

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

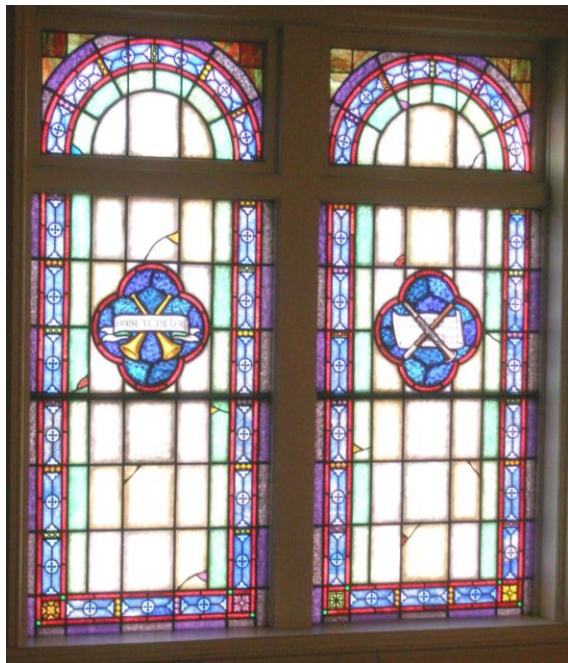
No. 45 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



After a year of consideration by Burlington school authorities and the city's ministers, a plan was worked out for the 1944-1945 school year whereby Burlington high school students would be offered a course in character building along religious lines. The course was planned so that students belonging to any faith could receive the instruction from the minister of the church of their choice. Classes met at 3 o'clock every Thursday afternoon, with a high school class room being devoted to each faith. The course was not compulsory, but pupils not attending these classes were obliged to carry on their other work.

Rev. Hugh Wishlinske, assistant at St. Charles, had charge of the course for the Catholic students of Burlington and the surrounding parishes. He used the course, "Catholic Morality," by H. R. Weger; and the class was organized into what was known as the Newman Club. Discussion periods followed the set study and lectures.

In mid-September 1944, workmen began placing new stained glass windows in St. Charles church. The windows, made by the Wagner Brothers Company of Milwaukee, had been ordered the previous year when the church was re-decorated, but a shortage of artisans in this special work delayed their arrival.



Cerulean blue stained glass outlines the Roman arch design of each window and is used for the central medallions containing the symbolic pictures.

Jesus with the crown of thorns. At the time the windows were installed, a statue of the Sacred Heart was located near the side altar on the right.

On the opposite, or left, side, where the large statue of St. Charles now stands, the first window contains a symbol of the heart of Mary with the crown of roses. At the time the windows were installed, a side altar with a statue of the Blessed Virgin was located on the left.

By mid-October, the new stained glass windows were in place, putting the finishing touch on the renovation. The beautiful windows, which are still in place as St. Charles marks its 100th anniversary, represent the finest expression of art applied for religious use. By combining color and texture of stained glass with dignity of design and sacred symbol, the artist obtained a serene, spiritual effect. In harmony with the decorative note on the church walls and in the sanctuary, cerulean blue stained glass was used to outline the Roman arch design of each window and for the central medallion of each window pane. The remainder of each window, made of opaque glass in neutral and pastel color tones, admits softly diffused light in contrast to the brilliance of the blue glass.

In the medallion of each window is a symbolic picture. The first window on the right (as one faces the altar), near the current statues of Joseph and Mary, bears the symbol of the heart of

The lower windows on the right side of the church symbolize the instruments of the passion and crucifixion of our Savior. One of the unique symbols is that of the seamless garment and three dice, representing the words of the psalmist, "They parted my garments amongst them; and upon my vesture they cast lots." In order, the windows picture the pillar and scourge; the crown of thorns and nails; the seamless garment; the hammer and pliers; the spear, sponge, and ladder; the I.N.R.I. inscription and passion flower; and the cross on Golgotha, or Mount Calvary. On the lower windows on the left side are figures representing the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, beginning with Baptism and ending with Holy Orders and Matrimony. The other sacraments, in order, are Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, and Extreme Unction.

The first six upper windows on either side are dedicated to the twelve apostles, each medallion bearing a sign of the apostle's work and, for those who were martyred, the symbol of his martyrdom. The first window on the right side, for example, is dedicated to St. Peter. It shows the Keys of the Kingdom, symbolizing his office as the first Pope, and an upside down cross, representing the position in which he asked his executioners to be crucified. According to Origen, an early Church historian, "Peter was crucified at Rome with his head downwards, as he himself had desired to suffer."

After St. Peter, the other five windows on the right are, in order, dedicated to Sts. Andrew, James the Great, John, Phillip, and James the Less. On the left side are the windows dedicated to Sts. Matthias, Jude, Simon, Matthew, Bartholomew, and Thomas.

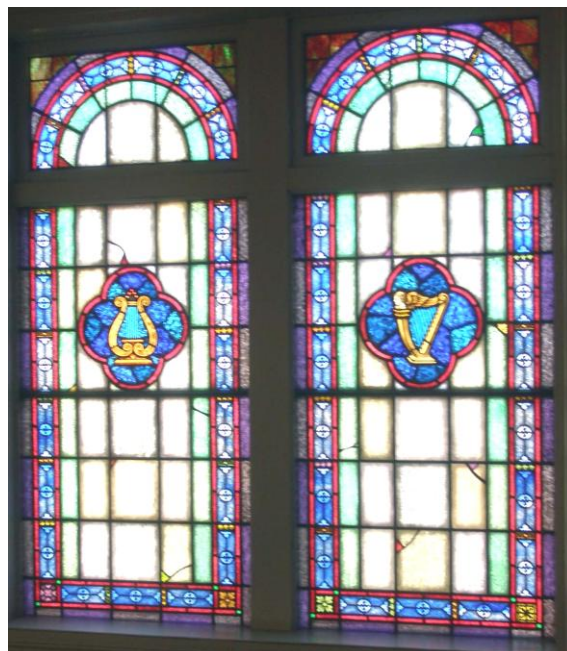
The last pair of lower windows on the right side picture the Holy Bible and the stone tablets bearing the Ten Commandments, signifying the new and old testaments. On the left side, the last pair of lower windows bear the IHS symbol, relating to the Holy Name of Jesus, and the Alpha and Omega symbol (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), relating to Christ.

The four windows on the right side of the choir loft depict a lyre, a harp, a horn, and a reed instrument. The first two windows on the left side of the choir loft bear the inscriptions, "Praise Ye the Lord" and "Praise His Holy Name." The latter two depict a tympani, or kettledrum, and a tambourine.

In the priest's sacristy are two windows, one containing a ciborium and the other depicting the elevation of the Host. In the servers' sacristy, which also has two windows, the windows contain a censer and a lamp on the Holy Bible. The two windows just inside the sanctuary near the top depict the Lamb of God on the left and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove on the right.

At the time the windows were installed, St. Charles parish invited visitors to come and view the windows.

In an October 10, 1944, letter to St. Charles pastor, Rev. Charles G. Meyers, Joseph Wagner of the Wagner Brothers Co. explained, as follows, how the windows were made.



A lyre and a harp are depicted on two of the stained glass windows in the choir loft.

Reverend Dear Sir:

The windows for St. Charles Church were executed in the following manner:

The materials used for the windows are of American and European antique glass in various shades, per special design submitted. Each individual section of the glass is treated with a mineral paint, rubbed and kiln fired, to bring out a rich antique glass effect. This mineral is applied to surface of the glass, blended with a soft camel hair brush, and when dry rubbed by hand. Then it is placed in the kiln to be baked until mineral dissolves itself in the glass.

The medallions in the windows are specially designed and placed in the windows in their proper places. In the lower Nave on the Gospel side, the Seven Sacraments; on the Epistle side, the Passion of Christ; and in the upper windows, the twelve Apostles and the musical instruments for the choir.

The colors in the windows are of the natural glass, and placed together with came lead. These leads are thoroughly soldered in all point sections on both sides with a high grade solder, then cemented on both sides with a combination of whiting, asbestos, and pure boiled linseed oil. This cement is rubbed in between leading and glass to make an airtight window. They are then reinforced with vertical cold rolled steel strengthening bars, to prevent bulging.

These operations are necessary before windows are installed, to get the required effect of the stained glass windows.

Yours very truly,

WAGNER BROTHERS COMPANY

By Joseph Wagner

The fall of 1944 saw the start of the second year of the CYO's monthly newsletter, The Beacon. In the editorial comment on CYO activities, The Beacon said: "Our goal is to have every young person in the parish become an active member in the CYO. And when they do become members, we hope that they will take their cue from the older members and pitch aright into everything which goes on. Our CYO is not limited to high school students only – any member of our parish who is a good, practical Catholic, between the ages of 14 and 26 may become a member." The staff of The Beacon for the second year was headed by co-editors Helen Zwiebel and Jeanie Vos.

On Sunday morning, December 10, 1944, the bells of St. Mary's rang out in exultation and blended with the joyful "Ecce Sacerdos" of organ and choir as Archbishop Moses E. Kiley, Bishop Aloysius J. Muench, over forty priests, the vested acolytes, and the altar boys carrying cross and lighted candles approached the altar to celebrate the solemn jubilee Mass commemorating one hundred years of parish life for St. Mary's congregation, the congregation from which St. Charles had been "born." The celebration marked the first pastoral visit of Archbishop Kiley to St. Mary's.

In the mind of memory arose another scene in contrast to this jubilant procession: A priest in rough traveling garb, dismounting his horse before a crudely built public inn and unhooking his precious Mass kit from his saddle. Father Martin Kundig had arrived on his

monthly visit to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass for his little flock of Catholics in early Burlington. But no less joyful was the greeting for this weather-stained priest than for the richly robed celebrant of the Pontifical Mass a hundred years later. Both had come to offer the same sacrifice of the Mass, and the people had come with the same faith in their hearts to worship at the sacred mysteries.

Assisting Archbishop Kiley at the altar were seven priests who went from St. Mary's parish to enter the priesthood. Rev. Philip Klein served as archpriest; Rev. Anthony Weiler and Rev. John Rueter were deacons of honor to the archbishop. Rev. Mark Mueller served as deacon and Rev. Roman Bernert, S. J., as subdeacon at the Mass. Rev. George Schumann and Rev. Cletus Uhen were chaplains. Other attendant priests were Rt. Rev. Msgr. Roman Atkielski and Rev. Joseph Hanauska, masters of ceremonies. Msgr. Edward J. Kersting, pastor of St. Mary's, was seated in the sanctuary.

At the conclusion of Mass, Archbishop Kiley delivered a pastoral address to the congregation, referring to the beginnings of the parish a hundred years earlier as the seed that bore the harvest, and asking God's blessings on its future years. With choir and congregation singing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" as recessional, Archbishop Kiley then bestowed his blessing upon those gathered as he followed the procession from the church.

The altar boys for the centennial Mass included pages Joseph Rausch and Charles Weis; Robert Yanny, processional cross bearer; Richard Heidermann, book bearer; William Murawsky, archiepiscopal cross bearer; Donald Brook, mitre bearer; Carl Degen, crozier bearer; Jack Markofski, candle bearer; and Joseph Cunningham and Richard Ahler, acolytes. Other altar boys marching in the procession and recession were Clarence Rausch, Leonard Rausch, Albert Pieters, James Strohm, Robert Mullen, Henry Neubert, Philip Larson, Donald Meyer, Leon Martin, and Arthur McCourt.

Among the clergy attending the celebration were St. Charles founding pastor, Msgr. Philipp Dreis; St. Charles pastor and assistant, Rev. Charles Myers and Rev. Hugh Wishlinske; and former St. Charles assistant, Rev. Raymond C. Miller.

In December, the St. Charles CYO undertook the sponsorship of two basketball leagues in the city, the Grade School league and the Young Ladies league. The Young Ladies league had teams representing Nestles, St. Charles, and the two high schools. Both leagues played their games on Wednesday nights. The grade schoolers played two games each Wednesday night, with the first game starting at 6:45. At 8 o'clock the young ladies took over and they, too, played two games per night. The grade schoolers' games alternated between the Burlington high school and St. Mary's high school gyms. The young ladies played all of their games at the BHS gym.

A plan that had been under consideration for some time to sponsor activities for young folks in Burlington reached a head at a meeting in December, when a group of citizens interested in young people started a move to form a city-wide group to take charge of activities. The Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, and American Legion were each asked to appoint a representative on a general committee. These representatives went over various plans and ideas for recreation. As a result, it was decided to try a plan of having each organization sponsor some one activity.

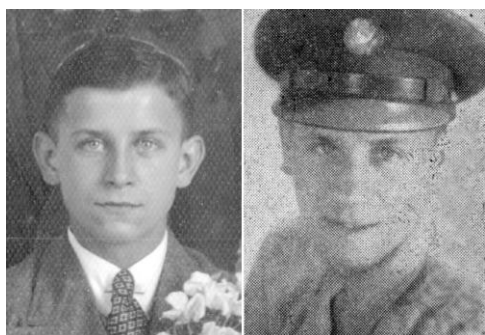
The Knights of Columbus council considered taking over a revival of the Teen Age Canteen at its club house on Friday nights. Council representatives were favorable, but wanted to take the matter up with their membership before making a definite commitment. The Chamber of Commerce chose to sponsor ice skating and plans were discussed for building a rink as soon as

the weather was cold enough. The American Legion agreed to sponsor baseball, as Legion posts in this area had been making an effort to revive interest in baseball among high school boys.

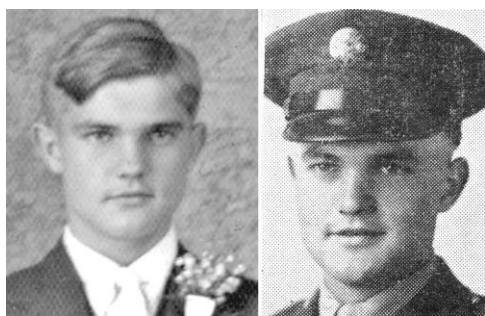
THREE ST. CHARLES GRADUATES KILLED IN ACTION IN WORLD WAR II



John P. "Pat" Scheibe – 1935 St. Charles graduate and World War II Lieutenant.



Richard H. Pieters – 1936 St. Charles graduate and World War II Lieutenant.



Adolph "Abe" Rossmiller – 1937 St. Charles graduate and World War II Private first class.

On January 4, 1945, memorial funeral services with military honors accorded were held at St. Charles church for Lt. John P. "Pat" Scheibe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scheibe, who had been killed while on his nineteenth bombing mission in action over Italy on October 17, 1944, along with other members of his crew. First reported as missing in action, Lt. Scheibe was not declared officially dead until mid-December. Lt. Scheibe had graduated from St. Charles grade school in 1935 and from St. Mary's high school in 1939. Rev. Charles Myers offered a requiem high Mass and preached the funeral sermon.

The remains of Lt. Scheibe and his fellow crewmembers were first buried in Italy, but all were returned to the United States in 1949 and, as requested by the parents, were re-buried in a group at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery at St. Louis, Missouri. Lt. Scheibe was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

Another St. Charles graduate, Lt. Richard H. Pieters, was killed with six other members of his crew in a plane explosion in Italy on July 31, 1944. Three other crew members survived. Lt. Pieters, who graduated from St. Charles in 1936 and from St. Mary's high school in 1940, was one of five sons of Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Pieters who were in service during the war. He had been married in March 1944 to Eileen Schumann.

Lt. Pieters' remains were buried in a cemetery near Rome until 1949, when they were returned to the United States, along with the remains of the other members of the crew who had been killed. The remains of six of the crew members, including those of Lt. Pieters, were re-buried in the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery near Louisville, Kentucky, on November 18, 1949, the national cemetery that was most convenient to the parents of those crew members. The remains of the seventh crew member were re-buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

A third St. Charles graduate was killed in action on January 15, 1945. Pfc. Adolph "Abe" Rossmiller, of the class of 1937, who had been wounded twice during 1944 and had been awarded the Purple Heart and the Oak Leaf Cluster, had returned to his unit just a short time before his death in the vicinity of Bütgenbach, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. At the time of his death, Pfc. Rossmiller was a rifleman advancing with his company upon an enemy-held position in a wooded area. As they entered the woods, the company was met by heavy enemy machine gun fire and Pfc. Rossmiller was killed instantly. He was buried in Henri-

Chapelle Cemetery, Belgium, with appropriate funeral services conducted by a Catholic chaplain. The remains of Pfc. Rossmiller were returned to the United States in 1947. A funeral Mass was offered at St. Charles on December 20, 1947, and Pfc. Rossmiller's remains were buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

At the end of February 1945, St. Charles school was awarded the championship trophy of the Grade School basketball league, having gone through the season undefeated. The individual sportsmanship trophy was awarded to Roman Block of the St. Charles team. The award was made on the basis of most improved player, most valuable player to his team, and player who displayed best sportsmanship during the season. Harold Schiller, the leading scorer for St. Charles, came in second in the league in scoring.

Pointing out that the "duty of charity is social as well as educational," Most Rev. Moses E. Kiley, archbishop of Milwaukee, appealed for support of the annual Catholic Charities campaign for 1945 in a letter read in all churches of the archdiocese on Sunday, March 4. Leo Warren, of St. Charles, was chairman of the Burlington district for the drive. L. Reinhard Mangold was the parish captain at St. Charles. The campaign started on March 11 and, for St. Charles, lasted but a short time as Father Myers announced that the parish had reached its quota by 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The parishioners brought their contributions to the church, eliminating the house-to-house canvass method of preceding years. St. Mary's parish made its quota the next Sunday, putting the entire community over the top.

On April 18, St. Joseph's parish at Lyons celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding with a solemn jubilee Mass and other activities. Archbishop Moses E. Kiley was enthroned in the sanctuary during the Mass and, at the close of the Mass, he confirmed a class of fifty children and adults. It was the occasion for happy reunions of parishioners and their former pastors, three of whom returned for the celebration, Rev. Frederick J. Hillenbrand, Rev. Anthony Biber, and Rev. Oscar Krusing.

The newly decorated church and sanctuary was a beautiful setting for the ceremonies. The high altar was adorned with white spring flowers and candles. The processional of Archbishop, priests, and acolytes entered the church at 10 o'clock, as the children's choir sang the welcome. Father Hillenbrand officiated as celebrant of the Mass, assisted by Father Biber as deacon and Rev. Aloysius Ahler, at that time the parish's only priest-son, as subdeacon. Rev. William Gensler was master of ceremonies. Assistants to the Archbishop were Rev. Philip Klein, priest-son of St. Mary's, assistant priest; Rev. Charles Myers, of St. Charles, deacon, Rev. Edward Hertel, of St. Thomas, Waterford, deacon, and Msgr. Roman Atkielski, master of ceremonies to the Archbishop. Seated in the sanctuary were St. Mary's pastor, Msgr. Edward J. Kersting; Very Rev. William Groessl, rector of St. Francis Minor Seminary; Father Krusing; and Rev. Henry Maurer, pastor of St. Joseph's.

Altar boys assisting in the service were Paul Ahler, cross bearer; Cletus Ahler and Herman Tenhagen, acolytes; John Schuerman, mitre bearer; Kenneth Schiller, crozier bearer; Charles Rice, book bearer; and Richard Schaefer, candle bearer. Pages for the Archbishop were John Koenen and Robert Armheim.

After the Mass, Archbishop Kiley preached the jubilee sermon and then administered the sacrament of confirmation. The ceremonies concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the closing recessional, "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name."

(to be continued)