

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 42 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



Archbishop Moses E. Kiley made his first visit to St. Charles parish on Sunday, October 12, 1941, when he administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 80 children and adults in the presence of visiting pastors, sponsors, family members, and other parishioners. St. Charles' choir sang the "Ecce Sacerdos" as the Archbishop, accompanied by clergymen and altar boys, entered the church in procession. In a brief address, Archbishop Kiley reminded the candidates for Confirmation of man's lofty destiny, to know God, to love and serve Him, and to be with Him eternally in heaven. The coming of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, he said, is a manifestation of God's goodness and wisdom.

The choir sang "Veni Creator Spiritus" as the sacrament was administered. Rev. Charles Myers presented each member of the class for Confirmation. The ceremonies closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Those who were confirmed were:

Mary Lois Bauman	William Grossman	Mary Ann Muller	James Steinhoff
Joan Bennett	Marion Huening	Margaret Nelson	Louise Tenwinkel
DeLane Betzig	Daniel Johann	Matthew Nelson	Jean Thomas
John Betzig	John Ketterhagen	Gwendolyn Overson	Margaret Tobin
Jerome Block	Wanda Kolodziej	Robert Overson	Jean Trimberger
Robert Boulden	Rosemary Krueger	James Pennefeather	Florence Uhen
Cecil Brenton	Gary Krug	Kenneth Pihringer	Eleanor Vos
Thomas Busch	Mary Ann Lackas	Louan Pihringer	Patricia Vos
Donald Clausen	Ralph Larson	Philip Reuschlein	Richard Vos
Jeanne Coughlin	Jean Ann Laurie	Robert Reynolds	Eugene Wanat
Marjorie Coughlin	Beatrice Lehsten	Ruth Reynolds	Wallace Warren
Elizabeth David	Dorothy Lehsten	Richard Rossmiller	Robert Wegge
Rose David	Donald Lois	Elmer Rubach	Marie Wiechert
Joan Degen	James May	Harry Scheibe	Oliver Winkler
John Degen	Marilyn May	Harold Schiller	Roger Winkler
Mary Degen	John McCarthy	Luella Schiller	Dolores Wisnefski
Mrs. N. Ebbers	Richard McCarthy	Rose Ann Schlitz	Edward Wisnefski
Helen Elderbrook	Adrianna Menheer	Lorraine Scholtes	Elmer Wisnefski
James Fell	Vincent Menheer	Edward Siehoff	Marion Zimmermann
Chester Fine	John Morell	Kathryn Siehoff	Helen Zwiebel

In November, Rev. Oswald Krusing, who had served as pastor of St. Joseph's congregation at Lyons from 1935 to 1939, resigned his pastorate at St. Stephen at New Coeln to don the grayish white habit of the Trappist monk. While pastor at St. Joseph's, Father Krusing had attended or participated in several functions at St. Charles, including Forty Hours devotion, graduation exercises, alumni association banquets, and the 1935 silver jubilee Mass.

In December, St. Charles' parishioners participated in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's special centennial campaign to raise half a million dollars throughout the state to be used to finish the rebuilding of St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee, the mother church of the archdiocese,

and to maintain Catholic charitable organizations and institutions in the state. Raymond Cunningham of Burlington was in charge of the drive in this area, which included parishes in Kenosha, Racine, Jefferson, and Walworth counties.

It was early Sunday afternoon, December 7, 1941, in Burlington when the first news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor flashed over the wires. At least fourteen, and possibly more, local people were within the boundaries of the Pacific war zone, some of them engaged in actual combat. During the following weeks, a Civilian Defense Corps with about 200 registered members was organized in Burlington. St. Charles parishioner John E. McCarthy was appointed to direct the civilian division of the fire patrol.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, eight junior sodalists were received into the senior group of the St. Agnes Sodality at reception services in St. Charles church. The members who were advanced were Joan Bennett, Joan Degen, Evelyn Marsili, Margaret Nelson, Kathryn Siehoff, Florence Uhen, Mary Ann Lackas, and Luella Schiller. The ceremony opened with a hymn and a short discourse by the sodality's spiritual director, Rev. Francis McGarry. Ellen Brehm, president of the sodality, presented the class of candidates for reception. They recited the act of consecration and received their sodality pins. The service closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Honoring the birth of Christ, a solemn high Mass was offered at midnight on Christmas. The boys' vested choir, together with the adult choir, sang a prelude of Christmas carols before the Mass. Soloists included Mrs. Loretta Bauman, Arthur Kayser, and Jean Schiller, and violinists Catherine Zwiebel and Jack Bennett. The usual Christmas morning Masses were offered, including a high Mass and Benediction at 9 and low Masses at 6, 7:30, and 11.

In December St. Charles school entered a team in a junior basketball league that Rev. Joseph Niglis had organized among the grade boys of St. Mary's school. Mixed teams of fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh graders at St. Mary's, and one team from St. Charles, formed a six team league. The boys played a regular schedule at St. Mary's gymnasium on Saturday mornings.

In January 1942, both the boys' basketball team and a girls' team from St. Charles played games against the boys' and girls' basketball teams of St. Rose's parish in Milwaukee. In a return match at St. Mary's gymnasium, the St. Rose teams defeated the St. Charles teams in the friendly rivalry. Playing on the St. Charles boys' team were David, Clausen, Reynolds, Block, May, Kuhn, Vos, Crowley, Wisnefski, D. Clausen, and Overson. On the St. Charles girls' team were Bennett, Schiller, David, Pihringer, Betzig, Zimmermann, Lehsten, and Tobin.

The two Burlington assistant priests, Rev. Francis McGarry of St. Charles and Rev. Joseph Niglis of St. Mary's, participated in the consecration Mass of Bishop-Elect William P.



1942 Girls' Basketball Team

First row (l to r): Marion Zimmermann, Beatrice Lehsten, Margaret Tobin, Margaret Nelson, Elizabeth "Fifi" David (who furnished the photo), and Joan Degen. Second row: Dolly Reesman, Joan Bennett, Luella Schiller, Marjorie Coughlin, Mary Degen, Kathryn Siehoff, Louan Pihringer, and DeLane Betzig.

O'Connor on March 7 at St. Thomas Aquinas church in Milwaukee. Father McGarry was the subdeacon of the Mass and Father Niglis was one of the gift bearers to the bishop-elect. Bishop-Elect O'Connor was enthroned as Bishop in the Superior diocese later in March.

The St. Charles Alumni Association's annual play, under the direction of Father McGarry, was presented at St. Mary's auditorium on Sunday, April 26. The play, "Four Daughters," was a comedy drama adapted from "Sister Act," a novel by Fannie Hurst about a widowed father and his four musical daughters. The actors were "Pete" Partee, Anthony J. Rewald, "Hap" Beix, Robert Corbett, Mrs. Catherine Corbett, Bernice Schiller, Norma Degen, Charles Itzin, Evelyn Luetten, and Betty Jo Block. Pete Partee was the production manager and Joan Kenney, Evelyn Bushman, and Richard Beix were members of the play committee. Ralph Spiegelhoff was in charge of stage and properties; Mrs. Irene Kelly was ticket committee chairman; and Mary McCourt was publicity chairman.

The cast made the most of the many interesting situations offered in the play for the enjoyment of the audience. Former pastors, Rev. Frederick Hillenbrand of Kenosha and Msgr. Philipp Dreis of Sheboygan, and Rev. Herbert Wagner of Hartford were among those who attended the production. Musical selections between the acts were provided by the St. Charles Junior choir, James Pihringer, James David, Donald Pieters, James Bennett, and David Brehm with Ellen Brehm as accompanist.

The conservation committee of the Burlington Woman's club, which for a number of years had sponsored bird and nature contests among the grade school children of the city, decided that because of war conditions, it would not conduct the contests in 1942. In place of the contests, the committee arranged an Arbor Day program at each of the schools, where a tree was planted and a talk was given by a representative of the Wisconsin conservation commission stressing the love of nature and the importance of conservation of wild life.

On April 26, the Holy Name Society posted in the church an honor roll of St. Charles members who were serving in some branch of the military service as of that time. Names were to be added as parish members entered service in the future. The following thirty-two names were on the initial honor roll:

Richard Bayer	Bernard Kerkman	Joseph Pieters	Claire Schumann
Robert Brehm	Edmund Klein	William Pieters	Willard Tenwinkel
Hugh Gene Dardis	Philip Kornhoff	Walter Riel	Robert Wanasek
Francis Dauben	Philip Krueger	William Rogan	Anthony Weiler
George Granger	Henry Leweling	Herbert Rossmiller	John Weiler
Lawrence Granger	John Moe	Louis Rossmiller	Arthur Weis
Charles Hopkins	Robert O'Neill	Victor Rossmiller	Joseph Weyrough
Martin Itzin	Bernard Peeters	Alois Schmitt	Leroy Weyrough

According to the St. Charles School News in the May 1, 1942, Standard Democrat, the school children had adopted Lt. J. P. Reichling, Catholic chaplain at Fort Warren, Wyoming, as their army chaplain. Father Reichling was formerly assistant pastor of St. Patrick's church in Racine. The children undertook a drive to collect rosaries to supply the 4,000 Catholic army boys stationed at Fort Warren. While on a furlough home some weeks before, Father Reichling visited the school and left his photograph in army uniform as a gift to the children. Until recently, he said, he was the only Catholic chaplain at the post, but now had the help of a Jesuit priest in attending to the spiritual needs of his boys. The pupils requested members of the congregation to help them in supplying used rosaries.

Solemn Holy Communion services were held on Sunday, May 3, at the 7:30 a.m. Mass for a class of sixteen children, according to the usual custom at St. Charles to hold First Communion ceremonies on the first Sunday in May. The class of solemn communicants included the following:

Robert Bauman	Joseph Brook	Lorraine Menheer	Yvonne Scholtes
Phyllis Block	Rita Lackas	Dorothy Pennefeather	Rita Vos
Frederick Boulden	Jane Luetten	Bruce Runzler	Joyce Warren
Dennis Boyle	William McCarthy	Joan Schiller	Doris Winkler

In May St. Charles priest-son, Rev. J. Russell Beix, who had been assistant to Burlington-born Rev. Phillip Klein at Sacred Heart Parish at St. Francis, was appointed professor at the minor seminary at St. Francis. At that time also, Rev. Joseph Hanauska was transferred to Burlington to take the place of Rev. Joseph Niglis as assistant to Rev. Edward Kersting at St. Mary's parish.

Graduation exercises were held in the church on Thursday, May 28. The 1942 class had blue and white as its class colors; the pink tea rose as its flower; Our Lady of Grace is its patroness; and "Choose Your Peak, Then Climb" as its class motto. Those who received diplomas are shown in the following photo.



Class of 1942

First row (l to r): DeLane Betzig, James Steinhoff, Elizabeth David, Beatrice Lehsten, Louan Pihringer, Marion Zimmermann, Margaret Tobin, Richard Vos, and Mary Degen.

Second row: Charles Tenwinkel, Theodore Menheer, Joseph Conlin, Rev. Francis J. McGarry, Rev. Charles Myers, Jack Crowley, Wilfred Hopkins, and Vincent Menheer

St. Charles 1934 alumnus Philip G. Krueger graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point on May 29, the first Burlington boy ever to win that distinction. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Krueger, attended the graduation exercises. Krueger, who received



Lt. Philip Krueger, St. Charles class of 1934, was first Burlington resident to graduate from the U. S. Military Academy, West Point.

his commission in the corps of engineers, made an outstanding record at West Point, standing twentieth in a class of 376. During his first year he attained the rank of cadet sergeant. He was a Catholic chapel acolyte, a member of the Dialectic society, and an academic coach while at West Point.

On Sunday, June 14, St. Charles graduates were reunited again in a heart-warming, all-day celebration which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of one of the few eighth grade alumni associations in the country. Msgr. Philipp Dreis, first pastor of St. Charles, and one of the organizers of the alumni group; Sister Mary Hermana, former teacher at the school; and Capt. Harold Gill Reuschlein, who was then legal adviser to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson in Washington, were only a few of the 300 association members who found time to attend their association's silver jubilee.

Archbishop Moses E. Kiley was to have attended the solemn high Mass and banquet, but was unavoidably detained in Milwaukee. In his place he sent Msgr. Bernard Traudt of St. Anne's parish, Milwaukee, who assisted at the Mass in cappa magna, and afterward addressed the dinner guests. Celebrant of the Mass was St. Charles graduate, Rev. Philip Rose, who was assisted by Rev. Herbert Wagner and Rev. Cyril Spiegelhoff, also St. Charles graduates. Special music was provided by the St. Charles choir, which sang Stehle's "Salve Regina" Mass accompanied by Sister Rose Ann at the organ.

Msgr. Dreis set the keynote of the reunion in his sermon at the Mass, when he said, "Yours is the only alumni association for a Catholic graded school. It is proper that you make a festival of your silver jubilee. May the association flourish further and grow greater. Carry on."

At a short business meeting preceding the banquet in St. Charles hall, association members elected the following officers for the coming year: Robert Beix president, Jean Schiller vice president, Lois Reuschlein secretary, and Mrs. Romana Kayser treasurer. The Sister Hermana trophy for highest percentage of attendance went to the class of 1926.

Dinner guests sat at tables grouped around a huge eight-tiered birthday cake with white icing and candles and festooned with silver. The fifteen members of the class of 1942 sat at tables arranged in a "V" before the speakers' table. Bars of purple and gold, St. Charles school colors, decorated the programs at each place, and fresh flowers brightened the speakers' table.

Following a welcome to the guests by Rev. Charles G. Myers, pastor, and an introduction by association president Celia Rose, toastmaster Anthony Rewald expressed thanks to "the Archbishop and his representative, the founders of the alumni society, and the reverend fathers present for their blessings."

John Bennett welcomed the class of 1942, with Louan Pihringer responding for her classmates. Miss Pihringer said, "Since we are the Silver Jubilee class, we will strive always to keep the silver lining of our lives turned toward St. Charles and the alumni association."

The members of the clergy at the speakers' table were introduced by the toastmaster. Revs. Francis J. McGarry, Cyril Spiegelhoff, Herbert Wagner, Edward Kersting, Raymond Miller, Frederick J. Hillenbrand, and Charles Myers, and Msgrs. Dreis and Traudt each were called upon for a few words.

Msgr. Traudt congratulated the association on its achievements and praised it for recognizing that the most important fact in the church at that time was the establishment of

Catholic schools. Father Myers said that it was a great pleasure and privilege to have the silver jubilee celebration during his pastorate.

Speaker of the afternoon, Capt. Reuschlein, related how he had been asked to address his college class's fifteenth reunion gathering at the University of Iowa, and the tenth reunion of his Yale law class during the past month. "I declined both invitations," he said. "Yet I came here today because I think that this is more important. There is something which pulls us here every year; that must mean that St. Charles gave us more than any other institution."

Capt. Reuschlein summed up the heritage of St. Charles as "An unshakable faith, virtue, and contact with noble personalities." Speaking of Msgr. Dreis he said, "I never had a greater teacher. He taught us love for the church and the history of all Christendom. And the Dominican Sisters combined classic teaching with the adaptation of modern concepts." "I hope we will meet again, often, all of us together," he added, "I hope when we meet again it will be under the blessings of peace."

Music during the dinner hour was provided by Art Kayser, Jean Schiller, and Mrs. Loretta Bauman. Accompanists were Sister Rose Ann and Don Ketterhagen. The St. Ann's Society cooked and served the dinner. The alumni danced Sunday night to the music of the Silver Derby orchestra at St. Mary's gymnasium.

Other events during the spring and summer of 1942 included the following:

- The St. Ann's Society held its annual mother and daughter communion breakfast on Pentecost Sunday after the 7:30 a.m. high Mass. One hundred fifty mothers and daughters received Communion in a body during Mass. The fathers and sons of the parish served the breakfast and attended to kitchen duties.
- Laurretta Uhen, former organist and choir director at St. Charles, made her religious profession, taking the name Sister Mary Miriam, O.S.F. Services took place at St. Joseph's convent in Milwaukee.
- Parents and friends of St. Charles school children had an opportunity, at an open house held in the school rooms, to become acquainted first hand with the activities and projects carried on by the students. Art work, junior Red Cross activities, CYO projects, and the work of the school sodality formed the basis of the display. There was an interesting exhibit of handicraft and art work, with booklets, posters, photographs, and other school activities.
- Forty-seven priests of the Milwaukee archdiocese held their annual golf tournament at the Brown's Lake golf course and enjoyed a dinner at the Colonial Club. Former St. Mary's assistant, Rev. Niglis, had the low gross score of 82; Father McGarry of St. Charles shot 86.
- A group of music students was presented by Sister Rose Ann, music instructor at St. Charles school, in a Sunday afternoon recital at the studio in the convent on Kendall Street. Guests were admitted by invitation only due to the limited space available. The participants included piano students Joan Jensen, Joan Bennett, Barbara Bennett, and Annette Van Bolhuis; voice students Helen Zwiebel, Mary Lois Bauman, Luella Schiller, Anne Albright, and James Bennett; and violin student John Bennett.
- John Jankoski, who had served as janitor at St. Charles for two years, resigned his position to accept work in a war industry in Milwaukee; Jankoski and his wife returned to Milwaukee, which was their former home. Edward Lohaus, who for a number of years had been janitor at Cooper School, accepted the position as janitor at St. Charles.

(to be continued)