

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 31 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years

1910 - 2010



State Catholic leaders met at St. Mary's with officers of Burlington's Catholic societies and the pastors and members of St. Mary's and St. Charles' congregations on Sunday, January 11, 1931, to discuss plans for the biennial convention of the Wisconsin Catholic Central Verein, which was to be held in Burlington in June. Central Verein officials and prominent state clergymen, including Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch, were expected to attend the June convention. Rev. Joseph A. Van Treeck of St. Mary's was named honorary president of the convention, with Frank H. Schwaller of St. Mary's as convention president and St. Charles member, L. Reinhard Mangold, as vice president. Francis Bienemann and Leonard Cunningham of St. Mary's were named recording secretary and treasurer, respectively, and Marie H. Wagner of St. Charles was named correspondence secretary. Other St. Charles parishioners were appointed to various convention committees.

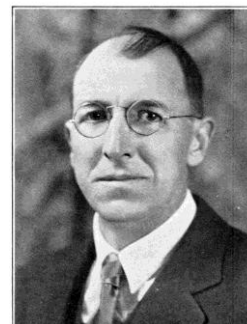
The Central Verein ("verein" being German for "union") was an association of Catholic benevolent societies whose purpose was to promote a vigorous religious activity according to the spirit of the Roman Catholic Church and mutually to aid and materially to benefit their members. The local unit representing the Central Verein was the St. Eustachius Benevolent society, which had members from both Burlington parishes. It had been founded in 1871 to give aid in sickness and after the death of any of its members.



William H. Wagner  
Parish secretary  
(1935 photo)

At St. Charles' annual meeting on the last Sunday in January, William H. Wagner was re-elected parish secretary and L. Reinhard Mangold was re-elected parish treasurer. On Thursday of that week, members of St. Charles' choir and the ushers were guests of Father Hillenbrand at a dancing party interspersed with games at the Knights of Columbus hall.

St. Charles parish was honored on Sunday, March 22, by the presence of Archbishop Stritch who came from Milwaukee to participate in the concluding services of the Forty Hours devotion. This was the Archbishop's first visit to Burlington since his installation in November 1930 following the death of Archbishop Messmer.



L. Reinhard Mangold  
Parish treasurer  
(1935 photo)

Archbishop Stritch (who became Cardinal Stritch in 1946) bore the monstrance in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament and officiated at Benediction, which closed the services, after which he made a short address using as his subject, Thoughts of Holy Week. Assisting the Archbishop at Benediction were St. Charles' first priest-son, Rev. Philip Rose, as deacon and Rev. Henry Maurer, assistant at St. Mary's, as subdeacon. Other attending priests, in addition to Father Hillenbrand and Father Kuehn of St. Charles, included Rev. Van Treeck of St. Mary's, Rev. George Radandt of Milwaukee, Rev. John Stehling of Elkhorn, Rev. Joseph Ritger of East Troy, Rev. John Pierron of Waterford, Rev. Edward Schiefen of Dover, Rev. Charles Lehwald of Paris, Rev. Joseph Keller of Brighton, and Rev. Joseph Wurm of New Munster. Rev. Eugene Gehl, of the deaf mute institute at St. Francis, preached the sermons at the earlier services during the Forty Hours devotion.

On Monday, April 13, the community Father and Son banquet was held in St. Charles hall. Over 400 attended the banquet, which was served by the ladies of the parish. James H. Murphy of St. Charles was banquet chairman and toastmaster, and Father Hillenbrand was on the program committee and offered the opening prayer. St. Charles was represented on other committees by L. Reinhard Mangold, Frank Christien, George Weiler, Dr. A. J. Ketterhagen, and Leo Warren. Weiler also led the community singing.

The annual play of the St. Charles Alumni association was presented on April 26 at the Burlington high school auditorium. The cast of "Her Step-Husband," under the direction of Margaret Kolars, included Evelyn Bauman, William Rewald, Oswald Wagner, Norma Ketterhagen, Mary McCourt, Everett Reinardy, Aloys Partee, Maryon Riel, and Elizabeth Heintskill. The play proved to be an evening of fine entertainment for the large audience which filled the auditorium. A series of amusing complications in a household trying to impress a rich, but eccentric, aunt created laugh after laugh. Each of the young actors took his or her part splendidly, and the effect of the play was heightened with careful staging and lighting effects. Entertainment between acts was provided by St. Charles students, Marion and Regina Lynch, who pleased the audience greatly with a tumbling and dancing number, and by Mary O'Neill, who sang two delightful solos accompanied by Ellsworth Rein. Orchestra music was provided by Freddie Reuschlein and his Golden Troubadours.

On May 1, St. Charles and the other four Burlington grade schools declared a holiday and joined in a Health Parade. About 900 children dressed in holiday attire or costumed to represent some feature of healthful living, joined in a procession nearly three blocks long. They paraded the main streets, with on-lookers filling the sidewalks on either side, before proceeding up Kane Street to the home of Mrs. George Waller. There, five children, including Gertrude Itzin of St. Charles and Verena Freund of St. Mary's, presented Mrs. Waller with a May basket of spring flowers in appreciation of the twenty years she had spent in the cause of public health in Burlington. The parade included floats arranged by businesses and the children. A May basket was also presented to school nurse Myrtle Rimert, who, with the teachers, had organized the celebration.

Also on May 1, Mrs. Elizabeth Spiegelhoff, Mrs. Anna Beix, Mrs. Clara Eckert, Mrs. Theresa C. Schmitt, Mrs. Alvina Miller, Mrs. Mary Partee, Mrs. Grace Rose, and Miss Cecilia Rose motored to Sheboygan to help their former St. Charles pastor, Rev. Philipp Dreis, celebrate his namesday. Breakfast and dinner were served by the ladies of his congregation.

On May 17, in the afternoon, the newly installed outdoor Stations of the Cross on the Franciscan Monastery grounds at Bellwood were blessed in ceremonies attended by several hundred friends and patrons of the Franciscans' Wisconsin province. High Mass was celebrated in the monastery chapel for the first time that morning, with the choir of St. Helen's Catholic parish of Milwaukee singing the music. For the afternoon blessing, the procession, headed by the presiding clergymen, Very Rev. Provincial Father Ferdinand and his assistants, Father Norbert and Father Arcadius, formed at the chapel steps and wended its way to the natural woods along the Fox river where the stations had been erected. A short service of blessing, in Polish, was held at each station and, led by the St. Helen's choir, the attendees chanted Polish hymns as the procession moved from station to station. After the service of blessing was over, the procession returned to the chapel where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was held. Beginning June 1 the Monastery's main chapel was to be ready for Sunday services and four Masses were to be celebrated each Sunday morning.

Also on May 17, Confirmation services at which Archbishop Stritch officiated were held at both St. Mary's and St. Charles parishes. Services at St. Mary's were held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the Archbishop confirmed a class of eighty-nine young people and a number of

adults. In the evening at 7:45, Archbishop Stritch administered the sacrament to a class of over one hundred young people and adults at St. Charles church. The Archbishop examined the class at each parish before the Confirmation ceremonies took place. The St. Charles confirmands included:

Andrew Adam	Donald Giannini	Betty McCarthy	Bernice Schiller
Charles Albright	Lawrence Granger	Caroline McCarthy	Aloysius Schmitt
John Ammon	Loretta Granger	Charles McCarthy	Myron Schneider
Genevieve Ashner	Marietta Grueter	William McCarthy	Claire Schumann
Jerome Augusten	William Grueter	Grace Moe	Eunice Schumann
Blanche Bauman	Beatrice Heintskill	John Moe	Mrs. Clara Sheridan
Eugene Bauman	Imelda Hopkins	Mrs. Evelyn Murphy	Dolores Spiegelhoff
Edward Bayer	Bernice Huening	Helen Murphy	Florence Steinhoff
Rosemary Beix	Mrs. Dorothy Isferding	Mildred Murphy	Magdalene Tenwinkel
Bernard Beuthling	Francis Itzin	Mrs. Laura Mutchler	Mrs. Bernice Trimberger
Mrs. Alice Boulden	Martin Itzin	Serie Newell	Rose Uhen
Francis Brook	Clarice Kerkman	Robert O'Neill	Marcella Vos
Florence Budd	Marcella Ketterhagen	Rose O'Neill	Rollin Vos
Mrs. Mary Bush	Philip Ketterhagen	Patricia Partee	Anne Jane Wagner
Robert Chesick	Walter Klein	Joseph Pieters	Anthony Weiler
Elizabeth Crowley	Francis Koenen	William Pieters	Arthur Weis
Hugh Gene Dardis	Philip Kornhoff	Helen Reesman	Joseph Weyrough
Marjorie DeGrave	Viola Kortendick	Joseph Rewald	LeRoy Weyrough
Norbert Ebbers	Harold Lang	Gloriana Reynolds	John Wiechert
Catherine Eckert	Helen Lehsten	Alex Rose	Rosella Wiechert
Donald Eckert	Cecilia Linneman	Catherine Rossmiller	Charles Wiemer
Jeanette Eckert	Mary Ann Luetten	Herbert Rossmiller	Helen Zabler
Mrs. Helen Eisenbart	Evelyn Luetten	Marie Roter	Marvin Zabler
Mary Elderbrook	Ida Martin	John Rudkowsky	Genevieve "Jane" Zerfas
Robert Evans	Mrs. Julietta May	Gertrude Scheel	

Clergymen from other parishes who were in Burlington for the Confirmation services included Rev. George B. Radandt, secretary to the Archbishop, who assisted the Archbishop; Rev. Anthony Biber, Lyons; Rev. Joseph Keller, Brighton; Rev. John Pierron, Waterford; Rev. Edward Schiefen, Dover; Rev. John Stehling, Elkhorn; Rev. Joseph Wurm, New Munster; Rev. Charles Lehwald, Paris; Rev. Henry J. Schmitz, Delavan; and Rev. Joseph Smith of Lake Geneva.

On Saturday, May 30, the St. Charles school students again participated in Memorial Day ceremonies, which were confined to the forenoon. They joined the procession of the patriotic organizations, the Burlington band, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Reserves at Lewis Street as they headed to ceremonies at St. Mary's Cemetery, where the graves of the veterans of three wars were decorated and Rev. Van Treeck offered Mass.

Also on May 30 sixteen young men were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Stritch at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee. This was the first time that ordinations of St. Francis Seminary alumni took place at the Cathedral and not in the Seminary chapel. Among those ordained were Henry R. Langenfeld, a future pastor of St. Charles; Raymond C. Miller, whose first appointment would be as assistant pastor at St. Charles; and Roman Atkielski, a future Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee.

Solemn Communion services were held at St. Charles on Sunday, May 31. A class of twenty-seven first communicants was included in the large class of solemn communicants. The first communicants were:

Roland Ashner	Andrew Ketterhagen	Charles McCarthy	John Scheibe
Jane Bayer	Alfred Klein	Francis McCarthy	Merle Scheibe
Betty Jo Block	Leonard Koenen	Janet Merrick	Neal Spearhake
Alfred Clausen	Ruth Lehsten	Henrietta Nelson	Gertrude Spieker
Frank Elderbrook	Kenneth Leiting	Mary Reynolds	Florence Tenwinkel
Philip Grueter	Anthony Linneman	Rosemary Rueter	Marion Weis
Lester Johnson	Ardell Lynch	Ruth Runzler	

The other children in the Communion class were:

Andrew Adam	Isabelle Giannini	Evelyn Linneman	Neal Schumann
Malcolm Alby	George Granger	Lillian Lohaus	Mary Lou Stang
Bernice Bauman	June Heintskill	Lucille Luetten	Genevieve Steinhoff
Virginia Bauman	Charles Hopkins	Betty McCormack	Paul Steinhoff
Richard Bayer	John Hopkins	John Moe	Louise Tennesen
Jack Bennett	Eunice Hoyle	Mary Mutchler	Rosemond Tenwinkel
Harold Beuthling	Mildred Huening	Serie Newell	Willard Tenwinkel
Robert Brehm	Charles Itzin	Frederick Pieters	Valieta Vos
Virginia Breidenbach	Ethel Johnson	Richard Pieters	Robert Wanasek
Herbert Brook	Esther Kerkman	Genevieve Prash	Rosella Wiechert
Roman Brook	Donald Ketterhagen	Arthur Rewald	Stanley Wiechert
Raymond Cook	Louis Ketterhagen	Margaret Reynolds	Charles Weiler
Jeanette Crowley	Edmond Klein	Marion Robers	LeRoy Weyrough
Cecelia David	Herbert Koenen	Adolph Rossmiller	John Wiemer
Eileen David	Clifford Kortendick	Victor Rossmiller	LeRoy Zabler
William David	Philip Krueger	Virginia Rueter	Dorothy Zwiebel
Bernice Eckert	Virginia Lehsten	Jean Schiller	John Zwiebel
Gloria Giannini			

On Tuesday, June 2, Father Hillenbrand and Father Kuehn participated in the diamond jubilee celebration of St. Kilian's Catholic church in the town of Lyons. St. Kilian's was founded June 2, 1856, by Rev. Carl Shraudenbach, pastor of St. Alphonsus, New Munster, and remained a mission of St. Alphonsus for several years before being assigned, for a time, to St. Francis de Sales of Lake Geneva. In 1884 St. Kilian's was placed under the jurisdiction of St. Joseph's of Lyons, where it remained until the church was closed in July 1998 and the parish was merged into St. Joseph's.

Simple but impressive services marked St. Kilian's celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, which was honored by the presence of Archbishop Stritch. Rev. Herman Mayer, of St. Elizabeth, Missouri, who as a boy attended services at St. Kilian's church and who said his first Mass there in 1917,



St. Kilian's Church at time of diamond jubilee. Photo from Bill Zarnstorff.

officiated as celebrant of the Mass; Rev. Schiefen of Dover officiated as deacon and Rev. Maurer of St. Mary's was subdeacon. Father Kuehn of St. Charles served as master of ceremonies. An appropriate touch was given the service by the fact that Father Hillenbrand, who had served St. Kilian's while pastor of St. Joseph's from 1903 to 1913, preached the sermon.



ST. CHARLES – CLASS OF 1931

Top row (l to r): Francis Brook, Evelyn Luettgen, Martin Itzin, Grace Moe, Francis Koenen, Joan Kenney, Philip Kornhoff, Clarice Kerkman, and Robert Evans. Center row: Rev. Harland Kuehn, Mildred Murphy, Harold Lang, Gloriana Reynolds, Anthony Weiler, Philip Ketterhagen, Bernice Huening, Alex Rose, William Pieters, and Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand. First row: Catherine Rossmiller, Claire Schumann, Jane Wagner, Genevieve Ashner, Eugene Bauman, Rosemary Beix, and Joseph Weyrough.

Twenty-four St. Charles students received their diplomas at graduation exercises held in the church on Sunday, June 14. Rev. Harland Kuehn, who was to be transferred after three years at St. Charles, preached the sermon before the graduates and their assembled families and friends and distributed the diplomas. Special music was provided by the parish choir. The graduates are shown in the photo at left, with Father Kuehn and Father Hillenbrand.

The graduating class held its annual outing the following day at Mundelein, Illinois. The class was accompanied by the Sisters and priests of the parish.

On Thursday of that week, Father Kuehn took up his new

duties as assistant at St. Cecilia parish at Kilbourn City, now known as Wisconsin Dells. That same day, Rev. Raymond C. Miller, who had been ordained on May 30, took up his duties as assistant at St. Charles.

On Thursday evening, about two hundred fifty people gathered for the fourteenth annual alumni reunion and banquet at St. Charles hall. Rev. Philipp Dreis of Sheboygan, under whose spiritual guidance the alumni association was founded, was a guest of honor.

The ceremonies opened with solemn Benediction in the church with Rev. Dreis presiding. After the dinner an interesting program of talks and music was given. After the pledge of allegiance to the flag, president James A. Mangold introduced the toastmaster, Edward Cook, who called upon the speakers. Herbert Wagner gave the welcome to the class of 1931, to which Genevieve Ashner, the graduating class president, responded. An amusing stunt was given by five boys of the graduating class. Other speakers were Father Hillenbrand, Mrs. Gary Krug (nee Evelyn Spiegelhoff), Father Dreis, and Rev.



Rev. Raymond C. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Miller of West Allis, was born July 14, 1905, at Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. His family moved to West Allis in his boyhood and he received his grammar school education at Holy Assumption school there. After attending West Allis high school for two

years, he entered St. Francis Seminary where he continued his high school course, and pursued in succession the classical, philosophical, and theological courses. He received minor orders in 1923; subdiaconate in June 1930 from Archbishop Messmer; and diaconate in December 1930 from Archbishop Stritch. Father Miller offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time in his home parish, Holy Assumption church, on Sunday, May 31, 1931.

Philip Rose. Community singing was directed by Victor Woeste, with Ellsworth Rein accompanying. Orchestra music was furnished during the evening by Freddie Reuschlein and his Golden Troubadours.

At the business meeting held following the banquet, Norma Ketterhagen was elected president for the coming year, with John E. McCarthy as vice president and Rose Ward as secretary and treasurer. The Sister Hermiana trophy for largest attendance in proportion to size of class was awarded to the class of 1926. The banquet closed with the alumni song, "To St. Charles," after which the members proceeded to the Knights of Columbus hall for an evening of dancing.

The need for an informed laity united under the leadership of the hierarchy in the task of advancing the cause of a better social order based on Christian principles of living was sounded as the theme at the opening of the twenty-second biennial convention of the Catholic Central Verein of Wisconsin on Sunday, June 21, at St. Mary's. The Catholic Women's League of Wisconsin held its eighth biennial convention in conjunction with the Central Verein convention. St. Mary's school served as headquarters for the three-day convention, with the Knights of Columbus club house open for registering and receiving guests and as downtown headquarters.

A pontifical high Mass, presided over by Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch, was celebrated at St. Mary's on Sunday morning following the formal opening of the convention at St. Mary's high school, where Rev. Van Treeck, Burlington mayor Louis A. Forge, and convention chairman Frank H. Schwaller welcomed the delegates and visitors. Over a thousand persons assembled for the Sunday afternoon meeting which included a musical concert by the Burlington Harmony Band, addresses by prominent speakers and guests of honor, and musical numbers by the Burlington Knights of Columbus chorus directed by Stanley Szydlowski. On Sunday evening, the state oratorical contest was held in which thirteen young men and women delivered original orations.

Monday opened with a solemn high Mass at St. Mary's at which Rev. Joseph Keller of Brighton preached the sermon in German. Business sessions were held throughout the day. In the evening, a play was presented by St. Mary's high school pupils.

Tuesday, the last day of the convention, opened with a requiem Mass at St. Charles for departed members of the Central Verein and the Catholic Women's League of Wisconsin. A business session followed, at which reports of the legislative and resolutions committees were heard and officers were elected. In the afternoon the delegates were entertained with an automobile tour of the region's lakes. The route took the sightseers, in thirty-eight cars, past Brown's Lake and the Franciscan Monastery, to Elkhorn where a stop was made at the Holton musical instrument factory, through the lake region of Delavan, then to Lake Geneva, and back to Burlington. In the evening, the closing banquet with a program of speeches and music was held at St. Charles hall.



Some of the attendees at and participants in the Wisconsin Catholic Central Verein and Catholic Women's League of Wisconsin convention held in Burlington June 21-23, 1931, are shown in front of St. Mary's church after Sunday Mass.

(to be continued)