

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 23 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



1924 started with the school children enjoying an extended Christmas season as their Christmas party in St. Charles hall was held the first week in January when they returned to classes. In the following weeks, the various church groups held their usual social functions and annual meetings. The St. Agnes Sodality was especially active as the young ladies of the parish held a card party and basket social, a Valentine's party, and a "Birthday" dinner party.

At the basket social, Frank Christien was auctioneer for the baskets, the highest bringing \$40, which was put up by the ladies in the St. Charles choir. The best single basket brought \$5. In all, about forty-five baskets were sold. At the "Birthday" dinner party, twelve tables were set up, each one representing a month in the year. This enabled each of the 130 or so attendees to celebrate their birthdays. The tables were prettily decorated by the hostesses and the music was furnished by the high school orchestra. After dinner, five hundred was played.

On the first Sunday in February, Rev. Philipp Dries, Albert David and daughters, Margaret and Lucille, Misses Mary and Hannah Warren, James and John Warren, Mr. and Mrs. William Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Spiegelhoff, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beix, and Mrs. Henry J. Naber of Waterford, attended the celebration of the first Mass and reception of Rev. Edmund Goebel at Father Dreis' former parish in Caledonia. Rev. Goebel, whose mother's maiden name was Rose Babe, was later Superintendent of Schools in the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

In April two special cars on the interurban electric railroad took over 100 people from Burlington to Milwaukee to witness the performance of the Passion Play at the Pabst theatre. The play was staged by Milwaukee societies and the local people were thrilled at the portrayal of the holy story. Both local Catholic churches participated in the excursion.

On the Tuesday after Easter, the St. Charles Alumni Association added another to their series of successes in home talent productions when they more than pleased a capacity crowd at the Burlington opera house with the comedy, "Assisted by Sadie." The play, which hinged around the theft of a \$20,000 pearl necklace and its subsequent thefts and the efforts of various people to discover the thief, was one well adapted to the proven talents of the young people. According to the Standard Democrat, the Alumni plays were becoming an annual event in Burlington and each succeeding one seemed better than the last.

A class of nineteen received First Holy Communion on Sunday, June 15. Those in the class were:

Richard Beix	Mary Ebbers	Francis Kretschmer	Louis Rossmiller
Alberta Bushman	Rosemary Forge	Dorothy Lehsten	Albert Schranz
Robert Cook	Edward Grueter	Helen Lohaus	Rosalind Steinhoff
Gertrude David	Florence Isferding	Mary Moe	Francis Weis
Charles Ebbers	Rosella Kornhoff	John Reynolds	

At exercises held in St. Charles church on Tuesday, June 17, twelve students received their diplomas. They had spent the previous day on their class trip to Milwaukee with Father Dreis. The class of 1924 chose "Truth and Virtue" for its motto and purple and gold for its colors. The graduates were:

Elizabeth Albright	Herbert Chesick	Andrew Koenen	Joseph Surges
Mark Bauman	Dorothy Ebbers	Alice McCormack	Oswald Wagner
William Beuthling	Norma Ketterhagen	Irene Richter	Margaret Warren

In connection with the graduation exercises, Palmer penmanship certificates were awarded to:

Elizabeth Albright	William Beuthling	Rose Klein	Andrew Rossmiller
Mark Bauman	Helen Grossman	Everett Reinardy	Coletta Rossmiller
Ruth Beix	Kathryn Hoppe	William Rewald	John Sommers
Evelyn Beuthling	Charles Isferding		

St. Charles' students also did well in the nature study contest conducted by the conservation committee of the Woman's Study club. In addition to several individual students winning monetary prizes, the seventh and eighth grades were awarded a Wild Flower portfolio of 265 colored plates; the fifth and sixth grades were awarded the Wild Flower book of the Little Nature Library set, and the third and fourth grades were awarded the Bird Book of the same set.

On June 19, over 150 people attended the Alumni Association's eighth annual reunion and banquet at St. Charles hall. President Leo Warren presided at the business meeting where the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: president - Leonard Partee, vice president - Charles Rewald, and secretary-treasurer - Evelyn Bushman.

At the banquet, singing was led by Anthony Olinger, of Waukesha, and a feature was a solo "To St. Charles" composed and sung by Harold Reuschlein. John Forge acted as toastmaster. Cyril Spiegelhoff welcomed the new class and the response was made by Andrew Koenen. Short talks were given by Sister Hortense, Fred Ebbers, Eleanor Eckert, Anthony Itzin, Harold Reuschlein, Rev. John Heuel, Father Dreis, and Leo Warren. Following the banquet, the attendees repaired to Weiler's hall (in the Pine Street building now housing Country Home Center) where the remainder of the evening was spent in dancing.

Toward the end of June, Father Dreis was among the out of town priests present at the silver jubilee celebration of Rev. Edward B. Schiefen at St. Mary's church at Dover. Arthur and Everett Reinardy of St. Charles provided two violin selections for the occasion.

The annual harvest festival was held on Thursday, August 28, in St. Charles hall. A chicken dinner was served, home baking was sold, and there was a booth selling useful articles. On the previous Sunday, Catholics in the Milwaukee archdiocese, at the request of Archbishop Sebastian Messmer, had offered prayers for settled weather so that remaining crops would be saved and further damage to property would be averted. Earlier that month, devastating wind and rain storms had caused extensive damage to crops and property.

On September 19 a troupe of sixteen boys selected from the 280 boys at Father Flanagan's home for abandoned and wayward boys at Omaha, Nebraska, appeared at the opera house. (Another group from the home had performed the previous November.) They presented a minstrel show and gave a band concert in the afternoon for the children and again at night for the adults. The troupe that visited Burlington was one of two which traveled through the country in the interest of the Father Flanagan home. Before the shows at the opera house, the boys paraded

#### To St. Charles

To St. Charles do we pledge our devotion and love,  
Shaping lives of her daughters and sons,  
With a dignity born of a Power above,  
Growing ever as time's course is run,  
O, Heir of the glory of struggle-filled days,  
Let thy spirit be proud as of old,  
For thou shalt find blessing and honor and praise,  
In our love for the Purple and Gold.

We shall sing and be glad with the days as they fly,  
In the time that we spend in thy halls,  
And in sadness we'll part when the days have gone by,  
And our paths turn away from thy walls,  
"Knowledge with Faith" from thy fountain shall flow,  
Till the stars of the heavens grow cold;  
And ever we sing of the debt that we owe,  
And our love for the Purple and Gold.

BHarold G. Reuschlein, '18.

Burlington streets in martial style. On the farm where the home was located, the boys were learning the broom-making trade, which at that time was the only trade being taught.

Sunday, November 9, was Confirmation day at the Catholic churches in Burlington. Impressive ceremonies were held at St. Mary's in the forenoon and at St. Charles in the afternoon. The Rt. Rev. Joseph G. Pinten, D.D., bishop of Superior, administered the sacrament in the absence of Archbishop Messmer, who had not fully recovered from a recent illness. Eighty-four were confirmed at St. Mary's. At St. Charles the following fifty-eight were confirmed:

Alphonse Alby	Margaret Forge	Norma Ketterhagen	Arthur Reinardy
Herbert Alby	Elizabeth Gerloff	Joseph Klein	Francis Reuschlein
Catherine Bauman	Helen Grossman	Charles Kornhoff	Leander Rewald
Mrs. Ida Anna Bauman	Cecelia Grueter	Alma Krift	William Rewald
Mark Bauman	Edward Grueter	Maurice Litzler	Irene Richter
Ruth Beix	Delos Hoffman	Helen Marck	Andrew Rossmiller
Mrs. Florence Bennett	Laverne Hoffman	Clarence Martin	Albert Schranz
Herman Clausen	Kathryn Hoppe	Helen McCormack	Arthur Schranz
Francis Cook	Marie Huening	Mary McCourt	John Sommers
Andrew David	Pearl Huening	Florence McManus	Catherine Steinhoff
Joseph David	Genevieve Huth	Alois Nienhaus	Aloysius VandeSand
Elliott DeGrave	Charles Isferding	Margaret O'Neil	Cecil Vos
Dorothy Ebbers	Francis Isferding	Aloysius Partee	Oswald Wagner
Monica Eckert	Elmer Ketterhagen	Marcella Partee	Margaret Warren
Frederick Forge	Emil Ketterhagen		

St. Ann's Society had its annual pre-Christmas bazaar at the church on December 3. Home baking and articles of fancy work were sold during the afternoon. In the evening, a cafeteria supper was served. The menu consisted of sauer kraut and spare ribs, potato salad and wieners, pancakes and homemade pork sausage, chili, pies, cakes, and other items.

Music lovers of the city enjoyed an organ recital on Sunday, December 7, when St. Charles' new pipe organ was dedicated. Despite rain and mist, a large number who had been looking forward for several weeks to hearing artists of note, attended the dedication. The organist was Otto Singenberger, choir master and organist at St. John's Cathedral, Milwaukee, and professor of Gregorian chant at St. Francis Seminary. According to the Standard Democrat, the fine instrument, the skilled artist, and the splendid acoustics of the church combined in making the recital one of the high points in the musical history of the city. Vocal selections by Anthony Olinger, baritone, and Henry Meurer, tenor, both of Waukesha, went to make the program more complete. In addition, members of the St. Charles choir, under the direction of Miss Laurretta Uhen, entertained with several chorus compositions.

Christmas was observed at St. Charles with the usual three Masses and special Christmas music. The Christmas program for the school children was again held after school re-opened in January 1925. According to a "St. Charles School Notes" column,

"The time from 10 to 12 o'clock was spent in playing games and in having a general good time.

There was plenty of noise and fun. The tree was quite a surprise this year for it was trimmed with bags of candy. At noon each child tripped off with a bag."

The column added that two new pupils, Elizabeth and Beatrice Heintskill, had enrolled, bringing the school's enrollment to 164. In March John and Gloria Reynolds enrolled.

Thereafter, a "St. Charles School Notes" column appeared in several issues of the local papers. The columns chronicled not only educational activities in the various classes, but also some of the extra-curricular activities, such as:

–The students chose “St. Charles Best” as the name of the school paper, with Alois Nienhaus elected editor-in-chief and Arthur Reinardy business manager.

– “The Loyal Thirty” was voted to be the name of a school club, with Monica Eckert elected as mission box captain for the girls and Clarence Martin for the boys.

– The seventh and eighth grades went on a mission drive during the month of January. The boys brought in the sum of \$6.93, and the girls \$3.21. Some of the money was raised through the baling and selling of paper.

– At a February meeting of The Loyal Thirty club, a students’ council was elected. The members were Joseph Klein, Laverne Hoffman, Alois Neinhaus, Arthur Reinardy, and John Sommers.

At the end of February, the Alumni Association announced it would present its annual play at the opera house on April 28. Earlier in February about eighty of the association’s members had enjoyed a Valentine-theme dancing party at the Knights of Columbus hall. In March the association’s play committee announced it had selected “Am I Intruding” as its 1925 play. Miss Myrtle Weiler and Victor Woeste were to take the leading parts, with the supporting cast consisting of Misses Florence Wanasek, Colista Elderbrook, Marcella Christien, Florence Wagner, and Eleanor Eckert, along with Edward Cook, James Mangold, Arthur Ketterhagen, Rudolph Eckert, and Charles Rewald. Father Dreis was the director.

In April the “School Notes” column mentioned that the Women’s Relief Corps had donated an outdoor flag and three beautifully framed pictures illustrating battles of the civil war to the school. According to the “Notes,” the pictures were “especially interesting at this time since the civil war has been just recently studied.”

In its review of the alumni play on April 28, the Standard Democrat said that the play

“. . . proved to be a clever, entertaining and well acted farce. Without exception the actors lived their play parts and the various roles were taken in a manner that brought out the full comedy of them. Vic Woeste in the leading role scored a special hit.

“Special presentations between the acts added a great deal to the evening’s entertainment. Artistic costumes, picturesque dances and lovely music made a decided hit and special credit must be given to Harold Reuschlein and Loretta Ebbers for their part in the delightful program.

“All in all it was the best entertainment ever put on by the St. Charles Alumni.”

The alumni also presented the play at the Memorial hall in Brighton on May 8. All of the original cast and the special features which were given between acts were staged at the Brighton hall.

Example of a “St. Charles School Notes” column. This one is from the Standard Democrat of April 24, 1925.

Monday the seventh grade wrote on a test in history. It covered the work of the revolutionary war.

Saturday, April 11, St. Charles played the Hillside team. The score was 12 to 7 in St. Charles' favor.

A fund of twenty-five dollars was raised by the pupils of St. Charles and sent to the tornado stricken district.

Last Friday the slides were shown on some of the countries in Europe recently studied. On Wednesday a test will be given on the continent of Europe.

A civics poster has been placed on the board in the grammar grade room. It shows in a very graphic way the process a bill goes through before it becomes a law. The study of it was very interesting and instructive.

A set of art cards picturing the flowers which should not be picked have been given to the school by the Woman's Study club. They are much appreciated.

Last Friday the suits and baseball equipment arrived for the first team at St. Charles. The suits are very attractive and are gray trimmed with red. The various mitts, knee-guards, chest guards, etc., were the subject of much favorable comment by the boys when the boxes were opened. The Sacred Heart and Holy Name societies are furnishing these supplies, and the boys are very grateful for their generosity.

(to be continued)