

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 19 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years

1910 - 2010



As 1918 opened, a service flag with sixteen stars proudly floated in front of St. Charles Catholic church, showing that sixteen young men of the congregation were then in Uncle Sam's service. More would follow as the war continued until the armistice went into effect in November.

The parish's annual report was distributed by treasurer Henry J. Pihringer on the second Sunday in January. It showed the congregation to be in good financial condition. Receipts for 1917 amounted to about \$4,900 and the expenditures to about \$4,850, leaving a balance on hand of about \$50. During the year the interior of the church had been decorated at a cost of \$800 and a number of other permanent improvements were made. Pew rent, which brought in \$2,770, was the greatest source of revenue. Also, the St. Ann's Society had turned over to the parish \$1,000 to be used for various purposes.

The parish's religious activities during the first part of 1918 followed the pattern that had been set in preceding years, with the usual Lenten and Eastertime services. Because of coal and food shortages, however, the parish's normal pre-lenten social activities, like the social activities of other groups in the Burlington area, were substantially curtailed. To help conserve food, people were to have two wheatless days each week and one wheatless meal on the other days, and were also to have a porkless day each week, in addition to a meatless day, and one meatless meal on the other days. Sales of sugar and flour were also limited. In April the government commandeered all wheat held by farmers, except seed wheat. It also commandeered Bull Durham cigarettes and Duke's Mixture pipe tobacco.

The school children's Memorial Day routine continued as it had been carried out in earlier years. They joined the Burlington Harmony Band, the Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans, the Women's Relief Corps, and the Boy Scouts in the procession to St. Mary's Cemetery where a short program was held and the veterans' graves were decorated.

A class of nineteen young people received their First Holy Communion at St. Charles on Sunday, May 26, with Rev. Philipp Dreis administering the sacrament at the 8 o'clock low Mass. Those in the class were:

Eleanor Dallinger	Marion Riel	Ida Sommers	Frederick Warren
Calista Gawin	Marie Kornhoff	Cyril Spiegelhoff	George Weiler
Amanda Henningfield	Robert Partee	Florence Wagner	Bernard Wilmer
Anthony Huebner	Rose Prott	Robert Wagner	Francis Yambor
Mollie Isferding	Robert Rossmiller	Louis Wanasek	

The annual graduation exercises were held in St. Charles hall on Sunday evening, June 16. The 1918 class, which numbered twenty-five, were given their diplomas by Father Dreis, who also delivered the address of the evening. The class motto was "Serve and Save," the class colors, white and blue, and the class flower, the red rose. Those receiving diplomas were:

Loyola Alby	Albert Ebbers	Veronica Isferding	Philip Rose
George F. Bauman	Gladys Forge	Francis Klein	Joseph Uhen
Hildegard Bauman	Mildred Grosstueck	Millicent McCarthy	Rose Ward
Viola Baumeister	Arthur Finke	Florence Meyer	Arthur Warren
Evelyn Bushman	Lester J. Harding	Harold Reuschlein	Daniel Wegge
Cyrilla DeGrave	Leonard Henningfield	Helen Rewald	Frank Wisniewski
Harold DeGrave			

Later in June, the school children held their annual picnic on the Ebbers grounds at Bohner's Lake.

The congregation's annual harvest festival was held Thursday, August 22, on St. Charles lawn. The men sold farm products and the ladies had apron and war baking booths. A war time luncheon and ice cream were served.

Also in August St. Charles parish was heavily involved in organizing a Burlington chapter of the Chaplains' Aid society for war work. The chapter, which was the only one of its kind in the Milwaukee archdiocese, had as its object the supplying of chaplains in the armed services with those religious articles necessary to their work among the soldiers and sailors in the cantonments and along the zone of battle in France. Chaplains appointed by the government received a certain remuneration from that source, and those sent by the Knights of Columbus were paid a certain allowance by that organization. However, articles required for saying Mass and carrying out other religious activities needed to be provided from other sources, and that was the object of the Chaplains' Aid chapter.

At a meeting held at St. Charles hall, the chapter elected the following officers: honorary president - Archbishop Sebastian Messmer, president - Rev. Philipp Dreis, secretary - Lillian Bushman, treasurer - Lucy Itzin, and board of directors - Barbara Schmitt, Daniel Warren, and Louis Wagner. The chapter solicited needed materials from the general public, with linens, old and new, of a variety of sizes particularly desired. In its first year, the chapter provided 11 pieces of altar linen, 2 long altar cloths, 40 corporals, 30 chalice cloths, 15 finger towels, 14 small corporals, 9 ablution cloths, 22 amices, 250 rosaries, 34 purificators, 27 palls, 2 sick call cases, 58 trench kit altar cloths, 200 religious pictures, and numerous crucifixes and scapular medals.

On Sunday, October 13, for the first time since Burlington became a settlement in the 1830s, churches were closed. Complying with the order of the local board of health prohibiting all indoor meetings during the Spanish influenza epidemic, no indoor services were held. However,



Because of the Spanish influenza epidemic, Father Dreis held Mass outside the church on Sunday, October 13, 1918.

St Mary's held outdoor services at the chapel in the cemetery and St. Charles held services on the lawn adjoining the church. Services were suspended by the other Burlington churches.

On November 17, a little over a month later, an impressive service was carried out at St. Charles when a thanksgiving service was held in honor of the declaring of peace on November

11 and a service flag with sixty-seven stars was dedicated for members of the congregation in the nation's fighting forces. The room was decorated with chrysanthemums and the national colors.

A splendid musical program was given. Two vocal solos by Burlington native, Lafayette Stone, a graduate of the Wisconsin College of Music; two violin solos by parish member, Lillian Bushman; and several choir selections under the direction of Mrs. Mary Smolensky were fully appreciated. Father Dreis in a stirring patriotic talk told of the successful carrying out of our ideals in the world and the duty that loomed ahead for every citizen.

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Archbishop Messmer confirmed large classes at both St. Mary's and St. Charles. The day was especially noteworthy at St. Mary's for it was her patron's feast. The class there was confirmed in the forenoon. Archbishop Messmer pleasantly surprised the members of St. Mary's when he announced in the morning that he would conduct a special service that evening with a sermon on the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was greeted in the evening by a very large crowd and the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament closed the great feast day of St. Mary's congregation.

The services at St. Charles were held at 3 o'clock that afternoon when Archbishop Messmer administered the holy sacrament of Confirmation to the following:

Marie Alby	Clara Gerloff	William Martin	Henry Sommers
George Bauman	Lester Harding	John McCarthy	Evelyn Spiegelhoff
Hildegard Bauman	Wyota Harding	Russell O'Neill	Ralph Spiegelhoff
Ralph Bauman	Ralph Henningfield	Dorothy Partee	Joseph Uhen
Christian Beuthling	Margaret Hoelz	Louisa Paulsen	Evelyn Vos
Helen Beuthling	Anthony Huebner	Wilhelmina Paulsen	Herbert Wagner
Harold Boulden	Carolina Huebner	Catherine Prott	Marie Wagner
Carol Bushman	William Huebner	Edward Reesman	Florence Wanasek
Evelyn Bushman	Leo Isferding	Harold Reuschlein	Robert Warren
John Cunningham	Michael Janczak	Lorraine Reuschlein	Myrtle Weiler
Lucille David	Eleanor Ketterhagen	Anthony Rewald	Romana Weinman
Cyrilla DeGrave	Esther Klein	Charles Rewald	Irene Weyrough
Genevieve Delano	Agnes Koenen	Kenneth Riel	George Winsall
Arthur Ebbers	Edward Koenen	Agnes Rossmiller	Victor Woeste
Rudolph Eckert	Albert Kornhoff	Alma Rueter	George Yopp
Oliver Finke	Florence Kornhoff	Evelyn Schneider	Ralph Yopp
John Forge	James Mangold		

In 1919 St. Charles' winter and pre-lenten social activities returned to their pre-war routine. Religious and school activities for the first part of the year followed the pattern of previous years, with the usual Lenten and Eastertime services and the school children's participation in the city's Memorial Day ceremonies.

On Sunday, June 8, a class of thirty-two received their First Communion. Those in the class were:

Elizabeth Albright	Margaret David	Irving Isferding	Leonore Prash
Alphonse Alby	Elliot DeGrave	Ruth Klein	Dorothy Reesman
Gardis Ball	Dorothy Ebbers	Andrew Koenen	Edmund Rossmiller
Evelyn Bauman	Esther Eckert	Dorothy Koenen	Lucille Schneider
Waldo Bauman	Frederick Forge	Charles Kornhoff	Marian Sobbe
William Beuthling	Helen Forge	Maurice Litzler	Joseph Surges
Herbert Chesick	Arthur Gawin	Edward Meyer	Oswald Wagner
Dorothy Cunningham	Francis Gerloff	Marcella Partee	Eva Wendling

A class of twenty young people graduated from St. Charles school on Sunday, June 15, in exercises held in the church hall. The class had as its motto "Our Faith and Our Flag;" the white rose was the class flower; and red, white, and blue, the class colors. Following a short program, which included a talk by Father Dreis, diplomas were presented to the following:

Marie Alby	C. John Forge	Dorothy Partee	Robert Surges
Ralph Bauman	Mamie Gawin	Cletus Prasch	Herbert Wagner
Mary Busch	Margaret Hoelz	Edward Reesman	Myrtle Weiler
Rudolph Eckert	Esther Klein	John McCarthy	Romana Weinman
Esther Finke	Agnes Koenen	Ralph Spiegelhoff	George Yopp

On the following Sunday, the parish celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Father Dreis' ordination to the priesthood. Friends and relatives, fellow priests, and citizens of all creeds and in all walks of life joined in doing him honor. The day included a solemn high Mass, dinner and supper for guests in the church hall, and tours of the city in parishioners' automobiles in the afternoon.

During the afternoon a fine new Dort automobile was driven up to Father Dreis' door and, to his surprise, he was told it was his with the best wishes from members of the congregation. He was also given a substantial cash purse and received many other gifts for himself and the church. They represented the high regard in which he was held by all.

The feature of the day was the reception at the church hall in the evening. Denominational lines were forgotten and the hall was crowded to capacity. John T. Prasch presided over an excellent program that included musical numbers by the St. Charles choir, concert pianist William Beller, singer Katherine Mathews, and violinist Lillian Bushman. Addresses were given by Daniel A. Warren (see No. 7 of this series) and city attorney Charles O. Bergener, who gave a splendid talk on the history of the Catholic Church and the part it had played in the world's history.

His voice trembling with emotion, Father Dreis expressed his gratitude over the felicitations tendered him on his silver jubilee as a priest. He extended his sincere thanks to every member and friend of the congregation for the part they had played in making the day such a pleasant one for him and the hearty co-operation the congregation had always given him in the work of the church. He said he was deeply touched by the homage that had been paid him.

On Sunday, June 29, about eighty members of the St. Ann's Cadets, of Milwaukee, a uniformed organization of boys between the ages of ten and fifteen, marched from their camp at the Oak Park resort (now the site of the Island View condominiums) at Brown's Lake to Burlington to attend the 7 o'clock Mass at St. Charles church in a body. They were a clean cut manly crowd of boys and many Burlington people watched them in drills or at play during the three days they camped at the resort.

During the summer and fall, several socials were held, including one on the lawn of the William Warren residence on the Kenosha road (now Highway 142) by the St. Agnes sodality; an ice cream social on the Knights of Columbus lawn by the St. Ann's society; and the parish's annual harvest festival and a couple of card parties in the church hall.



The congregation presented Father Dreis with a Dort automobile at the silver jubilee of his ordination.

(to be continued)