

July 2018

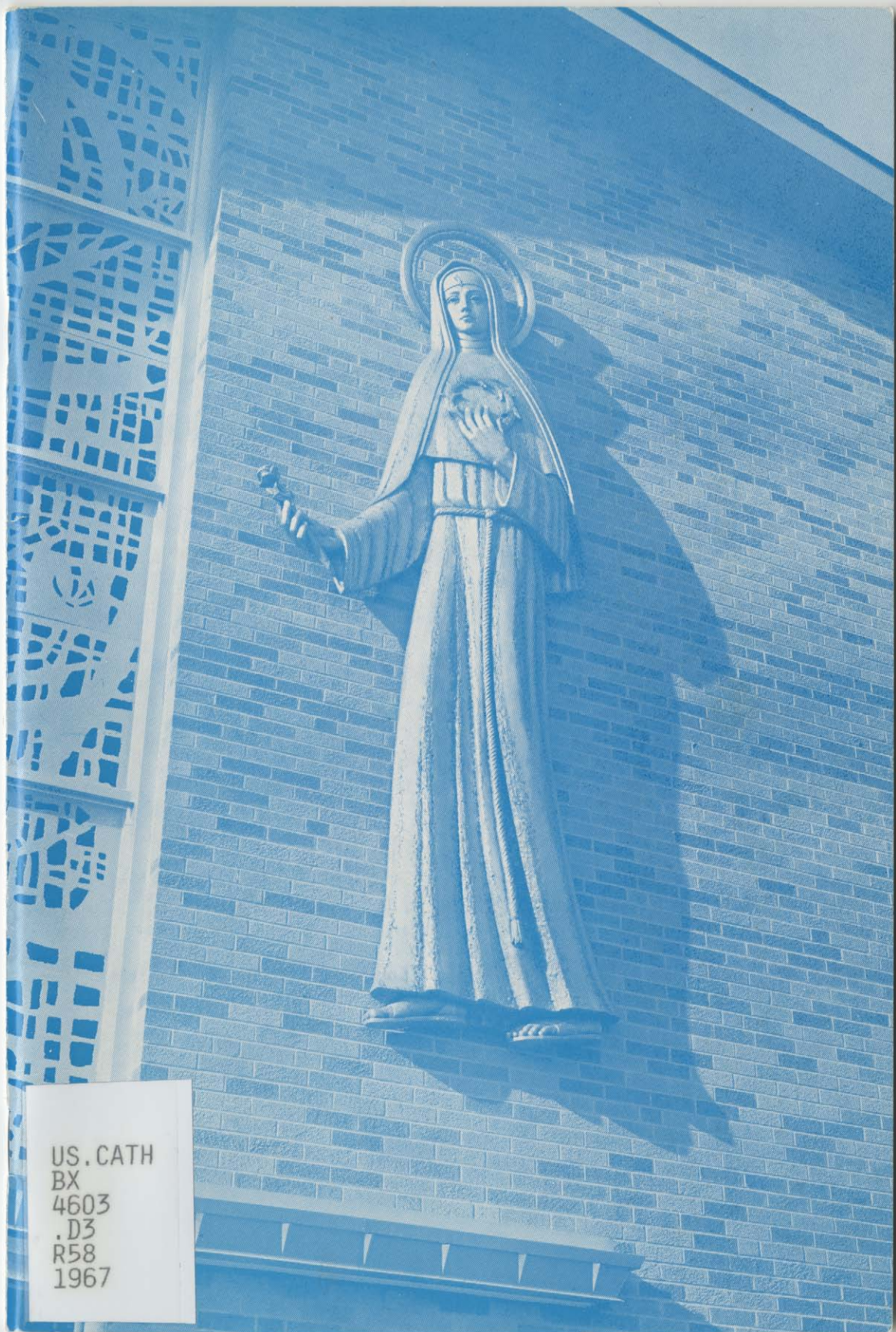
Saint Rita Church, Dayton, Ohio: Dedication Day, October 29, 1967, Feast of Christ the King

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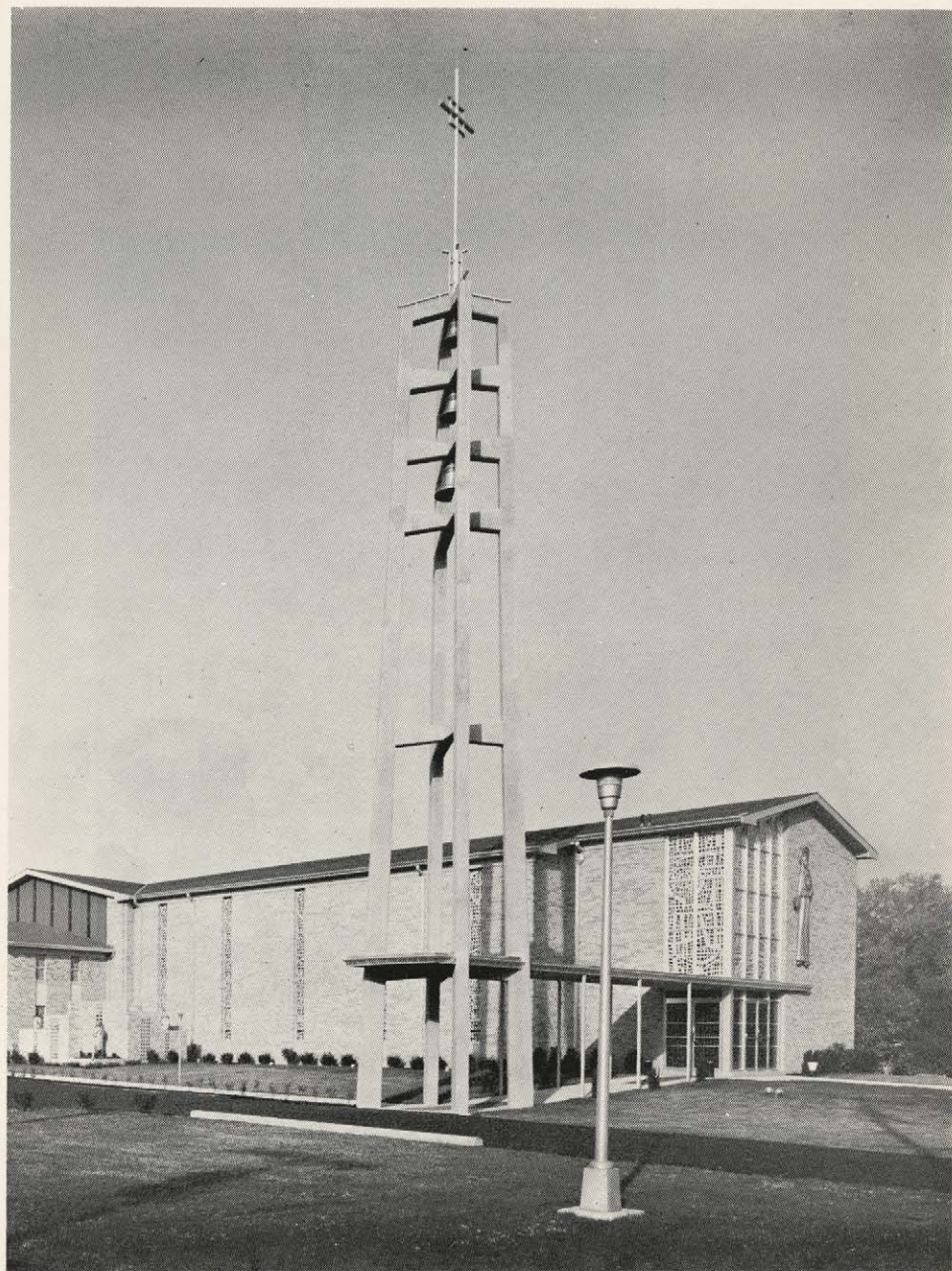
"Saint Rita Church, Dayton, Ohio: Dedication Day, October 29, 1967, Feast of Christ the King" (2018). *Parish Histories Collection*. 17.
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SAINT RITA CHURCH -- DAYTON, OHIO

Dedication Day -- October 29, 1967

Feast of Christ the King

96428 —

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Saint Rita of Cascia

O MARY AND JOSEPH, Mother and Foster-father of Jesus Christ, who in fulfilling your God-given task in life, did provide shelter for Jesus Christ, we place the building of our Parish Church under your care and protection. Through your intercession, and that of our patron Saint Rita, may Almighty God bless our undertaking and assist us to bring it to a successful completion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O GLORIOUS Saint Rita, you who in a marvelous way shared in the sorrowful passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, obtain for me the grace to bear with resignation the sufferings of this life, and protect me in all my necessities. Amen. *(Raccolta)*

(From prayer leaflet published at start of construction work on new St. Rita Church)

US Cath
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**HIS HOLINESS, POPE PAUL VI
BISHOP OF ROME AND VICAR OF JESUS CHRIST**

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THE MOST REVEREND KARL J. ALTER, D.D., LL.D.
ARCHBISHOP OF CINCINNATI

Archbishop's House
5870 Belmont Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

October 29, 1967

Reverend Francis B. Pilliod, Pastor
St. Rita's Church
5401 N. Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45415

Dear Father Pilliod:

I extend to you, to Father Lucas, to the Sisters, and to all the Members of St. Rita's Parish my heartfelt congratulations on this occasion when we solemnly dedicate your new Church.

This crowning achievement will ever stand as a symbol of the years of sacrifice and loyal devotion of both priests and people. But your Church is much more than just a monument; it is the House of God! It is the focal point of Eucharistic Worship in your community. There you hear the living Word and reverently present yourselves to the saving action of Christ through His sacraments of grace. Make this new Temple, then, the center of your religious life.

May I take the occasion to thank all who by their generous sacrifices have made this Church a reality. I am confident that God will reward you abundantly, now and in the years to come.

With blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† *Karl J. Alter*

Most Reverend Karl J. Alter
Archbishop of Cincinnati



**THE MOST REVEREND EDWARD A. McCARTHY, D.D., S.T.D., J.C.D.
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF CINCINNATI**

5870 Belmont Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

October 17, 1967

Dear Father Pilliod, Father Lucas,
Sisters, and all the Members of
Saint Rita Parish

It is a very great pleasure for me to extend to you
my heartiest congratulations and prayerful best wishes on
the occasion of the Dedication of the new Church of St. Rita
in Dayton.

The erection of this beautiful modern structure speaks
eloquently of the ardent love and the diligent labor of the
parish community for the honor and glory of God.

I join with you all in offering thanks to God for His
manifold graces and countless blessings, and I pray that the
community, for whom this church is heart, may by their
worship here be drawn ever closer to Christ and to each
other in a true community of love.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

† *Edward A. McCarthy*

Most Reverend Edward A. McCarthy
Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati

DIocese OF EVANSVILLE
219 N. W. THIRD STREET
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47708

October 11, 1967
Feast of Maternity of Mary

Dear Father Pilliod:

I cannot help but add a word of congratulations on the occasion of the dedication of the new St. Rita Church, Dayton, Ohio, on the Feast of Christ the King . . . We as children (I was 8 at the time) visited in the country at least once a week, and spent weeks at a time there during the summer months. During those visits of course we went to St. Rita's, and used to sing with my cousins in the choir for daily Mass. For 25 years in the Cincinnati Chancery, every step in the development of St. Rita was a matter of my official interest. The old white frame church and four-room school on Covington Pike (Stop five on the interurban Dayton-Covington traction) have been replaced by a beautiful new brick school, convent, rectory and now a resplendent church, expressing the adoration of God that pours from the hearts of the people of St. Rita's old and new.

Feeling much like one of them, I join in this great festival day in your prayers of thanksgiving, and of petition for God's continued blessings on the souls of St. Rita's, of yesterday that they may enjoy this day from heaven, of today that they may have the light and strength to know and do God's will in their daily lives in this changing world, and of tomorrow, that inspired by the great sacrifices of this generation, they may rise to ever greater heights of sanctification and glory to God.

With blessings on all, I ever remain yours in Christ,

† *Paul F. Leibold*
Bishop of Evansville

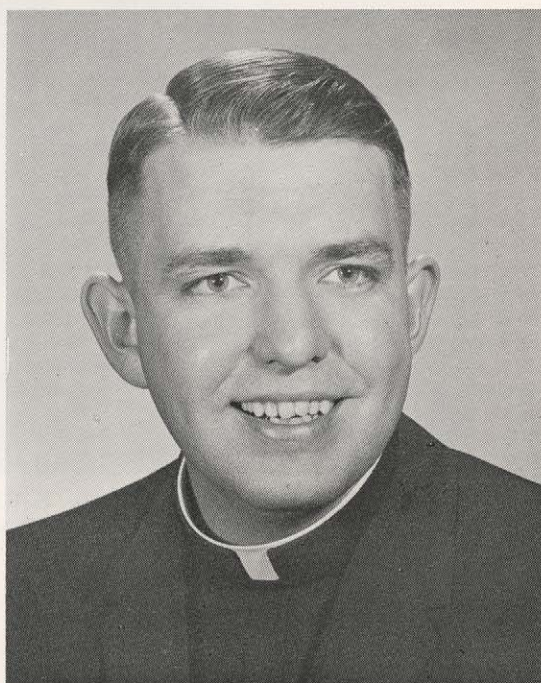


**THE MOST REVEREND PAUL F. LEIBOLD, D.D., J.C.D.
BISHOP OF EVANSVILLE**



**FATHER
FRANCIS
PILLIOD

PASTOR**



**FATHER
DAVID
LUCAS

ASSISTANT**

ST. RITA PARISH
5401 North Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45415

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

It almost frightens us, your priests, to be able after so many patient and cooperative years on the part of all to write this letter on dedication day of our new church. The kindness of the Good God is like that of the cup that runneth over. You want to pinch yourself and ask: "Is it really so?" And our Lord's words realistically tell us that, when He said, "Unless the Lord build the house, he labors in vain who builds."

That is what did it — prayer and a lot of back-sweating, sacrificing work. Indeed you are to be congratulated; You have brought the warmth of Christ's Presence from the "little white frame church" and have placed it here in this beautiful new home of God. With our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and our patroness St. Rita, we have all joined hands in not just erecting a lovely building but in making it truly a home for God.

We, your priests, know of the many trials, crosses and sacrifices made by so many for so many a year. We acknowledge your faith, your loyalty, your open heartedness. It is your home built for God. May you use it frequently for any and every occasion. In the words of our Archbishop, "We pray that you who helped to build this house of God may find it a Gate of Heaven."

Obediently yours in Christ,

Rev. Francis B. Pilliod

Rev. David R. Lucas

ST. RITA CHURCH

THE DEDICATION of the beautiful new St. Rita Church crowns years of planning and praying on the part of some three thousand souls who form the People of God centered around St. Rita parish in North Dayton. Within the past eight years St. Rita's priests and people have combined prayer, sacrifice, and labor to bring to fulfillment their dreams of a revitalized parish plant.

It was on January 25, 1959, that the beloved Pope John XXIII announced his plan to convoke the Twenty-First Ecumenical Council and to set before it the task of renewing the Church so that it might better serve souls in the modern, ever-changing world. Very near this same date St. Rita parish was finalizing plans for the first stage of the renewal of the parish scene at 5401 North Main Street.

That first stage concerned the building of a new convent for the parish's religious teachers, the Sisters of the Precious Blood. On June 1, 1959, the building operations began, then continued on to January 24, 1960, when the new convent was formally opened.

Next came the enlargement of St. Rita's School. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the addition of eight classrooms and a cafeteria were held on October 9, 1960. One year later, on October 29, The Most Reverend Paul F. Leibold, then Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, blessed the new school building.

Two years later, again in October, ground-breaking ceremonies were observed on the site set aside for a modern parish rectory. Earlier in the year, in February, the spiritual life of the parish was renewed through a two-week parish mission conducted by Vincentian Father John Cody. Then shortly before the ground-breaking ceremonies the parish solemnly observed a Miraculous Medal Novena under the guidance of Vincentian Father Henry Magee.

The new rectory was completed and ready for use on August 5, 1964. A few weeks later, the new rectory's doors opened to welcome the parish's first assistant pastor, Father David Lucas.

DAYTON, OHIO

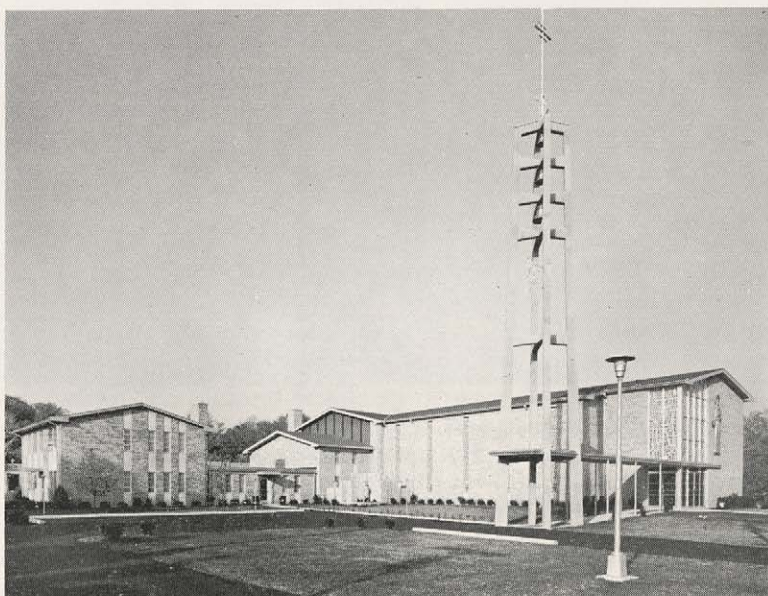


Airview of St. Rita Parish, 5401 North Main Street, shortly before start of construction of new church. The parish rectory stands in the foreground to the left; to the rear is St. Rita Grade School (frame, white school building has since been removed from the scene). The old white frame church (also now removed from the scene) served the parish for forty-five years. The Sisters' Convent is to the right of the church.



ARCHITECT'S SKETCH OF PROPOSED NEW CHURCH

Crowning Achievement



NEW ST. RITA CHURCH, PREPARED FOR DEDICATION DAY

The Feast of the Precious Blood, July 1, 1966, marked the start of the crowning phase of the parish's extended building program. On that day Bishop Edward A. McCarthy of Cincinnati blessed the site for the parish's new Church of St. Rita, and turned the first shovel of earth in a special ground-breaking ceremony.

On Palm Sunday, March 19, 1967, Bishop McCarthy returned to St. Rita's to lead the parish in cornerstone-laying festivities.

By mid-September the finishing touches were being added to the imposing new edifice now dominating the Shiloh Springs parish scene. The church's contemporary-style brick and limestone exterior is complemented by a warm interior of wood arches and ceiling with exposed brick walls. High narrow openings in the Nave and Transept allow the sun to filter in through stained glass windows.

The new church is designed to accommodate 800 parishioners in air conditioned comfort, and to provide an atmosphere of soft, even lighting.

A free-standing bell tower crowned with a cross soars some 90 feet into the sky, while a large contemporary sculpture of St. Rita, designed by Robert Koepnick, dominates the main entrance. Covered walks connect the entrance with the rectory and driveway.

In addition, the lower level of the church provides space for two additional classrooms, an assembly room, bride's room, Boy Scout room and restrooms.

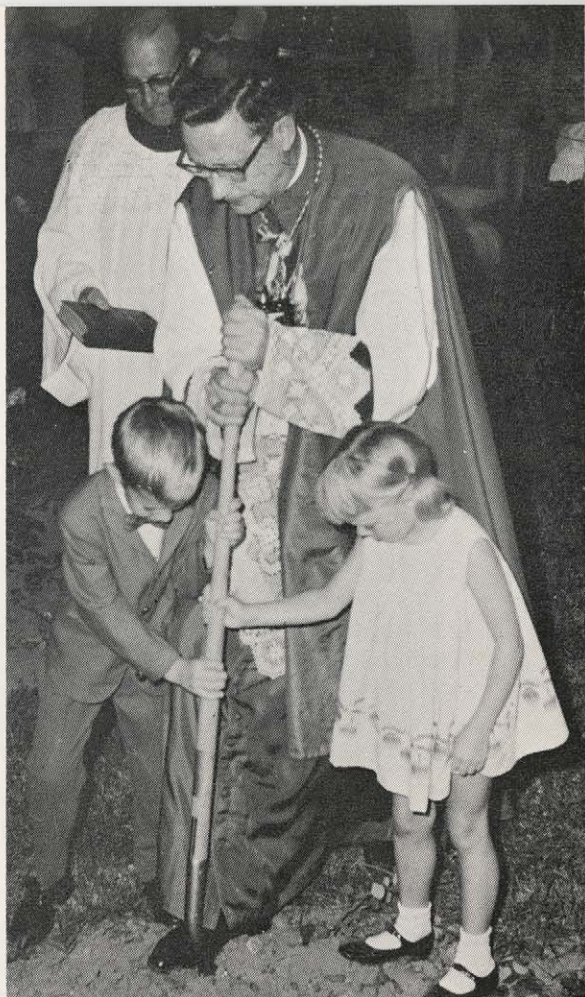
Monsignor James R. Krusling, Dean of the Dayton Deanery, blessed the new structure, thus setting it aside for divine worship. Then on Sunday morning, September 24, a procession of joyous parishioners accompanied their pastor as he carried the Blessed Sacrament from the old church into the new House of God, and there joined with him in offering the first Mass in the new St. Rita Church.

On Sunday, October 29, 1967, the Feast of Christ the King, His Grace, The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati, presided at the rites of the Solemn Dedication of the new St. Rita Church to the honor of God and the service of His People.

St. Rita parish now nears its 50th Anniversary. And as it does so, now revitalized, it looks ahead to the challenging vistas of parish life to come in the post-Vatican II era of the Church of God.

Groundbreaking Ceremonies

ASSISTANTS — Mark Deitsch and Joan Hein lend helping hands as Bishop McCarthy breaks ground for new church. Below, St. Rita's Ushers, Lectors, and Fund-raisers also help prepare the way.





July First 1966

TEAMWORK — St. Rita's parish priests make their ground-breaking chore a team effort. Below, Sister Mary Othilda, C.P.P.S., wields the shovel in the name of the parish's religious and lay teachers.



Blessing of Cornerstone

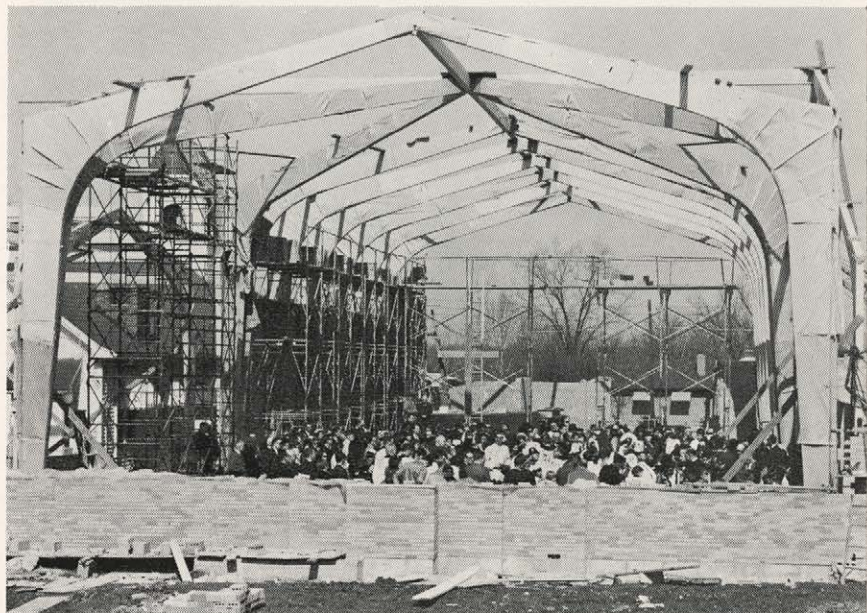
THE Most Reverend Edward A. McCarthy, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, officiated at the blessing and laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Rita Church on Palm Sunday. A large group of parishioners, young and old, participated in the ceremonies.

Each parish organization took an official part in the program. Representatives of these organizations deposited documents in the cornerstone before it was sealed for generations to come by Bishop McCarthy.

Among others placing items in the stone were Monsignor James R. Krusling, Dean of the Dayton Deanery, and Sister Anita of the Sisters of Mercy who has marked her 65th Anniversary in religious life.

Other special guests included clergy from neighboring parishes and nuns of several religious communities. Among them was Sister Anthonita, superior general of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, who serve on the teaching staff at St. Rita School.





Palm Sunday, March 19, 1967



The Bells of Saint Rita

CAST in bronze in Holland, the three bells of St. Rita "have a character all their own." Each has its own name, its own special size, its own perfectly tuned musical note.

The largest bell is named *St. John the Baptist*, in memory of Father John Lampe, the founding pastor of St. Rita Parish. Thirty-six inches in diameter, it weighs 1000 pounds, and rings out the musical note of A natural. It also carries the name of St. Rita's present pastor.

The middle bell, the original bell of St. Rita Church, was transported to Holland for recasting. It has C sharp as its special musical note. Twenty-eight and one-quarter inches in diameter, it weighs 484 pounds, and is named after the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, *St. Francis de Sales*. It also bears the name of Pope Paul VI.

The smallest bell, 290 pounds, measures twenty-three and three-fourths inches in diameter, and sounds the musical note of E natural. *St. Charles* is its name, in honor of the chief pastor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The bells' clappers swing from side to side to strike the musical notes. The bells themselves do not swing, as they are firmly anchored in the upper reaches of a beautiful, modern, re-inforced concrete structure which towers nearly ninety feet above St. Rita's North Main Street location.

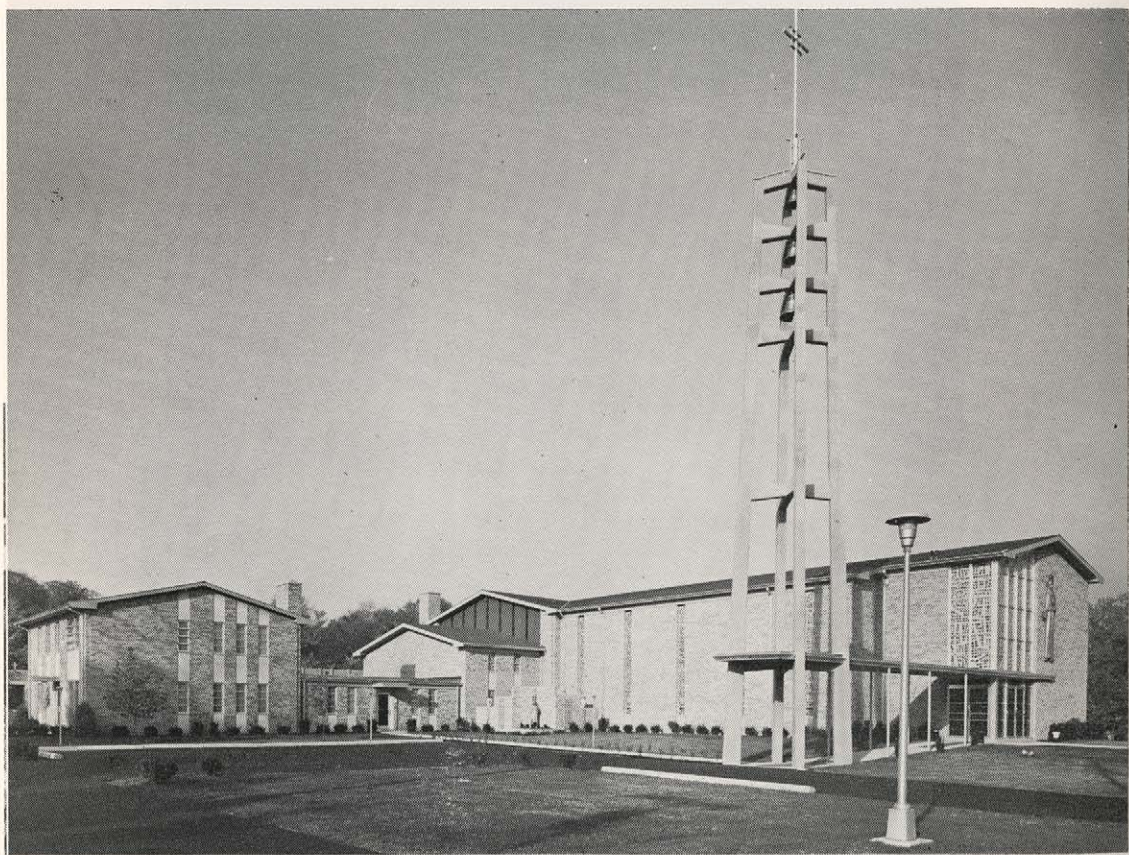


Monsignor Henry J. Vogelpohl, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, blessed the Bells of St. Rita on Memorial Day.



*How awesome is this place! This is none other
than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven;
and it shall be called the court of God. How lovely
is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!*

INTROIT — MASS, DEDICATION OF A CHURCH



"My house shall be called a house of prayer," says the Lord. "In it everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it shall be opened."

COMMUNION — MASS, DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

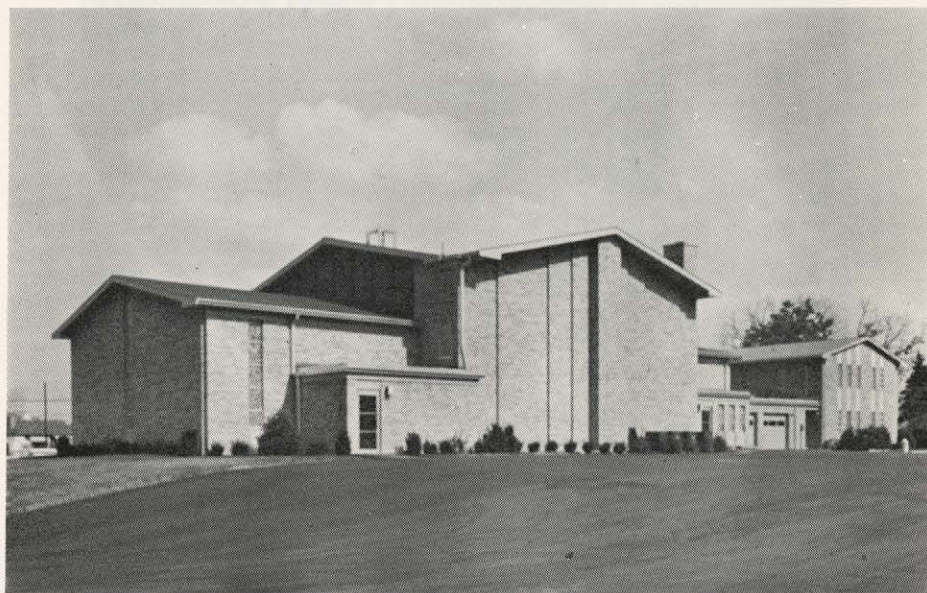




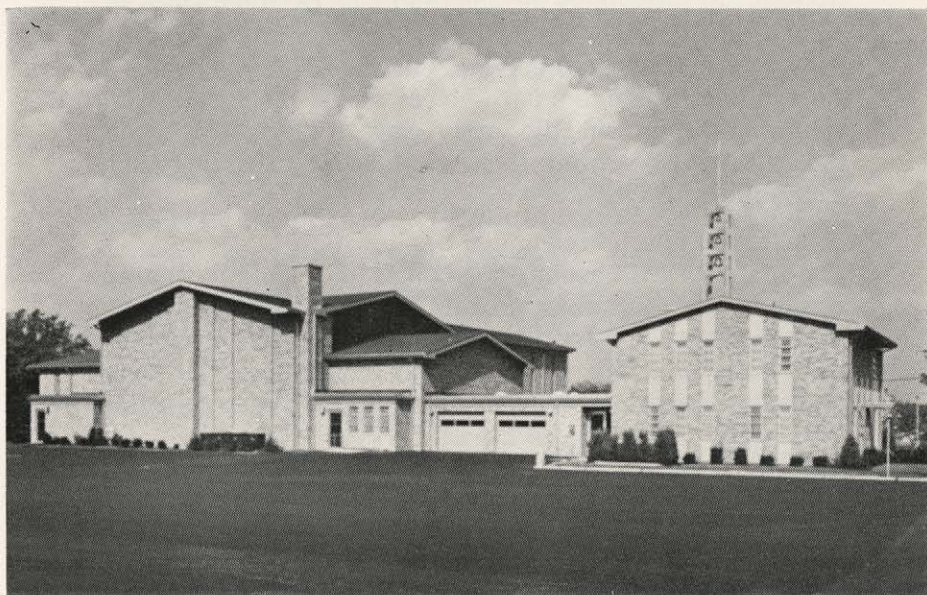
ST. RITA'S STATUE is enshrined
between new rectory and new
church.

BAPTISTERY, with flowing fountain, holds prominent position
just inside entrance to church.





VARIED VIEWS OF NEW ST. RITA CHURCH AND RECTORY





ST. RITA WINDOW

Liturgical Windows

SOUTH SIDE NAVE — FIVE WINDOWS

ADVENT (Predominant color: *Violet*)

A very ancient symbol is the birds at the manger or grain trough with the Chi-Rho cross above it. The birds signify the faithful who await their sustenance (Christ) symbolically during Advent.

CHRISTMAS TIDE (Predominant color: *Gold*)

The Star of David beams down upon the sacred monogram, recalling the Christmas Introit: "*In the brightness of the day-star I begot Thee.*" A cup-shaped manger symbolizes the Nativity of Our Lord and His ancestry in the House of David. Monograms of Mary and Joseph flank the sacred monogram.

EPIPHANY (Predominant color: *Green*)

A great flame is symbolic of the Savior as the light of the world. It is placed in a chalice-like holder to remind us of His sacrifice. The wavy lines of water are symbolic of the fount of living waters which is Christ. Also the offerings of the Magi at the manger.

SEPTUAGESIMA (Predominant color: *Purple*)

Symbolized by the sword of the spirit by which we are to conquer sin. Surrounded by the grapes and vine, symbolic of Jesus' statement: "*I am the vine.*"

LENT (Predominant color: *Rose*)

The two keys used as symbols of the power of absolution. The scourge and stiff, sharp plants as symbols of penance and self-control.

NORTH SIDE NAVE — FIVE WINDOWS

PASSION TIDE (Predominant color: *Violet*)

The crucifixion is represented by the cloth draped over the cross — to the left is the monogram of the Blessed Virgin; to the right is the eagle, the symbol of St. John the Evangelist.

EASTER TIDE (Predominant color: *Gold*)

The Phoenix Bird is shown as the resurrection. When feeling its death near, it would immolate itself upon a fire and arise completely renewed.

PASCAL TIDE (Predominant color: *Rose*)

The cross mounted on a fiery chariot symbolizes the glorious Ascension of Our Lord. The chariot is generally used alone as a symbol of Elias who was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

PENTECOST (Predominant color: *Red*)

The dove is used to symbolize the descent of the Holy Spirit; the tongues of flame to symbolize the gifts to the Apostles.

TRINITY (Predominant color: *Green*)

The triangle with rays symbolizes the Father; the Chi-Rho, God the Son; the Dove, God the Holy Spirit.

TRANSEPT WINDOWS

FAITH — The cross and the fish used by the early Christians.

CHARITY — The heart of the door symbol from the parable of the importunate friend.

HOPE — The anchor and the pomegranate; the anchor of steadfast hope; the pomegranate as the hope of immortality and of resurrection.

SMALL WINDOWS IN CHOIR LOFT

BIRTH — The candle denotes the burning of new light. The rose bud, blossom born out of love. The water symbolizes the questions of Nicodemus on how a man can be reborn.

DEATH — The skull symbolizes the physical death of man. The butterfly, the soul of man. It is contained in a shroud but bursts forth; also used as a symbol of resurrection.

SMALL WINDOWS IN PRIESTS' SACRISTY

NORTH — The hand, chalice, wheat and grapes — the consecration in the celebration of Mass.

SOUTH — The candle for Baptism; the book for preaching; and the hand raised in absolution.

SMALL WINDOWS IN SERVERS' SACRISTY

NORTH — The host over the paten signifies the holding of the paten; the bells on the book.

MIDDLE — Cruets of wine and water; the incense thurible; water.

SOUTH — Holding the processional cross. The candle denotes the duties of lighting and extinguishing the candles.

SMALL WINDOW IN CONFESSIONAL (NORTHEAST)

Dove dispensing the graces of penance. Stole signifies the priest's office as confessor, the keys denote his authority to do so.

LAST JUDGMENT WINDOW (NORTH — BALCONY)

The triangle and eye symbolize the all-seeing eye of God the Father. The scales denote His judgment. The halo represents the just. The grey flame, the unjust.

ST. RITA WINDOW (EAST — BALCONY)

The Risen Christ is shown surrounded by the rose and the thorn — both symbols of St. Rita's life.

DAYTON WINDOW (SOUTH — BALCONY)

Propeller, tail section and top view of airplane make this window a tribute to the community of Dayton — the Birth-place of Aviation.

Historical Highlights



Artist's Sketch of St. Rita Church, built in 1922

ST. RITA'S PARISHIONERS, with justifiable pride, presently enjoy the happy moments of the Dedication Day of their new church; and with eager expectation they look forward to the future of their St. Rita Parish. With some nostalgia, no doubt, many of the older members also look back — back to the parish's pioneer days, as recounted in the following report of the *Catholic Telegraph Register* of March 31, 1932:

ENJOYING a peaceful existence, far from the hustle and bustle of the city, St. Rita congregation will celebrate this fall, the 10th anniversary of its organization. Prior to 1922, the Catholics of this section, of whom there were many, had to come all the way to Dayton to attend Mass.

Feeling justified in applying for a church of their own, steps were taken, in 1921, to acquaint Archbishop Henry

Moeller of the situation at Shiloh Springs. Accordingly, the Archbishop assigned Rev. John F. Lampe, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, of Tippicanoe City, to organize this parish as a mission.

The first meeting was called shortly before Christmas, in 1921, at the public school building at Stop 4, (Wampler Road and Covington Pike). Another enthusiastic meeting was held the following week, and arrangements were completed to make preparations for holding services in the public school building.

The first altar was built by Thomas Sheehan, and the first Mass was celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of January 1922 at 9:30 A.M. After the Mass a meeting was called to select a board of trustees.

The first board of trustees selected to serve the congregation were Thomas Mitchell, Thomas Kirby and Joseph Zink.

Steps were immediately taken to acquire property to build a church, and the location selected was at the corner of Covington Pike and Erdiel Drive. Twelve lots constituted the church property, and here, on April 23, 1922, ground was blessed and broken for the new church. On St. Rita's Day, May 22, the foundation was begun.

During the erection of the church, Mass was still held every Sunday in the school building, this congregation alternating each Sunday with Tippicanoe City, one Sunday having the early Mass, and the following Sunday the late Mass. Money was raised for the new enterprise by weekly envelope system and the establishment of a building fund.



Dedication Day Mass — November 22, 1922



**Father John Lampe, founding pastor of St. Rita's Parish,
poses for portrait with a First Communion Class.**

Within six months the church was ready for dedication, and with appropriate ceremonies this took place on November 12, with Monsignor Daniel A. Buckley officiating. Father Lampe was the celebrant, with Rev. J. Fogarty, deacon, and Rev. H. Stich, subdeacon. Parishioners and friends packed the little church to its capacity. The sermon was preached by Monsignor Buckley.

Father Lampe had been appointed the first pastor of St. Rita's, on August 20, and after the dedication of the new church, two Masses have been held regularly each Sunday. At the time of his appointment, the pastor arranged for the purchase of adjoining ground which also contained a suitable house for a parsonage.

Naturally, the next problem was the care and education of the children. Ground having been broken on Sept. 15, 1925, the first school, containing only two rooms, was opened for classes on January 3, 1926, with 38 pupils in attendance. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were placed in charge. During the summer months, the rest room was attached. To meet the growing needs, a second unit of two class rooms was added in 1928. Today, three teachers are in charge of the 75 children attending school here.

Pastor and congregation are proudly happy of the fact that they enjoy the unusual distinction of having a first-class relic of St. Rita, the patroness of their church.

Datelines

(Taken from the MINUTES of parish meetings
and the ANNUAL REPORTS of St. Rita Parish)

1921

DECEMBER 19 — Meeting at Harrison Township School House for purpose of forming a parish and building a church.

Mr. Louis Wehner offered to donate a site for the church.

Building Committee: T. J. Mitchell, Louis Wehner, Thos. Kirby, Jos. Zink.

Committee for use of School: Messers. Edw. Caufield, Thos. Sheahan, Martin Duell.

1922

JANUARY 8 — Mr. Thos. Sheahan offered services as carpenter to make table necessary for altar. Fr. Lampe spoke of building a temporary church on a different site from the permanent church and on the necessity of a school and buying sufficient land at the start for future use. He also gave some ideas on financing the new church and spoke of the kinds of churches that could be built, showing views of churches in Troy and Tippecanoe City.

Mr. Sheahan reported the conditions under which the use of the school house was allowed, viz., that regular janitor be recompensed for the extra work, and that care be taken of school house and of books. Recompense for janitor: \$2.00. Collection 1st Mass: \$3.87. Paid janitor: \$1.00

1923

JANUARY 16 — Mr. Jos. Zink resigned because of health and Mr. Henry Dabbelt was elected to board of trustees.

JANUARY 19 — Possibility of new school was discussed but the cost and maintenance was found too great to warrant the expense with the present income of the new congregation. A savings of \$959.27 on contract prices was made in the building of new church.

Improvement in weekly collections was noted.

It was decided to dig a ditch and lay tile to drain the parsonage cellar, which became flooded after every rain. The filling of the ditch on the north side of the church was also discussed but no decisive action was taken at this meeting.

1924

JANUARY 21 — A vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Bushman for the delicious dinner served the board. Discussion of the practicability of a new school was continued and the question of getting pledges for the building taken up, the pledges for the building fund of the church running out in April. Discussion carried over to next meeting. An increase in collections was noted.

Datelines

MARCH 3 — Discussion of the advisability of new school was continued and tentative plans for the building were examined. It was decided to call a congregational meeting on the 16th of March and the views of the congregation taken on the matter.

APRIL 28 — Bids for the fill between church and parsonage was considered. Finke Engineering Co. stated it would be unprofitable to use a steam shovel for this work. They submitted a bid of \$1.00 per load, to use trucks and teams. Mr. Trost submitted a bid of .65 per load and Mr. Caulfield one of .60 per load. On motion of Mr. Dabbelt, seconded by Mr. Kirby, the contract was awarded to Mr. Caulfield @ 60¢ for hauling and 5¢ for grading.

DECEMBER 15 — Plans for new school were examined and with a few minor alterations were approved. Architect instructed to draw up specifications. August Heichelbech was elected to fill the vacancy made by the death of Henry Dabbelt.

1925

SEPTEMBER 8 — The bid of A. P. Ziegler was accepted on the new school — \$5,000 for building complete except heating system, \$100 deducted if roll roofing is used instead of asbestos shingles.

1926

JANUARY 19 — Resignation of Aug. Heichelbech, Board of trustees increased to four. Mr. Elmer Crowell and Mr. Fred Schmitz were elected to fill vacancy.



St. Rita's First Choir — Marietta Crowell, Howard Caulfield, Jos. O'Brien, organist, Floyd Resh, Mrs. Ida Crowell, Mrs. Jacks, Mrs. Maude Caulfield, Ed Duell, Eldred Resh and Alma Crowell.



St. Rita Grade School opened for classes and thirty-eight pupils on January 3, 1926. A second unit of two classrooms was added in 1928. Modern brick school buildings were erected in 1950 and 1961. St. Rita School now enrolls over five-hundred pupils, taught by six Precious Blood Sisters and nine lay teachers.



The old school was removed from the scene this summer, under the watchful eyes of firemen from Harrison, Randolph, and Madison townships.

Datelines

JUNE 1 — Board advised that loan of \$20,000 obtained from Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. on church property, and balance of bills paid off. Addition to school building decided upon to serve as rest rooms for sisters and pupils and contract let to Mr. Ziegler.

1927

NOVEMBER 14 — Addition to school— 2 rooms with fireproof basement discussed. Open ditch to be sewerred. Appointment or Election of trustees discussed and present status *to be continued*.

1928

MARCH 13 — Discussion of addition to the parish school house. A. P. Ziegler was low bidder. Bids on heating system were held over to give H. J. Ostenfeld an opportunity to bid on another system and also to investigate the system best suited to the requirements of the school.

MARCH 26 — New bids for heating system considered and it was decided that indirect heating and ventilating unit system would give the best results; the contract was awarded to The C. J. Vehorn Com.

AUGUST 20 — Addition to the school building inspected.

1929

JANUARY 22 — Mr. Thos. Kirby presented his resignation.

AUGUST 14 — Contracts let on re-roofing parsonage. The Wehner Roofing Co. and Mr. Thos. Sheahan submitted bids and the contract was awarded to Mr. Sheahan on his low bid of \$151. Motion to award was made by Mr. Schmitz, seconded by Mr. Hentz.

1930

FEBRUARY 4 — Resignation of T. J. Mitchell was presented and accepted. Mr. Ed Henz was elected Secretary. Mr. Schmitz presented his resignation but was rejected due to Mr. Mitchell's priority. Mr. John Duell appointed trustee and accepted by him on Feb. 7. Board inspected arrangement to stop water leakage from tower seeping through ceiling in choir loft; also approved installation of oil burner in heating furnace in church basement.

1931

JANUARY 20 — Thanks rendered to Mrs. Bushman for delicious dinner and conveyed to her by Mr. Duell. Mr. Fred Schmitz resignation accepted and Mr. Thos. P. Sheahan, Sr., nominated to fill vacancy.

APRIL 20 — Bids for decorating interior of church were opened and read. Lowest bid submitted by the Poeppelmeier Co. @ \$395.00.

1932

JANUARY 26 — Resignation of Mr. Crowell accepted and Mr. Thos. J. Blincoe was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Datelines

1933

JANUARY 10 — Resignation of Mr. Ed Henz was accepted.

Mr. Edward A. Keferl was elected to fill the vacancy, and Mr. Blincoe was elected secretary.

1934

JANUARY 9 — Absence and resignation of Mr. John Duell noted.

Mr. Julius C. Rathweg was elected to fill the vacancy.

1935

JANUARY 8 — Resignation of Mr. Keferl and Mr. Sheahan was accepted.

Mr. Lawrence Brockman and Mr. Gerald P. Young were elected to fill the two vacancies on the board.

1936

JANUARY 13 — Resignation of T. J. Blincoe was proffered and accepted.

Mr. Gerald Young appointed secretary. Thanks was conveyed to Mrs. Bushman for the fine meal, and general affairs of the parish discussed.

JANUARY 29 — Motion carried that Mr. R. A. Blincoe be accepted as member of the board. Schedule of service at Mass for 1936 was distributed.

(Notation in *Annual Report* for 1936: Father Arthur Froehle named Vicarius Substitutus Dec. 23, 1936 owing to an accident that befell the Rev. John Lampe, pastor, Sunday, Dec. 20, 1936.)

1937

JANUARY 14 — Meeting opened with prayer by Fr. Froehle. Mr. Gerald P. Young tendered his resignation and Mr. H. Henry Stang was appointed as the new member and secretary of the board for four years. Mr. Jos. Brinkman, Mr. Ed Duell, Mr. Fred Bergman and Mr. John Prestel were suggested as possible candidates for appointment to Board of Lay advisors for 1938.

FEBRUARY — Father Urban Koehl appointed pastor.

1938

JANUARY 5 — Fr. Koehl opened the meeting with prayer and thanks was given to Miss Ann Hahn for the delicious dinner.

A motion made to post the following names on the bulletin board in the rear of church for the purpose of electing by vote one to the *Lay Advisors*: James Carmody, Geo. Claude, Jos. Brinkman, Roland Duell, John Prestel, Louis Holtman, Fred Bergman, Geo. Volk, John Buchholz, and Robert Hickey.

1939

JANUARY 11 — Motion made that the Board of Lay Advisors be composed of six members to serve three years: Nominees: Brockman, Fred Bergman,

Datelines

John Buchholz, James Carmody, Geo. Claude, Jos. Doll, R. Duell, Wm. Woeste, L. Holtman, E. Henz, W. Coleman, F. Westgerdes, Paul Hemmelgarn, W. Tangeman, Paul Thill, Ed. Volk, Fred Schmitz.

JANUARY 31 — Three new members, Fred Bergman, Geo. Claude, and John Buchholz, were inducted into the board. Discussion of duties of board, garden party, sale of church seats, stairway at rear of church followed.

NOVEMBER 28 — At the meeting previous to this Fr. Koehl told the board he would be leaving us to enter the Trappist Monastery at Gethsemani, Ky.

DECEMBER 19 — Meeting opened with prayer by Father Francis J. Mooney, C.P.P.S. Various subjects such as admission tickets for Midnight Mass; Third Mass with following schedule proposed: 6:30; 9:00 and 11:30.

1940

JANUARY 23 — New members of the board to be elected by congregation on Jan. 28, 1940. Nominees: E. A. Blincoe, H. H. Stang, James Carmody, J. Doll, Roland Duell, Wm. Woeste, L. Holtman, Wm. Coleman, Frank Westgerdes, Paul Thill, Anthony Volk, John Pratt, F. Schmitz, Frank Runck, John Prestel, Thomas Kirby, Clarence Achbach, and Linus Boeke.

JANUARY 30 — Wm. Coleman and H. Henry Stang became the new members of the board.

MARCH 10 — Father Frank C. Laudick, C.P.P.S., opened the meeting with prayer. Further discussion of three Masses to be investigated by Fr. Laudick.

MAY 27 — Fr. Laudick suggested that since his appointment was of short duration he preferred that his successor arrange for the extra Mass. Discussion of drive for direct donations instead of a Garden Party was held; all favored the former method. Motion that a pipeline for water to the house be laid from the school well. The work to begin the day after the closing of school.

(From the *Annual Report* the following dates were obtained: Rev. Francis J. Mooney, C.P.P.S., Administrator from Dec. 22, 1939 - Feb. 22, 1940)

(Rev. Frank C. Laudick, C.P.P.S., Administrator from Feb. 22, 1940 - Aug. 7, 1940)

SEPTEMBER 20 — Father Clarence J. Schmitt opened the meeting with prayer. He said he arranged with the Society of Mary for a priest to assist him at two additional Masses beginning Sunday, Sept. 22nd. Therefore additional ushers were to be appointed, the names taken from results of the election held in Jan. 1940 beginning with the one having the highest

Datelines

number of votes. This resulted in the appointment of Paul Thill, R. A. Blincoe, L. Holtman, F. Westgerdes, F. Schmitz, and J. Carmody. Rebuilding of garage and improving the entrance to the church basement are immediate needs. The lot adjoining the church property, having been procured by St. Rita Church, to be used as a playground for the school children. Fr. Schmitt informed the board that all the necessary transactions had been made.

1940 ANNUAL REPORT — Father Clarence J. Schmitt appointed Vicarius Oeconomus. Barn torn down and garage built. Roof and Asbestos-Cement shingle siding donated by Spraley Bros. About every able-bodied man in the parish assisted in the concrete construction and carpentry, free of charge — even the high school boys proved quite adept. Shrine to St. Rita erected outside the church. A new Estey organ was donated. The lot adjoining the Rectory was donated. A great deal of *rodomontade* by the pastor about a sunken garden, lily pond, St. Rita Rose Area, elimination of side step hazard, erection of flagpoles — all gradually materializing but not completed. Rev. C. J. S. composed a new hymn to St. Rita and put it to a soul-dissolving melody.

The step hazard at the southwest side of the church was eliminated. A piece of architectural nicety now meets your eyes, viz., the vestibule entrance to the church basement. For all the new steps, the risers are $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the treads $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches — a model for step-construction. The Rev. C. J. Schmitt, a former carpenter and concrete artisan, son of a carpenter and grand-son of Sidney's famous builder, aided the janitor, Thos. P. Sheahan, a retired contractor, in the design and erection of the cozy edifice. After a lapse of 25 years from the trade, the priest proved ambi-dextrous in the use of the hammer, successfully hitting the fingers of both hands with facility. Ed Altenbach, California State Architect, made the plans, specifications and blue prints.

1942 ANNUAL REPORT — Father Carl J. Lamott took charge on Sept. 23rd 1942 and was canonically installed by the Rt. Rev. Dean Mons. Charles Ertel on Oct. 7. Father Lamott arranged for the refinancing of the Parish Loans, reducing the interest rate from 5% to 3% thus saving four hundred dollars annually on the interest. In addition, the parish debt was reduced from \$20,600.00 to \$19,000.00.

1943 ANNUAL REPORT — In August the church floor was covered with Tiletes. The parish debt was reduced by \$9,000.00.

1944 ANNUAL REPORT — New Steam Heating Plant installed in church.

Datelines

1945 ANNUAL REPORT — Two built-in confessionals were constructed. A residence for the teaching Sisters was purchased on 21 Homeview Ave. and paid for.

The following donations were received: Dorsal drapes; bronze tabernacle; Crucifix for Altar, Statue of B.V. Mary; Statue of St. Joseph; Statue of Sacred Heart by H. H. Stang in memory of John P. Stang, Gertrude Stang, Gertrude Stouser, Margaret, Rita Ann Stang, John T. McCloskey and Margaret McCloskey. Communion Railing by First Friday Baking Group. Sanctuary was remodeled and new altar erected.

1946 ANNUAL REPORT — The interior of the church was decorated. The Sisters' home was remodeled and completely furnished.

1947 ANNUAL REPORT — The Reverend Carl J. Lamott died September 6, 1947.

The Reverend Lawrence Walter was administrator until Sept. 21, 1947. The appointment of Rev. J. Paul Fogarty as pastor was effective Sept. 21, 1947.



Benediction Service at close of ceremonies marking Groundbreaking Day and the start of new St. Rita Church. Photo shows appearance of the old church's sanctuary, following refurbishings made in 1946.

Datelines

1948 ANNUAL REPORT — Construction of a school, consisting of 4 classrooms, 2 toilet rooms, an office and a boiler room, began April 11, 1950, and was finished about November. Before this the sanitary facilities of St. Rita School were two outhouses.

1949 ANNUAL REPORT — During 1949, two parishes, Mother of Sorrows, 2 miles east, and Precious Blood, 2 miles west, erected churches and took territory and people from St. Rita Parish.

1952 ANNUAL REPORT — The 6th Classroom was put in use in September. A second lay teacher was employed.

1954 ANNUAL REPORT — The church, the frame school and the rectory were painted in the fall.

The newly installed county water service was brought into the St. Rita Parish buildings.

A religious Sister was sent us, making the faculty 5 Sisters, one lay teacher. Interior of church basement (cafeteria, stage, kitchen) painted this year.

1955 ANNUAL REPORT — September 1, opened one more classroom; hired one more lay teacher.



Father J. Paul Fogarty, pastor from 1947 to 1958, with St. Rita's Grade School Graduates of 1950.

Datelines

1956 ANNUAL REPORT — Another (the eighth and last available) classroom opened in September.

Teachers: Sister Mary Alma, Principal, Sister Mary Genevieve, Sister M. Alda, Sister M. Luetta, Sister M. Edmunda, Mrs. Marian Bergman, Mrs. Helen Kovacs, Mrs. Mary Flowers.

1957 ANNUAL REPORT — Boundary to north and east shortened when Vandalia Parish was established.

Lay teachers all receive \$2500.00 a year.

1958 ANNUAL REPORT — Present Pastor, Father Francis B. Pilliod, appointed, April 29.

Parish purchased 4 lots for Sisters' new home. Lay teacher's salary — total \$3,000.00 yearly.

1959 ANNUAL REPORT — June 1 Ground breaking for new Convent (cost \$76,224.00) Elmer Schmidt, Architect; A. P. Ziegler Co., Contractor — August 10 Corner Stone laying by Bishop Paul F. Leibold.

1960 ANNUAL REPORT — January 24 Formal opening of New Convent — January 30 First Mass in Convent Chapel — October 9 Ground breaking for School Addition (8 rooms - cafeteria) General contract \$218,833.00 - Kitchen contract \$6,278.00, Architect Elmer H. Schmidt - Contractor A. P. Ziegler Co.

1961 ANNUAL REPORT — October 29 Blessing of School Addition (8 rooms - cafeteria) by Bishop Leibold.

1962 ANNUAL REPORT — October Electrification of Church Bell - donated by Henry Kreitzer — December 12 Acquired property 33 x 400 feet south of rectory.

1963 ANNUAL REPORT — February 10-23 Parish Mission, Rev. John C. Cody, C.M. — October 13-23 Solemn Miraculous Medal Novena, Rev. Henry Magee, C.M. — October 27 Ground breaking for Rectory and Offices - Cost \$103,000.00 — September Opened another classroom, 11 now in use — November 3 Confirmation, 168, by Bishop Leibold.

1964 ANNUAL REPORT — June 3 Silver Jubilee of Pastor — June 21 First Solemn Masses of first newly ordained in parish's history: Rev. Thomas E. Stang, C.P.P.S.; Rev. David J. Stang, M.M. — August 5 New Rectory and Offices completed — August 25 Rev. David R. Lucas appointed assistant.

Acknowledgements

MR. ELMER H. SCHMIDT

Architect

5868 Salem Rd.

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CHAS. H. SHOOK, INC.

General Contractors

440 Hunter Avenue

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MUTUAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.

Electrical Contractor

1310 Farr Drive

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NORM WOOLLEY COMPANY

Mechanical Contractor

508 Linden Avenue

Dayton, Ohio 45403

HAROLD BANFILL

Banfill Plastering Company

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HAROLD J. BECKER COMPANY, INC.

5031 Indian Ripple Road

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THE MYRON CORNISH COMPANY

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WALTER M. LITSEY, INC.

973 South Perry Street

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DON MENDENHALL, INC.

2655 South Dixie Avenue

Dayton, Ohio 45409

MOORE & CHITTUM, INC.

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Acknowledgements

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JOHN G. SERENA COMPANY
3262 Zephyr Drive
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THE WEHNER ROOFING & TINNING COMPANY
2933 Dryden Road
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SCHRIEBER SHEET METAL & ROOFERS, INC.
915 South Perry Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

WINTERICH'S
25901 Fargo Avenue
Bedford, Ohio 44014

LOCATION OF MEDALS IN NEW CHURCH

MIRACULOUS MEDALS — In four parts of base
of Bell Tower and one in West Wall be-
neath Mosaic.

ST. JOSEPH MEDAL — In North Wall.

ST. RITA MEDAL — In East Wall - Front
Entrance.

SACRED HEART MEDALS — In Wall joining
Rectory and Church, one under Confes-
sional on Northeast Wall.

ST. ANN MEDAL — In Floor of Mechanical
Room.

ST. BENEDICT MEDAL — In South Wall.

O GOD, your mercy is limitless and the treasury of your goodness is boundless. We give thanks to your gracious majesty for the gifts we have received. We look to you for an answer to our every petition; to continue your kindness and forsake us not, and prepare us for the reward to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

ROMAN MISSAL



