

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 30 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years

1910 - 2010



Parish and school activities in the late winter and early spring of 1930, following Rev. Philip Rose's first Mass at St. Charles on February 4, returned for the most part to their normal pattern. A pre-Lenten Alumni association dance at the Knights of Columbus hall, Forty Hours devotions and stations of the cross during Lent, the Holy Name Society's Communion Sunday with breakfast and a speaker following in the church hall (see sidebar), and the eighth grade boys organizing a baseball team were among the activities during this period.

The Alumni association also selected and began practice for its annual play to be put on following Easter. Instead of the opera house which had burned down, however, the association secured the Burlington high school auditorium in which to present the play. And instead of scheduling a single performance, the association scheduled the play for two consecutive nights, both the Monday and Tuesday evenings after Easter. The plot of the three-act farce, "Second Childhood," dealt with a professor's discovery of a liquid which was to restore youth to old people. His experiments and the situations developing from them were skillfully worked out and kept the audience laughing and interested to the end. The roles were played by William Rewald, Catherine Bauman, Ruth Beix, Everett Reinardy, Alphonse Alby, Norma Scheel, Genevieve Huth, Alberta Bushman, Marcella Partee, Laverne Hoffman, and Alois Partee.

Clever song and dance routines, directed by Cecilia Rose and Romana Weinman and involving a number of alumni association members, were given between acts to the popular tunes of "Should I," "Happy Days Are Here Again," and "Beside an Open Fireplace."

Also on Easter Monday, the members of St. Charles' eighth grade class, accompanied by Revs. Hillenbrand and Kuehn, the school Sisters, and friends who furnished automobiles, made a trip to Madison to visit the capitol, university buildings, and other places of interest. In prior years the graduating classes usually visited Milwaukee, but this spring the class decided to go to Madison and all thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

On the first Sunday in May, the new monastery at Bellwood was dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi and the first shovel full of dirt for the new building was turned. The event was attended by

The Catholic Herald of Wisconsin reported the following in its March 27, 1930, issue:

Burlington Branch Is Active Holy Name Unit

Burlington, Wis. - The Holy Name branch of St. Charles parish here, realizes in a high degree the ideal of the Holy Name movement. The large attendance at Holy Communion betokens a spiritually healthy society. The Church and her varied interests are espoused by the members of this society. They devote special attention to the Catholic school and are generous in its support. Every worthy civic enterprise benefits by the loyal cooperation of these Catholic men.

The Father and Son Day which was celebrated on March 23, was very successful. The large number of fathers who received Holy Communion impressed upon the boys the meaning and value of the Holy Name Society.

Prof. Herman Rauch of Marquette University addressed the breakfast gathering on Our Social Status. The speaker enumerated the benefits which science had bestowed upon mankind, notably in alleviating physical pain, in conquering disease, and in lengthening the span of human life. The speaker warned his audience that a Utopian condition had not been attained. He visualized the irony of civilization, "man's life has been prolonged, but his industrial usefulness curtailed."

The Rev. F. J. Hillenbrand is pastor of St. Charles parish.

church dignitaries and interested friends. A prominent clergyman of Polish descent, Monsignor Michael J. Wenta, pastor of St. Hedwig's parish in Milwaukee (St. Hedwig had been a queen of Poland), was the master of ceremonies, conferred the blessing of the church on the ground, and turned over the first shovel full of earth. Music for the occasion was furnished by the band and boys' choir from the Franciscans' St. Bonaventure's college at Sturtevant.

Graduation exercises for the eighth grade were held Sunday evening, June 8, in the church. The class of twenty-two students (shown in photo¹ at right with Father Hillenbrand and Father Kuehn) received their diplomas from Father Hillenbrand. The recently ordained Rev. Philip Rose, an alumnus of the school, gave the graduation address. The class chose for its colors Nile green and white, the class flower was the white rose, and the motto was "Launched, but Whither Bound?" The graduates were:



Harry Ashner	Kathryn Huening	Gladwyn Murrin	Dolores Spiegelhoff
Alfred Bayer	Albert Itzin	James McCarthy	Francis Sommers
Florence Budd	Francis Itzin	Raymond Nenning	Peter Tennesen (r2, #5)
Lucille Budd	Caroline Ketterhagen	Robert O'Neill	Marcella Vos (r2, #8)
John Busch	Walter Klein	Eileen Roter	Lloyd Weis (r3, #1)
Jeanette Eckert	Marian Luetten		

Palmer method penmanship awards were also given to the following students:

John Ammon	Betty Jane Evans	Lucille Luetten	Bernice Schiller
Blanche Bauman	Beatrice Heintskill	Marie Roter	Magdalene Tenwinkel
Marjorie DeGrave	Helen Lehsten	Gertrude Scheel	Helen Zabler
Catherine Eckert	Cecilia Linneman		

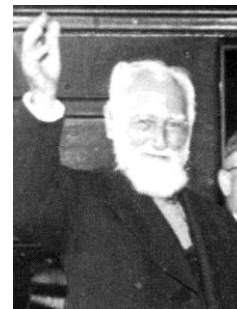
The new graduates joined the "old grads" of St. Charles' school at the annual Alumni association reunion and banquet in the church hall on Thursday, June 12. One hundred seventy-five were present. At the business meeting preceding the banquet, James Mangold was elected president for the upcoming year, with Cecilia Rose as vice president and Irene Richter as secretary-treasurer. After the business meeting, the attendees proceeded to the church for solemn Benediction, before returning to the hall for the banquet which was served by the ladies of the parish. The program of toasts that followed the banquet was opened with greetings from the president, Evelyn Bushman. Rev. Philip Rose presided as toastmaster and introduced the

¹ Photo was provided by Roberta Ruedebusch-Uhen, daughter of Marcella Vos Ruedebusch. She said that her mother had written in her journal "Wednesday, June 4th, we read our school paper entitled, 'Thoughts of Twenty-two' (the year they entered St. Charles). Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Ashner and Bobby, Father Kuehn and Father Hillenbrand were in attendance. We graduated on Sunday, June 8, 1930. In the morning we received Holy Communion in a body. Thursday evening, June 12th, a banquet was held." She goes on to tell that there were speeches, initiation etc. and afterwards, a dance.

speakers, calling first on the pastor, Father Hillenbrand. Mary McCourt welcomed the incoming class to alumni membership; and Francis Sommers, president of the 1930 class, gave the response. Vocal selections were then sung by Mary O'Neill, accompanied by Lauretta Uhen. Former pastor, Rev. Philipp Dreis of Sheboygan, who was guest of honor and principal speaker, concluded the program. The Sister Hermana trophy was won by the class of 1920 for having the largest percentage of a class five or more years out of school at the reunion. Dancing was enjoyed at the Knights of Columbus hall after the banquet and program.

In mid-July the officers of the St. Ann's society hosted an outing for those who had helped in the kitchen the past year. Some twenty women in all motored to Muskego beach where the day was spent in playing cards.

On August 4 Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer of Milwaukee died at age 83 while on a visit to his birthplace at Goldach, Canton St. Gallen, Switzerland. The oldest Catholic prelate in America at that time, he had had a heart condition for several years and had spent the previous winter in Louisiana, where his health had improved. He had returned to Milwaukee the first part of May and had sailed for Europe in mid-June. Although in his will he had expressed a wish to be buried in the cemetery adjoining the Chapel of the Woods at St. Francis Seminary, he asked on his death bed to be buried at Goldach in his native land.



Archbishop Messmer shortly before his death in August 1930

Requiem Masses in honor of Archbishop Messmer were celebrated at both St. Mary's and St. Charles parishes during the week after his death; and the two pastors, Father Van Treeck and Father Hillenbrand, attended a requiem high Mass for the late Archbishop at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee on August 13. The Standard Democrat, in an editorial comment regarding the Archbishop, said

"Wisconsin lost a valuable citizen and the Catholic church a great leader in the death of Archbishop Messmer. Although beyond the allotted span in years, he retained his interest in church affairs and his wise leadership won the admiration and respect of people outside his church as well as in it."



Bishop Samuel A. Stritch of Toledo

On Sunday, August 31, an announcement was made at Rome of the appointment of Bishop Samuel A. Stritch, of Toledo, Ohio, to succeed Archbishop Messmer as head of the Milwaukee archdiocese. The new archbishop was only 43 years of age and would be the youngest archbishop in America. He had been bishop at Toledo since 1921 (at age 34 he was the youngest bishop in the United States at that time) and had made a wonderful record in church building and Catholic school extension work.

Also on August 31, the cornerstone of the new Franciscan Monastery at Bellwood was laid, although a thunderstorm cut the dedication program short. The monastery was being erected in memory of the late Rev. Francis Manel, O. F. M., a pioneer Franciscan missionary who had selected the site for the building before his death in 1927.

St. Charles school opened the first week in September with 189 students enrolled in the eight grades. At the end of October, the school closed for two days to allow the Sisters to attend the

annual convention of the Wisconsin Teachers Association in Milwaukee. On Armistice Day members of Burlington's American Legion post spoke at the city's schools. At St. Charles, attorney Charles Rohr, who had served in the world war, was the speaker.

On the second Sunday in November, the congregation celebrated the feast of its patron, St. Charles Borromeo, with a solemn high Mass at 10 a.m. Special music was sung by the choir and Rev. Philip Rose, who was serving at Holy Assumption parish in West Allis, preached the sermon of the day.

On Wednesday, November 19, the Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch was installed as archbishop of Milwaukee at solemn services at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee. His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago, officiated at the installation, which was broadcast on the radio. Hundreds of clergymen, including bishops and priests from other states, were present to welcome Archbishop Stritch. Priests of the two Burlington parishes, Rev. Joseph A. Van Treeck and Rev. Henry Mauer of St. Mary's, and Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand and Rev. Harland Kuehn of St. Charles, attended the services. Father Hillenbrand also was among the delegation that went to Chicago the preceding day to meet the new prelate's special train from Toledo and accompany him to Milwaukee. At the installation ceremonies, Father Hillenbrand acted as chaplain to the bishops in the processional to the cathedral.



George Cardinal Mundelein
Archbishop of Chicago

Rt. Rev. Paul Rhode, bishop of Green Bay, was celebrant of the pontifical Mass at which Archbishop Stritch was installed. Former St. Charles pastor, Rev. Philipp Dreis of Sheboygan, acted as deacon of the Mass. St. Charles graduate, Rev. Philip Rose, was bearer of the metropolitan cross in the procession of the Archbishop to the cathedral sanctuary. The thirty-six voice St. Francis Seminary choir, in which St. Charles graduate, Herbert Wagner, sang first tenor, sang the music of the Mass. It was the first time the choir had been heard outside its own chapel at the seminary, and its first time on the air.

Activities during the remainder of 1930 included the parish women's home baking and Christmas sales, card parties, and a Knights of Columbus Good Fellowship dinner in the church hall. The Christmas Masses followed the usual schedule. The choir sang a special program of Christmas music at the 5 a.m. Mass and the children's choir sang at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.



Center aisle lights hanging from ceiling and groups of wall brackets on either side replaced original lights in 1930.

New, modern light fixtures had been installed before Christmas, replacing the old standards and adding to the appearance of the church interior. The new lights consisted of a center aisle group hanging from the ceiling and corresponding groups of wall brackets on either side. The new lights were the gift of a member of the parish and were installed by Anthony Rewald.

(to be continued)