

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 28 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years

1910 - 2010



Rev. Harland Kuehn, who became St. Charles' first assistant pastor in February 1929, wasted no time in entering into parish life. In March it was announced that Father Kuehn would be the director of the St. Charles Alumni association's annual play to be given at the Orpheum Theatre on April 1. The three-act comedy, Philip Barry's "You and I," had run for a year on Broadway and had been Marquette University's senior class play the year before. The play centered around the choice of a father and son, in turn, to set aside ambitions for an artist's career early in life for marriage and the consequent economic necessity of entering business life. Assisting Father Kuehn in producing the play were Oswald Wagner and Ralph Spiegelhoff. In the cast were Francis Meurer, Evelyn Spiegelhoff, William Rewald, Irene Richter, Alphonse Alby, Robert Partee, and Evelyn Bauman. Musical specialties under the direction of Romana Weinman and Marie Wagner were presented between acts.

Although they had attempted a difficult play, which depended upon careful and, at times, subtle interpretation of lines to carry on the play, the small cast of actors succeeded so well with their individual parts that the result was an artistic and well-balanced production, said the Standard Democrat. It added that the cast was to be congratulated upon attempting a play above the usual and succeeding so well with it. The play was repeated a couple of weeks later at both Lyons and Brighton.

Father Kuehn also got involved in the school's sports activities, organizing and coaching the indoor ball team. Student James McCarthy, in his "Sports as J. McCarthy Sees Them" portion of St. Charles School Notes in late April, said that the team was booming along great, was in excellent form, and everyone was playing his position to a T. Team members were Richard Beix, William Uhen, Arthur Lehsten, Charles Ebbers, Robert Cook, Robert O'Neill, John Reynolds, Carroll Vos, and Hieron Bauman, with subs Arthur Steinhoff and Raymond Nenning. Richard Beix was chosen captain. The second team consisted of Albert Itzin, Francis Sommers, John Busch, Claire Schumann, James McCarthy, Walter Klein, Joseph Weyrough, Harry Ashner, and Raymond Nenning. Francis Sommers was captain of this team.

The School Notes column, by Rosemary Forge and Rosalind Steinhoff, also noted that the first and second grade had added two more pupils to their enrollment, Bernice and Jean Schiller; and that a program had been held on April 18 in connection with the planting of a Norway spruce tree on the church grounds. Several women from the conservation committee of the Woman's Study club were present, and it was they who sponsored the planting of the tree. Appropriate pieces were spoken by John Moe, Alex Rose, Francis Itzin, and Rosalind Steinhoff; songs were sung by different groups of children; a short, but inspiring, talk was given by Father Hillenbrand; and all the children then joined in singing "On Wisconsin," which completed the program.

In May it was announced that St. Charles' congregation had purchased a twenty-five acre tract, part of the Cook farm lying along highway 36, as grounds for a parish cemetery, and that plans for laying out and improving the land for cemetery purposes would begin at once. John J. Degen, Louis Brehm, James Murphy, William Wagner, and L. Reinhard Mangold were appointed to act as a committee in charge of improvements. The committee was to make a thorough study of drainage, landscaping, and other problems relating to cemetery building, and it planned to visit a number of well-planned cemeteries in the vicinity.

Before that initial work was completed, however, the first burial was made in the new cemetery grounds. Helen Beuthling, the daughter of William and Helena, nee Mehring, Beuthling and a 1921 graduate of St. Charles school, died May 4, 1929, after a five-year battle against tuberculosis. She was survived, in addition to her parents, by a sister, Edna, and four brothers, Christian, William, Bernard, and Harold. In December, after the cemetery was platted and the lots began to be sold, her remains were exhumed and placed in the Beuthling lot.

On Sunday, May 26, thirty-two young children received First Communion at the 8 o'clock Mass. They were joined by fifty-one other children a year or two older who received what was termed "Solemn Communion." (Because neither the church records nor the Burlington newspapers mentioned any First Communion classes at St. Charles in 1927 and 1928, it is assumed that the older children had received their First Communions in those years, but not in the usual organized classes.) The School Notes column explained the situation as follows:

On May 26 (32) pupils received their first Holy Communion privately and 51 received Holy Communion solemnly at the eight o'clock Mass. The parents accompanied those children who made their private Communion to the communion rail. Those making their solemn communion received communion in the sanctuary.

The children who received Solemn Communion were:

Charles Albright	Donald Giannini	Carolyn McCarthy	Aloysius Schmitt
John Ammon	Kathleen Giannini	Margaret Merrick	Myron Schneider
Blanche Bauman	Marietta Grueter	Willis Merrick	Eunice Schumann
Edward Bayer	William Grueter	Helen Murphy	Florence Steinhoff
Bernard Beuthling	Beatrice Heintskill	George Naber	Magdalene Tenwinkel
John Busch	Imelda Hopkins	Particia Partee	Rose Uhen
Robert Chesick	Joseph Kaiser	Joseph Pieters	Rollin Vos
Hugh Gene Dardis	Marcella Ketterhagen	Helen Reesman	Arthur Weis
Marjorie DeGrave	Viola Kortendick	Herbert Rossmiller	John Wiechert
Catherine Eckert	Genevieve Lewis	Marie Roter	Charles Wiemer
Donald Eckert	George Lewis	John Rudkowsky	Rosemary Wiemer
Mary Elderbrook	Warren Lewis	Gertrude Scheel	Helen Zabler
Betty Evans	Cecilia Linneman	Bernice Schiller	

The children who received First Communion were:

Richard Bayer	Cecilia David	Ethel Johnson	Marion Robers
Jack Bennett	Eileen David	Donald Ketterhagen	Paul Steinhoff
Harold Beuthling	William David	Louis Ketterhagen	Louise Tennesen
Robert Brehm	Bernice Eckert	Clifford Kortendick	Rosamond Tenwinkel
Virginia Breidenbach	Isabelle Giannini	Virginia Lehsten	Valieta Vos
Roman Brook	June Heintskill	Elizabeth McCormack	Stanley Weichert
Raymond Cook	Mildred Huening	Mary Mutchler	John Wiemer
Francis Dauben	Charles Itzin	Arthur Rewald	LeRoy Zabler



Helen Beuthling's marker (lower center) in Beuthling lot at St. Charles Cemetery.

In a column titled "Sports at St. Charles, by James McCarthy" at the end of May, McCarthy reported that the St. Charles indoor team had been playing a wonderful game of ball, having won ten straight victories. He added that the "boys have suits now and look rather spiffy in them. Some of the players are better at ball than at their lessons. On the whole, however, the team isn't half-bad in school when they want to be good." He also said that St. Charles was getting up a baseball team, and that the players were all very thankful to Father Kuehn who started things going in sports.

On Memorial Day the St. Charles' school children, carrying flags, followed the customary procedure of joining the marching groups on their way to St. Mary's Cemetery where a requiem Mass was offered and the veterans' graves were each decorated with a growing geranium plant. George Jones, Burlington's last surviving Civil War veteran, rode in the procession to the ceremonies in an automobile.

During the first week of June, St. Charles school was the recipient of a beautiful American flag presented by the ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps. Mrs. F. M. Kyburz formally presented the flag to the school, reminding the children that it stood for the ideals of their nation, for home, school, church, and country. In the absence of Father Hillenbrand, Father Kuehn accepted the flag in behalf of the school in the spirit in which it was bestowed. A program of acceptance, which had been prepared by the pupils, was presented at the school hall.

Graduation exercises were held on Tuesday, June 11, in the church. The class had elected Rosemary Forge president, Alberta Bushman secretary, and Richard Beix treasurer. They chose the pink carnation for class flower, pink and silver for class colors, and "Dare to Do Right" for the class motto. In mid-May the class, accompanied by Father Kuehn and the Sisters, had motored to Milwaukee where they went to the museum in the morning, to the Calaroga for dinner, and to the St. Benedict Moor Mission after dinner. At the Mission, the St. Charles' baseball team played the St. Benedict team, winning by a score of twelve to nine.

The twenty-five graduates were presented with their diplomas by Father Hillenbrand, who then addressed the graduates, advising them to follow all through their lives the motto which they had selected for their class, "Dare to Do Right." Hymns during the services were sung by the school children. Services were closed with Benediction, sung by the adult choir. The graduates were:

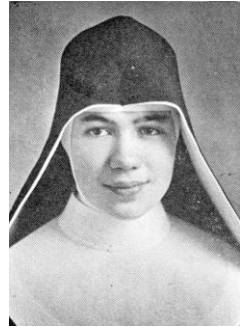


Hieron Bauman (r2, #3)	Pearl Henderson	Margaret Merrick	Catherine Sobbe
Richard Beix (r2, #5)	Dorothy Hopkins	Willis Merrick	Arthur Steinhoff
Alberta Bushman	Florence Isferding	Mary Moe	Rosalind Steinhoff
Robert Cook	Arthur Lehsten	John Reynolds (r2, #9)	William Uhen
Charles Ebbers	Dorothy Lehsten	Walter Riel (r1, #8)	Carroll Vos (r3, #3)
Mary Ebbers (r1, #3)	Helen Lohaus	Louis Rossmiller	Catherine Weis
Rosemary Forge			



Dorothy Hopkins –
Sister Mary Marita

One of the graduates, Dorothy Hopkins (left), entered the convent of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in September 1930, joining her sister, Vivian Hopkins (right), a graduate of St. Joseph’s school at Lyons, who had entered the convent in June 1928. Their parents, John H. “Hollie” and Katherine, nee Heck, Hopkins, who were members of St. Charles, had moved the family from Lyons to Burlington in November 1927. In addition to Vivian and Dorothy, the children included Marion (Mrs. Francis Yambor), Charles, Imelda (Mrs. Chester Fine), John, Rita (Mrs. James Bowman), and Wilfred. Dorothy, who took the name, Sister Mary Marita, was professed



Vivian Hopkins –
Sister Mary Jonina

August 12, 1935. Vivian, who took the name, Sister Mary Jonina, was professed August 12, 1931. Both Sisters long served the Church in religious life. Sister Mary Jonina (Vivian) died in March 2004; Sister Mary Marita (Dorothy), in October 2005.

Bound together through a common affection for the parochial school in which they received their early formal education, over 200 members of the St. Charles Alumni association gathered at the church hall on June 17 for the twelfth annual reunion. Rev. Philipp Dreis of Sheboygan, founder of the association, was guest of honor, his presence adding much to the joyfulness of the occasion. Oswald Wagner, retiring president, presided at the banquet. A splendid program of talks, punctuated with humorous reminiscences of St. Charles school days by toastmaster Victor Woeste, was given at the close of the dinner, which was served by the women of the St. Ann’s society.

Eleanor Eckert welcomed the newly graduated class as members of the association, with Rosemary Forge responding for her class. Father Hillenbrand spoke a few words of welcome for the association to Father Dreis. He reminded the graduates and those still in school life of the importance of considering a religious vocation, as the need for religious workers was becoming greater every year. Former student, Rev. Philip Rose of St. Francis seminary, who appeared for the first time in clerical garb after he had just received orders as sub-deacon, urged the graduates to pursue their education through high school and if possible through college.

“Education is not so much the acquiring of knowledge as it is learning to act correctly,” said Father Dreis speaking to the association members. “The most important task of education is to build character, to develop an educated will, the will to do right,” he continued quoting the class motto. “Religion is the greatest builder of character, the greatest ideas are expressed in the truth of God, brought to earth through Christ; the greatest ideals proceed from that perfect model of conduct, the Lord himself,” he concluded.

Songs and music interspersed the speaking program. Harold Reuschlein led the attendees in community singing and himself sang two old 18th century songs. The Jolly Six struck up “That Old Gang of Mine” and “That Wonderful Mother of Mine.” In this sextette were Robert Beix, William Rewald, Francis Meurer, Robert Wagner, Aloysius Vande Sand, and Oswald Wagner. Delos Hoffman played two cornet solos. Miss Loretta Uhen was accompanist.

Preceding the banquet, the following were elected officers for the coming year: president - Evelyn Bushman, vice president - Ralph Bauman, secretary-treasurer - Maryon Riel. Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which the alumni attended in a body, was held following the business meeting. The class of 1924 had the largest percentage in attendance at the banquet and won the Sister Mary Hermana trophy. Following the banquet, a social hour and dancing was held at the Knights of Columbus hall.

(to be continued)