

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 34 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



An inspiring outdoor program and service, which attracted several thousand visitors to Burlington, was carried out in the athletic bowl on St. Mary's school grounds on September 24, 1933, at the annual rally of the Holy Name societies of Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth counties. Threatening skies during the early part of the day did not keep the crowd from gathering to hear the main speakers, Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch of Milwaukee; Rev. John J. Clark, president of Pio Nono high school and spiritual director of the Holy Name Society for the Milwaukee archdiocese; and circuit court Judge John C. Kleczka, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives.



Rev. Edward J. Kersting  
(1932 photo)

An outdoor altar was erected on the grounds, around which were seated visiting clergymen and the speakers. Temporary bleachers were set up for the Holy Name members and their families and friends who attended. Rev. Edward J. Kersting of St. Mary's presided as chairman and introduced the speakers.

Rev. Clark spoke of the Holy Name Society's 659 years of active service. "This society had its beginning early in the thirteenth century," Rev. Clark said, "at a time when the name of Jesus and the doctrines of Jesus were being insidiously attacked. The society was organized by a body of Christian men who pledged themselves by their actions and by their speech to proclaim the divinity of Jesus Christ. This is the sole purpose of the society today," he said.

"Religion is the prop of national prosperity," said Judge Kleczka, who decried the arrogant and materialistic attitude which had followed the world war. The depression which grew out of an orgy of extravagant living had brought the people back to God in a spirit of humility similar to that which guided the founders of our nation, he said. "When the constitution was finally written, Washington acknowledged that its success and future events were in the hands of God."

Faith in Christ is the essential foundation upon which man may build his life, said Archbishop Stritch. He said that charity, a word which Christ gave to the people and which He endowed with a richer meaning, is an essential of Christian living. The Archbishop urged his hearers to build their lives upon the Christian virtues personified by the Savior.

At the conclusion of the program, Archbishop Stritch officiated at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Kenosha Knights of Columbus chorus sang the hymns of the Benediction service.

Earlier in September, St. Charles school had opened with a total enrollment of 176 pupils, 101 boys and 75 girls. The pupils were divided by grades as follows: first - 15, second - 29, third - 26, fourth - 21, fifth - 18, sixth - 24, seventh - 18, and eighth - 25.

In October, St. Charles Alumni association, under the direction of Father Raymond Miller, started work on the play "Polishing Papa" which was presented before a large audience at the Burlington high school auditorium on November 22. The plot of the play revolved around the son and daughter of a middle western sausage manufacturer who had returned from their eastern college determined to make over their father and equip him with the necessary social graces to

meet their fashionable eastern friends. A great many comical situations arose as the plot unfolded. The cast members, who won the praise of all present for their entertaining performance, included Marion Luetten, Catherine Itzin, Aloys Partee, Walter Riel, Francis Cook, Dolores Spiegelhoff, Richard Beix, Catherine Bauman, Bud Pieters, and Alberta Bushman. Between acts, five boys from St. Charles grade school put on a clever act, and Rosemary Beix and Joan Kenney performed a Dutch dance.

Christmas of 1933 saw St. Charles holding a Midnight Mass for the first time and parish son and seminarian Cyril Spiegelhoff, who had received the order of subdeacon earlier that year, preaching his first sermon at St. Charles at that Mass. He also preached the sermon at the 9:30 solemn high Mass on Christmas morning.

In January 1934 Mrs. Elizabeth Mangold reported on the local welfare work that members of the parish's Third Order of St. Francis had done in co-operation with the Community Chest in the previous two months. She said that they had repaired or made 439 articles of clothing, distributing them to eighteen families, and had spent 123 hours sewing and mending. For the clothes that were made, the members used yard goods supplied by the Community Chest.

St. Charles' Forty Hours devotion in 1934 opened at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of Lent with the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. At the closing on Tuesday night, fifteen visiting priests were in attendance. A Redemptorist priest preached the sermon and gave the papal blessing. Solemn Benediction was given with Father Kersting of St. Mary's officiating. He was assisted by former St. Charles parishioner, Rev. Philip Rose of Fond du Lac, and by St. Mary's assistant, Rev. Henry A. Maurer.

On March 1 Rev. Joseph Wurm, pastor of St. Alphonsus at New Munster for 19 years, passed away. Father Wurm had participated in many services and functions at St. Charles over the years. Father Miller of St. Charles was thurifer at the requiem Mass; and Father Hillenbrand, along with the pastors of the several surrounding parishes, were active pallbearers.

On March 4 nineteen young women of the parish's St. Agnes Sodality, including official delegates Eleanor Eckert and Cecelia Crowley, attended a meeting of the sodality section of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women in Milwaukee. The meeting opened with high Mass celebrated by Archbishop Stritch at St. John's Cathedral. Father Miller of St. Charles, the St. Agnes Sodality's spiritual director, served as acolyte during the Mass. The afternoon was spent attending meetings conducted for the various groups of sodality activity. The St. Charles delegation, along with four members of the St. Mary's sodality and seven members of the St. Rita's Sodality at Lyons, chartered a railcar on the interurban electric line and attended in a body.

The following week, the young men of St. Charles formed an organization to promote social and educational activity. Father Miller, under whose leadership the group was started, directed the opening meeting. The group, known temporarily as the St. Charles Young Men's club, sponsored various activities popular with young men, including athletics, outdoor life, social recreation, and public speaking. Elected to head the group were president William Rewald, vice president Charles Rewald, secretary George Weiler, Jr., and treasurer John Reynolds.

On April 16 the St. Agnes Sodality entertained the sodalists of St. Mary's in St. Charles hall. One hundred members from both sodalities attended the meeting. After the business session, the Apostleship committee furnished an entertainment bearing on the sodality's mission work. The program opened with two readings, "Danny," by Florence Steinhoff, and "How I Found My Brother," by Jeanette Eckert. Jane Wagner gave a piano selection, and a selected cast then gave a playlet, "Friends of the West." The cast included Gloria Reynolds, Genevieve Huth, Mary Moe,

Viola Kortendick, Cecelia Crowley, Jeanette Crowley, Loretta Granger, Genevieve Prasch, Billy David, Jack Bennett, Helen Grossman, Helen Zabler, Eunice Schumann, and William Rewald.

In May the sodality's members honored their mothers at an evening banquet held at the church hall, which was attended by about 150 mothers and daughters. The hall was decorated to represent a spring garden. Sodality members prepared the dinner, and the junior sodality girls acted as waitresses. Mrs. Henry Miller of West Allis, mother of Father Miller, was guest of honor. Mrs. Clara Steinhoff was the guest of her four daughters, the largest family group present.

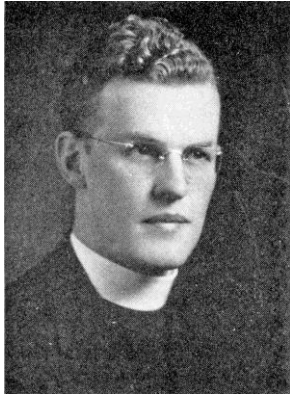
Twenty-seven children received their first solemn Communion on Sunday, May 20. They were

Betty Bennett	Rupert Kuhn	Philip Newell	Joseph Steinhoff
Raymond Clausen	Ralph Luetten	Gwendolyn Overson	Charles Tenwinkel
Robert Clausen	Mary Mangold	Carolyn Pieters	Mary Ellen Vos
John Crowley	Evelyn Martin	Lois Reuschlein	William Vos
James David	James McCarthy	Walter Schiller	Grace Winkler
Wilfred Hopkins	Janice McCormack	Edna Sheridan	Aileen Zwiebel
Joyce Kresken	Edward Nelson	Edward Siehoff	

The following Sunday, Archbishop Stritch visited Burlington to administer the sacrament of Confirmation at both parishes. The services at St. Charles were held in the afternoon, at which time the following children and adults were confirmed.

Malcolm Alby	Philip Grueter	Edward Miller	M. Gertrude Spieker
Bernice Bauman	June Heintskill	Mary Mutchler	Helen Stang
Virginia Bauman	Charles Hopkins	Warren A. Newell	Mary Lou Stang
John Bayer	John Hopkins	Florence O'Neill	Genevieve Steinhoff
Richard Bayer	Eunice Hoyle	John O'Neill	Paul Steinhoff
John "Jack" Bennett	Mildred Huening	Philip Peeters	Harold Stine
Harold Beuthling	Charles Itzin	Emma Pfarrdrescher	Henry Stevens
Robert Brehm	Ethel Johnson	Frederick Pieters	Joseph Sughrue
Virginia Breidenbach	Ralph Kellams	Genevieve Prasch	Patricia Sughrue
Herbert Brook	Bernard Kerkman	Helen Remer	Paul Sughrue
Roman Brook	Donald Ketterhagen	Mae Clara Remer	William Sughrue
Arthur Carlton	Louis Ketterhagen	Rosemary Remer	Louise Tennesen
Alfred Clausen	Edmond Klein	Norma Reuschlein	Rosemond Tenwinkel
Raymond Cook	Joseph Koczkowski	Arthur Rewald	Willard Tenwinkel
Jeanette Crowley	Herbert Koenen	Margaret Reynolds	Valieta Vos
Francis Dauben	Clifford Kortendick	Mary Reynolds	Robert Wanasek
Cecilia David	Philip Krueger	Marion Robers	Charles Warren
Mary Eileen David	Evelyn Linneman	Irene Rogan	John Warren
William David	Lillian Lohaus	Adolph Rossmiller	Charles Weiler
Bernice Eckert	Lucille Luetten	Victor Rossmiller	Marion Weis
Hertha Eisenbart	Fred Mathews	Virginia Rueter	Stanley Wiechert
Frank Elderbrook	Francis McCarthy	John Scheibe	John Wiemer
R. Kenneth Gardner	Virginia McCarthy	Jean Schiller	LeRoy Zabler
Gloria Giannini	Betty McCormack	Neal Schumann	Dorothy Zwiebel
Isabel Giannini	Janet Merrick	Neal Sperhake	John Zwiebel
George Granger	Agnes Miller		

Burlington marked Memorial Day in 1934 with a program at Echo Park, instead of at each of the cemeteries as in former years. The graves of the veterans were decorated the day before with flags and flowers to honor their memory. The children of St. Charles, St. Mary's, and the public schools joined the parade of the patriotic organizations, the Boy Scouts, and the Burlington Harmony Band at the corner of what is now Kane Street and Milwaukee Avenue as the parade made its way on a winding route from the city hall to Echo Park.



Also on Memorial Day, the parish's third priest-son, Rev. Cyril W. Spiegelhoff (shown at left about 1935), read his first solemn Mass at St. Charles. Father Spiegelhoff had been ordained four days earlier at St. John's Cathedral by Archbishop Stritch. He was a member of a class of twenty-eight graduates of St. Francis Seminary, eighteen of whom were ordained in the Milwaukee archdiocese.

For Rev. Spiegelhoff's first Mass, the altars of St. Charles church were decorated with a profusion of yellow iris and bridal wreath, and yellow and white, the papal colors, carried out the decoration note throughout the church.

The new celebrant, wearing the white vestments of the festival, was escorted from the rectory to the church in procession. At the head of the procession walked the cross bearer, Mark Mueller, a seminarian from St. Mary's, and two candle bearers, Paul Spiegelhoff, brother of the new priest, and James Pihringer. These were followed by the altar boys and the group of visiting clergy. Last in the procession was the clerical group that assisted Father Spiegelhoff in the ceremonies of the Mass, and the symbolic bridal group of children.

The officiating clergymen in order as they marched were J. Russell Beix, cousin of the celebrant, master of ceremonies; Rev. Joseph Springob, classmate, as deacon; Rev. Aloysius Fellenz, classmate, as subdeacon; Rev. Spiegelhoff, celebrant; Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand, pastor of St. Charles, assistant presbyter; and Rev. Raymond Miller.

Immediately preceding Rev. Spiegelhoff was the bridal group, dressed in symbolic costumes. The two pages were Gary Krug, Jr., nephew of the priest, and Jerry Block. The bride was Ethel Daniels, cousin of the new priest. The ceremony of the bridal group is symbolic of the priest accepting the church as his spouse, the church being represented in the bride. The bride carried a white satin pillow on which lay a wreath intertwined with orange blossoms. The pillow and wreath were used by Rev. Gilbert Heuel (born John Rittman) at his first Mass at St. Charles twenty-two years earlier. The pages were dressed in white satin costumes trimmed with gold braid, and wore white satin caps with golden plumes. One carried a sheaf of golden wheat and the other a vine of grapes, symbolizing the sacrament of the altar.



The procession of altar boys, clergy, and bridal group makes its way from the rectory to the church for Rev. Spiegelhoff's first solemn Mass on May 30, 1934.

As the procession entered the church, the choir sang, "Tu Es Sacerdos." When all were in their places and the newly ordained priest stood before the altar ready to offer the Mass, he intoned the hymn to the Holy Spirit, "Veni Creator," with the choir responding. As the hymn ended, the celebrant began the opening words of the Mass, "I will go unto the altar of God, to God who giveth joy to my youth."

St. Charles' choir, under the direction of Laretta Uhen, sang the music of the Festival Mass by Gruber, a choir of male voices reciting the propers of the Mass arranged by Tozer. Rev. Philipp Dreis, former pastor of St. Charles, under whose pastorate Rev. Spiegelhoff began his studies for the priesthood, preached the sermon. At the close of the Mass, the "Te Deum" was sung, and the procession marched from the church as the organ played the recessional, "March of the Priests."

Immediately after the Mass, dinner was served in St. Charles hall, with local priests, visiting clergymen, relatives, and close friends as guests of Rev. Spiegelhoff. Table decorations were in yellow and white, the dining room being arranged to represent a garden. The after-dinner program was opened by Father Hillenbrand who spoke of the joy of the parish in the occasion. St. Charles' first priest-son, Rev. Philip Rose, acted as

toastmaster. He first introduced the bridal group, after which Paul Spiegelhoff gave a tribute to his reverend brother. Priests who responded to toasts were Rev. Dreis; Rev. Miller; Rev. Herbert Wagner, the new priest's cousin; and Burlington native, Rev. Anthony Weiler of Racine. Arthur Kayser sang two vocal solos. The toastmaster then called on Rev. Spiegelhoff, who responded

Rev. Cyril W. Spiegelhoff, second oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Spiegelhoff, was born in Lake Geneva March 8, 1908. He entered kindergarten in Burlington in 1912, the year the family moved to Burlington, and the next fall entered St. Charles school. During his grade school days, his youthful decision to become a priest was formulated and, with the encouragement of his pastor, Rev. Philipp Dreis, Cyril entered St. Francis Seminary in the fall of 1922, the year he completed the eighth grade.

Cyril was granted the degree of bachelor of arts in January 1931, writing his bachelor's thesis on the subject, "The Independent Grocers Alliance." In January 1934, Cyril was granted the degree of master of arts, and used for the subject of his master's thesis, "The Distribution of Catholic Literature in Military Camps During the Civil War." The first six years of his seminary course were devoted to preparatory and academic training, and the last six years to the study of philosophy and theology.

Rev. Spiegelhoff closed his school life with a record of high scholastic ability. He was also active in school athletics throughout his seminary years, having captained various athletic teams and serving as president of the athletic association.

Father Spiegelhoff's first parish assignment was as assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist at Jefferson where he served for two months before being assigned to St. Leo's in Milwaukee, where he served as assistant pastor until 1943. Responding to his country's call for army chaplains, he enlisted in the army in May 1943 and, after completing training, he entered active service as a lieutenant.

Father Spiegelhoff attained the rank of captain before returning to civilian life in December 1945. He served an interim pastorate at Ashford and was then assigned as pastor of St. Mary's church in Mayville, where he served for five years. In 1950 he was called to build a new parish, Mother of Perpetual Help, in the fast-growing northwest section of Milwaukee. He began the building program with a large school of over 1,000 pupils and 30 teachers. He then oversaw the building of the Sisters' convent, the rectory, and finally the church.

Father Spiegelhoff remained as pastor of Mother of Perpetual Help until his death on May 30, 1966, the thirty-second anniversary of his first solemn Mass at St. Charles. He was survived by his mother, Elizabeth Hemling Spiegelhoff. His father had died in 1955. Also surviving were his brothers, Ralph and Paul, and his sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Krug and Mrs. Dolores Hennig. Archbishop William Cousins officiated at the requiem high Mass held at Mother of Perpetual Help in Milwaukee. Father Spiegelhoff's remains were buried in the family plot at St. Charles Cemetery.

with words of gratitude to his parents, pastors, and friends who had helped him attain his goal. The toastmaster concluded the program with a tribute to the parents of the new priest.

At 7 o'clock in the evening, solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was held in the church with Father Spiegelhoff officiating. After the service, friends gathered in the church hall to greet the young priest and extend congratulations.

#### A Military Chaplain Offers Mass

Assigned in 1943 as chaplain to a unit preparing to invade Germany, Rev. Cyril W. Spiegelhoff was with his unit at the invasion of Normandy and his unit participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He witnessed the destruction that the bombing raids over Germany left.

In Cologne, he offered Mass on an altar that remained intact in the Cologne Cathedral amidst the rubble and with the roof opened to the sky. Present with the troops was noted war photographer, Margaret Bourke-White. In a letter to his parents, Capt. Spiegelhoff described the incident as follows:

“Last Monday I had the privilege of celebrating Mass in the cathedral. During the Mass someone kept taking pictures from every angle. After Mass the photographer introduced herself as Margaret Bourke-White of ‘Life.’ She was in search of pictures for the Easter edition. Don’t be disappointed if the pictures don’t appear, as they have many photographers on the road. This one is supposed to be the best woman photographer in the business.”

The moving scene, shown at right, was eventually used as a full page feature in Life Magazine.



(to be continued)