

July 2018

# St. Joseph Parish: 150 Years of Worship and Education

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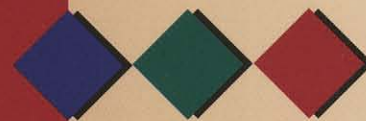
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# *S*<sup>t.</sup> Joseph *P*arish



**150**  
*Years Of  
Worship And  
Education*

*411 East Second Street  
Dayton, Ohio  
45402*

US.CATH  
BX  
4603  
.D3  
\$25  
1997  
OVERSIZE

**1847 ~ 1997**



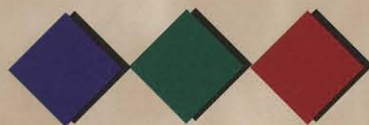
# *150*

## *Years Of Worship And Education*



*“How lovely is your dwelling place Lord Mighty God”*

*—Psalm 84:2*



*Dayton, Ohio*



US CATH COLL

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S25

1997

oversize



100 East Eighth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

November 23, 1997

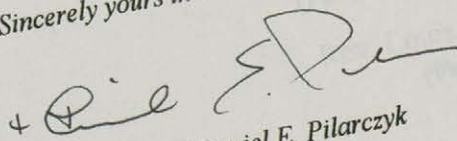
Dear Parishioners of Saint Joseph,

I offer you my sincere congratulations on your 150th Anniversary celebration. A century and half is not a long time in the total history of human kind, but it certainly is a long time in the history of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Saint Joseph's is one of our oldest parishes and I rejoice that it continues to be alive and vibrant.

My father used to serve Mass on weekday mornings at Saint Joseph when he worked at Delco on Second Street. I know that he always treasured the moments that he was able to spend with the Lord in the context of Saint Joseph Church. I believe that many others still treasure those moments.

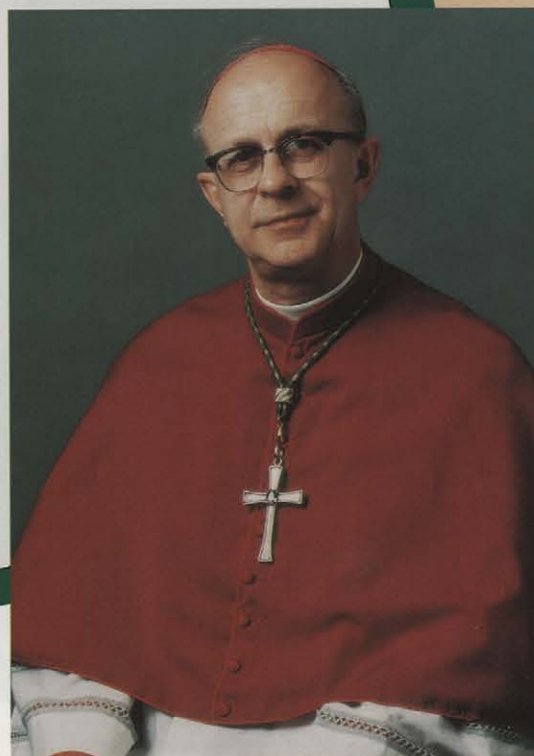
May God continue to bless Saint Joseph's Parish, its members, and all those who benefit from its ministries.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk  
Archbishop of Cincinnati

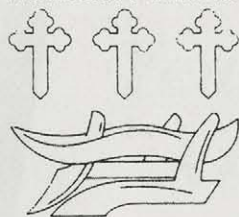
Parishioners of Saint Joseph  
411 East Second Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402



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Archdiocese of Cincinnati



**Office of  
The Auxillary Bishop**  
100 East Eighth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
513/421-3131

October 22, 1997

Reverend Louis Osterhage, C.P.P.S. and  
Parishioners of Saint Joseph Congregation  
411 East Second Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I give thanks to God, I offer to you my sincere congratulations on the 150th Anniversary of Saint Joseph's Parish.

You have much for which to be grateful to God at the time of this significant milestone in the life of your community of faith. Anniversaries provide an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the Tradition we have received, as well as to commit ourselves to passing on that Tradition to those who will follow us.

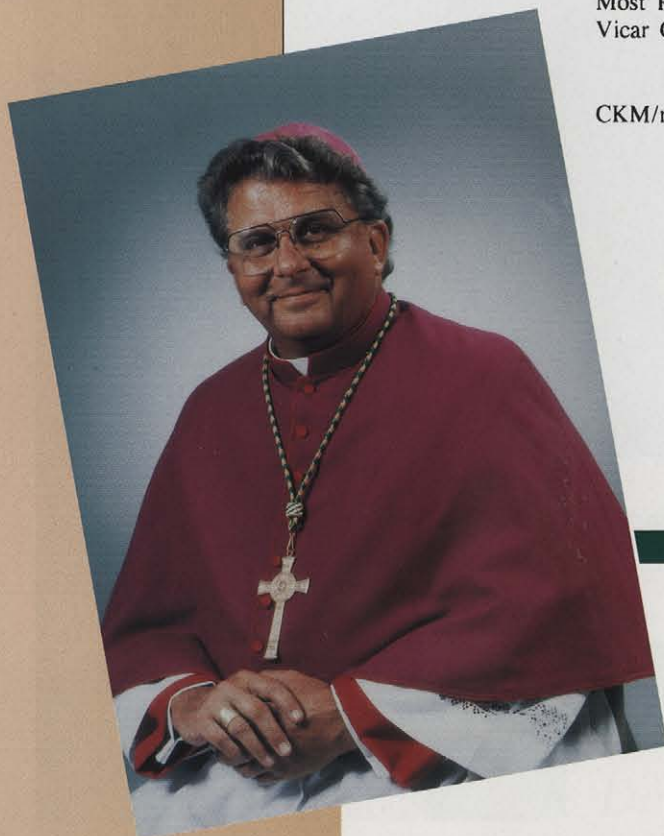
I look forward to being with you to celebrate that thanksgiving and commitment.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Carl K. Moeddel  
Vicar General

CKM/mm



St. Joseph Rectory  
411 East Second Street  
Dayton 2, Ohio

November 23, 1997

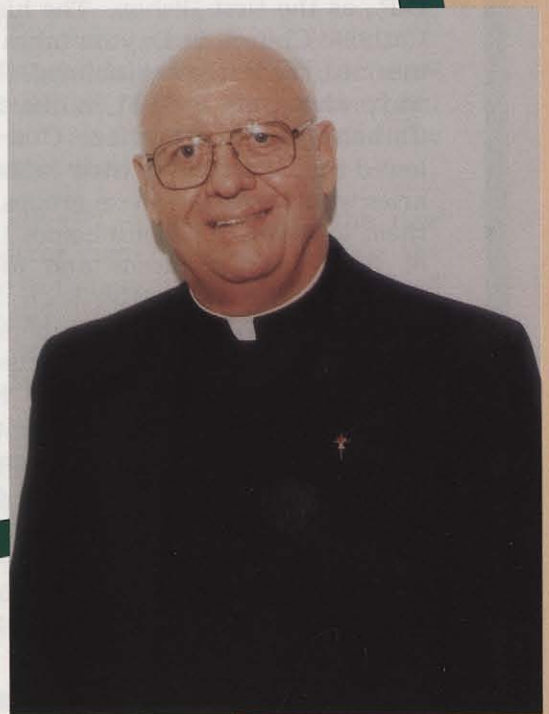
Dear Parishioners,

I congratulate all of you on the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Parish. All of you have played a part in making this anniversary day possible. A faith community that has allowed their lives to be firmly rooted in faith and have kept that faith alive and well for 150 years has truly been blessed by God. The first faith community of St. Joseph's must be tremendously happy today knowing that the faith they passed on to future generations was firmly rooted and has flourished year after year.

It is my hope and prayer that all of you will continue to live your faith so that by your word and example you will pass that deep faith on to the next generation.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Rev. Louis Osterhage, C.P.P.S.*  
Rev. Louis Osterhage, C.P.P.S.  
(Pastor)







# 150 Years

## PRE-HISTORY

The first settlement in Dayton was made in 1795 and named after Jonathon Dayton. It was incorporated in 1805. The diocese of Cincinnati was established June 19, 1821, with Right Reverend Edward Fenwick, O.P., as the first Bishop. The history of the Catholic Church in Dayton takes us back almost to the early beginnings. Robert Conway, who came in 1831, is the first known Catholic citizen of Dayton. Others soon followed him. Faithful to their calling, missionaries would seek out these groups and gather them together in private homes to take care of their spiritual needs and to encourage them in the Faith. After such a visit they would move on to seek out others in the territory. The names of some of these missionaries have come down to us — Fathers Edward Collins, Emmanuel Theirpont who founded the first parish, Stephen Badin the first priest known to have been ordained in this country and Frederick Baraga.

Father Frederick Baraga, a native of Slovenia, came to this country to work among the Indians. He spent some time in

our area before going to Michigan. It was during this stay that he offered the first Mass in Dayton, May, 1831, in the home of Robert Conway. Father Baraga visited Dayton several times before heading north. He was the only priest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for many years. He was later made Bishop of Sault Ste Marie (now the diocese of Marquette). Steps are being taken for his eventual canonization.

Father Edward Collins, ordained July 1, 1832, was appointed as the first resident priest for Dayton in 1833. He ministered to the Catholics of the area, along with Fathers Stephen Badin and Emmanuel Theirpont, for several years.

Father Emmanuel Theirpont came to Dayton for the first time, September 14, 1834. In 1836 he was appointed to establish the first parish, which was named after him, Congregation Emmanuel. November 26, 1837, Emmanuel Church was dedicated by Bishop John Baptist Purcell. It was a German language parish, the language of most of the settlers.



## HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

1846 With the increasing number of English-speaking Catholics coming to Dayton, it became necessary to establish another parish where English would be employed. Father Patrick O'Mealy, ordained in the late spring of 1845 at the age of twenty-two years, was appointed by Bishop Purcell to come to Dayton, with residence at Emmanuel, to start the new parish.

November 1, the first meeting was held with a great show of enthusiasm. Most of the English-speaking living on the East Side were Irish, and they were anxious to get things under way. Before the month was out they had purchased two lots, one hundred by one hundred fifty feet, for the sum of \$2,000.00. They hired a contractor who began immediately to stockpile materials at the spot.

The name "St. Joseph" was chosen for the new parish, since the English-speaking had worshipped on that side of the church while attending Emmanuel.

1847 On January 2 at 2:00 in the morning, bells were rung. The levee had broken at several places and one of the periodic floods hit Dayton. The Mad and Miami Rivers following the canal (located where Patterson Boulevard is at present) flooded the East Side. Parts of the streets and gradings were washed out. All the canal bridges became unsafe except for a new one. Lumber for the new church began to float away, the contractor losing \$1,500.00 in supplies. A part of the lumber was recovered, but it was May before the building could be started.

July 11, the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Purcell, assisted by Fathers James Cahill and Patrick O'Mealy, the pastor. The school children from Emmanuel and the German Benevolent Society, headed by a band, marched from Emmanuel to the site of the new church. Nearly all the ministers in town were present and listened attentively to the Bishop's sermon.

The overall style of St. Joseph was to be Grecian, of the central steeple type. The steeple and the rear half of the church would not be completed until some years later because of lack of funds. The church was built of brick, about forty-five feet wide and one half of the eventual length of eighty-eight

feet. The cost of the initial building was \$6,000.00.

As soon as the building was completed, classes were started in English, taught by a lay staff.

The parish was too poor to provide a home for the pastor, so Father O'Mealy continued to live at Emmanuel for a time, until he was able to board with parishioners to be near to his people.

1849 On the 26th of November, Father Patrick O'Mealy died in a Cincinnati hospital of pulmonary consumption. He was only twenty-nine years old. Father Patrick was a native of Limerick, Ireland, as was his brother Father Joseph O'Mealy of the diocese. He had studied at St. Sulpice in Paris and in the seminary in Cincinnati. In the eulogy the Bishop pointed out that Father Patrick was distinguished by a great innocence and purity of life that reminded one by his exterior and manners of St. Aloysius. And although his ministry had been short, he had won the esteem of his fellow priests who accompanied his remains to their resting place in St. Henry Cemetery. (The cemetery had been established in 1844, outside the city limits, across from where the Fairgrounds now exists, bounded by Main, Frank, Ashley and Rubicon Streets.)

In early December, Father Joseph O'Mealy, was appointed as pastor. He remained until 1853. He died in 1856 at the age of forty-seven, when he was buried in St. Henry next to his Reverend brother and his parents.

1853 Father Jeremiah O'Connor succeeded as pastor. He remained but one year, but in that time he started the construction of the first rectory.

1854 Father Thomas Boulger, the new pastor came in April. He was the first to live in the new rectory. He remained for three years. During the last six months of his stay, because of health, he was assisted by Father Michael Forde.

1857 Father David J. Kelley became pastor in January. An energetic and saintly man and one greatly interested in improving educational standards, he very soon approached the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati on the possibility of opening a day school and academy in the parish. It



was an opportune moment, for the Sisters were closing the Bank Street School in Cincinnati and were able to accept Father Kelley's offer. It was their first mission outside Cincinnati. There were just twenty-eight professed Sisters in the Order at the time.

On March 15, Mother and her Council appointed Sister Regina Mattingly, who was later to be Mother herself, to open the new school. The following day she arrived in Dayton with three other Sisters (Srs. Mary Cecilia Griffin, Celestia Murray, and Pauline Leo). Within a year they had a flourishing school in the old Presbyterian church they had purchased and converted to school use. Day students and boarders were accepted.

March 17 witnessed Dayton's first outside celebration of St. Patrick's Day. After the early Mass, the Montgomery Guards paraded through the streets of Dayton and continued their "evolutions" until half past two o'clock when they deposited their arms in the armory. They had made an imposing sight, deported themselves well and were the center of attraction. They then went to the Metropolitan with invited guests for a festive dinner. It seems to have been an elegant affair.

1859 Father Kelley took another step toward finishing the church. He completed the building of the steeple and following the original plan he had a town clock installed in the tower. The biggest bell in town was hung in the tower, the same bell we have in our church today.

1860-62 From September to January 1861, Father Kelley was assisted by Father Robert Kelleher.

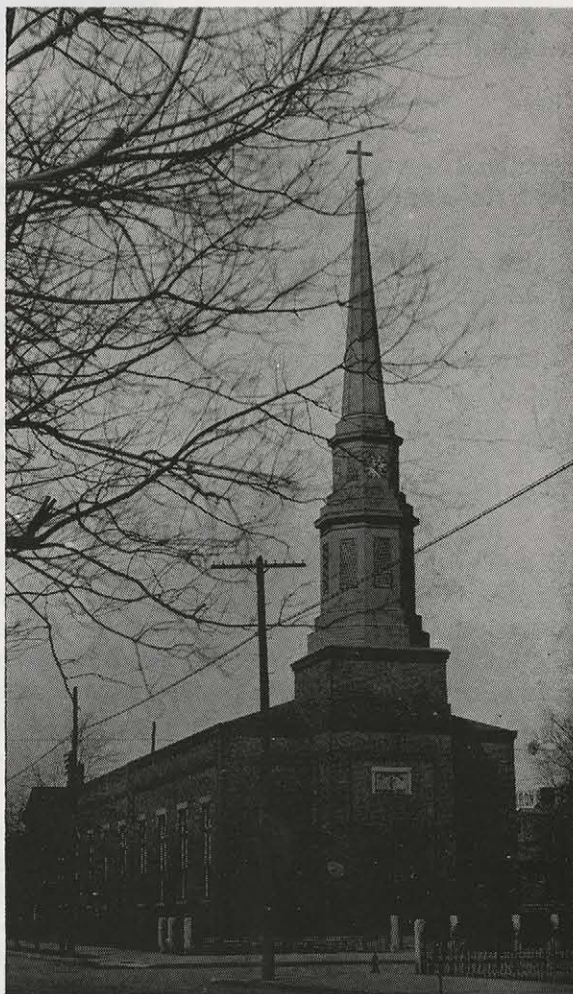
The final step in completing the church was the adding of the back half of the building, bringing it to its full length of eighty-eight feet.

At this time the Hibernians were established and also the St. Joseph Benevolent Society.

1863 The Sisters bought a separate residence to be used as a convent, having lived in a part of the academy until this time. Room was needed in the school for the growing enrollment of students.

1865-66 In October, Father Nicholas Young came as assistant to Father Kelley. He remained to the following June. On July 19, Father Kelley established the St. Vincent de Paul Society (not the international organization) in the parish as a means of bringing the young men together to instill in them the noble virtue of charity. The Society had a dual purpose: "first, to help the needy in a private and unostentatious way; and secondly, to enroll as many as possible of the young Catholic men, especially those without home influence, so that their social rooms and library and good companionship would help to counteract the temptations of the world."

1867 Father Kelley died September 29. A native of Ireland, he had started his studies in St. Kerrens College in Killkenny. After coming to this country he continued his studies at a Benedictine Monastery in Pennsylvania. In 1851 he transferred



St. Joseph Church



to Mount St. Mary in Cincinnati and was one of the first priests ordained from that institution.

Although his health was never good, he worked to the limits of his strength. We must say that his pastorate was marked by his zeal for the spiritual good of his people, enlarging and beautifying the church, fostering pious and charitable societies, and founding and sustaining schools for the right education of youth.

The funeral of Father Kelley attested to the high regard for him by both priests and people. It was the biggest funeral for St. Henry Cemetery. The German and English Societies, twenty vested priests, the coffin on the shoulders of six young men, followed by relatives, friends and parishioners. To give an idea of the length of the procession — the start was in the cemetery while a part was still passing Sixth Street. So ended an outstanding era of St. Joseph Parish.

Father William O'Rourke, a newly ordained, who had come in June as an assistant to Father Kelley, remained as pastor after his death. He held this position for two years, assisted in the second year by Father Charles Doherty.

1869 In June, Father Richard Gilmour became pastor, to be assisted by Father Francis Cubero.

Father Richard had come to this country from Scotland, at the age of four, with his parents. A convert from Presbyterianism, he had never met a priest until eighteen years old. His conversion after the first meeting was swift and firm and shortly he decided he wanted to be a priest. He studied for the Diocese of Cincinnati and was ordained August 30, 1852. A dynamic and eloquent preacher, he made a name for himself as missionary and pastor.

Father came to St. Joseph in 1869. It was during this first year that he established a conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

1871 Plans were made for the construction of a two story brick school building on the southeast corner of Second and Madison. Another contribution of Father Gilmour to the field of religious education was the long used Gilmour's Bible History.

1872 In January Father Cubero was transferred.

In April the announcement came that two priests from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati were raised to bishoprics, one to Cleveland and one to Fort Wayne. Bishop Richard Gilmour, our pastor who went to Cleveland was from the secular priesthood; the other, Bishop Joseph Dwenger was from the Congregation of the Precious Blood. Bishop Gilmour was consecrated August 14 as second Bishop of Cleveland.



Bishop Richard Gilmour

Father William Carey, who came as assistant in January, remained as pastor. For reasons of health he was given as an assistant, Father Bernard O'Reilly who remained until the following June.

1873 On June 20, Father Carey laid the cornerstone for the new school. This is the same sturdy building that is in use today. The school cost \$35,000.00. This boys' school was conducted for the parish by the Sisters of Charity. The Academy became the parish school for girls, the name being changed from St. Mary Academy to St. Joseph — popularly known as the old school. Previous to this, boys of the parish had attended the District Public School which stood where the present rectory stands.

1874-75 St. Joseph must have been considered a good place for young priests to get an introduction to parochial





**Father William Carey**

life. Three assistants quickly followed each other, each with a three month stay — Fathers P. W. Condon, John P. Daly, and Killiam Coll. They must have been on loan from Covington, for there is no record of them in the diocesan books.

In February 1875, Father Martin Murphy came as new assistant to remain for several years, till June 1878.

1878 In November, Father Carey was relieved of his duties as pastor because of ill health. When he died in 1881, there was evidence that ghouls had tried to steal his body from a vault in Calvary Cemetery. His disease was a strange and difficult one. None of the physicians knew what it was, or how to treat him. The medical schools wanted the body. The brother of Father Carey had received offers from the Cincinnati Colleges, but he had refused. The newspaper reporter who covered the happening put a lengthy report in the paper and concluded that such an attempt had been made to steal the body.

Father Gerald Grace who was appointed as assistant in June, became pastor in November with the leaving of Father Carey. He remained until September of the following year. Having completed fifteen years in the United States he returned to Ireland at the request of his Bishop. He died there in 1891.

1879 In September, Father James O'Donahue became the new pastor. Bishop Purcell praised him highly as a priest, who for twenty-five years had had an outstanding success in every assignment given

him. He was coming to St. Joseph congregation which was in excellent spiritual and financial condition.

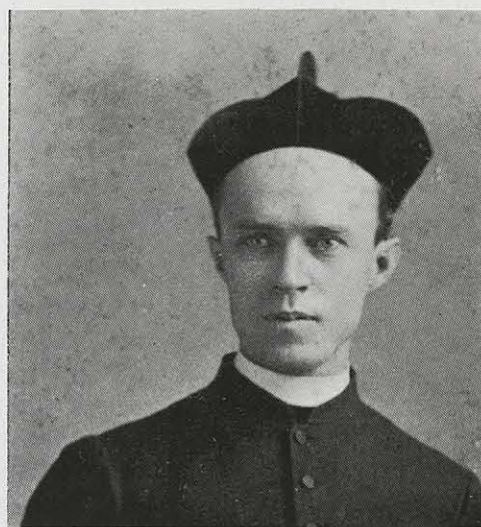
It was in this year that the Sisters of Charity built the convent, attached to the Academy, to replace the small residence they had purchased in 1863.

In November, Father James M. Carey came as assistant.

1881 October 26, Catherine Makely, a thirteen year old student, while playing in the school yard was killed by a flying brick from a boiler explosion at the buggy wheel factory at the southwest corner of First and Madison.

1882 In September, the Brothers of Mary took charge of the boys school. This was the same arrangement made in a number of the other parishes.

In September, Father James Carey was succeeded as assistant by Father Hugh McDevitt.

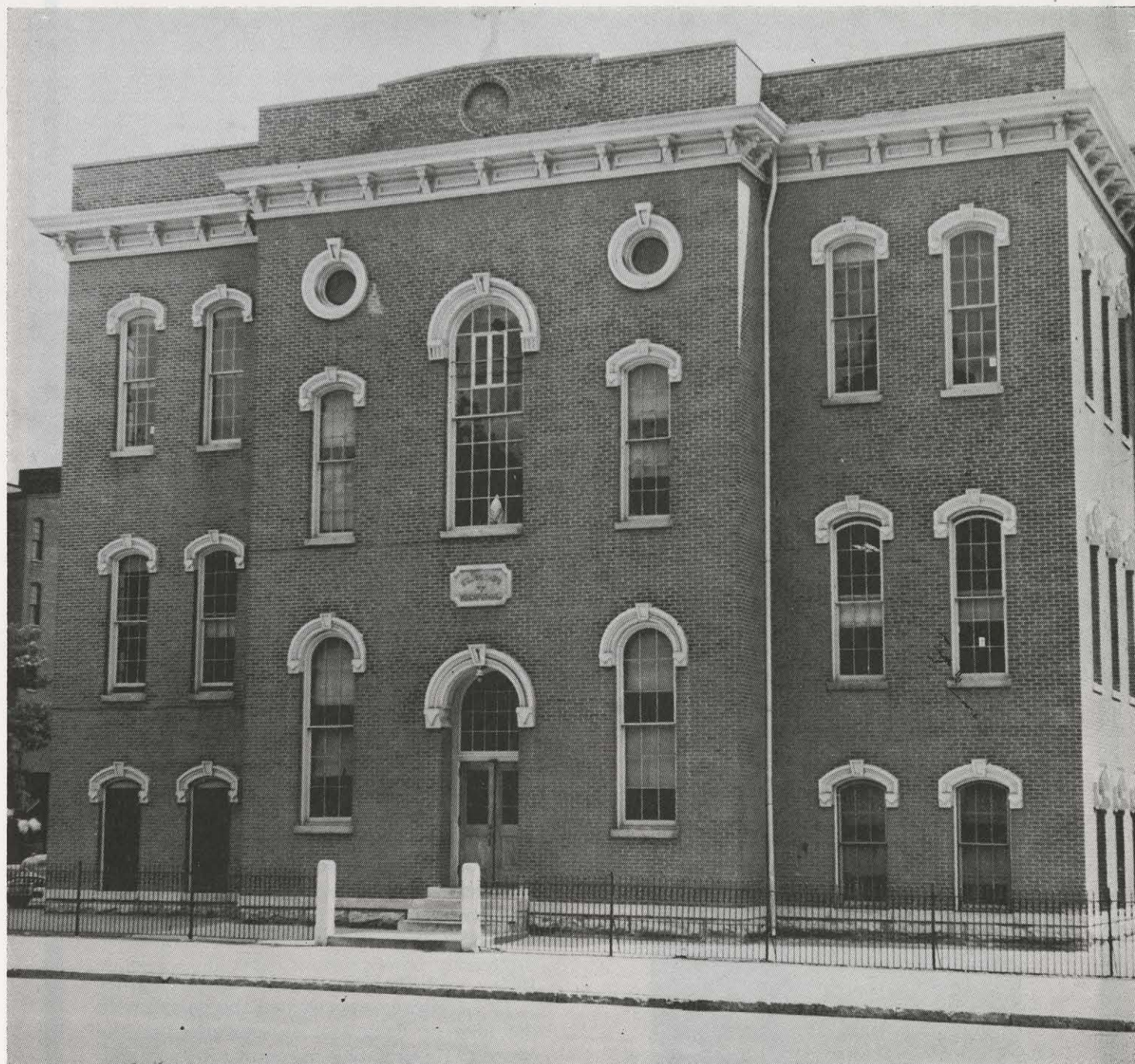


**Father Hugh McDevitt**

1883 Archbishop John Baptist Purcell died on July 4, after serving the Archdiocese for fifty years. He was succeeded by Archbishop William Henry Elder.

In July, Father Hugh McDevitt was appointed to establish a new English-speaking parish in Dayton, because of the pressure of the crowds at St. Joseph. Father Anthony Runnebaum was the new assistant, to succeed him. Father McDevitt was the founding Father of Sacred Heart Parish and remained there until October 1887.





**St. Joseph Boys' School**

Also in July, Father Patrick Henry Cusack became pastor in place of Father O'Donahue. He was named the first irremovable pastor of the parish. He came to a parish that was flourishing, with four hundred fifty families and an annual income of \$11,000.00 a goodly sum in those days.

Father Cusack was a big and robust man, gentle and generous to all, a man dedicated to Lady Poverty.

1886 Father Finnerty left the parish in October and one year later succeeded Father McDevitt as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. Father Denis Mary Mackey came as new assistant.

1887 February 17, St. Joseph Parish witnessed the last wedding to be celebrated at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The new regulation required weddings to take place in connection with Holy Mass.



1889 The City of Dayton adopted an ordinance to close St. Henry Cemetery and have the bodies removed to Calvary Cemetery founded in 1872. This set off a ten year controversy. But eventually many of the relatives moved graves to new plots in Calvary. The unclaimed remains, according to Mr. John Finke, secretary of Calvary at the time, numbered four thousand and thirteen out of six thousand sixty three bodies moved from St. Henry. The unclaimed remains were buried in the plot where the Memorial Chapel stands. This Chapel was paid for by the sale of the St. Henry land, and is dedicated to the memory of those who had been buried there.

1891 In May Father James O'Donnell was replaced as assistant by Father Casper Cahill who remained three months. In mid-summer Father Cusack quietly left his parish without informing his flock. Signs of a nervous disorder had shown up. His occasional erratic behavior startled this kindly soul and his friends as well, it was so contrary to his gentle nature. It was to completely incapacitate him for the last eight years of his life, to his death in 1913.

In August, Father William Hickey, who had been pastor of Sacred Heart for just five months, took the examination required before becoming pastor of an irremovable rec-

torship. He succeeded his good friend, Father Cusack, who had been his professor in Seminary days. Father Hickey came from a family of seven children — the five sons became priests in the Archdiocese and the two daughters joined the Sisters of Notre Dame.

A temporary assistant, Father Michael Loney, was assigned in September, to be replaced by Father Abraham McNamara in December.

1892 It did not take Father Hickey long to get to know the people of the parish. Many of them knew him as the priest who often came to visit his good friend, Father Cusack. He had a great respect for the working man and also knew his great sense of generosity to the Church.

Two of his early innovations were to establish a children's Mass on Sunday and to publish the first monthly Parish Messenger.

During the summer he had the remainder of the church basement dug out to make storage room for the coal for the church. New air ducts were installed to provide fresh air in the church. This activity gave rise to the ugly rumor that he was storing guns in the basement so that the Catholics could rise and kill Protestants. Father told these bigots what he thought of them in the Messenger. He allowed anyone to check and a few hardy souls did. So ended another good rumor.

Insurance had to be paid for fire coverage of the school building. It came to the handsome sum of one hundred fifty dollars which would protect the school for a period of five years.

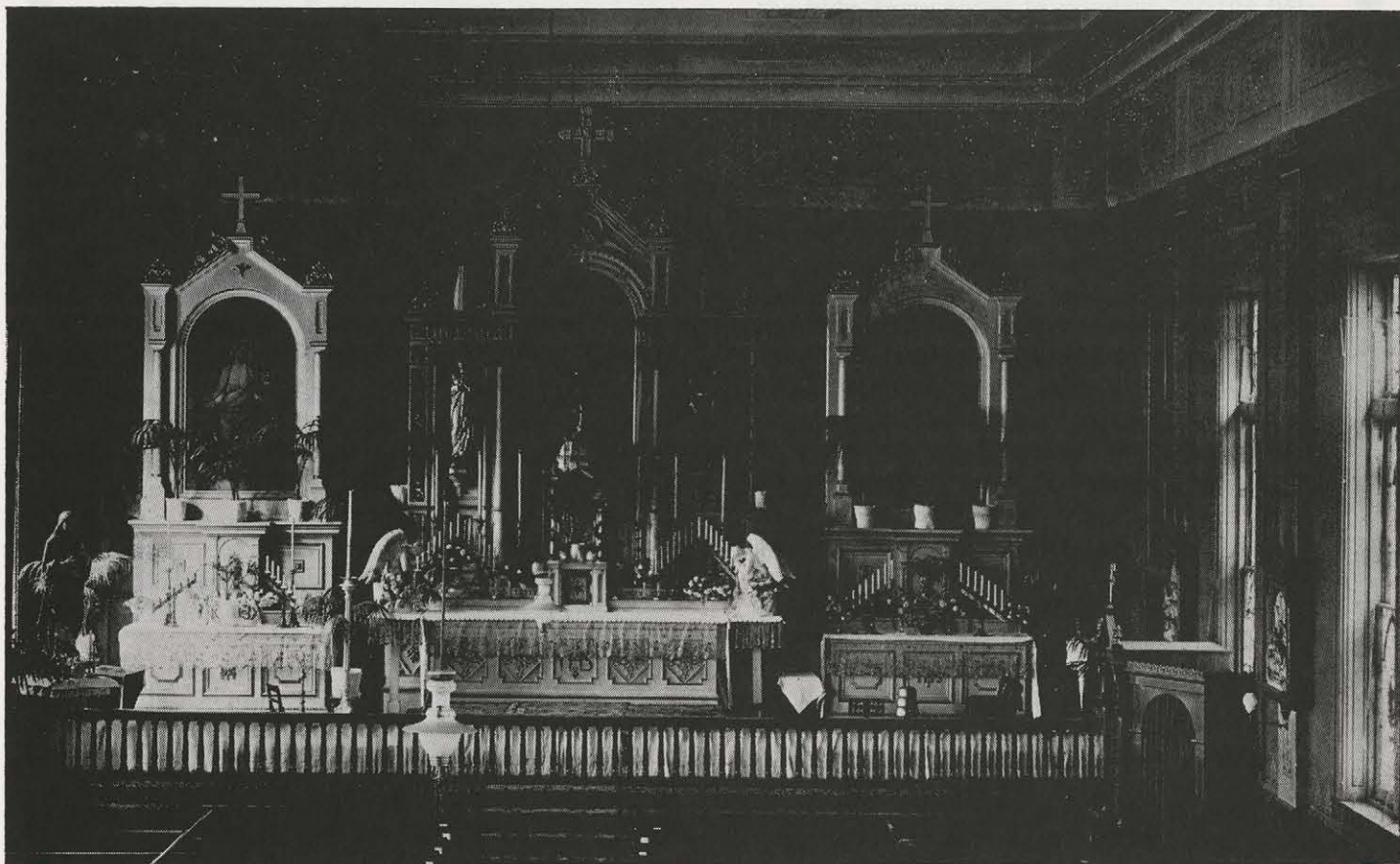
1896 In the February Messenger, Father Hickey approached the parish with the idea of doing some renovation of the church. He proposed to remove the side galleries which came half way up the nave of the church. They were unsightly and heavy looking and prevented proper ventilation. They were no longer used since the children's Mass had been introduced. He suggested that the old painted windows should go next. Wherever there had been breakage of these old windows they had been patched up with plain glass. By the end of February the galleries were removed and the choir loft finished off in a satisfactory manner.

By the end of April there were volunteer donors for all the new stain-glass windows at



Father William Hickey





Interior of St. Joseph Church after Renovation in 1896.

fifty-five dollars each. They were ordered from a firm in Dayton.

As happens when one starts to remodel, each new item makes something else look bad. The Stations of the Cross, with their cracked canvas pictures and old frames became the next items to go. By May there were donors for all the stations at thirty-five dollars each. They were ordered immediately from Paris.

No time was wasted; the painters came in, removed the old wallpaper and frescoed the entire interior and painted the altars and statues. The steeple was painted. A new roof was put on. New kneeling benches were installed. The organ was repaired. New front doors were designed, made and installed.

By June the new windows were put in to the delight of everyone. All these new things must have been quite a distraction to the people coming to church on Sunday.

1897 Father Abraham McNamara was replaced by Father Thomas McLeigh in January. The pastor gave a glowing

tribute of his five years with the parish with special reference to the learning and eloquence of his sermons.

The new Stations of the Cross arrived from Paris in February. They were quite large, about five feet in height and two and a half feet wide. These are the same beautiful stations we have in our church today.

1899 Some members of the Young Ladies Sodality and of the Altar Society joined forces to form the Thread and Needle Guild which over a good number of years gained quite a reputation for itself. Its purpose was to make linens and garments for the orphans at Cumminsville. The sewing circle met every week. Those who could not sew worked at collecting funds and materials. Many hundreds of complete outfits for the children were made every year. This included shirts and trousers, skirts and blouses, underwear, bed linens, aprons for the girls, and nightgowns. Even the Bishop was so impressed by the work that he donated ten dollars to the cause.



The public school next to ours was having a hard time. The Board of Health declared it unfit. The superintendent wanted to sell it and abandon it completely. Forty-two percent of the class that went up to high school failed — the worst record in the city.

1900 Father James McCloskey, son of James McCloskey and Bridget McGlynn, was the first son of the parish to be ordained to the priesthood. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on June 21, he offered his first Solemn Mass June 24. After serving as secretary to Archbishop Elder for three years, he was appointed pastor in Reading, Ohio. Here he remained until his retirement in 1942. He died June 12, 1943. Three of his sisters entered the convent: Frances (Sr. Mary Louis) and Anna (Sr. Concordia) to the Sisters of Charity, and Catherine (Sr. Marie Perpetua) to the Sisters of Notre Dame da Namur.



Father James McCloskey

1901 The old District Public School, which the boys of the parish had attended for so many years, was up for sale. It stood between the old rectory and the Sisters' Academy. A new school was to be built on another plot of land. The parish wanted to buy the school for there was a fear that if it got into the wrong hands, there would be a squeeze for a higher price or a factory might be built. A gentleman of the parish had wanted to buy it for an investment. He gave up his own wishes when he found the parish wanted it and he carried out the deal for the parish. On August 15, the building was purchased for the parish for ten thousand dollars, a most reasonable price.

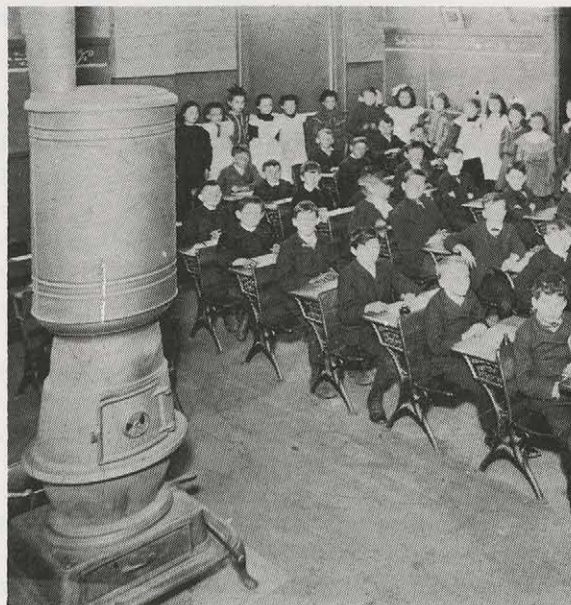
The terms of the deal were that the entire amount had to be paid at once and that the School Board be authorized to use the building without compensation until their new building would be ready for occupancy. These conditions worked to the advantage of the parish for they discouraged other bidders.

The parish had four thousand dollars on hand and was able to make a loan for the rest.

Some of the old timers informed Father Hickey that thirty years before, both Father Kelley and Father Gilmour had tried to buy the school for as much as twenty six thousand.

In October, a new tabernacle was erected on the altar. Its cost of one hundred sixty seven dollars was donated by a lady of the parish. It was more in keeping with the style of the altar. It was supplied with a steel safe and a door of brass, neatly gold-plated. It was built by a firm in Cincinnati.

1902 After twenty years of management of the school for boys, the Brothers of Mary were relieved of the job by Father Hickey. Sisters were again put in full charge. The boys and girls were put in the one building. The old academy was used only for music lessons and such. The many new parishes in the area caused a drop in the enrollment to the point where the one building could take care of the parish needs.





September 7, the children returned to school to start a new year and found a familiar old fixture gone — the old pot-bellied stoves had been removed from the center of the classroom. During the summer a new central steam heating plant had been installed at a cost of one thousand, nine hundred and fifty dollars. It provided greater comfort by a more uniform heat, gave greater safety for the children and provided more space in the classrooms.

On September 20, the old public school building was given into the possession of the parish. Discussion of plans for its removal and the building of an adequate rectory got under way. The old rectory, built for one priest and a housekeeper had outlived its usefulness after fifty years. Then too, the rectory had to be relocated if the long range plans for a bigger church ever materialized.

By November 16, the work of removing the old school began. The specifications provided that the church would retain all the good brick, building stone and such lumber that might be used in the new rectory and that these should be piled up and the balance removed. Salvage resulted in enough brick for all inside walls and the backing up of the exterior walls along with a sufficient quantity of well-seasoned joists.

1904 March 8, the Building Committee opened the bids for the excavation for the new rectory. Work was started the next day. On March 25, the Committee opened

the bids, forty three in number, for the balance of the work. It must be remembered that at that time, the custom of having a general contractor was not in vogue. The Church Committee which approved the Building Committee's choosing of bidders, had to deal directly with eight different companies. The parish hired one of its members to be an overseer. To a great extent it was up to these eight companies to work smoothly together.

The cornerstone was laid in May and contained a list of all those who had donated ten dollars or more to the project.

The usual troubles of builders made their appearance; bad weather, a hod-carriers' strike, bad timing of the various trades working together without a general contractor. But all in all the work did proceed and what was called the finest rectory in the west was completed.

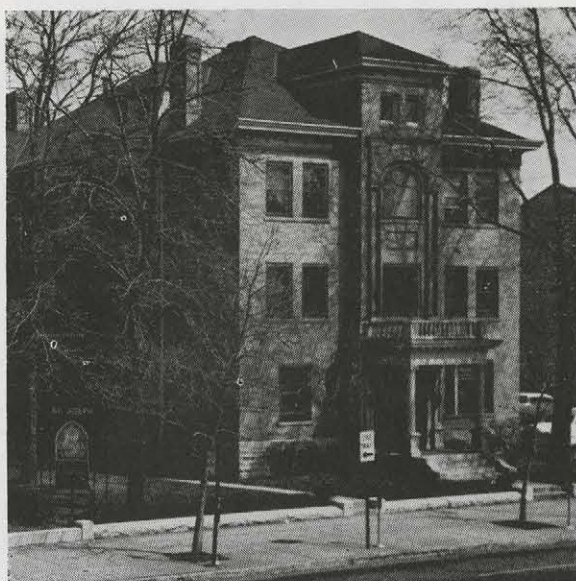
Archbishop William Henry Elder died October 31. He was immediately succeeded by Archbishop Henry Moeller, who was coadjutor with right of succession.

1905 Father Francis Quinn, the assistant, left the parish in January, after serving for three and a half years. He was succeeded by Father Martin Higgins, James P. Ward, and William Casey, in order.

The rectory was completed in time for the priests to move in, April 14. The twenty room building, improvement of the grounds and building of the wall to the rear of the lot came to seven thousand, six hundred eleven dollars and twenty two cents. Of course the material salvaged from the old school is not included in this amount. The contract for tearing down the old rectory was let soon after.

The first festive affair to be celebrated in the new rectory was the Silver Jubilee dinner for the anniversary of Father William Hickey's ordination.

April 30, a meeting of the parish was held to consider the proposition of a new church for the parish. The parish was out of debt, so this matter could be considered. The meeting filled every seat in the Sodality chapel and quite a few were obliged to stand. After the pastor had stated that the meeting had been called to gather the sentiments of the people regarding undertaking a new building program, several speeches were made and a vote was taken. Not one vote



St. Joseph's Rectory



was cast against the proposition. Methods were discussed for raising the necessary funds since thirty thousand dollars would have to be on hand before construction could be considered, be it two years, five years or ten. The policy of the Archbishop was not to allow a parish to put up a new building unless at least one third of the funds had been raised. Pledges of one day's wages each month was the method adopted at the meeting.

It was during the years 1905 to 1915 that the majority of the Italian community arrived in Dayton's East Side. Depending where they lived many adopted St. Joseph as their parish, others went to Holy Trinity. Like the Irish they have kept a warm spot in their hearts for the home parish.

1907 Father William Egan came in July to succeed Father Casey.

1908 In the early summer, after a number of architects had asked to bid on designing the new church, the firm of McGinnis and Walsh of Boston was awarded the job.

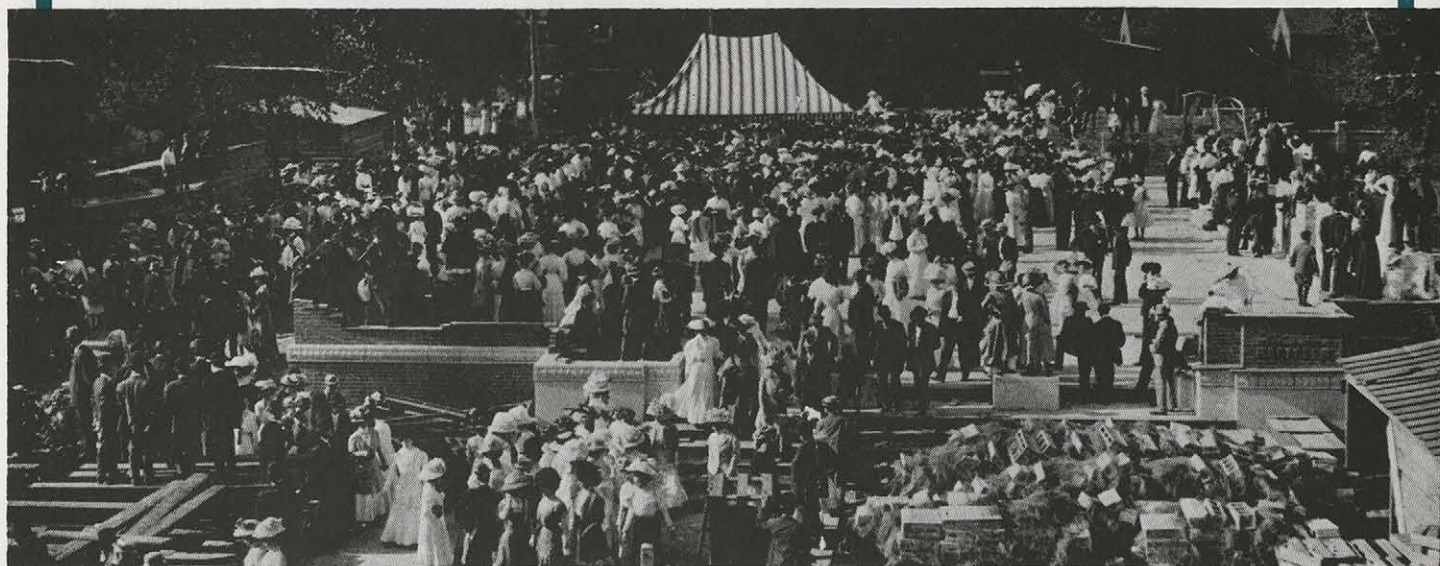
The plans for the new building were submitted to the Archdiocesan Building Committee in October. They were approved and the Archbishop gave permission to build. With this approval plans moved swiftly. A temporary church would have to be found — the sodality chapel was too small and there were no halls in the area. A gentleman of the parish donated the use of a lot on Sears Street, on which a structure could be erected.

1909 As soon as the weather allowed, work was begun on the temporary church. It progressed so well that plans were made to have the last Mass in old St. Joseph on Easter Day. The building was to be very plain, but safe and comfortable.

On Easter Day, April 11, the last Mass was celebrated as had been planned, in the old church. Many eyes were wet as the memories of sixty two years of worship and love were recalled. Most of the old-timers could not forget that they had been baptized, received the Lord for the first time, had been educated and finally married in the shadow of the venerable old church. Many had seen their children and grandchildren complete the same cycle in old St. Joseph.

In one week's time the workers had moved and set in place windows, pews, altars and doors from the old church. These familiar items made the transition easier for the people. The pews were even arranged in the same order, so the pew-holders could continue their familiar seating.

In May the old church was torn down. There had been difficulty in finding the old cornerstone. It was finally found — a huge block of stone about three feet below the surface of the earth, at the southwest corner. It was laid, as the rubrics of the church seem to direct, as a real foundation stone or the first one laid. A large slab of stone four and a half feet by three feet covered it, and when it was lifted off, a lid covering a cavity in the block underneath was disclosed. This cover was pried open but unfortunately the cavity



Laying of Cornerstone for new St. Joseph Church — September 5, 1909

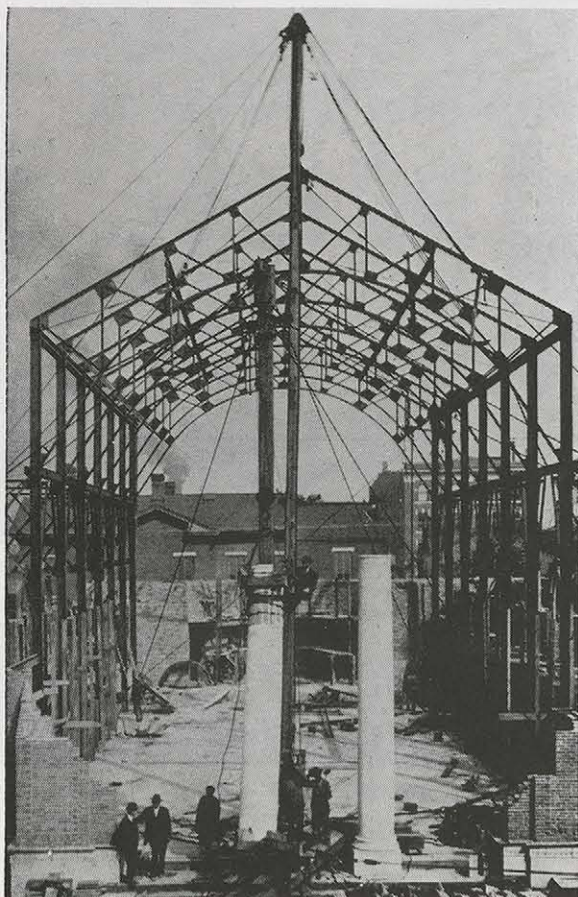


was filled with water. In it had been placed a metal cylinder, enclosing papers. Half the cylinder was dissolved by rust and the papers were so much pulp. Very little could be deciphered. This old stone would be placed in the new church with the dates 1847-1909.

The famous old bell, weighing 3600 pounds, was made in Cincinnati in 1859. It had been baptized or blessed "Patrick". It was stored in a warehouse until the church would be completed.

September 5, the cornerstone was laid by Archbishop Moeller. No coins were placed in the cornerstone. Besides the official record of the ceremony, it contained a list of the contributors to the last collection in the old church, a picture of it, photograph of the pastor and architect, a list of the church committee, and portions of the old papers found in the old stone. It was placed not to the front of the church but in the far side of the bell tower.

By the middle of October the two massive pillars were raised by the front entrance of the church. These pillars weigh twenty tons each, each being in a single piece. The



method of raising these pillars is interesting. There is no power device — no gasoline hoist, no electric. The rigging was set up on what was called gin poles. The ropes they used were fastened to the top of the stone columns and by a series of pulleys to the top and bottom of the pole. Two men did the winding on what they called a hand crab, a sort of geared drum. It was a slow process, as it was all done by hand.

In the December Messenger, Father Hickey states that the new church is progressing nicely but the savings are about used up. It is time to make a loan. If any of the parishioners would like to invest, he would be happy to pay them the interest rather than pay it to the bank. It would keep the money in the parish.

1910 In June, Father Hickey approached the idea of members donating some article for the new church as a perpetual memorial. The side altars had already been donated and the main altar was in the discussion stage. He reserved the three Archangel windows above the altar as his gift. He never asked any particular one to donate, leaving everyone to do it spontaneously. The remaining months of the year record the giving of memorials and the gradual finishing of the interior of the church. In November the frescoing was completed and the old bell was placed in its frame in the tower or campanile, to be used for the first time on Christmas day.

An interesting feature that could be easily overlooked is the subject of two small windows in the tower entrance — one depicts St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati, the other pictures the original St. Joseph Church.

1911 It became evident that the church would be well enough along that it could be consecrated on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19. The only items that would not be installed in time would be the altars and other imported items.

March 19, the big day arrived. The weather was beautiful, the church magnificent. The sanctuary was filled with acolytes, and many priests with their Archbishop, all adding to the beauty and solemnity as the Mass of Thanksgiving progressed. The old altar and the sounds of the old organ brought





St. Joseph Church — Dedicated March 19, 1911



back a flood of memories and the joyous shadows of priests and people long gone seemed to cluster about this beautiful sanctuary.

But back to everyday affairs. The temporary church building was sold to the gentleman who had donated use of the land for a price of six hundred dollars.

In June, the baptismal font and the two holy water fonts arrived from Italy and were installed.

In October there was a series of arrivals almost at the same time — Father Adolph Beckman the new assistant and the statues of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Patrick. All were installed but the statues got a special blessing. Father Egan would be missed especially by the children. His eloquent sermons and his many thoughtful articles in the Parish Messenger would also be missed.

The new altars arrived in December, they were installed, and Archbishop Moeller consecrated them on December 23. He favored the parish by inserting relics of the Apostles, Ss. Peter and Paul in the altar stone. The altars were made in the Carara Marbleyards, and the mosaic inlays were made in Venice, Italy.

The church without the memorials cost ninety-five thousand, seven hundred dollars.

1912 On Sunday evening, March 19, a solemn blessing was given to the new statue of the Sacred Heart. Father John Hickey performed the ceremony.

In July, Father Hickey returned from an extended trip. He was very upset as was the entire parish. An attempt had been made to get an extension of railroad tracks across Sears Street between Second and Third Streets to a building being constructed there. Father, with good reason, knew that a temporary track becomes a permanent one, once established. The next step would be to continue it to Madison Street and then to the canal. This would have the train running immediately behind our school with danger to life and limb of our children and the older folks. With the trains hidden by the taller buildings, they would be a menace at the crossings. Besides this would be the noise, vibrations and soot. The Pastor of the Lutheran Church on Third Street had done yeoman's service in rousing his congregation, as

had the curate of St. Joseph with his people. In spite of this opposition, the grant for such an extension was defeated by only one vote in City Council. Father knew that such a situation would be an end of our school and possibly of the parish because of fear of parents to allow their children to go over these grade-crossings.

Father Hickey had a unique way of getting people to the front of the church for weekday Mass. He did not open the big front doors, but had people enter by the side tower door.



Father Harry Ansbury

1913 February 8, Father Harry J. Ansbury, son of Peter Ansbury and Sara Caulfield, was ordained, and he offered his first Solemn Mass the following day. He was appointed as assistant at Hyde Park until 1921, when he founded a parish in Madisonville. In 1935 he came to Dayton as pastor of Corpus Christi, made Dean and Monsignor in 1951, and died there January 25, 1964.

#### *FLOOD OF 1913*

On March 25 and 26 a flood came that touched the lives of nearly all the parishioners of St. Joseph. This great overflow of the Miami River brought disaster to the city. Hundreds of lives were lost and millions of property value destroyed. For several days Dayton was cut off from the rest of the



world because tracks were washed out and wires were down. The waters rose so quickly, and higher than anyone imagined it would, that everyone was caught unprepared.

Father Beckman, the assistant, waded through the water to get the Blessed Sacrament and bring it to the second floor of the rectory. Father Hickey was visiting in the south and didn't hear of the disaster until Friday and had no idea it reached the church until he arrived home on Saturday.

Father Beckman, the two housekeepers, and three men trapped at the rectory door by the rising water had to take refuge on the second floor of the rectory. The church and rectory stood in water to the height of nine feet. In the church it reached the top of the wainscoting at the bottom of the windows. The altars were covered, the water filling two thirds of the tabernacle. In the rectory it came a foot from the ceiling of the first floor. For two days the water ran riot through the area. In the sacristy, the vestments were piled on hastily erected platforms but these collapsed and all were lost. In the rectory a new piano was put up on the dining table, but this too fell apart. The inmates were trapped from Tuesday to Friday. On Thursday relief came with food.

The experiences of the Sisters during these trying days makes an interesting story as told by one who lived through them. She starts the story on Easter Monday, a free day. The Sisters as usual attended early Mass where they heard that the water was rising in North Dayton. They didn't make too much of that since the North area was used to higher water in spring. They returned to the convent.

It was a different story on Tuesday, when the water made its appearance on Second Street, coming from both directions. The Sisters had their work cut out for them — their trunks with their personal belongings were in the basement and had to be taken to the second floor. None too soon either, the iron fence in the front yard could no longer be seen.

Father Beckman called from the window of the rectory and told Sister Superior to take the Blessed Sacrament to the second floor. The Sisters soon arranged a suitable altar, and the Lord's presence was a great comfort to them during the trying days.

The house next to the convent was quite close and when the water reached the neighbor's second floor, the Sisters offered to take the man, his wife and son in, as there were empty classrooms available. After much tugging with a classroom bench and with the help of the man they were able to make one end secure on the folk's windowsill, while they held the other end on theirs. The people slid over this bridge one at a time until all "had entered the convent." Another man who had seen this maneuver called over and asked if his family would be permitted to come too. This was from a tenement house facing Sears Street and second yard from the convent. This involved four couples. The Superior said "Yes, but I think the distance is too great." He thanked her and asked for a clothes line. When they had secured the line he said, "Thank you, now I'll do the rest." Removing a few boards from his floor, he placed them from his window to an old shed caught in a tree and from there to the convent. With the help of the line they all reached safety. But, this was not the end. This same gentleman rescued seven or eight people from the house next to his. Imagine the surprise and relief when these last people reached safety; the rear part of the house where they had been was washed away.

The waters rose until they reached the second floor windows but did not flow in. The fourteen foot high floors were a blessing. They meant safety for the Sisters and twenty one guests.

The Sisters gave no thought to dinner; there was no food. About six o'clock, a woman who was coming from the store when rescued, insisted they take one of the loaves of bread she was carrying when rescued. Dry bread never tasted better.

All day Wednesday the rescued people seemed to be busy over in the classrooms. There was no light and no water. About seven in the evening, the Sisters heard the call, "dinner is ready." And it was. At the corner of the street there was a grocery store with windows broken out by force of the water. The folks in the classrooms were able to catch canned goods and other edibles as they floated past the windows. Rain was falling heavily, so they took turns holding buckets out the windows to catch water. The stoves in the classrooms were kept going to provide warmth and to dry out more wood



for the fires. And what came of all this — the best pot of soup they could wish for.

Fortunately all the school children were at home when the flood hit. There would have been real hardship for the Sisters and children, and the twenty-one neighbors would not have been rescued. We can imagine the fears of the parents if they didn't know what had happened to their children.

All external signs of the flood were removed in the church in time for the First Mass in June. But the cleaning process went on for a year.

June 20, Father William Patrick O'Connor, son of John O'Connor and Elizabeth Kenny, was ordained priest. He offered his first Solemn Mass at St. Joseph, June 27.



**Father William O'Connor**

After assignments in Harrison and Urbana, he volunteered in 1917 as the first Ohio chaplain of any faith to serve in World War I. After two years in the service, he became pastor in Jamestown. From then on, all his pastorates were in Cincinnati. In 1922 he became the very first National Chaplain of the American Legion. From 1928 to 1940 he served as chaplain of the National Military Home in Dayton. His final assignment was at St. Catherine in Cincinnati in 1948, where he died November 1, 1949. Two of his sisters joined the Sisters of Charity — Margaret (Sr. Sebastian) and Agnes (Sr. William Mary).

The financial report at the end of the year showed that the parish had to pay out five thousand thirty-three dollars and nine-

teen cents because of flood damage. In spite of the hardships, the collection had even increased over the previous year, allowing a payment of twenty-two hundred and fifty dollars on the debt. It is interesting to note in the modern practice of collections every Sunday, that the old custom was one collection a month.

Father Hickey had received eight thousand, two hundred fifty dollars from the Archbishop as part of the National collection taken up for flood victims. He gave it to those most in need. Of course, he was criticized by some who thought that their neighbors might have gotten a little more than they did.

An organization that seems to have been a victim of the flood was the Thread and Needle Guild. They had worked so many years for the orphans, making thousands of outfits of clothing. This Guild is never mentioned after the flood.

1914 On May 1, Holy Cross Parish (Lithuanian) was established, when Father Joseph Gricius was appointed pastor. Father used the basement chapel in St. Joseph School until March 28, 1915, when the Holy Cross church building was completed.

The Sisters of Charity thanked all those who had helped them in restoring the convent. The Red Cross wouldn't help them because they were considered an institution and not a family. The Sisters had waived a share in the money that came from the Archdiocese, preferring it to go to needy families. Some of the ladies of the parish got busy and took up a collection that amounted to three hundred dollars. A kind friend volunteered to stand the complete expense of reflooring the Sisters' chapel and frescoing the walls at a cost of four hundred fifty dollars.

1915 The industrial growth in America, spurred by World War I, was making itself felt in Dayton like in all big cities. Factories, railroads and mercantile establishments rapidly began encroaching upon the immediate vicinity of the church. Houses were torn down and dwellers began to move to the outlying areas to get away from the factories. This caused a severe drop in St. Joseph membership. The flood, new parishes and now this were taking their toll.



1916 Insurance to cover the church and rectory had to be paid. It came to three hundred seventy-five dollars. This was coverage for the next five years.

1917 In March, Father William Hickey resigned his parish. For two years the conviction had grown in his mind that he should step aside for a younger and more active pastor. We can understand that after twenty-five years of keeping the parish at high pitch spiritually and financially, of guiding the tremendous building program, being afflicted by the flood, influx of factories, the moving away of so many of his people and now the rumblings of World War, that a man could suddenly feel old and tired.

We must keep in right perspective the life of Father Hickey as the pastor of St. Joseph. Too often we judge a man by the renovations he has made or the buildings he has erected, the externals of parish work. Father was a man of great faith, prayer and devotion. He loved God and his people dearly. The Parish Messenger attests to this — it was entirely his work except for invited writers or reprinted articles. He felt that a Sunday sermon was not sufficient for his people, so he used the Messenger as a means of keeping the parishioners aware of everything going on in the parish, and of instructing them on the many facets of their religion. Vital statistics of baptisms, marriages and deaths — financial reports — articles on the lives of the saints — instructions on the sacraments and commandments — fostering of many devotions with the greatest love for the Blessed Sacrament. He reported on happenings in the world, the Archdiocese and the community. Even when he went on extended trips, he would send letters back to be printed in the Messenger so that his people might share with him the wonders of the world.

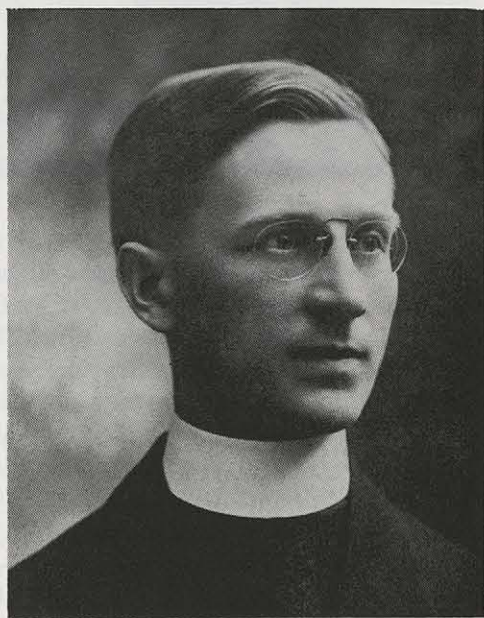
Father Hickey was assigned as chaplain of the Good Shepherd Convent in Cincinnati. Here with the much more relaxed atmosphere and freed from the burden of finance and the keeping of books, he was able to regain his strength and composure. His talents were not forgotten, for in 1920 he was made a Monsignor and appointed as Vicar General of the Archdiocese. He died January 31, 1924.



**Father James Ward and Bingo**

The new pastor was Father James P. Ward, who had been assistant at St. Joseph for a few months in 1906.

June 2, Father Thomas J. Cobey, son of Thomas Cobey and Mary Ann Potter, was ordained for the Archdiocese. He offered his first Solemn Mass the following day. His first assignment was to Piqua and from there to Corpus Christi in Dayton where he died July 22, 1922. Two of his sisters joined the Sisters of Charity, Margaret (Sr. Thomas Marie) and Mary (Sr. Eraclea).



**Father Thomas Cobey**

During the month of October all the churches were closed due to the flu epidemic. Fortunately only a few parishioners died from the flu, two of these being young men in the service.



In November, the parish bought the convent and the old academy buildings. Contrary to popular belief at the time, this land and buildings did not belong to the parish. The Sisters had bought it originally in 1857 to establish the St. Mary Academy. It was only gradually that it became the parish school for girls. The Sisters were now anxious to dispose of this holding, and since it was necessary for the parish to provide a convent for the teachers, it was deemed necessary for the parish to buy to prevent encroachment on parish property. The purchase price was thirteen thousand, eight hundred, fifty-eight dollars and thirty cents.

For Christmas, a new and large crib set was purchased. The old set showed the wear and breakage of many years of use.

1918 It had not taken long for the parishioners to find in Father Ward a true pastor and friend. They had known Father Hickey for so many years that it came as a shock when he was no longer with them. The gentle Father Ward won their hearts with his genuine concern for their spiritual and temporal welfare. With little Father James Wade, newly ordained, who came to St. Joseph, they had the team of Ward and Wade which gave great promise for the well-being of the parish.

1919 The Parish Messenger of June reports that one hundred and eighteen young men of the parish had served in the War. Of these, five were killed and seventeen were injured.

1920 In October, electric lights were installed in the convent for the first time. A new furnace was also put in.

Because of extensive repairs in the school and the doubling of the price of coal, St. Joseph Parish was the last in Dayton to bow to the necessity of taking up a special coal collection.

A writer of the Dayton Daily News paid a glowing tribute to the beauty and stateliness of St. Joseph Church. It was declared to be one of the outstanding objects of art in the city, and it was a shame that it was so little recognized as such in Dayton.

1921 St. Patrick Day was a big day for Father Ward and he was at his most eloquent when giving the homily on



Father James Wade

that day. He would never miss the banquet and on that day (even though born in Ohio) would say, "I'm a Galway man, I am from County Galway."

The old custom of having midnight Mass on Christmas was revived after many years, to the delight of the whole parish.

1924 Father Ward was made State Chaplain of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and proud he was of the honor.

1925 Archbishop Henry Moeller died January 5. He was succeeded by Archbishop John T. McNicholas, a Dominican like Bishop Fenwick, the first in the diocese.

At the time of the canonization of St. Teresa, the Little Flower, a beautiful marble statue of her was installed in the niche in the vestibule of the church. It was at that same time that Father Ward had the statue of St. Patrick moved into the sanctuary.

The financial report of the year 1925, showed that the parish was out of debt with a small surplus.

1927 In June Father Wade was succeeded as assistant by the newly ordained, Father Louis Reinhold.

In this same month, the old organ that had been brought from the old church wheezed its last. It was replaced by the fine two manual Kilgen organ in use today. It cost thirty six hundred dollars, a good sum in those days.



Father Ralph Moorman became the new assistant in September. Many will remember him from later years when he was pastor of Holy Trinity.

In November a second collection each month was introduced to help pay the assessment of six thousand dollars for high schools.

1928 April 4, Wednesday of Holy Week, a parish meeting was held. Everybody had cleared the building by midnight. Apparently, although never proven, a cigarette must have been carelessly dropped, and a fire resulted gutting the entire school building. The next day, Holy Thursday, people on their way to Mass found that their school was just a shell. To step inside and look up and down, one could see sky and ground. During the fire Father Ward was very worried that the firemen might be hurt or killed because the inside of the school crumbled so quickly. No one was hurt and Father commended the firemen from the altar.

The first big job was to provide for the school children, between three and four hundred of them. Their dreams of an extended vacation vanished, for it happened that Sacred Heart school had some empty rooms. Arrangements were made to care for the lower grades there. The upper grades were housed in the academy or old school attached to the convent.

Rebuilding of the school began immediately. The sturdy brick walls remained intact, the inside had to be cleared and built entirely new.

Father Ward contacted a cold from exposure during the fire. Weakened by the strain of arranging for the schooling of the children and of replacing the school building, Father's cold developed into pneumonia. Although Father looked the picture of health, his health was not good. Even as a young priest he had been subject to pneumonia. Right after his ordination, the Archbishop had sent him to Florida to recuperate from an attack.

On June 4, Father James Ward died. The good Sisters and the doctors had done everything possible for him at the hospital. An exemplary priest, a gentle person died at the age of fifty-one.

For the funeral the church was filled, with many people standing outside in the rain. He had made many friends, non-Catholic as well as Catholic during his eleven years at St. Joseph. Condolences poured in from all over the city and state.

Father James Wade, who had been assistant to Father Ward for ten years, was transferred back to St. Joseph to be administrator of the parish until a new pastor would be appointed. During the next seven months he guided the rebuilding of the school. The people were happy with him and wanted him to stay as pastor, but the seniority system restrained the Archbishop from granting their wish.

1929 In January, Father Frank Varley was appointed pastor. He was first cousin of Father Martin Varley at Sacred Heart. So the happy relationship between the two parishes continued. The first two pastors of Sacred Heart had been assistants at St. Joseph. The two parishes had been cared for by Fathers William and Charles Hickey for so many years — and now the Fathers Varley.

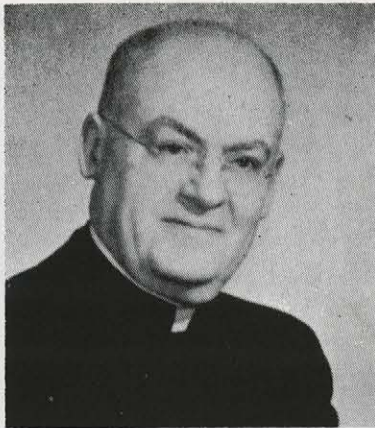
Father Carl Goeckeler replaced Father Moorman as assistant in August.

Father Varley, an accomplished musician and of excellent taste wished to enhance St. Joseph so as to attract worshippers and hold on to the parishioners who were gradually moving away. The expansion of the factory area was taking its toll. Father, a man of great nervous energy, was trying to stem the tide. He must have felt the lag in the parish spirit, a parish that had in one year lost its school and two priests that it loved, Fathers Ward and Wade.

The Stock Market crashed on Black Tuesday, October 29. Father Varley's plans crashed too. The Great Depression had begun. Father's health was not the best and this set-back did not help.

1930 In August, Father Varley was relieved of the parish, and Father David Powers came as the new pastor. Father Carl Goeckeler also left St. Joseph, the last assistant in the parish for many years to come.





**Father David Powers**

Father Powers came to St. Joseph in difficult times, the Great Depression was making itself felt. In the years ahead it took a man of his tenacity to keep the parish from being closed permanently. He was a big, robust man with good health, the kind of health that comes from hard physical labor. He was a dignified man who could inspire confidence in others that he was in charge of the situation. He had an Irish temper when needed but he was never intentionally unkind, never unfair.

For some time Father's aunt was his housekeeper, but later he had none. The Sisters helped at times. He was the only person living in a twenty room house, the second and third floors were unused.

Father introduced the weekly envelope system of collections.

1932 During the summer six men of the parish who were out of work were paid to clean up the church and school. In school, all woodwork, floors and walls were scrubbed. In church, the beautiful stain glass windows were washed inside and out, all lighting fixtures taken down and cleaned, all woodwork washed and oiled.

When two boys went to the seminary, Father personally paid their way and provided the necessary clothing. Those who knew him well are convinced that he used his own salary to help many who were in need and even to keep the parish going. Even his requests for ten cents from every family was not always successful, many of his people were the poorest of the poor. He had to buy coal a few tons at a time.

Father saw to it that Christmas was a day for the children. A box of hardtack candy, an apple or an orange given through the generosity of a parishioner might be the only treats many of the children ever had.

The parish reached a low to where there would be about one hundred people at the main Mass on Sunday, and a hundred fifty children at their special Mass.

1934 January 28, Father John McCarthy, son of Charles McCarthy and Margaret Downey, was ordained for the Diocese of Dallas, Texas. He offered his first Solemn Mass at St. Joseph on February 4. Five days later he left for Texas where he now lives in retirement. His sister Mary Agnes (Sr. Charles Regina) joined the Sisters of Charity.



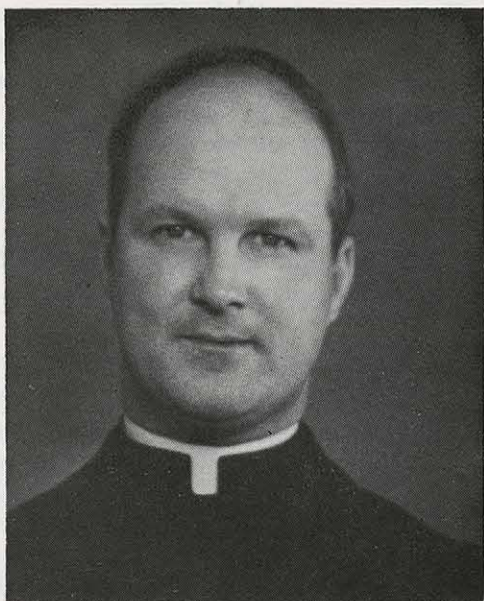
**Father John McCarthy**

In the late summer a new boiler was installed in the church at a cost of one thousand eighty-four dollars and seventy-five cents.

1935 Over the past years there had been slow drop in the number of students in St. Joseph school. In 1935 the drop became more pronounced with one hundred eighty enrolled, and then in 1936 it came to one hundred fifty-four.

1936 June 6, Father Charles E. Ford, son of Thomas Ford and Teresa Martin was ordained for the Archdiocese. He offered his first Solemn Mass the following day at St. Joseph. After a number of assign-





**Father Charles Ford**

ments, his final appointment was as pastor of St. John, Tipp City, June 1957. He died at Tipp City March 18, 1970. Two of his sisters entered the Sisters of Charity; Marie (Sr. Mary Thomas )and Ruth (Sr. Irenaea Marie).

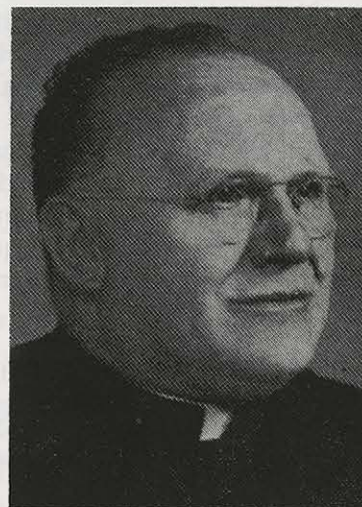
1942 The parish historical notes are scarce for the past five or six years. The school enrollment had dropped below the hundred mark. The number of parishioners was at a low mark. Along with the country, the parish did see a recovery from the depression and felt the financial upswing because of war production but the annual parish budget remained less than fifteen thousand dollars.

In March, Father Powers was transferred. After eleven years of preserving the parish from extinction and living on the borders of poverty so long, he deserved a new and fresh endeavor. The parish too, needed new vision and new direction and this came with the bouncing, nervous, energetic Father Albert Metz. He is the one who should get the credit for starting the parish on its way back to being a vital organization. He had long range plans which were not always appreciated by the people, he had a certainty that all would be well that was not always shared by others.

He became the first full time fire department chaplain, on call for all major fires.

The fire marshall condemned the academy or old school and forbade that it be used for any reason whatsoever. Through his influence Father Metz got the city to remove the old building just for the bricks, in October. This building had been a constant hazard to the Sisters for it was attached to the convent. It had been a headache to other pastors who never could afford to have it removed.

1943 In March Father Metz revived the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society which has remained such a vital organization ever since. He put new life into the other organizations of the parish.



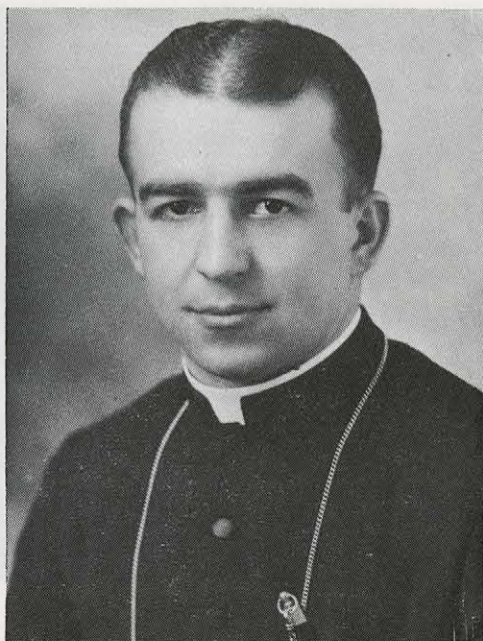
**Father Albert Metz**

June 13, Father Metz was transferred from St. Joseph. His health was not the best, he was very nervous. But the plans came thick and fast and his health could not match them. It seemed best that he be assigned a position not so taxing.

The Irish Archbishop McNicholas put the parish into the care of the predominantly German, Fathers of the Precious Blood. As temporary pastor, Father Edward Vonder-Haar, C.P.P.S. came to St. Joseph with Fathers Anthony Migoni and Sylvester Kleman as assistants. They remained until mid-September.

September 15, the energetic Father John Kraus assumed the pastorate, assisted by Father Victor Kreinbrink. This team had its work cut out for it, to take up where Father

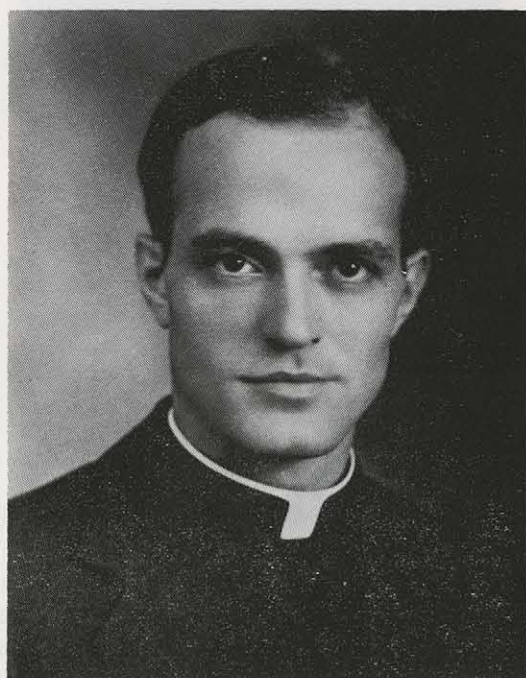




**Father John Kraus**

Metz had left off, to encourage old members to return, to organize, to rehabilitate the entire plant. They were not afraid of manual labor when needed.

December 19, Father Francis Marinelli, son of Louis Marinelli and Maria Ratena, offered his first Solemn Mass at St. Joseph. At present Father is stationed as pastor of St. Philip Church in Morrow, Ohio.



**Father Francis Marinelli**

1944 St. Patrick's Day became a festive occasion not just for the parish, but for all the Irish of the city. Father Kraus was not above putting an O' before his name for the day.

During the summer city steam was introduced in the church, rectory, school and convent, eliminating the old heating plants. It had taken only four months to raise five thousand, one hundred-fifty dollars to accomplish the change. The system required less maintenance and kept the buildings much cleaner.

1945 The big project for this year was the establishing of St. Joseph Commercial High School. Through the guidance of Archbishop McNicholas, the Sisters of Charity and Father Kraus got this venture on its way. It was to be a school to give young ladies a good Christian education, sufficient credits so they could earn a high school diploma accredited by the state and the Archdiocese, and to prepare them for the business world as secretaries and bookkeepers. It was unique for the state of Ohio. It was to start with only the Junior Class, adding the senior class the second year.

When the Sisters arrived in August, they found Fathers Kraus and Kreinbrink covered with soot and dirt, trying to clean up the second floor of the school which had not been used for a number of years. But things began to happen — book orders were rushed out, typewriters and typing tables were ordered. The tables did not arrive until Thanksgiving, so the typewriters were put on the floor. Orange crates were put on old card tables for book shelves. All a far cry from the well appointed classrooms of today. Forty-seven young ladies, Juniors, arrived in the midst of all this activity to start their business education. With true pioneering spirit they pitched in when they heard the school inspector was coming. With help walls were painted — floors were scrubbed — everything was dusted. The inspector was impressed.

1947 The Centenary year of St. Joseph Parish was ushered in on New Year's Day with a midnight Holy Hour, with prayers of thanks for the past and of petition





**Solemn Pontifical Mass on Decoration Day in Centenary Year of 1947**

for the future. This was just the beginning of a year spotted with many celebrations. This first day was doubly blessed with a solemn High Mass in the morning.

In February a two week Mission was held, with a week for the married people and a week for the singles.

March 17 and 19, Solemn High Masses were offered on the feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph.

May 30, Decoration Day, was the high spot of the year's celebration when a solemn Pontifical High Mass was offered in the presence of Archbishop John T. McNicholas, with Bishop George Rehring as celebrant. The choir from St. Charles Seminary sang. With an eloquent sermon by Very Reverend Joseph Marling, Provincial of the Precious Blood Fathers, there was worship and pageantry at its finest.

June 8, witnessed two graduations. Following the Solemn High Mass in the morning, the eighth graders had their special ceremony. The first class to graduate from St. Joseph Commercial High School received their diplomas in the afternoon at the Dayton Art Institute. All the high school graduates had jobs assigned already in April.

In July, Father Kreinbrink was replaced by Father Howard Lesch.

Special solemnity was shown on the Feast of the Precious Blood, July 1, and for the Forty Hours Devotions in September. October 9 a Centenary Homecoming Dance was held at Lakeside Park with music by Carmen Cavallaro and his band.

Thanksgiving Day, November 27, was a homecoming day for the Sisters. Starting with Mass at 10:00, with a dinner and open-house, it was a day to honor all the Sisters



**Father Howard Lesch**



who were daughters of the parish or who had taught in St. Joseph schools during the past ninety years. They had given their best for three and four generations of our members and our history could not have been so glorious without them.

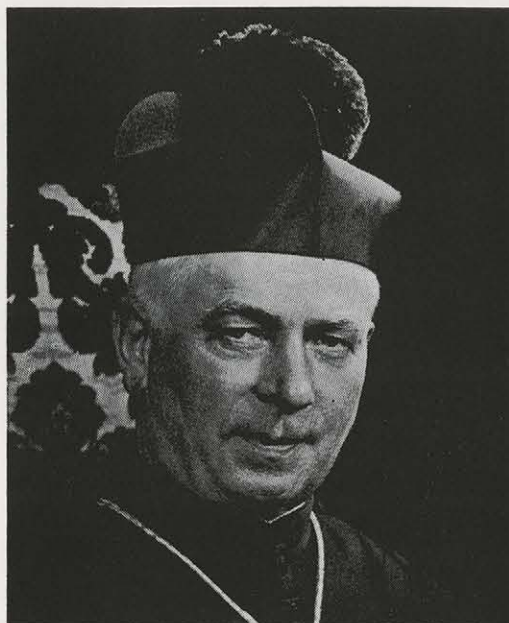
1948 In April, the American Provincial headquarters of the Fathers of the Precious Blood, was transferred from St. Charles Seminary, Carthagen, to St. Joseph Church in Dayton. The third floor of the rectory was revamped as office space and living quarters for Father Provincial, Seraphin Oberhauser and the Provincial Secretary, Father Cletus Foltz.

1949 In September, Father John Kraus was transferred to a pastorate in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Father Henry Langhals came as the new pastor. Father Norbert Sweeterman was added to the staff as part time assistant to the parish and part time assistant in the Provincial office.



**Father Henry Langhals**

1950 The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, Bishop of Toledo, was elevated to Archiepiscopal dignity and promoted to the See of Cincinnati on June 21. Installed on September 26, he directed the Archdiocese for nearly two decades of years. He retired from office on July 23, 1969.



**Archbishop Karl J. Alter**

1951 Father Howard Lesch entered the Air Force to be succeeded by Father Russell Friedrichsen.

During the next years much work was done on the buildings. The church, rectory and school were tuck-pointed. The sanctuary was redecorated. The ground floor of the rectory was remodeled to provide classrooms for the growing high school. These rooms served well for convert classes.

Father Sweeterman was replaced in turn by Father John Hoorman and then by Father Richard Woytych.

Properties were being gradually bought up around the school to provide space for an addition to the High School.

1954 June 11 was a great day for the Precious Blood Fathers. Their founder, Gaspar del Bufalo was canonized as Saint Gaspar by Pope Pius XII. Many of the priests, Brothers and Sisters of the Precious Blood made the journey to Rome to attend this solemn ceremony. Celebrations were held in all the institutions of the communities and in all places where the members served. Saint Gaspar now belonged to the whole Church.

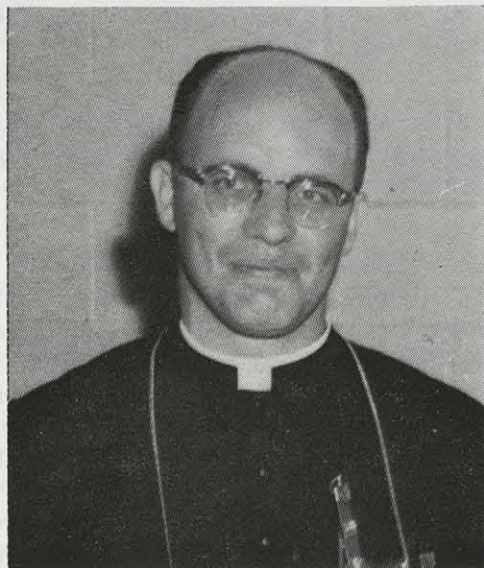




**St. Gaspar del Bufalo**

1955-56 Father Carl Wise replaced Father Raymond Gatz as assistant. These two priests in their turn were most zealous and most successful in recruiting and instructing converts to the Faith. The St. Paul Guild was established for continuing instruction of these converts.

The church was redecorated and new lights were installed. With these new lights a promise was made and is still kept today, that the church would never be dark again, lights are always burning whenever the church is open.



**Father Carl Wise**

1957 May 30, there was a grand celebration of the centenary of the Sisters of Charity working in St. Joseph Parish. More than one hundred sixty Sisters attended the festivities.

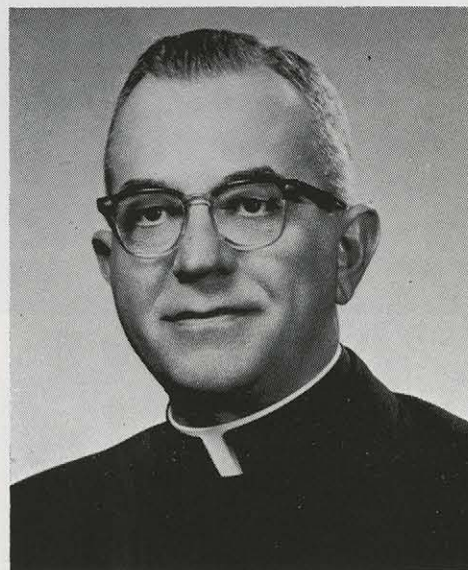
1958 The big interest for this year was the big addition to the High School. January 30 bids were opened making it possible to break ground February 13. The grade school which now had only sixty-three students was closed for good. This caused the loss of a number of families from the parish. Regrettable but unavoidable.

The new building was opened September 2, and dedicated on November 22. The additional room made it possible to admit Sophomores to the school, resulting in a better laid out plan of studies for the young ladies.

1959 A new entrance was constructed for the entrance of the old school building, and a new service entrance for the cafeteria.

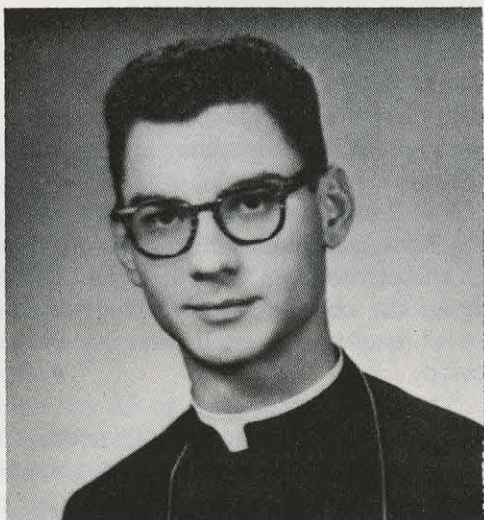
Father David Von Horn took up residence at St. Joseph to assist part time but mainly to pursue his studies in Art.

1960 During the summer, Father Henry Langhals, after eleven dedicated years at St. Joseph was reassigned by Father Provincial to St. Anthony Parish in Detroit. Father Carl Wise was also given a new assignment. Father Cletus Foltz became the new pastor assisted by Father William Beuth.



**Father Cletus Foltz**





**Father William Beuth**

Permission was received to add an evening Mass on Sundays to accommodate the overflow crowd from Sacred Heart parish and to assist in maintaining the budget. It would take effect on January 8th.

1961 As the financial pressure lightened, it was possible for Father Foltz to give attention to some of the renovations that had been postponed. The Communion rail was lowered to the bottom step of the sanctuary. It had been a constant worry because the multiple steps had resulted in a number of near serious falls. Other projects were the renovating the third floor of the convent, necessary re-carpeting hallways and stairwells in the rectory and adding to the garage facilities.

The Precious Blood Fathers were pledged to provide four priests as teachers for the new Carroll High School, with residence at St. Joseph. The first teacher arrived September 1 — with one to be added each year until the total of four would be reached.

1962 This was a year of many repairs. Roof tiles were replaced on the church and the crosses were goldplated. Downspouts were repaired. The convent was repainted inside and out. The rectory was repainted outside, and several rooms refurbished inside. The parapet on the old school was removed and entirely replaced.

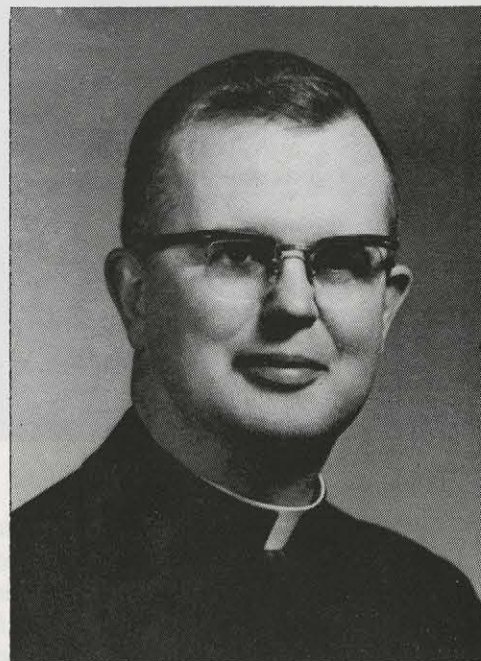
In June, Father William Beuth departed for the Precious Blood Missions in South America. Father John Bolan reported as the new assistant at St. Joseph.



**Father John Bolan**

1963 In August, Father Foltz was transferred to California for reasons of health. He had spent some time there when he was a chaplain in the service and knew the climate was better for him. He was succeeded by Father Robert Lux who returned to Dayton after teaching in Wisconsin for eight years.

The last public act of Monsignor Harry Ansbury, the Dean, and a son of St. Joseph Parish, was to install Father as pastor. Father Lux had served him as assistant at Corpus Christi parish from 1951 to 1955, where they became very good friends.



**Father Robert Lux**

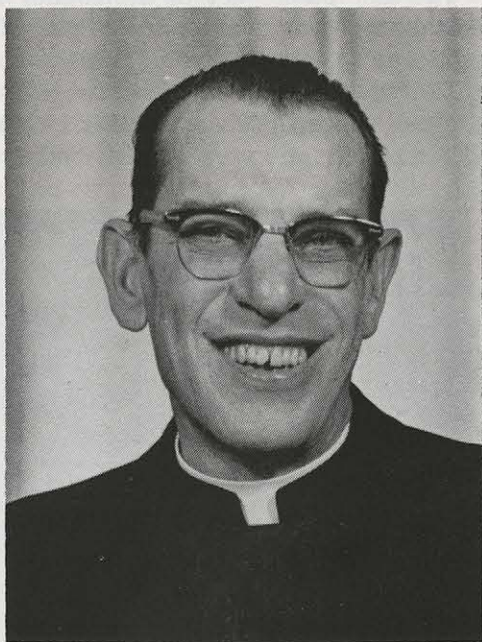


Before Christmas, the new carpets for the sanctuary, ordered by Father Foltz, arrived and were installed.

1964 Looking ahead to the summer when the fourth priest-teacher for Carroll High School would take up residence, adjustments had to be made for rooms. They would take over the entire third floor of the rectory. Each would have a private room and the large storage room would be revamped as a study area. To keep two rooms for guests the second-floor housekeeper's quarters were redone for the pastor's use. A large room on the first floor, with bathroom added would serve for a housekeeper.

In June, the windows on the front and east sides of the school and the front door were replaced. This completed the work of Father Foltz who had done the same for the west and south sides.

1965 March saw Father Fred Koch come as assistant pastor in place of Father Bolan who was assigned as chaplain for St. Elizabeth Hospital.



Father Fred Koch

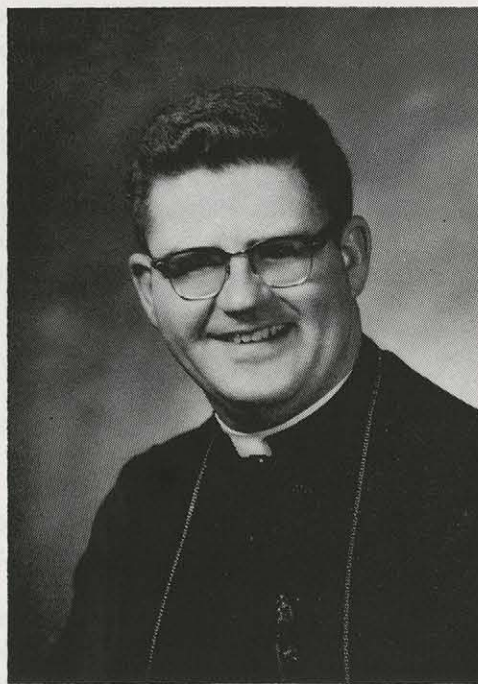
The beautiful and unique outside statue of St. Joseph the Worker was donated in April. The only cost to the parish was to provide the base on which to set it. Cars slow down and passersby stop to admire and to be inspired by our great patron Saint.

Permission to have Mass facing the people was received in July. The temporary Altar of Sacrifice was donated by a member of the parish in memory of his wife — this to be replaced by him later by the beautiful marble altar now in use.

The long range plan of renovating the old school building and the rectory began with the cafeteria in the school and the office area in the rectory. Some work was to be done at each place each year as the funds allowed.

The summer proved to be an exciting time for the Fathers of the Precious Blood. They gathered at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana, to vote through the plans that had been talked about for some time. The American Province of the Fathers was divided into three, with headquarters at Cincinnati, Ohio, Kansas City, Missouri and California. The group then divided and each elected its own provincial. Father Foltz, our former pastor, was elected for the West Coast Province.

1966 The feast of St. Patrick took on added solemnity when Bishop Edward McCarthy, Auxiliary of the Archdiocese offered the feastday Mass and gave the homily. It was the first time as far as the records show that a Bishop had graced the occasion of St. Patrick Day at St. Joseph.



Father William Dineen



Father William Dineen, C.P.P.S., son of William Dineen and Irene Mannix, was ordained on June 4, the first son of the parish to join the Fathers of the Precious Blood. He offered his first solemn Mass the following day. The beautiful gold vestments that had been donated to the parish by the Altar-Rosary Society arrived just in time to be used that day. Father volunteered for the Kansas City Province and was assigned as instructor in the minor seminary at Liberty, Missouri.

With permission of his Grace, Archbishop Karl Alter, our High School would open its doors to freshmen in the fall term. To prepare for this, the summer was spent in having a room in the old school building redone as a biology lab, to fulfill the science requirement for an accredited high school. The ceiling was lowered, sufficient lights were installed, and necessary equipment acquired. The remodeling of this room set the pattern for the gradual redoing of the other rooms.

The pressure was on for a new convent. Reverend Mother promised us two more Sisters if we could provide the place to house them. "There was no room in the inn." With the personal aid of Bishop Edward McCarthy every possibility was investigated. A new convent was the only answer. The annual festival and the generosity of parishioners and friends would have to finance it. It was placed in the hands of the architect.

In September, one hundred and three freshmen entered our school, bringing the enrollment to three hundred twenty-two — quite an improvement over the two hundred and twenty-four we had.

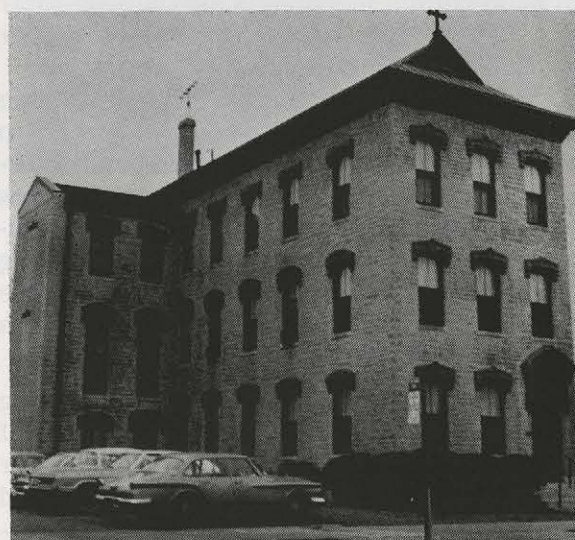


**Enlarged Enrollment in Remodeled School.**

In October the first draft of plans for the convent were in the hands of the Archdiocesan Building Commission. The drive for finances was on. The parish was not allowed to put on a public drive because of the many drives already being conducted. Personal contact and letter were the only means open. But as happened throughout the history of St. Joseph Parish, when the chips were down, everyone pitched in and made the drive a success. St. Joseph is the only parish high school in the Dayton area.

1967 On March 8, the parish celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Father Lux's ordination to the priesthood. After the Solemn Mass the students put on an enjoyable program featuring, "This Is Your Life."

March 19, feast of St. Joseph, was the one hundred tenth anniversary of the Sisters of Charity at St. Joseph. It was a day of mixed emotions, happiness at the anniversary, and sadness knowing this was to be the last Mass celebrated in the old convent, which had seen so much dedication and love in eighty years of existence. The Sisters were scattered to several other convents to live until their new home would be complete.



**Last Days of the Old Convent**

The old convent was demolished June 14 and 15. The contractor came on the job July 3. The contract cost would be one hundred seventy thousand dollars — more than had been at first expected. But the delay of another year would add as much as thirty thousand dollars.



During the summer, the dishwashing area of the school cafeteria was completely replaced, the old washer had finally broken down.

The marble Altar of Sacrifice arrived and was installed in September. It matched well with the altars already in the sanctuary.

On the fourth Sunday of October, an evening Mass was offered in Spanish for Cuban exiles and others of Spanish blood. It has been continued on a once a month basis. Father Paul Buehler, C.P.P.S., and Father Milton Ballor, C.P.P.S., of Precious Blood Parish, offer the Mass, hear confessions and preach in Spanish — both had been in the South American Missions for a number of years.

The Sisters and the priests were daily visitors to the site of the new convent. They probably got to know most of the bricks and the boards that went into the building. The construction moved along well. Although the dry weather was hard on growing things, it was ideal for building.

1968 St. Patrick's Day was a "three star" day. Bishop Edward McCarthy first blessed the new convent, which was completed but not fully furnished. Following this, in church he consecrated the new Altar of Sacrifice followed by the Mass in honor of St. Patrick — an event-packed day.

The Sisters were in on all the planning of the convent and were now called on to choose the furnishings. A professional decorator helped them to choose furniture, drapes and carpet. The only thing the Pastor insisted on was variety and color and avoiding the institutional look. The Sisters were able to move in by the end of April and share in the first Mass in their chapel on May 1.

Another big event in a year of big events was the ordination in our church of Father LeRoy Moreeuw, C.P.P.S., and Father John Herber, C.P.P.S., May 18. They had taken up residence at St. Joseph while teaching at Carroll High School. At their request they were ordained here by Bishop Edward McCarthy. A dinner and reception followed. A bit of whimsy that everyone enjoyed was Father Herber handing out cigars with a label on each saying "It's a Priest."

During the summer a new ceiling was hung and new drapes were added to the school dining room.



Ordination Day at St. Joseph's



Father John Herber, Father John Byrne, Bishop Edward McCarthy, and Father LeRoy Moreeuw.

Father George Albers, C.P.P.S., came to St. Joseph to be full-time instructor in our own high school.

1969 In June Father Fred Koch left St. Joseph to become pastor in McQuady, Kentucky. We missed his great sense of humor, his deep bass voice and his sermons. The affection for him was shown by the number of people who would make the trip to Kentucky to see him. At the same time the priest-teachers gave up residence at St. Joseph except for Father Edward Martock who became the new associate pastor. The big house took on a new note of quiet and at times loneliness when the residents suddenly dropped from six to two.

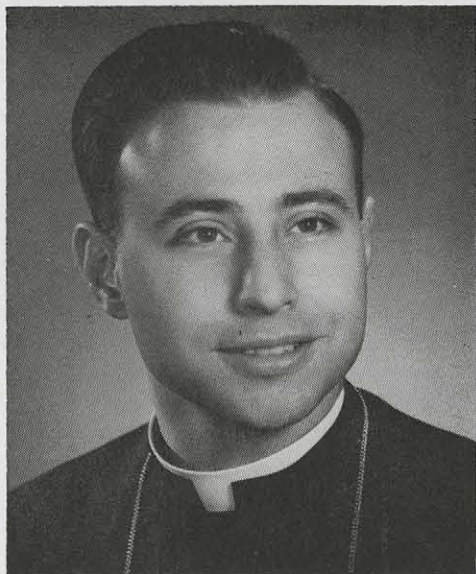




**Archbishop Paul F. Leibold**

Archbishop Karl Alter resigned July 23. Bishop Paul Leibold, formerly Auxiliary in the Archdiocese, returned as the new Archbishop. Bishop Edward McCarthy left in August to establish the new diocese of Phoenix, Arizona.

In September repairs were made on the stained glass windows in church. Dangerous bulges were flattened, lead reset and braces



**Father Edward Martoch**

put in as necessary. A family of the parish donated the cost of the operation in memory of their husband and father.

Trying to clean the Stations of the Cross, it was found the old paint crumbled. There was no evidence of any paint except the original from 1897. After considering the cost of a repaint job, it was decided to use our local rectory talent. Everyone seemed well satisfied with the results.

1970 St. Patrick's Day was brightened by the presence of Archbishop Paul Leibold. One of his great-grandmothers was Irish and he was proud of the fact and took great delight in the celebration. A group of little children from Holy Trinity, his home parish, came up at the offertory and gave him pictures and stories they had written for the day.



The gradual redecorating of the old school and the rectory continues. It is hoped that it will be completed for the one hundred twenty-fifth Jubilee Year in 1972.

1971 Archbishop Nicholas Elko, came to the Archdiocese, August 10 as Auxiliary Archbishop. Father Richard DeCavitt, C.P.P.S., new chaplain for the Dayton Mental Health Center took up residence in St. Joseph rectory. For Christmas, a new setting was made for the Nativity scene in Church and the statues were repainted by the rectory talent.

1972 Plans were formulated for a year of celebration of St. Joseph's one hundred twenty-five years of worship and education. The year would start on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1972 and conclude on March 17, 1973, feast of St. Patrick.



As a starter for the year, the church organ was completely renovated. This was paid for by a bequest in a will leaving money for use within the church. The renovation of the old school was completed and there remained but one room to do in the rectory.

March 19, Archbishop Paul Leibold offered the all-parish Mass in honor of St. Joseph. In his sermon he recalled the history of the parish and the inter-relation between especially the young, of St. Joseph and Holy Trinity. He was not a stranger here.

At the luncheon following the Mass, the Archbishop and clergy, Mayor McGee of Dayton and his wife, Commissioners and representatives of the various parish organizations were present. Due to circumstances it was impossible to invite the entire parish. During the program that followed, the parish was presented with a flag that had flown over the National Capitol.

April 15, the first class to graduate from St. Joseph Commercial High School celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with a reunion.

On June 1, the parish lost a very good friend, Archbishop Paul Leibold died. We could not forget how just a few months before he had helped us open our Jubilee Year.

June 17, the parish had a picnic at the Knights of Columbus 500 Park. Although the weather reduced the crowd, those present made a most enthusiastic group.

July 2, Fathers of the Precious Blood gathered to celebrate their Patronal Feast and also to celebrate the thirty years they have been caring for St. Joseph Parish.

October 1 witnessed a first-time celebration for St. Joseph Parish. The Italian organizations of Dayton promoted a Festa San Giuseppe in old country style. It started as a day to make the Italians of the area aware of their heritage and what it has meant to the Dayton community. The day brought tears of remembrance to the older folks and smiles of revelation to the younger ones who had heard of a Festa but had never witnessed one.

A solemn procession started a block away from the church, with cross-bearer and acolytes, little girls in first Communion or



The Most Reverend Nicholas Elko (center), Auxiliary Archbishop of Cincinnati, led the parish in celebrating Festa San Giuseppe.

native dresses, flags, Mayor McGee and daughter, men carrying the statues with pride and dignity, Archbishop Nicholas Elko with Fathers Lux and Martoch flanked by the Knights, followed by a forty voice choir and a large delegation of the Blue Army of Mary.

After entering the church and placing the holy statues, all joined in offering the Mass in honor of St. Joseph. To the delight of the old timers, Archbishop Elko rounded out his sermon in English with a short sermon in Italian, the first time these people had heard their native tongue in a sermon in many a year. The wide grins and bobbing heads told their story.

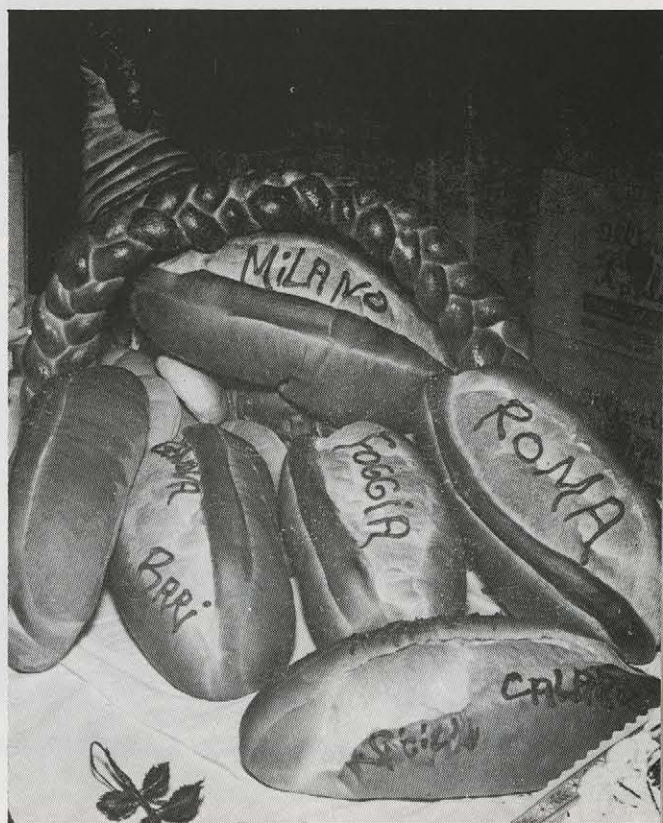
After the Mass everyone followed the statue bearers with their blessed burdens to the auditorium of the school where a shrine awaited them. The room had been fixed up like an Italian village square. There was a banana cart — a fruit stand — a bread counter — a booth where one could purchase canolis and cookies. Meals of spaghetti and Italian sausage were served throughout the day. An Italian artist displayed his handiwork. Nostalgia no end. There were two showings of a movie about Padre Pio, the stigmatist.

November 24, the day after Thanksgiving, a day for the Sisters was celebrated. Daughters of the parish, former teachers, and students who are now religious came forty-three strong. They shared in Holy Mass at noon, followed by a good dinner and exchange of many memories.





FESTA  
SAN  
GIUSEPPE



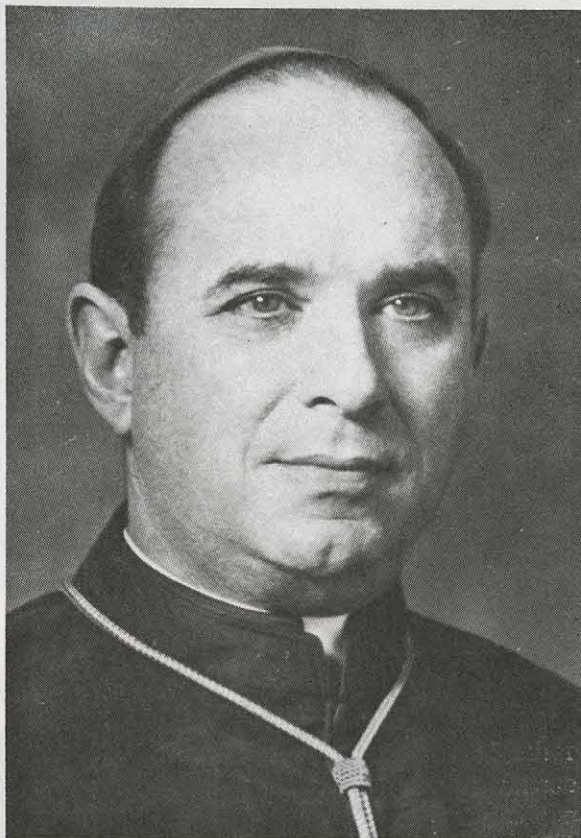




SISTERS' DAY — NOVEMBER 24, 1972







**THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH L. BERNARDIN**  
Archbishop of Cincinnati

December 19, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin was installed in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. We have always been blessed with good leaders and we feel we have another sign of God's blessing.

1973 On St. Patrick's Day, this Year of Jubilees, came to an official close. It was becoming that the Irish who started the parish should be the ones to give the finishing touch to this outstanding year.

The day started with the traditional noonday Mass. It was offered by Bishop Thomas Drury with six priests concelebrating. Bishop Drury, a native of County Sligo, had served as chaplain at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base from 1954 to 1955. During this time he was an active member of the local Hibernian Division. He also served as Ohio AOH chaplain. He retained his membership in this division over the years. He is now Bishop of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Following the Mass there was a delightful movie, "Flight of the Doves," shown in the school. It was commercially produced in Ireland, with scenes and song and story enjoyed by young and old alike.

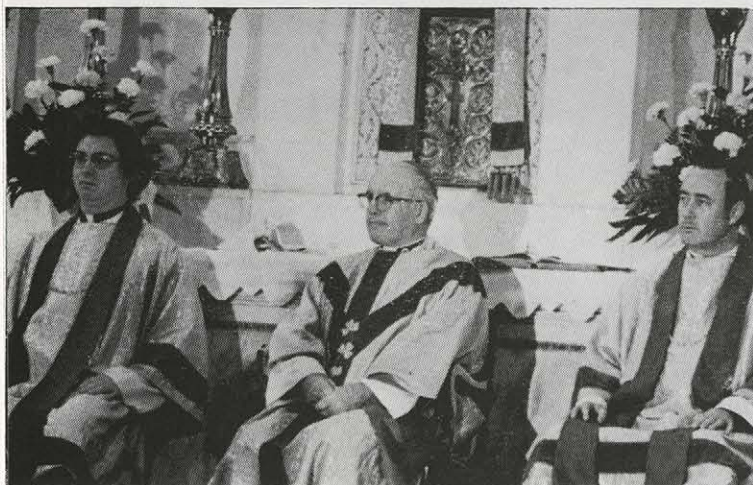
The day's celebration was rounded out with the traditional banquet held in our High School gymnasium. The men topped with their green "skillaras" or green derbies and the ladies bedecked with green leis, enjoyed a delicious dinner, fine speeches and the talents of the Hibernian dancers. Bishop Drury gave an eloquent address on the history of the Irish and the troubles. It was an elegant celebration, to end an elegant year.

Not mentioned by any specific celebration, but included in all of them, was the one hundredth anniversary of the old school building in 1973. The tens of thousands who were educated in its elementary years, the thousands who have graduated into the business world in its twenty-six years as a commercial high school are a tribute to the parish's efforts in providing the best in education. With the first classes held in the original church, to be followed by the Academy run by the Sisters and then this venerable old building, the parish has a proud record of one hundred twenty-five years of Christian education and worship.



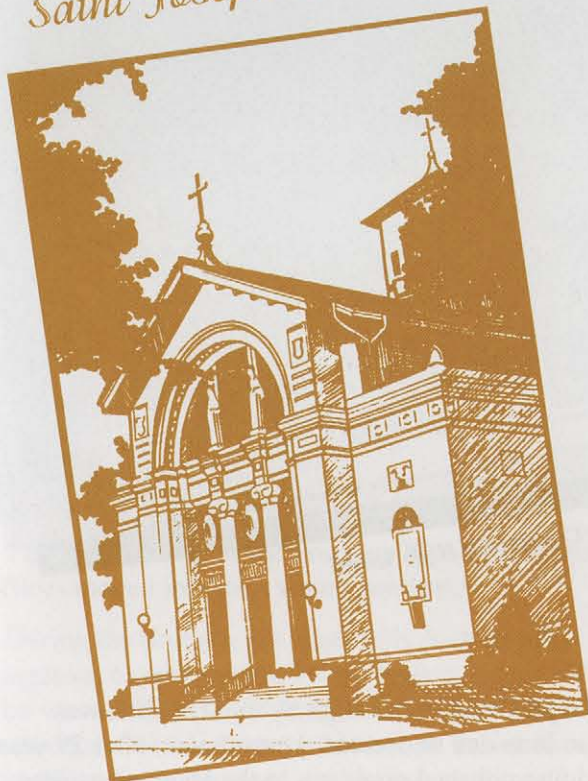


St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1973 and the Close of the YEAR OF JUBILEES.

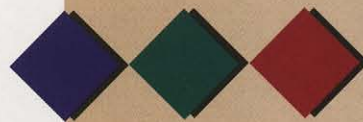




*Saint Joseph Church*



*150th Anniversary  
1847 - 1997*



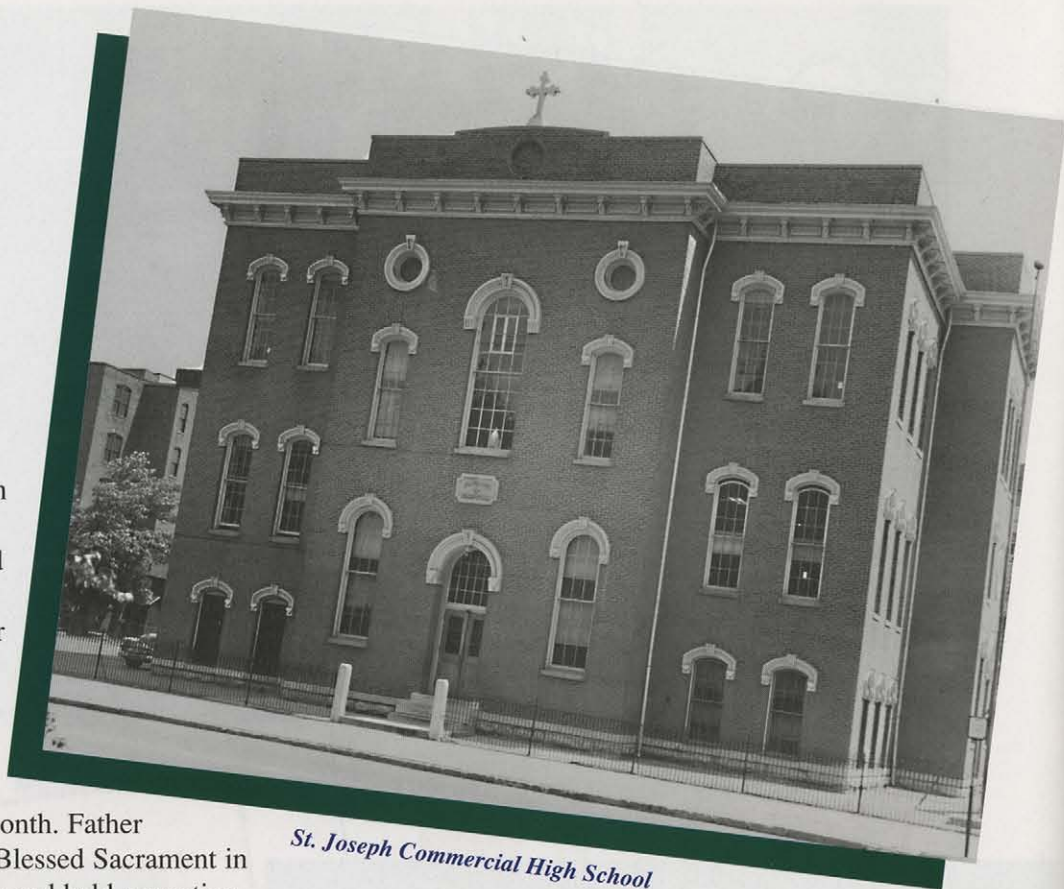
*You are cordially invited  
to join  
Most Reverend Carl K. Moeddel  
Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati  
and  
the parish family of  
Saint Joseph Church  
Dayton, Ohio  
for a jubilant celebration  
commemorating the 150th Anniversary  
of Saint Joseph Church  
Sunday, November 23, 1997  
Mass at 12:00 noon*



1973

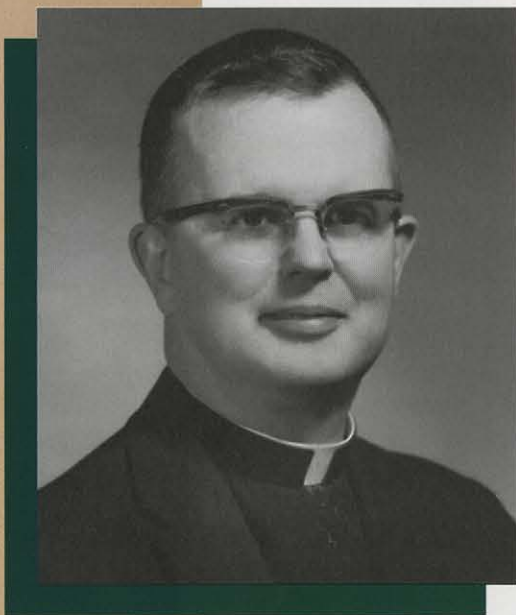
Sister Katherine Hoelscher, SC was appointed principal of St. Joseph Commercial High School in September. The parish had continued to grow steadily through the years with 315 families registered this year compared to 180 families registered in 1963.

Cor Jesu (Heart of Jesus) Padre Pio Prayer Group, continued to gather for communal prayer every month. Father Lux arranged for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church at 7:30 every First Friday and held a meeting in the school cafeteria after the Holy Hour. Auxiliary Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko, and Father Lux were the spiritual directors of this new Padre Pio Prayer Group which began in November, 1972. It was registered in Italy, at San Giovanni Rotondo, headquarters for the International Padre Pio Prayer Groups.



*St. Joseph Commercial High School*

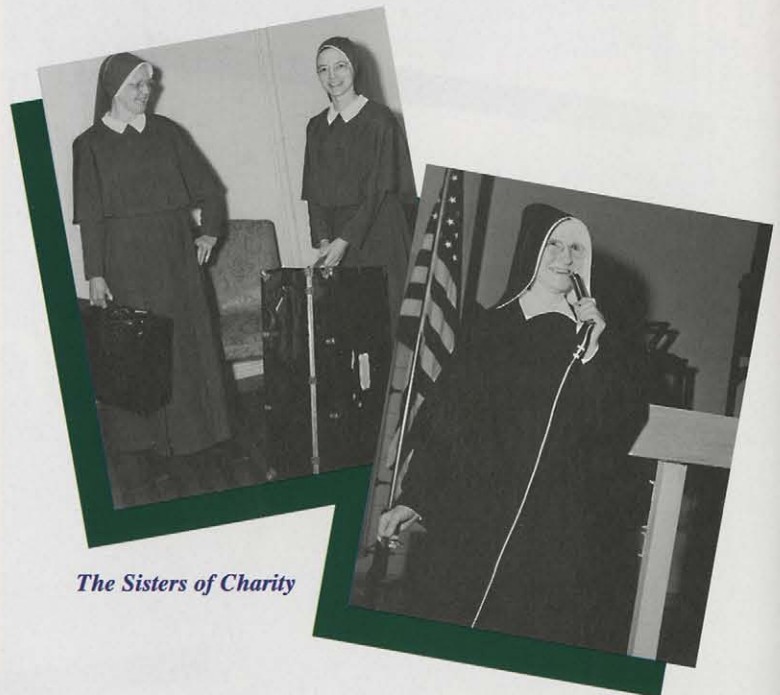
St. Joseph Commercial High School for Girls was closed in June due to decreased enrollment, after 29 years of providing polished graduates to the Dayton business community. It was the cause of much sadness for the students, faculty, and parish. The Sisters of Charity had serviced St. Joseph Parish for years. Their presence was to be direly missed in the parish.



*Father Robert Lux, C.P.P.S.*

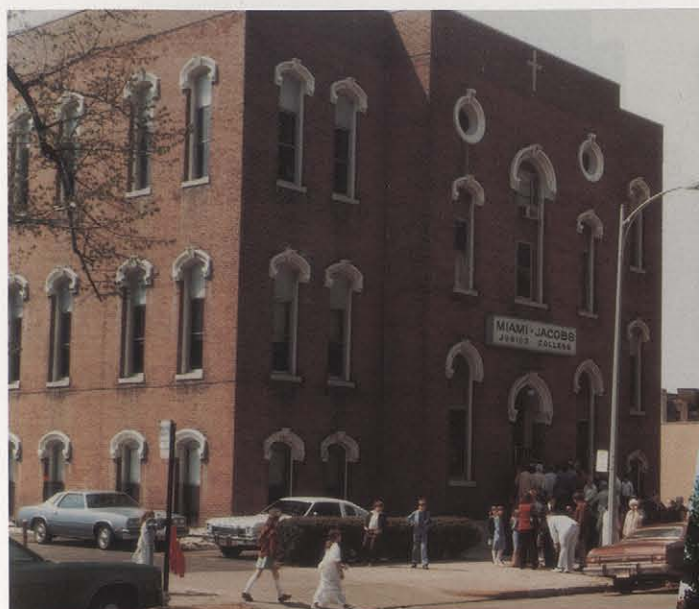
1974

Father Lux converted the basement meeting room of the rectory into a mini-chapel so that Cor Jesu could hold its monthly Holy Hour in a smaller space.



*The Sisters of Charity*





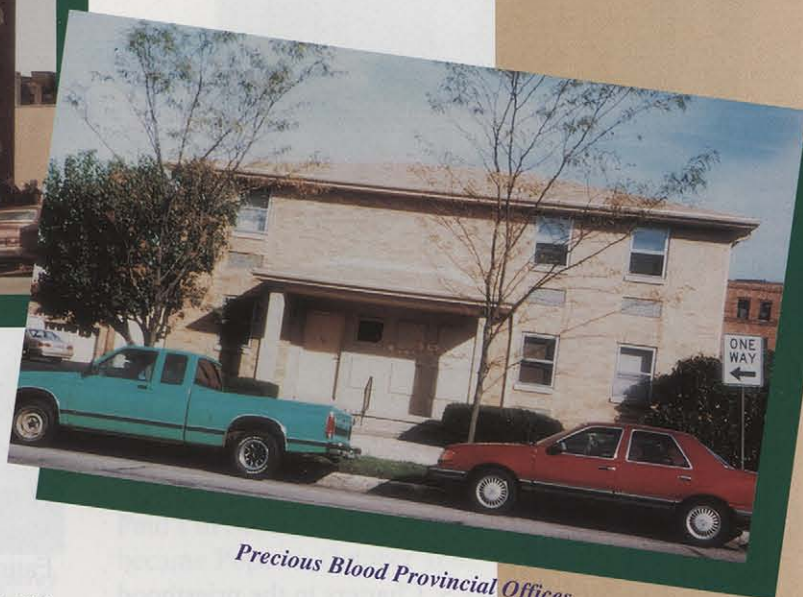
*Miami Jacobs Business College*

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood Provincial Offices moved into the vacated convent.

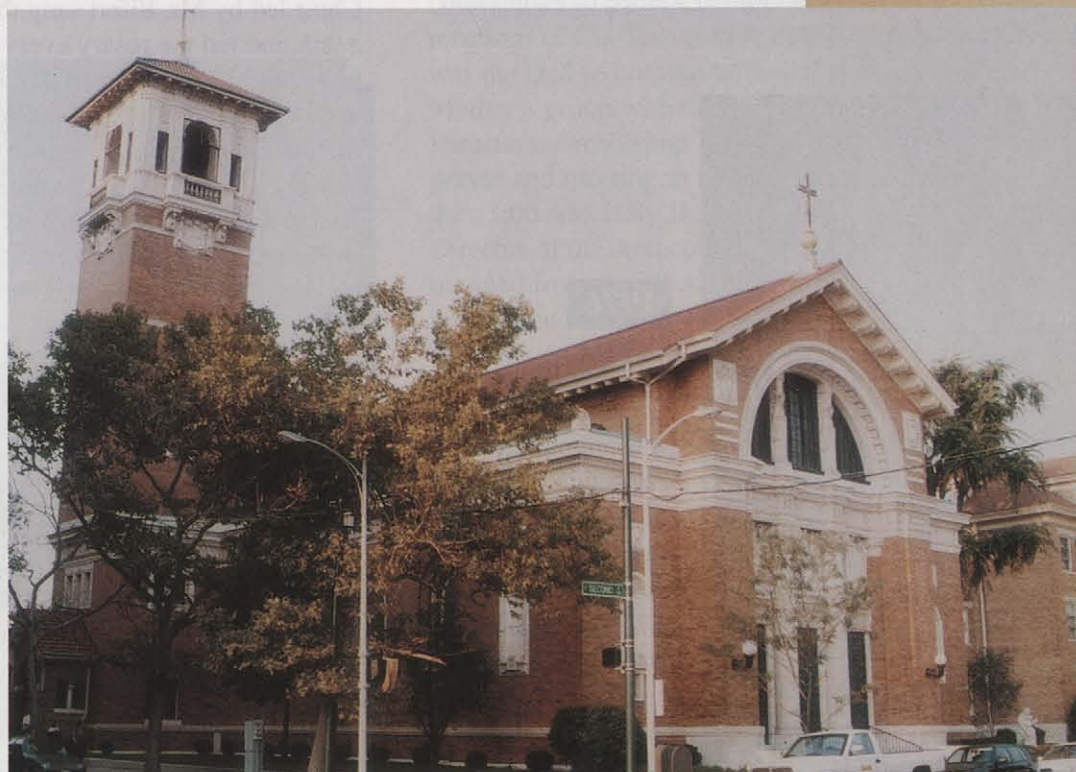
During the summer, we regretfully bade goodbye to our congenial, capable pastor, Father Robert J. Lux, C.P.P.S. who was assigned to St. James the Less Parish in Columbus, OH after serving St. Joseph Parish for eleven faithful years. In his stead, Father Joseph Zimerle, C.P.P.S. was appointed pastor and oversaw the school changeover.

In the fall, Miami Jacobs Business College began leasing the vacated school building, moving from their long standing downtown site on Ludlow Street which was demolished to make room for the new Elder-Beerman Store.

This year brought many changes to St. Joseph Parish. Even the church bells began to ring again after so many years of being silent due to disrepair. The I. T. Verdin Co. of Cincinnati initiated the repairs at a cost of \$4,482.90

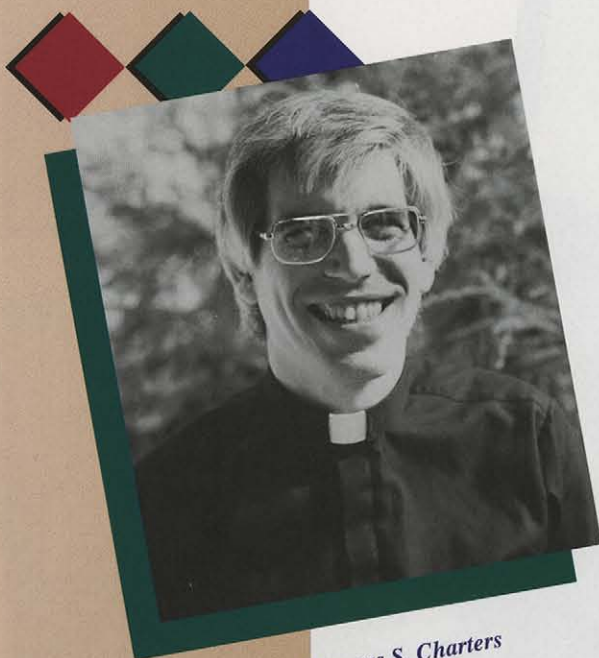


*Precious Blood Provincial Offices*



*The Bells of St. Joseph*





*Father Thomas S. Charters*

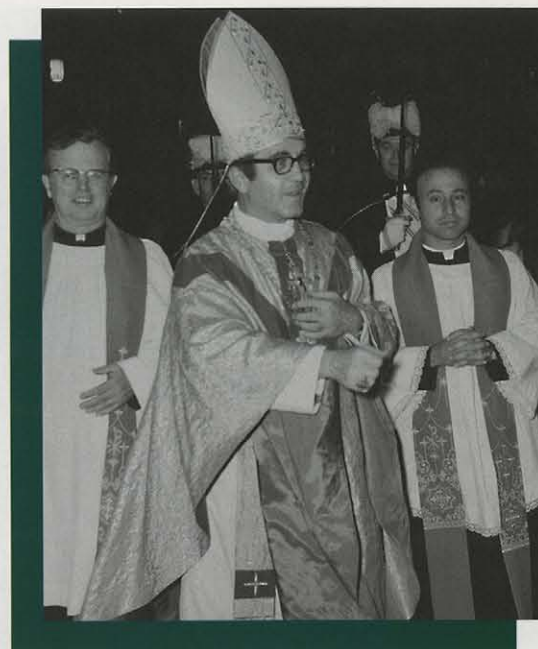
**1975**

The ordination of Thomas S. Charters to the priesthood by Cincinnati Auxiliary Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko was a joyful parish celebration on May 17th. Father Charters is a member of The Glenmary Home Missioners. A daughter of the parish, Sister Mary Immaculate (McCarthy) celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Profession in the Sisters of Charity this year.



**1976**

Father Raymond Grevenkamp, C.P.P.S. was appointed Associate Pastor of the parish in November.



*Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko*

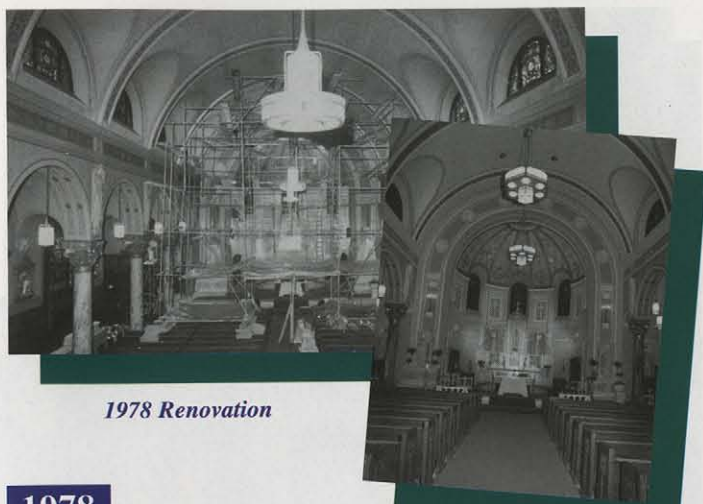
**1977**

In October, St. Joseph Parish with the Regional Alliance of Italian Americans hosted the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue in the diocese for the whole month. The Fatima Statue with its custodian Mr. Al Williams from Austria, was welcomed on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, with a procession down Second Street. The Noon Sunday Liturgy was con-celebrated by Auxiliary Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko and Father Zimerle, C.P.P.S and numerous other priests in the area. The All City Catholic Choir led by Mr. Eifert sang the Mass. Mr. Williams gave a talk and led the rosary every hour on the hour. Food prepared by the Regional Alliance of Italian Americans was served in the school cafeteria. The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was scheduled into parish churches, schools, and hospitals throughout the Archdiocese, and The Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, OH during the month. It was the cause of many blessings to our parish and the whole Archdiocese.



The church as well as the parishioners encountered rejuvenation this year. The entire exterior of the church was steam cleaned and painted; the interior was completely rewired and lighting added; the roof and down spouts were repaired, new sewer lines installed, the parking lot was resurfaced, the rectory exterior was painted.





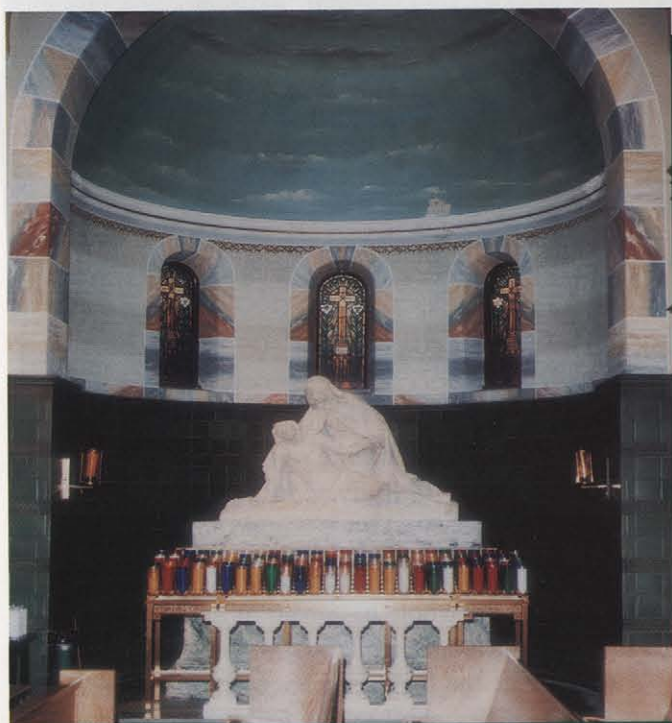
*1978 Renovation*

**1978**

When the Christmas decorations came down in January, the scaffolding went up to prepare for the renovation and painting that had been anticipated for months. Artist, Rino Mumphrey decorated the dome of the Sorrowful Mother Shrine and the St. Patrick niche. Upon completion in April, the dome above the altar had been completely refurbished and the entire church interior painted. Archbishop Joseph Bernardin celebrated a Mass in honor of St. Joseph the Worker in May and everyone was grateful for our beautiful St. Joseph Church.



*Artist, Rino Mumphrey*



*The Sorrowful Mother Shrine*



*Archbishop Joseph Bernardin*

Father Rocco Cosentino, C.P.P.S. was appointed Associate Pastor in August, and immediately began planning to re-inaugurate CCD classes for the children of the parish. The Roman Catholic Church was saddened by the death of Pope Paul VI in August and Pope John Paul I in September of this year. Pope John Paul II became Pope on October 16th.

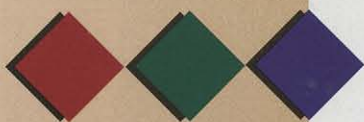
**1979**

The Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers was initiated in Dayton, at St. Joseph Church as a part of the outreach ministry of Cor Jesu Prayer Group. The daytime meetings of Cor Jesu on First Fridays had grown and it was decided to become affiliated with this International Mother's group with the approval of our Spiritual Directors, Archbishop Elko and our pastor. A Mother's prayer and meeting in the rectory meeting room preceded the 11:00 AM Holy Hour and noon Mass in Church. The Director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers traveled from the USA National Offices in Pittsburgh, presided at the installation of the St. Joseph Chapter of Christian Mothers, and facilitated a morning of renewal for the 200 mothers from various parishes, which gathered to initiate the movement in our city.

**1980**

A Morning of Renewal and Reflection was given by Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko on Ash Wednesday for the Cor Jesu and Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers. The invitation was issued to all women of the parish and parishes throughout the city. The Wright Patterson Air Force Base Women of The Chapel formed a choir and the church was filled for the Mass and the teaching on "Now is the Appointed Time to Become Ambassadors for Jesus Christ."





**1981**

The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, February 2, known also as Candlemas Day was celebrated by the blessing of the candles. The pure beeswax candles used on the altar throughout the year, the sanctuary lamp candle, and the candles used in the homes for the sick calls were blessed and distributed at Noon Mass. As is traditional in our parish, throats were blessed on this day following Mass.



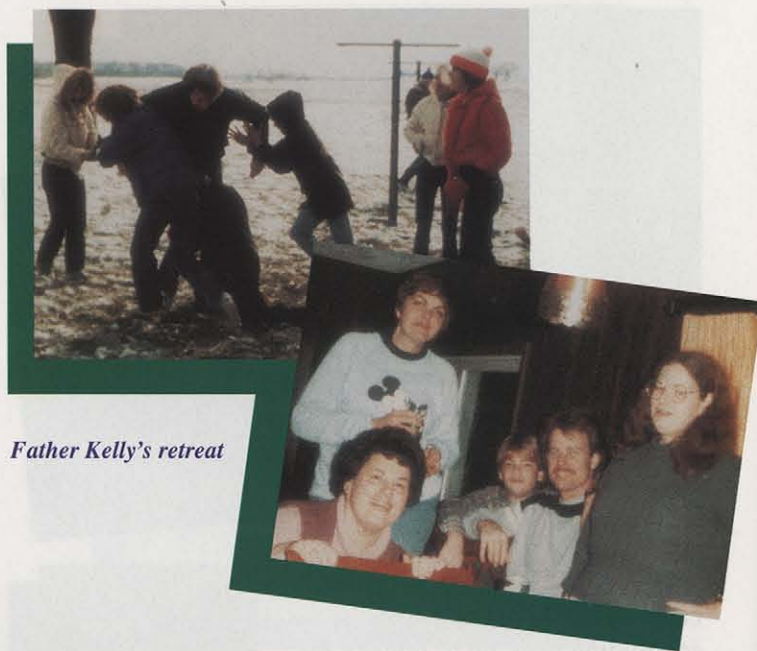
*St. Joseph's Day Table was held in the School Cafeteria*

**1982**

Father Luigi Gamburro, SM of Rome, Italy and Father Zimerle con-celebrated an Italian Mass in honor of St. Joseph in March sponsored by the Regional Alliance of Italian Americans and St. Joseph Parish to celebrate our patron and families. A St. Joseph's Day Table was held in the School Cafeteria following the Mass. St. Joseph Parishioners joined with the Regional Alliance to celebrate our Parish Patron and Patron of the Universal Church.

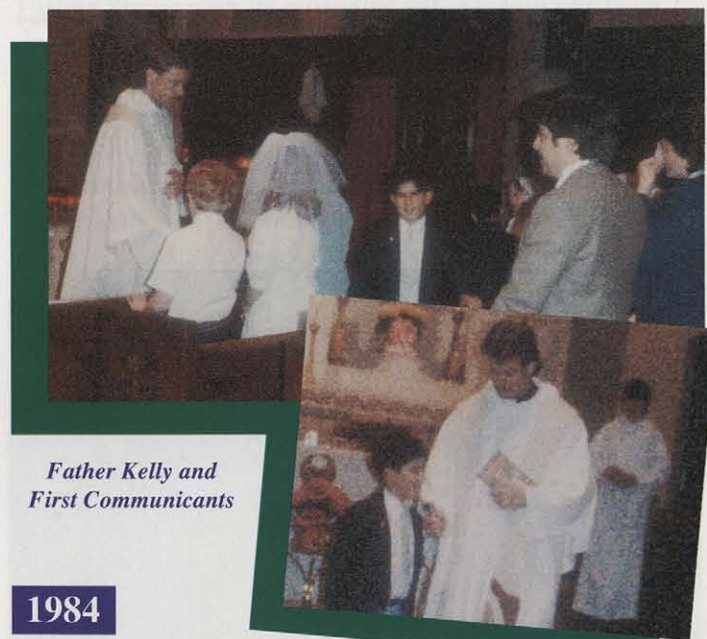
**1983**

The big news of the year was that the Kilgen Organ purchased for St. Joseph Church in 1927 was updated and refurbished to the delight of the organist Rose Gysbers and all the parishioners.



*Father Kelly's retreat*

Father David Kelly, C.P.P.S. conducted a parish youth retreat. About 35 youth, ages 10-16, a couple of parents and a cook, traveled to Greenville, OH to a "chicken farm" in the middle of an ice storm for a weekend of prayer, instruction, and fellowship, to say nothing of the hot dogs, potato chips and pasta dinners enjoyed by all.



*Father Kelly and First Communicants*

**1984**

The Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers and St. Joseph Parish hosted a Morning of Reflection series opened by Father David Kelly, C.P.P.S. Associate Pastor on Ash Wednesday.

By now the CCD program had grown to large proportions and the whole basement of the rectory was used for the program every Sunday from 9:00 AM till 10:15 AM. While the children were in class, learning scripture stories, acting out plays, and doing art projects that coincided with their lessons, the parents were enjoying coffee and discussion group in the rectory parlor.





*Father Zimerle, C.P.P.S.*

## 1985

Father Zimerle hosted a large dinner gathering in the rectory following a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko for the Archbishop Elko Foundation. St. Joseph Parish collaborated with Archbishop Elko in ministry to the poor, especially in the Appalachian blanket project.

In honor of St. Joseph, Cor Jesu sponsored a drive to gather mufflers and gloves for distribution at The House of Bread during the winter months.

## 1986

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrated their 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Order on May 4 with a Mass at St. Joseph Church.

The pews in the church were replaced at a cost of \$60,000 and the old pews were sold for use in homes, offices and other churches.

The Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers and Cor Jesu, made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation Shrine in Carey, OH. The First Friday Padre Pio Prayer Group name was changed from Cor Jesu to The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Faith Sharing Community in October.

## 1987

The rear entrance of the rectory was enclosed, providing protection from the snow and rain during inclement weather. Father Zimerle asked the Christian



Mothers Association to dye the eggs for the children's Easter baskets. When several members arrived on Good Friday morning, they were shown the 92 dozen of boiled eggs! There was a lot of scurrying and praying that morning to be finished by noon to go to services.

## 1988

Father Joseph Zimerle, C.P.P.S. retired in January due to declining health. His commitment and service to St. Joseph Parish during his fourteen year tenure will long be remembered by parishioners and friends whose lives he touched.

Father Richard Riedel, C.P.P.S. was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish and arrived on January 16, 1988 from Immaculate Conception Parish in Celina, OH.

Father Leo Fullenkamp, C.P.P.S. Associate Pastor here from 1980-82 died in March of this year.

## 1989

Father Joseph Zimerle celebrated his Golden Jubilee (50 years in the priesthood) on May 7 at Carthage, OH where he resided in retirement.

The Order of Hibernians of Dayton celebrated their 100th anniversary in May. The Dayton Chapter was chartered on May 15, 1889.

The purpose of the Order is to keep the heritage, traditions, and Catholic Faith of the Irish people alive and well in the USA.





## 1990

During the Gulf War Crisis special days of prayer were held at St. Joseph Church. Hundreds of Sacred Heart Badges and rosaries were sent to the troops serving in that crisis by the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Community and St. Joseph Parish.

A former pastor (1943), Father Edward VonderHaar, C.P.P.S. died in May at the age of 97 at Carthagenia.

Father Joseph Zimerle died on July 23, having pastored St. Joseph parish from June 1974-January 1988. Father's desire to continue St. Joseph's as a "beautiful house of God" was apparent in his many contributions to the upkeep and beautification of the property. He was

adamant about preserving the statues and sanctuary appointments as they had been for 125 years. His wonderful foresight in preserving the beautiful, "old" quality and appointments of the church is praised by many even in our day.

The statue of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.) was presented to the parish as a memorial for Father Zimerle on August 19. This order has served St. Joseph Parish since 1943.



St. Gaspar

## 1991

On January 29th, The Diploma of Aggregation was awarded to "Cor Jesu/Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Group constituted at St. Joseph Parish. It was duly recognized by the Archbishop of the Diocese of Cincinnati, and by the International Centre of Prayer Groups of Padre Pio, located in the House for the Relief of: Suffering, at San Giovanni Rotondo, Organization of Padre Pio, in the name of the Holy Father.

On March 19th, The Feast Day of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Parish and The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Community hosted a Day of Renewal and Reflection from 9:00 AM -4:00 PM with the replica of the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe in repose before the statue of St. Joseph.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Many hundreds of people visited our church and were present for the Holy Hour, Noon Mass, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day. Hundreds attended Mass and Adoration. It was a day of reconciliation and great blessings for all.

## 1992

The Parish Cluster meetings continued to meet. Many parishes were consolidated, but St. Joseph remains a single parish under the auspices of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.



## 1993

The 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood was noted

in February. Fathers

Kraus and Kreinbrink were the first Precious Blood priests assigned to St. Joseph Church. It was noted they worked long and hard to bring St. Joseph School back to a well functioning facility and institution of learning in 1943. The parish has been on the upsurge, with many former parishioners returning and new ones joining. The six o'clock Mass on Sunday evening has become very popular with the young adult Catholic crowd and is usually filled at that time. The 10:30 AM Mass on Sundays is filling up with the parishioners and visitors from many outlying areas.

## 1994

St. Joseph began an outreach to young people in September with an inquiry class that was facilitated at the University of Dayton. A series of videos were purchased to facilitate the study of the New Catechism and these were circulated in the parish following First Friday and First Saturday Noon Mass.

In August, new red carpet greeted parishioners and visitors to our church.

Father Francis Marinelli, a native son of the parish died in December.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Order in the USA in December, 1843. Father Francis DeSales Brunner, C.P.P.S. accepted the invitation of then Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati to come and serve the spiritual needs of German Catholic farmers settling in southern Mercer County. Carthagenia became the Motherhouse, from which our priests have come forth.

## 1995

A new gas furnace replaced the old steam heat in the church. A Family Holy Hour was held March through May, with families meeting one Sunday a month at 3:00PM for prayer and an inspirational video on prayer, and the teachings of the Church, provided by the Apostolate for Family Consecration. A library of videos was purchased and is circulated through families for them to hold Holy Hours and instruction in their homes.

We bid farewell to Bro. Leo Wasserman in August who was duly missed, not only for his creative decorative



*"Lamb of God"*



talents and love of smurfs and funny little dinosaurs, but for his hundreds of visits to the sick and shut ins of the parish, his accounting skills, not to mention his goofy jokes and caring good humor and friendly chats with all he met. He is still missed.

## 1996

Father Riedel blessed Sacred Heart Pictures and Statues at Sunday Mass before the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament had been instituted on Thursdays from 9:00 AM -7:00 PM with representatives of many parishes present to pray communally and privately for parishes during Exposition hours.



*The Sacred Heart Of Jesus*

It was announced, Father Riedel was to be transferred to Immaculate Conception Parish in Celina during the summer. He was honored with a farewell dinner at Neil's Heritage House in August. He is remembered fondly for his gentle, pastoral caring ways. Father gathered the flock at St. Joseph's in his laid back smiling pleasant style. The numbers attending and joining St. Joseph's gained steadily under his watchful gaze and special homiletic talents and his ministry in the sacrament of reconciliation. He is missed to this day. He is Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Celina.

Our new pastor, Father Louis Osterhage, C.P.P.S. arrived in August. We welcomed him and were soon to see the fruit of his planning skills. Since he has been here, the repairs and plans for refurbishing the rectory and church, installation of air conditioning and carpeting under the pews has been noted and appreciated by all. A reception to welcome him was organized and many parishioners visited the parish house to welcome him. We have appreciated the presence and teaching of Father Lou in his homilies, and increased hours of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Also present is Father George Blasick, C.P.P.S. a native of Youngstown, OH. Father George delights us all by sparking the liturgies with deep thought, reverence, and solid Catholic teaching. His presence and ministry is duly appreciated.



1997

As we began our 150th Jubilee Year, we formed various committees to help plan the big 150th anniversary celebration to be held on November 23rd, 1997.

Special events were planned to help keep us mindful of the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph Parish.

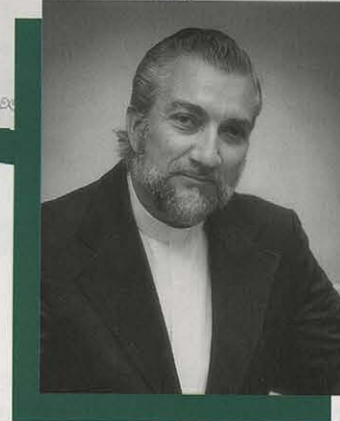
Father Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., Director of Vocations for the Cincinnati Province of the Society of the Precious Blood, enhanced our Sunday liturgies on May 8th by singing various prayers of the Mass normally recited by the priest celebrant. The Eucharistic Prayer was one of the prayers sung on this occasion. Everyone agreed that the manner in which Father Angelo presided at these liturgies was an inspiration to all.

In June, Father Louis arranged for each family to receive a beautiful 5x7 memorial picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for enthrone in their homes. He gave a meaningful homily of the meaning and benefits of enthrone Jesus as King in our homes. Father Lou was quite surprised at the number of people who chose to enthrone the picture of the Sacred Heart in their homes.

In July Father Robert Hunt, C.P.P.S. electrified the congregation gathered for the July 13th weekend liturgies with a very inspiring homily. His opening statement, "You are a disappointment to me" quickly got the attention of his listeners. It was a real treat also to see Father Hunt dressed in the cassock and wearing the large missionary cross once commonly worn by all the Precious Blood Fathers. Father Hunt's homily was such a hit that Father Lou had it taped and souvenir copies were made available for all the people of the parish and anyone else who desired to have a copy of his special and meaningful message.

In August the people of the parish focused their attention on the various feasts of our Blessed Mother. The people of St. Joseph have a special attachment to Mary and rightly so.

In September, emphasis was placed on angels and their importance in our lives. We were reminded that angels serve as another sign of God's love and care for us.



*Father Paul Schaaf, C.P.P.S.*

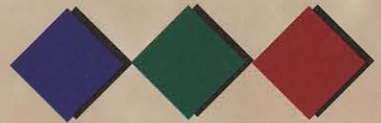
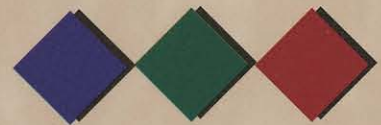
In October, Father Paul Schaaf, C.P.P.S. came to St. Joseph's to conduct a healing prayer service. A certain emphasis was placed on spiritual healing for which there is a need in the lives of all of us. Father Paul had dedicated his life to this special ministry over the last few years.

The final and formal Jubilee celebration was held on November 23rd, 1997. Most Rev. Carl K. Moedell, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, was principal celebrant of the noon Mass. Father Louis, and some of the former priests who ministered to the people of St. Joseph concelebrated the Mass with him. Leading the liturgical procession into the church were representatives of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Community and Padre Pio Prayer Group, The Order Sons of Italy In America, The Ancient Order of Hibernians, and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Following the Mass a formal dinner was enjoyed by all at the Mandalay Banquet Center. The men's choir from St. John the Baptist Church, Glandorf, Ohio provided the entertainment.

St. Joseph's has undergone many changes throughout its 150 year history. However, the one thing that has remained constant throughout the years is the deep faith of its members. It is our hope and prayer that this same type of deep faith will be passed on to future generations.









## *Prayer to Saint Joseph*

*O GLORIOUS St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to  
you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your  
powerful intercession in obtaining from the Merciful and Loving  
Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our  
spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly for the  
grace of a happy death, peace in the world  
and our families, and the special favor we now implore.  
O Guardian of the Word Incarnate, and Spouse of the  
Immaculate Virgin Mary, Pray for us.*

*Amen.*