

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 46 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



Although it was raining “cats and dogs” on Thursday, April 19, 1945, seven boys showed up at Athletic Park for a city-wide marble tournament sponsored by St. Charles Catholic Youth Organization. The event was held in conjunction with the state-wide Milwaukee Journal-Wisconsin Recreational Association marble tournament. The Burlington champion was Billy Ebbers and the runner-up, Peter Eppers, both eleven years old and both from St. Mary's grade school. Other participants were Russell Wegge, Nick Leone, Dick Miller, Warner Klug, and Richard Tenhagen. Edward Wisnefski of St. Charles CYO was the referee and CYO spiritual advisor, Rev. Hugh Wislinske, was judge. The winner and runner-up won the right to take part in the Racine County meet the next week.

On Sunday afternoon, April 22, sixty-two members of St. Charles parish, including five adults, received the sacrament of Confirmation in ceremonies held at the church. In the absence of Milwaukee Archbishop Moses E. Kiley, Bishop Francis R. Cotton of Owensboro, Kentucky, conferred the sacrament. In the morning the confirmands attended Mass and received Holy Communion in a body, together with their sponsors. Those confirmed were:

Bishop Francis R. Cotton, who administered the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Charles in 1945, was appointed the first Bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, by Pope Pius XI on December 16, 1937. He received his episcopal consecration on February 24, 1938, from Archbishop John A. Floersch. Bishops Moses E. Kiley and Theodore M. Reverman served as co-consecrators. Bishop Cotton remained as Bishop of Owensboro until his death in 1961.

Mary Alby	Gloria Grossman	Richard Martin	Mary Schranz
Rita Bauman	Josephine Hetzel	David May	James Shanahan
Robert Bauman	David Isferding	Mary McCarthy	Ronald Stallman
Hildegard Block	Phillip Isferding	William McCarthy	Mary Tenwinkel
Margaret Block	Mary Kayser	George Muller	Catherine Trimberger
Phyllis Block	Charlene Kellogg	Shirley Overson	Patricia Trimberger
Roman Block	Dorothy Krueger	Dorothy Pennefeather	Phyllis Jean Vos
Frederic Boulden	Joseph Lackas	James Peterson	Rita Vos
Dennis Boyle	Rita Lackas	Carol Pihringer	Joyce Warren
Joseph Boyle	Joan Lois	Rita Reesman	Kenneth Warren
Joseph Brook	Jane Luetten	Gerald Richter	Virginia Warren
Kenneth Chesick	Roger Luetten	Bruce Runzler	William Weis
Mrs. Ray Conley	Evelyn Marsili	Grace Runzler	Doris Winkler
Mary David	Donald Martin	Joan Schiller	Charles Zwiebel
Fred Eisenbart	John Martin	Ronald Schiller	Ruth Zwiebel
Grace Grueter	Mary Martin		

On the first Sunday in May, thirteen children made their First Communion at the 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Charles. The following were members of the class:

Charles Bauman	Ruth Ann Kayser	Michael McCarthy	Rita Schranz
Shirley Bauman	Marilyn Koenen	Robert Rutkoske	Lawrence Severson
John Block	Jeanne May	Wayne Schlitz	Shirley Warren
Marilyn Fabian			

That evening, the war with Germany came to an end at 7:41 p.m., central war time, when in a little red school house near Reims, France, General Alfred Jodl, new chief of staff of the German army, signed the unconditional surrender with Lt. Gen. Walter B. Smith, chief of staff for General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The news was flashed to the world early Monday morning by the Associated Press, but was not officially confirmed until Tuesday morning when President Harry Truman in a radio broadcast gave the welcome news to an anxious world. The delay in official confirmation was caused by Truman's agreement with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin that the three countries would announce the news simultaneously.

The surrender came as no surprise as events during the preceding three weeks had led the world to expect it momentarily. The cutting of Germany in two by the uniting of the American and Russian armies, the fall of Berlin, the reported death of Hitler, the rapid disintegration of the German armies, and reported peace feelers by Germany were all common knowledge and carried the implication that the end was near.

Probably because the news came as no great surprise, but more likely because the people of the United States realized there was a grim battle ahead in the Pacific, there was no outburst of emotion like that which marked the close of the First World War. There was a feeling of relief that the war in Europe was over, but that feeling found outlet in solemn rejoicing. Church bells rang and many citizens went to give a prayer of thanksgiving and a plea for Divine leadership to end the struggle in the other parts of the world.

Following President Truman's talk Tuesday morning, Burlington business places started closing in accordance with a previously issued proclamation by Mayor Roy Hoffman. Some closed immediately while others waited until noon and closed for the afternoon. All schools were dismissed for the day. In accordance with President Truman's plea, industries, especially those engaged in war work, kept operating, turning out material to end the war with Japan.

At St. Charles hall on Sunday and Monday evenings, May 13 and 14, interested audiences of relatives and friends thoroughly enjoyed recitals given by students of the St. Charles branch of the St. Albertus School of Music in Racine. Eileen David, graduate of St. Charles and of Mount Mary College, was guest singer at the Sunday evening recital, which was presented by the senior group. Others participating in that recital were pianists Jean Thomas, Louise Tenwinkel, Rose Ann Schlitz, Jetty Church, Joan Wamnes, Betty Hofner, Marion Huening, and Joan Bennett, and vocalists Richard Heidermann, Gerald Schaefer, and Mary Lois Bauman.

Taking part in the junior recital on Monday night were Sally Warner, Patsy Skinner, Joan Bauman Thomas Mullen, Joseph Thomas, Janet Bauman, Audrey Brierly, Gerald Richter, Gail Garvey, Annette Van Bolhuis, Barbara Kuebler, Joyce May, Margy Woodman, Claudette Busher, Mary Lou Martin, Mary Kayser, Mary Wanasek, Ruth Ann Kayser, Carol Markofski, Mary Ann Muller, Rita Bauman, Suzanne Longley, Dennis Boyle, Suzanne Wilson, and Carol Pihringer.

The mothers and daughters of St. Charles received Communion together at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 27, and gathered at breakfast in the church hall after Mass for the annual Mother and Daughter program sponsored by the St. Ann's Society. As was the custom, the fathers and sons of the parish served the breakfast and took care of the kitchen duties afterward.

The breakfast speaker was Sister Mary Veronica of the St. Francis order, who had recently returned from war-torn China where she had served as a missionary and been imprisoned by the Japanese. She was one of the repatriated American citizens in the first group released by the Japanese, and she talked on her experiences as a prisoner. Mrs. Florence Bennett extended greetings from the mothers and her daughter, Joan Bennett, responded for the daughters. Other speakers included Society president, Mrs. Margaret Zimmermann; program

chairman, Mrs. Clara Brehm; and pastor, Rev. Charles G. Myers. Music was provided by Eileen David accompanied by Jane Wagner.

Graduation was held on Thursday, May 31, for members of the eighth grade of St. Charles school. The nineteen graduates gathered for the processional and were awarded their diplomas by Father Myers. Assistant pastor, Rev. Hugh Wishlinske, spoke at the graduation services, which closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Those who received diplomas are shown in the following photo:



CLASS OF 1945

Row 1 (l to r): Joseph Boyle, Daniel Johann, Gloria Grossman, Mary Alby, Rita Reesman, Ruth Zwiebel, Carol Pihringer, John Ketterhagen, and Robert Boulden.

Row 2: Rev. Hugh Wishlinske, Marilyn May, William Weis, Mary Lou Martin, Kenneth Pihringer, Mary Agnes Schranz, and Rev. Charles Myers.

Row 3: Wanda Kolodziej Dorothy Krueger, Richard McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, and Marion Huening.

One of the graduates, Joseph Boyle, delivered the Gettysburg Address as Burlington paid tribute to its military dead on Memorial Day.

At a meeting of district 10 of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, held at St. Francis de Sales church in Lake Geneva on June 5, Mrs. Clara Porter of St. Charles was elected director of the diocesan board for a term of three years, and Mrs. Norma Degen, of St. Charles, was elected president of the district 10 council for the ensuing year. Other district officers elected included Mrs. Mary Jane Massey, of St. Joseph's, vice president, and Mrs. A. F. Glass, of St. Francis de Sales, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Grace Rose of St. Charles, outgoing district president, was in charge of the session of delegates. Representing the Catholic women of Burlington were delegations from St. Charles and St. Mary's parishes and from the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters. Rev. Charles Myers of St. Charles was one of the speakers.

The twenty-eighth annual reunion of the St. Charles Alumni Association was held in St. Charles hall on Sunday, June 10, following Benediction in the church at 5:30 p.m. The president, Oswald Wagner, welcomed members and remarked that the group must always keep the spirit of St. Charles alive. He expressed the hope that, before long, all the members, including those in service, could once more be in attendance at the annual banquets.

Art Zimmermann was the toastmaster. He introduced Mary Lois Bauman and her accompanist, Betty Hofner, who presented three musical selections. Joseph Conlin, of the class of '42, welcomed the class of '45, with Richard McCarthy, president of the incoming class, giving the response. A patriotic medley, sung by everyone, was directed by Eileen David and Jane Wagner, and was made up of the choruses of "Anchors Aweigh," "The Artillery Song," "Semper Paratus" (Coast Guard), "Army Air Corps Song," and the "Marine Hymn."

Special honor was paid to the class of 1920, the silver jubilee class. Mrs. Leon Richter and Anthony Rewald, both members of the class, spoke on "Our School Days" and "Way Back When." Mr. Rewald told how classes were conducted and the fact that German was taught to those in the higher grades. He said that the boys spent their spare moments playing hardball and further testing their athletic prowess doing high jumps over the stalls in the horse sheds that were then on the church grounds. The sheds were provided to shelter the horses which, with the buggies and wagons, were that era's main means of transportation. Mrs. Richter told of experiences going to and from school when the horses would balk at the slightest disturbance, often causing a late attendance at classes. She also said that many pupils rode their own ponies to school.

Msgr. Philipp Dreis, first pastor of St. Charles and founder of the Alumni Association, said that he would soon commemorate the fifty-first anniversary of his ordination. Rev. Ray A. Sosurek of Sheboygan, Rev. Leslie Darnieder and Rev. Joseph Hanauska of St. Mary's, and Rev. Herbert Wagner of Byron were visiting priests in attendance. Father Wislinske also attended. Father Myers made a few brief remarks after which the class of '38 was awarded the Sister Hermana trophy for the highest percentage (33 percent) of attendance.

Edward J. Cook, member of the silver jubilee class of 1920, delivered the main address of the evening. The Silver Derby orchestra provided music for dancing, which concluded the evening's program. Officers elected for the next year were president Clarence Kornhoff, vice president Jerome Block, secretary Cecelia David, and treasurer Catherine Eckert.

The summer of 1945 saw a change in pastors at St. Joseph's parish in Lyons, where Rev. Francis Tenpenny was assigned to replace Rev. Henry Maurer. Father Maurer, who had been at St. Joseph's for several years, was transferred to Sacred Heart parish at St. Martin's.

Peace came on Tuesday, August 14, when Japan surrendered after nearly four years of war. (The surrender agreement was signed on September 2 aboard the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.) News of the war's end came just as families were about to begin their evening meal. Seconds after the official announcement at 6:00 p.m., blaring whistles and pealing church bells joined the shouts of victory in the first burst of happiness. Many suppers were left untouched as people gathered downtown. A band formed in front of the Badger Hotel, and then started marching, followed by the people. At Pine and Washington Streets, Mayor Hoffman was astride a white horse, which the throng led into two downtown bars. Effigies of Hitler and Hirohito were burned.

With the war over, people looked forward to the service men and women coming home and the ending of the bloodshed. The war's end also meant the lifting of rationing of gasoline, fuel oil, and canned foods; the removal of price ceilings on "luxury" items; and the suspension of price controls on other items.

Later in August a Milwaukee Clipper cruise to Muskegon, Michigan, and a more than normal share of automobile trouble combined to provide an eventful outing for about thirty young people from the St. Charles CYO. The group left for Milwaukee on a Sunday morning in cars driven by Father Wislinske, Jim Pihringer, Mrs. Norma Degen, Paul Steinhoff, Clayton Wagner, and Jerry Block. Delayed en route by two flat tires and a broken fuel pump, members of the party had almost reluctantly resigned themselves to forgoing the cruise when they found that the Clipper had arrived in port two hours late.

A warm sun and brisk lake breezes provided good sailing weather, and the group spent the afternoon and evening dancing, playing shuffleboard and table tennis, and eating picnic lunches. It was long after midnight when the tired young people were driven back to Burlington.

St. Charles school began classes on Wednesday, September 9, with a reported registration of 148 pupils. There was one teacher change. In the fifth and sixth grade room, Sister Mary Gerard replaced Sister Mary Lucy, who had been transferred to Nativity School, Detroit. The other members of the teaching staff were Sister Mary Sebastian, seventh and eighth grades; Sister Mary Delores, third and fourth grades; and Sister Mary Eulalia, first and second grades.

The school had been cleaned, refurbished, and decorated, and minor repairs had been completed. But the pupils had some added vacation time during the second week while contractors were completing work on extensive improvements in the school basement. A modern sanitary interior and fixtures were installed, with terrazzo floors, tiled walls, and toilets and lavatories best adapted for schools. In addition, drinking bubblers were installed in the basement corridors, which were also renovated. During the week the basement work was being completed, the teaching sisters attended a special convention for teachers of the archdiocese in Milwaukee.

Three Burlington women, all St. Charles parishioners, participated in the executive board sessions of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women when the council held its twenty-fifth annual convention in Milwaukee on October 3. Mrs. Clara Porter, member of the executive board; Mrs. Norma Degen, president of the tenth district; and Mrs. Grace Rose, past president of the district, took part in the day's sessions. Other women from Burlington attending the sessions included Mrs. Margaret Zimmermann of St. Charles, and Mrs. Rosemary Weis, Mrs. Richard Muhs, Mrs. Henrietta Naffien, and Mrs. Agnes Rausch of St. Mary's. Msgr. Kersting and Father Myers, the two Burlington pastors, also attended.

On Monday, October 8, members of the CYO were hosts to their parents, and presented a varied entertainment to acquaint the parents with the over-all activities of the organization. A one-act comedy, "Swept Clean Off Her Feet," was presented, the first production to be given on the newly redecorated and refurnished stage in St. Charles hall. Members of the cast were Sam Reuschlein, Dan Johann, Carol Pihringer, Pat Vos, Mary McCarthy, and John Martin.

Piano selections were presented by Joan Bennett and vocal solos by Mary Lois Bauman. Movies furnished by Ralph Spiegelhoff were shown, including a reel of sports, pictures of a recent St. Charles Alumni reunion, a reel of students performing stunts, and a reel of Father Wishlinske and the staff members of The Beacon, the CYO paper, in action.

On January 9, 1946, Pope Pius XII established the Diocese of Madison, which was comprised of eleven counties that had previously been part of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the Diocese of La Crosse, and the Diocese of Green Bay. Three priests with Burlington ties became priests in the new diocese. They were former St. Mary's assistant, Rev. Edward Brill, at Immaculate Conception, Milton Junction; former St. Charles assistant, Rev. Harland Kuehn, at St. Patrick's, Lodi; and St. Mary's priest-son, Rev. Mark Mueller, at St. Henry, Watertown.

On February 8, Fred Pieters, a 1934 St. Charles graduate, left for Glencoe, Missouri, to attend LaSalle Institute while preparing to join the Brothers of the Christian Schools, more popularly known as the De La Salle Christian Brothers. He was to spend three months as a postulant, or candidate, and twelve months as a novitiate, or apprentice, before becoming eligible for vows.

March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, was a happy day for thirty-four St. Charles fifth and sixth graders as they were received into the Blessed Virgin Sodality by Father Wishlinske, its spiritual director. Those who were enrolled were fifth graders Eleanor Block, Claudette Busher, Kenneth Chesick, Patrick Dunn, Mary Lou Eaton, Jean Garvey, Marjorie Isferding, Philip Isferding, Suzanne Longley, Rita Luetten, William Pieh, Robert Reesman, Jack Schiller, Robert Wagner, Mary Wanasek, and Dorothy Warren; and sixth

graders Janet Bauman, Joan Bauman, Phyllis Block, Fred Boulden, James Coughlin, James Eaton, Richard Eisenbart, Robert Goerke, Albert Kresken, Robert Krueger, Rita Lackas, Richard Martin, Charles Peterson, Bruce Runzler, Joan Schiller, Patricia Shanahan, Annette Trimberger, and Robert Uhen.

Sunday, May 5, was first Communion day for twenty-six children at St. Charles. Those in the class were:

Joan Alby	James Fabian	Kenneth Radke	James Vos
Barbara Bennett	William Forbes	Carol Richter	Vernetta Vos
Donald Boulden	Gail Garvey	James Schiller	Richard Wagner
Joyce Brenton	Charles Lackas	Jane Sherman	William Warren
Beverly Bull	David Martin	Annette Van Bolhuis	Robert Weis
Mary Ann Duehring	William Martin	James Vande Sand	Barbara Zwiebel
Michael Dunn	Edna McCarthy		

The women of St. Charles parish held their annual Mother and Daughter observance on Sunday, May 26, under the sponsorship of St. Ann's Society. Two hundred and twenty-five mothers and daughters received Communion together at the 7:30 a.m. Mass and then enjoyed breakfast and a program in the church hall. Mrs. Theresa Schmidt was in charge of breakfast arrangements. The men and boys of the Holy Name Society served the breakfast and attended to the clean-up functions. Mrs. Marie Spiegelhoff, president of St. Ann's Society, presided at the breakfast together with the other officers, Mrs. Dorothy Gardner, Mrs. Stella Wegge, and Mrs. Myrtle May.

Every day is Mother's day for the good daughter, said Mrs. Leon Richter, speaking for the mothers, for every day mother should have the love, respect, and obedience of her daughter. But on the special day set aside during the month of May and dedicated to the model of mothers, the Blessed Mother of Christ, said Mrs. Richter, it is well for Catholic mothers and daughters to meditate on the virtues of motherhood.

Catherine Zwiebel, speaking for the daughters, told the girls not to forget to thank mother often for what she does for them. In her "Letter to Mom," she expressed in gracious words appreciation for the gift of a good mother. "God gave me my mother," she said, "and implanted in her heart the virtues of love, purity, and self-sacrifice for my benefit."

Mary Lois Bauman sang two songs accompanied by Joan Bennett at the piano. The program closed with words of greeting from the pastor, Rev. Charles Myers.

St. Charles parish received special mention, together with a number of other parishes, in the Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper the last week in May for the donation of \$631.50 to the Milwaukee Archdiocese's campaign to feed starving people in war-torn lands. The amount was raised at a special collection at all Masses on Mother's day. The Archdiocese's campaign, part of a nation-wide campaign of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, War Relief Services, netted more than 500,000 cans of food in cash or in kind. Cash and cans were accepted in the campaign and cash amounting to \$33,490 was collected in the archdiocese which was to be used to purchase canned food.

(to be continued)