

July 2018

History of Precious Blood Parish, Dayton, Ohio, 1948-2000

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/uscc_parish_histories

Recommended Citation

"History of Precious Blood Parish, Dayton, Ohio, 1948-2000" (2018). *Parish Histories Collection*. 19.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/uscc_parish_histories/19

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the U.S. Catholic Special Collection at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Parish Histories Collection by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

HISTORY OF PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH

**DAYTON, OHIO
1948 - 2000**



US.CATH
BX
1418
.D3
H58
2000

HISTORY
OF
PRECIOUS BLOOD
PARISH
DAYTON, OHIO
1948 - 2000

ane
ing
l to
ing
ied
the
ond
ges
rew
ore
lity
next
the

the
s of
the
was
980
h of
who
your
d in

ying
ions
ish's

allor
man
sters
man

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	I
History of Parish by Year	1
Addenda of Organizations, Programs and Personnel.....	40
History of School.....	66
Changes Over the 50 Years	76
Conclusion	79

US CATH
BX
1418
D3
H58
2000

FOREWORD

Fifty years ago when there were open fields along two lane Route 49 between the Salem Heights Convent and the beginning of the Dayton area, Precious Blood Parish was established to serve the people living in northwest Montgomery County. During the next decades, housing developments and businesses occupied the open fields and Precious Blood Parish grew to meet the spiritual needs of the people moving into the area. The Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s also resulted in many changes and growth in the Catholic Church. Precious Blood Parish grew in several different ways - a larger number of families, more buildings, more school students, and a greater spirituality among the parishioners. Now, at the beginning of the next century, Precious Blood Parish continues to grow and serve the people of northwest Montgomery County.

In this book we have tried to present the main events in the origin and growth of Precious Blood Parish and the highlights of its accomplishments during its first 50 years. Most of the information for the first 35 years of Precious Blood Parish was taken from the parish pictorial directories issued in 1975, 1980 and 1986. Robert Rehling and Phyllis Martin developed much of that data. Our thanks to the many other parishioners who contributed articles, pictures and information. We ask your forgiveness for any inadvertent errors that may be contained in this history.

May this history of a Catholic community working, praying and growing together be an inspiration to the future generations as they live, work and grow together in the faith of the Parish's founding families.

Fr. Milton Ballor
Tom Suttman
Joanne Koesters
Linus Brackman

U.S. CATH
BX
1417
13
M37
5000

STATEMENT OF CONTENTS

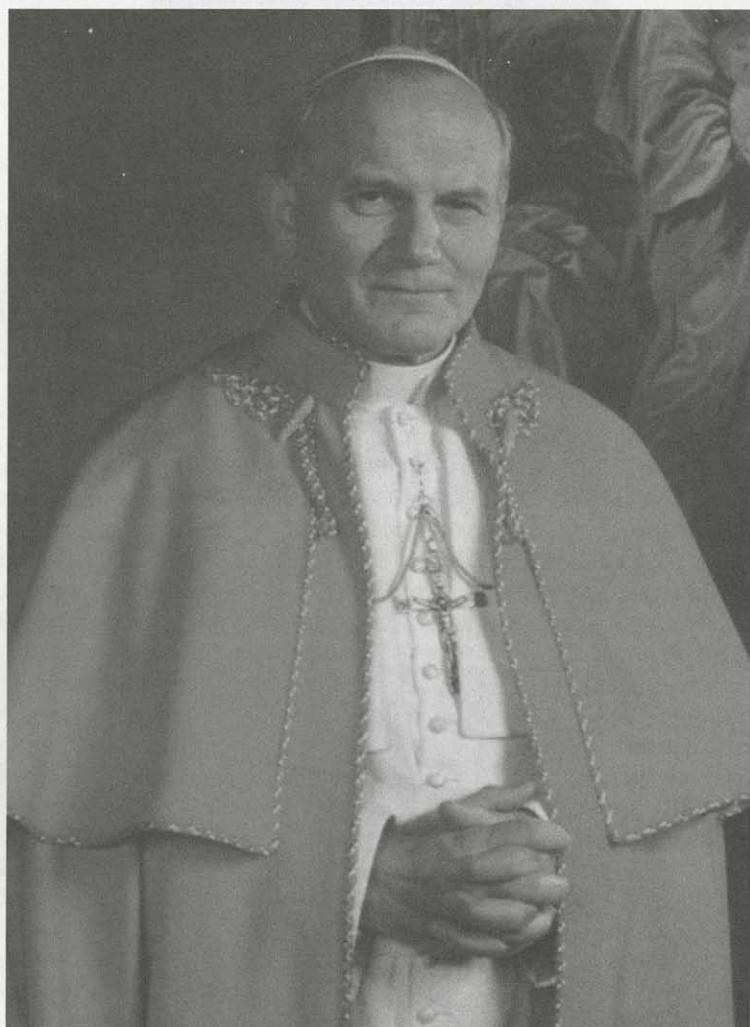
FOREWORD

The year 1960 was a year of great change for the Catholic Church in the United States. It was a year when the Second Vatican Council was in its final sessions, and when the people of the Church were beginning to realize the need for a new approach to the problems of the world. The Council's teachings were a challenge to the Church to become more open to the needs of the people, and to the needs of the world. This book is a response to that challenge. It is a book that seeks to help the people of the Church to understand the teachings of the Council, and to apply them to the problems of the world. It is a book that is written for the people of the Church, and for the people of the world. It is a book that is written in a simple, clear, and direct manner, so that it can be understood by all. It is a book that is written with a sense of urgency, and with a sense of hope. It is a book that is written for the future, and for the present.

In this book we have tried to present the teachings of the Council in a way that is both accurate and understandable. We have tried to show how the teachings of the Council are relevant to the problems of the world, and how they can be applied to those problems. We have tried to do this in a way that is both simple and direct, so that it can be understood by all. We have tried to do this in a way that is both accurate and understandable. We have tried to show how the teachings of the Council are relevant to the problems of the world, and how they can be applied to those problems. We have tried to do this in a way that is both simple and direct, so that it can be understood by all.

We hope that this book will be of help to the people of the Church, and to the people of the world. We hope that it will help them to understand the teachings of the Council, and to apply them to the problems of the world. We hope that it will help them to become more open to the needs of the people, and to the needs of the world. We hope that it will help them to become more aware of the problems of the world, and to more actively seek to solve them.

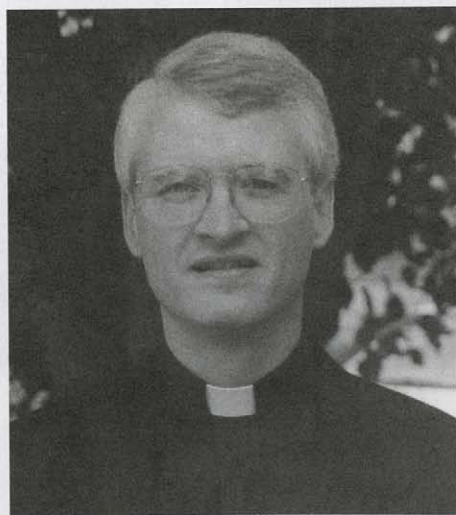
It is written by
The Authors
James J. Conboy
James J. Conboy



Pope John Paul II



Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk



Fr. Angelo P. Anthony, CPPS
Provincial Director



SOCIETY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Cincinnati Province

431 E. Second St.
Dayton, OH 45402-1764

Telephone: 937-228-9263
Facsimile: 937-228-6878

Jubilee: A Year of Praise and Thanksgiving — Pope John Paul II

May, 2000

Blessings to you in the Precious Blood of Christ:

Celebrating the Jubilee year is a very ancient practice within our faith tradition. It offers us a chance to step back and assess where we have been and to trust in God's abiding presence as we look to the future. I join my prayers with yours during this Jubilee year, as we give God thanks for the gifts and blessings that have been shared through the parish community of Precious Blood.

In *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II reminds us that "by contemplating the precious blood of Christ, the sign of his self-giving love, the believer learns to recognize and appreciate the almost divine dignity of every human being." This truth is beautifully expressed in the day to day lives of the parishioners of Precious Blood Parish. Through our sharing of the Cup of Life, our lives are mingled with the Blood of Christ as we encounter birth and death, marriage and family life, sickness and reconciliation.

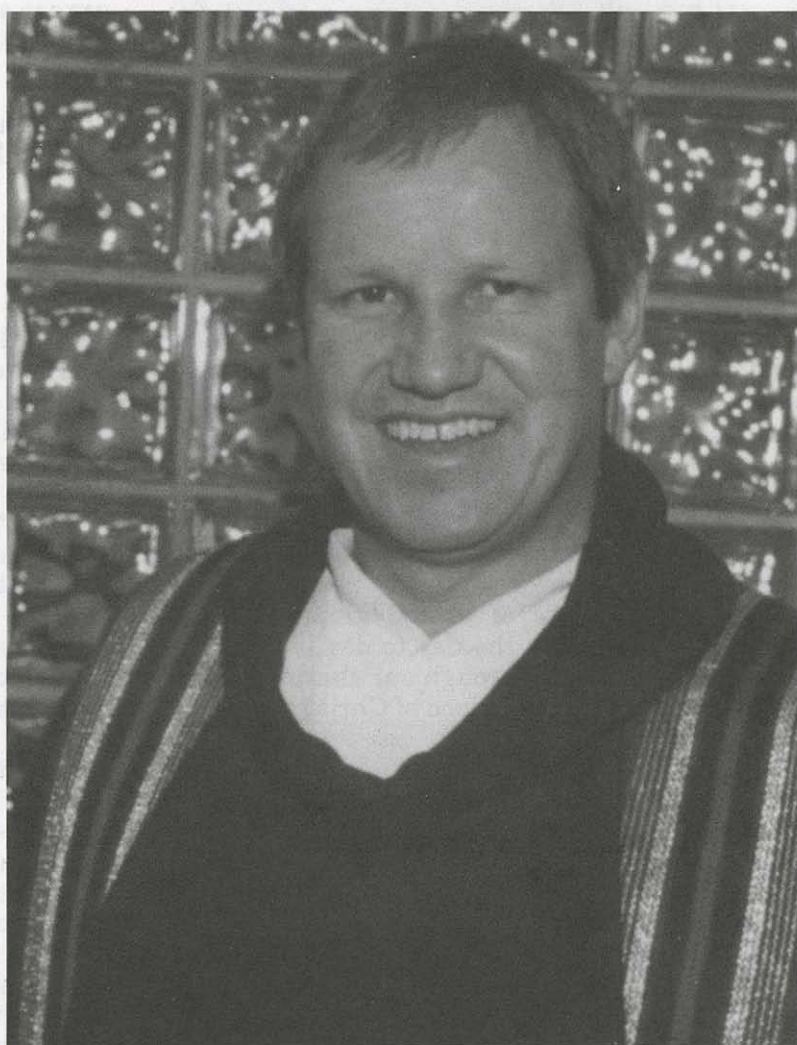
For fifty years you have gathered to nurture and support the faith that was entrusted to you in Baptism. It has been a blessing for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to serve the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at Precious Blood Parish for these fifty years. Together, we have sought to respond faithfully to our baptismal call to holiness and to bring God's dream for unity, sealed in the precious blood, to life.

St. Gaspar del Bufalo, special apostle of the Precious Blood and founder of our Congregation, once wrote: "May the Lord fill you with his holy love and make you fearless in doing good works. May Jesus be in your mind, Jesus in your heart, Jesus on your lips, Jesus in all your works, and one day, may he lead you into his most blessed kingdom." We join our words to his as we thank God for these fifty years of parish life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Angelo P. Anthony, C.P.P.S.

Very Reverend Angelo P. Anthony, C.P.P.S.
Provincial Director, Cincinnati Province



Fr. Mark Hoying
Pastor
1993 - Present



PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH

4961 Salem Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45416
(937) 276-5954

To all who have, will or do call Precious Blood their home church I say welcome:

It is with great humility that I write this letter. For the past ten years I have had the great blessing to be with so many people who call Precious Blood their home. I consider myself truly blessed to be part of the history of Precious Blood parish at this time. It is not only a time to consider the past, but with the new church building, a time of great expectation. Anniversaries usually look backward, but not for the people of Precious Blood. I consider the people of parish, especially the founders to be great dreamers. In their own way they model the missionary, St. Gaspar, the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, in that they adapted to the times to best serve the Lord and the people of God. As Gaspar saw that the precious blood of Jesus was shed in love to bring reconciliation to the people, the founders and the people of Precious Blood parish of today go beyond themselves to keep us together as a parish to praise our God.

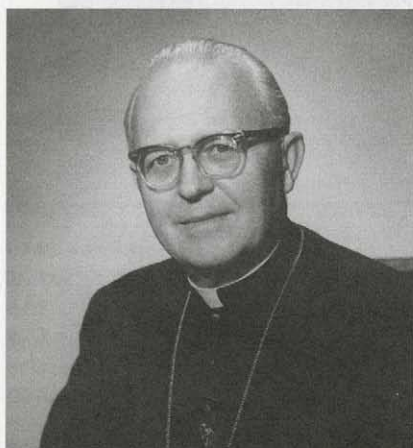
As I reflect on what fifty years of parish means to me I think of God's blessings yesterday, today and tomorrow. From this I think of thanksgiving for all the Lord has done for us. In the early days there was much hard work to be done to build the Body of Christ. Early festivals, bake sales, robbing Peter to pay Paul, school in the chicken coop, and many other stories showed the determination of so many to keep us together. For the spirit of so many dreamers of the past, thank you. I don't know how you did it except in the Spirit.

God's blessings are definitely with the parish of today. A recent volunteer dinner showed the great spirit of our parish. As persons recalled their volunteer work the word charity came to mind. There is a love that is outpouring that shows God's love for all of us. The theology of the blood of Jesus flows through the veins of the parish. Charity is the word which I feel best describes the pulse of the parish today. The sheer number of people involved in making church happen is mind boggling. They will know them by their love.

Hope is the final word that comes to mind as our fifty year old parish enters the new millennium. With a new church due for completion this summer our parish is filled with hope. We chose the corner of Salem and Denlinger to speak to the community of God's ever presence in the area. It is a decision of spirit more than numbers which built this church. It is a spirit of hope which will keep it growing.

I have been blessed with the faith, hope and love which have nourished and driven Precious Blood parish. It is my blessing to see God's presence in this part of our history. May God continue to bless our parish.

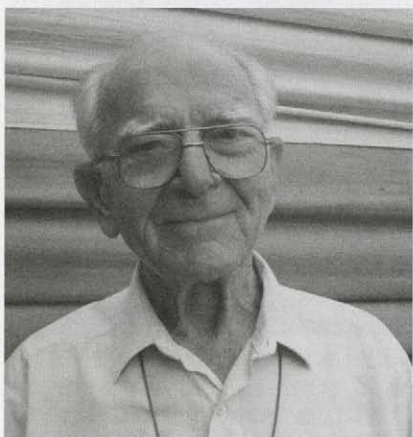
Precious Blood Pastors



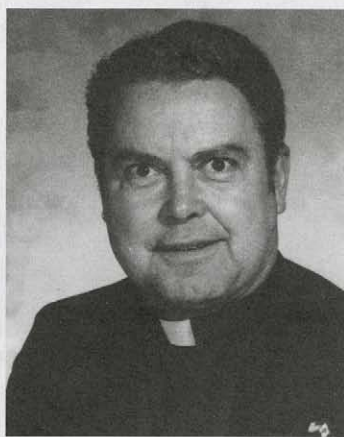
Fr. Ambrose Newton
1948-53



Fr. Lawrence Mertes
1953-64

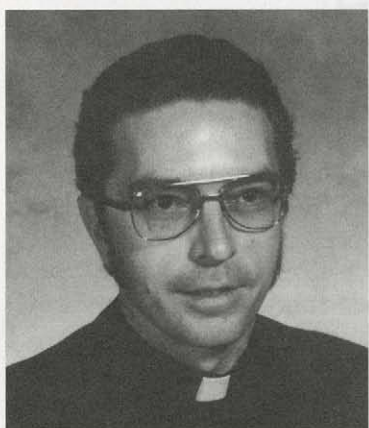


Fr. Paul Buehler
1964-74

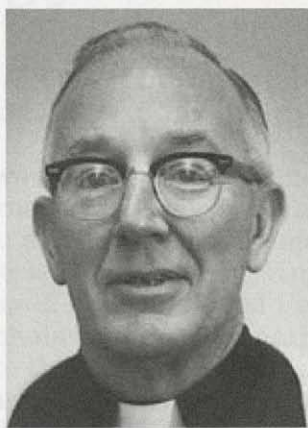


Fr. Richard Cody
1974-76

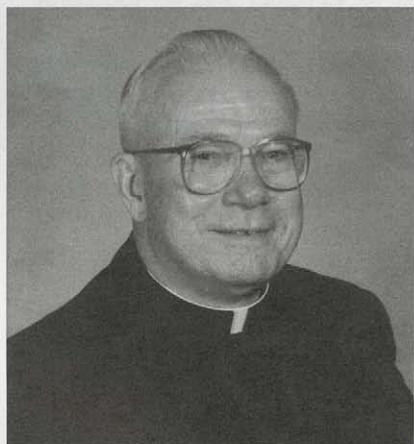
Precious Blood Pastors



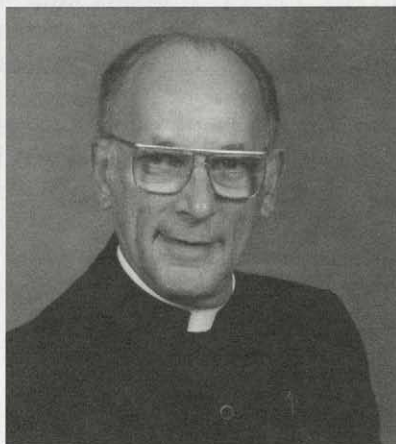
Fr. Richard DeCavitt
1977 Administrator



Fr. John Behen
1977-83

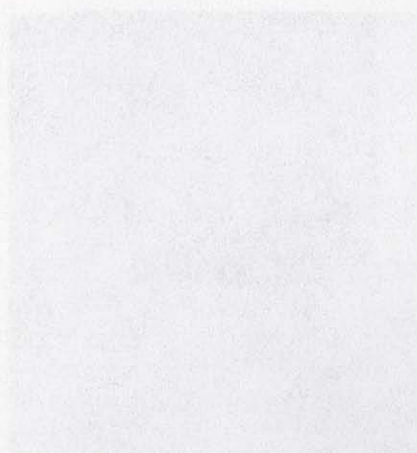


Fr. Clement Alt
1983-89

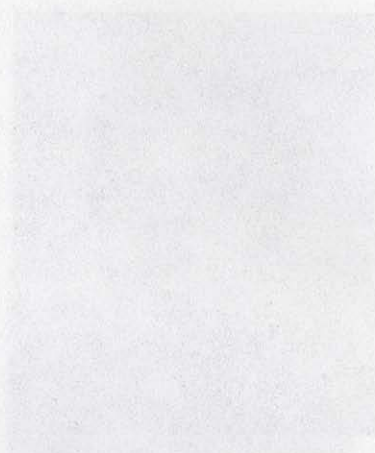


Fr. Ronald Schiml
1989-93

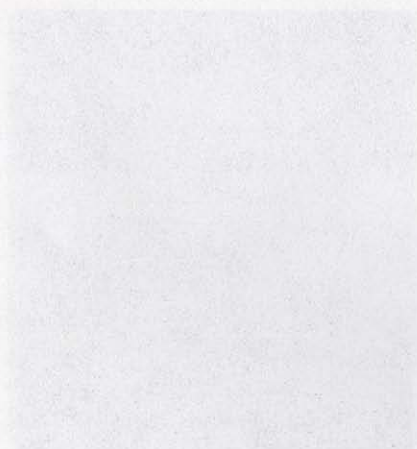
Section 1: Blood History



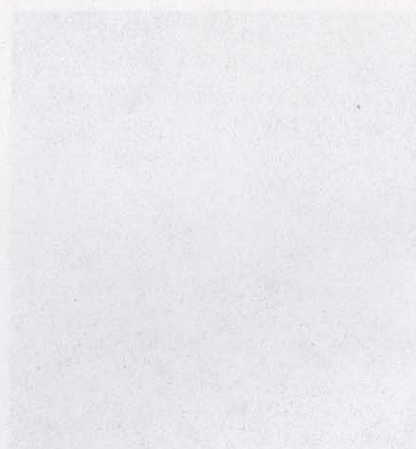
Dr. Richard D. Smith
 1975-1980



Dr. Richard D. Smith
 1977-1980



Dr. Richard D. Smith
 1980-1981



Dr. Richard D. Smith
 1981-1982

HISTORY

Precious Blood Church, Dayton, Ohio, now an established and active Catholic community, had a very humble two-step beginning.

Prior to 1947, Salem Avenue was a narrow two lane road. Each Sunday, 45 families in the area would traverse this and other nearby streets into Dayton to attend Mass. During 1948 and 1949, these families, under the leadership of Fr. Ambrose Newton, brought about the formation of Precious Blood Parish.

Archbishop John T. McNicholas of Cincinnati had appointed Fr. Ambrose Newton to the task of organizing a mission in the Fort McKinley area of Dayton on January 23, 1948. On April 30, 1949, the "parish" was given its official name: Congregation of the Roman Catholic Church of the Most Precious Blood, Salem Heights, Dayton, Ohio. The official canonical decree establishing the parish of the Precious Blood and its boundaries was given on November 17, 1950 by Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati.

Fr. Newton, the first pastor of Precious Blood parish, was a member of the Society of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.). He had been a former Navy Chaplain in active service in the Pacific, and was serving at St. Bernard's Parish in Beverly, Ohio, before coming to Precious Blood Parish.

The first Masses were held in the basement of the Sisters of the Precious Blood Convent. The early pioneers of our parish, with the help of Br. Bertram Bailey, converted a 75-year-old barn into a church with classrooms and a social room which also served as the cafeteria.

The infant Precious Blood mission was helped most generously by the Sisters of the Precious Blood located in the Convent of Our Lady of the Precious Blood. The first Mass in the "parish", Dayton's twenty-fourth parish, was held on June 20, 1948, in the Convent's basement auditorium. One hundred and six people attended. Permission was sought immediately from the Archbishop to add a second Sunday Mass because of a large number of young families. Often one spouse attended Mass, while the other stayed home with the children and had to find a later Mass elsewhere in Dayton.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood continued their generosity and donated 11.28 acres of land approximately one-



The Old Barn



Preparing for the final Mass in the Old Barn

quarter mile east of Denlinger Road on Salem Avenue to be the parish site. Since the mission parish had no facilities of its own, serious thought was given to purchase and construct a Quonset hut to serve as a temporary church and parish hall.

Under the direction of Fr. Newton, the new parish began to get organized. The Holy Name Society for men and the Rosary Altar Society for women were founded in the summer of 1948. These societies proved to be an invaluable support to the parish, and were the power houses of "parish spirit." The success of the parish today is due to the untiring efforts of these pioneer families. Fr. Newton claimed that there were no funerals the first four years of the parish "because we were too busy to die."

1949

In February 1949, an exchange of land was made with the Sisters of the Precious Blood for an equal amount of property northwest of the site donated originally by the Sisters to the parish. This exchanged plot is the current site of the parish, and it had the advantage of having three buildings on it: a barn, a garage-henhouse, and an approximately one-hundred-year old house. Work was started immediately by the men of the parish to renovate the 40' by 80' seventy-five-year old barn into a Church and two classrooms. Br. Bertram Bailey of the Little Brothers of the Missions was the supervisor of the remodeling.

The first celebration of the Eucharist in the converted barn-church was on August 14, 1949, by Fr. Seraphin Oberhauser, then Provincial of the Society of the Precious Blood. Auxiliary Bishop George Rehring blessed the new church on August 21, 1949. Fr. Newton celebrated three regular Sunday Masses at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:30 A.M.

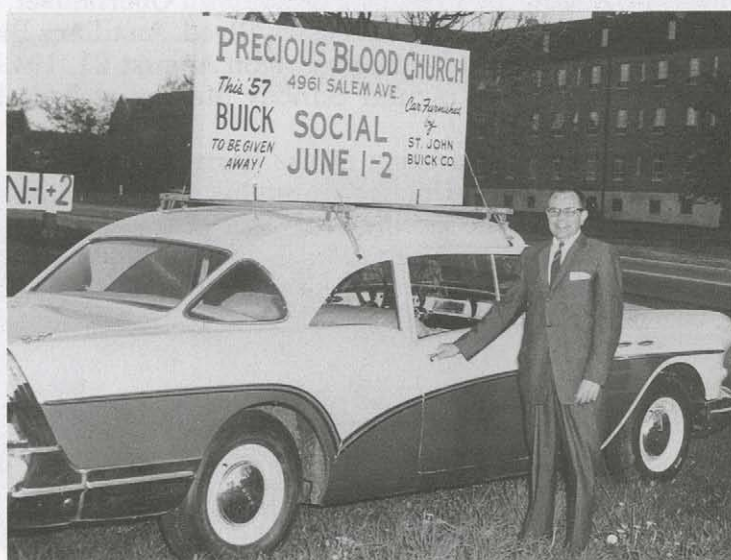
The cost of the alteration of the barn was \$30,000. The church would seat an estimated three-hundred persons. The altar was donated by the Brothers of the Society of Mary from the chapel at Chaminade High School. Members of the parish donated the Stations of the Cross, the wrought iron Communion railing, two ciborii, and a chalice.

1950

On November 17 Archbishop Karl J. Alter issued the canonical decree establishing Precious Blood Parish and its boundaries. Within the parish boundaries were Trotwood, Phillipsburg, Fort McKinley, Verona, Clayton and much of Englewood.



Precious Blood Festival Through the Years



1952

Doris Rindler succeeded Delores Harlow as church organist. The choir at that time consisted of members of the fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

Archbishop Karl J. Alter made his first visit to Precious Blood Parish and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 76 children and 13 adults.

1953

During the summer of 1953, Fr. Newton was transferred to Sacred Heart Church, Miami, Oklahoma. During his spiritual leadership, the parish had grown from forty-five families in 1949 to three hundred and fifty families in 1953. Fr. Lawrence Mertes was transferred from assistant pastor at Precious Blood Church, Detroit, Michigan and appointed Pastor of Precious Blood Church, Dayton, Ohio. At the time, the parish had (1) the barn converted into a Church and two classrooms; (2) a one-hundred year old house; (3) two temporary classrooms; and (4) a \$50,000 debt.

1954

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new school took place on May 3, 1954. This building included four classrooms, the principal's office and a cafeteria in the basement.

1955

Fr. Frederick Hunnefeld served as part-time assistant Pastor from September 1955 to June 1956.

1956

Fr. Leo Fullenkamp, a native of St. Joseph Parish near Fort Recovery, Ohio, was appointed assistant pastor in June 1956. He had been ordained June 2, 1956.

1957

On February 1, 1957, the parish suffered near disaster. Fr. Mertes, on his way to hear confessions of the Sisters at Julianne High School, had a serious auto accident and was rushed to Good Samaritan Hospital. After a stay of three weeks he was able to return to the parish, but his activities were limited for a while.

Fr. James Miller was appointed assistant pastor in June 1957, replacing Fr. Leo Fullenkamp. Around this time, the St. Paul Guild discussion group began for the adult converts who recently joined the Catholic church.

The summer months of 1957 saw more construction started. A much needed rectory was begun. Up to this time, the priests had been living in the original farm house. Also, six additional classrooms were added to the school building to take care of the influx of young families to the area northwest of Dayton. These classrooms were far from being completed when school opened in September. The second, third, and fourth grades were required to make use of part-time sessions. The new classrooms were ready in December.

1958

June 15, 1958, was a memorable date in the history of Precious Blood Parish. Fr. Mertes offered Mass in the old Church for the last time. After the Eucharistic celebration, families, who had been the first parishioners, had the privilege of escorting the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of the new church located in the semi-basement of the new school building. (This room later became the cafeteria.) Masses were scheduled at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:15, A.M. and 12:15 P.M.. There were accommodations for five hundred people. It was during this summer that the rectory was completed..

James Will was hired as organist, to replace Doris Rindler.

1959

Fr. Richard Reimondo replaced Fr. Miller as assistant pastor in February of 1959. His stay was brief, and he left the parish in August, 1959, and was replaced by Fr. Paul Wohlwend.

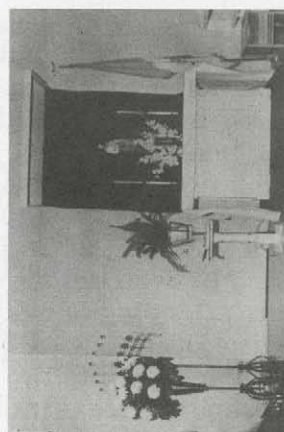
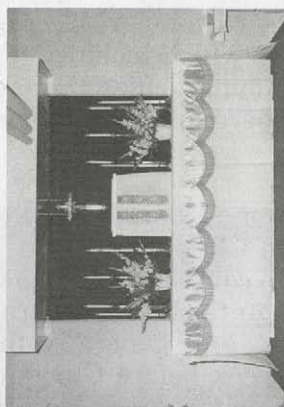
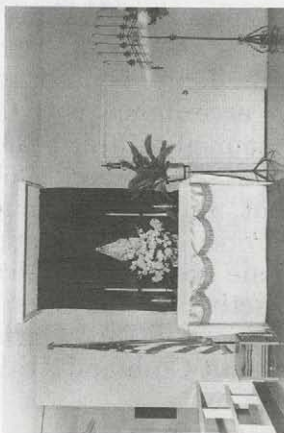
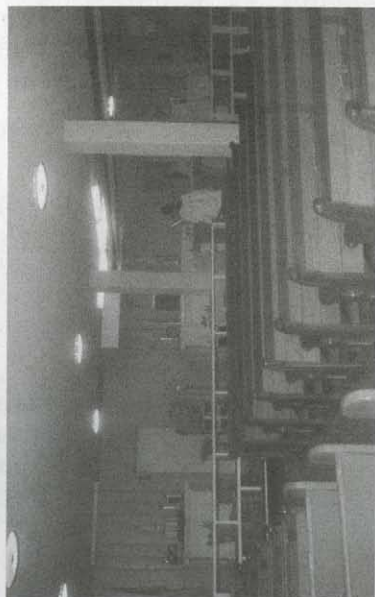
1961

On July 1, 1961, the official notice was published that Precious Blood Parish had purchased the Keller property on Denlinger Road, adjacent to the church property, for \$22,000. This was to serve as a convent for the Precious Blood Sisters teaching at the school. Up to this time, the Sisters resided in the Precious Blood Motherhouse. Moving day was September 2, 1961. Fr. Mertes was the magician who turned an ordinary house into a convent for seven Sisters.

1962

In December 1962, ground was broken for an addition to the convent to accommodate a total of twelve Precious Blood Sisters. The cost was \$40,000 and the work was completed by September of 1963. Archbishop McNicholas decreed the establishing of a chapel for the Convent under the title of Our Lady of the Precious Blood.

Church Altars 1958-'66



Located in Cafeteria

1964

June of 1964 brought a turnover in the spiritual leadership of the parish. Fr. Mertes, after eleven years as pastor, was transferred to St. Romuald Church in Hardinsburg, Kentucky. Fr. Paul Beuhler, coming home after seventeen years in the foreign missions, was appointed pastor of Precious Blood parish. He came from the parish "on the hill" in Peru, South America to the "Parish on the hill" in Dayton. The parish had grown under Fr. Mertes to 842 families of 3365 individuals. About 2800 persons were attending Sunday Mass.

School opened with 531 pupils, with grades two through eight each divided into two rooms. Grade one had been removed by diocesan statute. Sr. Mary Clarice, C.P.P.S. became the principal of the school.

1965

On November 23, ground was broken for the next school addition, which included eight classrooms, a centralized library, faculty lounge, cafeteria and a gymnasium to be used as a church until a permanent church could be built.

1966

Women were invited to join and sing in the parish choir.

On Christmas Eve of 1966, Midnight Mass was offered in the then completed gymnasium-Church. Holy Name Society men worked until the wee hours of the morning laying carpet, putting in pews, and generally finishing the new church during the whole week before Christmas. The altars, lecterns, pulpit, and communion stations were fashioned by men of the parish. The Rosary-Altar Society donated the tabernacle, candlesticks and other furnishings.

In February, Fr. Paul Wohlwend left Precious Blood parish, exchanging an assistant pastor post with Fr. Richard Thiel, who was at St. John's Church in Whiting, Indiana.

In accordance with an Archdiocesan recommendation, a parish council to assist the pastor in an advisory capacity was formed in December 1966. John O. Gorman was the first president, and he was succeeded over the years by Gene Porter, Henry Pope, James Bresnahan, Bernard Mehall, Susan Siehl, and Gene Porter for a second term. Other organizations in the parish active at this time were the Holy Name Society, Rosary Altar Society, P.T.A., Christian Family Movement, Teen Club, Young Adult Club and Athletic Club.

1967

On April 30, 1967, Bishop Edward McCarthy officially blessed the new school and Church.

1969

In January 1969, the first Precious Blood Parish school board was elected. Up to this time, officers of the Parent Teacher Association served as a quasi school board.

In August, Fr. Richard Thiel departed from the parish, and Fr. Milton Ballor became assistant pastor.

In December, Fr. Buehler and the parish celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary in the priesthood with an afternoon Mass and reception.

1970

In 1970, new stainless steel cabinets and heating tables were installed in the school cafeteria, a new ceiling was completed, and the cafeteria was painted. Fr. Sylvester Ley came to the parish to live as a semi-retired, part-time assistant in September, but left for the Relic Chapel at Maria Stein in January 1971.

1971

In 1971, an extensive reorganization of the parish council occurred with the creation of various commissions, and this resulted in the disbanding of three important organizations of the parish: the Holy Name Society, the Rosary-Altar Society and the Parent-Teacher Association.

The Holy Name Society offered members an opportunity for spiritual growth, provided material and personal service to the Church and assisted in the social development of the parish. In the twenty-two years of its existence, the Society was active in every phase of parish life.

As the men of the Holy Name Society were the leaders of the parish, so the women of the Rosary-Altar Society were the heart of the parish. There was no job too exalted or too menial in the parish that they did not tackle and get accomplished.

In September of 1971, the parish hired its first full time Religious Education Coordinator, Mr. William Roberts.

During the summer of 1971, Precious Blood School hired its first school secretary, Shirley Griggs.

1972

On October 28, 1972, William Allen, S. M., son of Henry and



Parish Picnic at Westbrook Club



Henrietta Allen, was ordained at Mt. St. John, now Bergamo Center. He offered his First Mass at Precious Blood on Sunday, October 29.

1973

In 1973, part of Precious Blood Parish was officially separated (as well as part of St. Rita Parish) to form the new parish of St. Paul, Englewood. It was established on the 25th of January, 1973, with Fr. Francis Pilliod as the first pastor. All territory north of Interstate 70 went to St. Paul. About one hundred and fifty families from Precious Blood and one hundred families from St. Rita transferred to the new parish.

1974

In February 1974 the parish said goodbye to Fr. Paul Buehler and wished him well as he returned to his mission work in Peru, South America. Under Fr. Buehler, the parish community had grown to about 1200 families or 3500 individuals.

The parish extended a warm welcome to Fr. Richard Cody, the new pastor, accompanied by his two faithful dogs, Bridgid and Michael. Fr. Cody had given a parish mission at Precious Blood Parish back in 1965. Before coming to this parish, he had been pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Cincinnati.

July 1974 saw the arrival of Fr. Richard DeCavitt, who was assigned as part-time associate pastor and also as Chaplain of the Dayton Mental Health Center.

Jasmine Skees, guitarist and singer, and other musicians formed a Folk Group which played at one Sunday Mass for the next several years.

1975

Precious Blood celebrated its 25th anniversary with a series of events throughout the year. A Parish Directory was prepared containing a parish history and pictures of parish families. During May, the church was painted and decorated. A special liturgy to initiate the 25th celebration was held on May 25. At the festival in June, a history booth presented information about Precious Blood's first 25 years.

A special liturgy in July provided a solemn celebration of the Feast of the Precious Blood. A blacktop dance was also held on a July Saturday evening. The 25th Anniversary was commemorated at the parish picnic at the Westbrook Club in August. Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M., from Cincinnati was the

principal speaker at an afternoon of renewal in October.

Archbishop Joseph Bernardin was the Celebrant at the Solemn Jubilee Celebration on November 2. A reception and dinner at Hara's Silver Ballroom followed the Mass. Fr. Paul Buehler returned from Peru for the Solemn Jubilee. The choir received new robes in October and presented a special concert in November. Use of the robes was discontinued several years later.

Gerry Konicki became the Director of Religious Education in 1975.

1976

Sacramental changes continued to be made. Communal penance was introduced. In 1976, one confessional was converted to allow the introduction of face to face confessions under the new penitential rite.

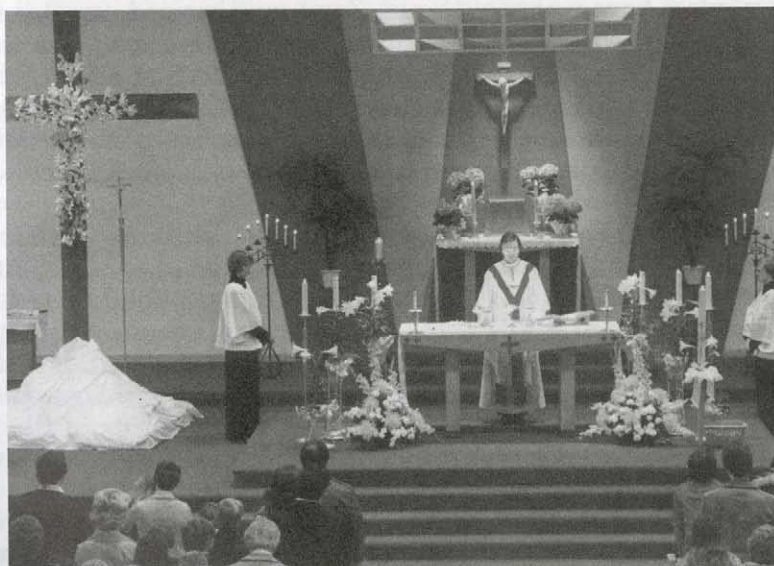
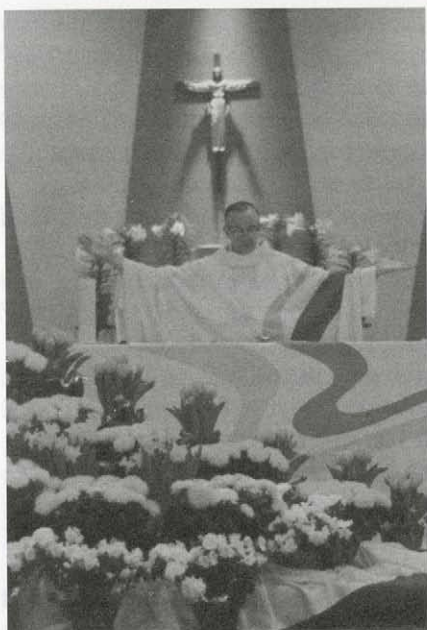
A reconciliation policy set 4th grade as the year for first Penance. The pendulum continued its swing back to group First Communion with white dresses and veils, although the option for individual reception of the sacrament still was there. A "Jesus Day" was introduced in 1979 to assist with preparation for First Communion. Pre-baptism instructions were required of parents beginning in 1978. Baptisms were encouraged to be celebrated within the framework of a Mass.

On June 5, 1976, Thomas Grilliot was the first native son of Precious Blood Parish to be ordained a priest. His parents, John and Bernadette, were among the founding members of the parish. Fr. Tom has a Ph.D. in mathematics and before his ordination, had been teaching at Penn State University when he decided to study for the priesthood. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Celebrations of a different nature were held in 1976. In May, Fr. Cody celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest. He was presented a new set of golf clubs at a party at the Englewood Holiday Inn.

On September 25, Eugene Wabler and 10 other Dayton area men were among the first class of laymen to be ordained Permanent Deacons for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Eugene and his wife, Clara, had been members of Precious Blood Parish for several years and had lived in the Dayton area most of their lives. He had been a seminarian for some time in his youth. At the time of his ordination, the Rev. Mr. Wabler was retired and the oldest man to be ordained a Permanent Deacon at that time. After his installation as an Associate of Precious Blood Parish, he assisted the priests in several capacities, particularly in

Church Altars 1967-'82



Located on Stage

ministering to the older parish members. Over the ensuing years, he made regular visits to Friendship Village. In 1986, Deacon Wabler was named Deacon Emeritus.

Some Precious Blood choir members sang with the Shiloh Community Chorus in an April concert of Faure's "Requiem" at Shiloh Church.

On September 26, Precious Blood Parish participated in the televised Mass on Dayton and Cincinnati television stations. The choir sang and was the congregation for the televised Mass.

1977

Parishioners attending Mass on New Years Day were shocked to learn Fr. Cody had resigned as Pastor and had left Precious Blood Parish. Fr. Richard DeCavitt, who was serving as an Associate Pastor, was appointed Temporary Administrator by Archbishop Bernardin and served in that capacity until June. The parish was saddened to lose Fr. Cody and then Fr. DeCavitt as they made difficult personal decisions to leave the active priesthood ministry. With their departure came the arrival of the new pastoral team of Fr. John Behen and Fr. William O'Donnell.

Fr. Behen, ordained February 2, 1946, has a doctorate in canon law from Rome and was Director of Novices in the Cincinnati Province of his order during the decade of the 60's. Fr. Behen was born in the Canal Zone and raised in Sedalia, Missouri. He was active in the affairs of his order, especially their renewal programs, and was involved in marriage tribunal work. He came from St. Patrick's Parish in Lexington, Virginia. A lover of good books and classical music, he brought a polished theological mind and a type of low-key leadership tempered with reason and calm.

With Fr. DeCavitt's departure, Fr. William O'Donnell became the new Associate Pastor. Fr. O'Donnell was ordained January 28, 1977. He was a Cleveland native who had served the first few months of his priesthood in Chicago.

During Holy Week, the Precious Blood Choir sang in two presentations. On Palm Sunday, the combined Precious Blood and St. Rita choirs sang the "The Seven Last Words of Christ" cantata at St. Rita Church. On Good Friday, the Precious Blood choir presented a concert of Lenten sacred music.

In April 1977, the Parish Council authorized Phil Harwood to resurrect the old parish newspaper, THE FONT, which became a part of our lives as a parish. During the 1977-79 period the paper was published on a bi-monthly basis, and later it became a quarterly because of skyrocketing expenses. Chief

writers were Dick Janowiecki and Barb Holmes. The terms "spotlight" and "Morgan Church Mouse" became part of the parish vocabulary. The Leisure Club undertook as a parish service the job of folding, stapling, and labeling THE FONT for mailing to every parish household.

Barb Holmes succeeded Phil Harwood as editor. THE FONT was discontinued after several years for financial reasons.

In June, Precious Blood Parish servers took first place in the activities at the annual Server's Picnic held at St. Charles Seminary, Carthage.

In September, parishioners started receiving Communion in the hand or on the tongue after the Pope gave such permission to U.S. Catholics.

A November paper drive profit of \$1988 was used to buy playground equipment. Also, in November, about 40 persons attended an organizational meeting of the Precious Blood Leisure Club for parishioners over 55 years.

Many changes became apparent in our parish sacramental liturgical life. One of the more noticeable changes was the greater role of women as they joined the ranks of distributors and lectors at weekend Masses. Formerly they were permitted to function in these roles only at school Masses or home-hospital visits.

A trend toward less formality saw lectors and distributors eliminating special robes in 1977 (with the choir following suit in 1978). In 1977 the servers adopted a simple white robe. The parish began offering the option of Communion under both species on certain occasions in 1978.

Confirmation age was set at 8th grade. An intense preparation period of class instruction, service projects, and a retreat day was developed for this sacrament. Archbishop Bernardin was present in 1978 for the first parish Confirmation class in four years and the first under the new Confirmation program. Annual Confirmation classes then continued to be a parish tradition.

A modified version of the ancient catechumenate program was introduced in the parish in 1977. Inquiry classes rather than individual convert instructions became the norm in 1977. They lasted approximately six months and were scheduled twice yearly. Also in 1977 the ushers came under the jurisdiction of the Worship Commission.

1978

Fr. Len Kistler made the decision to leave the parish in

June after five years at Precious Blood to join other Missionaries of the Precious Blood who were forming a renewal team. Parishioners were stunned three months later to learn he had suffered a heart attack. He recovered and was later named pastor of a Florida parish. He was replaced at Precious Blood by Fr. Jim Gaynor, our "man-on-a-bicycle".

Actually, Fr. Jim had been living in our rectory for almost a year before he became a part of the parish team. He had been ministering full time to the Maria-Joseph Center and the Precious Blood Sisters across the street. With his addition to our parish staff also came the beginning of a new and closer relationship with the Maria-Joseph Center. Fr. Jim brought to our parish a deep awareness of the strengths of our American family structure, which he had not fully appreciated until he spent ten years in Chile, where family strength was not as evident. He dedicated himself to the development of family programs here since he felt our family life was one of the biggest blessings we Americans have.

About the same time, Precious Blood parish priests began performing ministerial functions at Maria Joseph Center along with Fr. Joseph Green of Maria Joseph.

The parish music scene changed considerably. In March 1978, Mr. Jim Will resigned as Precious Blood Organist and Minister of Music after 19½ years of service to the parish. He left behind many friends who liked his dignified and traditional style of liturgical music. He went to St. Adalbert's Parish in Dayton.

Music for Sunday liturgies was provided by Mary Lou Weingart, Mary Kay Schweickart and other volunteer parishioners for several months while meetings were held to determine the parish's needs and a search for a new Minister of Music was conducted.

Mr. James Pera became the new Minister of Music in September. He ushered in a different sound. A former Marianist brother and professional musician, he incorporated piano, guitars, drums, and brass into a more upbeat contemporary sound which brought delight to some and consternation to others.

The 10:30 Mass became the permanent home of the choir, which also absorbed the Guitar Group formerly headed by Mrs. Jasmine Skees. Young Steve Weingart became Mr. Pera's assistant on piano and organ. Mr. Pera emphasized the sung responses at all Masses and made his goal more participation by the people. The adult choir grew from about 20 members to 60

members. In the fall of 1979 a children's choir was formed for any interested parish youngsters, grades 3-6, under the guidance of Mary Lou Weingart. By spring 1980 there were 65 children involved.

On May 30, Rick Nieberding, son of Ed and Mary (Jutte) Nieberding, and a parishioner all of his life, made his final profession in the Society of the Precious Blood. He later spent two months working at Precious Blood Parish before returning to the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago for further studies before ordination.

For most of the 1978-79 school year, David Hoying, a Minster native and a priesthood candidate, worked at Precious Blood Parish as part of his practical training for priesthood, between his graduation from college and his study of theology at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati. During his stay, he taught religion for the 1st grade in school and the 7th grade in C.C.D., assisted the Worship Commission, and was a regular visitor of retired Sisters at Maria Joseph Center. In July 1979, he made his first profession as a member of the Society of Precious Blood at St. Charles Seminary.

In November 1978, Precious Blood Parish discontinued the use of the Monthly Missalette with the purchase and use of the Worship II hymnals.

1979

During the spring and summer, several key personnel changes were made. In April 1979, Genevieve Singleton retired after 13 years as Parish Secretary. She had been assisted during 1977 and 1978 by Barbara Hemmelgarn and later by JoAnn Perretta. JoAnn Perretta replaced her as the new secretary, with Pat Peter as her assistant.

Eileen Gibson retired as parish bookkeeper, to be replaced by Clara Wabler. Agatha Kleinhenz was parish housekeeper and lunch/weekend cook, while Hilda Rammel cooked dinner and shopped for supplies.

Gerry Konicki ended four years as DRE and was succeeded by Eileen Moorman and Joanne Beirise as Co-DREs. From July to December 1979, Deacon Rick Nieberding worked at Precious Blood as part of his preparation for the priesthood.

A Home and School Association consisting of Precious Blood School parents and other interested persons was formed in the fall of 1979.

A return to scriptural themes became evident in our music, especially in the use of the psalms. During this time period other

changes at Sunday liturgies were the development of the deacon's role, Baptisms at Mass, greater number of distributors, efforts to schedule together lay ministers from the same family, the entrance procession, lay people in the offertory procession, emphasis on acclamations and sung responses, and Children's Masses.

In 1979, Fr. O'Donnell was transferred to St. James the Less Parish in Columbus and replaced by Fr. Raymond Zarate, who was newly ordained.

Fr. Zarate was a Detroit native and had worked as a designer, builder's consultant and a manufacturer's representative before studying for the priesthood. Fr. Ray came to us at age 41 as what was termed an "older vocation".

David Getter, Principal of St. Joseph School, Springfield, became the first lay Principal of Precious Blood School.

1980

During 1980, family pictures were taken for a new Parish Directory, which was issued in March 1981.

In May 1980, Parish Council adopted a revised Constitution and By-Laws which changed the Council's composition from over 20 members to nine elected members plus the clergy as *ex-officio* members. Before the By-Laws were revised, Parish Council included six *ex-officio* members, six representatives from Parish commissions, three representatives from other parish organizations, and nine elected members.

Under the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, the nine elected members served as contact persons for the various commissions and organizations and reported to the Council on the activities of the commissions and organizations.

On June 28, Rick Nieberding was ordained a priest in the Society of the Precious Blood. The Precious Blood Parish choir sang at his ordination Mass in Immaculate Conception Church in Celina, Ohio. He celebrated his First Mass at Precious Blood Church on June 29.

In August, Fr. Gaynor accepted an assignment to work with the Spanish speaking Catholics in Montgomery County. He continued to reside at Precious Blood Parish for several months before moving to St. Joseph Parish downtown. With his departure and the arrival of Fr. John Byrne at Maria Joseph, the service of Precious Blood Parish priests to Maria Joseph ended. There was no replacement for Fr. Gaynor.

Needed repairs to the parking lot, the church and school roofs and the church drainage system put a strain on the

financial status of the parish. Fr. Behen made several appeals in the Sunday Bulletin during the summer of 1980 for increased contributions. These appeals resulted in some increase in contributions.

During the fall of 1980, the Worship Commission reviewed the Saturday evening and Sunday Mass schedule in view of Archbishop Bernardin's concern about the number of Masses and the decreased Mass attendance in many parishes. At the time, Precious Blood Parish had two Saturday evening and four Sunday Masses. In September, Parish Council approved a revised weekend Mass schedule of four Masses - one on Saturday evening and three on Sunday - effective in January. About the same time, the Saturday morning Mass was discontinued. Also, the Monday and Friday evening Masses were discontinued because of decreased attendance.

1981

A February 1981 pulpit exchange in the Trotwood-Madison Township area saw Rev. Dr. Baird of Northwest Christian Church preach at Precious Blood Church's Saturday evening mass and Fr. Behen preach at the Sunday morning service at Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church.

A First Friday Holy Hour was started in February 1981. Initially, it was held at the noon hour. The time was changed in February 1982 to the hour immediately following the morning Mass. It was discontinued in 1991.

The first St. Patrick's Day Raffle or Irish Sweepstakes was held on March 17, 1981 as an additional parish fund raiser. Only 900 tickets were available at \$30 each. Every ticket sold was drawn in a reverse raffle with the buyer of the last ticket drawn winning \$10,000. Small value or merchant prizes were awarded to ticket holders throughout the drawing. Ticket holders and their guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks while the tickets were drawn. The raffle became an annual fund raiser. The price of the ticket increased over the years, first to \$35 and then to \$40. Don Peter was chairman of the event for the first six years. Gary Bardon chaired the event the next three years and Mike Henne and Ed Ruff, Jr. co-chaired the 1990 event.

Fr. Behen celebrated the 35th anniversary of his ordination with Precious Blood Parish in March.

William Nordenbrock, a newly ordained deacon and a Fort Recovery, Ohio native, spent the last six months of 1981 at Precious Blood Parish assisting the priests as he in prepared for priesthood. He was ordained a priest on April 9, 1983, and later

offered a Mass of Thanksgiving at Precious Blood Church.

Br. Thomas Bohman joined the parish staff in August to teach Junior High social studies and to assist the priests in the rectory. He came from St. John Parish, Whiting, Indiana, where he taught for nine years.

1982

In June 1982, the Tuesday through Thursday evening Masses were changed to 8:45 AM because the evening Masses were poorly attended and the 8:45 AM Mass would serve as a Mass for the school children..

Parishioner Barbara Klaco was received into the ranks of Lay Ministers by Archbishop Bernardin in June after completing three years of study. Barbara initially served Precious Blood Parish in planning and coordinating programs to promote community spirit.

Evangelization of the unchurched and the "drifted away" was discussed at two October Sunday afternoon meetings. The 50 participants agreed the best way to start would be to offer a parish mission for the entire community.

Precious Blood Parish hosted the Trotwood-Madison Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. A good crowd attended the service and left with the wish that such a gathering would happen more frequently.

The biggest news of 1982 was the renovation and dedication of Precious Blood Church. The renovation was done after many years of studying and discussing various alternatives to provide Precious Blood a better worship space and/or an activity center or adequate multipurpose space.

As early as August 1974, Parish Council discussed an Ad Hoc Committee report on the development of an activity center. Ideas discussed included (1) a bubble structure, (2) use of the old barn church, (3) removal of the last 10 rows of church pews to create an activity center behind a divider, and (4) use of interlocking chairs in the church on weekends. No definite action was taken pending development of a master plan.

In March 1975, Parish Council decided church renovation was not feasible at that time because of the parish's financial condition and the need to educate parishioners about new liturgical theology. Instead they agreed to paint the existing church and make some other minor improvements in preparation for the parish's 25th anniversary.

Fr. Cody in his "Pastor's Notes" in the July 18, 1976 Sunday Bulletin said Precious Blood needed to reach some important

decisions to meet the parish's goals of giving worship a fitting place and providing facilities for various school activities. He noted that the Archbishop had asked Precious Blood Parish to investigate the possible use of the Maria Joseph Chapel as a parish church. He recognized a new church would be expensive but also outlined the school's need for more space and the parish's need for meeting and activity rooms. He said a new church would permit the existing church to be used for its intended use. Fr. Kistler similarly discussed the need for an adequate worship place in the March 6, 1977 Sunday Bulletin.

A 1976 Planning Committee studied the following alternatives:

1. Do nothing,
2. Build a church,
3. Build a multipurpose building,
4. Build a church at a new site and convert the existing church into a gym, or
5. Use Convent church across Salem Avenue (Maria Joseph) as the parish church and convert the existing church into a gym.

The Committee recommended building an activity center and remodeling the existing Church at an estimated cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

The results of 890 votes in a Parish Building Committee survey in February 1978 showed the largest number of votes, but not a majority, wanted to build a new church and convert the existing church into a gym. The second highest vote count was "Do nothing". At an open parish meeting on October 2, 1978, parishioners voted three to one against any building program at that time because they felt the Parish could not afford it. The Building Committee, therefore, recommended postponement of any building plans and that, in lieu of building, improvements should be made to the Church.

In October 1979, the Worship Commission approved a Refurbishment Committee report concerning a redesign of the Church's interior. Accordingly, Parish Council authorized the employment of David Camele, a renown liturgical designer, to determine the parish's liturgical needs and goals.

The first step in the process was two workshops conducted by Mr. Camele in November 1979 at which parishioners were given an opportunity to discuss the parish's liturgical needs. About 60 people attended the workshops. In February 1980, Parish Council authorized the employment of Mr. Camele as a liturgical designer for a redesigned church.

During 1980 and 1981, design plans, options and funding

for a renovated church were discussed at many meetings. A fund raising consultant was hired in September 1981 to help raise funds. A fund raising goal of \$434,000 was established for the "Church Fund". During the pledge campaign, solicitors contacted every parish family to obtain their pledge to the Church Fund. The standard pledge program covered payments over a three year period. The amount actually pledged and paid was only \$325,000. The scope of the renovation was revised to stay within the available funds.

The renovation plans were finalized in early 1982 and bids from construction firms were solicited. On February 27, 1982, the Parish Council accepted the bid of Leviton Construction Company to be the general contractor for the project. Council also appointed parishioners Vince Corrado and Roy Horvath as Project Managers to be the Parish's representatives in working with the contractors.

The last Mass in the old Church was celebrated on Monday morning, March 22, 1982. During construction, weekday Masses, baptisms, funerals and weddings were held at the Maria-Joseph Chapel across Salem Ave. Saturday evening and Sunday Masses were celebrated in the school cafeteria with two additional Masses - one on Saturday evening and another on Sunday - to accommodate everyone. Holy Thursday and Good Friday services were also held in the cafeteria. Masses on Easter Sunday were celebrated in the north concourse of Salem Mall. The first Masses in the renovated Church were celebrated during the weekend of June 12-13, 1982.

Before the renovation, the design features of the intended use of the facility as a school gym and auditorium were evident. There were no windows, carpeting or air conditioning. The altar, lectern and tabernacle were on the stage and all pews faced the altar in the traditional church pattern.

The renovation changed the interior by moving the altar to a platform near the main entrance and placing the ambo (lectern) on another platform opposite the altar. Pews were repositioned on each side to face the center and the altar and ambo. A new organ and the choir were moved from the main part of the Church to the "stage" area. Windows were installed in the center of both the east and west walls. Air conditioning, new roof, carpeting, new sound system, bulkheads in each corner and glass entrance doors were installed. A Eucharistic Chapel containing the tabernacle was built in a room off the vestibule that had been used as an ushers' room. A new penitential room was built. The pews from the old church were used but all other furnishings

such as the altar, ambo, tabernacle, song boards, and font were new. In short, the renovated Church had a different look.

Some parishioners found it difficult to accept the renovated Church and its arrangements. Particularly troublesome at first for many people was the arrangement of the pews facing each other. This arrangement was also troublesome to others, particularly brides, because it did not provide an aisle. Father Behen discussed the reasons for and the significance of the changes of the church arrangement in several Sunday Bulletins during the summer of 1982.

Most parishioners contributed to the Church Fund to help pay for the renovation cost. Many parishioners helped to make the project a success by working on one of the committees involved in the project. The following played key roles in the renovation:

- Fr. Ray Zarate and James Pera worked closely with designer David Camele in developing the design details.

- Bob Rehling was Parish Council President and Chairman of the Pledge Campaign

- George VanSchaik, Bill Buehele, Joan Foley and John Hart were fund drive organizers and leaders.

- Vince Corrado, Luke Albers and Roy Horvath served as the Renovation Committee.

Bishop Daniel Pilarczyk, at the time Administrator of the Cincinnati Archdiocese, dedicated the renovated Precious Blood Church on September 16, 1982. At a second dedication event, organist Richard Benedum was featured in a concert with the choir on October 3, 1982.

The cost of the renovation, including fund raising, designer cost, interest, all construction and furnishings, carpeting, sound system, organ and equipment was \$320,324.

In late 1987, the Church arrangement was changed on an experimental three month basis to an east-west layout with the altar located on a platform on the west end of the Church and the ambo located on a platform on the east end. The pews on either side faced the center space between the altar and the ambo. The east-west arrangement was discussed at several Parish Council and Liturgy Commission meetings. On January 23 and 24, 1988, parishioners voted on what arrangement they wanted. Forty-six percent voted to return to the original arrangement while forty percent wanted to keep the arrangement used during the trial period. Ironically, about fifteen percent wanted a traditional church arrangement although it was not an option on the ballot.

The Liturgy Commission designed an alternative

arrangement in an attempt to satisfy the desire of a more traditional church arrangement while still being faithful to the principles and guidelines formed in *Art and Environment in Catholic Worship* (Bishops Committee on the Liturgy).

The alternative arrangement required eight new platforms for the altar/ambo area. The platforms cost about \$3000. Parish Council approved the alternative arrangement on February 3, 1988. The church was re-arranged on Sunday, March 6, 1988 after the platforms were completed. The new arrangement placed the altar and ambo on the same platform facing the entrance with the choir as a backdrop. The pews on both sides were positioned to face the center. The two sections of pews on each side nearest the entrance were angled to make it easier for people in the pews to view the altar.

1983

Several key personnel changes of the parish staff were made during 1983. In March, Clara Wabler retired after six years as parish bookkeeper. This was her second retirement as she came out of retirement to perform the parish's bookkeeping duties. Joan Foley assumed her duties.

Fr. Behen left in June after six years as Pastor to become Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Maria Stein, Ohio. His successor was Fr. Clement B. Alt, a New Washington, Ohio native, who came to Precious Blood Parish from Archbold, Ohio. Fr. Robert Monnin, Dayton Dean, installed Fr. Alt as Pastor during an August 7th Mass.

In February, Parish Council authorized some remodeling of the old church building (barn) to provide a space for the school children to exercise. A new public address system, master clock, and bell system were installed in the school in November at a cost of \$4,840.

From the time during the church renovation in the spring of 1982 until November 1983, Precious Blood Parish had two Saturday evening Masses - 4:00 and 7:00 PM. Because of the low attendance at these two Masses, they were consolidated into one Mass at 5:30 PM in late November 1983.

1984

Council approved the preparation and purchase of new hymnals in March 1984. Liturgist James Pera prepared the books, which contained the hymns used at worship while the Worship II books were used for scripture reading and prayers. The new hymnals and their accompanying book racks were

delivered in March 1985 at a cost of about \$7,500.

The Sisters of Precious Blood concluded the celebration of the 150th anniversary of their Order in the United States with a Mass at Precious Blood Church celebrated by Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy of Miami on June 26. A few weeks earlier, Precious Blood Parish had a reception for the Precious Blood Sisters who had taught at Precious Blood School.

Three personnel changes occurred during the 1984 summer. Fr. Ray Zarate, after five years at Precious Blood Parish, transferred to St. Mark's, Cincinnati, where he had served as a deacon and would later be named Pastor. The new Precious Blood Associate was Fr. Larry J. Hemmelgarn, who was ordained on June 9. Fr. Hemmelgarn was a Philothea, Ohio (near Coldwater) native.

Eileen Moorman resigned as DRE and was replaced by Dan Faloon, who had completed theological studies at Xavier University and the University of Dayton. He had served several parishes and came to Precious Blood Parish from St. Raphael Parish, Springfield. Shirley Griggs resigned after several years as school secretary and was replaced by Allyson Storck.

During October and November, the Montgomery County Engineer's Office widened Denlinger Road adjacent to Precious Blood from a two lane road to a wide three lane road with a left turn lane. This significantly reduced the traffic congestion when leaving the Precious Blood Parish parking lot.

The first six weeks RENEW program was held in Fall 1984. See the RENEW section in the special addenda.

Bishop James Garland, who was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati in July, made his first visit to Precious Blood Parish on December 1 to confirm eighth grade students.

Because the Feast of Immaculate Conception fell on a Saturday, the Bishops of the Dioceses of Ohio granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on what was customarily a holyday of obligation. The granting of such a dispensation became a routine practice during subsequent years for Holydays (except those of Immaculate Conception and Christmas) that occurred on Saturdays or Mondays because of problems regarding the quality of liturgical celebrations on such holydays and the lack of understanding of the two obligations.

Mrs. Alice Kraska donated an outdoor Christmas crib which was erected during the Christmas season on parish property at the corner of Salem Ave. and Denlinger Road. Knights of Columbus Marian Council #3754 members erected and dismantled the crib each Christmas during subsequent years as part of their "Keep Christ in Christmas" program.

During 1984 Fr. Alt directed the improvement of the lighting around the school and parish grounds. Several lights were added and others were moved. Parishioners donated some of the effort for this project.

1985

A new Parish Directory was prepared during 1985. Paula Menker, Heidi Johnson and Linda Dozier were the chairpersons for the project. Over 500 families had their pictures taken and included in the Directory.

On April 16, Archbishop Pilarczyk visited Precious Blood as part of his program to become better acquainted with the Archdiocese by visiting every parish in the Archdiocese. During his visit, the Archbishop visited the school classrooms before the classes were dismissed, met with school and CCD teachers and parish staff, had dinner with the priests and Brother Tom, celebrated an evening Mass and finally, met with the Parish Council.

The Education Commission and the Parish Council re-evaluated the policy of accepting a large number of non-parishioner (mostly non-Catholic) students in Precious Blood School during the spring of 1985. (See the History of the Precious Blood School for details.)

On August 8, Helen Nurrenbrock, School Cafeteria Manager, died after 25 years of service to Precious Blood.

On August 10, parishioner Mitch Schweickart, son of John and Mary Kay, made his temporary profession as a Brother in the Society of Mary (Marianists).

Precious Blood Parish participated in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati "For the Harvest" program for future planning during the year beginning in October 1985. (See "For the Harvest" in the special addenda section.)

1986

1986 had a special significance to Precious Blood Parish and all members of the Missionaries of Precious Blood because January 6 was the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the Order.

In April, Parish Council approved a Women's Luncheon Group. The Group planned a three part program at each of its monthly luncheons, namely: (1) an informal lunch, (2) a spiritual or educational presentation and (3) a seasonal demonstration of a craft or fashion. This group continued to meet over the next several years at one of the area restaurants or a member's home.

Fr. Alt observed his 35th anniversary as a priest in May. No special celebration was held at his request.

Parishioner Alex J. Tuss, son of Alex and Ella Tuss, made his final vows as a Brother in the Society of Mary in August 1986. Before his first vows in 1981, Br. Tuss was a teacher at Chaminade-Julienne High School.

At several meetings after the Parish Festival on May 30 to June 1, Parish Council discussed the several unpleasant and somewhat serious crowd problems encountered at the festival. After much discussion, Council decided to continue the annual Festival but to close at 9:00 PM instead of the usual 11:00 PM. The earlier shutdown was considered advisable for a few years because crowd problems, when encountered, occurred near or after darkness. By 1990, the Festival again operated until 11:00 PM on Friday and Saturday with some activities reducing or stopping earlier.

In October 1986, Parish Council approved the replacement of half of the rectory windows, improvements in the rectory wiring to handle the increased loads caused by air conditioners and a new telephone system for the entire parish plant. The window replacement was the start of a long range parish program to replace all of the rectory and school windows. The old windows, installed in the 1950s, had become worn and allowed cold air to enter. This created discomfort to the building occupants. In addition, it was impossible to obtain repair parts for the old windows.

Parish Council approved a new Mass schedule for holydays. Previously, there were five Masses for each holyday - one on the evening before and two morning and two evening Masses on the holyday. Declining attendance at the Masses, however, dictated a change in the schedule. The Council approved in October 1986 a revised Holyday schedule of three Masses - 6:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 7:00 PM - with no Mass. The preceding evening the new schedule was effective in 1987.

Since the mid 1970s, the Precious Blood Athletic Association had used two fields east of the parking lot for youth soccer games. The eastern part of these fields belonged to merchants whose stores were east of Precious Blood property. The merchants permitted the Athletic Assn. to use the land for soccer fields. In the fall of 1986, Emoff's Furniture expanded by building an addition to the rear of its store over some of the land used for part of the smaller soccer fields. Thereafter, there was only one soccer field at Precious Blood Parish. The Athletic Assn. soccer program continued to use soccer fields at Sycamore Woods, formerly called Newfields.



Parish Picnic



1987

In a pulpit exchange on January 25, Rev. J. Thomas Johnson, Pastor of Summit Christian Church, gave the homily at the noon Mass.

Several personnel changes were made during 1987. Dan Faloon accepted a diocesan position after three years as DRE. Peggy Valaski became the new DRE. Br. Tom Bohman left at the end of the school year for further studies in Chicago and to be Director of Formation of Brother Candidates of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. While at Precious Blood, Br. Tom taught social studies and religion to Junior High students; was very involved in the Teen Club, the Athletic Assn., Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts; taught RCIA classes; and assisted the priests in the rectory. Br. Richard Schaffner succeeded Br. Tom.

In September, the Provincial of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood announced that Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn would leave in December for further studies in Italy. He left on Christmas. Fr. Matthew Jozefiak, ordained in December, became the new Associate Pastor. Fr. Jozefiak, or Fr. Matt as he was most commonly known, was a Chicago native and, therefore, a Bears fan.

During the spring of 1987, the Archdiocesan Office of Worship evaluated the Precious Blood Sunday liturgy at the request of the Liturgy Commission. The evaluation was made by observing several Sunday liturgies and sending questionnaires to a random sampling of parishioners. Areas evaluated included environment, assembly, the various ministries, music before Mass, and the liturgy itself. The Office of Worship made over 25 recommendations in its 16 page report.

Several building improvements were completed during 1987. Rusted and leaking spouting on the rectory was replaced. Some rectory electrical wiring improvements were made after the existing wiring almost started a fire. Modifications were made in the old barn church to meet fire code provisions. These included a manual fire alarm system, panic bars on the exits, illuminated exit signs, and fire proofing around the space heater. A privacy fence was built on the north side of the convent.

In November, a stewardship program was presented at the Sunday Masses to make the parishioners aware of their responsibility to financially support their parish. At the end of the program, 550 families pledged their financial support by signing a pledge card. The program had a positive impact on Sunday collections as they increased.

During 1987, the Liturgy Commission was reorganized

when it adopted a new Constitution using a model suggested by the Archdiocese. Under the May 1981 Constitution, the Commission had no more than 10 members. Members were not elected. Membership was open to interested persons willing to commit at least one full year to the Commission. The Liturgist and Parish Council representative were ex-officio members. The revised Constitution provided for seven members with three to be elected without specific knowledge or training in liturgy to give the "from the pew" perspective. Three members were to be persons who had demonstrated some knowledge in the area of liturgy by their participation in parish programs or workshops. The Director of Liturgy and Music (formerly Liturgist) was an ex-officio member.

The revised Constitution also provided for parish service organizations (PSO) - semi-autonomous committees which were formed to carry out the work of the various ministries under the Liturgy Commission. The original PSOs were Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, Hospitality (Ushers), Acolytes, Art and Environment, Sacristy, Holy Week, Eucharistic Liturgy Planning, Christmas Environment, Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick, Wake and Funeral Liturgy and Non-Eucharistic Liturgy Planning. Some PSOs were subsequently dropped or consolidated and others were added.

The elected Liturgy Commission members would serve a term of three years with one new member elected each year. The first election of three Liturgy Commission members was held on October 17-18, 1987. After that, one member was elected in May each year at the same time as Parish Council and Education Commission members.

In 1992, the Liturgy Commission was expanded to six elected parishioners. Three additional members were elected in an October 1992 special election. After that, two new members were selected during the annual May parish election.

1988

On August 13, parishioner Br. J. Mitchell Schweickart, S. M., made his final profession at Bergamo into the Marianist Province of Cincinnati. Br. Schweickart's parents are John and Mary Kay Schweickart.

In September, parishioner Richard J. Janowiecki received a certificate after completing studies to serve as Procurator-Advocate in the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. In this capacity, he began to assist the priests with marriage cases.

In December, Joan Foley resigned as parish bookkeeper after many years of service to the parish.

1989

Shortly before Christmas 1988, Father Alt was confined to Good Samaritan Hospital with a blood clot in his leg. Use of blood thinner led to internal bleeding, which required surgery. Additional surgery was later needed during his hospital stay of about 90 days. He then spent some time recuperating at Lourdes Hall, Maria-Joseph Living Care Center, before returning to Precious Blood Parish in May 1989. When he returned, Father Alt had difficulty walking and had to use a cane. At first, he was able only to concelebrate Mass. His walking gradually improved and as his strength returned, he again celebrated Mass. During his absence, Fr. Jozefiak visited him almost daily. Various visiting priests assisted in the celebration of weekend Masses.

In June 1989, the Provincial of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Parish announced that Fr. Alt would be transferred to St. Charles Seminary for further recuperation and Fr. Ronald Schiml would become Pastor on August 1. Fr. Schiml, a Dayton native, had spent his early priesthood days in parish work before working about 20 years in administration at St. Joseph Calumet College in East Chicago, Indiana. During the year before coming to Precious Blood, he re-oriented himself to parish activities by serving at Florida and Cleveland parishes.

In March 1989, Don Whitecar, a parishioner and Finance Commission Chairman, assumed duties as Parish Business Manager. His duties included all of the parish's financial activities including the school. In August, John Lesko, a parishioner, became a part-time maintenance man and the Ewing Company was hired to clean the school each day. Full time janitors were no longer used.

On July 1, Br. Richard Schaffner made his final profession as a definitive member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood at St. Charles Seminary. A Mass and reception in his honor were held at Precious Blood Parish on July 2.

A new parish identification sign was erected along Salem Avenue in front of the rectory during July. The new sign replaced the Renew sign that had been erected at the beginning of the Renew program. With a contribution of \$500 by the Leisure Cub, the Renew sign was renovated and installed near the Denlinger Road entrance in March 1990.

1990

During 1990, Precious Blood Parish celebrated its 40th anniversary with the following schedule of events:

- January 28 to February 2 - Education Commission and Home and School Association honored past and present Precious Blood School staff and teachers during Catholic Education Week.

- February 4 - Boy Scouts recognized all former and current Boy Scouts.

- March 4 - Girl Scouts recognized all former and current Girl Scouts.

- April 1 - Teen Club served a pancake and sausage breakfast after all Masses.

- May 27 - Leisure Club recognized the charter members of Precious Blood Parish at a lunch following the Noon Mass.

- June 1, 2 and 3 - The annual Festival theme was "Homecoming" with past and current parishioners renewing old friendships.

- July 1 - A special Mass was celebrated for the Feast of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

- August 12 - The annual parish picnic was held on the rectory lawn.

- September 16 - The Athletic Association sponsored a Monte Carlo night under a big tent on the parking lot.

- October 20 to 26 - Frs. Al Naseman and John Zvijak of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood conducted a Parish Mission with morning and evening services.

- November 17 - Bishop James Garland of Cincinnati celebrated the 40th Anniversary Mass with 12 priests, including former Pastors and Associates, con-celebrating.

- November 18 - Four trees recently planted were blessed and dedicated in memory of the deceased parents of school children. Each tree represented 10 years of Precious Blood Parish life. The project was sponsored by the Home and School Association.

- November 18 - A 40th Anniversary Celebration and Family Social was held at the Salem Mall with cocktails, dinner, entertainment and dancing. About 700 people attended.

The activities were planned and coordinated by the sponsoring organizations under the guidance of the 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee. Committee members were John Lesko (Chairman), Bill Valaski (Vice-Chairman), Fr. Ronald Schiml, Fr. Matthew Jozefiak, Br. Richard Schaffner, Mark and Mary Ellen Smith, Mary Lesko, Tony Grogean, Linus Brackman, Peggy Valaski, Mary Lou Gebhart, Joan Foley, Margaret Sicnolf, Bob Rehling, Don Whitecar, Mike Schindler, Ron and Joanne Koesters and Gloria Anticoli. The 40th anniversary events were considered to be overwhelmingly

successful.

The Prayer Group wrote a special 40th Anniversary Prayer of Dedication which was recited before each Mass during the year. Over 430 families had their pictures taken for an updated Parish Directory which was issued in early 1991. Bells were installed on top of the church as a 40th anniversary gift.

During July, the first Precious Blood Vacation Bible School was held with 50 children and parents participating in games, songs, crafts and learning about Jesus.

There were two rectory personnel changes during August. Br. Richard Schaffner transferred to St. Adalbert's, Cleveland and Fr. Matthew Jozefiak transferred to Nativity of Our Lady Parish, Lake Mary, Florida. In September, Fr. Mark Hoying, a Carthagen, Ohio native, assumed duties as part-time Associate in addition to his duties as Vocation Director/Coordinator and Special Formation Director for the Cincinnati Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

1991

In January 1991, Richard Janowiecki was admitted to candidacy for the permanent diaconate after having completed several preparatory courses. He was ordained a Permanent Deacon on September 28, 1991. Deacon Janowiecki assumed some of the rectory duties. He increased his parish workload when he retired from his full time job in 1992. As Deacon Janowiecki assumed parish duties, failing eyesight forced Deacon Eugene Wabler to reduce his workload. In 1992, Deacon Wabler and his wife, Clara, moved to the Maria Joseph Living Care Center. Deacon Wabler died on November 10, 1994.

By March 1991, Precious Blood Parish had difficulty scheduling Masses for Priests' intention within a reasonable time. Therefore a limit of four Mass intentions per person during a year was imposed. By May 1991, Mass intentions for 1991 were no longer available. Scheduling for 1992 began in September 1991. A similar situation occurred in 1992. An announcement in October 1994 said that Mass requests were backed up to March 1995. The rectory contacted the Chancery, who suggested that multiple intentions be scheduled for the same time. In that manner, two or more persons with the same anniversary could be remembered. The first double intentions was celebrated on April 7, 1994. More than one intention was used very little until March and April 1995. After that, more than one intention for a Mass became fairly common.



Parish Picnic



The weekly school Mass was changed from Thursday to Friday morning beginning with 1991-92 school year.

Beginning in 1991, the weekly Sunday Bulletin did not include the acolytes, lectors and eucharistic ministers scheduled for that week. Instead a separate schedule was prepared every three or four months and distributed to the acolytes, lectors and eucharistic ministers.

1992

Use of girl Mass Servers was approved in October 1991. They began serving in June 1992.

New priest vestments and altar cloths were blessed and put into use on April 5, 1992.

During the 1990s, members of Missionaries of the Precious Blood had resided at Precious Blood Rectory while pursuing other activities. In August 1992, Br. Tim Cahill started living at Precious Blood while pursuing a degree in Pastoral Ministry at the University of Dayton. While a resident, he helped with various rectory tasks in the parish.

1993

Effective July 7, 1993, The Missionaries of the Precious Blood were no longer able to assign two priests to Precious Blood Parish. Consequently, Fr. Ron Schiml was re-assigned as Pastor of St. Joseph Church, Pulaski, Indiana. Fr. Mark Hoying, who had been part time associate pastor at Precious Blood Parish while serving as Director of Vocations for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, became Pastor.

The loss of an associate pastor resulted in immediate Mass schedule changes. Effective July 1993, the number of weekend Masses decreased from four (one Saturday evening and three Sunday morning Masses) to three Sunday Masses at 8:30 and 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM. The Tuesday morning Mass was replaced by a Prayer and Communion service conducted by Deacon Janowiecki.

Another change that was noticed almost immediately was the Pastor's Notes in the Sunday Bulletin. Fr. Schiml had preferred not to write "Pastor's Notes" in the Sunday Bulletin while Fr. Hoying wrote "Pastor's Notes" almost every week. Many of his Notes contained references to his large family.

In July 1993, James Pera, Liturgist and Organist, left Precious Blood Parish after 15 years to accept a similar position at St. John, West Chester. A search for a new musician ensued and resulted in the hiring of Bonnie Ekhardt to assume the Music

Ministry. Bonnie had a Bachelor's and Masters degrees in music. She had previously served at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Bonnie was assisted by her husband, Skip, who directed the choir.

1994

John Lesko retired after several years as maintenance person on December 31, 1994. Bill Wilbanks became the new maintenance person.

Until the early 1990s, Precious Blood Parish did not have a salaried Youth Minister. The Teen Club, as it was then known, was under the direction of volunteer parishioners. Pat and Ron Henne directed the Teen Club activities. After they resigned, Jill Sanders accepted the Teen Club responsibilities. When Br. Richard Schaffner came to Precious Blood Parish, he assisted Jill and then assumed Teen Club direction when she resigned. When Br. Schaffner left Precious Blood Parish, Carlene Marshall and Jane Adkins became the directors.

One of the "Dream Goal" objectives of 1990 and 1991 was to hire a Youth Minister. Gaillynn Bardon became the first salaried Youth Minister when she was hired in August 1992. Michael Montgomery replaced her in 1994. In September 1995, Michael Montgomery resigned to move to Corpus Christi Parish as Pastoral Associate. Darlene Lewis succeeded him.

Pat Peter resigned as Parish Secretary when she started working at the Trinity Center. DeDe McIntyre began as Secretary in July 1994.

1995

The Eucharistic Chapel in the Church became a problem area after several years of use. Some people began to use it as a storage area. At Eastertime 1995, it was announced that the Eucharistic Chapel was being renovated. The old altar of repose, used in the Church before the 1982 remodeling, was retained and placed in the Eucharistic Chapel with the original tabernacle. The chapel walls were repainted. After the remodeling many people made visits to the Eucharistic Chapel before or after Mass. Others participated in the Eucharistic Adoration held on Tuesdays in the Chapel from November 1995 to June 1997.

By the early 1990s, no Sisters of the Precious Blood were teaching in Precious Blood School. However, other Sisters of the Precious Blood continued to live in the Convent on a rental basis. In Spring 1995, the Sisters residing in the Convent agreed to relocate so the building could be used for office space and

meeting rooms. The building was renamed "The Gaspar Parish Center". Deacon Janowiecki, the Director of Religious Education, the Music Ministers, the Youth Minister and related youth activities moved to the Gaspar Parish Center.

In July 1995, Br. Timothy Cahill moved to St. Augustine, Minster. At the same time, Fr. David Hoying, who had been living at Precious Blood Parish for some time while receiving medical treatment, was re-assigned as Pastor of St. Francis, Cranberry and St. Aloysius, Carthagen.

A significant change in rectory residents occurred in August 1995 when the Missionaries of the Precious Blood began using the Precious Blood rectory as a formation center for future priests and brothers. The candidates living in the Rectory would be students at the University of Dayton or Sinclair College and perform apostolic work in the area. Initially, two Directors and four candidates moved into the rectory. The Missionaries of the Precious Blood pay rent for the candidates and the Directors. The first residents were Director of Vocations Father Angelo Anthony, Director of Initial Formation Br. Bernard Barga and candidates Andru Heckman, Tony Fortman, Josè Alonso and Tim Knepper. The number of candidates changed over the next several years as the original candidates moved to other programs and new candidates entered the program. Br. Barga developed health problems and in 1998 had to move to St. Charles Center in Carthagen. Br. Jerome Schulte, replaced Br. Barga.

By 1999, the number of Precious Blood candidates had increased so that there was not enough space for the priests and the candidates in the rectory. Therefore, the priests, Br. Schulte and the candidates moved to the Parish Center and the offices in the Parish Center moved to the existing rectory. The changeover was gradually made during the fall of 1999 and the first months of 2000.

In November 1995, a Fund Raising Committee was formed with Jerry Moeder as its Chairman. It was scheduled to meet quarterly to review recent fund raising activities.

1996

In August 1996, Peggy Valaski resigned after nine years as Director of Religious Education to move to Arizona. Robin Perkins became the new DRE.

In February 1996, a building and maintenance fund was started by including an extra envelope in the monthly envelope package. Parishioners used the envelopes to donate funds directly to the Building and Maintenance Fund. These funds

Christmas through the years



c. 1949



c. 1976



1998

were recorded separately and used for building maintenance, such as the replacement of the school roof and repair of the school front steps in 1996.

On March 3 to 6, 1996, Fr. Michael Tueth gave a revival/mission. On three Wednesdays following the Mission, Fr. Hoying presented talks entitled "Images of God, Who Do I Follow?"

Starting in June 1996, the Sunday Bulletin had a Prayer Corner in which prayer intention requests were listed. Prayer Corner became a weekly feature of the Bulletin.

A new piano purchased in December 1996 improved the sound of music.

1997

JoAnn Perretta retired on January 1, 1997 as Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper. Tina Rowe assumed her bookkeeping duties while DeDe McIntyre continued as Parish Secretary.

1998

From February 15 to 17, 1998, Fr. Clarence Williams, C.P.P.S. conducted a Revival/Mission.

In May 1998, Fr. Anthony was elected Provincial Director of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and moved to the Provincial House. Several months later, Fr. Dennis Chriszt replaced Fr. Anthony as Director of Vocations. He moved to Precious Blood rectory in August 1998.

In August 1998, new guidelines from the Archdiocese changed the Mass scheduling procedures. Under the new guidelines, the parish could schedule only one name per weekday Mass and at the 6:00 PM on Sunday. At the 8:30 and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses, multiple requests could be scheduled.

1999

Many 1999 activities were related to the construction of the new church and are discussed in a separate section later in the history. Events included the groundbreaking on May 23.

The Home and School Association sponsored several fund raising activities to raise funds for the new playground which was moved to make room for the new church. On August 7, they had a garage sale in the new storage building and on October 23, they held a "Stomp'n' in the Barn" Dance in the new building. They also compiled a 50th Anniversary Precious Blood Parish Cookbook using recipes submitted by over 160 parishioners. The cookbooks were sold at the annual Christmas Boutique.

2000

New brick parish identification signs were built by volunteer parishioners near the Salem Avenue and the Denlinger Road entrances to Precious Blood.

SPECIAL ADDENDA

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

It was led by the following past presidents: Richard Goubeaux, John Gorman, Paul McGrody, Paul Fortman, Ed Fiely, Ralph Burdg, Elsworth Martin, Jack Murphy, Oscar Kroger, William Sipes, Alvin Mescher, Richard Pawlewicz, Ed Hoying, Ed Tepper, Dan Dickinson, Tom Spitzig, Roy Horvath, Rex Link, Mario Martella and Henry Pope. With the creation of parish councils, the work of the Holy Name Society was absorbed by parish Commissions in 1971.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The Rosary Altar Society began on April 2, 1950. The past presidents of the Rosary Altar Society were: Katheryn Hemmelgarn, Primrose Staas, Agnes Spatz, Bernadette Grilliot, Ann Gaeke, Jean Wehner, Hilda Rammel, Bernadette Grilliot, Alma Knapke, Eleanor Thein, Mary Fortman, Marie Barnes, Eleanor Duffley, Virginia Levy, Eleanor Klingshirn, Alma Grady, Cecilia Chrowl, Mary Fiely, Marilyn Hart, Joan Foley, Mary Anne Wallace, Virginia Ley, Terri Leibold, and Grace Vallo.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The P.T.A., (Parent Teacher Association) disbanded after twenty years of serving the parish by furthering Catholic education in the school. Past presidents were Catherine Stowe, Eileen Burdg, Susan Handle, Phyllis Martin, Eleanor Klingshirn, Catherine Schirtzinger, Geneva Zimmerman, Primrose Staas, Robert Kerwin, Hilda Rammel, James Vehorn, and Victor Vallo.

In 1979, Precious Blood School parents and other interested persons formed the Home and School Association to perform most of the functions that the PTA had previously performed.

PRECIOUS BLOOD ATHLETIC CLUB/ASSOCIATION

There was a phenomenal growth for the sports program offered by the Precious Blood Athletic Club to all children of the parish. Football was dropped in 1977, but the mushrooming of soccer more than offset the demise of football. The sports program sponsored parish teams (many, many of them!) in soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, spring soccer, and track. Over 200 children signed up in the spring of 1980 as track was offered for the first time. Naturally, this program expansion required more ambitious fund raisers to finance the equipment needed. Primary fund raisers were 50/50 dances, pizza and sub sales, and the new and popular fish fry. Other successful fund raisers were the parish garage sales and the Monte Carlo Nights. The sports program received no parish monies for their operations. A challenge always facing them was where to field all the teams since our parish had no gym and limited outdoor facilities.

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

C.C.D. is a program of Religious Education provided for students in Grades 1-12, who do not attend our parish school or a Catholic high school.

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. The C.C.D. program supplements the religious training and moral upbringing that takes place on a daily basis within the home.

Our staff of dedicated volunteer teachers provides a setting in which our young people can develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the basic truths of our Catholic Faith. This helps them to grow in their love of the Lord and service to His people.

THE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER

The parish Religious Education Center, under the direction of the D.R.E., serves as a resource, providing professional assistance and materials for the C.C.D. and school Religion teachers, Sacrament programs, Adult Education, RENEW, and other parish educational needs. Members of the parish are welcome to borrow the many books and magazines available.

An area of expanded growth during our recent history has been the role of the DRE (Director of Religious Education). In 1975, Gerry Konicki replaced William Roberts, first parish DRE. Mrs. Konicki was a professional educator of considerable

experience whose first love was the preschool and primary programs. She developed a dynamic Sunday morning preschool program. She and the pastoral staff put a high priority into building a strong elementary CCD program staffed by well-trained teachers. Emphasis was put on updating sacramental programs for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Reconciliation. Larry Casati conducted a high school program based on mini-courses. In 1979 Gerry stepped down. Mrs. Eileen Moorman and Mrs. Joanne Beirise were hired as a DRE team. They continued the existing program while looking at the needs of the parish. An experiment within the Religious Education set-up was the use of paid coordinators to assist the DREs in different areas.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

These sessions for 3-4-5-6-year-olds meet each Sunday during the 10:00/10:30 A.M. Mass from mid September through April.

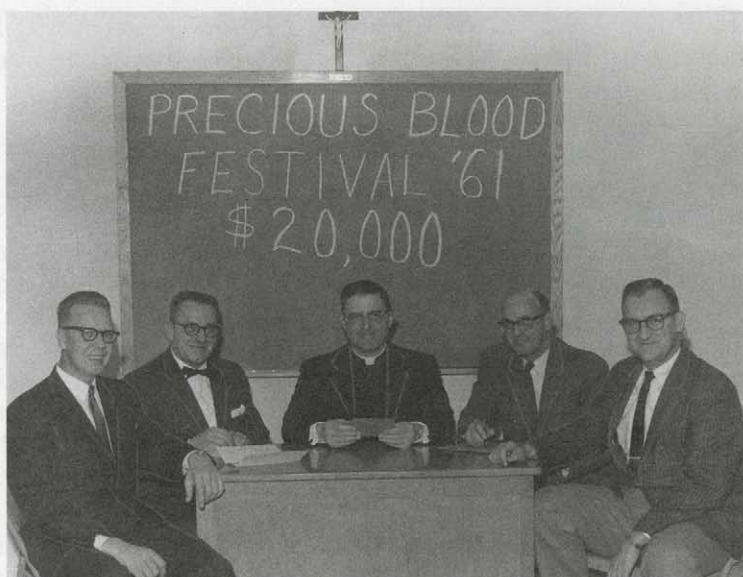
The teachers seek to provide an atmosphere of love and sharing in which the children come to discover themselves and the world around them, exemplifying the goodness of God our loving Father.

The Early Childhood Program Coordinators over the years have been Gerry Konicki, Ann Battes, Claudia Stelle, Karen Birkhold, Lisa Risko, Judy Hall, Pat Peters and Sue Hartenstein.

FINANCE COMMISSION

The Finance Commission assumed more importance as the parish faced major decisions about building a church, refurbishment, school operations, teacher salaries, tuition policies, and other spending priorities. Inflation became a fact of life with parish costs, just as it did in our own homes. Fran Schubert and Don Trentman spent countless hours juggling funds and stretching dollars as far as they would go. This even included a spending moratorium in the spring of 1979.

Bookkeepers Clara Wabler (for the rectory) and Joan Foley (for the school) worked closely with the Finance Commission, too. All commissions submitted requests and proposed budgets to the Finance Commission each spring, but it determined the final budget adopted by the parish council. It also monitored income and completed quarterly reports for the Archdiocese. After ten years as chairman of the Finance Commission, Fran Schubert turned the books over to Linus Brackman in the spring of 1980.



Precious Blood Festival Through the Years



UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON RESEARCH LIBRARY

In June 1987, Don Whitecar became Chairman. Fran Schubert again became Chairman after Don Whitecar became the Parish Business Manager.

FUND RAISERS

Precious Blood Parish has used various fund raisers over the years. The annual Festival has been a mainstay. Other fund raisers in the 1990s included the Christmas Boutique, a St. Patrick's Day raffle, a daily Lotto drawing and the sale of grocery certificates.

The first fund raising Parish Picnic, later called Parish Festival, was held on July 17, 1949. The Parish Festival has been an annual event and is usually held the weekend following Memorial Day. The Festival expanded from a one day event to a three day event. The profit depends largely on the weather. For example, in 1995 and 1996, good weather and the resulting good crowds produced profits of \$53,713 and \$46,927, respectively. On the other hand, a steady rain over the three 1997 Festival days resulted in a profit of only \$14,272. Rain or shine, the Festival remains a good way for many parishioners to contribute to the parish and renew acquaintances with old friends.

The annual Christmas Boutique began in 1981 and presents an excellent opportunity for many parishioners to donate their homemade articles and crafts. It is usually held the Friday before Thanksgiving. Starting in the mid 1990s, the Boutique has been open on Thursday evening for parishioners. In some earlier years, it was open on Sunday mornings. In 1996, a theme basket auction was added to the Boutique. This increased the profit.

From 1981 to 1990, a St. Patrick's Day Raffle was held. Up to 700 tickets were sold at \$30 or \$40 (depending on the year) each. At the reverse drawing on March 17, all tickets that were sold were drawn with every 4th, 5th or 6th ticket, depending on the year, receiving a prize. Many of these prizes were donated by merchants. The last ticket drawn won \$10,000. While the drawing was underway, the crowd enjoyed the provided drinks and snacks.

During 1994, 1995, and 1996, a daily Lotto raffle was held. Tickets at \$20 each were sold during the last several months of the preceding year and the first several months of the raffle year. There was a drawing for every day of the year. Daily winners received \$40. Sunday winners received \$100 and winners on the first Monday of each month received \$500. On three days - Easter, Parish Picnic and Christmas - the winner received \$1000.



Precious Blood Festival Through the Years



All tickets drawn were returned to the barrel which gave an individual a chance to win more that once.

Starting in late 1996, Precious Blood started selling grocery certificates for Krogers, Cub Foods, Meijers, and McMakin Market. Parishioners bought the certificates at face value but the grocery stores sold them at a five percent discount giving the Parish a profit. The 1997 profit from the sale of grocery certificates was \$23,261. The 1998 profit was \$18,718.

Other fund raising events during the years included the following:

- Until January 1992, the Teen Club collected old newspapers each month. This was discontinued when the price of old newspapers declined substantially.
- Home and School Used Book Sale each year during March.
- Youth Group Flower Sale during May.
- Athletic Association Fish Fry and Monte Carlo.
- School candy sales in the fall.

PROPERTY NORTH OF PRECIOUS BLOOD

For several years in the early to mid 1980s, Parish Council discussed several times the potential development of the land immediately north of the Church known as the Schultz property. For years, the land had been occupied by a few homes with many trees surrounding them. The original re-zoning request anticipated a planned development consisting of an office building near the Precious Blood convent with a commercial retail building to the rear. At Precious Blood Parish's request, the final re-zoning granted an easement for an exit from the Precious Blood parking lot to Shiloh Springs Road. It was thought an exit to Shiloh Springs Road would relieve some of the congestion on Denlinger Road. At that time, Denlinger Road from Salem Ave. to Shiloh Springs was a relatively narrow two-lane road.

A national pizza chain became interested in the property in 1982 and requested another re-zoning eliminating the large retail building. Precious Blood Parish through its spokesman, Bob Rehling, opposed this re-zoning because of the potential issuance of a liquor license near Precious Blood Church and School. The re-zoning was, however, granted but with a number of conditions, including the erection of a six foot fence on the Precious Blood Parish property line.

A 1984 request to release the Precious Blood Parish easement for a driveway to Shiloh Springs Road was denied. The developer wanted the release so he could use all 12 acres of land. In May 1985, another developer bought the land and developed

plans to build retail stores. The construction included a 6 feet high fence on the property line, a 22 feet wide driveway from the Precious Blood parking lot to the development parking lot, a gate in the fence at the driveway with Precious Blood Parish holding the key, and a buffer between the church and the retail stores.

In 1986, a Builder's Square store was opened and in 1987, Frank's Nursery opened its store just north of the Church. The final use of the land was obviously more compatible with Precious Blood Parish than some earlier proposed uses.

VISITING SICK COMMITTEE AND ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Two groups which became important to our parish ministry were the Visiting Sick Committee, under the leadership of Martha Mescher and Judy Green, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, under the leadership of Maribeth Sipes and Bob and Mary Borgerding. These groups provided a service to the pastoral staff in their quiet capable way. These people visited sick and shut-in parishioners in the hospital and at home. They also brought them Communion. They supplied transportation to parishioners in need. They had a Sunshine Line of Telephone Cheer coordinated by Sr. Ida Kramer. The St. Vincent de Paul Society used parish donations to assist parishioners in time of need. They also channeled much assistance into the community. They sponsored the parish Adopt-a-Family program at Christmas, the Christmas blood drive, and the Thanksgiving clothing drive.

Most of the work discussed above continues to be provided by various parish organizations. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides Christmas food baskets and aid to needy people throughout the year. Sick and Shut-in Committee members visit and distribute Communion to homebound persons. Members of the Parish Prayer Circle pray for the various requested intentions. Parish Council coordinates the annual blood drives.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A commission which has seen uneven development has been the Community Affairs Commission. It was created by the 1971 Synod, which stated that each Christian has a duty to bring the witness of the Gospel to bear upon the social structure of his time. This commission was first called Social Action. St. Vincent de Paul is part of this commission, and it did indeed provide social action.

However, the issue-oriented role of the commission was not being developed. The name was changed to Community Affairs in 1978, and an active board was established in 1979, which made as its priority the consciousness-raising of the parish to injustice in our society and how we can witness to the Gospel. Sue Pohlabel chaired this commission until 1980, when Kathy Donnellan assumed leadership.

The Parish Community Affairs Commission/Social Action Committee continued to meet regularly throughout the 1980s and 1990s under the leadership of Walter Grady and Pat Foley.

CHARISMATIC AND PRAYER GROUPS

Precious Blood Parish's charismatic prayer group felt secure about its role in the parish. The parish prayer group began in 1972 after six couples active in Cursillo made a Life in the Spirit seminar offered by the Precious Blood Convent prayer group. The new prayer group experienced a great spurt of temporary growth as many people, both in the parish and from surrounding communities went through our Life in the Spirit seminars and investigated the charismatic style of prayer. Precious Blood became a feeder that resulted in the formation of prayer groups in other parishes. Some parish members moved into other groups within the charismatic movement. Members were very much oriented toward parish service and parish worship. They held a prayer service each Thursday following the parish Mass.

Starting in 1980 the first Thursday evening of each month saw a charismatic healing service incorporated into the Liturgy of the Word at this Mass. The parish prayer group was open to anyone. Life in the Spirit seminars were offered periodically throughout the year. A separate youth prayer group existed in the parish but dwindled as the original members grew older. In 1978 a new youth prayer group began under the leadership of some young adults in the parish who saw a need for such a spiritual opportunity for the younger kids. Approximately 20 junior high and high school youths attended these Wednesday night prayer meetings.

RENEW

Parish renewal and evangelization was discussed over several years before the RENEW program actually started in 1984. As early as March 1977, Fr. DeCavitt said in his Sunday Bulletin Remarks that the parish was striving for parish renewal. In October 1981, Parish Council rejected "Christ

Renews His Parish" as a renewal program because that program was considered inappropriate for Precious Blood Parish.

In September 1982, Fr. Dennis Gatto, S. M. of Chaminade-Julienne High School conducted an afternoon of prayer which included a talk on the dynamics of personal, shared, and liturgical prayer. About 50 parishioners participated in two October 1982 Sunday afternoon meetings to discuss evangelization of the unchurched and the drifted away. The participants concluded that renewal of the parish itself was needed and that this could best be started with a Parish Mission. Fr. Robert Weiss, a Passionist missionary, conducted a mission during the week of April 24-29, 1983. Father Weiss spoke to near capacity crowds almost every evening. The mission was considered a great success.

Parishioners John Walusis and Carl Schaab made a presentation to Parish Council in September 1983 stating that while the Parish Mission was very good, there was a need for continuing renewal. Accordingly, they recommended that a permanent evangelization committee be established to explore a parish renewal program. Council approved such a committee in October 1982. In January 1984, the Evangelization Committee recommended and the Council approved RENEW as the parish renew program.

The objective of RENEW was to help people to know and love Jesus better by reflecting and understanding more clearly the things He said and taught. RENEW was a spiritual program based on sacred scriptures and was a three year program involving the entire parish. It included the Sunday liturgy, small group reflection and discussion, home visitation and other parish events for six weeks, twice a year for 2 1/2 years following a preparation period. The themes for the six week periods and the times they were completed were as follows:

- God's Calling - Fall 1984
- Our Response to God's Call - Lent 1985
- Empowerment by the Holy Spirit - Fall 1985
- The Call to Justice - Lent 1986
- Evangelization and Witnessing in Christ - Fall 1986

Leaders were trained to help in the process and to lead small group discussions, usually in the home of the facilitator/host.

RENEW was completed under the direction of a RENEW Coordination committee consisting of John and Donna Walusis, Carl and Wanda Schaab, Ted and Elaine Hummel, and Bill and Toni Clark. In addition, parishioners served as chairpersons and

members of the following committees: Prayer Network, Sunday Liturgy, Take Home, Large Group, Small Group, Coordinating, Telephone, Sign-Up Sunday, Home Visitation, Publicity and Evaluation.

Before each six week period, parishioners would register on Sign-Up Sunday to participate in small group discussions. Each small group consisted of 8-14 persons. RENEW pamphlets outlined the topic to be discussed each week. The weekly theme was highlighted in the Sunday liturgy and Bulletin. A Prayer Commitment Sunday preceded each six-week period. Between 240 and 425 parishioners participated in the small group discussions during each of the six-week periods.

During the summer of 1984, members of the Home Visitation Committee made home visits to those parishioners who did not attend Mass regularly at Precious Blood Church. Bishop Garland, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, spoke about RENEW at all Masses on the Sign-Up Sunday, September 15, 1985.

Large group activities were also held as part of RENEW. These activities included a RENEW tree planting ceremony in September 1984, a Mardi Gras party and dance in February 1985, a Catholic Trivial Pursuit game in September 1985, a presentation of the satirical movie "Alice in Blunderland" in November 1985, and a covered dish dinner for all who had participated in RENEW in November 1986.

One outgrowth of RENEW was the preparation of a Welcoming Booklet by Rose Bellante and Kathy Moriarty. Everyone who participated experienced spiritual growth and developed new friendships that lasted during the subsequent years.

In February 1986, an Adult Education/Enrichment team was formed under the direction of Dan Faloona, DRE, to develop continuing adult education and enrichment opportunities after RENEW ended. During the subsequent years, various adult education classes were held. Some involved small group discussions over a period of several weeks in the home of the facilitator.

RENEW provided a challenge to new spiritual growth for the whole parish - including members not usually involved with the parish, and those who presently were not attending church.

Rooted in prayer, and designed to help us follow Christ more closely, RENEW touched people in many ways. Through the process of personal and parish renewal, it proved to be a way to energize the spiritual vitality of the entire parish.

Bringing a new appreciation of worship, healing family hurts, and building a new sense of community in our parish, RENEW was not an end, but a beginning.

FOR THE HARVEST

"For the Harvest" was a planning process conducted in 1985 and 1986 within the Archdiocese to ensure quality ministry in the individual parishes in the future, particularly in anticipation of the decline in the number of priests. Each parish conducted its own analysis of its future ministerial requirements. After each parish had outlined its requirements, representatives from a cluster of parishes in the vicinity coordinated the requirements. The coordinated requirements were submitted to the Archdiocese for final review and decision.

Richard and Mary Ann Janowiecki chaired the Precious Blood "For the Harvest" Committee. Other committee members were Fr. Alt, Paul Rindler, Sharry Robinson, Dan Faloon, Mary Kay Schweickart, Clay Mathile, Linus Brackman, Heron Rodriguez, Bob Rehling, Joe Schmitt and Marilyn Hart.

The "For the Harvest" planning process included a survey of a random number of parishioners asking them to indicate the ministerial needs and the groups or organizations that would meet the various needs of parish members as the number of priests declined and the number of others willing to minister in the Church increased. The Committee used this information to outline the parish's future ministerial needs and operation principles.

The "For the Harvest" Committee presented the projected 1990 and 2000 operating principles and staffing needs to parishioners in a series of meetings after the Masses on April 5 and 6, 1986. The Committee anticipated changes for Precious Blood Parish such as having only one priest assigned to the parish, additional Permanent Deacons, a business manager and the sharing of some ministries with cluster parishes.

The "For The Harvest" study anticipated significant personnel changes would be required as the number of priests declined and if the church attendance continued to decline. One anticipated change was that there would be one priest at Precious Blood Parish while the number of deacons could increase. Events in the 1990s saw some of the "For The Harvest" anticipated changes become reality.

DREAM GOAL PROGRAM

In early 1990, Father Schiml instituted a Dream Goal



The Old Barn



Program. The weekend of March 10 and 11 was Dream Weekend. At each Mass, parishioners were asked to submit their dreams (ideas) of things that might be accomplished by Precious Blood Parish during the next several years. After collection, compilation and review of the dreams, meetings held on March 26 and April 3 helped establish those goals that might be accomplished during the next three years. The following seven dreams were selected as achievable goals and Goal Managers were assigned to each.

1. The Parish will develop a Youth Ministry conducive to teens and young adults.

2. The parishioners will deepen their spiritual growth.

3. The parishioners will consider avenues for physical plant renovations.

4. The Parish will establish a resource center of skilled parishioners to be available to other parishioners.

5. The Parish will increase the service groups within the Parish to include all aspects of Christian and social living.

6. The Parish will examine the present Liturgy programs with the entire needs of the Parish in mind.

7. The Parish will establish a communication system of parish resources to reach active and inactive parishioners.

In March, six goal managers presented three or four priority objectives for further discussion or implementation for each of the Dreams. Over the next two or three years, the following objectives were accomplished:

1. A Youth Minister was hired.

2. Small Faith Groups were formed and met regularly in members' homes.

3. Ushers began greeting people as they arrived for Mass on Sunday.

4. A soup dinner was served before Stations on Friday evenings during Lent starting in 1992 and continued each year.

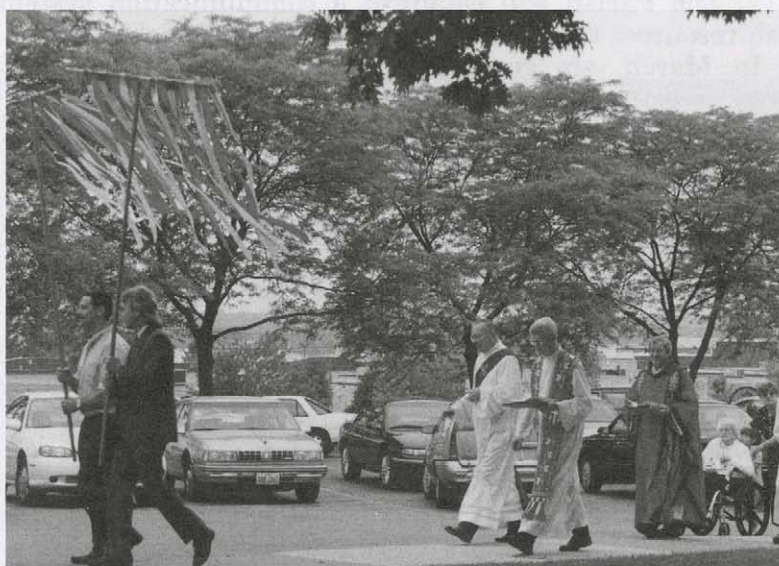
Another objective was to tear down the old barn church within two years and build a new facility. This task was not accomplished within the two year time frame. As part of the Project 2000 which began in 1995, a new storage building was built in Spring 1998 and the old church was dismantled.

The Dream Goal Program was discontinued when Father Schiml was reassigned.

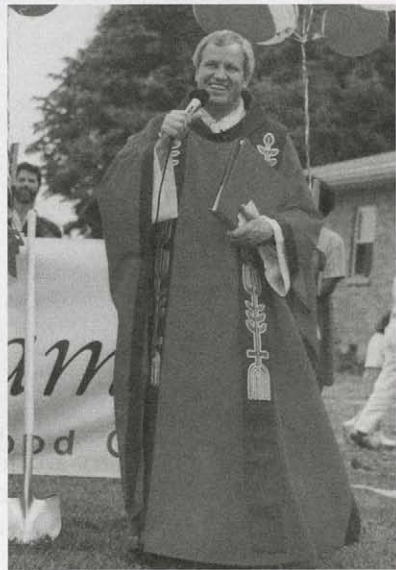
PROJECT 2000

Many Precious Blood parishioners had looked forward to having a dedicated worship space. Precious Blood Parish never

Ground Breaking for the new church



Ground Breaking for the new church



had a worship space that was designed to be a worship space. Combined with this need was the deteriorating condition of the old barn, which was used as the Church from 1949 to 1958 and in recent years, was used as a gym for the school children. Over the years, the condition of the old barn deteriorated making its continued use questionable. In fact, Parish Council in August 1994 noted that something needed to be done with the barn within two years.

In May 1995, a Project 2000 Committee was announced. The purpose of the Committee was to look at current and projected needs of the parish from a physical point of view taking into consideration the parish's spiritual, educational and mission outreach to the broad community area.

The Project 2000 Committee, after studying many aspects of construction programs, developed two alternatives: (1) construct a new church and convert the existing church into a gym and multi-purpose facility and (2) construct a new multi-purpose facility and remodel the existing church.

In July 1996, parish-wide meetings were held to discuss the alternatives developed. Areas of concern raised during the meetings were the demographics of the area in the future and the feasibility and financial capability of the parish to pay for new construction. The general consensus was that a new church should be built.

Because the number of people who attended the July meetings was not considered representative of the entire parish, a second discussion was considered necessary. This discussion was held after all the Masses on February 23, 1997. At that time, parishioners were given commitment forms to indicate whether they would support a church construction program. With 534 persons responding, 94% said they would support it financially.

After the meetings, the Project 2000 Committee recommended a four step construction program, namely: (1) construct a new storage building to provide storage for the equipment stored in the old barn. (2) demolish the old barn, (3) construct a new church to be located between the rectory and the school, and (4) convert the existing church into a gymnasium and meeting hall. The estimated cost of the project was \$3.5 million. (Incidentally, the Sunday Bulletin in 1969 showed a sketch of the Precious Blood building plan and included a future church between the rectory and the school.)

The Archdiocese gave permission to proceed with Project 2000 plans in September 1997. With this approval, an architect was hired to design the new church. In November and December



Fulfilling the Dream!

1997, a fund raising drive, entitled "Fulfilling the Dream", was held. A large number of parishioners were involved in the fund raising. These parishioners contacted other parishioners to obtain their pledges of the amounts they planned to donate to help pay for the planned project. This effort resulted in pledges of \$2.8 million. Other fund raising efforts were planned to raise the total \$3.5 million needed.

Construction of the new storage building began in March 1998 and was sufficiently completed by the end of May so that festival equipment could be placed in the new building. In June and July, parishioners built storage rooms and lofts in the building. Then the electrical and plumbing work was done. The building was considered complete in August 1998.

At May 17 and 18, 1998 meetings, parishioners reviewed and commented on the drawings and model of the new church. Fr. Hoying gave reasons for some of the design features and a summary of progress made to date.

After the last Mass celebrated at the old Barn Church on June 28, 1998, demolition of the old barn began. First, the asbestos shingles were removed. Then some of the lumber was salvaged to make barn angel souvenirs. Finally, a contractor tore down the structure on August 20 and 21, 1998. After Mass on Sunday, August 23, many parishioners collected souvenir bricks and cement blocks from the rubble.

In August 1998, the Archdiocese approved the plans for the new church. However, the first bids for construction of the church exceeded the architect's estimate. Additional time was required while the Project 2000 Committee and the architect performed some value engineering and made changes in the building design to reduce the construction cost. After receiving second bids, a construction contract was awarded to R. O. Binson & Co., which is owned by Ron Robinson, a parishioner. Ground breaking for the new church was held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 1999, with Fr. Angelo Anthony, Provincial Director, blessing the site. Dedication of the new church was planned for the summer of 2000.

Much of the school playground equipment was located for many years between the rectory and the school. Since this was the site of the new church, the playground equipment had to be moved. During the summer of 1998, parishioners moved the playground equipment to its new location north of the parking lot. With the help of several fund raisers, the Precious Blood Home and School Association bought and installed additional playground equipment. Phase 1 of the playground was dedicated

on September 19, 1999. Phase 2 of the playground was planned for the summer of 2000.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A 50th Anniversary Committee was organized in early 1998 to plan events over a 2 year period commemorating the 50 years of the Precious Blood Parish community since its start in 1948 and its official designation in 1950. Five events were planned to celebrate the anniversary spiritually and socially.

The first event was the last Mass at the old Barn on June 28, 1998. The **Barn Mass** was held outside with Fr. Mark celebrating at the top of the steps under the angel that hung at the entrance. We were called to gather by the ringing of the original bell from the bell tower by several parishioners, including some founding members. Mass was followed by an ice cream social as parishioners gathered to share stories and community. Remembrance cards were distributed.

Siding from the original barn was saved and later crafted into **barn angels**. The angels were dated and sold. Money from this project was donated to the 50th anniversary celebration and to purchase stained glass windows for the new church.

Marian Devotions and May Crowning were held on May 2, 1999. It was a beautiful Monday evening as parishioners were led singing into the Church by the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard. Parishioners brought flowers and bedding plants to the altar to honor Mary after she was crowned by Doris Rindler.

The Parish Picnic on September 12, 1999 had a 50's theme as the parish was treated to a classic car show, root beer floats, farmer's sodas, food hot off the grill and picnic games many had played as youths. Some parishioners donned clothing with a 50's flare. Fr. Mark joined in with his "Elvis hair" and 50's vestments.

On April 8, 2000, the parish joined together for a **Musicale Extravaganza** as musically gifted parishioners and community guests provided an evening of spirited, joyful entertainment. A social hour followed.

The end of our 2 year celebration came on May 5, 2000 as present and former parishioners gathered at Hara Arena for the **50th Anniversary Gala**. The evening began with a time to gather and reminisce, followed by dinner, a short program and then entertainment by the VanDels.

Members of the 50th Anniversary Committee included:

Sandra Allen
Fr. Milton Ballor
Linus Brackman
Mary Lou Braun
Peggy Capps
Julius Doll
Barb Etter
Joan Foley
Mary Lou Gebhart
Bernadette Grilliot
Marilyn Hart
Roy and Pat Horvath
Fr. Mark Hoying
Dick and Mary Ann Janowiecki
Marie Kaucher
Joanne Koesters
Sr. Bernice Krieg
Phyllis Martin
Mary Agnes Miller
Donna Phillips
Teri Porter
Melissa Rankin
Paul Rindler
Margaret Risko
Suzanne Ritter
Mary Ellen Smith
Joe and Pauline Spatz
Frank Sraj
Prim Staas
Annie Stone
Phil Strack
Larry and Deanna Sutherland
Tom Suttman
George VanSchaik
Karen Wampler
Amy Wright

There are always those who have contributed to the success of projects but do not get publicly recognized. For those we have missed, please accept our apology and also our sincere thanks for your spirit in volunteering which is what makes our parish special.

FOUNDING FAMILIES OF PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH

Mary Agner
Alfons and Maud Albers
Julius and Dora Albers
Bernard Backs
Byron and Marie Barnes
J. Buckholtz
Julius and Dorothy Doll
Edna Emrich
Margaret Farno
Mary Ellen Del Favero
Edward and Bertha Fenelon
Helen Felker
Thelma Finnicum
Frank Fisher
Arthur and Dorothy Foltz
Paul and Mary Fortman
Paul and Anna Gaeke
Mrs. Gisewite
Charles and Josephine Goubeaux
Richard and Mary Goubeaux
Rose Goubeaux
John and Katheryn Gorman
John and Bernadette Grilliot
Mary Brockman Haller
Rose Harlow
Eldon and Phyllis Hart
Frank and Clara Hart
Matt and Lucille Heck
Norbert and Katherine Hemmelgarn
John and Katherine Hickey
Ben and Mary Hornick
Mary Ellen Howard
Harold Howard
Louis and Lucy Kessler
C.A. and Evelyn King
Shep and Eleanor Klingshirn

Roman and Alma Knapke
 Leander and Barbara Koesters
 Ann Kuhn
 Paul and Alvira Marburger
 Lem and Elizabeth Markland
 Elsworth and Phyllis Martin
 Joseph and Magdalen Massarros
 George and Martha Mescher
 John and Lorena Minnery
 Alice Miranda
 Albert and Margaret Monnig
 Joe Nellis
 Miriam Overholser
 Joe and Verona Poppelman
 Ann Porter
 Mary Ellen Randall
 Don and Susan Roth
 Mr and Mrs. Michael Ryan
 Orval and Henrietta Shephard
 George Schmitz
 Lillian Schneider
 William and Geraldine Schrantz
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schumacher
 Carl Seifert
 Oscar and Minnie Seubert
 Joseph and Agnes Spatz
 Edward and Primrose Staas
 W.J. and Mabel Stoltz
 Dr. and Mrs. William Stowe
 Owen and Mary Trimmer
 Gene Wehner
 Harold and Mary Wiggins
 Marvin and Margaret Woodward
 Mrs. Krapp
 Mr. Hess

PASTORS

Fr. Ambrose Newton	1948	1953
Fr. Lawrence Mertes	1953	1964
Fr. Paul Buehler	1964	1974
Fr. Richard Cody	1974	1976
Fr. Richard DeCavitt	1977	1977
Fr. John Behen	1977	1983

Fr. Clement Alt	1983	1989
Fr. Ronald Schiml	1989	1993
Fr. Mark Hoying	1993	

ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT PASTORS

Fr. Frederick Hunnefeld	1955	1956
Fr. Leo Fullenkamp	1956	1957
Fr. James Miller	1957	1959
Fr. Richard Reimondo	1959	1959
Fr. Paul Wohlwend	1959	1966
Fr. Richard Thiel	1966	1969
Fr. Milton Ballor	1969	1973
Fr. Sylvester Ley	1970	1971
Fr. Leonard Kistler	1973	1978
Fr. Richard DeCavitt	1974	1977
Deacon Eugene Wabler	1976	1992
Fr. William O'Donnell	1977	1979
Fr. Ray Zarate	1979	1984
Fr. James Gaynor	1978	1980
Bro. Thomas Bohman	1981	1987
Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn	1984	1988
Fr. Matthew Jozefiak	1988	1990
Bro. Richard Schaffner	1987	1990
Fr. Mark Hoying	1990	1993
Bro. Tim Cahill	1992	1995
Deacon Richard Janowiecki	1991	

NOTE: All Priests and Brothers were Missionaries of the Precious Blood - C.P.P.S.

PRIESTS WHO SERVED AT PRECIOUS BLOOD BEFORE ORDINATION

- Fr. David Hoying, C.P.P.S.
Served in 1978 - 79
- Fr. Rick Nieberding, C.P.P.S.
Served as Deacon in 1979
- Fr. William Nordenbrock C.P.P.S.
Served as Deacon in 1981

PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH VOCATIONS

- Fr. William Allen, S.M. Ordained 1972
- Fr. Thomas Grilliot Ordained 1976 Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Fr. Rick Nieberding, C.P.P.S.	Ordained 1980
Deacon Eugene Wabler	Ordained 1976
Deacon Richard Janowiecki	Ordained 1992
Bro. Alex Tuss, S.M.	Professed 1986
Bro. J. Mitchell Schweickart, S.M.	Professed 1988
Sr. Laurentia Varga	Daughter of the Divine Redeemer
Sr. Alice Varga	Daughter of the Divine Redeemer
Sr. Jeannette Buehler, C.P.P.S.	Professed 1959
Sr. Barbara Brown, C.P.P.S.	Professed 1965

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

William Roberts	1971 - 75
Gerry Konicki	1975 - 79
Eileen Moorman & Joanne Beirise	1979 - 83
Eileen Moorman	1983 - 84
Daniel Faloon	1984 - 87
Peggy Valaski	1987 - 96
Robin Perkins	1996 -

ORGANISTS/MUSIC MINISTERS

1948 - 52	Delores Harlow
1952 - 58	Doris Rindler
1958 - 78	James Will
1978 - 93	James Pera
1993 -	Bonnie Ekhardt

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1967 - 68	John Gorman
1969	Gene Porter
1970	Henry Pope
1971	James Bresnahan
1972	Bernard Mehall
1973 - 74	Susan Siehl
1974 - 76	Gene Porter
1976 - 78	Joe Schmitt
1978 - 79	Joan Foley
1979 - 81	Luke Albers
1981 - 83	Bob Rehling
1983 - 84	Ron Henne
1984 - 86	Glenn Dillhoff
1986 - 87	Jerry Moeder
1987 - 88	Paula Menker
1988 - 89	Jerry Moeder

1989 - 91	Paula Menker
1991 - 92	Ed Ruff Jr.
1992 - 93	Cyril Brackman
1993 - 94	Joe Risko
1994 - 95	Mark Porter
1995 - 96	Bob Reed
1996 - 97	Chris Olinsky
1997 - 98	Barb Etter
1998 - 99	Todd Domsitz
1999 - 2000	Joe Luksic

EDUCATION COMMISSION PRESIDENTS

1969 - 71	John Hart
1971 - 72	Mario Martella
1972 - 73	Hugh Skees
1973 - 75	Paul Steinke
1975 - 76	Ann Wolf
1976 - 78	John Hart
1978 - 80	Gene Porter
1980 - 81	Bob LaMendola
1981 - 82	Peggy Valaski
1982 - 84	Phil Balog
1984 - 85	Joe Pizza
1985 - 86	Ceil Castellano
1986 - 87	Elaine Pickrel
1987 - 88	Nick Keyes
1988 - 91	Mat Heck
1991 - 92	Sr. Anne Schulz, C.P.P.S.
1992 - 93	Joanne Koesters
1993 - 94	Mat Heck
1994 - 95	Michael Prier
1995 - 96	Mark Moosbrugger
1996 - 97	Cheryl Kern
1997 - 98	Michael Porter
1998 - 99	Michael Siehl
1999 -	Cindy Heck

LITURGY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSONS

1976 - 78	Tom Ryan
1978 - 81	Fred Bruening
1981 - 83	Mary Lou Weingart
1983 - 84	Barb Klaco
1984 - 86	Mary Lou Weingart
1986 - 87	Barb Klaco

1987 - 88	Pam Hensler
1988 - 89	Doris Rindler
1989 - 91	George VanSchaik
1991 - 92	Judy Albers
1992	Gerry Konicki
1992 - 93	George Van Schaik
1993 - 94	Ken West
1994 - 95	Trudy O'Rourke
1995 - 98	Luke Albers
1998 -	Frances Brackman

HISTORY OF PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL

Up to 1945, a day school had been held for the children of the Salem Heights vicinity by the Precious Blood Sisters at the Convent of Our Lady of the Precious Blood. From 1945 to 1949, these children attended Our Lady of Mercy School.

In 1948, most of the approximately 35 families who founded Precious Blood Parish had school-age children; parents placed almost as much importance to Catholic education as to Catholic worship. When plans were drawn to convert the 75-year-old bank barn, the building was extended to the south, to include two classrooms.

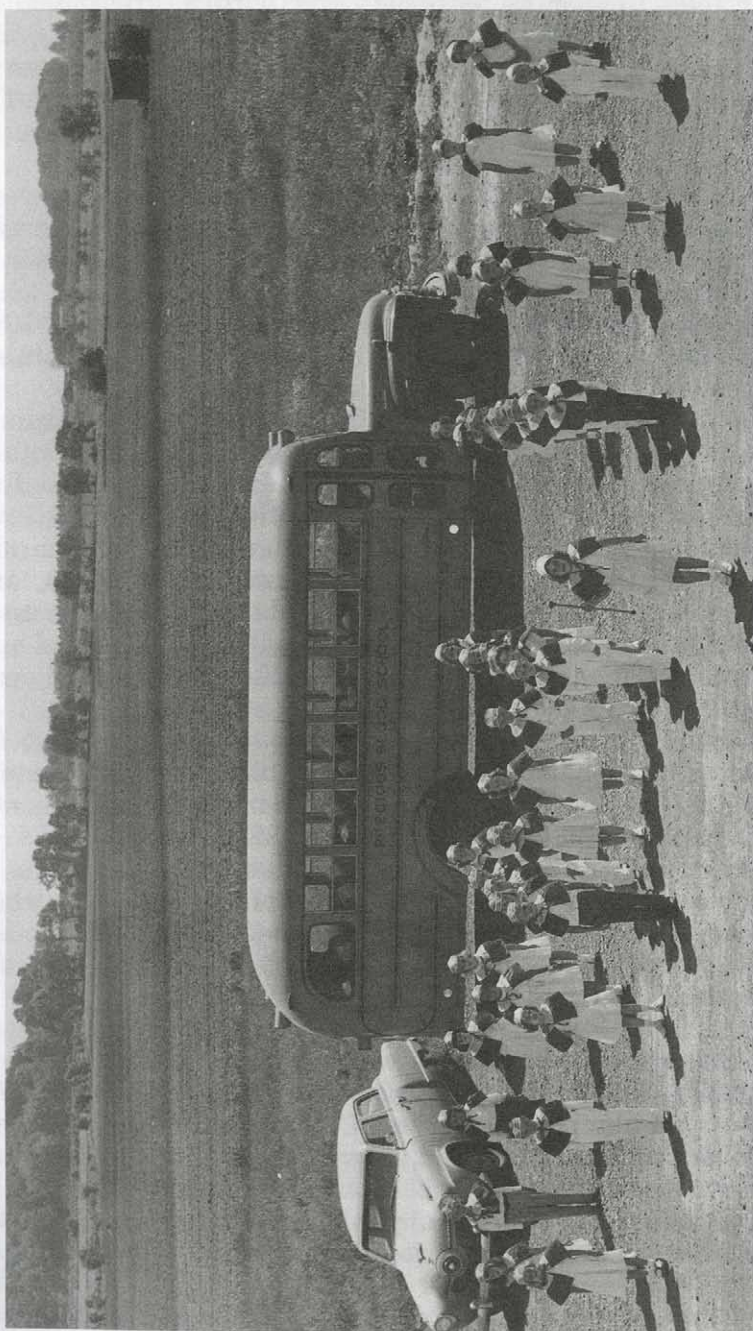
Precious Blood School opened in September 1949, with an enrollment of 94 pupils. Sr. Mary Anicita, the first principal, had a manageable group of fifth through eighth graders in the upstairs room; but Sr. Electra, in the downstairs room, was faced with 62 students in the first four grades. These two classes were held in the classrooms of the Church building.

Consequently, Columbus Day, 1949 found parents cleaning, painting, and laying linoleum in the front room of the farmhouse rectory. On the following Monday, the third and fourth grades were moved to that room. Sr. Mildred was assigned to teach this group.

Many of the children lived miles from school, and had to be transported to and from school by bus and station wagon. The first three graduates were Mary Lou Albers, Norman Monnig and Richard Shepard. The Sisters lived at the Convent of Our Lady of the Precious Blood.

The school required its first addition by the time the second term began. The garage was the only building not converted, and this was to become the "school annex."

The garage was torn down and its foundation was extended



The first school bus

to allow for two classrooms and a small office. Using as much of the salvaged lumber as possible, and with a great deal of volunteer help and the efforts of Bro. Bertram, the building was opened in the fall of 1950. School opened with an enrollment of 121 pupils. One class, taught by Sr. Mary Consolva Thrifay, the new principal, was held in the Church basement for about a month until the garage was converted into a classroom.

That same year, a PTA was formed and each ensuing year, Fr. Mertes challenged the members to provide a vital necessity for the fast growing school - a classroom of desks one year, a public address system the next year. The School served a large area since the parish boundaries established in November 1950 included Trotwood, Brookville, Phillipsburg, Fort McKinley, Verona, and Clayton.

One could not mention the progress and support given to parish and parish school by parishioners without mentioning the summer festivals. The first all-day affair was a picnic on July 17, 1949. Among other activities at this first of many festivals was a fish pond, a fancy-work booth which included 100 pairs of hand-worked pillowcases, an ice cream and candy booth, and sales of a variety of sandwiches. Proceeds of the 1951 festival were used to buy buses for the school. The 14 year old school bus, which was purchased with proceeds of the 1949 festival, was replaced.

Precious Blood school continued to reflect the need for Catholic education in this area. By 1952, the enrollment increased to 177 pupils. This same year marked the opening of a cafeteria with the help of state aid and \$250 from the PTA. It opened under the direction of Primrose Staas.

Another memorable event took place in 1952 when Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati made his first visit to the parish. Seventy-six children and thirteen adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A survey showed Fr. Mertes that the parish would need sixteen classrooms by 1960. A drive was started and \$30,000 was raised during the first two months. A four-room building costing \$150,000 was planned. Providing Catholic education required sacrifice. School buses traveled about 200 miles round trip, and \$5,800 was spent annually to provide transportation for the school children. At that time public school systems did not provide transportation for private and parochial school students.

When the school opened in 1953, it was helped by Fr. Koenig of nearby Assumption Parish. Precious Blood Parish classrooms were filled to capacity with an enrollment of 212

pupils. Fr. Koenig offered one of Assumption's empty classrooms. Sr. Mildred, C.P.P.S. transported her forty-two children in the second and third grades to Assumption School each day by bus. Another spiritual need was also met this year. Catechism classes (CCD) for children attending public high schools began on December 6, 1953.

On May 3, 1954, ground breaking ceremonies were held for the new four classroom school. W.W. Wurst was the architect. The new building provided a principal's office, nursing station, two lavatories, a utility room and a cafeteria in the basement.

The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1954, by Monsignor Ansbury, Dean in the Dayton area. School opening that September was delayed two weeks to allow the building to be completed. When it did open, pupils in the new classrooms had no desks. They had to write either on their laps or on the seats of the chairs, until the desks arrived in late October. The School Fund Report as of December 17, 1954, indicated that \$26,442 had been pledged, of which amount \$18,963 had been collected. The Sunday collection averaged \$450.

In 1956, due to an increase of 115 pupils which brought the total enrollment up to 433 pupils, muslin curtains were hung in the cafeteria to accommodate the third grade. The increase in enrollment resulted from several building projects in such areas as Brentwood Village, Meadowdale and Northgate. A sad event occurred at the school this year when Sr. Mary Tharcisa suffered an acute heart attack at school, and died an hour later at Lourdes Hall.

Enrollment grew, and in 1957, the second phase, consisting of six more classrooms was opened. This did not, however, mean the abandonment of the old buildings. Every available classroom was in use; and after the new church in the school addition opened, the old church auditorium became two more classrooms.

In September 1958, the school took on a new look with the appearance of uniforms for all the girls through the eight grades. The uniform consisted of a blue jumper, white blouse and beanie. The Precious Blood School emblem, P.B.S., in red and white was the distinguishing feature for our school.

The farsightedness and advanced thinking which has distinguished Precious Blood school can be demonstrated by the fact that it was chosen as a pilot school for inaugurating the individualized mathematics program originated by Dr. Andrew Schott.

In 1961, with the opening of the school-year, Sr. Mary Pauline, who had been a teaching principal, was assigned as

non-teaching principal. Departmentalization of the seventh and eighth grades was introduced.

The year 1964 brought a great change to Precious Blood Parish. After eleven years devoted to laying a firm foundation for the expanding parish and school, Fr. Mertes was transferred. September 1964 found Fr. Paul Buehler beginning a ten year tenure as pastor, and Sr. Clarice Tebbins embarking upon nine years as principal. In accordance with an archdiocesan decision, the first grade was discontinued in all Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese.

On November 23, 1965, ground was broken for the next school addition, which included eight classrooms, a centralized library, faculty lounge, cafeteria and a gymnasium to be used as a church until a permanent church could be built. Mrs. Edward Kennedy assisted Sister Mary Clarice in launching the first venture into adult education, and presented a program for parents on sex education for their children.

Six hundred and forty students entered Precious Blood Parish School in September of 1966. Some parts of the new addition were not finished. In December, 1966, the final two classrooms were transferred from the Church, and the school building was complete.

That year Precious Blood School was represented on the gridiron for the first time. The soccer team, under Herman Kraft, did much better than the football team, and emerged as champions. John Gorman was instrumental in establishing the sports program and favored the idea that the athletic program should be a separate entity in the parish.

The school took on a new look in January 1968, when six of the ten Precious Blood Sisters changed from their traditional religious habit to more contemporary dress. In April, the second grade students made their first Holy Communion in the afternoon, instead of in the morning. It was during this time that many changes in the liturgy originated such as guitar Masses and evening Masses. In November 1968, the Precious Blood football team defeated St. Christopher's team to become CYO City Champions.

In September 1969, the school initiated an ungraded program in the primary grades, with hope of adding another grade each year until the whole school would become individualized. Sr. Mary Clarice was elected as the new Coordinator of Principals of elementary schools.

When the administrative burden had become too heavy, Sr. Pauline had become the first non-teaching principal; and in

1971, Shirley Griggs became the first full-time secretary. At about the same time, Sr. Mary was appointed the first full-time librarian. By the end of Sr. Clarice's term, the school enrollment numbered 520 in 20 classrooms, despite the fact that the first grade had been dropped upon orders from the Archdiocese. This accretion in numbers of pupils, teachers, and classrooms was possible because the final expansion in the building program was completed in 1966. This added four classrooms and a library on the south side, and four classrooms to the north in the overpass connecting the new gymnasium/church with the rest of the building.

Financial help came in the 1970s with the Auxiliary Services Bill for private schools. These monies provide for special education teachers, speech therapy, and a school nurse. State law requires that these teaching personnel not be quartered in the school - hence the vans had to be parked at the edge of the property. Such funds were also available for non-religious textbooks, audio-video equipment, and science lab equipment.

July 1971 brought an ominous decision from the Ohio State Supreme Court that all supplemental salaries given to teachers in parochial schools from State funds for the teaching of secular subjects was unconstitutional. It was necessary to charge \$100 tuition per child starting September 1972.

In 1973, Sr. Clarice left, after the longest term of any principal. Sr. Mary Ann Bremke arrived on July 1, 1973 to become principal of Precious Blood School. She had been principal at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Cincinnati. Sr. Mary Clarice became principal at Our Lady of Good Hope School in Miamisburg, Ohio. First grade was reinstated in Precious Blood School.

During the school year of 1974, two new programs began. The sound of practicing musical instruments could be heard in the halls as the first Precious Blood school band was taking shape. Also the Northwest YMCA green and white bus became a familiar sight in the parking lot as it bussed children back and forth from swimming lessons in the pool at the Convent of the Precious Blood Sisters. School enrollment for all eight grades had increased to 663 pupils.

By 1974, the faculty numbered 18 lay persons and four religious, and survival made it necessary to charge tuition, resulting in some drop in enrollment.

In 1975 available state funds were used to convert a multipurpose room in the school into a learning center. This room later became the school library.

In 1976 Kindergarten was started at Precious Blood School in September with 30 students in the former school library, and the library joined the Jr. High in the former basement church area.

The winter of 1976-77 was one of the most severe the Dayton area had experienced. In addition to extremely cold temperatures and heavy snows, there was a shortage of energy, particularly natural gas and heating oil. As a result, schools, including Precious Blood School, were closed for many days in January and February 1977. Because of these conditions, the State Legislature reduced the required number of school days to 160 for the 1976-77 school year.

In January 1979 Sr. Mary Ann Bremke, School Principal, celebrated the 25th anniversary of her profession as a Sister of the Precious Blood. In June she was reassigned after six years as Principal. During her leadership the school reached a high level of academic excellence recognized throughout the Archdiocese. She was replaced by David Getter, who had his own brand of fairness and capable quiet leadership.

The trend of fewer and fewer nuns continued. The 1979-80 school year found Sr. Aimee Gillen, S.M.J., the only religious on the school faculty-the first year with no Precious Blood Sisters available.

There was a steady growth in the availability of state funds for auxiliary services. Starting in 1977 these funds were available for personnel, which allowed the school to offer services in speech and hearing impaired. The large vans that housed these services became a familiar sight to parishioners. In the 1990s State officials revised the policy and permitted State funded personnel to teach in the school building. The use of vans was discontinued.

In 1980 a volunteer body management program was organized. In the fall of 1979 a Home and School Association was formed. They spent their first year attempting to assess how they could provide their most effective support to the school. One of their chief goals was to serve as a vehicle of communication between home and school.

After 20 years of teaching at Precious Blood School, Phyllis Martin announced her retirement at the end of the 1980 school year.

In June 1983, David Getter did not accept a contract to continue as School Principal. A Search Committee chaired by Joseph Pizza recommended Rita Brinkman as the new Principal. She signed a two year contract and began duties in August.

Rita Brinkman resigned as school principal in June 1985 to accept the principalship of St. Peter School in Huber Heights. Connie Wildenhaus succeeded her.

The Education Commission and the Parish Council re-evaluated the policy of accepting non-parishioner (mostly non-Catholic) students in Precious Blood School during the Spring of 1985. In the 1950s and 1960s almost all Precious Blood School students were parishioners. As the number of parishioner students declined in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Precious Blood School began accepting non-parishioner students when vacancies existed. The tuition of these students was based on the total cost of educating each Precious Blood student and was, therefore, much higher than the tuition for parishioner students. Over the next several years, the number of non-parishioner students continued to increase.

The increased number of non-parishioner students helped ease the school budget problems. Concerns were, however, raised about the quality of religion training when about half of the students in some classes were non-Catholics and, therefore, not interested in such training. The increasing number of non-Catholic students also raised questions about the direction Precious Blood School was headed in terms of whether it would continue as a Catholic School or would become a private school. After considerable discussion, the Education Commission, with the endorsement of the Parish Council, adopted a policy limiting the number of non-parishioner students in Precious Blood School to 15 percent of the total students.

A change in the method of charging tuition for students attending Precious Blood School was discussed over several years because the amount of the parish subsidy could not be increased as the costs increased. Instead of a flat amount per student, Precious Blood School tuition was changed to Cost Based Tuition/Need Based Tuition Aid. Under the system, the amount of tuition a family pays is dependent upon income and expense data the family must submit. The parish subsidizes tuition when a subsidy is needed. The changeover to the Need Based Tuition Aid was made effective for the 1993-94 school year.

In December 1998, Precious Blood School began an Enrichment Program for five third grade and five fourth grade students. The program gave these students an opportunity to expand their knowledge by more advanced studies. By the 1987-88 school year, the Enrichment Program included students in grades 3 through 6.

During the summer of 1986, the secretaries in the school

building changed. Barbara Browne left as CCD secretary and Ethel Nadasi replaced her. Alyson Storch left after two years as school secretary to be replaced by her predecessor, Shirley Griggs.

The 20th anniversary of the School library was commemorated with a luncheon on September 24, 1987.

In January, 1988 Precious Blood School instituted a Latch Key program for students. Under the pilot program, child care was provided for five to seven students before school and nine to 17 students after school. The program was considered successful and continued and expanded during the subsequent years.

Also in 1988 Connie C. Wildenhaus resigned as School Principal to accept a similar position at St. Luke School, Beavercreek. Cheryl C. Reichel became the new principal for the 1988-89 school year.

In June 1992, Cheryl Reichel requested a leave of absence to work on her doctorate at the University of Dayton. She later decided not to return. Sr. Anne Schulz, C.P.P.S., who had previously been a Principal and currently was the Education Commission President, agreed to become Principal beginning in September 1992.

In June 1998, Sister Anne resigned to move to Mason, Ohio where she would be developing a new school. John Lesko, who had been a Principal before he retired, became the Principal for the 1998-99 school year. After that year was completed, William Cavanaugh, a Cincinnati native, became Principal.

Enrollment in Precious Blood School increased from 342 in 1993-94 to over 380 students in later years. The largest enrollment in the 1990s was 410 students in 1995-96 and 1996-97. As the number of students changed and the demands of society dictated, the following operational changes were made at Precious Blood School during the 1990s:

- During the 1980s, there was one class for the seventh grade and one class for the eighth grade. During the 1993-94 school year, a second seventh grade class was added. In subsequent years, there were two classes in both the seventh grade and the eighth grade.

- Computer classes were added.

- During 1994-95, a new discipline code was adopted to establish progression of penalty for students that fail to obey school rules.

- A Discipline Board consisting of four teachers was formed in May 1996.

- Various actions including keeping the school doors except

the main entrance locked at all times were instituted to assure safety for the student body.

During 1991, Principal Cheryl Reichel stated she wanted to have Precious Blood School designated a National School of Excellence. A 33 page application for the award was completed in September 1991. In January 1992, a letter from the Council for American Private Education announced that the line item for Blue Ribbon Schools was eliminated from the 1992 Department of Education budget during the Congressional Budget process.

In September 1991, Mrs. Cathy St. Pierre, Precious Blood Science teacher, was selected by the Ohio Academy of Science to receive the Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities. Precious Blood School again received the Award in 1992, 1993 and 1997.

On April 4, 1992, Precious Blood School received the Frederick H. Krecker Outstanding School Award for Excellence in Science Education. The award is presented annually to a school with the best science education program in each of the districts of the Ohio Junior Academy of Science. The award was received by Principal Cheryl Reichel and Science Department Chairperson Cathy St. Pierre.

In April 1992, Cathy St. Pierre and in April 1996 Ann Harker were named one of the Ten Top Catholic School teachers by the Miami Valley Catholic Education Council.

PRINCIPALS OF PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL

Sr. Alma Trenkamp (M. Aniceta), C.P.P.S

1949 - 50

Sr. M. Consolva Thrifay, C.P.P.S

1950 - 57

Sr. M. Manetta Guillozet, C.P.P.S

1957 - 58

Sr. Julie Link (M. Edigna), C.P.P.S

1958 - 60

Sr. Mary Pauline, C.P.P.S

1960 - 63

First non-teaching Principal

Sr. Mary Alecoque, C.P.P.S

1963 - 64

Sr. Mary Clarice Tebbins, C.P.P.S.

1964 - 73

Sr. Mary Ann Bremke, C.P.P.S

1973 - 79

Mr. David Getter

1979 - 83

Ms. Rita Brinkman
1983 - 85
Ms. Connie Wildenhaus
1985 - 88
Mrs. Cheryl Reichel
1988 - 92
Sr. Anne Schulz
1992 - 98
Mr. John Lesko
1998 - 99
Mr. William Cavanaugh
1999

CHANGES OVER THE 50 YEARS

The basis of our Catholic religion has remained essentially the same over the years. We continue to believe the same things. But since Precious Blood Parish was established 50 years ago, there have been many changes in the way we celebrate the Mass and incorporate our faith into our daily lives. These changes are largely a result of Vatican II. There have been other changes as a result of the reduced number of vocations. Below is a comparison of some of the more prominent changes:

ITEM	FORMERLY	CURRENTLY
Associate Pastors	One or two Associate Pastors	None
Permanent Deacons	None	Have an active role
Mass Schedule	Always in Morning	Morning, afternoon or evening
Banns of Matrimony	3 weeks before wedding	No longer published
Tabernacle	On the main altar	In separate chapel
Bells	Rung at elevation	Not used
Ladies dress in Church	Head covering required	No head covering required
Language at Mass	Latin required	English

Readings of the Word	Priests Only	Lay Lectors read first readings and Priests or Deacons read the Gospel
Position of Priest at Mass	Back to Congregation	Facing the Congregation
Music at Mass	Only at High Masses	Every Mass
Servers	Boys only	Boys and/or Girls
Responses to Presider's Prayers	Servers only	Entire congregation
Communion Fast	From midnight until reception	One hour before reception
Distributors	Priests only	Priests, Deacons and Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Lay Reception of Communion	Consecrated Bread only Knelt to receive Host placed on tongue	Consecrated Bread and Wine Stand to receive Option to receive on tongue or receive in hand and drink from cup
Abstinence from meat	Required on all Fridays, Ash Wednesday, Vigils of some feast days and Ember Days	Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent
Fast Days (Only one main meal and no eating between meals)	All days of Lent, Vigil of some Feast days and Ember Days	Ash Wednesday, Good Friday
Visits to Sick & Shut-ins	Primarily Priests	Priests, Deacons or Lay Ministers

Visits to New Parishioners	None	Members of Welcoming Committee
School Teachers	Mostly or all Religious Sisters	Mostly or all Lay Teachers
Benediction Devotion	Scheduled frequently	Seldom if ever
Parish Organizations	Holy Name Society Rosary-Altar Society Parent-Teacher Association	Parish Council Education Commission Liturgy Commission Home & School Association Athletic Association
Financial Reports	Summary of Receipts and Expenditures with Detailed Breakdown of Contributions	Summary of Receipts and Expenditures

While the impact of most of the above changes are evident and are discussed in prior sections of this history, further explanation of the change in financial reporting will show what is involved. To illustrate, we will use the Precious Blood Church Annual Report for the Year 1962 and the Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 1999. The Annual Report for the Year 1962 was a 16 page booklet (6 inch X 9 inch) with a cover page, a Pastor's letter (page 2), and a financial report of the total receipts and expenditures for the year (page 3) followed by a 11½ page detailed listing of each parishioner by name and the amount that the parishioner contributed even if the amount contributed was zero or less than \$1. Page 15 of the Report contained statistics from 1948 to 1961 of the Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, Confirmations, First Communions, and the number of Families in the Parish. It also contained a Directory of Parish Societies. The back page contained the names and telephone numbers of 32 businesses in the area. The total 1962 expenditures were \$141,500.

As a contrast, the Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 1999 was a letter from the Pastor with two accompanying

pages containing a Financial Report of Precious Blood Church showing a summary of the total receipts and expenditures for the year ended June 30, 1999; a Project 2000 Financial Report showing a summary of the receipts and expenditures for the Period Ended June 30, 1999; and a Festival Report showing the income and expenses of each booth at the 1999 Festival. The total expenditures for the year was \$1,327,857.

Overall, the above comparison of changes during the last 50 years shows that the Pastor/Priest still has the primary role in the ministry of Precious Blood Parish and that lay parishioners now have a larger role in the Church ministry. In addition, there are less requirements for fast and abstinence.

CONCLUSION

The history seems to chronicle the story of a parish building, expanding, and developing an identity in a physical sense. There always has been a struggle to identify where our journey was taking us, especially as we attempted to respond to the theological and procedural changes brought about by Vatican II. There has been the coming to grips with the modern world, yet a return to our Biblical roots. There has been a loosening of traditional rules and regulations, yet a call to ever-greater personal holiness. There has been a sweeping movement to democratization in church organization, yet the resultant demand for a greater lay vigilance and participation. There has been the individual Christian's call to have his voice heard, yet his struggle to do so within the perspective of Christian love.

We have not mentioned every group within the parish - nor have we tried to. (We could not possibly ignore Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Scouts, Bluebirds, Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Bible study groups, Knights of Columbus, bridge teams, bowling teams, the Prayer Circle, school faculty, church cleaning ladies, etc.) We tried to look at the history of our parish in terms of changes and trends. We have tried to show Precious Blood Parish's attempt to respond to the challenges of Vatican II, to look at our scriptural roots, and apply them to the realities of our twentieth century lives. We certainly are not without our struggles and our flaws - even our regrets. But the parish is alive. We are looking at that Person of Jesus. We are trying to follow Him.

The first pioneer families, and those succeeding, and the Priests, Brothers and Sisters have set a tradition of hard work and deep spirituality. We cannot do less than follow and grow from the deep roots they have planted and watered by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.



UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON LIBRARY



R702444415

