

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 22 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



The 1922 graduation exercises took place in St. Charles church on Sunday evening, June 18. On the previous Monday, Rev. Philipp Dreis and the teachers - Sister M. Ildephons, Sister M. Hortense, and Sister M. Anita - had accompanied the graduation class to Milwaukee where they visited the public museum and Washington Park. The group went in automobiles driven by Father Dreis, Miss Florence Mutchler, Albert Spiegelhoff, and George A. Weiler. On the Thursday evening before graduation, the graduates, together with the seventh grade, presented a musical and recitation program in the church hall. The graduating class chose "Knowledge With Faith" as its motto, American Beauty and white as its class colors, and the American Beauty rose as its class flower. The twenty-three graduates awarded diplomas were:

Waldo Bauman	Bernice Lohaus	Marion Riel	Lawrence Trimberger
Margaret David	Anthony Mutchler	Robert Rossmiller	Florence Wagner
Floyd Edwards	Carlos Mutchler	Harold Schneider	Robert Wagner
Liola Harding	Robert Partee	Ida Sommers	Frederick Warren
Amanda Henningfield	Rose Prott	Cyril Spiegelhoff	George M. Weiler
Marie Kornhoff	Alma Rewald	Clarence Trimberger	

The next day the St. Charles' students enjoyed their annual school picnic at the Ebbers' cottage at Bohner's Lake.

The annual alumni banquet was held on Thursday, June 22, in the church hall. The hall was decorated with gold and lavender crepe paper, combined with flowers and foliage. The banquet, which was served to about one hundred and seventy-five people, was followed by the business meeting and program. At the business meeting, Eleanor Eckert was elected president for the coming year, with George Weiler, vice president; Gladys Forge, secretary; and Anthony Rewald, treasurer.

Miss Eleanor Reinardy, acting as toastmistress, conducted the program which opened with the president's address by Harold Reuschlein; a welcome to the Class of '22 by Philip Rose; and the response by George Weiler. After a song by a quartette composed of Adolph and Joseph Woeste, Dr. Charles J. Reinardy, and Anthony J. Finke, short talks were given by Father Dreis, Sister Mary Hortense, Leo J. Warren, Anthony J. Finke, Lester W. Coughlin, Colista Elderbrook, Dr. Charles J. Reinardy, Miss Nell Jacobson, and Cecil Hurtgen.

Anthony Olinger, of Waukesha, accompanied by Miss Laurretta Uhen at the piano, then rendered several vocal selections which were the musical treat of the evening. The guests were more than delighted with Mr. Olinger's clear baritone voice. Some of the members of the alumni then presented a farce comedy in one act, "Waiting for the Trolley," after which Mr. Olinger conducted community singing. Everyone then went to the Knights of Columbus hall where the rest of the evening was spent in dancing to music furnished by the high school orchestra.

The ladies of St. Charles held a harvest festival at the church on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, August 29. Fancy work and home baking were sold, and there was a chicken supper served. A roast chicken supper was also served as part of the Hallowe'en Carnival held in the hall on October 26. And on December 14 and 15, a Christmas sale was held featuring aprons, towels, dolls, canned fruit, home baking, cakes, candy, and pies. Included was an old fashioned "kaffee klatch" and a "real" Santa Claus on Thursday afternoon; a movie, "Around the World in 60 Minutes," on Thursday evening, and an oyster stew supper on Friday evening.

St. Charles school opened on Wednesday, September 6, for the year's work. There was one teacher change, Sister Rosalia taking the place of Sister Ignatia in the primary department.

At the end of October, it was reported that the congregation's new brick veneer parsonage of colonial design was nearing completion. The paper described the new building as follows:

"The parsonage contains fourteen major rooms so arranged as to lend the necessary privacy to the pastor's suite, the assistant pastor's suite, guests' rooms, and the house keeper's apartment. Other rooms are as follows: Office and waiting room; dining room, butler's pantry, three beautiful bathrooms, and two sun rooms with excellent exposures. The 200-barrel cistern supplies hot and cold soft water to all plumbing fixtures. Each library contains a simple brick and stone fireplace. Ample storage closets are provided throughout the building.

"The interior is trimmed in plain oak and dull ivory. The built-in features include beamed ceilings, wood cornices, beautiful open stairs, a buffet and several other cabinets."

The paper added that "The parsonage for St. Charles people is of ample size to accommodate a future assistant pastor which reduces the need of larger church buildings."

Christmas was observed with the usual three Masses. Solemn high Mass was read at 5 a.m., followed by an English sermon; low Mass at 8 o'clock; and high Mass at 10 o'clock, followed by a German sermon. There was special Christmas music by the choir at all services.



*St. Charles' Parsonage*

Day of Resurrection to Be Observed  
In All of the Burlington Churches

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Day Brings Promise of New Life

Just over the threshold of silent night, that is filled with the rush of angels' wings, waits the dawn of the holy day – Easter – the Awakening – joy after sorrow – peace after pain.

From the churches, chimes will swing out their songs of gladness. Out from the pipes of mighty organs will roll the triumphant Easter anthems. "Lift up your heads, ye heavenly gates," the choirs will sing.

Churches will be filled with flowers that have blossomed just for the day – insignia of love and beauty and hope fulfilled.

At the base of holy statues, freed from their coverings of gloom; from altar and chancel, roses and lilies and hyacinths will breathe out their perfume till the atmosphere of the holy places is heavy with their fragrance.

It is the day of flowers and music and gladness.

Over all the Christian world will float the songs of Resurrection and Life – over all, the triumphant strain, "Oh grave, where is thy victory?"

Burlington churches will unite with those of the world in the glad season of rejoicing. Special services will be held throughout the city.

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The schedule at St. Charles Catholic church is:  
Good Friday - Mass at 9 a.m. and Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday - Ceremony at 7 a.m. Mass at 9 a.m.

Easter Sunday - Regular Masses at 8 and 10 a.m.  
Special Easter music.

*Standard Democrat, March 30, 1923*

Father Dreis and his sisters, Anna and Catherine, moved into the new parsonage early in January 1923.

Of great interest to St. Charles parishioners, St. Mary's held a general parish meeting on March 20 where the matter of a Catholic high school came up for discussion. After a forceful speech by Professor Richard O'Hanlon, of Milwaukee, on the importance of a religious education, it was decided unanimously that steps be taken for the immediate erection of a suitable building.

Following several pre-Lenten social activities, the usual Lenten and Easter services were carried out, including Forty Hours devotions at which Rev. E. B. Schiefen, of St. Mary's, Dover, assisted.

Rev. Schiefen was again at St. Charles on May 1 when he was a guest at a dinner and program given by the entertainment section of the St. Agnes Sodality in honor of Father Dreis' namesday (*see box at right*). Other guests were Rev. A. P. Kraus, of St. Francis Xavier, Brighton, and former St. Joseph, Lyons, pastor, Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand, of Random Lake.

*Until 1955 the feast of St. Philip and his fellow Apostle, St. James, was celebrated on May 1, the anniversary of the dedication to those two Apostles of a church in Rome. That church is now called the Church of the Twelve Apostles. In 1955 Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Workman for celebration on May 1 and the feast of Sts. Philip and James was moved to the nearest free day, which at that time was May 11. With the 1969 revision of the General Roman Calendar, May 3 became free and the feast of Sts. Philip and James was moved to that day.*

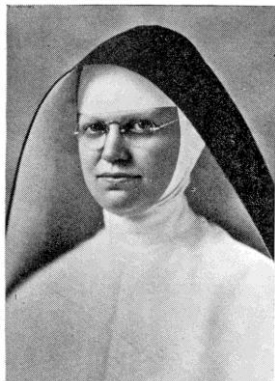
As the 1922-1923 school year was coming to a close, Father Dreis, the Sisters, and the eighth grade graduating class traveled to Milwaukee on May 26 to visit Washington Park and the Milwaukee museum. The graduating class also joined with the seventh grade on June 14 to give an entertainment, open to the public, at St. Charles hall. A two act play entitled "The Prize Essay," was staged by the girls of the graduating class while the boys dramatized "The Emancipation Proclamation." A selection of classical poems was presented by the seventh grade. Songs and original selections formed the remainder of the program.

About thirty-five St. Charles pupils won individual prizes in the nature study contest sponsored by the conservation committee of the Woman's Study Club. In addition, the fifth and sixth grades of St. Charles were awarded a set of 106 bird plates in color and the eighth grade received a set of twenty-four tree plates with descriptive notes.

The 1923 graduation exercises were held in St. Charles church on Sunday, June 17. The class motto was "Loyalty;" the class colors, blue and white; and the class flower, the Columbia rose. Father Dreis delivered the address and presented diplomas to the following graduates:

Evelyn Bauman	Helen Forge	Maurice Litzler	Dorothy Reesman
John Russell Beix	Mollie Isferding	Francis Meurer	Lucille Schneider
Dorothy Cunningham	Ruth Klein	Edward Meyer	Margaret Stanley
Esther Eckert	Dorothy Koenen	Lenore Prasch	Francis Yambor
Frederick Forge			

Two members of the class went into the religious life. J. Russell Beix was ordained in 1935. Dorothy Koenen, after graduating from St. Mary's high school in 1927, entered the Dominican convent in Racine in 1928 and professed in 1931, taking the name Sister Mary Linus. The daughter



Sister Dorothy Koenen  
(Sister Mary Linus)

of Henry and Mary, nee Schuerman, Koenen, Dorothy was born June 5, 1908, near Twin Lakes and was baptized at St. Alphonsus in New Munster. The family moved to a farm at Norton's Lake (now the site of Burlington High School) in 1916.

*Two of Sister Dorothy Koenen's brothers, Francis and Herbert, are current members of St. Charles. Both graduated from St. Charles school as did their deceased siblings - sister, Agnes Koenen Wisnefski, '19, and brothers, Edward, '20, Andrew, '24, and Leonard, '37.*

Sister Linus taught for 13 years at St. Catherine's high school in Racine and at schools in Green Bay and Detroit. From 1944 to 1970 she was coordinator-assistant of facilities for the elderly in Racine, Oconomowoc, and Pewaukee, Wisconsin, and in Evansville, Indiana. During six of those years, she was superior of the Sister staff members of the Dominican House of Studies, River Forest, Illinois.

In 1970 Sister Linus moved to Siena Center, Racine, where she was an assistant in St. Catherine's Sisters Infirmary. She retired in 1988 and celebrated her 60th anniversary as a Racine Dominican in 1991. She died December 9, 1992.

The annual alumni banquet was held in the church hall on Tuesday, June 19. The hall was decorated with purple and gold streamers of crepe paper and bright colored balloons, and bouquets of roses and peonies. At the business meeting, Leo J. Warren was elected president; Maurice Litzler, vice president; and Mrs. Hildegard Weinman Block, secretary and treasurer. The alumni adopted the Ophelia rose as the alumni flower. They also elected Rev. Joseph Barbian, of St. Francis, as the first honorary member of the association. Rev. Barbian, the head of the Milwaukee Archdiocese's educational system, was a brother of Mrs. Theresa Schmitt of Burlington. Following the banquet, served to about one hundred twenty-five guests, and the program, the alumni went to

the Knights of Columbus clubhouse where dancing to the music of Cook's orchestra took up the remainder of the evening.

During July the St. Agnes Sodality held a home baking sale at the Badger Cash Market on the corner of Chestnut and Geneva Streets (now the corner of Chestnut Street and Milwaukee Avenue where the Johnson Bank is located); the choir members had an outing at Holy Hill; Andrew Kayser and son Fred decorated the interior walls of St. Charles school; and the school baseball team split a two-game series with the Little Giants of the public school, winning the first game 14 to 5 and a few days later, after adopting "Midgets" as the team name, losing to the Little Giants 7 to 6.

The annual harvest festival given by the married and young women of St. Charles attracted a big crowd to the church hall on Tuesday, August 28. A chicken supper was served and aprons, fancy work, candy, and home baking was sold.

Also at the end of August, the Sisters moved into their new home, the former parsonage. After Rev. Dreis moved into the new parsonage, extensive improvements and alterations were made, fitting his former quarters for the Sisters. The room in the main church building, which the Sisters had occupied since the school first started in 1910, now became available for school purposes, as originally intended.

St. Charles school opened on Wednesday, September 5, with an attendance of 150. Of the four teachers, there were two new ones. Sister Mary Leona and Sister Mary DeLourdes succeeded Sister Mary Anita and Sister Mary Ildephonse.

On September 6 St. Mary's started its four-year high school course while also continuing its two-year Commercial course which it had first offered in 1920. In announcing the four-year course, St. Mary's pastor, Rev. Joseph Van Treeck, said that the course was open not only to the children of the Catholic Faith, but to all who believed in a Christian education. The Commercial and high school classes were held in the former St. Sebastian's church building, which the parish had bought from the St. Eustachius Benevolent Society.

On Wednesday, November 7, Father Edward J. Flanagan's boys from Omaha, Nebraska, gave two performances at the Burlington opera house. The troupe consisted of a twenty-piece band, an orchestra, boy soloists, orators, and comedians. With the exception of Father Flanagan, the entire performance was given by the boys. No admission fee was charged. A matinee was given at 4 o'clock for school children. No children were admitted to the evening performance.

In the several weeks before Christmas, St. Ann's Society held a couple of card parties and the ladies of the parish held a Christmas sale of fancy work and useful articles. Along with the Christmas sale, a pancake supper with home made pork sausage and apple sauce was served.

In announcing Christmas services, St. Charles said that the usual Masses would be offered - a solemn high Mass at 5 o'clock Christmas morning, with a sermon; low Mass at 8 o'clock; and solemn high Mass at 10 o'clock, followed by a sermon. This was the first year that the announcement of Christmas services at St. Charles did not specify an English sermon after the 5 o'clock Mass and a German sermon after the 10 o'clock Mass.

*(to be continued)*