

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 24 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



About seventy-five members of the St. Agnes Sodality gathered in St. Charles hall on Monday, May 4, 1925, for a 6:30 dinner given in honor of Rev. Philipp Dreis' namesday. The dinner, the program, and the community singing were enjoyed by all. May 4 was also a free day for the pupils of St. Charles school. It was given instead of May 1, which was Father Dreis' actual namesday.

On Tuesday, May 5, the grammar grades participated in Boys' week by paying particular attention to citizenship. After a discussion of many of the important features of the government, two minute talks were given by the pupils on subjects relating to our system of government and public welfare. The following visitors were present: Mesdames Wagner, Leber, Steinhoff, Partee, Reuschlein, Reinardy, Alby, and Grueter, Father Dreis, Dr. William Fulton, dentist Dr. Clifford Bottomley, businessman George Weiler, attorney Theodore Waller, hardware dealer William Reineman, druggist Thomas G. Buchan, and hotel owner Fred Oberg.

On Sunday, June 7, thirty-four children received their First Holy Communion. The communicants were:

Alfred Bayer	Frank Floryan	Caroline Ketterhagen	Walter Riel
Hieron Block	Lauretta Gerloff	Walter Klein	Eileen Roter
Evelyn Bockhop	Fred Grueter	Marion Luetten	Carl Schranz
Lucille Budd	Gordon Henderson	James McCarthy	Mathilda Schranz
June Carpenter	Pearl Henderson	Lucille McCarthy	Claire Schumann
John David	Catherine Huening	Josetta Merrick	Francis Sommers
Mary David	Albert Itzin	Robert O'Neill	Delores Spiegelhoff
Jeanette Eckert	Francis Itzin	Dorothy Riel	Lloyd Weis
Mary Evans	Earl Jens		

All the school children marched in the Corpus Christi procession held Sunday, June 14, after the 8 o'clock Mass. Benediction was given from the side altars and the main altar. Herbert Alby, Laverne Hoffman, Aloysius Vande Sand, and Arthur and Everett Reinardy sang during the procession.

Graduation exercises took place June 18. The previous day, the eighth graders had gone to Milwaukee, where they visited Washington Park, the First Wisconsin National Bank, and the public library. The class colors were orange and blue, the flower was the pink rose, and the motto was "God Our Light." After Father Dreis delivered the graduation sermon, the following received diplomas:

Alphonse Alby	Laverne Hoffman	Joseph Klein	Alois Neinhaus
Francis Gerloff	Earl Jens	Charles Kornhoff	Marcella Partee
Delos Hoffman	Barbara Ketterhagen	Helen Marck	Francis Reuschlein

During the exercises Palmer penmanship certificates were awarded to fourteen students. Also, the following students were recognized for perfect attendance at school: Laverne Hoffman; Richard, Rosemary, and Ruth Beix; Andrew and Catherine Rossmiller; Marcella Prash; Arthur and Rosalind Steinhoff; Delores Spiegelhoff; Robert O'Neill; Helen Zabler; John Ammon; and George Naber.

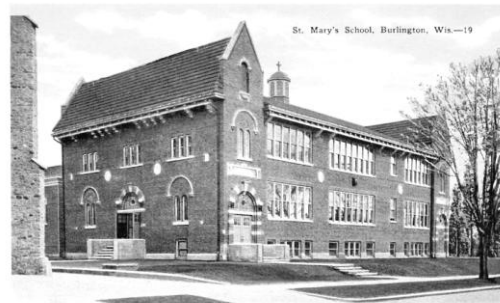
A number of St. Charles students won awards in the nature study contest conducted by the conservation committee of the Woman's Study club. In addition, the seventh grade won the Tree book of the little Nature Library set and the sixth grade won six issues of Nature magazine.

On June 23 more than 175 members of the Alumni association attended the annual gathering at the school from which they were graduated. Mrs. Hildegard W. Block was toastmistress at the banquet and short addresses were given by Father Dreis, Sister Hortense, Leonard Partee, John Cunningham, Jr., and Henry Pihringer. Miss Loretta Ebbers, accompanied by Miss Lauretta Uhen, entertained with special music. Harold Reuschlein led the group in singing familiar songs.

At the business meeting, Leonard Partee was elected president for the ensuing year, with James Mangold, vice president; and Romana Weinman, secretary-treasurer. After the banquet and business meeting, the association held a dancing party at the Knights of Columbus hall. The spirit of good fellowship and loyalty to the school permeated the entire reunion and was expressed in the different talks.

The St. Charles school children held their annual picnic on Wednesday, June 24. Plans were to hold it at Steinhoff's grove (on the Steinhoff farm near the intersection of Highway 36 and Grove Street), but on account of the rain, they were forced to hold it at St. Charles hall.

On Sunday, July 25, Father Dreis was among several priests at impressive services marking the laying of the cornerstone for the new St. Mary's high school (*shown at right about 1945*). In the cornerstone was a metal box containing a history of St. Mary's congregation, accounts of the activities of the church and its pastor, copies of local newspapers, and other information relating to the church and the community.



A big delegation from St. Charles' Holy Name society and their families went to Eagle Lake on Sunday, August 8, to attend a meeting and picnic of all Holy Name societies in Racine County. The activities were held on the grounds of St. Mary's church of Dover, with pastor, Rev. Edward B. Schiefen, hosting the event. Over 2,000 people, including some twenty-five priests, were present and the afternoon was a most enjoyable and profitable one. The officers of the St. Charles' society included Father Dreis, spiritual director; Peter Verhalen, president; Leo Warren, secretary, and Frank Klein, treasurer. Father Dreis was among those who gave short talks before William George Bruce, of Milwaukee, the speaker of the day, was introduced.

Mr. Bruce, president of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Union of the Holy Name Society, had recently returned from a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome where he had been made a Knight of St. Gregory. In speaking of the Holy Year observance in Rome, he told of how every day throughout that year, 60,000 to 100,000 Catholic pilgrims had come to the city from all parts of the world.

Following the program, a solemn procession was formed from the church, carrying the monstrance to the altar in the yard for Benediction. Taking part in the procession were the visiting clergy, altar boys in cassock and surplice, choir girls, and Holy Name members. Rev. Joseph A. Van Treeck, of St. Mary's, Burlington, acted as celebrant at the service. His assistants were Rev. Anthony Biwer, of Lyons, and Father Dreis.

The formal program closed with congregational singing and the crowd divided into the usual picnic groups, visiting the lake and later having the lunch in the parish hall. The ladies of St. Mary's, Dover, parish prepared and served the luncheon.

A large delegation of Burlington Catholics, headed by Rev. Dreis and Rev. Van Treeck, went to Milwaukee on Sunday, September 27, to attend services held to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Milwaukee diocese. A high Mass was held at St. John's cathedral in the forenoon and an outdoor meeting was held at the new Marquette stadium in the afternoon. Cardinal George W. Mundelein of Chicago was the principal speaker. Members

of the Catholic hierarchy from all parts of the middle west and all of the suffragan bishops of the Milwaukee province were present at the services.

The 1925-1926 school year opened in September with 175 pupils enrolled. During the summer, the partition in the seventh and eighth grade room had been removed. On Friday, November 13, Father Dreis announced to the school children that St. Charles school, like many other schools, would start a fund to help repair the historic ship, "USS Constitution," nicknamed "Old Ironsides," which was then in Boston harbor for reconstruction. Monday the teachers were kept busy taking the offerings of the pupils.

On the afternoon and evening of the last Tuesday in October, the St. Ann's Society and St. Agnes Sodality held a Hallowe'en festival, in the church hall.

Needlework, bakestuffs, farm products, and canned goods were sold and a chicken dinner was served. At St. Mary's bazaar and homecoming that November, an automobile - an Essex Six Coach - was given away. This is believed to be the first time that an automobile was offered as a prize at a Catholic church function in Burlington. James Rupiper of Lake Geneva, who held 743, the lucky number, won the automobile.

Christmas was observed at St. Charles with the usual services - a solemn high Mass and sermon at 5 a.m., a low Mass at 8 a.m., and a solemn high Mass and sermon at 10 a.m. Preceding the 5 o'clock high Mass, the St. Charles choir, assisted by the children's choir and the altar boys, presented a selection of Christmas music.

The months after Christmas were marked by the various church organizations' annual meetings and elections of officers, several social activities, and a busy school schedule. On Sunday evening, March 28, about a hundred and sixty pupils took part in the procession at the close of the Forty Hours Devotion. In April the St. Agnes Sodality appointed a committee with Miss Marie Wagner as chairman to see if it would be possible to put a tennis court on the St. Charles grounds.

Following Lent and Easter, the Alumni association presented the play, "Sunshine," on April 20 at the Burlington opera house. The scene of the comedy, with musical numbers in each act, was a sanitarium near New York City and centered around Sunshine, the head nurse, and an array of quirky characters. Those taking part were Dorothy Ebbers, Loretta Partee, Florence Wanasek, Evelyn Bauman, James Mangold, Marie Wagner, Ralph Spiegelhoff, Ralph DeGrave, Joseph Uhen, and Lucille Schneider, with Loretta Ebbers as "Sunshine." The specialties were in charge of Romana Weinman. Those in the chorus were Irene Richter, Leona Wanasek, Lenore Prash, Catherine Christien, Marie Alby, Alice McCormack, Dorothy Reesman, Anthony Finke, Roman Eckert, Harold Reuschlein, Ellsworth Rein, Ralph Bauman, Arthur Ebbers, Harold Schneider, and George Weiler. Miss Loretta Uhen and Ellsworth Rein were accompanists. The play, which was well attended, was repeated on April 22 at the Martin Hahn Memorial Hall at Brighton. (Hahn was a Brighton soldier who had been killed in action in World War I.)

On April 22 the class of 1926 had their class meeting. White and lavender were selected for colors, sweet pea for the flower, and "God, Our Life" as the motto. The date for graduation was set for June 15. On May 4 about seventy members of the St. Agnes Sodality were present at the Sodality's annual banquet given in honor of Father Dreis' namesday. Along with a musical

The St. Charles' school children's contributions to the U. S. Department of the Navy's fund to repair "Old Ironsides" were part of about \$148,000 raised by school children across the nation. The funds helped meet an estimated repair cost that had started at \$400,000 and was intended to be funded entirely by private contributions. Eventually, however, costs reached \$946,000 and required congressional appropriations to complete.

program, talks were given by Father Dreis; Rev. Charles Lehwald, of Paris; Rev. Joseph Keller, of Brighton; Rev. Edward B. Schiefen, of Dover; Rev. John Shanahan, of Delavan; and the Misses Mildred and Nell Jacobson.

The St. Charles school children again participated in the Memorial Day services and program, which were similar to those carried out in previous years. The children fell in line at the corner of Lewis and Geneva Streets as the patriotic organizations led by the Burlington Harmony Band made their way to St. Mary's Cemetery. One change that was made, however, was that a potted plant was placed on each grave. This was in line with a move for the conservation of wild flowers. The plants were purchased by donations collected from the school children.

On June 1 the students presented a patriotic pageant written by Sister Hortense. The pageant depicted the Spirit of Patriotism in this country from the landing of the Pilgrims down through the world war. Preceding the pageant was a program of patriotic songs and the histories of their composition.

A class of thirty-seven young people received their First Holy Communion on Sunday, June 6, at 8 o'clock Mass. The communicants were:

Genevieve Ashner	Julia Grueter	Grace Marck	Glorianna Reynolds
Harry Ashner	Martin Itzin	Betty McCarthy	Catherine Rossmiller
Jerome Augusten	Clarice Kerkman	William McCarthy	Ruth Sette
Eugene Bauman	Phillip Ketterhagen	Grace Moe	Peter Tennesen
Edward Bayer	Francis Koenen	Mildred Murphy	Carroll Vos
Rosemary Beix	Phillip Kornhoff	William Naber	Marcella Vos
Francis Brook	Harold Lang	Rose O'Neill	Jane Wagner
Bernice Carpenter	Helen Lehsten	William Pieters	Anthony Weiler
LaVerne Carpenter	Evelyn Luetten	Joseph Rewald	Joseph Weyrough
Norbert Ebbers			

Commencement exercises were held on Tuesday, June 15. On Wednesday of the previous week, the graduates had enjoyed an outing in Milwaukee where they visited the museum and Washington Park. Nineteen students were presented with diplomas by Father Dreis, who was also speaker of the evening, choosing for his subject the class motto, "God, Our Life." A musical program was also given by the Misses Lillian Bushman and Lauretta Uhen. The graduates were:

Catherine Bauman	Cecelia Grueter	Clarence Martin	Andrew Rossmiller
Ruth Beix	Elizabeth Heintskill	Mary McCourt	John Sommers
Francis Cook	Kathryn Hoppe	Aloys Partee	Catherine Steinhoff
Elliott DeGrave	Charles Isferding	Arthur Reinardy	Aloysius Vande Sand
Monica Eckert	Clarence Kornhoff	William Rewald	

Palmer penmanship certificates were awarded; and the following students were recognized for perfect attendance at school: Richard, Robert, Rosemary, and Ruth Beix; Evelyn Beuthling; Arthur and Everett Reinardy; Andrew, Coletta, and Louis Rossmiller; Anna, Frank, and Mary Floryan; Alma Krift; Evelyn Bockhop; George and William Naber; June, LaVerne, and Dean Carpenter; and Helen Zabler.

(to be continued)