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Corpus Christi: The First Fifty Years

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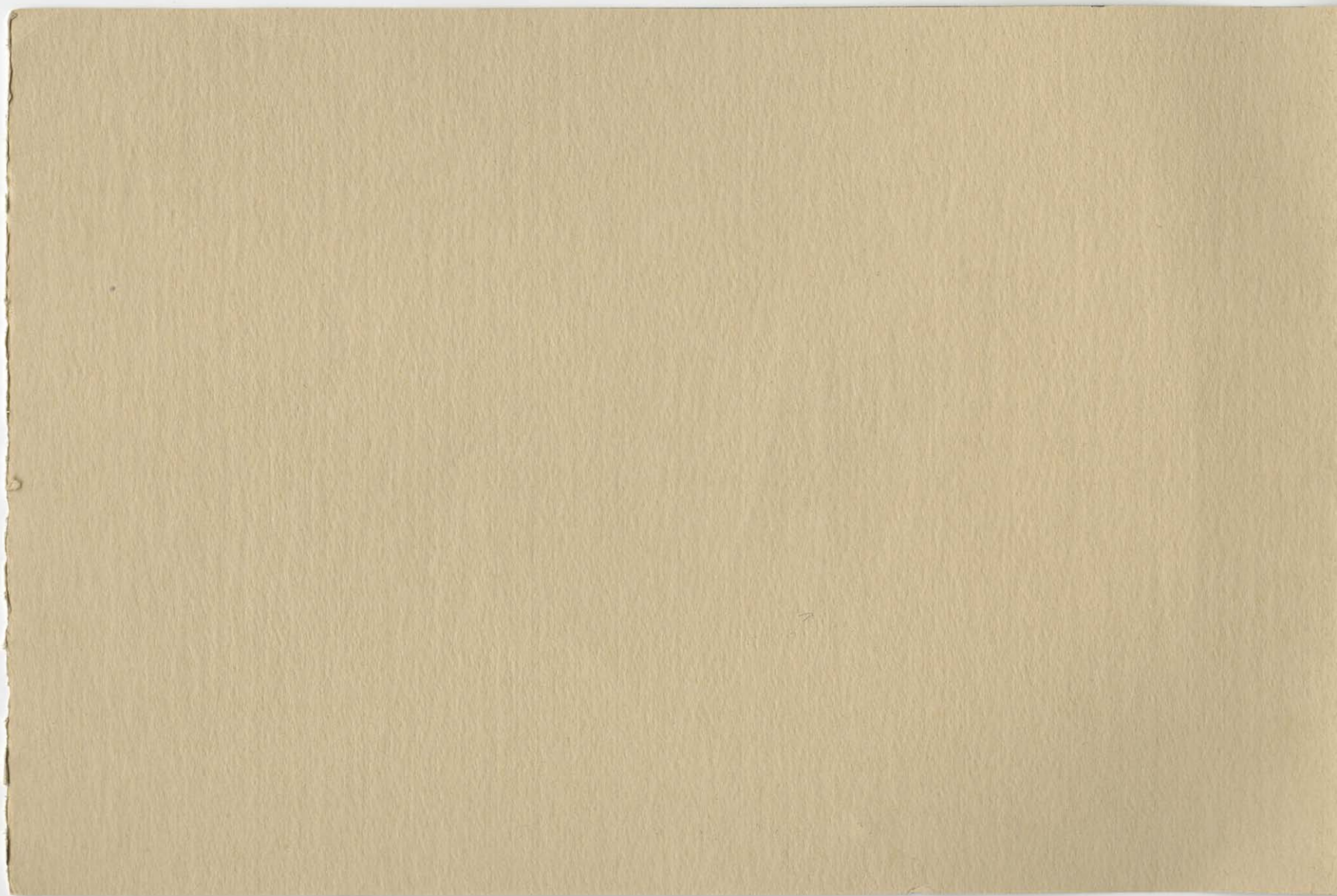
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Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi
THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS



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"I am short of Priests just at the present time and consequently cannot appoint a Pastor of the new congregation for the time being. If you find a piece of property that the committee deems suitable I direct you to consult with the Rev. Wm. D. Hickey regarding same."

(excerpt from a letter of Archbishop Moeller to M. J. Gibbons, Sr. dated Jan. 19, 1910)



The Beginnings...



Archbishop Henry Moeller



Although the official birthday of Corpus Christi Parish is March 19, 1911, our story cannot begin with that date. For births do not just happen by chance. We must, therefore, give at least a short account of what might be called the prenatal history of Corpus Christi.

According to various records, as far back as 1907 there were Catholics in what were then known as the "suburbs" of Riverdale and Dayton View who were convinced of the need for a new parish in that area. Men like Joseph Wenz, George Pflaum, and John Foose worked for the establishment of such a parish, and it was because of the interest aroused by these men that in 1909 steps were taken to organize the Catholics in these suburbs with the aim of receiving from Archbishop Moeller the sanction for a new parish and the appointment of a pastor.

This sanction was eventually granted and in November of 1909 M. J. Gibbons of the organizing committee received a letter from the archbishop informing him that "since churches should be at least two miles apart," the dividing line between the new church and St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart churches should be Herman and Grand avenues. In January of 1910 a second letter from the archbishop stated that because of a shortage of priests he could not appoint a pastor at that time, but that Father William Hickey of St. Joseph's Church could be consulted by the committee if and when a suitable piece of property for the new church was found.

A committee consisting of A. W. Kling, Frank Tierney, J. D. Payne, John Spatz, C. L. Moorman, Charles J. Helldoerfer and Otto Moosbrugger surveyed the area for a suitable site and on February 23, 1911, this committee submitted five possible locations. The one finally approved was at that time designated as being on the corner of Forest Ave. and Broadway (Homewood's former name!). This property, fronting 193 ft. on Forest, 310 ft. on Homewood, and 179 ft. on Squirrel Road, cost \$19,000.

Rev. John T. Gallagher (1911-1918)

Immediately after the dedication of the new St. Joseph's Church on March 19, 1911, Archbishop Moeller appointed the Reverend John T. Gallagher as first pastor of Corpus Christi. Following a series of meetings with the organization committee, the flatiron-shaped building at the corner of Main St. and Forest Ave. known as Smith's Hall was rented for use as a temporary chapel. Mass was said here for the first time on Easter Sunday, April 16. On the afternoon of the same day, Hilma Clara Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Joly, became the first to receive the sacrament of Baptism in the new parish.

Although there had been a proposal to move a certain frame structure (which had been the temporary chapel of the St. Joseph's congregation during the construction of their new church) from its location on Sears St. all the way to Forest and Homewood, the idea was rejected because of the cost of such a project. Instead it was decided to build a new edifice. Mr. William E. Russ was chosen to design the structure, and ground was broken on July 10, 1911.

Work progressed so rapidly that the dedication ceremonies were possible by December 24. Assisting Archbishop Moeller at these ceremonies were Rev. B. J. Ill, C.S.C., deacon, Rev. F. A. Gallagher, sub-deacon, and Rev. J. H. O'Neill, master of ceremonies. The same priests assisted Rev. William D. Hickey at the dedicatory Mass. The sermon was preached by Rev. John Hickey of Holy Name Church in Cincinnati, and the musical program featured the famous Boys Choir of St. Joseph's Orphanage in Cincinnati.



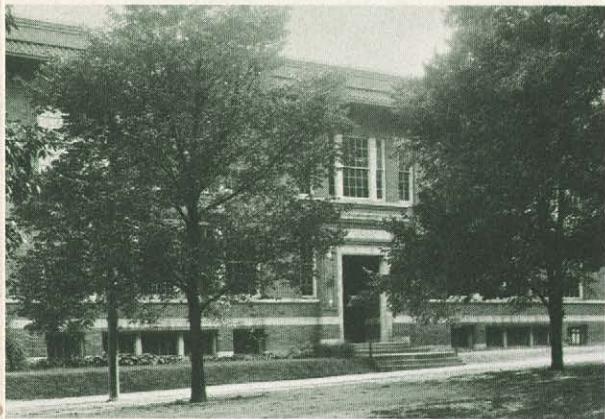
Father Gallagher

In its account of the dedication ceremonies, the *Dayton Herald* of December 23 described the new church as “a replica of the old Spanish missions in Mexico and California.” According to the same article, the church was “the only structure of its style in this section of the country, and was chosen in conformity with the desire of the pastor and his congregation to break away from the stereotyped forms of church architecture.” Further, “when the sun shines on the red tiled roof and white stucco walls, the church presents an Old World picture which is as pleasing as it is rare.” For the record, however, it must be said that although the church building was new, the interior furnishings were old. Altars, altar rail, confessionals, pews, and sacristy furniture were from old St. Joseph’s Church, gifts of Rev. William Hickey. A few weeks later, Herman King and Theresa Cron became the first couple to be married in the new church.



The Church





The School

Less than three months after the dedication of the church, work was begun on Corpus Christi School. Because the building was not completed until some time in November, classes were conducted in the church for the first two months, the children sitting on the kneelers and using the pews for their desks! When the school was ready, the first and second grades were taught in one room by Sister Mary Linus, the third and fourth graders in one room by Miss Agnes Agnew, the fifth and sixth graders by Sister Mary Grace, and the last two grades by Sister Mary Albert, who also served as principal. The fact that the one hundred and thirty who were enrolled took up only half of the available space evidently was the reason for Father Gallagher's remarks in the Corpus Christi Record (inaugurated by him in January, 1912) that it "will probably never be necessary to provide any additional classroom space." In the meantime, a house at 1423 N. Main St., directly across the street from the former temporary chapel, had been rented for the Sisters of Charity teaching in the school, and parishioners were asked to donate house furnishings.

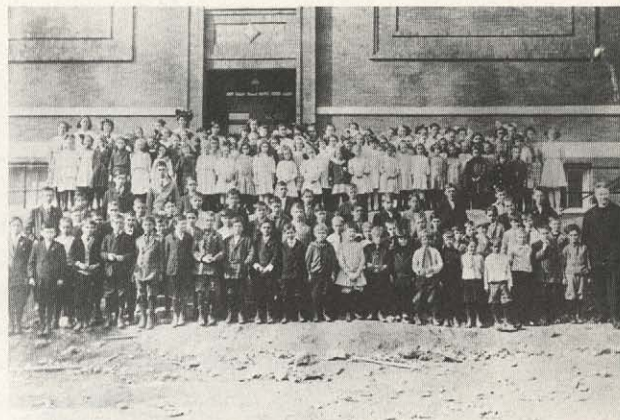
Other noteworthy events in that first full year of the parish's existence were the formation of the Holy Name Society (first president was John Spatz) with an initial membership of one hundred and fifty and the staging of the first parish picnic. The picnic baseball game between the Irish and the Dutch was won by the Dutch.

Although the flood waters of 1913 did not reach as far north as the church and school buildings, at least half of the Corpus Christi parishioners suffered damages from the catastrophe. First Holy Communion Sunday had to be postponed until

June and the school had to be closed for six weeks. Despite these obstacles, Charles Klee, Pauline Pyle, and Hortense Werst were able to complete the required course of studies to become Corpus Christi School's first graduation class.

During the famous flood year, Robert Mayl, S.M., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Mayl, the first member of the parish to be ordained, said his first Mass in the church. As a kind of parting shot to the year, the pastor reminded his congregation not to forget the promises made in the attic — "pay the pew rent and support the church!"

The next several years was a time of steady growth and expansion. Clubs and societies necessary for conducting the various functions of a parish were formed, and by 1916 the pastor needed an assistant. Rev. John L. Kelly was appointed as the first assistant pastor of Corpus Christi, remaining in this capacity until September, 1918, when he departed to serve as chaplain in the armed forces. And so, as the Great War raged in Europe and Woodrow Wilson wrestled with the problem of what to do about the Kaiser, the people of Corpus Christi carried on with the job of bringing up a young parish. School enrollment increased steadily year by year (300 in September, 1917), the number of Sunday Masses was increased to four, and the Holy Name Society began what was to be a tradition of many years — that of a Christmas party for the school children, with a live Christmas tree and candy furnished by an "anonymous" benefactor (which everyone knew was the Kuntz estate).



Opening the New School 1912

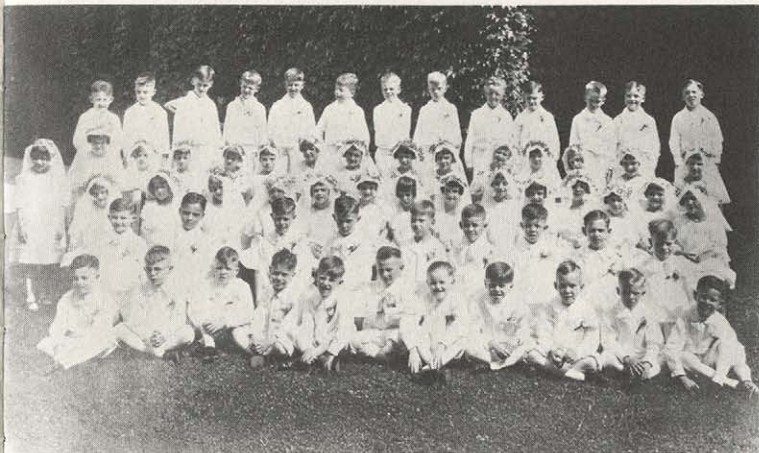


"... the pealing
of the Armistice ..."

After our country finally entered the war, the Corpus Christi Record contained such items as praise for the boys stationed at the Wright Aviation Camp for their frequent reception of the Sacraments at Corpus Christi, pleas for the prayers of the congregation for an early peace, and a list of the first volunteers from the parish stationed at Battery D, Field Artillery, Triangle Park. Included in this list were Sgt. Mike Redelle and Privates Henry Grote and Eugene Schenck. The Corpus Christi Cadets, an organization of school-age boys which had been formed at an earlier date, now joined forces with the Junior Naval Marines, the joint group under the command of Colonel Williamson. The Record exhorted all its readers to buy Thrift Stamps and Liberty Bonds.

The great flu epidemic of 1918 added to the troubles of the times. Public health authorities ordered the closing of schools and churches. Accordingly, Masses had to be celebrated in the open, although at Corpus Christi some shelter was provided by a canopy furnished by Peter Kuntz, Jr. Father Gallagher, probably weakened by these exposures and by his tireless efforts to visit the many sick parishioners, became infected by the dread flu virus. He died on November 5 and three days later the Pontifical Requiem Mass for him was sung by Archbishop Moeller. On November 11 his funeral Mass was sung in St. Joseph's Church, Springfield, Ohio. So the pealing of the Armistice was for Corpus Christi's first pastor the funeral bell.

Rev. James W. Fogarty (1918-1924)



First Communion Class of 1925

Within about a month after the tragic death of Father Gallagher, Rev. James A. Fogarty was appointed as the new pastor of Corpus Christi. The Corpus Christi Record of the next five years contained very little except financial reports and advertisements. In the October, 1920 issue there appeared a full-page political advertisement in behalf of ex-Governor James Cox, but despite this campaign effort he failed to win the presidential election the following month. But such things as the post-war deflation, Teapot Dome, and the early years of Prohibition passed unnoticed by the Corpus Christi Record. The Roaring Twenties came in without much of a parochial roar.

In July of 1922 Rev. Thomas J. Cobey, assistant pastor since the departure of Father Kelly, died very suddenly. Even at this time Father Fogarty's health was apparently not good, and by the end of the following year his condition had worsened to such an extent that he could no longer manage the affairs of the parish. Upon his resignation, Rev. Raphael Sourd was appointed as Administrator of Corpus Christi.

Rev. Albert A. Burke (1924-1928)



Archbishop John T. McNicholas

On March 27, 1924, after Father Sourd had served as Administrator for about three months, the Archbishop appointed Rev. Albert A. Burke as the new pastor. By this time the deflationary period that had immediately followed the war was a thing of the past. Father Burke's tenure as pastor coincided with the years of a new period of prosperity, characterized by great industrial growth and the inevitable inflation. As an example of the latter, the cost of the Wortman property, bought as a home for the Sisters, was \$30,000. During this period the idea of a new church was occasionally expressed, with the tentative plan of building it on the site of the present rectory and of keeping the "old" church for use as an assembly hall.

Archbishop Moeller died quite unexpectedly in 1925, and in July of that year the appointment of Rt. Rev. John T. McNicholas as the new Archbishop of Cincinnati was announced. The new Archbishop made his first visit to Dayton in August, and the possibility of a Central Catholic High School for the city was discussed. Approximately one year later, the Archbishop turned over the first shovel of dirt as ground was broken for Julienne High School.

It will be of interest to Corpus Christi parishioners of today to know that in 1926 the Archbishop proposed to the Knights of Columbus the worthy project of establishing a Catholic Recreational Center for the youth of the city.



Sisters' Home

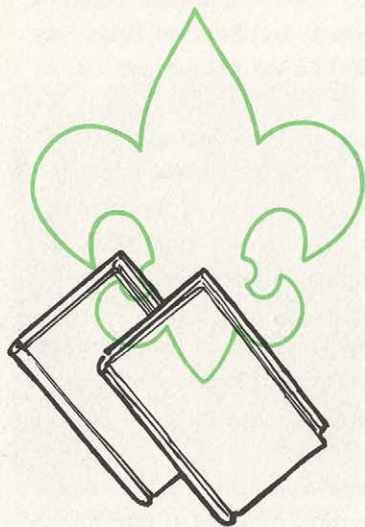
In May of 1927, Corpus Christi acquired a very important piece of land. The property at Old Orchard, Homewood, and Squirrel Road was purchased from the Pierce estate for \$37,000 as the prospective site of a new church.

By 1927 Corpus Christi school enrollment had reached almost 500. To the fifty graduates of that year the pastor expressed the hope that all of them would enroll at either Julianne or Chaminade, the two new Catholic high schools opening their doors for the first time that fall. Corpus Christi planned to meet the high school tuition assessments by means of a monthly education collection.

So, despite such oddities as summer furs, oxford bags, boyish bobs, swagger sticks, airedales and mah jong, Corpus Christi parishioners quietly did their work and kept the faith. (Babe Ruth hit sixty homers and Lindbergh flew the Atlantic.)

In November of 1928 Father Burke was transferred to St. Agnes Parish in Cincinnati and Rev. Francis Reardon of Holy Name Parish in that city was appointed as his successor at Corpus Christi. As he remarked in the Record, Father Reardon came in the same year that Al Smith was out.

Rt. Rev. Francis A. Reardon (1928-1935)



"... take it,
read it,
return it..."

Father Reardon had already acquired a reputation for scholarly and artistic ability as well as a knack for energizing parochial activities, and it was not long before he began to live up to his reputation. During the first year at his new post, he borrowed \$110,000, inaugurated the Dollar-A-Sunday weekly envelope system, completed the addition of eight more classrooms to the school building, organized a Catholic Evidence Guild for advanced instruction in religion, added a new vestibule to the church (increasing its seating capacity by twenty-five percent), renovated the Sisters' house and the older part of the school, instigated the formation of the first Catholic parish Boy Scout troop in Dayton (Bob McBride was first leader), started an informal lending library in the newly built vestibule ("take it, read it, return it"), organized a Montessori School for young children (directed by Miss Laura Quarry), and persuaded the newly formed P.T.A. (with Mrs. Michael Haley as its first president) to operate a cafeteria in the school. There is no evidence, however, that he was in any way responsible for the market crash in October!

During the next few years, despite the fact that the new depression was getting worse and worse, things continued to be accomplished at Corpus Christi. The new cafeteria was such a success that it frequently had pupils and teachers from Van Cleve School enjoying its services.

The Knights of Columbus, The Catholic Business Women's Club, and many other organizations also used its facilities on many occasions. The newly acquired land at Homewood and Old Orchard was cleared and all were invited to use it as a public playground.

Father Reardon had always looked upon the church as "at best a gloomy little building," and in 1930 he finally was able to do something about it. The main altar was trimmed down by removing much of the ornate upper part and the two side altars were replaced by new ones. A new wrought iron altar railing and new cross beams in the body of the church were installed. Two imported paintings, *the Miracle at Cana* and *the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes*, were placed on each side of the main altar, and the entire sanctuary and body of the church were completely redecorated. *The Dayton News* of March 23 carried a picture and a description of the two paintings. In the following year new flooring was laid in the sanctuary and a new pulpit was installed.

In order to acquire new sacred vessels, Father Reardon conducted a campaign for old jewelry from which enough gold, silver, and precious stones might be extracted for their fabrication. The members of the parish donated enough jewelry for the project, and when the pastor visited Europe he took it with him and had it fashioned into a chalice



The Altar



The San Rhiem Chalice

and a ciborium. During this trip, he also purchased many replicas of famous paintings which were later hung in the classrooms and corridors of the school. The Record of these years is filled with the pastor's discourses on art and descriptions of various art objects. It is reported that his lectures at the Dayton Art Institute were very well received.

In addition to various interior renovations in both church and school, the most noteworthy outdoor project was the construction of the Wayside Shrine. The wood for the cross which dominated the shrine was cut from a tree on the newly acquired property (called "Strawberry Hill" by the pastor). A parish Garden Club was organized for the construction and maintenance of this shrine, which for years attracted visitors from all over the city and surrounding towns. Christmas cards, featuring a picture of the famous Wayside Shrine, were very popular.

In June of 1932 Francis Moyer and Joseph Bosch became the first graduates of Corpus Christi to be ordained to the priesthood. In the

following year the feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated for the first time with an outdoor procession. In June of 1934 Father Reardon celebrated his Silver Jubilee. After Mass and a banquet for the clergy, there was a public assembly in his honor in Julianne's auditorium where the principal address was given by Mayor Charles Brennan.

Although the stringencies of the depression (New Deal notwithstanding) made it impossible at this time to install the much-needed new flooring in the body of the church or to replace the worn pews (shades of Old St. Joseph's!), permission was obtained from the Archbishop to build a choir transept. This addition to the church building was completed in September of 1935. Judging by the tone of the articles in the Records of this time, this addition seems to have been regarded as the last major enlargement that would ever be needed by either the church or the school! Plans for a new church seem to have been definitely abandoned at this time.



Wayside Shrine

Rt. Rev. Harry J. Ansbury (1935 to present)



Monsignor Ansbury



In November of 1935 Father Reardon was transferred to St. William's Parish in Cincinnati, and Rev. Harry J. Ansbury was appointed as the new pastor of Corpus Christi, the first native Daytonian to serve in that capacity. In the January 1936 Record he described the thrill he experienced in saying Mass at the same altar at which he had served as a boy and in sitting in the same confessionals in which he had knelt as a boy in St. Joseph's old church. In the same issue of the Record, the new pastor expressed his gratitude for the hearty welcome that had been accorded him and asked for prayers for the tasks that lay ahead.

These were surely difficult times. The depression was still far from over, receipts for 1935 were only about \$47,000 (compared with over \$63,000 in 1929), and there was still a debt of \$70,000. But the new pastor was not one to sit back in a state of passive dismay. He soon proved his mettle with a

vigorous display of administrative ability. Recognizing the need for opportunities for young people to exercise their energies, Father Ansbury became an active promoter of the C.Y.O., which had been started in Dayton the same year he became pastor. He likewise sponsored the formation of the Tri-Chi Club for the teen-agers of his own parish and encouraged the formation of the Civics Club and the school orchestra in the grade school. Under his direction, the new flooring in the church was finally laid and the old St. Joseph's pews were at last removed and replaced with new ones. Outside improvements included grading the school yard and moving the curb line on Forest Ave. back nine feet, making it possible to park in front of the church.

The Record of September 1937 is remarkable for an unusual item. In a short article casually inserted between the usual accounts of P.T.A. affairs or Boy Scout meetings, Father Ansbury told of an



First Communion Class of 1960



idea he had considered for a long time. It was for an auditorium and gymnasium to be built on Squirrel Road and he wondered what his parishioners thought of it! The mills of the gods grind slowly — and twenty years is a long time. On February 13 of the following year, the pastor celebrated his Silver Jubilee. The Rt. Rev. P. J. Hynes of St. Mary's Parish in Cincinnati preached the sermon for the occasion, and Father Ansbury was presented with a jubilee gift of \$1,000.

As the country began to emerge from the depression and war clouds were again forming in Europe, parish receipts began to rise. The Record noted that 920 of the 1291 sets of envelopes sent out were actually being used. A public address system was installed in the church, and a classroom communication system helped to modernize school functions. In 1939 the Cincinnati Reds won the pennant and the Corpus Christi boys had an undefeated season in basketball. Rubber cushions were installed on the kneelers in the church, and for the first time in its history the parish now owned a complete set of vestments for a solemn high Mass — no more borrowing from other pastors. In September of that year, Rev. William Staudt, C.P.P.S., was named assistant pastor. He was the first of the long and respected line of Fathers of the Precious Blood who for over twenty years have served as assistants at Corpus Christi.



The Service Flag

By 1941 (Remember Pearl Harbor!) the Corpus Christi Credit Union had been established, the departmental system of teaching introduced in the upper grades as a diocesan experiment, a new shrine and chapel built for the sisters, and the Perpetual Novena to the Sorrowful Mother inaugurated. And for the first time in six years, the high school assessment was paid in full.

The war years, despite the tragedies and hardships suffered by so many, also brought with them many good things. There was, as the pastor noted in the Record, a decided increase in the number of confessions and Communions and of those who attended Mass and the novena devotions. Increasing numbers responded to the pastor's plea to hear Mass daily for those in military service. The Corpus Christi service flag, designed by the pastor, was copied by the City of Dayton for honoring its own employees in the service. During this period, Father Ansbury was also honored by an invitation to give the 1942 Columbus

Day radio address in which he expressed the hope that the war, despite its evils, might be the means of bringing people back to the truths of Christianity.

The first member of the parish to lose his life in the war was Richard Reinhard. His father, Leo Reinhard, made a generous contribution toward the cost of the new tabernacle placed in the church in memory of his son. In the years that followed more and more names made their appearance on the roll of honor in the vestibule.

During these same years, the church was completely redecorated and fluorescent lighting was installed. The thirty-year-old heating system was replaced by a new one. A Catholic Information Center, expressly designed for the instruction of non-Catholic women, was established by the Sisters of Charity. A new high of \$91,910 in receipts was reached in the same year. Not only was the balance of the debt paid off, but there was enough left over to start a reserve fund.

By the end of the war, Corpus Christi had contributed a total of 470 to the armed services. Of this number, thirteen had given their lives. A memorial plaque was given to the family of each of these young men. In December of 1945, Father Ansbury celebrated his tenth anniversary as pastor of Corpus Christi. At a reception in his honor he expressed his thanks to all and noted that he had already served longer than any of his predecessors. He didn't realize at the time that it was "only the beginning!"



The Church Today

The years immediately following the end of World War II were years of regrouping forces, of assessing the numerical, financial and spiritual strength of the parish. School enrollment had remained fairly constant for the past ten years, at around 525. The total number of Catholics in the parish was about 4000 (1200 families). Receipts now passed the \$100,000 mark annually — but inflation was beginning to take its toll, and the expenses of operation were growing proportionately.

During these years, Corpus Christi athletic teams enjoyed unusual success. The Holy Name Society formed an Athletic Association to promote these activities, and it was decided that beginning in 1947 the collection on All Saints Day would be used for this purpose.

In 1947 an unusual "first" took place. Rev. Robert Steigmeyer, C.S.C. was ordained in the church on July 8. Illness had kept him from ordination with his regular class at Notre Dame. He said his first Mass in the church five days later.

In 1949 there were several events of note. In the August Record it was announced that the Archbishop had approved the pastor's long-cherished dream of a recreation

building, and that preliminary sketches had already been submitted. In November of that year, Father Ansbury was appointed Dean of the Montgomery County clergy. Finally, it was in 1949 that the pastor generously invited four Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart to the parish. A house at 536 Forest Ave. was secured for them. Since that time the Sisters have conducted information and inquiry classes, undertaken the work of the parish census, trained and supervised a large number of lay catechists, and conducted religion classes for the public school children on the elementary and high school level. The Sisters have helped to develop methods of teaching religion.

In the following year because of the death of Archbishop McNicholas clearance for the proposed recreation center was delayed. During the same year (that of the big snow), the Record began to devote a page each month to news of the Church of the Transfiguration. This former mission chapel had been founded with the help of the parishioners of Corpus Christi, who had donated their entire Christmas collections of 1943 and 1944, totaling over \$12,000, for the purchase of land in West Milton for the church site.



Archbishop Karl J. Alter

The big event of 1951 was the investiture of Father Ansbury as a Domestic Prelate. The impressive ceremony took place on Laetare Sunday, March 4, and included a procession of one hundred and twenty priests, ten monsignori, Archbishop Alter and his two chaplains. The Archbishop gave an eloquent sermon in praise of the new monsignor and celebrated Benediction as the concluding ceremony of the day. On the following Sunday there was a public reception for Monsignor Ansbury at the Biltmore Hotel. Over 1500 of his admirers attended the affair, which was highlighted by an address by Judge William Wolff.

In the following year, despite a slight falling off in receipts and a further jump in operating expenses — in ten years the annual cost of operating church and school had risen from \$27,000 to \$44,000 — permission was granted to build a transept on the south side of the church. When completed, this addition provided a greatly needed increase in the seating capacity of the church — from 550 to 750. The new transept marked the end of the old Wayside Shrine, but in the following year the bronze crucifix of the Shrine was mounted on a stone base and placed on the church grounds at the head of a newly designed formal flower garden. To complete the whole job, the “old” part of the church was given a beauty treatment in the form of a new tile roof, new stucco siding and new vines.

In 1954 Archbishop Alter authorized Monsignor Ansbury to have detailed plans drawn up for a "Recreational, Social and Educational Building." At a special meeting of the members of the congregation, attended by over 350 parishioners, the pastor outlined his program for the construction and financing of the proposed building. The B. G. Danis Co. was given the contract for this major project. In the November issue of the Record a sketch of the proposed building appeared. The estimated cost was finally placed at \$550,000. Since there was at this time \$200,000 in the reserve fund, and the maximum amount permitted by the Archbishop to be borrowed was \$250,000, there remained \$100,000 which had to be raised by contributions from parishioners.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held on July 17, 1955, and on the following day the pastor was awakened by the sweet music made by power shovels and bulldozers as they began the work of bringing into existence his dream of twenty years. Early in 1956 a general committee to develop ways and means for financing the operation of the new building was formed. This committee consisted of fifteen members appointed by Monsignor Ansbury plus a representative from each of the ten official parish organizations. Charles Helldoerfer was elected to serve as the first president of this important group. In June of the same year, Leon Smelstor, a man of considerable experience in recreational organizations, was appointed as Executive Director of the new Center.



"...dream of twenty years..."

Approximately one year after the first shovel had been turned the building was completed, and on August 19, 1956, dedication ceremonies were conducted by the Archbishop. On October 24, the parish gave a testimonial dinner to the pastor to congratulate him for what he had accomplished. His portrait in oil was presented on this occasion, and now hangs in the lobby of the building which he had finally made an actuality.

It is beyond the compass of this brief history to describe in detail either the physical features or the many facilities of this building, or the tremendous variety of activities which it has made possible over the past five years. Children and adults of all ages and interests have made use of its facilities. Athletics, gymnastics, dramatics, ballet classes, cooking classes, bridge lessons, philosophy lectures, socials, dances, business meetings, breakfasts, dinners, discussion groups—these and countless other activities keep the Center running practically day and night, seven days a week.



The Center



One of the most important features of the Center is the lending library with a thousand of its own books plus many on loan from the Dayton Public Library. At its formal opening on December 2, 1956, Rev. Leonard Fick of the Pontifical College Josephinum gave an address on the importance of reading. Finally, in addition to serving Corpus Christi, the Center has provided Julianne High School with six much-needed classrooms, rooms that will eventually be turned back as part of Corpus Christi school.

Because the amount collected by the fund raising campaign, which began in 1954, was less than had been hoped for, a campaign to reduce the \$250,000 debt was inaugurated in October of 1957 under the direction of a professional fund raising company. The men of the parish were organized into teams of solicitors, and so energetic were their efforts that a total of almost \$240,000 was pledged.

In 1958 the City of Dayton transferred to the parish that portion of Squirrel Road extending along the property line of the Recreation Center. This gave the parish a continuous stretch of land extending all the way from Forest Ave. to Old Orchard. The area extending from the Center to the church provides the parish with its own private playground and parking facilities; and now that Squirrel Road is no longer a public thoroughfare, this area is much safer for the school children. In April of that year, the pastor, while descending from the pulpit, tripped over his vestments and fell headlong to the floor of the sanctuary, breaking his right shoulder and left elbow. That he was not permanently disabled by these fractures is regarded as miraculous by the pastor, ascribing his recovery to the many prayers of his parishioners. To prevent a similar mishap in the future, a step and railings were fastened to the pulpit.



The Pontiff greets Monsignor Ansbury

That times had really changed since Monsignor Ansbury took office as pastor of Corpus Christi is illustrated by the fact that in his first year as pastor it required \$42,109.87 to operate the church and school, while twenty-three years later (1958) the figure had risen to \$103,510.43. Despite the increased cost of operations arising from inflated prices and the increased number of these functions, the people of Corpus Christi have always responded generously. In addition to their regular weekly contributions to the church and their extra pledges for the reduction of the parish debt, they likewise pledged their fair share to the Archbishop's recent High School Fund Campaign, their total of \$336,000 being the fifth highest in Montgomery County. In 1960, in order to help defray the increased costs, the old Dollar-A-Sunday standard, long overdue for a revision, was replaced by a suggested plan of either Two Dollars A Sunday or two percent of an individual's gross income.

In recent years the pastor has had two trips abroad. In 1960, as part of his Silver Jubilee celebration as pastor of Corpus Christi, he was presented with a "travel purse" by his parishioners. With Rev. Carl Will, former director of the C.Y.O., as his traveling companion, he experienced the thrill of his first sea voyage. The high point of his trip, of course, was an audience with the Holy Father. In the following year he made his second trip, this time a quick visit by air to Ireland.

March 19, 1961 was the Golden Anniversary of Corpus Christi Parish. A busy schedule, however, made it impossible for the Archbishop to be present at that time for the official ceremonies. Accordingly, February 11, 1962 has been made the date for the formal celebration of the anniversary. Archbishop Alter will celebrate the Pontifical High Mass and Auxiliary Bishop Leibold will give the sermon.



Bishop Paul F. Leibold



Assistant Pastors



Father Dumminger



Father Frantz

This has been the story of the first fifty years of Corpus Christi Parish. In a brief history such as this, much had to be omitted, particularly the names of the many individual men and women who have contributed in so many different ways to the welfare of their parish. A few individuals, chiefly those who were "firsts" in various organizations or enterprises, have been mentioned; and acknowledgement should now be made of such persons as Oscar Neise, who has been an usher since the church was built; Edward McKenny, who even though retired from the Dayton Fire Department began as a sexton under Father Gallagher and kept at it for almost twenty years; Custodian Paul Priske, who made the Wayside Shrine his pet project and who gave three daughters to the Sisters of Notre Dame; faithful organists and choir leaders, Eleanor Dwyer and Urban Deger. But the many ushers, acolytes, members of the choir, organists, custodians, officers and leaders of clubs, societies, associations, etc., teachers, and the perennial hard workers of all kinds must be content with an unrecorded appreciation.

As of January, 1962, Corpus Christi ranks 7th in the 34 parishes of Montgomery County in population and 22nd in the 264 parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Some parishes are much older and many parishes are much younger than Corpus Christi. But like every parish, Corpus Christi is the local society through which the individual Catholic within its borders shares in the universal society of the Church. It is as a member of his parish that each Catholic receives through the Mass and the Sacraments the supernatural graces necessary for his salvation and shares in the life of the Mystical Body. The history of a parish, therefore, is the history of a very important society, and as such it is a story that deserves being told. Simply to have lived for the past fifty years is an accomplishment. To not only survive a flood, two world wars, a major economic depression, inflations, deflations, and the tensions of the space age, but to have grown materially and spiritually in the manner of Corpus Christi is a remarkable achievement. May God continue to bless and protect its pastors and its people.

Pastors from March 1911

- Rev. John T. Gallagher (March 19, 1911.
Died Nov. 5, 1918.)
Rev. James W. Fogarty (About Dec. 15, 1918.
Resigned March 1924)
Rev. Albert A. Burke (Appointed Pastor March 27,
1924. Left Nov. 6, 1928)
Rev. Francis Reardon (Appointed Pastor Nov. 7,
1928. Left Nov. 19, 1935)
Rev. Harry J. Ansbury (Appointed Pastor Nov. 20,
1935. First Mass Nov. 21, 1935)



Assistants from August 1916

- Rev. John L. Kelly (Aug. 1, 1916. Left Sept. 1918 for military service)
Rev. Thomas Cobey (Oct. 1918. Died July 27, 1922)
Rev. John Kuhn (served for a short time)
Rev. John O'Connor (Aug. 1922 to Sept. 1932)
Rev. Francis Garrity (April 1926 to Nov. 1926)
Rev. John T. Hannahan (Sept. 1932 to Aug. 1938)
Rev. Joseph Trentman (Aug. 1938 to Sept. 1938)
Rev. James H. Hoban (Sept. 1938 to Sept. 1939)
Rev. William Staudt, C.P.P.S. (Sept. 1939 to May 1943)
Rev. Fred O'Brien, C.P.P.S. (June 1943 to Feb. 1944)
Rev. Peter A. Brickner, C.P.P.S. (Feb. 1944 to Sept. 1949)
Rev. Joseph Hoying, C.P.P.S. (Nov. 1946 to Oct. 1948)
Rev. Robert Beckman, C.P.P.S. (Aug. 1949 to Aug. 1953)
Rev. Gregory Moorman, C.P.P.S. (Jan. 1949 to Feb. 1950)
Rev. Paul Aumen, C.P.P.S. (Feb. 1950 to July 1951)
Rev. Robert Lux, C.P.P.S. (July 1951 to June 1955)
Rev. Richard Grever, C.P.P.S. (Aug. 1953 to June 1956)
Rev. David Van Horn, C.P.P.S. (June 1955 to Aug. 1959)
Rev. Robert Conway, C.P.P.S. (June 1956 to June 1961)
Rev. Urban Dumminger, C.P.P.S. (Aug. 1959)
Rev. Henry Frantz, C.P.P.S. (Aug. 1961)

Spiritual Honor Roll

Members of Corpus Christi Parish who have entered the Priesthood or the Religious Life

Priests

Rev. Joseph E. Bosch
Rev. John B. Dwyer, S.J. (deceased)
Rev. James F. Eisenhower
Rev. Edward J. Hunkeler
Rev. Robert M. Mayl, S.M.
(deceased)
Rev. John C. McBride, S.J.
Rev. William E. Meyer (deceased)
Rev. Edwin A. Moosbrugger, S.J.
Rev. Francis E. Moyer
Rev. Robert C. Steigmeyer, C.S.C.
Rev. Gregory J. Steigmeyer, C.S.C.
Rev. Arthur E. Leen
Rev. Thomas M. Gavin
Rev. Vincent G. Robers
Rev. Lawrence Isenecker, S.J.

Brothers

Bro. Richard M. Dineen, S.M.
Bro. Donald E. Neff, S.M.
Bro. James M. Barhorst, S.M.

Sisters

Sr. Jeanette Marie Borchers, S.C.
Sr. Eleanor Cogan, O.L.V.M.S.
(deceased)

Sr. Julia Loretta Eggers, S.C.
Sr. Mary Richard Griffin, S.C.
Sr. Annunciata Hulse, S.C.
Sr. M. Rosebia Keller, C.P.P.S.
Sr. M. Laurietta
Klosterman, C.P.P.S.
Sr. Grace Anton Graber, S.C.
Sr. Mary Kevin McBride, S.N.D.
Sr. Margaret Ann Morrissey, S.C.
Sr. Helen Julia Priske, S.N.D.
Sr. Madeline Priske, S.N.D.
Sr. St. Paul Priske, S.N.D.
Sr. Dorothy Ann Reboulet, S.C.
Sr. Marie Fidelis Ritter, S.C.
Sr. Mary Gregory Seiser, S.N.D.
Sr. Agatha Fitzgerald, O.S.U.
Sr. Ann Joachim Schellhaas, S.C.
Sr. James Catherine Staley, S.C.
Sr. Florence Regina Staley, S.C.
Sr. Susanna Staley, S.C.
Sr. Helen Cecilia Swift, S.N.D.
Sr. Edna Marie Valiquette, S.C.

Sr. Benedict Focke, O.S.U.
Sr. Mary Isidore
Stautzenbach, R.S.M.
Sr. Michael, Christ the King,
Fox, D.C.
Sr. Michael Marie Amgerer, S.N.D.
Sr. Damien Grismer, S.N.D.
Sr. Ann Christine Jacobs, S.N.D.
Sr. Paul Marie Keferl, S.N.D.
Sr. Germaine Horvath, S.N.D.
Sr. Joseph Marian Gnau, S.N.D.
Sr. Jean Christopher Miller, S.C.
Sr. Marie Daniel McCarthy, S.C.
Sr. Stella Eisenhower, S.C.
Sr. Ruth Ann Suttmiller, S.N.D.
Sr. Ann of the Sacred Heart,
Daley, S.N.D.
Sr. Mary Ann Luther, F.M.I.
Sr. Mary James Foley, Glenmary
Sr. Robert Ann Musselman, O.S.F.
Sr. Ann Christopher Gnau, S.N.D.

Twenty members of the parish, in addition to those listed above, have also entered religious life but are not yet ordained or finally professed.

Superiors

Sisters of Charity

Sr. Mary Albert	1912-1918
Sr. Ignatius Loyola (deceased)	1918-1921
Sr. Mary Cyprian (deceased)	1921-1923
Sr. Jane (deceased)	1923-1927
Sr. Charlotte Marie	1927-1932
Sr. Mary Lydia	1932-1938
Sr. Mary Anselm	1938-1939
Sr. Charlotte Marie	1939-1945
Sr. Ann Dolores	1945-1951
Sr. Francis Beatrice	1951-1957
Sr. Mary Andrea	1957-1958
Sr. Mary Edward	1958-

Present Faculty

Sisters of Charity

Sr. Jeannine
Sr. Francis Maureen
Sr. Catherine James
Sr. James Miriam
Sr. Victorine
Sr. Rose Stanislaus
Sr. Jane Marie
Sr. Marilyn Joseph
Sr. Joseph Miriam
Sr. Mary Damien

Lay Teachers

Mrs. Fred Brinkman
Miss Linda Eilerman
Miss Mary Landers
Mrs. Norman Meyer
Miss Mary Schmitt
Mrs. James P. Smith

Mission Helpers Of The Sacred Heart.

Sister M. Claudia
Sister M. Cyrilla
Sister M. Dolores
Sister M. Mercita

Jubilee Celebration Donors

Ackerman, Martha
Adams, Mrs. C. C.
Adams, Elizabeth L.
Aman, Andrew, Jr.
Aman, Marie K.
Angst, Edythe E.
Anonymous
Argast, William J.
Augsburger, Homer D.
Baker, Mrs. Paul T.
Baker, Richard R.
Barber, Mrs. Blanche
Barlow, Theo., Sr.
Barlow, Theo., Jr.
Bennett, Kathleen
Bernard, James A.
Black, Frances M.
Boehringer, Edward F.
Boesch, Mr. & Mrs. Carl W.
Boesch, Charles H.
Borchers, Mrs. Bernard J.
Borchers, David W.
Borchers, Edward P.
Bouquot, Donald
Brandenburg, William P.
Brogan, Austin J., M.D.
Brumbaugh, Mrs. M., Jr.
Buchanan, Robert L.
Bucher, Richard L.
Bucklew, Paul H.
Buddendick, A. J.
Buehrle, William H.
Burgmeier, Mrs. Florence
Burkhardt, Thomas E.
Burns, Mrs. Mitchell
Carey, Elaine
Castellini, James H.
Clemens, C. Herbert
Cochran, Bud T.
Collins, Charles Homer
Collins, Mrs. C. W.
Connors, Edward J.
Corpus Christi
Parent-Teachers' Ass'n
Rosary-Altar Society
Creager, John
Cristofaro, Alfred V.
Dahm, Walter F.
D'Aloia, Antonio D.
Danis, Charles W.
David, Robert E.
Deger, Robert J., M.D.
Desch, John J.
Didier, Raphael G.
Diener, M. A.
Dillhoff, Virginia L.
Dirckx, R. H.
Donahue, Margaret I.
Doyle, William J.
Edwards, Mrs. J. Donald
Eifert, Eugene
Elliott, Robert M.
Enderlin, Gertrude
Evans, Mary L.
Ewald, Louise
Finch, Robert W., M.D.
Fink, Harry F., Sr.
Fisher, William J.
Fleming, Robert E.
Flynn, Maurice L.
Flynn, Walter T.
Focke, Irene C.
Foose, Mrs. Albert J.
Froehle, John B.

Jubilee Celebration Donors

Ganther, Frank C.
 Gauvey, Mrs. H. H.
 Gavin, Thomas M.
 Geis, Miss Elizabeth W.
 George, John D.
 Gempfrey, Eugene
 Gigandet, Mary
 Gislard, Mr. & Mrs. J. B.
 Gittings, Margaret
 Glossinger, Dr. M. H.
 Gowert, Edward W.
 Graham, Robert E.
 Greenwood, Mary E.
 Griffin, Ann R.
 Grismer, Charles G.
 Grismer, John H.
 Hagan, Frank J.
 Hagan, Margaret M.
 Hagan, Robert H.
 Hagan, Mrs. Thomas A.
 Haley, Miss Adele
 Haley, Mrs. Michael R., Sr.
 Haley, The Misses
 Halpin, Clarence B.
 Hampshire, Robert E.
 Hansman, Mrs. Louis H.
 Harding, Robert G.
 Harris, Mrs. Edward P.
 Hartnett, James J.
 Hazinski, Miss Harriet M.
 Heinz, Frederick L.
 Helldoerfer, Charles S.
 Hemmelgarn, Paul
 Hickenbotham, Gerald P.
 Hickey, Mrs. J. E.
 Higgins, Alice A.
 Hoban, Edward T.

Hoban, Miss Florence
 Hoban, Miss Mayme
 Hochwalt, Jerome P., M.D.
 Hochwalt, Norman C., M.D.
 Hochwalt, Thomas C.
 Hodapp, Mrs. Albert J.
 Horan, Margaret M.
 Horvath, A. G.
 Huff, Alois F.
 Humpert, Mr. & Mrs. M. C.
 Hunkeler, Leo J.
 Hussey, Robert E.
 Hussey, Mary J.
 Hussey, Pierce A.
 Hyer, Miss Margaret L.
 Incze, Laszlo
 Jacobs, Raymond L.
 Jaspers, Mrs. Albert J.
 Jauch, Clem G.
 Jauch, Lawrence J.
 Johnston, Dorothy Gibbons
 Johnston, J. Farrell
 Kalt, Irvin J.
 Kalt, Thomas
 Kastner, B. Omer
 Kavanaugh, Ray K.
 Kelly, Robert E.
 Kennedy, William R.
 Kerezsi, Michael A.
 Kiefer, Mrs. Cornelia
 King, Cletus A.
 King, Joseph A.
 King, Mr. & Mrs. Victor C.
 Knepper, Margaret H.
 Knuefner, Magdalena
 Koscak, George
 Kreidler, Luella
 Kretschmer, Mr. & Mrs. P.

Lafferty, Louis
 LeBoeuf, Mrs. Viola
 Lee, William P.
 Leibold, Joseph L.
 Lensch, Marcella C.
 Lutz, Mrs. F. Joseph
 Lyle, Harold R.
 Mack, Cecilia
 Mackiewicz, Helen
 Madden, Mrs. Louise
 Magee, Col. & Mrs. R. H.
 Mantia, Anthony
 Marchiori, Agnes L.
 Marshall, Hilda M.
 Martin, John R.
 Martin, T. E.
 Mastbaum, Richard B.
 Mathes, Bernard
 Mayl, Margaret
 Meininger, Robert F.
 Mertz, Agnes
 Merz, Helen J.
 Mescher, The Misses
 Metzger, Anthony B.
 Michael, George H.
 Miles, John D.
 Miller, Carl W.
 Monaghan, W. C., Family
 Moorman, Mrs. Frank
 Musselman, Robert H.
 McBride, Mark S.
 McCarthy, Daniel J.
 McCarthy, James R.
 McCarthy, Mrs. Paul J.
 McCloskey, Thomas F.
 McGarry, John L., Jr.
 McGarry, Mrs. John L., Sr.

McKenny, Marcella
 Neff, A. George
 Neff, Alvin G., Jr.
 Nolan, Nicholas, Jr.
 Null, Mr. & Mrs. Harry
 Nunan, Agnes
 Nyhan, James E., Sr.
 Ochs, Henry W., Jr.
 O'Connell, Mrs. George
 O'Connell, Martin B.
 O'Donnell, John D.
 Olt, Mrs. Sophia M.
 O'Neil, Edward J.
 Orendorff, Helen Ruth
 Pfeiffer, Frank E.
 Pfeiffer, L. A.
 Pflaum, George A.
 Pflaum, James J.
 Pickrel, Mrs. R. G.
 Queenan, Martha L.
 Ralph, Worth W.
 Reiling, Charles J.
 Reiling, Walter A., M. D.
 Retter, Mrs. Vinnie E.
 Richardson, Bernard F.
 Rike, Charles W.
 Roderer, George J., Jr.
 Roll, Matt J.
 Rose, Herman J.
 Rubbeck, Paul D.
 Rotterman, Eugene A.
 Russell, Mr. & Mrs. Ira
 Ryan, Edwin F.
 Sammet, Carl W.
 Scarpelli, Mr. & Mrs. F.
 Scarpelli, Joseph A.
 Schaefer, Mark, Jr.

Schaefer, Mark, Sr.
 Scharrer, Mrs. Loretta M.
 Schiml, Miss Beatrice
 Schiml, Miss Leona
 Schimmoller, R. L.
 Schneider, Richard F.
 Schrock, Mrs. Theodore E.
 Schroeder, Leo B.
 Schroll, Mrs. John L.
 Schwab, Mrs. Elvira
 Schwinn, Mrs. Herman
 Selhorst, Kathleen A.
 Sell, William E.
 Selz, Alfred J.
 Shay, Bernard A.
 Sherman, Cecil
 Sherman, Mrs. Louis C.
 Sherman, William J.
 Shields, Vincent M.
 Shock, Mrs. Kermit E.
 Sloan, Mildred
 Smelstor, Mr. & Mrs. L.
 Smith, Earl A.
 Smith, Hugh
 Smith, Merle P.
 Snell, Leona T.
 Soehner, Mrs. Elmer E.
 Spinnato, Joseph A.
 Spring, Pauline
 Spring, Mrs. Paul
 Stoner, Mary E.
 Stout, John W.
 Strozdas, Alfred P.
 Struck, Katherine E.
 Sullivan, Mary J.
 Swank, O. J.
 Sweeney, The Misses

Sweetman, Myrtle
 Swift, Mrs. Paul
 Talmage, Earl D.
 Thacker, Ned A.
 Truhan, Alexis J.
 Tuite, Mrs. Helena
 Tuttle, Lawrence S.
 Vath, F. Leo
 Vogelsang, Mrs. Catherine
 Volk, John
 Wald, Mrs. Carl B.
 Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Richard F.
 Wall, Mrs. Hugh E., Sr.
 Walter, Leo F.
 Ward, Mr. & Mrs. Forrest W.
 Warning, William F.
 Weaver, Frank C.
 Weber, Paul F.
 Wehner, Norma M.
 Weigel, Mrs. Armella
 Welsh, Helen B.
 Welsh, John J.
 Will, Georgetta V.
 Wilhelm, H. K.
 Wilson, William H.
 Woerner, Robert W.
 Wolf, Mr. & Mrs. Carl J.
 Wolsiffer, Miss Irene
 Yox, Mr. & Mrs. Frank S.
 Zappe, Fred
 Zimmer, William
 Zwiesler, Clarence A.

