisconsin to return to Collegeville when Father Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, then editor of Worship magazine (the flagship publication of The Press), called to invite him to become the business manager of Saint John's publishing house. For the next 34 years until his recent retirement John held this position. You might say that’s an impressive record of loyalty and leadership.

When John began his managerial work in 1952, The Liturgical Press had been in operation for just over 25 years. Established in 1926 by the Benedictine leader of the American liturgical movement, Father Virgil Michel, The Press was publishing such products as two monthly journals, Worship and Spensa Regia (now known as Sisters Today), along with the very practical and popular Short Breviary for Religious and Laity, which im-
DDD Departs

At a luncheon/program on 28 June, Abbot Jerome and the staff of The Liturgical Press bade a formal, friendly, and fond farewell to Father Daniel Durken who has served as director of The Press for the past ten years (and one month). Father Daniel’s numerous accomplishments, and only a few blunders, were remembered in a gentle roast and toast of the dynamic director and cherished chief of Collegeville’s publishing apostolate. During Father Daniel’s decade of decisions, The Press released hundreds of new titles (and only three or four dogs), completely updated its business office procedures, began its own typesetting/keylining work, and restructured the middle management positions. Father Daniel now begins a year’s sabbatical and leaves the physical plant of The Press in shambles (major renovation work began during dessert of the luncheon).

Effective 1 July, Father Michael Naughton is the new director of The Press.

ARCHIVAL AGENDA

Father Vincent Tegeder centennial conference spot
The Catholic University of Washington, D.C. on...
1991-04-10 Community p.2
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/22999
1992-02-12 Community p.3
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23638
Photo of Fred from his obituary; photo of Rosemary from June 1978 Saint Benedict's Today p. 2,
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/3868
Photo of 3 Petters from Summer 2003 Saint Benedict's Magazine, p. 21,
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1239
Two Long-Time Employees Retire

Submitted by Fr. Daniel Durkee, OSB

With almost a combined century of service to their credit, two long-time employees of Saint John’s, Harvey Botz and John Schneider, have retired. Harvey Botz, manager of the Saint John’s Print Shop from 1970-85 as typesetter at The Liturgical Press, was born in the Collegeville suburb of Flynn. After doing the part-time summer work of wrapping packages for The Liturgy and helping in the abbey’s vegetable garden during his early teen years, Botz took employment at the print shop after his graduation from high school in 1948. He was then the manager of the shop, having learned the technique of the hot-metal operation of printing in 1920 from Br. Inomcent Kratz, OSB.

Except for the two years (1952-54) that he served in the Army’s Corps of Engineers during the Korean War, Botz was the print shop’s primary typesetter for almost thirty years as typesetter for and printed student publications such as The Record and the Press journals such as the Mission Herald, and some of The Liturgical Press’ best-selling books, including “Saint Benedict’s Rule for Monasteries,” “Marriage in Christ,” and a series of prayers, holy cards designed by the late Fr. Joachim Warrin, OSB. The shop uses this system until 1979 when it was converted to Composing phototypesetting.

When the Sentinel Printing Company of St. Cloud assumed the ownership of the print shop in 1986, Botz continued in the employ of that organization. For present he has worked as a phototypesetter for The Liturgical Press.

Staff changes are noted in the campus newsletters.

Dec. 13, 1995

12-13-1995, p.03 Connections
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/2118

1952 Feb. 15, p. 2 The Record
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/30898
John Schneider was born in Victoria, Minn., in 1931. Harvey Botz and he were classmates at Saint John’s Preparatory School during the mid-to-late 1940s. After two years of college studies Schneider entered the novitiate of Saint John’s Abbey in 1950 and was a professed member of the monastic community during the traditional three years of simple vows before he discontinued the monastic life in 1954.

The following year Schneider was hired by The Liturgical Press to assist in the translation from the German of Volume I of Pius Parch’s “Year of Grace,” one of The Liturgical Press’ most popular titles. When that project was completed, he was assigned various tasks such as opening the daily mail orders, answering customer correspondence and preparing labels in the addressograph department. Eventually his real talent was discovered, and Schneider began the editorial work that has left its error-free mark on innumerable publications.

As The Liturgical Press’ senior editor, Schneider was noted for his meticulous copy-editing and proofreading. He witnessed two major revolutions in the religious publishing world. The first was the introduction of the vernacular into the liturgical rites of the Catholic church, thanks to the Second Vatican Council and its creative Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1965). This change in liturgical language necessitated a deluge of new English translations and publications.

The second revolution was the technological one that began at The Liturgical Press in the early 1980s with the conversion to computers and phototypesetting equipment. Before that time The Liturgical Press had only edited manuscripts and then sent them to outside printers for typesetting, keylining, printing and binding. Now, the entire operation exclusive of the printing and binding is done by skilled operators at The Liturgical Press.
The People of the Press – April 16, 2001
The Liturgical Press completed another successful year of publishing when it received seventeen books, marketing and magazine awards at the annual convention of the Catholic Press Association in Dallas, Texas, in May.

The first place award in the category of professional books went to "The Changing Face of the Priesthood" by Father Donald B. Costello, professor of pastoral theology at St. Mary's Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland. Since its publication last year, the book has sold 80,000 copies.

As of July 1, The Liturgical Press has a new director, Peter Dwyer, who becomes the first layperson to head The Press in its 75-year history. He has been its director of sales and marketing since 1989 and replaces Michael Naughton, O.S.B., who served as director for the past thirteen years.

A 1969 graduate of St. John's Preparatory School and a 1973 graduate of St. John's University, the new director is the son of the deceased John Dwyer who was the business manager of The Liturgical Press from 1951-86.
Awards for The Liturgical Press

At its annual national convention in late May the Catholic Press Association honored The Liturgical Press with awards for seventeen of its publications.

The Bible Today received the first-place General Excellence Award, and two third-place awards for best cover and best article. The bi-monthly magazine was recognized for its "serious and weighty approach to Bible study without being overly academic...an excellent source for discussion of faith issues." Robin Pierzina, OSB, has been the managing editor of the journal for the past twenty-three years.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23792
75 Years of Grace, p. 4: photo by Monica Bokinski