

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 121 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



After St. Charles' new Activity Center was built, the schoolyard playground needed work. Fences sagged on bent poles, signs needed to be replaced, and basketball hoops that were lost in the building addition needed to be replaced and installed elsewhere on the playground. During the spring of 2004, St. Charles seventh grader and Boy Scout Mark Zimmermann chose the improvement of the playground as his project to achieve Eagle Scout rank.

Mark did the planning and communicating, secured funding, and oversaw the details of the project. A corner fence post was repaired, unused gates were removed, new fencing mesh was installed, and new basketball standards were put in place. In addition, fresh stripes were painted in the parking areas. With the completion of the project, Mark received national certification as an Eagle Scout in August 2004, shortly before he started eighth grade.

On September 26 St. Charles held its annual fall festival featuring the traditional family-style turkey dinner in Andre Hall. Also available in the school, on the playground, or in the Activity Center were Mexican food, games, the Burlington Lions Club clowns, balloons, candy, arts and crafts, bingo, a bakery and produce sale, raffles, and a silent auction. Live music was provided by The Music Makers and Don Kasperzyk's Rock 'n Roll Express. An automobile and cash raffle offered 62 prizes. The St. Charles Girl Scouts participated in the fall festival for the first time, conducting a mum raffle. The troop donated all of the earnings from the raffle to the parish.

Heading the fall festival was Mrs. Mary LaBadie. Among those heading the volunteers who contributed their time and talent for the various activities were Mrs. Karen Middlecamp, Mrs. Barbara Richter, Mrs. Patricia Lawrence, Mrs. Rita Degen, Mrs. Helen Krismer, Mrs. Victoria Lueck, and Scott and Judy Lois.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan visited Burlington on September 30 to host the first of six regional gatherings held around the Milwaukee Archdiocese to share the vision, goals, and priorities which had been developed in the archdiocesan planning process. Those involved in the process had also focused on parish models for the future, school planning, and needed services from the Archdiocese. Following Archbishop Dolan's presentation, which was held at Catholic Central High School, the audience was invited to ask questions and make comments.

The St. Ann Society's fall rummage sale, chaired by Mrs. Janice Richter, was held on October 30. Proceeds from the sale totaled about \$1,870, thanks to those who contributed items for the event and those who worked to make the event a success. Items not purchased by those attending the sale were donated to the Love Inc. and St. Vincent de Paul charities.

The holiday season was again kicked off with the parish's Santa's Cellar held on the third weekend of November. Mrs. Patricia Lawrence chaired the event, which offered Christmas decorations, crafts of various types, bakery, candy, and pecans.

During Advent the grade school and Religious Education Program students again sponsored an Advent Baby Project, to which parishioners were invited to donate various baby items and products. Many families and Love Inc.'s Transitional Living Center (an emergency shelter) were the recipients of the donations. Also during Advent, two St. Charles graduates, Margaret Middlecamp and Kristina Clapp, collected winter coats to benefit Love Inc. as their Girl Scout Gold Award project.

As 2004 came to an end following the parish's and school's special Christmas season services and activities, the parish books showed that, during the year, there had been 35 Baptisms, 9 marriages, 22 deaths, 52 First Communions, and 22 Confirmations.

Catholic Schools Week in 2005 was celebrated from January 30 to February 4. The theme was *Catholic Schools: Faith in Every Student*. The week started with the 8 a.m. Mass on Sunday, followed by an open house. Special events during the week included a spelling bee, candy sale awards and ice cream treats, Story Teller and Academic Pursuit competition, and a special relay competition in physical education class. The week also included a book fair, and science fair projects were on display. In the science fair, eighth grader Logan Winker won a first-prize ribbon for his investigation into the effects of auditory stimulation on the growth of cabbage plants. His project disproved the conventional wisdom that plants enjoy the company and sounds of humans.

In the Charger Challenge Basketball Tournament held in the Activity Center on two weekends in the latter part of February, the fifth and sixth grade boys teams both won first place in their grade level competitions. The fifth grade girls won third place in their competition. The eighth grade girls team was invited to play in the Padre Serra Invitational Tournament in Milwaukee in March. The team lost in the first round to eventual tournament champion, St. John Vianney of Brookfield.

The sixth grade boys team went on to complete an undefeated season with a 22-0 record and a first place finish in the Waukesha Area Catholic Conference. The team also won all three tournaments in which it participated. In addition to the Charger Challenge, the tournaments were the St. James Tournament in Mukwonago and the Knight Classic in Waukesha. Team members included Kevin Fallon, Nicholas Spiegelhoff, Russell Robers, George Weidert, Jared Schuerman, Andrew Krismer, Adam Golon, Alex Nice, Daniel Ploch, Max Manthei, Jacob Strohm, and Connor Vos. The coaches were Michael Ploch, Michael Spiegelhoff, and Christopher Weidert.

St. Charles held its 28th annual spaghetti dinner fund-raiser on March 5 in Andre Hall. Coordinating the kitchen staff were Mrs. Karen Middlecamp and Mrs. Barbara Richter. Heading the dining room staff was Sarah Wiess.

Hundreds of homeless people in the Burlington area and abroad benefited from a fund-raising campaign held at St. Charles School during Lent. The campaign raised \$575 for Love Inc.'s Transitional Living Center in Burlington and \$1,000 for Sri Lankan tsunami relief through the Take Down the Tsunami project. Teachers Mrs. Sharon Wolf and Mrs. Dawn Raufman helped spearhead the campaign.

The St. Ann Society's spring rummage and bake sale was held in Andre Hall April 2. Thanks to the many people who donated items for the sale and the volunteers who worked at the event under the leadership of Mrs. Janice Richter, the sale raised a total of over \$2,400, including almost \$300 from the bakery booth.

Catholics throughout the world and other people of good will were saddened on April 2 when news came that Pope John Paul II had passed away at age 84 following a lengthy illness. The end came while Saturday was drawing to a close and the Lord's Day was already beginning – the Octave of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Pope had established Divine Mercy Sunday in Jubilee Year 2000 at the Mass for the canonization of his countrywoman, St. Faustina Kowalska, on the Second Sunday of Easter. At that Mass, Pope John Paul II had proclaimed to the world that "from now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday."

The death of John Paul II evoked a remarkable outpouring of affection from around the world and brought many people to Rome, in one of the largest gatherings in the West in modern times. From the evening of April 2 until the Pope's funeral on April 8, more than three million pilgrims came to Rome to pay homage to his mortal remains. Some of them queued up to 24 hours to enter St. Peter's Basilica.

On the day of his funeral, the poor and the powerful joined in a final farewell to Pope John Paul II at a Vatican funeral watched by hundreds of millions of people across the world he had traveled during his lifetime.



The body of Pope John Paul II is blessed during his funeral Mass on April 8, 2005.

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John Paul II

John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, in the Polish town of Wadowice, a small city about 30 miles from Krakow. He was ordained to the priesthood in Krakow on November 1, 1946.

In July 1958 he was appointed Titular Bishop of Ombi and Auxiliary of Krakow by Pope Pius XII. In January 1964 he was appointed Archbishop of Krakow by Pope Paul VI, who made him a Cardinal in June 1967.

His fellow Cardinals elected him Pope at the Conclave of October 16, 1978, and he took the name John Paul II. He inaugurated his Petrine ministry on October 22 as the 263rd successor to Peter. His pontificate was one of the longest in Church history, lasting 26 years and 168 days. Only Pope Pius IX (1846–1878), who served 31 years, had reigned longer. Pope John Paul II was the only Slavic or Polish Pope to that time and was the first non-Italian Pope since Dutch Pope Adrian VI (1522–1523).

Driven by his pastoral solicitude for all Churches and by a sense of openness and charity to the entire human race, John Paul II exercised the Petrine ministry with a tireless missionary spirit. He made 104 pastoral visits outside Italy and 146 within Italy. As bishop of Rome, he visited 317 of the city's 333 parishes.

Pope John Paul II had more meetings than any of his predecessors with the people of God and the leaders of nations. More than 17,600,000 pilgrims participated in the more than 1,160 General Audiences held on Wednesdays, not counting other special audiences and religious ceremonies (more than 8 million pilgrims during the Great Jubilee of the year 2000 alone), and the millions of faithful he met during his pastoral visits in Italy and throughout the world. He also encountered numerous government personalities during official visits, audiences and meetings held with heads of state, and audiences and meetings with prime ministers.

His love for young people brought him to establish the World Youth Days (WYDs). The 19 WYDs celebrated during his pontificate brought together millions of young

people from all over the world. At the same time, his care for the family was expressed in the World Meetings of Families, which he initiated in 1994.

John Paul II successfully encouraged dialogue with the Jews and with the representatives of other religions, whom he several times invited to prayer meetings for peace.

Under his guidance the Church prepared herself for the third millennium and celebrated the Great Jubilee of the year 2000. With the Year of the Redemption, the Marian Year, and the Year of the Eucharist, he promoted the spiritual renewal of the Church.

He gave an extraordinary impetus to canonizations and beatifications, focusing on countless examples of holiness as an incentive for the people of his time. He celebrated 51 canonizations for a total of 482 saints and 147 beatification ceremonies during which he proclaimed 1,338 Blesseds. He made Theresa of the Child Jesus a Doctor of the Church.

He considerably expanded the College of Cardinals, creating 231 Cardinals (plus one “in pectore”) in nine consistories. He also called six full meetings of the College of Cardinals and organized 15 Assemblies of the Synod of Bishops.

His most important documents included 14 Encyclicals, 15 Apostolic Exhortations, 11 Apostolic Constitutions, and 45 Apostolic Letters. He promulgated the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the light of Tradition as authoritatively interpreted by the Second Vatican Council. He also reformed the Eastern and Western Codes of Canon Law, created new Institutions, and reorganized the Roman Curia.



Statue of Blessed John Paul II
at Czestochowa, Poland

He published five books – “Crossing the Threshold of Hope,” “Gift and Mystery: On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination,” “Roman Triptych: Meditations,” “Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way,” and “Memory and Identity: Conversations at the Dawn of a Millennium.”

On April 28, 2005, his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, announced that the normal five-year waiting period before beginning the cause of beatification and canonization would be waived for John Paul II. The cause was officially opened on June 28, 2005, and he was declared “Blessed” on May 1, 2011, with his liturgical feast day first celebrated on October 22 of that year.

(to be continued)