

July 2018

History of St. Mary Church, Dayton, Ohio. Volume I - 1859-1944 (Issued in 1944). Volume II - 1944-1959

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HISTORY

of

St. Mary Church

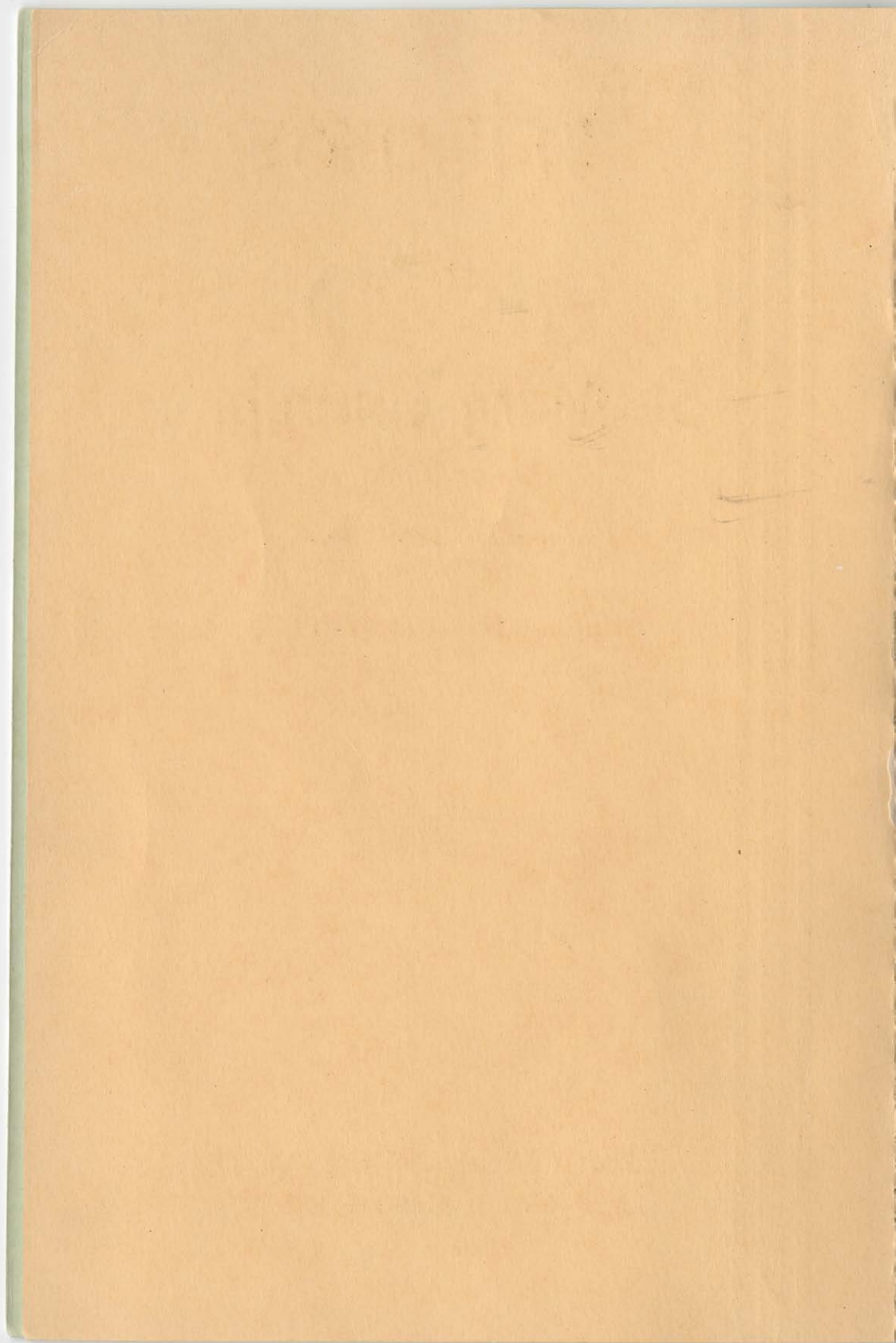
Dayton, Ohio

Volume I—1859-1944
(Issued in 1944)

Volume II—1944-1959



RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR
BERNARD J. BECKMEYER
Pastor



HISTORY

of

St. Mary Church

Dayton, Ohio

Volume I—1859-1944

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Volume II—1944-1959



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RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR

BERNARD J. BECKMEYER

Pastor

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HISTORY

St. Mary Church

Dayton, Ohio

Volume I—1858-1914

(Printed in 1914)

Volume II—1914-1950



UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR

BERNARD J. BECKMEYER

Pastor

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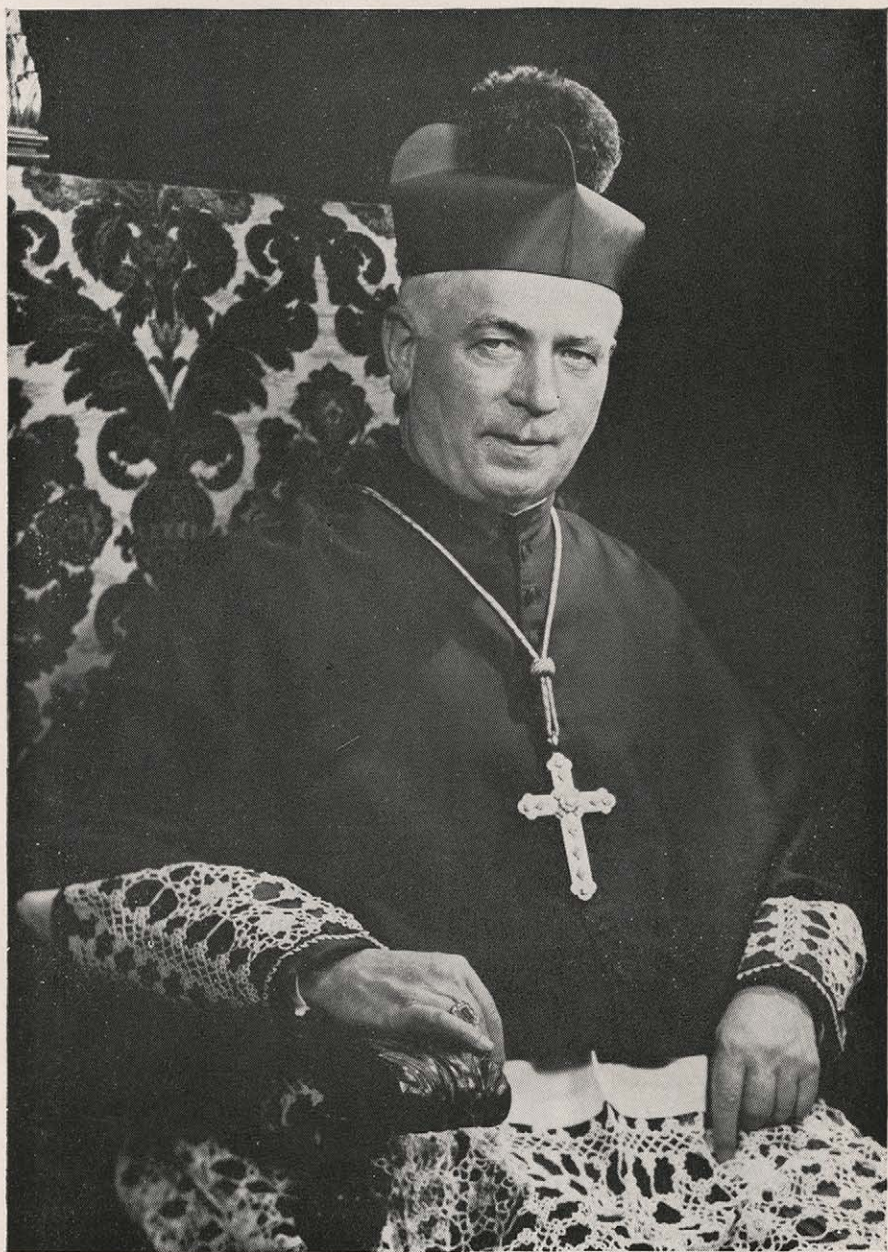
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POPE JOHN XXIII
Elected Pope, October 28, 1958



MOST REVEREND KARL J. ALTER, D.D.
Born August 18, 1885
Ordained June 4, 1910
Consecrated Bishop of Toledo June 17, 1931
Elected Archbishop of Cincinnati June 21, 1950
Installed September 26, 1950



MOST REVEREND PAUL F. LEIBOLD
Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati

Born December 22, 1914
Ordained May 18, 1940

Consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati June 17, 1958

History of St. Mary Church --- 1944-1959

The first volume of the history of St. Mary Congregation records the events from the beginning of the parish August, 1859, to January of 1944. In that year the entire indebtedness which, at one time was the amount of \$142,000, had been liquidated. This second volume gives the highlights of the history from 1944 to October 1, 1959.

1944: After the debt of the congregation had been paid January 1, 1944, attention could be paid to improvements which were especially necessary in the school. No First Aid Room was provided in either building. Today, in each building this room was added, unequalled in any school. In the Steele Avenue building a part of the office room was taken and equipped with bed, table, lamps, shower, washstand and a rest room. The terrazzo floor was covered with rugs. The room in the Xenia Avenue school building, second floor, formerly the book room, is provided in like manner. This room is a convenience for the many persons who come to the Information Center. In the latter a large religious article case and a built-in bookcase was added. The floors in all the classrooms in the Xenia Avenue and Steele Avenue buildings were covered with over 800 square yards of inlaid linoleum. All classrooms were painted, a book cupboard to provide for all books, particularly at the close of the school year, since all are on a rental basis, was built in the present music room, and a storage place was added above the boys' sacristy.

In the Steele Avenue school, on the first floor, new panels and doors replaced the heavy partitions and obsolete doors.

Thursday, May 3, 1944, the news was broadcast in the afternoon papers of the city of Dayton, of the elevation of Father Beckmeyer, pastor of St. Mary Church, to the dignity of a Domestic Prelate with the title, Right Reverend Monsignor. The first telegram received congratulating Father Beckmeyer upon his elevation was from His Excellency, The Most Reverend Frank A. Thill, Bishop of Salina. Within the next few days following the press and radio announcements of

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the great honor conferred upon Father Beckmeyer, hundreds of telegrams, letters, and cards of felicitation were received from Archbishops, Bishops, Monsignori, priests, relatives and friends. To prepare for the investiture was not a small task. The parish office room and Information Center became busy places. Within the weeks preceding the investiture, the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of St. John, and the Ladies' Auxiliary Drill Team held meetings, since each of these was to participate in the procession. Never before was the spirit of co-operation to make this day an eventful one, so great as was evidenced at this occasion.

By Saturday, June 3, the church decorations, which had been under way for more than a week, under the direction of Sister Clarina, had reached completion. The first guests to arrive from a distance was the Right Reverend Monsignor Louis J. Kemphues, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Memphis, Tennessee, a classmate and a brother and his wife of the Monsignor-elect arrived from San Francisco, California.

Finally the day, June 4, one that all looked forward to, dawned. Nature provided ideal weather, although the temperature hovered over the 90-degree mark.

At 9:30 a Solemn High Mass was offered. In the early afternoon the premises again became an active beehive of activity. Shortly after 3:00 P.M. the St. Joseph Orphanage Band arrived and the melodies of religious hymns were played. School children, over four hundred in number, and the priests assembled in the Steele Avenue and the Xenia Avenue school buildings respectively. At 3:45 P.M. the Most Reverend Archbishop arrived. At 4:00 P.M. three large bells of St. Mary pealed forth to announce the celebration was beginning.

The procession, headed by the cross bearer and acolytes who in turn were followed by the St. Joseph Orphanage Band, the school children, the Ladies' Auxiliary Drill Team, the Knights of St. John, and the visiting clergy, proceeded from the school yard into Steele Avenue, to Haynes Street, to Allen and past the rectory.

The Monsignori, the Monsignor-elect, escorted by two generals of the Knights of St. John—Joseph Keim and Anthony Boehmer, the Archbishop and his attendants entered the line of march at the rectory.

Along Steele Avenue, Allen Street, and Xenia Avenue, people

stood shoulder to shoulder, and even on the roofs of the buildings opposite the church. Persons witnessing this grand affair was estimated at 5,000.

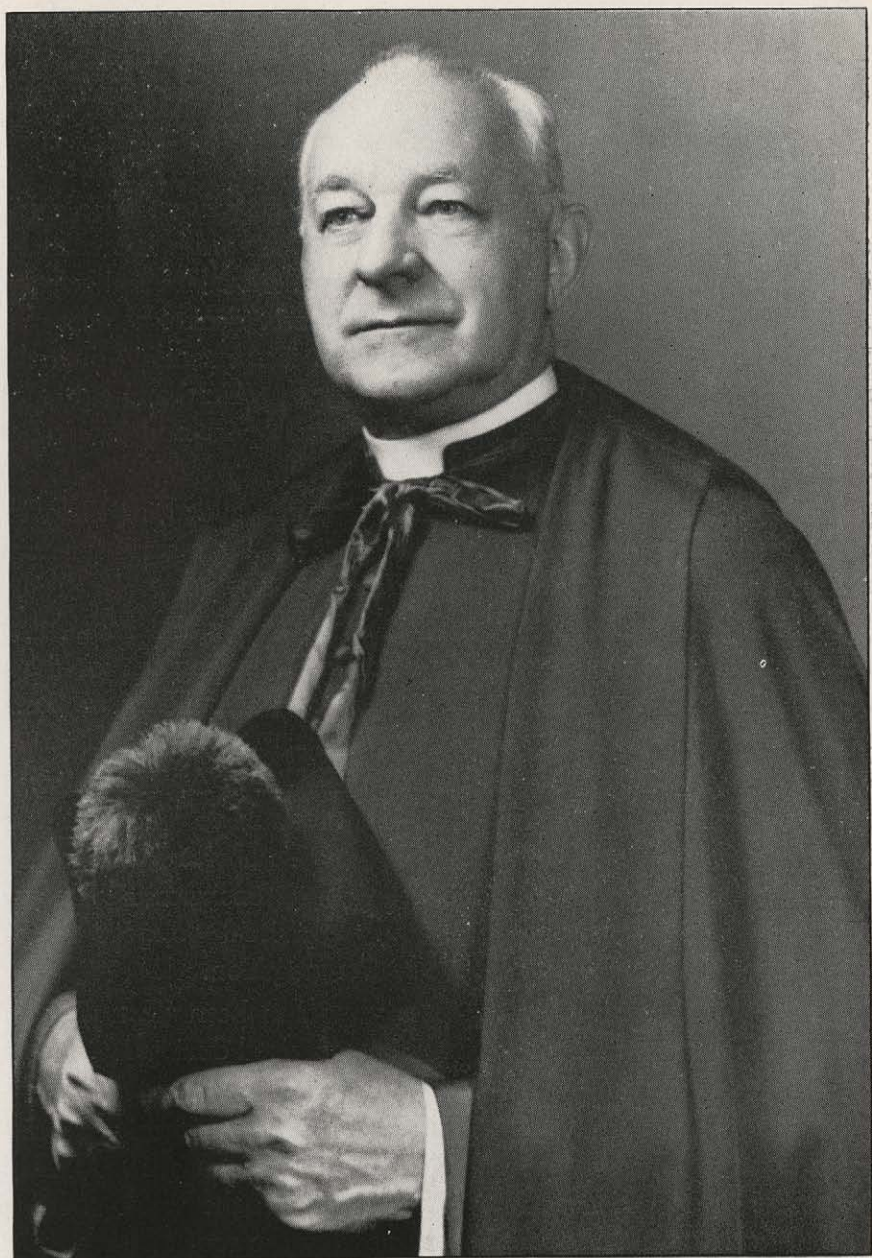
Arriving at the front of the church, the four hundred school children banked on the steps, and through the line of the Knights of St. John, the clergy and the Archbishop entered the beautifully decorated church. The altar was adorned with purple lights, with a large "M" monogrammed in candles. After the singing of the "Jubilate Deo" by the choir, under the direction of Joseph P. Geiger, Father Beckmeyer knelt at the throne before the Archbishop and made his profession of faith. The Archbishop then blessed the robes, giving minutest attention at the moment when he placed the rochet and the mantellata on the new Monsignor.

The Archbishop then spoke to the congregation and highly commended Monsignor Beckmeyer upon the successful work he had done in St. Mary Parish over the period of twenty-seven years as pastor, speaking particularly of his great interest in vocations to the priesthood and the religious state, of the many converts he had made, which number over five hundred, and of the yearly number of Communions of from 35,000 in 1917 to the peak of 155,500 in 1932, a record probably unsurpassed by another parish in the diocese considering the number of families.

Monsignor Beckmeyer then gave a brief talk, thanking the Holy Father and the Archbishop, through whose kindness he had been elevated to the Monsignorship, and expressing his appreciation to the congregation for the splendid co-operation received during his pastorate at Saint Mary.

Officers at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament were all boys who had been ordained to the priesthood during years of the Monsignor. Taking part in the celebration were eight Monsignori, and over seventy-five priests. A choir of over one hundred voices under the able direction of Professor Joseph P. Geiger rendered a magnificent program of music.

After the services, the Archbishop, the clergy, the relatives, ushers, and choir members were entertained at a banquet at the Biltmore Hotel. Thus ended one of the most outstanding events in the history of St. Mary parish.



RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR BERNARD J. BECKMEYER

Born May 27, 1877

Ordained June 21, 1900

Elevated to Rank of Rt. Rev. Monsignor May 3, 1944

Investiture June 4, 1944

1945: In the year 1945, \$6,000.00 was given by the people of St. Mary Parish for a Mission Chapel, many being established in the diocese by Archbishop John T. McNicholas. The chapel designated by the Archbishop for this magnificent gift was the church at Centerville named the Church of the Incarnation.

The Catholic Information Center, in three years had a small beginning, but the blessing of God was upon this work immediately. Equipped the first few months with two large oak tables and twenty-four armchairs, a large religious article case, and an oak pamphlet case and library were installed. The oak bulletin case extending over the entire width of the room and to the ceiling, was placed and equipped for films, and clippings from Catholic newspapers and magazines could be posted.

The entire room was painted and draperies added, at the windows. This represented an investment of \$5,000.00, a small financial investment when one thinks of the spiritual returns.

The old large doors to the four classrooms, music room, and first aid room were replaced during the summer, giving the lobbies a neat and inviting appearance of a modern school building, a warm color paint pleasing to the eye adorns the walls.

February 28, 1945, The Most Reverend Frank A. Thill, Bishop of Salina, Kansas, and a son of the parish ordained to the priesthood February 28, 1920, and consecrated Bishop October 10, 1938, celebrated his Silver Jubilee of his ordination. Monsignor Beckmeyer attended the celebration and presented a Spiritual Bouquet to the Bishop from the members of St. Mary Congregation.

Though the parish for the past years has been decreasing in number, the number of Holy Communions received during 1945 were 100,200.

In 1946 the church room and towers needed extensive repairs to ward off future inconveniences experienced Christmas, 1945, when mops were in operation at four in the morning; the water running down alongside the pillars, the heavy snow on the roof melting. The boilers and stokers, after many years of service, required many repairs to be ready for the fall and winter months.

All corridors, stairways in both school buildings, the children's dining room, the tunnelways, the fire escapes, and the iron fences



Catholic Information Center opened February, 1945 — A large oak religious case and bulletin board for films and clippings installed

were given a neat appearance by being painted. The near one hundred Norway maple trees around the spacious premises had grown out of proportion. Seven new trees were planted and the others depleted of dead and superfluous branches, thus the beauty was admired by all. The city forester remarked of these trees that, "they are the finest row of trees in the city of Dayton."

In the Information Center a projector inclosed in an oak cabinet had been installed, giving the advantage of religious pictures being shown to converts and particularly our summer school classes for non-Catholic children.

June 9, a Homecoming Celebration for all Ex-Service men was held. Over two hundred men met in the school yard at 7:30 A.M. The procession, headed by the Cross Bearer, Acolytes, Servers, Clergy, Knights of St. John Guard, started from the school yard to Xenia Avenue to Haynes Street to Allen Street, returned to Xenia and then proceeded into the Church. A Solemn High Mass of thanksgiving was offered by Monsignor Bernard J. Beckmeyer, assisted by Father Urban A. Wimmers as Deacon and Seminarian Robert Amann as Sub-Deacon. Seminarian Elmer Smith, Master of Ceremonies. The sermon was delivered by the Monsignor. All the men received Holy Communion. In the evening at 8:00 P.M. a welcome was given all Ex-Service Men which was a grand celebration. The Honorable Edward Breen, Mayor of the City of Dayton, was the guest speaker. Music and dancing were enjoyed.

November 26, 1946, the congregation suffered a heavy loss by the death of Ernest W. Mains, the sexton for over twenty years.

1947: During 1947, in the Church Hall a long intended improvement plan was completed. Restricted during the war years and two summers thereafter, lumber was not obtainable. Finally 1947 saw a remodeled Church Hall. For three months work was going on. Old floors were taken out. An excavation of nine inches, replaced by four inches of concrete sleepers, sheathing, tar paper and first grade of 6000 feet of maple flooring. Every precaution was taken to prevent buckling of the floor in the future as is the case in so many floors of this size. All new electric wiring was installed. The old was a real hazard, unbeknown to us, we can thank God that we have a church; painting, plastering, and plumbing was necessary in the

kitchen, a cement floor was added with cement slabs over the tunnel way wherein are the many pipes leading to the church and schools, new coverts were placed, additional loudspeakers as now the entire hall can be thrown into one or divided into three as occasions require. Fortunately we detected during the improvements termites had done destructive work in the former checkroom on the gospel side, Allen Street, of the transept, a serious damage would have been caused in a short time, the floor in the church giving way as some of the joists were nearing a sponge point, the work of termites. Today the parish has a hall which will serve the needs of the parish for many years.

Broken cement work in the school yard which had come to the danger point to the children was replaced.

Storm windows were added to the windows of the Information Center to preserve heat and which has resulted in an almost noiseless room despite the heavy traffic on Xenia Avenue.

1948: Though founded in 1859, a period of eighty-nine years, St. Mary Congregation never owned a Sisters residence. Prior to 1906 the Sisters had their own property and home on St. Joseph Avenue. Probably not to place a burden on the parish—as in the year the present church was erected—the Sisters built their own residence opposite the school, corner of Xenia and Steele Avenues. A four-year high school course was provided the children of the parish in 1917. The adjacent building on Xenia Avenue was purchased to provide for the additional numbers of Sisters required; in 1922 for protection, the vacant lot to the east was purchased. The three properties have a frontage of 124 feet on Xenia Avenue and a depth of 173 feet on Steele Avenue.

1948: In the fall of this year His Grace, The Most Rev. Archbishop, asked the congregation, through the pastor, to purchase the residence and the property of the Sisters. Conferring with the Rev. Mother General and her council a price was agreed upon; this was submitted to the Archbishop and permission was granted to acquire the Sisters' two residences, vacant lot and furnishings. Many improvements were made on the inside and the outside of the buildings.

During this year many extensive repairs were made upon the twin towers and the roof of the Xenia Avenue school building and the crosses were gilded. A new Rudd heater and water softener was

installed, a benefit to the married ladies who spend a great deal of time in the kitchen serving the children.

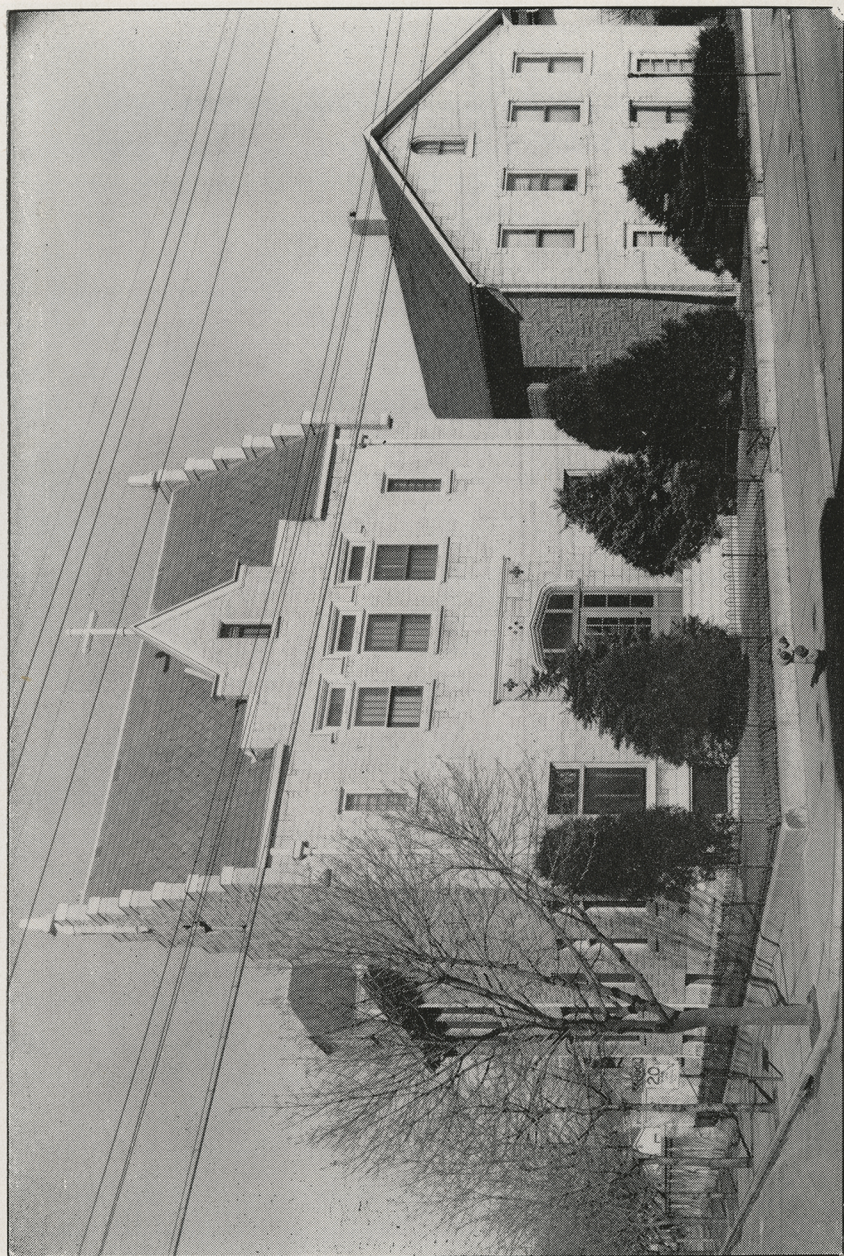
1949: In 1949 the dream of the pastor was realized. During the many years he had contemplated a new approach to the church. After the debt was paid a fund was accumulated for the extensive improvements that were to be made. In 1949 and 1950 the new approaches to the Church, Xenia Avenue, Steele Avenue, Allen Street, the four standards, radiant heating under the terrazzo platforms and steps and the four flower gardens was an expenditure of \$42,000. Washing the Church walls, refrescoing the sanctuary, gold leafing the organ pipes, redecorating the stations, statues, painting the shrines and pulpit was an outlay of \$10,000.00. General improvements and furnishings for the Sisters convent, \$10,000.00. Insulating the Church and Xenia Avenue school building, painting the exterior of the Church, rectory, schools, the classrooms, hallways was an expenditure of \$5,000.00.

The Gaspar Lending Library of St. Mary Church was opened to the public on Sunday afternoon, February 20, 1949. A room twenty-seven feet long and twenty-four feet wide on the second floor of the Xenia Avenue school building was remodeled and redecorated for the library. The ceiling was dropped and fluorescent lighting installed. The walls were painted a soft shade, the woodwork in white. Venetian blinds and gray drapes were used to dress up the windows. For contrast, red and blue leather easy chairs were scattered about the room and a long library table was placed in the center. A magazine rack, with the capacity to accommodate current issues of the leading periodicals was added, as well as a filing cabinet for card catalogue and memberships. This was an outlay of \$3,500.00.

With other minor repairs and improvements on the church roof, spouting on rectory and schools, electrical work, cement sidewalks and driveway and paving of the parking lot on Steele Avenue brought the total amount expended for extraordinary improvements in the year 1949 to \$90,341.93.

Another son of the parish, the eleventh, Thomas Sweeterman, C.P.P.S., was ordained March 25, 1949.

Rev. Robert Mackey, S.M., the twelfth son of the parish raised



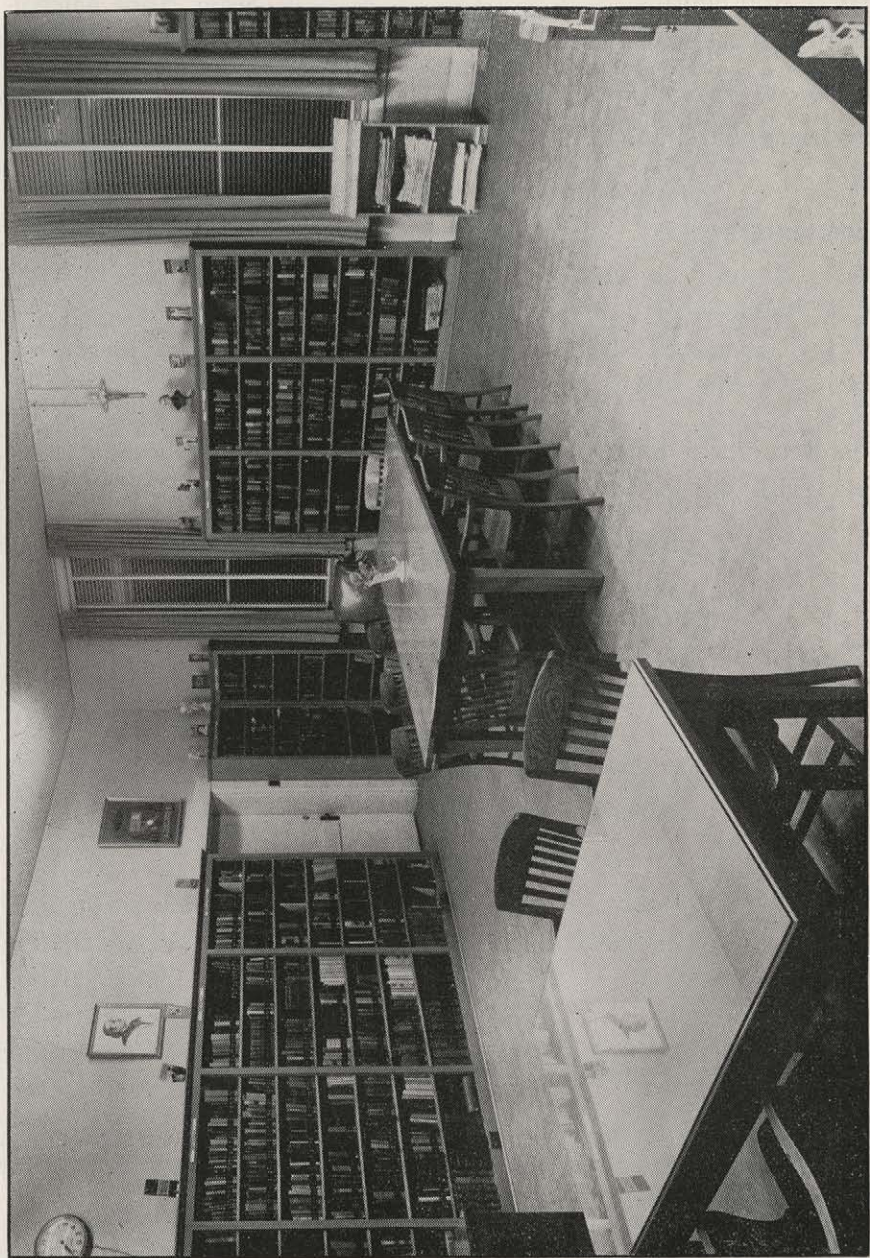
The two building residences of the Precious Blood Sisters teaching St. Mary School.
Purchased by the Congregation June, 1948.

to the priesthood during the pastor's administration, was ordained in Switzerland July 24, 1949.

1950: The year 1950 saw another advancement of \$47,980.30. Two new 6,000 b.t.u. capacity boilers, two new stokers with modern controls for water. A new 40-foot by 40-foot concrete reinforced steel slab placed over the boiler room, replacing the long-time dangerous one—the painting of the boiler room, and 2,500 square feet of cement, replacing broken cement in yard was an outlay of \$24,000.00. Tuckpointing all brick work of the twin towers and entire front of church, cleaning all stone work was an outlay of \$9,300.00. The seeding and grading of 280 feet by 315 feet children's playground was an expenditure of \$1,300.00. The blacktopping and cement work for the 46 x 128-foot parking lot on Steele Avenue was an outlay of \$1,800.00. With minor improvements the total of the above amount was expended.

Improvements were begun early in preparation for one of the most important religious celebrations in the history of the parish, that being the Golden Jubilee of the priesthood of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bernard J. Beckmeyer, June 21, 1950. The entire month of June was dedicated as a series of celebrations to honor the Monsignor. Sunday, June 4, a Solemn High Mass dedicated to the children, was offered. Sunday, June 11, a Solemn Memorial Mass for all the deceased members of the parish was celebrated. Sunday, June 18, a Solemn High Mass in appreciation for all the members of the congregation was celebrated. The sermon on this occasion was delivered by the Rev. Norbert Sweeterman, C.P.P.S., a son of the parish.

The day that everyone looked forward to had now come: At 10:30 the Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving was offered by the Jubilarian—preceded by a procession of four hundred school children, the St. Joseph Orphanage Band, the twenty-four ushers of the Church, 125 priests, twenty-five monsignori; the Right Reverend Abbot Ignatius Esser, O.S.B.; the Most Rev. George J. Rehring, and the Most Rev. Frank A. Thill. The church was most beautifully decorated. The musical program was given by Joseph P. Geiger, and a special Mass composed by the guest organist, Mr. J. Alfred Schehl, was sung. The Schola Cantorum of Mt. St. John sang the propers



The Gaspar Lending Library Was Opened February, 1949

Sisters of Notre Dame

Patricia Ann Smith	Sister Anne Michal
Eileen Schumacher	Sister Eileen Mary

Sisters of Mercy

Rose Mary Clark	Sister M. Alexander
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Sisters of Good Shepherd

Eileen Sutter	Sister M. Patrick
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St. Mary Church History

1917 to 1944 — Vol. I

Gross Receipts	Extraordinary Improvements	Holy Communions
\$1,411,713.54	\$420,875.22	2,926,300

1944 to October 15, 1959 — Vol. II

	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Improvements</i>	<i>Holy Communions</i>
1944	\$ 76,205.52	\$ 14,297.45	101,500
1945	77,151.04	5,470.00	100,200
1946	80,812.43	6,423.70	102,100
1947	79,348.35	15,454.48	96,600
1948	80,348.45	28,889.77	98,000
1949	82,862.27	90,341.93	105,600
1950	80,513.30	47,980.30	102,500
1951	80,559.13	32,893.93	106,300
1952	83,159.75	33,176.25	102,100
1953	87,565.05	13,523.30	101,100
1954	85,954.37	3,533.92	111,500
1955	84,826.55	11,513.10	107,200
1956	91,395.76	13,406.10	103,800
1957	90,899.76	33,031.52	100,500
1958	80,459.76	8,449.55	97,500
1959 to Oct. 15	60,899.66	4,596.67	70,500
Total	\$2,302,478.91	\$362,782.47	1,607,000
Grand Total	\$3,714,192.45	\$783,857.69	4,533,300

Religious Vocations

1917 - 1944

Bishop	Priests	Sisters	Brothers
1	16	81	19

Ordained Priests Since Volume I—1944

Rev. Thomas Schweeterman, C.P.P.S.	March 25, 1949
Rev. Robert Mackey, S.M.	July 24, 1949
Rev. Robert Amann	September 8, 1950
Rev. Elmer Smith	September 8, 1950
Rev. Eugene Watrin	November 22, 1952
Rev. John Willman	May 25, 1957

Seminarians

Jerome Eilerman, C.P.P.S.
 Alfred Naseman, C.P.P.S.
 Bernard Srode, C.P.P.S.
 John Srode, C.P.P.S.

Brothers

Linus Zindorf, S.C.J.
 Clement Grilliot, S.M.
 Robert Wildenhaus, Novitiate, S.M.
 Robert Wehner, Novitiate, S.M.

Sisters of the Precious Blood

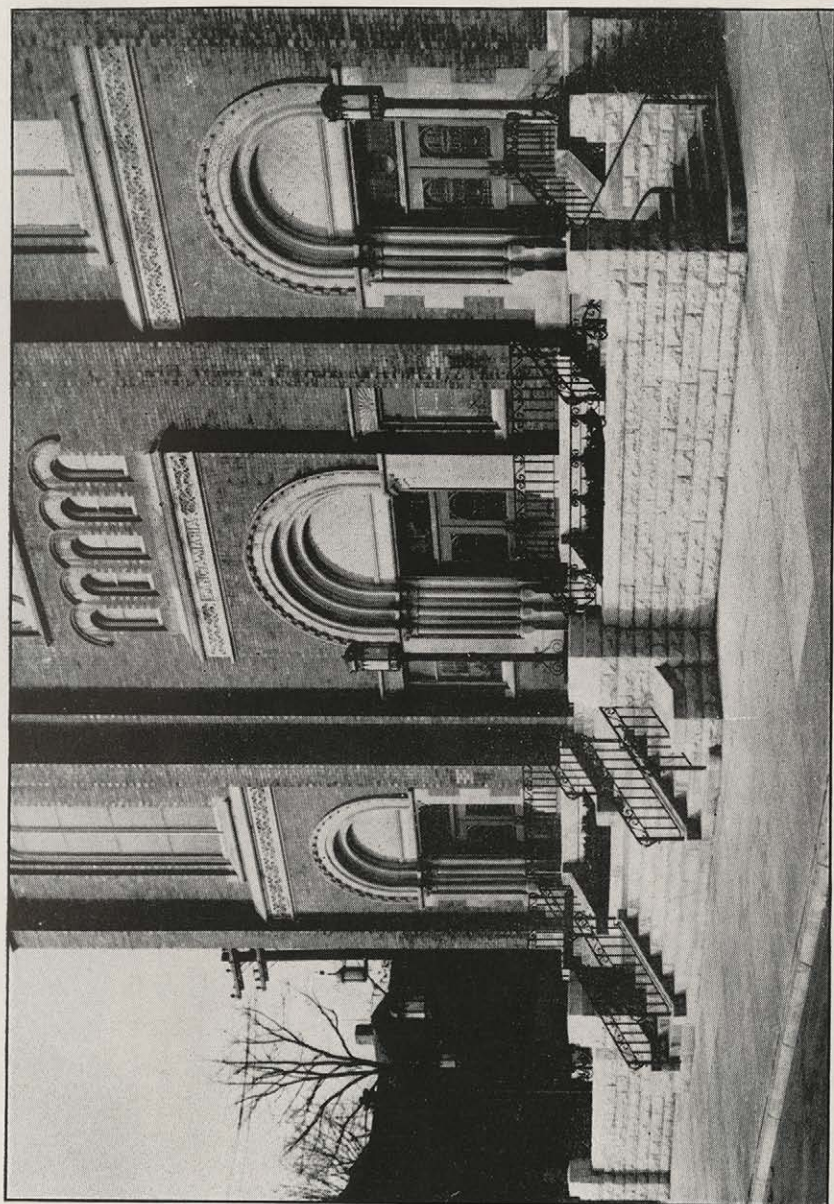
Mary Agnes Breitenstein	Sister M. Rita Claire
Charmaine Grilliot	Sister M. Celine Theresa
Charlene Heidenreich	Sister M. Charles
Mary Rose McCrate	Sister M. Blanche
Barbara Rausch	Sister Miriam Theresa
Constance Wildenhaus	Sister M. Jeremine
Mary Lou Wildenhaus	Sister M. Rose Helene
Mary Wendeln	Sister Dolores Marie

Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis

Lois Ann Mackey	Sister M. Robert
Mary Ann Wehner	Sister M. Barbara
Joan Wehner	Sister M. Joan of Arc



Old approach and old doors to St. Mary Church — Built in 1906



The New Approach to St. Mary Church Built in 1949 at a Cost of \$42,000.00

of the Mass. The choir was augmented by many famous singers and a symphony orchestra of thirty pieces.

The Most Rev. Frank A. Thill, Bishop of Salina, Kansas, preached an eloquent sermon reviewing the fifty years of priesthood of the Right Reverend Monsignor, particularly the work he had done in the past thirty-three years as pastor of St. Mary. At this Solemn High Mass priests of the parish ordained during the Monsignor's administration assisted as major and minor ministers.

At 1:30 the prelates, monsignori, priests, relatives and friends were guests of the Monsignor at the Biltmore Hotel.

September 8, 1950, the Rev. Robert Amann and Rev. Elmer W. Smith, the thirteenth and fourteenth sons of the parish, were ordained to the priesthood by His Excellency, Most Reverend George J. Rehring, Bishop-elect of Toledo. They offered their first Solemn Masses in St. Mary on September 10. Receptions for the two priests were held in the Church hall in the afternoon.

1951: The year 1951 saw further advancement for St. Mary Parish in the amount of \$32,893.93 spent for extraordinary improvements. The most important item was the rewiring of the church and hall which was found a hazard by the Fire Inspection Bureau and this being brought to the attention of the Most Rev. Archbishop Karl J. Alter, permission was granted February 26, 1951, to rewire the church and make the building safe against fire as far communicating system installed for both school buildings, connecting with the rectory, church hall, Sister's residence, and janitor's quarters. Extensive repairs on the church and school roofs particularly the Xenia Avenue school building, because of damage done by the severe winter of 1950.

A 1½-inch water line from the main line to the church between the confessionals, gospel side, was installed for protection against fire. A new sound movie projector was purchased for the Information Center to show religious films. Magazine rack, drapes and Venetian blinds were purchased and with other minor improvements the above amount was spent.

July 16, Rev. Otto J. Diller, C.P.P.S., was appointed second assistant at St. Mary, serving also as chaplain at the Miami Valley Hospital and the Dayton State Hospital.



Bishops, Monsignori, Priests, Relatives, Ushers Attending Golden Jubilee of
 MONSIGNOR BERNARD J. BECKMEYER, June 21, 1950

1952: The year 1952 saw extraordinary improvements of \$33,176.25. The principal outlay being for carpentry and general work in the Sister's convent amounting to \$9,900.00. The rewiring of the church which began in July, 1951, continued into the spring, and fluorescent lights were placed in the remaining eight classrooms, palm room and boys' sacristy was an outlay of \$9,000.00.

With new equipment for loudspeakers for church, floor covering for Information Center, covering rooms, hallways, and porch in the Sister's residence, bulletin boards, and cupboards for schools, the beautification of the church's flower gardens brought the total expenditure to the above amount.

November of this year saw the ordination of the fifteenth son of the parish. The Rev. Eugene Watrin, S.J., was ordained in India. His ambition in life was to be a missionary in this foreign country.

1953: After the heavy expenses in the years 1949 through 1952, 1953 was a rather slow-up year. The total amount of extraordinary expenditures was \$13,523.50. The principal item being the resetting stone work, tuckpointing brick work of the school buildings. Other expenditures for furnishings and equipment for the rectory and the Sister's convent, repairing the roof and gutters of the church, school, painting and plumbing, and hearing aides in the confessionals brought the expenses to the above amount.

May 17, Joseph P. Geiger celebrated his silver jubilee as organist, of which twelve years of these were spent at St. Mary. Solemn High Mass, 9:30, celebrated by Msgr. Bernard J. Beckmeyer. Father John Soiler preached. Choir made up of St. Joseph Commercial, St. Mary Choir and St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing.

1954: May 19, Bishop Edward Hettinger, Auxiliary of Columbus, confirmed 209 children and adults.

May 25, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Clarence G. Issenmann is consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of the Cincinnati Archdiocese.

This year the extraordinary expenses amounted to \$3,533.92. Forty special chairs for prospective converts and for use by the choir members were purchased. Cement work at the convent and Xenia Avenue and the school yard, folding machine for bulletins,



FATHER OTTO J. DILLER, C.P.P.S.
Appointed Assistant July 16, 1951

Born November 15, 1915
Ordained December 5, 1943
Appointed Assistant July 16, 1951

filing cabinet for Information Center, additional supplies brought the total expense to above amount.

June 2 a six-weeks course opened for prospective teachers at St. Mary School under the direction of Sister Justiniana, C.P.P.S., and Sister Esterine, C.P.P.S. Some twenty attended, several who attended are now teaching in our parochial schools.

July 13, the altar boys enjoyed a picnic at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagenia. Extraordinary expenditures, \$3,533.92.

1955: June 20, second annual six weeks course for prospective teachers opened at St. Mary School under the direction of Sister Justiniana. November 29, Father Andrew Hoying, assistant at St. Mary, leaves for new charge as Administrator of Holy Trinity Church, Coldwater, Ohio. Father Cletus Stang assumes his duties as new assistant at St. Mary. On this date, November 29, Father Urban A. Wimmers, assistant at St. Mary for twelve years, 1935-1947, died suddenly.

1955: The extraordinary expenses for this year amounted to \$11,513.10. Extensive repairs were necessary on the 49-year-old church. The slate on the towers and roof was in poor condition, all galvanized iron gutters and downspouts had to be replaced. The painting of the twin towers, and all woodwork was taken care of. The new front and vestibule were added to the Sisters' convent.

The one hundred Norway maple trees and hedges around the premises and Sisters' convent needed trimming.

1956: For the last three years we realized the reconstruction of the 36-year-old Austin Organ was necessary. Bids were received and a contract was awarded to the Kilgan Organ Company of St. Louis, Missouri, for \$8,000.00. The work of the reconstruction began for a period of four months, and on November 18, 1956, we witnessed the solemn opening of the reconstructed organ. A Solemn High Mass was celebrated at 9:30 by the Monsignor. In the evening a special musical program was rendered by Prof. Joseph P. Geiger and Guest Organists Prof. J. Alfred Schehl, Paul Ray Jones and Madonna Wine Goss. A booklet describing the organ was sent to all families. At present, our organ could not be replaced for less than \$75,000.00.

The entrance on Steele Avenue to the Sisters' convent had to



FATHER CLETUS C. STANG
Assistant

Born July 26, 1922
Ordained February 28, 1948
Appointed Assistant November 29, 1955

be replaced. New cement steps, brick wall and iron gates replaced the lattice work. The brick wall along Steele Avenue was finished with cement block, the yard was beautified with trees and shrubs and extensive repairs were made to the roof.

The return steam line beneath the hall which had rendered service for fifty-one years, and rusted through, to retain water in the boilers and to give satisfactory heat to the church and schools, it was necessary that an entire new return line had to be placed. The parking lot on Steele Avenue needed a new asphalt covering.

July 18, 1956, the altar boys enjoyed a picnic at St. Charles Seminary. Total extraordinary expenses, \$13,406.10.

1957: For many years again and again repairs have been made on the twin towers of St. Mary Church. After a thorough investigation, it was found that all the slate on the towers was very brittle, and the timbers had fallen victim to dry rot. The question arose either to repair the towers or to take them off to the masonry work which would have been an expenditure of \$42,000. Because of their prominence, the East End would have lost one of its outstanding landmarks. And the older citizens would have been lost without the towers of St. Mary. To repair the towers and to replace the slate with copper was an outlay of \$19,510.25.

The laundry to the rear of the convent and all plumbing installed over fifty years ago had to be replaced with a cement block addition, and a new boiler replacing the forty-year-old one. This was an outlay of \$11,444.15.

A new door and hardware, passing the fire laws, was installed in the Xenia Avenue school building. With supplies for the rectory and the school was an outlay of \$2,000.00. The total of extraordinary expenses for the year were \$33,031.52.

February 24, 1957, the Rev. Edward G. Platt, a son of the parish ordained June 26, 1938, died at Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.

April 3, Rev. Otto B. Auer, pastor of Saint Mary Parish from 1914-1917, died at St. Francis Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio. His funeral took place at St. Lawrence Church, his first assignment as



St. Mary Choir — Joseph P. Geiger, Director. Rededication of Organ — November 18, 1956.

assistant after his ordination to the priesthood. The Monsignor attended the funeral.

May 25 saw the ordination of the Rev. John Willman, the sixteenth son of the parish ordained during the present pastor's administration. Father Willman celebrated his First Solemn High Mass in St. Mary Church on the Feast of the Ascension, May 30.

On October 16 the Rev. Herman H. Rechlin, assistant pastor at St. Mary from 1897-1901 died at Cincinnati.

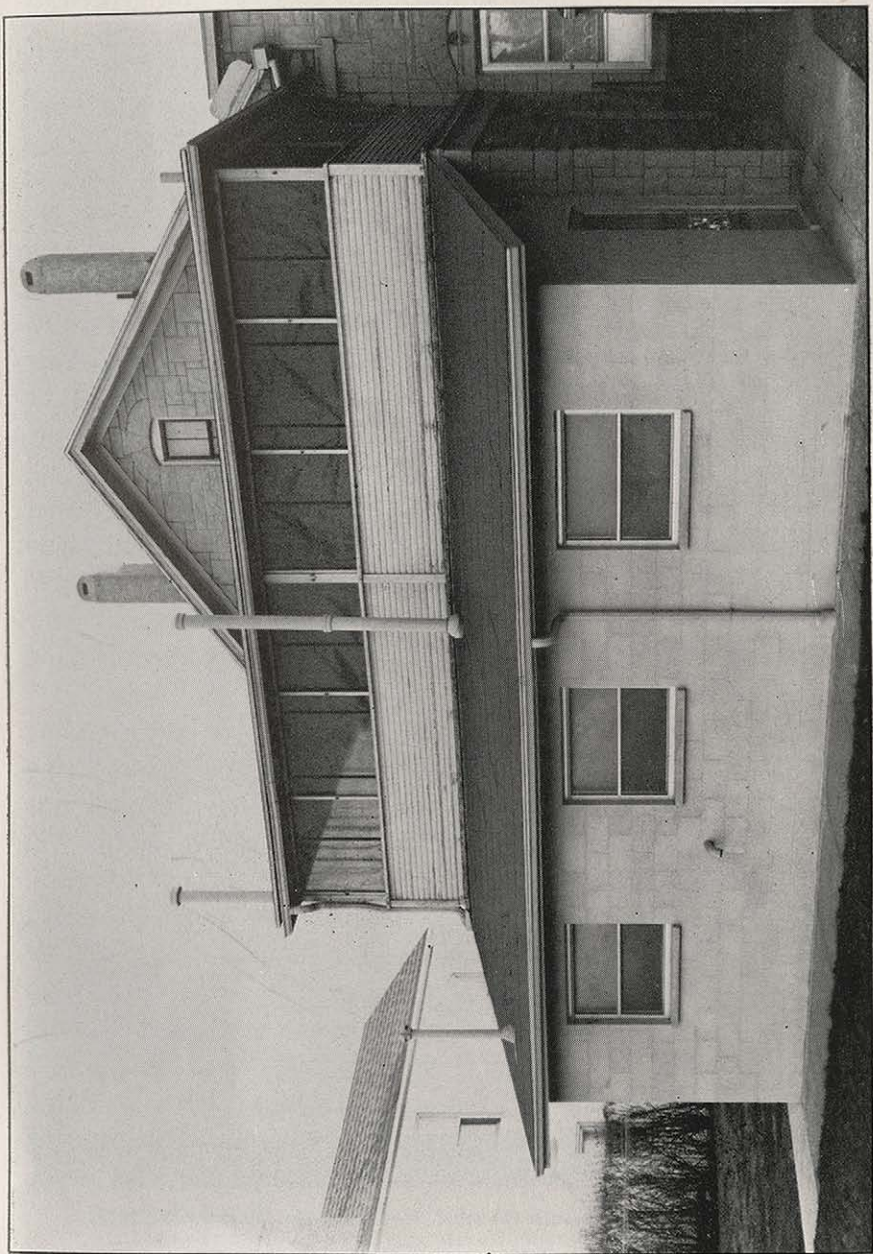
During the Christmas season, admired by all was the beautiful sixteen-foot electric star erected between the twin towers, approximately 180 feet above the street, by the men of the parish.

1958: On January 6 the National Guild of Organists of the City of Dayton had a special Mass and concert in St. Mary Church. The concert was presented by Mr. Joseph P. Geiger, organist, and the choir of St. Mary. The Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Otto J. Diller, C.P.P.S., who also gave the address. On this occasion, the choir boys, vested in surplices and cassocks, were present in the sanctuary.

During this year new window shades were placed throughout the Xenia Avenue and Steele Avenue school buildings. Plumbing and plaster repairs in the school and convent were very heavy. Window repairs in the Church and attics was also a heavy expense. In the school steel cabinets replaced the former fiber cabinets in all the classrooms. The woodwork in the Church hall and Xenia Avenue school building was painted and changes were made in the convent kitchen to fill the needs of the Sisters.

The property of the congregation has been placed in good order to which the members of the congregation can point with pride. This year the extraordinary expenses amounted to \$8,449.85.

With the many younger families moving to the outside territories, with the number of school children decreasing as likewise the families, the Holy Communions received during 1958 numbered 97,500, the first time that we have fallen below the 100,000 figure since 1923. In 1932, when the congregation numbered nearly nine hundred families our Holy Communions had reached the record of 155,000 compared to the 35,000 in 1917 when Monsignor Beckmeyer became pastor of St. Mary.



New Laundry Added to Sisters' Residence, June, 1957

Though the parish had decreased in number of families that today it is below the five hundred mark, the response and generosity of the older members who remain contributed for the year the sum of \$80,459.66.

1959: February 18 of this year caused a deep sorrow in the heart of the congregation in the death of Miss Margaret E. Daly at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Though ill more or less for the past five years, she still looked after the wants of the clergy. As housekeeper for priests for a period of over sixty-two years. She was with Father Quatman at St. Francis de Sales Church in Cincinnati from 1896-1909, and upon his death with Monsignor Beckmeyer at Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, Norwood, Ohio, from 1909-1917. When he assumed the pastorate at St. Mary in 1917 she took over the duties of housekeeper in that year until the time of her death, February 18, 1959. Her task was not an easy one in Norwood when Father Beckmeyer founded this new parish in 1906. Her work was not only the domestic affairs of the house, but likewise janitor's of the school and church and looking after the decorations of the altar and sanctuary—as with this small congregation money was not plentiful and much help could not be supplied.

Coming to Dayton in 1917, the receipts of the parish being small and a heavy debt and many improvements in the rectory being necessary such as painting, wallpapering and cleaning. No task was too great for her in the interest of the priests, and parish. Many will recall how she numbered the books and cards at the garden parties. Her remains were brought to the rectory where she had labored for a period of forty-two years and viewed by hundreds on Saturday and Sunday. Her funeral took place Monday, February 23, at 10:00 A.M. Monsignor Beckmeyer was celebrant of the Solemn Funeral Mass and was assisted by Father Joseph L. Zimmer as deacon and Father Edwin Aufderheide as subdeacon. Fathers Cletus C. Stang and Otto J. Diller, C.P.P.S., were masters of ceremonies. The inspiring sermon, never to be forgotten, was preached by the Very Rev. Seraphim Oberhauser, Provincial of the Precious Blood Fathers.

Paying a most profound respect to her memory, comparing her life to the life of the Blessed Mother administering to the wants of Her Divine Son. Her noble work which she had accomplished was



The sixteen-foot Star with 400 Electric Lights, hung between the two Towers of 185 feet during the Christmas Season 1957-1958

brought out in a most excellent manner by the speaker. Twenty priests attended the funeral.

Expressions of sympathy were received from Archbishops, Bishops, Monsignori, Priests and Sisters with whom she had become acquainted during her many years in the rectory paid tribute by offering Masses, which besides ten sets of Gregorian Masses, a tribute of the Monsignor to his housekeeper, over one thousand Masses were offered for the repose of her soul. Four thousand indulgenced prayer leaflets were distributed. All the priests of the Precious Blood Community in Chile offered many Masses for her. For the construction of a seminary in Chile, she willed all her earthly possessions, thereby assuring that many priests in years to come would be ordained and give their life to the service of the Master.

The Requiem Mass was sung by a quartet under the direction of Joseph P. Geiger, organist and choirmaster. Thanks are due to the choir, the ushers and the Sisters being of great assistance whilst the remains were lying in state at the Rectory. To the members of the Immaculate Conception Sodality, being present in a large number at the recitation of the rosary Sunday afternoon. Interment took place in St. Joseph Cemetery, Price Hill, Cincinnati, in the lot of the Monsignor.

A burse in her memory in the name of St. Margaret, her patron Saint, was established at St. Charles Seminary for the education of priests, by the Monsignor.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and two sisters, Charity Sisters. The only surviving sister followed her in death three months after her death.

Altar boys picnic at St. Charles Seminary, July 15.

The school for the 1959-1960 term opened with 336 children September 10.

The solemn Mass for the Centenary Celebration will be Sunday, November 22.

A Requiem Mass for all deceased members of the parish Monday, November 23.

This year the congregation was called upon for supplies in the convent. A new soft-water unit has replaced the one in use nearly

thirty years, as also a new wash machine was added in the Sisters' laundry. The church and the school boilers required attention. The old awnings at the rectory were replaced. The vestibule floor in the Xenia Avenue school building and the floors in Rooms One and Two in the Steele Avenue building were replaced with tile floor, giving the rooms and the hallway a very pleasant and inviting appearance.

The eight fireproof doors of the Steele Avenue school building were equipped with the latest panic bars and door checks approved by the Fire Department, at a cost of near \$2,500.00. Every safeguard is taken for the protection of the children of St. Mary congregation. The extraordinary improvements to October 15, 1959, amounted to the sum of \$5,066.67.

The receipts of the first nine and a half months of this year are \$60,899.66.

Holy Communions, 70,500.

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