

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 39 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



Parish religious and social activities during the latter part of 1937 and early part of 1938 included the Midnight Mass on Christmas followed by six Masses during the morning hours; pre-Christmas caroling beneath the windows of shut-ins by the St. Agnes Sodality; card parties, communion breakfasts, and elections of officers by the various church organizations; and the usual schedule of devotions and Masses, including those of Lent and Easter.

Following his return from an extended trip to Europe and the Holy Land in the summer of 1937, Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand gave a series of lectures during the fall and winter at St. Charles' hall on his experiences. He also gave talks at St. Peter's Catholic church in Antioch, Illinois, and at the Burlington Rotary Club. Later in 1938 Father Hillenbrand gave a talk on his trip at the initiation banquet of the Catholic Daughters of America of Lake Geneva.

In February 1938 the parish received word that Sister Mary Ildephonse of the Dominican convent at Racine, who at one time was Sister Superior of the Sisters of St. Charles school, had died. She had been in charge of St. Ann's home for the aged in Racine after leaving Burlington.

At the beginning of May, a large delegation of Catholics from Burlington attended a national Catholic social action conference at the Milwaukee Auditorium. The conference, which took place under the patronage of Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch, was the first of its kind ever held in America. It had for its central purpose exploring the possibilities of attaining a Christian social order in the United States. St. Charles' parishioners who were delegates to the conference included Eleanor Eckert, Ruth Wagner, Rosemary Beix, and Grace Moe of the St. Agnes Sodality; Mrs. Florence Scheibe and Mrs. Florence Bennett of the St. Ann's Society; Robert and Oswald Wagner of the St. Eustachius Society; and Mrs. Grace Rose of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.

On May 8 a class of twenty-two children received their First Communion. The boys and girls were attended by six boys and six girls from the lower grades who formed an escort as the communicants approached the altar. Those in the Communion class were:

Mary Lois Bauman	Marilyn May	Harold Schiller	Eugene Wanat
Robert Boulden	Richard McCarthy	Rose Ann Schlitz	William Weis
Jack Degen	Matthew Nelson	Lorraine Scholtes	Oliver Winkler
Grace Grueter	Patricia Prasch	Christopher Sheridan	Phyllis Zak
Marion Huening	Philip Reuschlein	Patricia Vos	Richard Zak
Daniel Johann	Grace Runzler		

The attendants were:

Mary Alby	Joseph Boyle	Robert Martin	Donald Prasch
Rita Bauman	Dorothy Krueger	Mary McCarthy	Ronald Schiller
Roman Block	Roger Luetten	Shirley Nelson	Ruth Zwiebel

Toward the end of May, St. Mary's organized a branch of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) for the young men of that parish, under the direction of assistant pastor, Rev. Joseph Niglis. St. Charles organized a branch later in the year. The CYO was founded by Archbishop Stritch to care for the spiritual, cultural, social, and athletic needs of youth. At St. Mary's organization meeting, the general plan of the Archbishop's program to unify youth activities in

the archdiocese was outlined by Father Niglis. In explaining the scope of the CYO as it would eventually be conducted in parishes throughout the archdiocese, Father Niglis said that it was the wish of Archbishop Stritch to have every parish organized so that the activities of the young men's societies and groups would function in unity.

Although athletics was to be an important part of the CYO in every parish, the cultural program would also be stressed and strongly organized. This part of the program was to express itself in hobby groups to develop various interests of young men under capable leadership. Study club, debating, dramatics, and oratory were some of the hobbies outside sports that the young men would find accessible.

On May 30 St. Charles school children again participated in the city's Memorial Day ceremonies when they joined the parade of patriotic organizations, other school and youth groups, and the Burlington school band as they made their way to Echo Park. The focus of the ceremonies at the park was the unveiling and dedication of a memorial monument, with a tablet of names of all men and women who had entered world war service from Burlington in 1917 and 1918. The granite marker with its honor roster of 220 names was a gift of the city of Burlington to posterity, a permanent record of Burlington's valiant ones whose example of service and sacrifice would stand as an inspiration to future generations.

Selma Wilcox, sister of Ross Wilcox, the first Burlington man to lose his life in the war and for whom the Burlington post of the American Legion was named, unveiled the monument. Mayor H. J. Runkel presented the monument in the name of the city, and Roland Steinle of Milwaukee, prominent in state American Legion circles, delivered the dedicatory address.

Graduation exercises for members of the eighth grade class were held at St. Charles church on June 12, when the class of fifteen students received diplomas from Father Hillenbrand. The program opened with the class processional, during which the seventh and eighth grade pupils sang "O Sing Unto the Lord." Rev. Oswald G. Krusing, pastor of St. Joseph's at Lyons, gave the graduation sermon after which the diplomas were conferred on the graduates. The exercises ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The graduating class is shown in the following photograph.



#### Class of 1938

First row (l to r): Paul Coughlin, Norma Degen, Donald Pieters, Patricia Tobin, and Merle Scheibe.

Second row: Rev. Raymond Miller, Jane Bayer, Andrew Ketterhagen, Anna Mae Crowley, Anthony Linneman, Betty Zwiebel, and Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand.

Third row: Gertrude Itzin, Gordon Schilz, Cecelia Warren, David Brehm, and Ellen Brehm

The school bell of St. Charles rang the following Thursday evening to summon back 285 graduates and their guests for the largest reunion held in the twenty-one years since the St. Charles Alumni Association had been organized. The reunion opened with solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament officiated by Father Krusing and assisted by Rev. Joseph Niglis and Rev. Herbert Wagner as deacon and subdeacon.

The church hall where the banquet was served was decorated for the occasion with streamers of purple and gold, the alumni colors, and blue and white, the 1938 class colors. Members of the newly graduated class occupied a table directly in front of the speakers' table.

Anthony B. Rewald, president of the association, opened the business meeting with a report on the year's activities. The class of 1933 won the Sister Mary Hermana trophy for the largest class attendance, having 81 per cent of the class at the reunion. Officers elected for the upcoming year were president Fred Pieters, vice president Donald Ketterhagen, secretary Mrs. Romana Kayser, and treasurer Rosemary Beix.

Harold G. Reuschlein, a member of the class of 1918 and professor of law at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., was toastmaster. He extended greetings from Msgr. Philipp Dreis, Rev. J. Russell Beix, and Rev. Philip Rose, who were unable to attend. In a tribute to Msgr. Dreis in his absence, Professor Reuschlein said that of all the teachers under whom he had sat in his years of study, the man who came into his room in grade school and taught him catechism and some church history was the greatest of them all.

Mary Lou Stang gave the welcome to the incoming graduates. Donald Pieters, president of the 1938 class, responded for his classmates.

Francis Itzin, of the class of 1930, who had graduated from Notre Dame University the previous Sunday, was speaker of the evening. Mr. Itzin, who had been closely associated with Catholic youth work at Notre Dame, where he had served as executive secretary of the St. Vincent de Paul society, spoke on the recent emphasis of church leaders, such as Archbishop Stritch, in unifying the action of its youth groups. "To meet organization with organization, keen play with keen play as well trained athletic teams going into the field, is the most successful means of competing with the subtle anti-God propaganda that is insinuating itself into the social and moral ideals of American youth today," he said. "Unity of action is the keynote of the Catholic youth program," he added.

Father Hillenbrand and Father Miller gave short talks. Father Hillenbrand reported that during the year fourteen St. Charles alumni members had married, one had joined the Sisters of St. Francis Convent, and two had entered St. Francis Seminary. Laretta Uhen directed group singing.

A CYO softball league was organized again for the summer season. Teams taking part were from St. Mary's and St. Charles, Burlington; St. Joseph's, Lyons; and St. Thomas Aquinas, Waterford. The St. Charles line-up included Fred Pieters, Norbert Ebberts, John Wiemer, Charles Wiemer, Edmund Klein, Herbert Rossmiller, Neal Schumann, John Wiechert, Joseph Rewald, Donald Pieters, Andrew Ketterhagen, Philip Ketterhagen, and Joseph Pieters.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Riel, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Weiler, Walter Riel, Jr., and Miss Elizabeth Baltes of Chicago attended a service at St. Francis Convent on August first at which St. Charles graduate, Dorothy Riel, entered the novitiate. Father Hillenbrand officiated at the altar during the Mass and Father Miller was subdeacon.

In September St. Charles school opened for the 1938-1939 school year with an enrollment of 175, an increase of five over the previous year. The number of students in each of the four

rooms was as follows: grades 1 and 2 - 41; grades 3 and 4 - 44; grades 5 and 6 - 41; and grades 7 and 8 - 49. The seventh grade was the largest grade with a membership of thirty pupils.

Father Miller of St. Charles was invited by members of the Mercier Club of Whitewater State Teachers College in October to act as lecturer for their club during the winter. The club, an organization of the college's Catholic students, held meetings twice a month. Father Miller lectured and led discussion topics on church history and modern social questions.

On the last Thursday in October, Archbishop Stritch administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 108 youths and adults. Msgr. Roman Atkielski, chancellor of the archdiocese, assisted the Archbishop at the altar. After the ceremonies, Archbishop Stritch celebrated solemn Benediction, assisted by Rev. E. Hertel, deacon; Rev. S. Groff, subdeacon; and Father Miller, master of ceremonies. Other priests from nearby parishes who attended in the sanctuary were Revs. Edward Schiefen, Edward J. Kersting, Joseph Niglis, Joseph G. Smith, Joseph Pierron, and John Pierron. The Confirmation class included fifty boys, thirty-six girls, and twenty-two adults. The youths were:

Richard Alby	John Grueter	James D. McCarthy	Walter Schiller
Irene Angsten	Roman Grueter	Patricia McCarthy	Gordon Schilz
Jane Bayer	Rita Hopkins	Janice McCormack	Bernice Scholtes
Betty Bennett	Wilfred Hopkins	Albert Muller	Edna Sheridan
James Bennett	Betty Isferding	Leo Muller	Paul Spiegelhoff
Betty Jo Block	Gertrude Itzin	Walter Muller	Joseph Steinhoff
David Brehm	Lester Johnson	Edward Nelson	Bernard Tenwinkel
Ellen Brehm	Andrew Ketterhagen	Henrietta Nelson	Charles Tenwinkel
Charles Brook	Edward Ketterhagen	John Peterson	Florence Tenwinkel
James Budd	John Ketterhagen	Carolyn Pieters	Patricia Tobin
Shirleymae Busch	Viola Ketterhagen	Donald Pieters	Herbert Uhen
Raymond Clausen	Alfred Klein	Ralph A. Pieters	Mary Ellen Vos
Robert Clausen	Robert Klein	Dorothy Pihringer	William Vos
Paul Coughlin	Leonard Koenen	James Pihringer	Cecelia Warren
Anna Mae Crowley	Rupert Kuhn	Elaine Reinardy	Richard Weyrough
John Crowley	Mary Leach	Lois Reuschlein	Charles Wiechert
James E. David	Ruth Lehsten	Rosemary Rueter	Grace Winkler
Joseph David	Anthony Linneman	Frank Runzler	Arthur Zimmermann
Norma Degen	Romana Lohaus	Ruth Runzler	Catherine Zwiebel
Leslie Eckert	Ralph P. Luetten	Merle Scheibe	Elizabeth Zwiebel
Edmund Elderbrook	Mary Mangold	Marian Schiller	Raymond Zwiebel
Louis Granger	Evelyn Martin		

The adult confirmands were:

Evelyn Bull	June Garvey	Vivian Lois	Dorothy Sparks
Herbert Duehring	Hazel Kerkman	Harley Payne	David Sundberg
Katherine Eddy	Charles Kielty	Catherine Rossmiller	Louise Thom
Ruth Feser	Hazel Kielty	Ralph Schmaling	Lila Vos
Mary Foltz	Milton Krakofsky	Lawrence Selear	Rosemary Weis
Opal Forge	Raymond Langdon		

At their November meeting, members of the St. Agnes Sodality entertained their mothers at a program arranged by the apostolic committee under the leadership of Mona Eckert. A tableau, "The Lamb of God," directed by Eleanor Eckert, was given by a group of girls. In the tableau were Rosemary Rueter and Mildred Huening, angels; Norma Degen, Gertrude Itzin, and Jane Bayer, purgatorial group, and Ruth Runzler, living member. Father Miller read the spiritual meditation for the tableau. A choir composed of Rosemary Beix, Florence Hoffman, and Rosemary Forge sang the "Agnus Dei," by Tedasco, Lauretta Uhen accompanying.

The first issue of the sodality's new monthly bulletin, giving news of sodality activities and announcements, was distributed to members. Mary Moe was editor of the news sheet.

A number of sodality members and other Burlington women attended a conference of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women in Milwaukee in November. St. Charles' parishioner Mrs. Grace Rose, who for many years had served on the Council's executive board, was elected one of the organization's vice presidents. Father Miller of St. Charles presided at a session for clergymen. Prominent among the conference's topics was the need for Catholic youth organizations.

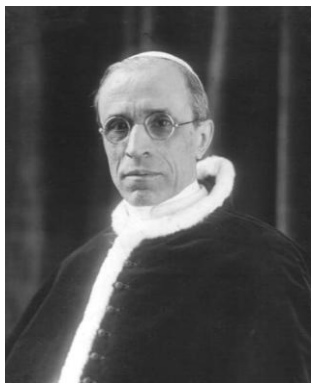
In January 1939 Jack Bennett of St. Charles' CYO, who with his original oration, "Communism and Americanism," had won first place in the Burlington area CYO oratorical contest, won second place in the Milwaukee archdiocesan contest staged at St. Robert's auditorium in Milwaukee. A number of Burlington people attended the final contest.

Also in January about twenty Burlington young people representing St. Mary's and St. Charles parishes attended a divisional Catholic Youth Organization meeting at St. Joseph's parish hall at Lyons. Father Niglis of St. Mary's, who was divisional spiritual director, opened the session with a short talk and the young people attending took part in an open discussion of problems confronting the organizations in the division. New divisional officers, who conducted the session, were as follows:

Boys division: chairman - Bob Scheller, St. Joseph's; vice chairman - Charles Wiemer, St. Charles; secretary - Joe Weiler, St. Mary's; and treasurer - Hugh Gene Dardis, St. Charles.

Girls division: chairman - Mary Epping, St. Mary's; vice chairman - Loretta VanderWerff, St. Francis Xavier; secretary - Rosemary Forge, St. Charles; and treasurer - Margaret Kerkman, St. Alphonsus.

Representatives from St. Francis de Sales, Lake Geneva, and St. Thomas Aquinas, Waterford, were also present at the divisional meeting.



Pope Pius XII

At the parish's annual meeting on the last Sunday in January, Louis H. Brehm was re-elected as secretary and L. Reinhard Mangold was re-elected as treasurer.

Following a third heart attack, Pope Pius XI died February 12, 1939. During the following week, each of Burlington's Catholic churches was draped in gold and black on the outer door and over the sanctuary in mourning. Requiem Masses were sung in both churches for the repose of his soul. On March 2 Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli was elected Pope, taking the name Pius XII.



Louis H. Brehm

Among the functions that took place at St. Charles or involved St. Charles' parishioners in the late winter of 1938 and the spring months of 1939 were the following:

- The St. Charles' CYO held its first public activity, a stag card party, at St. Charles' hall.
- Members of the St. Agnes Sodality entertained about 230 young men and women from the sodality and CYO groups of St. Mary's, Lyons, Waterford, New Munster, Brighton, and St. Matthew's of Milwaukee at a function held at St. Charles hall.
- More than 150 persons, including pastors, parish drive captains, solicitors, and others from the fourteen parishes in the Burlington district of the archdiocese, attended a meeting at St. Charles hall to plan for the archdiocesan charity drive which was to be held from March 19 to April 2. Leo J. Warren of St. Charles, chairman of the district group, presided.
- The St. Agnes sodality held its annual Fathers and Daughters day at which about 120 daughters and their fathers received Holy Communion and attended a breakfast that followed. At the breakfast program, Dr. J. F. Bennett spoke on "What My Daughter Means to Me," and Fathers Hillenbrand and Miller gave short talks. Laretta Uhen led community singing; Mildred and Marion Huening presented an accordion duet; and the Junior sodality members sang "Our Fathers."
- The women of the St. Ann's Society held a luncheon arranged by the Roundy canned foods company in conjunction with Spiegelhoff's grocery store. About 200 women were present for the luncheon, a food demonstration, and the afternoon card party.

Mother's Day was the occasion of a breakfast gathering of mothers and daughters of the parish after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. The women and girls of the parish attended Mass together and received Holy Communion and then were served breakfast in the church hall by the men and boys of the parish. Mrs. Margaret Zimmermann gave an address, "Queen of Peace," expressing the belief that woman's greatest contribution to the peace of the world is to maintain peace and harmony within their own hearts and within the circle they move in. She invited them to use as their example the Blessed Virgin Mary, who had been designated as Queen of Peace during the month of May by the new pontiff, Pope Pius XII.

On the Wednesday before Mother's Day, the mothers of the St. Agnes sodalists were guests at a banquet and program prepared in their honor. With 1939 marking the twenty-fifth year of the recognition of Mother's Day as a national holiday, the tables were decorated in silver and streamers of blue. The mothers were presented with a shoulder bouquet of spring flowers before the dinner. Father Hillenbrand, the main speaker, chose for the subject of his address the shrines and churches erected to the Blessed Virgin in Palestine. Among those he mentioned were the Grotto of the Visitation, the home of Joseph, the Fountain of the Virgin in Nazareth, and Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed his first miracle. Because of the singular honor which Jesus bestowed on women of his time, the Christian world has come to honor and appreciate womanhood and motherhood, concluded Father Hillenbrand. Father Miller, the sodality's spiritual advisor, closed the program with an inspirational talk, urging mothers to co-operate with their daughters in carrying on sodality activities.

At a meeting early in May, the eighth grade class made plans for its graduation under the guidance of Sister Annette. The class elected James Bennett president, Jack Peterson vice president, Catherine Zwiebel secretary, and Joseph David treasurer. Class colors chosen were old rose and white; the class flower was the sweet pea; and the motto was "Deeds, Not Words."

*(to be continued)*