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*Heartiest congratulations to the clergy and parishioners
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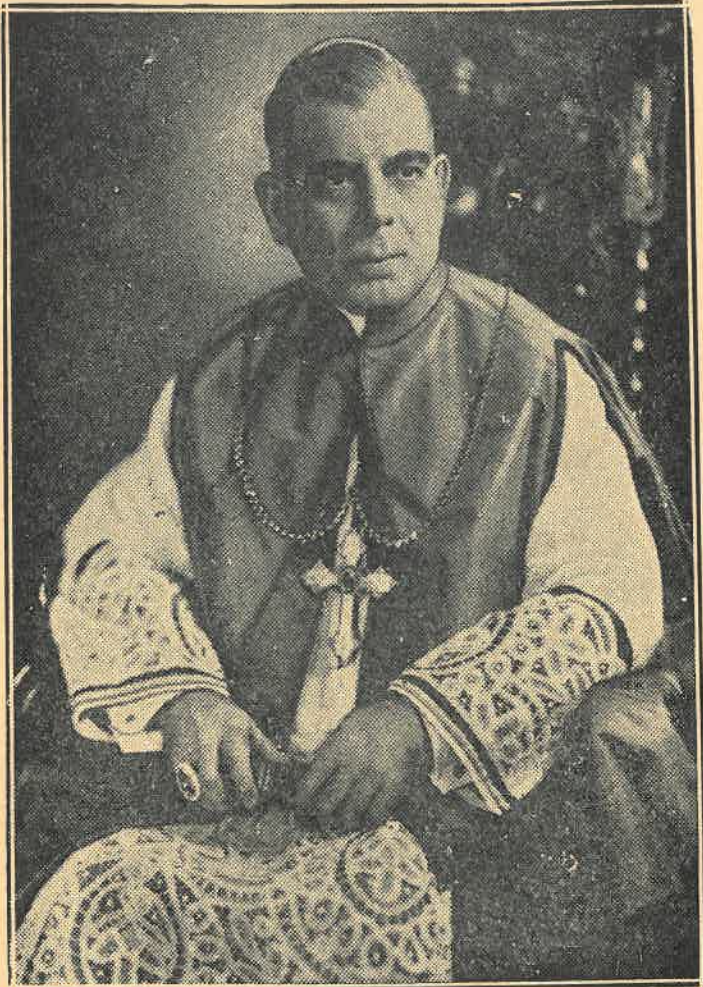
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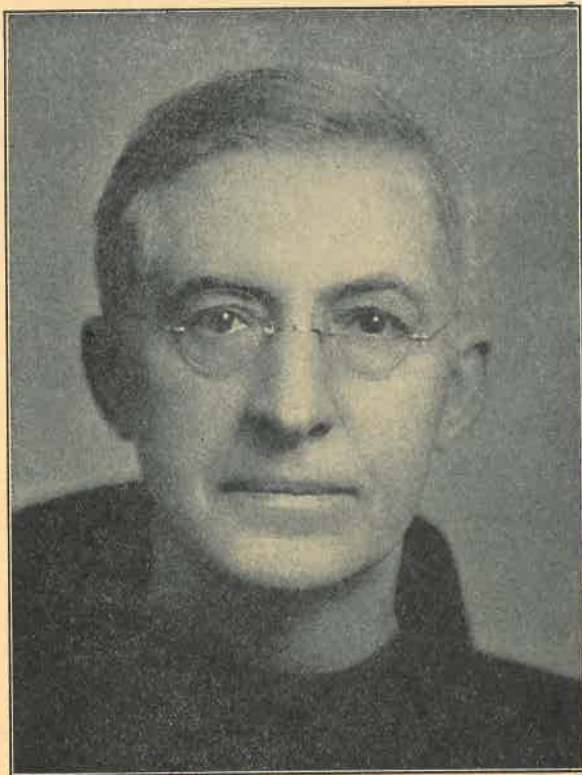
NEW ORLEANS



Our Present Reigning Supreme Pontiff
POPE PIUS XI



THE MOST REV. JAMES HUGH RYAN, S. T. D., PH. D., L. L. D.
Bishop of Omaha



THE VERY REV. OPTATUS LOEFFLER, O.F.M.
Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province of Chicago



THE REV. ERWIN HUNTSHA, O. F. M.
Present Pastor of St. Joseph's Church



THE REV. NATALIS WELLNER, O. F. M.
Parish Assistant



REV. EMERY KOCSIS, O. F. M.

Compiler of this Booklet



*“St. Francis blesses his disciples
before sending them out, two
and two, into the whole world,
to preach.”*

Dedication - -

ON THIS grand occasion, when St. Joseph's parish is preparing to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, it is most fitting and proper that we direct our thoughts—right at the beginning of this little volume—to Saint Francis, from whom the priests and Brothers who labored here for over fifty years, have drawn their main inspiration.

In the life of Saint Francis we find much that excites our admiration. We might mention his lovable personality, his charm, his artless simplicity, his gentleness and charity. But what causes us to marvel most of all, is the sublime and lasting influence this "Troubadour of the Lord" exercised on the world, not only in his age, but down to our very own days. In every age, his saintly life has been a shining example to countless men and women, inspiring them to live virtuous and holy lives.

The world at the time of Saint Francis, was probably in a worse state of decadence than it is today; and yet this humble servant of God was instrumental in instituting a wide-sweeping reform—in influencing the world-at-large to return to the simple life according to the Gospel and Teachings of Jesus Christ. How did he achieve this? The secret of his success lies first of all, in his own personal sanctification and then in his strong, seraphic love for his Divine Master. From the moment when he first heard the voice of the Savior in the ancient church of San Damiano,

"Francis, go and restore my house," he began to labor zealously not only at repairing the old church, but also in purifying his own soul, the dwelling place of the Most High. Thus sanctified and with the peace of God in his heart, he went forth with his disciples to labor for the conversion of mankind. To be sure, some of his contemporaries considered him a fool and a madman; but Saint Francis gloried in being considered a Fool of the Lord.

With time, those who had thought him mentally unbalanced, were forgotten; while Francis, who had left all behind to work only for his Lord, grew to be more revered and admired as time went on.

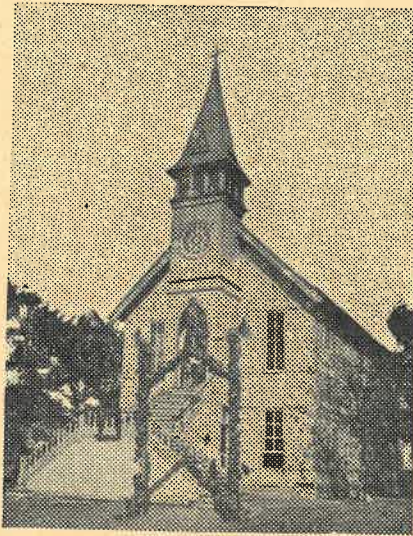
Today the Franciscan Family has grown to be one of the largest in the Church. Its members are to be found in every country of the world. There is scarcely any field of human endeavor that the Children of Francis have not cultivated, no learning or science they have not mastered. They have ably filled the highest offices in Church and State; they have occupied the highest positions in universities and halls of learning; they have preached the Gospel with success to the faithful as well as to the erring Children of our Holy Mother the Church. They are to be found on the field of battle administering to the fallen and wounded, in the homes of the poor and needy, caring for the stricken in times of pestilence, in prisons and hospitals seeking to restore lost souls to God.

To these self-sacrificing men—this little book is—

Respectfully
DEDICATED!

THE HISTORY

of



THE FIRST CHURCH

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH
Omaha, Nebraska

**from the Year 1887
to the Year 1937**

Introduction . . .

In a work of this nature—when attempting to describe the first beginnings and the constant later changes, that always form an inseparable part of the strong and steady growth of a parish which has attained the much coveted half-century-mark of its existence—it would be next to impossible to treat such a subject adequately, without at the same time taking into consideration the growth and development of the whole community or city as such. For the two form one integral part, and the parish will grow or decrease, as the years go on, accordingly as the city itself grows or decreases in population.

Therefore, at the very start of our narrative, let us view the Omaha of fifty years ago. This will not only make our story more interesting but will also greatly aid the reader in getting a better and clearer picture of the gradual and steady development of our beloved parish.

Omaha Today

We of the present generation know that Omaha is a great metropolis, a city, modern in every respect. As a business and commercial center Omaha compares favorably with some of the larger cities of the east; while its transportation facilities have justly earned for it the title of "The Gateway of the West."

Situated midway across the continent, Omaha was destined by nature one day to enjoy the enviable position she now holds among other cities. Today, about five great railroad systems make use of her facilities, handling several millions of passengers and millions of tons of freight yearly. Add to this a modern, up-to-date system of highways branching out in all directions—and it is easy to understand how these and its many other natural advantages can attract thousands of tourists yearly, and hold them here to make of them permanent residents.

The Early History of Omaha

If you are fortunate enough to be numbered amongst those who indulge occasionally in a bit of day-dreaming—I would suggest a trip on some nice sunny day to the top of one or the other of the many hills on the out-skirts of Omaha. When you arrive there, I want you to cast your gaze leisurely across its beautiful skyline; take careful note of each tall building that crowns the summit of the various elevations in the downtown area, and then relax—close your eyes and dream. Imagine that you see these same heights as

they might have been some eighty or ninety years ago. What would you see? Instead of modern business buildings, up-to-the-minute hotels, beautiful, richly ornamented theatres and imposing public edifices, you would see in the distance only scattered, dingy Indian tepees; half-naked Indian children, shouting and frolicking at their favorite games; here and there you might see Indian squaws, busy over smoking fires, preparing meals for the braves, who are away somewhere on the prairie, hunting the antelope or the giant bison.

Early records tell us that the Indians were the first inhabitants of this region. So that, when the first white settlers arrived here, they found several Indian tribes already living here. We might add, too, that it was after one of these tribes that the first pioneers later named their town OMAHA.

The First White Men Arrive

The modern history of Omaha really begins about the year 1849 or 1850. With the discovery of gold in California, thousands of adventurers began to move westward. They had packed their meager belongings and traveling in every conceivable form of conveyance, followed closely a route blazed across the continent by the Indians, extending for hundreds of miles from the Ohio to the Missouri rivers. In the wake of these early adventurers, there followed in covered wagons, caravans of early settlers, seeking a better living and better opportunities in a new and more fertile land. Many of these pioneers, on arriving at the muddy banks of the Missouri, eyed the site on the opposite side as a likely place for a town. Some crossed over to stay and gradually others joined them. Soon a little village of rudely built huts had sprung up. The population increased with the years and five years later, in 1885, Omaha boasted of three hundred people. In another five years this number had grown to nearly two thousand; and by 1870, Omaha was quite a city, with a population of sixteen thousand.

First Holy Mass in Omaha

Among the early settlers there were many who belonged to the fold of the Catholic Church. As there was no Catholic church here, they worshipped in the nearest church at Council Bluffs.

In May of the year 1856, a certain Father Edmund arrived there on one of his periodic visits, to administer to the spiritual needs of his flock. Naturally enough, he, too, was very much impressed by the rapid growth of the town across the river, and expressed the desire to visit the place and see things for himself. He was well received by the Catholic people and was prevailed upon to celebrate Holy

Mass for them, the first Mass in the city of Omaha. He advised the people of their need of a church, with the result that soon after his departure land was purchased and the same year a small brick structure 24x40 feet was completed. The church, called St. Mary's, was situated on what is now Eighth Street, near Howard. Holy Mass was celebrated whenever a priest happened to come through; however, the people desired a resident pastor, and after insistent demands to the religious authorities, a certain Father Cannon, O. S. B., was appointed to the post.

In 1859, the Rt. Rev. James M. O'Gorman was appointed Vicar Apostolic for this territory of which Nebraska formed a part. He belonged to the Trappist Order of Monks, and as such he was well accustomed to the dire poverty and want, in which his primitive surroundings forced him to live. In the immense territory under his jurisdiction he had but three priests. It is told of him, that when appointing a new priest to a district, he would accompany him to the back door of his lowly residence, and facing westward, he would indicate a certain direction with a wave of his hand and say: "You go that way, Father." The second Vicar Apostolic and the first Bishop of Omaha was the Rt. Rev. James O'Connor. He arrived in Omaha in 1872. He immediately started several new parishes, among them one, St. Mary Magdalene's, for the German-speaking Catholics of the city.

Bishop O'Connor did much to promote and foster the Catholic Faith in this new territory, and especially in Omaha. He was principally responsible for the founding of the world-renowned Creighton University; he placed the Franciscan Fathers in charge of all the missions in Platte county; he was instrumental in bringing the Poor Clares to Omaha, as well as the Franciscan Sisters to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Bishop O'Connor died May 22, 1890, mourned by everyone. He was a man of Providence—a man of vision, who foresaw the phenomenal growth which the Church would experience.

St. Mary Magdalene's Church

The German parish kept on growing steadily as more and more German families moved into the city. The parish opened a school in the spring of 1869. Four years later, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, of O'Fallon, Missouri, were placed in charge. The moral influence exercised by these good Sisters on their young charges was so wholesome that soon even non-Catholics asked to have their children enrolled in the school. In consequence, the school became overcrowded. Alterations were made and finally after adding new and larger quarters, the problem of accommodating all the pupils was definitely settled.

A New Pastor at St. Mary Magdalene's

In July, 1881, Father George Glauber was appointed pastor of St. Mary Magdalene's. He took in the situation at a glance; not only was the school too small now but also the church. Something had to be done. He bided his time. For several years he watched the city grow and expand and with new families constantly coming into the parish to further aggravate the general congestion, he resolved to start another German parish.



Father George Glauber

Start of St. Joseph's Parish

Mr. Jacob Burkhart was a close friend and adviser of Father Glauber. In parish matters and otherwise, Father Glauber knew that he could always count on his wholehearted support and co-operation. It was a bitter-cold day in January, 1887, that Mr. Burkhart arose to answer a knocking at his door. "It must be something very urgent," thought Mr. Burkhart; one would scarcely pick a day such as this just for a social call. As he unhooked the storm door and peered out, what was his surprise to see Father Glauber standing there before him. "Come in, Father," said Mr. Burkhart, "but I would hardly pick a day like this for a walk," he added good-naturedly. "Jacob," said Father, once inside, "you would never guess what brings me here today." And without waiting for his answer, he continued: "Pull on your overcoat; you and I are going to look over the site for the new church." Mr. Burkhart was too taken aback with the suddenness of it all to find an answer. He put on his coat and soon the two of them were trudging southward out of town. They followed the general direction of where Seventeenth Street is now after crossing the wide gully where the railroads are situated today. They made slow progress on account of the depth of the snow. Finally, after an hour or so of difficult walking, they arrived at the proposed location where St. Joseph's church now stands.

They paused to make a brief and hurried survey of the property. It comprised several lots, well wooded, with a small house in which the proprietor lived. As they proceeded to the house, Father Glauber hastened to explain that he was well acquainted with the owner; that his name was Simeral; that he was a lawyer by profession and of the Episcopalian denomination.

They were warmly received by Mr. Simeral and after showing his guests to chairs, Father Glauber hastened to explain the object

of their visit. Mr. Simeral listened attentively and when Father had finished he stated that, although he was asking twelve thousand dollars for the property, he would be willing to reduce the price to ten thousand dollars, considering the purpose for which Father Glauber wanted the property. Father expressed himself as well satisfied with the price and the two of them left.

Later, a general meeting of all the parishioners interested in the new church was held in Mr. Audrits' Grocery Store, at the time, in the 2200 block, on the west side of Sixteenth Street.

There was a goodly representation at the meeting also from the Polish families. After the usual deliberations, it was decided to accept the location. But the price was thought to be somewhat high. Finally this difficulty was removed by the eloquence of Father Glauber, who showed the assemblage that in time the property would be worth double the price they were paying for it now—That over, the first trustees were chosen: Mr. Burkhart, John Schmitz and Peter Bugger.

There followed days of feverish excitement, of meetings and deliberations of committee organizations to find ways and means of raising sufficient funds to start building.

The reader will readily understand the situation. St. Mary Magdalene's was altogether too small and most of the German and Polish families attending there lived to the south of this district. So the new location would be more convenient and desirable.

Soon the hard work of the various committees began to bring results. Mr. Creighton gave a thousand dollars; Mrs. Creighton promised to take care of all the interior furnishings, altars, pews, confessionals, communion rail, stations, vestment case, etc. Others also gave of their means.

Work was started on the building about 1886. It was to be a frame structure, two stories; the upstairs to serve as a church and the lower floor to be used as a school. The church was reached by a long stairs rising up from the street level. The building stood on Seventeenth Street about where the Sisters' residence is now. A little room in the rear served as temporary residence for the priest.

(Con. p. 25)

Dedication of the New Church

On September 2, 1887, the new church was solemnly blessed by the Rt. Rev. J. O'Connor, Bishop of Omaha at the time. The Rev. Pacificus Kohnen, O. F. M., came from Columbus, where the Franciscan Fathers already had a house, to deliver the oration for the occasion.

For the time being the Sunday services were conducted by the Rev. John Daxacher, chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, alternating with the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Colaneri. Masses on Sunday were: At eight, a low Mass and high Mass at ten o'clock. Mass was also read on one or two weekdays.



The First St. Joseph's Church

This arrangement lasted for about two years or until Father Charles Breitkopf was appointed assistant to Father Glauber. Father Breitkopf loved St. Joseph's and he came out for services as often as he could. The good people of the parish took to him immediately and a delegation was soon on its way to the Bishop to ask for his appointment as pastor. Their request, however, was denied with the explanation that Father Breitkopf was only recently ordained and lacked the necessary experience for such a position.

In May, 1904, Father Glauber, after completing twenty-three years of priestly labor in St. Mary Magdalene's, was transferred to Hartington. He died five years later, March 21, 1909, in consequence of a paralytic stroke.

The Rev. Chas. Breitkopf Becomes Pastor

In 1890 Father Breitkopf received his appointment as pastor of St. Joseph's. Already familiar with the needs of the parish, he set out immediately to improve conditions. He began with the financial end and in a short time refinanced the parish debt; he remodelled the parish buildings and had the streets around the property paved. Appreciating his noble work in their interest, the people offered to build him a respectable house to live in, but he refused their kindly offer with the remark that the church, and especially the school, had more need of that money than he did.

With all this to occupy him, Father Breitkopf did not neglect the spiritual needs of his flock. He formed a new branch of the St.

Joseph's Society for Men, independent of the mother parish; he organized the Christian Mothers' Society, the Altar Society, the Young Ladies' Sodality and St. Caecilia's Society. Later he formed a society for the young men of the parish and introduced the Confraternity of the Stations of the Cross. Each society had an appointed time for its meetings; usually they were held on different Sunday afternoons. Throughout Father Breitkopf's brief stay at St. Joseph's parish, a wonderful spirit of harmony and friendliness prevailed among the people. No doubt at all about it, Father Breitkopf did great things for St. Joseph's, and his parishioners seemed to become imbued with his enthusiasm and brotherly feeling towards them.



Rev. Charles Breitkopf

Father Breitkopf Is Changed

But this good feeling did not last for long. The peaceful serenity of the parish was all too soon broken by a note of sadness.

The parish at Atkinson, near O'Neill, in the northern part of the state, had long been a thorn in the side of the Bishop. It was a difficult problem to keep a priest there for any length of time. For one thing, the parish was quite large, composed of various nationalities, with constant friction arising between the various factions. Then, too, the parish was in terrible financial straits. Again, the territory was very extensive with several outlying missions to be cared for. In his dilemma the Bishop could think of no one better suited for this most difficult position than the good pastor of St. Joseph's, Father Breitkopf. Since he had brought about such wonderful harmony at St. Joseph's, maybe with his tact and sterling qualities he would achieve the same in Atkinson, and then, perhaps, the Bishop's worries would be over. In due time the Bishop called Father Breitkopf and notified him of the intended change, and, of course, told him the reasons. Father Breitkopf as the obedient servant of the Gospel, said that he would willingly go if he were needed.

The news soon got around the parish that their beloved pastor was to leave. Consternation filled every heart. As one, all the people rallied to the side of Father Breitkopf in an effort to induce him to stay. Foiled in this, they took recourse to the Right Reverend Bishop to have him change his mind, but all in vain. Letters were dispatched

to the Apostolic Delegate at Washington, but despite all efforts of the people to retain him, on the day set, Father Breitkopf bade a sad farewell to his flock.

Father Breitkopf is still alive and apparently in the best of health. At present he is enjoying a well-earned rest in the sunny, temperate climate of San Diego. He labored hard and he labored well for the temporal and spiritual welfare of St. Joseph's parish. May the blessing of God rest upon him for the remainder of his earthly days and a rich reward be his when he enters into the life to come.

Rev. J. William Jungels, Second Pastor

In July, 1884, Father Breitkopf was replaced by Father Jungels. The reader can well imagine what a tempest was brewing in the parish when he took charge. Under the circumstances no one would have expected him to stay here long. Besides the dissatisfaction caused by Father Breitkopf's removal, other difficulties had arisen to aggravate the trouble. Litigation was started over a piece of church property and there was trouble about the deed. The poor pastor tried his best but he could not make a "go" of it.



Rev. J. William Jungels

Something had to be done. He went to his ecclesiastical superiors with his difficulties. To them he confided that under the circumstances the only solution to the problem would be to give the parish to the Franciscans or to some other religious order. After some deliberation it was then decided to offer the parish to the Franciscan Fathers, whose nearest house was in Columbus. Father Jungels then resigned as pastor in 1895.

The Franciscans Take Over St. Joseph's

As soon as the matter was brought to the attention of the Franciscan Provincial, the Very Rev. Michael Richardt, O. F. M., he dispatched Father Anselm Mueller, rector of Quincy College, to Omaha to arrange details with the Right Reverend Bishop. After a complete understanding had been reached between the two parties, the Provincial Council selected the members of the new community. Rev. Mauritius Baukholt was made pastor and superior; Rev. Ladislav Czech was chosen assistant and pastor of the Poles, while

two Brothers, Anthony Mueller and Zosimus Orlic were sent to help care for the house.

Rev. Mauritius Baukholt, O. F. M.

First Franciscan Pastor

As soon as Father Mauritius arrived in November, 1895, he started taking up a census in the parish. He tabulated about two hundred families. This done, he summoned all members of the parish for a mass meeting on the last Sunday in November. The Provincial, the Very Rev. Michael Richardt, O. F. M., was chairman. The purpose of the meeting was to probe the sentiment of the parish as to whether it was feasible to build a new and larger church, as the frame church had grown much too small by that time. Besides, the new religious community had need of a suitable residence or parsonage. The Franciscans offered to build the residence for the Friars at their own expense. As for the church, it was decided for the time being to build only a basement-church on the southwestern end of the property.



Father Mauritius

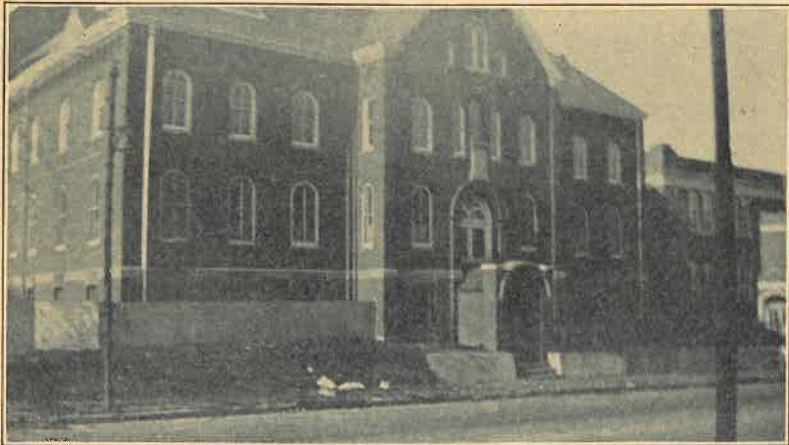
New Construction Begins

It was in the early part of 1896, that work was started on the excavations for the church and priest's residence. Brother Adrian Wewer, O. F. M., well-known Franciscan architect, drew up the plans. The work progressed so rapidly that by August 23, both the basement church and Friary were ready to be blessed. The Right Reverend Bishop was unable to be present, owing to illness. Instead, the Vicar General of the Diocese, the Very Rev. William Choka, officiated. The Very Rev. Provincial Michael Richardt, O. F. M., an able orator, delivered the German sermon, while the Rev. C. J. Lagae, S. J., preached in English. All the societies of the parish took part in the celebration and all in all it was a great day of happiness and rejoicing for St. Joseph's parish.

This basement-church did service for the next twenty years. The Friary was ready for occupancy in October. In November it was blessed by the Rev. Florence Kurzer, O. F. M., stationed at St. Bernard, Nebraska, at the time.



Basement-Church—1896



Priests' Residence on Sixteenth Street

The Rev. Pacificus Kohnen, O. F. M. Second Franciscan Pastor

In December of the year 1900, Father Mauritius was replaced by Father Pacificus, who took up his new pastoral duties with zest and energy. In his eighteen years of service he gave St. Joseph's parishioners the very best that he had. He was untiring in his zeal for souls; in his sermons, very forceful; he spent long hours in the confessional but the school was the very "apple of his eye," and when otherwise unoccupied, he could always be found among the children, teaching catechism and supervising their mental development. He had his own way about doing things and in consequence he often ran into difficulties. Still, even today his memory is held in high regard even by those who at times may have differed with him.



Father Pacificus

To provide more room for pupils, since the old quarters were too small, he had the old wooden church, which had been converted into classrooms, moved back from the street, and in its place a two-story brick building was



Present Sisters' Home and Old School

erected, to serve as the school and Sisters' residence. This building is still standing and is used by the Sisters as their home.

The cornerstone of the new edifice was blessed May 12, 1901, with great solemnity. In the fall of the same year the new school was ready for use. Later on, in 1909, to be exact, an addition, thirty by seventy feet, was added on to the old wooden school, to be used as a hall and kindergarten.

The Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph's

On September 15, 1912, after long months of preparation, the parish joined hands with the early founders and hosts of friends in celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in a most solemn manner. It turned out to be one of those days long to be remembered by all who took part in the ceremonies. The festivities began with a long street parade to the church. High Mass followed, sung by the able pastor, and assisted by Rev. Beno Franzen as deacon and the Rev. Father Thoennessen as subdeacon. The sermon for the occasion was delivered by Father Pacificus. It will be recalled that he had also preached the dedication sermon twenty-five years previously. Appropriately enough, after the church services, the visiting clergy and honored guests went to Mr. Audrits' Grocery Store for luncheon. It was in this same store that the first deliberations were held when the parish was being started.

Completion of the New Church

There were two much-needed improvements that Father Pacificus would have liked to put in, right then; one was to erect a new, modern school, and the other, to finish the church. There was not enough money in the church treasury for both undertakings at the same time, so it was decided to let the school go for the present and complete the church. On November 30, 1914, Brother Leonard Darscheid, O. F. M., builder of many churches and convents from coast to coast, arrived here for preliminary discussion of the plans. Early the next spring the plans were ready. After careful inspection by Mr. Jacob M. Nachtigall, a parishioner and nationally known architect, they were approved by the corporation members and by May 5th, 1915, the workmen were already on the job. Under the watchful eye of the good Brother work progressed so rapidly



Brother Leonard

that by June 6, a month later, His Excellency Bishop R. Scannell blessed the cornerstone in solemn ceremony. The Rev. Peter Gannon preached in English and Father Pacificus in German.

During the building of the church, Holy Mass and the usual church services were held in the school hall.

Work on the church went ahead so rapidly that by Sunday, January 30, 1916, Holy Mass was celebrated there for the first time. Everyone was happy and proud of their new Temple of God. Large throngs attended each Mass although no special celebration had been scheduled for the occasion.

Solemn Dedication of the New Church

The new church was solemnly dedicated on October 22, 1916, by the Right Reverend Administrator of the Diocese, Monsignor



Present St. Joseph's Church

M. A. Colaneri. The celebration started with a grand street parade—all the parish societies participating—and headed by a band. The Right Reverend Prelate was greeted at Pierce Street by a welcoming delegation and escorted solemnly to the doors of the new church. After the blessing came a Pontifical High Mass. Assisting were the Rev. Pastor, Father Pacificus, and Fathers Theobald and Mark. The Rt. Rev. Monsignor J. Stenson, then pastor of St. Philomena's, acted as master of ceremonies. The church was beautifully decorated throughout with a profusion of palms and flowers.

The World War Period and St. Joseph's Church

We come next to a chapter in our parish history which is at once glorious and yet sad. Our war record at St. Joseph's has much about it to be proud of and yet mention of this subject brings back to our minds those fathers and mothers who saw their dear ones march away to a war from which they were never to return alive.

On Sunday, May 26, 1918, St. Joseph's parish Service Flag was blessed in the school with proper ceremonies. Mr. Robert Nachtigall unfurled the banner with thirty-six stars while the Creighton band played the national anthem. Judge J. W. Woodrough was the principal speaker on this occasion.

The following is the list of those who saw service in the army:

L. Weiss	G. Maier	H. Kessler
J. Zimmerman	F. Gruber	J. Wachtler
F. Lang	E. Schinker	M. Kriegler
G. Mueller	F. Mueller	J. Nachtigall
J. Pfeffer	C. Kauth	F. Wolfbauer
J. Engl	J. Ecker	M. Trautner
A. Neumann	H. English	A. Riedmann
J. Schinker	F. Scherff	L. Volz
H. Velasco		C. Bloemer

The following served in the United States Navy:

W. Nachtigall	A. Gerhard	H. Boesen
M. Wieger	F. Zimmerman	F. Nachtigall
F. Meidlinger	H. Bloemer	A. Wieger

It costs money to keep a war going and St. Joseph's did its "bit" to the extent of \$29,444.88 contributed to the various war chests. Our Red Cross Chapter had three hundred and ten members; besides this, the school children had their own chapter.

Father Pacificus Leaves

After many years of faithful service, Father Pacificus was forced to resign on account of failing health. His resignation was accepted at his urgent request and he was transferred to Joliet, Illinois. In 1921 he went to Sioux City where on April 19, 1922, he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his entrance into the Franciscan Order. The celebration was more or less a private affair on account of his frail condition and because he was practically unknown in that city. But the good people of St. Joseph's did not forget. Besides the many prayers offered for his recovery, he was remembered with many personal gifts from his host of friends in Omaha. Finally he came to St. Joseph's Hospital, here, to seek medical attention, where he passed away on January 12, 1924. — One editorial writer of his day said of him: "Outwardly Father Pacificus was severe, plain-spoken and even gruff. Your first impression on meeting him was that he did not care to make friends or to have any close acquaintances. But this impression was dissipated very quickly when one got to know him better. He was really very kind at heart and the gruff exterior was only assumed—though he could be very severe when occasion warranted it."

"He was solidly pious and in everything that concerned religion he was so deeply in earnest that no matter how one might differ with his opinions, he respected and revered him for his sincerity and priestly zeal."

The funeral of Father Pacificus was held from St. Joseph's church. A large gathering of the clergy first recited the Office of the Dead and the Solemn Requiem began at ten o'clock. The Very Rev. Optatus Loeffler, O. F. M., then Custos of the Sacred Heart Province, was celebrant of the Mass, assisted by the Rev. P. J. Judge and Rev. J. F. McCarthy, as deacon and subdeacon, respectively. Archbishop Harty was present in the sanctuary. In his sermon after the Mass, His Excellency said of the deceased: "In all the offices of the church, Father Pacificus had worked valiantly for the glory of God. Witnesses of his untiring zeal are this magnificent church, a well-organized school and the undying love and veneration of his parishioners. With great sacrifice and self-denial he performed all his duties that he might give a good example to all. He was one of God's rugged saints."

Burial took place in St. Mary Magdalene's cemetery, where the pastor, the Rev. Simon Schwarz, O. F. M., officiated, assisted by two priests.

Rev. Simon Schwarz, O. F. M.
Pastor—1918-1924

Father Simon, the new pastor, arrived here from Keshena, Wisconsin, in July. Just at that time Nebraska was suffering from a terrible heat wave, which naturally affected everyone, but especially the new pastor, who had been used to the more temperate climate of the North. As he became more acclimated and with the return of cooler weather he set about installing some much needed improvements in the school.

About this time, too, notice was served on the pastor by His Excellency, Archbishop Harty, that he was about to organize a new parish to the south, to be known as St. Rose parish. This move would necessitate the relocating of the boundaries of the various adjacent parishes. Thus, according to this new arrangement, all of St. Joseph's parishioners living south of Deer Park Boulevard were to belong to the new parish. This decision caused no end of discontent among the parishioners living in the affected zone. However, this matter was finally cleared up in 1932, when the Right Reverend Bishop Rummel definitely fixed our parish limits as including all the German-speaking Catholics south of Pierce Street—Pierce Street to represent an imaginary line running from the Missouri River, west to the city limits, and from this line south to the city limits.



Rev. Simon Schwarz

In March, 1919, the choir members offered to promote a drive in the hope of realizing enough to purchase a grand pipe organ for the church. The men went about it in a serious way and their efforts produced good results. A neat sum of about \$2,600.00 was collected. Father Simon then raised the remainder by holding various bazaars, plays and other forms of entertainment. Fully installed, the organ cost nearly five thousand dollars. To properly celebrate the installation a grand concert was arranged for October, the same year, in which Professor Al Rhode, famous choirmaster of St. Louis, charmed a large audience by his brilliant performance. His brother, the learned Doctor Joseph Rhode, O. F. M., preached eloquently on the occasion. It was during Father Simon's time, too, that the old altars, which no longer matched the architecture of the new church, were replaced with the present masterpieces of wood-carving. The high altar cost \$1,500.00 and was a gift of Mr. John Hoffman.

Father Simon saw the need also of purchasing the property on the north side of the school as the space would be needed for play-

grounds whenever the new school would be erected. This represented a cost of \$3,750.00 while at the same time \$2,000.00 went for improvements on Seventeenth Street.

On the whole, the parish was on an excellent financial basis. The people had money and they gave generously. Under such conditions the hardest task of the pastor, to make ends meet, is rendered easier and the parish can more readily forge ahead.

On September 7, 1924, his term up, Father Simon was transferred to Chicago.

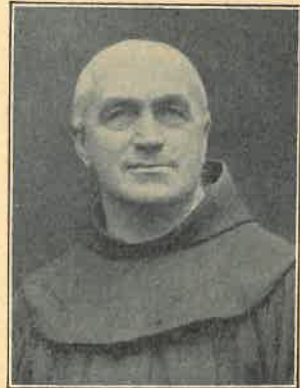
Rev. Timothy Magnien, O. F. M.

The new pastor, Father Timothy, set out from the start to bring to a realization the fond ambition of his people, to have a substantial, modern parish school as soon as possible. The parish now counted some two hundred eighty families and the school attendance was about three hundred and ten pupils.

That there was an urgent need at the time for such a school—no one would dare deny, and under the circumstances Father Timothy knew he could depend to the limit on the generosity of his parishioners.

The parish had a "Building Fund" for a new school, which contained about thirty thousand dollars. However, this was far from sufficient to meet the cost of such a building as was contemplated. Accordingly, Father Timothy issued a call for a general meeting of all the parishioners. The meeting was held on February 19, 1928. It was resolved to divide the parish into seventeen districts, with two committee members for each district to solicit funds and pledges from every family and member.

Mr. Jacob Nachtigall of the parish, was then commissioned to draw up the plans for the new school. How well he succeeded, can be easily seen by anyone who today beholds the finished product, the pride of St. Joseph's and a lasting monument to Mr. Nachtigall's long and excellent career. The first ground for the new school was broken by the pastor and witnessed by a large assemblage, on St. Joseph's day, March 19, 1928. The work of excavating the immense basement and building the foundations continued incessantly in an attempt to have the new building in readiness for the next school term. In the meantime classes were conducted in the basement of the church.



Father Timothy

The cornerstone was blessed on the thirteenth of May by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Beckman, of Lincoln, at the time Apostolic Administrator for the Omaha Diocese. The service was most impressive, the more so as the people now began to realize that their fondest hope of a new school for their children was at last being fulfilled. By midsummer the building was well on the way to completion. On September 3, of the same year, the new school was solemnly blessed by the Rt. Rev. J. F. Rummel, Bishop of Omaha. The Right Reverend Bishop delivered an inspiring talk to the large gathering, while the Very Rev. Provincial Vincent Schrempp, O. F. M., spoke in German. Finally, Father Timothy arose to the occasion, to thank his good people for their generosity in contributing towards the erection of the school and to remind them of the great spiritual benefits that would be drawn by their children from this source and the good influence they in turn would in time have on the whole community in the days to come. The new school opened its doors on September 10, with an enrollment of three hundred and fourteen pupils.

Father Timothy also realized the need of healthy recreation for the young men of the parish. For this reason he installed three pool tables and two bowling alleys in the school basement. Later the number of alleys was increased to six.

In July, 1933, Father Timothy was transferred to Washington, Missouri.

Rev. Walter Magnien, O. F. M.—1933-1936

On July 12, 1933, Father Walter, nephew of Father Timothy, and his former assistant, became pastor of St. Joseph's. Father Walter will go down in the history of St. Joseph's as the pastor who so manfully weathered the worst years of the most disastrous depression ever experienced by our country. Like the "flu" of 1918, the depression gripped everyone; scarcely anybody escaped its ravaging contagion. Everyone suffered some loss in one way or another. In the epidemic of bank "crashes" many people lost everything they possessed. And St. Joseph's parishioners were no exception.

As a result of the hard times and unemployment, most of the families were in difficulties—most of them had a hard time to make ends meet. And yet, even under these trying circumstances, payments on the immense mortgage had to



Father Walter

be met; interest had to be paid regularly on monies borrowed at a high rate of interest during "boom" times; ordinary running expenses had to be met; building repairs kept up and salaries to be paid. Under such conditions—it may sound exaggerated—a financial wizard would have found it quite a task to reduce the parish debt so much as to be even noticed.

The great indebtedness on the new school in 1928 was \$140,781.00. The parish had on hand, in cash \$46,200.00. That left the total debt at \$94,581.00. An addition to the Sisters' Convent, repairs and oil burners to heat the church and convent, necessitated an expenditure of \$7,134.00 more. This brought the total debt up to a grand total of \$101,715.00.

Although that sum may sound like a staggering amount to pay in our day, still, in those days nobody grew alarmed or worried much over payment of so great a debt. Everyone knew, of course, that it would take time to pay off this sum, but everyone knew, too, that in about ten or at the most fifteen years, the parish would again be free of debt. And this was no idle boast! Times were good and people were liberal. For example, between the years 1929 to 1932, inclusive, Father Timothy was paying off on the parish debt at the rate of from three to four thousand dollars a year, reducing the parish indebtedness quite noticeably to \$88,615.00.

Therefore, since the parish income was limited and barely sufficient to meet current needs, Father Walter concentrated most of his attention on refinancing the debt. In this he succeeded very well. But nevertheless the fact remains that owing to the depression, the parish debt remained practically the same during his whole administration. When he left in July, 1936, the debt stood around \$87,600.00.

Rev. Erwin Huntsha, O. F. M.

On July 23, 1936, Father Erwin arrived from Humphrey, Nebraska, to take over the pastorate vacated by Father Walter.

Father Erwin has been here only a year but even in this short time he has made his presence felt. He has installed a new stoker in the boiler room of the church; renewed and varnished the floor in the church; revived again an interest of the young people in dramatic art, and opened the gymnasium to the Catholic Youth Organization of Omaha. Of even greater importance to the parish, he has succeeded in refinancing practically the whole parish debt, by securing a considerable decrease in the rate of interest. Many improvements have been started; others urgently needed must for the present wait. Improved financial conditions in Omaha will give Father Erwin the long-sought opportunity to realize these desires.

The following Fathers have been stationed at one time or another at St. Joseph's as assistants or otherwise:

Rev. Ladislaus Czech, O. F. M.	Rev. Lullus Seeboth, O. F. M.
Rev. Adolph Rockel, O. F. M.	Rev. Vitus Braun, O. F. M.
Rev. Theobald Kalamaja, O. F. M.	Rev. Wenceslaus Krzycki, O. F. M.
Rev. Ewald Soland, O. F. M.	Rev. Raynerius Micek, O. F. M.
Rev. Mark Schludeker, O. F. M.	Rev. Berard Zehnle, O. F. M.
Rev. William Schliska, O. F. M.	Rev. Meinrad Wesselmann, O. F. M.
Rev. Menander Jaroszewicz, O. F. M.	Rev. Cyrinus Schneider, O. F. M.
Rev. Methodius Kielar, O. F. M.	Rev. Alfred Tritz, O. F. M.
Rev. Cyril Mitera, O. F. M.	Rev. Godfrey Piontkowski, O. F. M.
Rev. Marianus Glahn, O. F. M.	Rev. Casimir Wisniewski, O. F. M.
Rev. Rembert Stanowski, O. F. M.	Rev. Fridolin Pietrusiewicz, O. F. M.
Rev. Wolfgang Kraus, O. F. M.	Rev. Anthony Wagner, O. F. M.
Rev. Gratian Gehrig, O. F. M.	Rev. Gerald Paunovich, O. F. M.
Rev. Edmund Roediger, O. F. M.	Rev. Emery Kocsis, O. F. M.
Rev. Benno Franzen, O. F. M.	Rev. Natalis Wellner, O. F. M.

* * * *

List of Lay Brothers who did service at St. Joseph's:

Brothers Zosimus Orlic, Anthony Mueller, Adrian Wewer, Damian Bueschgens, Xystus Tuellmann, Candidus Ferstl, Pamphilus Schmitz, Angelus Paulissen, Blaze Wermelskirchen, Venantius Abeln, Cornelius Gassmann, Pius Werner, Leonard Darscheid, Eugene Besand, Giles Varko, Theodosius Likar, Sebastian Maier.

* * * *

Sons of the parish in Holy Orders:

Rev. Felix Nolte, O. S. B.; Rev. Ephrem Muench, O. F. M.; Rev. Augustine Hobrecht, O. F. M.; Rev. Clement Martin, O. F. M.; Rev. Clarence Trummer; Rev. Fulgence Gross, O. F. M.; Rev. Pacific Hug, O. F. M.; Rev. Benedict Leutenegger, O. F. M.; Rev. Wendelin Kleine, O. F. M.; J. M. Mollner, S. J.; Frater Dennis Hall, O. F. M.; Frater Jerome O'Donnell, O. F. M.) and Francis Fischer, candidate for the Franciscan Order.

R. I. P. The cleric, Lucius Nachtigall, O. F. M., passed away in Quincy, Illinois, on the fifth of April, 1906, and lies buried in St. Mary Magdalene's cemetery.

* * * *

Sons of the parish who are Lay Brothers:

Brother Pacificus Brunk, O. F. M.; Brother Andrew Keller, O. F. M., and (Charles Hall, an Augustinian Brother.)

List of teachers at St. Joseph's school from 1887 to 1937:

Sister M. Constantia †	Sister M. Tarcissia †	Sister M. Bernadine
Sister M. Dionysia †	Sister M. Cyrilla †	Sister M. Imelda
Sister M. Hildegard †	Sister M. Walburga	Sister M. Baptista
Sister M. Fidelis †	Sister M. Olga †	Sister M. Pius
Sister M. Margaret †	Sister M. Basilia †	Sister M. Regulata
Sister M. Caecilia †	Sister M. Johanna †	Sister M. Antoinette †
Sister M. Josepha	Sister M. Borromea †	Sister M. Charitas †
Sister M. Aloysia †	Sister M. Eusebia †	Sister M. Wenceslaus †
Sister M. Rocha	Sister M. Illuminata †	Sister M. Pancratia †
Sister M. Flavia †	Sister M. Blanche †	Sister M. Honoria
Sister M. Candida	Sister M. Agnella †	Sister M. Laurita †
Sister M. Cordula †	Sister M. Bernadette †	Sister M. Agneta
Sister M. Honorata †	Sister M. Augustine †	Sister M. Julia
Sister M. Natalia †	Sister M. Andrew	Sister M. Ancilla
Sister M. Fridolin †	Sister M. Valeria	Sister M. Hilda
Sister M. Clementine †	Sister M. Eudoxia †	Sister M. Aelred
Sister M. Elizabeth	Sister M. Cornelia	Sister M. Leontia †
Sister M. Raymunda †	Sister M. Consolata	Sister M. Lorenza
Sister M. Loyola	Sister M. Lucille	Sister M. Angela
Sister M. Agatha †	Sister M. Corona	Sister M. Juliana
Sister M. Amanda †	Sister M. Venantia †	Sister M. Ellen Marie
Sister M. Angelica †	Sister M. Anna	Sister M. Grace
		Sister M. Sylvestra

List of Household Sisters:

Sister M. Gebharda †	Sister M. Leona	Sister M. Anastasia †
Sister M. Modesta †	Sister M. Lamberta †	Sister M. Gabriel
Sister M. Proba †	Sister M. Marina	Sister M. Peregrine
Sister M. Benildis	Sister M. Justine	Sister M. Zita
Sister M. Hermine		

List of Music Teachers:

Sister M. Alodia †	Sister M. Caecilia †	Sister M. Louise
Sister M. Veneranda †	Sister M. Renildis	Sister M. Eulalia †
Sister M. Adela †	Sister M. Gonzaga †	Sister M. Emerentia
Sister M. Pancratia †	Sister M. Aelred	

* * * *

List of native daughters who joined the Precious Blood Sisters:

Sister M. Prudentia Konrad, Sister M. Anselma Lange, Sister M. Eulalia Bugger, Sister M. Octavia Keuchel, Sister M. Hyacinth Klaffke, Sister M. Gertrude Regner, Sister M. Conrada Grieb, Sister M. Eligia Igel, Sister M. Coletta Tritz, Sister M. Perpetua Donnermeyer, Sister M. Leontia Schmitz, Sister M. Alberta Schmitz, Sister M. Crescentia Haffke, Sister M. Jerome Angele, Sister M. Hilda

Koley, Sister M. Dosithea Grieb, Sister M. Paschalis Martin, Sister M. Felicia Wachtler, Sister M. Tharsilla Kleine, Sister M. Priscilla Kleine, Sister M. Lucina Zink, Sister M. Amanda Messmer, Sister M. Frances Grieb, Sister M. Gertrude Wichert, Sister M. Virgilia Turek, Sister M. Evangela Keller, Sister Teresa Marie Bloemer, Miss Anna Hipp, Miss Marie Garrick, Miss Ruth Pollack, Miss Annette Sommer.

The parish has one daughter with the Catechists: Catechist Clara Leutenegger.

Daughters of the parish who have joined the Franciscan Sisters:

Sister M. Ambrosina Preiner, Sister M. Elisabeth Schneider, Sister M. Clarissa Feiler, Sister M. Natalena Flechenstein, Sister M. Gertrude Flechenstein, Sister M. Hyacintha Wilmot, Sister M. Pacifica Woletz, Sister M. Philomene Hobrecht, Sister M. Bede Hobrecht, Sister M. Cordia Hobrecht.



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Liturgical Music - - - Michael Preiner

PARADE - - - - - Frank Lang, Chairman

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JUBILEE DINNER COMMITTEE - Mrs. Henry Kaufman, Chairman

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Mrs. Peter Loth
Mrs. Ernest Staudacher
Mrs. Lawrence Schinker
Mrs. Charles Wieger
Mrs. Matt Holzapfel

DANCE - - - - - Miss Clara Pollreis, Chairman

GOLDEN JUBILEE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1937

10:00 Solemn Procession from Monastery to Church

Pupils of St. Joseph's School
Men's Societies - - Ladies' Societies
Servers - - Clergy

Ecce Sacerdos - - - - - P. H. Thielen

10:15 Pontifical High Mass

Celebrant - - Most Rev. James H. Ryan, S. T. D.
Assistant Priest - Rev. Theobald Kalamaja, O. F. M.

Deacons of Honor - - - - Rev. C. Breitkopf
Rev. Erwin Huntshar, O. F. M.

Deacon of the Mass - Rev. Simon Schwarz, O. F. M.
Subdeacon of the Mass - Rev. Walter Magnien, O. F. M.
Jubilee Sermon - Rev. Theobald Kalamaja, O. F. M.
Master of Ceremonies - Rev. Nicholas Wegner, O. F. M.
Assistant - - - Rev. Natalis Wellner, O. F. M.
Mass in Honor of St. Joseph - - - - Dietrich
Credo - - - - - Don Perosi
Offertory—Laudate Dominum - - - - C. Ett

Benediction—Ave Verum - - - - F. J. Wilkens
Tantum Ergo - - - - - Haller

TE DEUM

12:00 Dinner for the Reverend Clergy in St. Joseph's Auditorium

1:00 Dinner for the Laity

8:00 Jubilee Program—Refreshments

GOLDEN JUBILEE PROGRAM

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1937

- 8:00 Solemn Requiem High Mass for the Deceased of the Parish
 Celebrant - - - - - Rev. C. Breitkopf
 Deacon - - - - - Rev. Ephrem Muench, O. F. M.
 Subdeacon - - - - - Rev. C. Trummer
 Master of Ceremonies - - - Rev. Charles Strassberger
- 8:00 Parish Bazaar with the Usual Attractions

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PROFESSION

of

BROTHER LEONARD DARSCHIED, O. F. M.

- 9:00 Procession from Monastery to Church
- 9:15 Solemn High Mass—
 Celebrant - Very Rev. Optatus Loeffler, O. F. M., Prov.
 Assistant Priest - Very Rev. W. Krzycki, O. F. M., Custos
 Deacon - - - - - Rev. Erwin Huntsha, O. F. M.
 Subdeacon - - - - - Rev. Benedict Leutenegger, O. F. M.
 Master of Ceremonies - Rev. Natalis Wellner, O. F. M.
- Mass—
 Salve Regina - - - - - J. Stehle
 Offertory—Jesu Dulcis - - - - - A. Zeller
- Benediction—
 O Salutaris - - - - - J. Modlmayr
 Tantum Ergo - - - - - J. Modlmayr
- Te Deum
- 12:00 Dinner for the Reverend Clergy
- 1:00 An Appropriate Program
- 8:00 Dance—Parish Bazaar
- 10:00 Raffle

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A Brief History of the **VARIOUS PARISH SOCIETIES**

St. Peter's Benevolent Society

St. Peter's Society was started by Father Breittkopf. The first meeting was held in the old frame church on October 5, 1890. About forty men were present to draw up a charter. Father Breittkopf was appointed temporary chairman. In the election the following were chosen for the principal offices: Mr. Philip Wagner, president; Mr. John J. Schmitz, vice-president; Mr. Jacob Burkhard, secretary, and Mr. Max Grimm, treasurer.

At a later date rules and regulations were drafted to govern the usual procedure of the society. Dues: Each member is assessed fifty cents per month; in case a member dies, each member pays one dollar to the family of the deceased. If a member becomes sick, he draws five dollars a week sick benefit up to six months. The members are expected to live up to Catholic principles and strongly urged to send their children to the Catholic school. Age limit for admission to the society is fixed at from 16 to 45 years. These regulations are still in force.

The society also purchased two banners to use on special occasions. Jacob Burkhard resigned the chair of secretary in 1892 and Mr. Anton Gross Sr. was appointed in his stead. He held that important office until 1920. Of the original founders only three members are still alive: Father Breittkopf and Jacob Burkhard in California, and Mr. Anton Gross Sr.

The present officers of the society are: Mr. A. Lang, president; Mr. Frank Fischer, vice-president; Mr. Anton Gross Jr., corresponding secretary; Mr. Otto May, financial secretary, and Mr. Al Sawatzki, treasurer.

Christian Mothers' Society

The Christian Mothers' Society of St. Joseph's church was organized June 4, 1893. Its object is to be helpful to its members both in a spiritual and temporal way, and to assist the Reverend Pastor in all parish activities.

The original membership was approximately one hundred and at one time in the year 1925 the society boasted of a membership of 220. Members pay ten cents per month dues, of which five cents is donated to the church for the altar needs. A death benefit of thirty cents is also assessed against each member, to be paid to relatives

upon the death of a member. In addition, deceased members receive from the society a funeral Mass and two low Masses. The society also furnishes an auto for officers to attend the funeral. Furthermore, the society meets at the home of the deceased to recite the rosary and other prayers.

Officers of the society are elected by ballot and serve for two years. The first president was Mrs. Anastasia Riewe and the first secretary was Mrs. Kate Audrit (Hoffmann). The first spiritual director was the Rev. Carl Breitkopf.

The present membership of the society is 150. The present officers are:

President	- - - - -	Mrs. Anna Egyed
Vice-President	- - - - -	Mrs. Anna Haller
Secretary	- - - - -	Mrs. Anna Nachtigall (With 35 years of continuous service)
Assistant Secretary	- - - - -	Mrs. Caecilia Kleine
Treasurer	- - - - -	Mrs. Mary Gross
Marshal	- - - - -	Mrs. Gertrude Brennan
Spiritual Director	- - - - -	Rev. Erwin Huntsha

The society meets on the second Sunday of each month and receives Holy Communion in a body the first Sunday of each month.

The society also engages in numerous social activities and helps somewhat to increase the financial reserve of the parish by sponsoring card parties monthly, the Fall Festival, and raising funds for missionary work. At Christmas the society presents the School Sisters with a miscellaneous shower, consisting of food, canned goods, dry goods, etc.

The blessing of Almighty God rests visibly upon this society. May it continue to prosper, so it can keep up its noble service to the Church.

The Young Men's Sodality

The spiritual welfare of young people generally, and of the young men in particular, has at all times been of the gravest concern to the Church. For if a young man, in later life, deserts the ranks of Christ—if he gives up the practice of his holy religion—if he acquires evil habits injurious to his soul—it will be found in nearly every case that the seeds of his spiritual dissolution—of his spiritual downfall, were sown during those dangerous years, in between the ages of 14 and 21.

To remedy this evil and to forestall any loss of souls among its youth during these dangerous years, the Church has always impressed upon her pastors the urgent need of societies or sodalities for the youth of the parish, where their spiritual welfare can be better looked after and the regular monthly reception of the Sacraments more strictly regulated.

Father Breilkopf, realizing fully this responsibility early in his pastorate, organized the "Sanct Antonius Jungling's Verein." He worked hard, devoting much time and energy towards fostering a healthy religious spirit among the young people. At that time the Verein had about 35 members.

Eventually, most probably during the time of Father Mauritius, the name was changed to St. Aloysius Sodality.

Experience shows that it is always harder to hold the boys together than it does the girls. Unless some definite form of recreation is provided, the interest of the boy begins to lag. Father Pacificus was aware of this and in 1916 or thereabouts, he opened a gymnasium for the boys in the new hall in the frame building. For a time the young men showed renewed interest, but with the outbreak of the war all this activity ceased.

The succeeding pastors continued earnestly to work for and with the boys. Father Timothy, especially, distinguished himself in caring for our young people. He promoted dramatic presentations in the new auditorium—one of the finest in the city for this purpose. He favored sports, he installed bowling alleys and pool tables in the basement of the school for the amusement of the young folks.

At present the young men are affiliated with the C. Y. O., providing the boys with healthy exercise, especially in basketball and baseball. Later on other sport activities will be introduced.

The present officers are: The Rev. Natalis Wellner, O. F. M., spiritual director; Richard Lang, president; Joseph Ecker, vice-president; Emeric Mollner, secretary, and Elmer Meier, treasurer.

The Young Ladies' Sodality

Father Breilkopf organized the young ladies into the St. Caecilia's Society as soon as he became pastor. The charter members numbered some forty or fifty girls. The main purpose of the society was to foster Christian piety and act as a safeguard in protecting the innocence of youth. Father Breilkopf saw in the society a valuable aid in supplying the church choir with new talent, so he decreed from the start that only those girls could sing in the choir, who belonged to the sodality. At the time only girls and young women sang in the choir.

Throughout the long years of its existence, the Young Ladies' Sodality, as a body, has always shown a wonderful spirit, not only of religious fervor in the faithful reception of the Sacraments and in the conducting of sacred functions in church, but also in the managing of its own affairs and social activities.

To see our girls and young ladies approach the Table of the Lord in a body, on their regular Communion Sunday, is certainly a most edifying sight. Anyone who has ever witnessed the opening of the May devotions in St. Joseph's, or the crowning of the May Queen—devotions almost entirely in charge of the Young Ladies' Sodality—can vouch for the admirable spirit and genuine devotion manifested by them.

Other activities sponsored by the Young Ladies' Sodality, providing entertainment for its members, are: A program and banquet in honor of their mothers; on Mothers' Day; a hilarious Christmas party with Santa and all; a Halloween party, and each summer an outdoor picnic. To vary the program a bit, the young ladies, in the fall and winter, join with the young men in presenting several dramatic productions. In season the sodality also goes in for sports, especially basketball and volleyball.

The sodality also has a novel way of honoring its members "embarking upon the sea of matrimony"; each sodality girl who marries receives a beautiful and expensive religious picture to grace the walls of her new home.

The present officers of the sodality are: Miss Theresa Peter, president; Miss Alice Gross, vice-president; Miss Lucille May, secretary; Miss Marie Lang, treasurer; Miss Margaret Laird, marshal; Rev. Natalis Wellnes, O. F. M., spiritual director.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was organized in Omaha, December 28, 1908.

Its object was to form an association of Catholic men for their own spiritual edification first, and second to help their fellow men in their distress, spiritual and corporal.

The society now has conferences in thirty-two parishes of Omaha with a membership of 299. St. Joseph's Conference was one of the first to be organized in the city and at present has a membership of about twenty active members. These men really display the true Vincentian spirit, attending weekly meetings regularly and practicing acts of mercy towards their fellow men.

The conference has eight honorary members who through their contributions take part in all the spiritual benefits of the society.

The funds for dispensing relief to the poor are gathered by the society partly from its members, church collections, and benefactors, partly from the particular funds of each council and from the poor boxes in the various churches.

Activities of the conference consist in giving relief to the poor, in dispensing food, clothing, fuel, rent, medicine, etc. Every cent received by the conference is spent for relief work. About \$350.00 is expended by our society every year, taking care of an average of ten families and numbering about seventy persons. The spiritual work of the conference consists in having neglected children baptized, inducing children to attend a Catholic school, having irregular marriages rectified, in inducing persons to practice their religion after years of neglect, and distributing Catholic literature.

The officers of the St. Joseph's Conference are: Rev. Natalis Wellner, O. F. M., spiritual director; J. M. Nachtigall, president; Fred Hofman and Anton Gross, vice-presidents; Frank Lang, secretary, and A. A. Williams, treasurer.

The Third Order of Saint Francis

The Third Order was founded by St. Francis for the benefit of those Christians, men and women, married and single, who desire to lead a more perfect and holy life in the world. The Third Order has always been recognized by the Church as a valuable aid in combating social evils. While the statesmen of today are battling vainly against a situation that threatens to disrupt the entire social and economic fabric of the world; while legislators are enacting laws under the illusion that men can be forced to be unselfish and just, honest and charitable by law—St. Francis, by placing before the eyes of his followers a concrete vision of Christ, to be used as a model and pattern for their own lives, effectively regenerates the individual and brings him nearer to God.



The Third Order of St. Francis

The Rule of the Third Order is simple; it contains nothing bewildering or puzzling to the plain, ordinary man or woman; it contains nothing harsh, austere or forbidding. All that is required of the aspirant is that he have the spirit of the Love of God in his heart. And everyone who follows its suggestions will advance and rise to a higher state of Christian virtue and perfection—come closer to Christ, our Divine Model. — The Third Order was established in St. Joseph's parish in 1896 and called St. Elizabeth's Confraternity. In 1919 it was reorganized with a membership of 139. At that time the following were appointed officers: Frank Martin, prefect; Mrs. A. Nachtigall, secretary; Mrs. Katherine Chleborad, mistress of novices; Mr. J. M. Nachtigall, counsellor. Father Meinrad, O. F. M., was the spiritual director.

The members of the original confraternity were German-speaking; however, when more and more members joined who had no knowledge of that language, a separate branch was started under the title of St. Clare Confraternity. These two branches were finally merged into one and named St. Clare Confraternity.

Meetings of this Confraternity are held regularly on every first Sunday of the month in St. Joseph's church. The meetings are conducted in English. At present the membership consists of 540 professed members and twenty novices.

The present officers are: Dr. Benjamin J. Haller, prefect; Mr. Anton Martin, vice-prefect; Mr. T. C. Green, master of novices; Mrs. Frank Corrigan,* mistress of novices; Miss Mary Olive Holbrook, recording secretary; Mrs. Patrick J. Byrne, corresponding secretary; Miss Catherine Cuff, financial secretary, and Mrs. Nina Doyle, treasurer.

* * * *

St. Joseph's Choir

St. Joseph's choir was organized about the year 1890. The choir director was Valentine Hohendorf. The membership consisted of men and women. Sister M. Margaret was the organist. In 1904 in compliance with the wishes of the church, the "mixed choir" was done away with and a male choir of about sixteen members organized. Mr. Hohendorf remained as director.



St. Joseph's Male Choir

The present membership consists of the following:

First tenor: Al Sawatzki, Joseph Msesmer, Joseph Koley, Fred Gross, August Stock, A. Goeltl.

Second tenor: Anton Gross, Sr., Oscar Hug, Sr., Oscar Hug, Jr., Egon Kleine, John Haller, Aloys Abersfeller.

First bass: Anton Gross, Jr., Joseph Heck, Henry Leutenegger, Francis Pleiss, Anton Koops.

Second bass: Otto May, Joe Gutchewski, Bernard Pleiss, Edward Hug, Michael Preiner.

The present officers are: Egon Kleine, president; Henry Leutenegger, vice-president; Oscar Hug, Jr., treasurer and secretary; Michal Preiner, director, and Steve Keuchel, organist.

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