

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 49 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



Rev. Henry R. Langenfeld, newly appointed pastor of St. Charles church, met his parishioners from the pulpit on Sunday, February 27, 1949, when he addressed the congregation at each of the four Masses and celebrated the high Mass at 9 o'clock.

At an informal reception in the church hall Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock, members of the congregation met and greeted their new pastor. There was no program arranged for the afternoon, but Father Langenfeld was called upon to speak. Ladies of the St. Ann's Society were in charge of the reception refreshments, which were served from a long, beautifully appointed table. The school children also welcomed Father Langenfeld during his first week.



THE SCHOOL CHILDREN WELCOME REV. HENRY LANGENFELD TO ST. CHARLES

Holding the WELCOME letters (l to r): Daniel Weis, Richard Van Bolhuis, Carol Scott, Karen DeVoy, Joan Tenhagen, Carol Koenen, and Elizabeth Rutkowski. Other school children gathered around Father Langenfeld are, from left, Diane Keough, Elaine Bauman, Mary Lou Eaton, Gerald Bauman, Thomas Spiegelhoff, and Suzanne Longley; Father Langenfeld in center; and Claudette Busher, Robert Wagner, Diane Reynolds, James Vande Sand, Joan Weis, Michael Dunn, Barbara Bennett, unidentified (could be Robert Lorenz), Karen Eckert, and Gail Garvey.

Father Langenfeld, who succeeded Rev. Charles Myers, came from St. George parish at Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County, where he had served for the previous six years. During that time, he had also served St. Fridolin, a mission church at nearby Glenbeulah.

He received his earliest education at St. Mary's parochial school in Marytown in Fond du Lac County, where his parents, Paul and Louisa (nee Schmitz) Langenfeld, resided with their nine children. When he finished the eighth grade, Henry entered St. Lawrence College (now called St. Lawrence Seminary High School) at Mount Calvary, also in Fond du Lac County. There he finished the high school course and began his college career. He transferred to St. Francis Seminary, took his bachelor's and master's degrees, and continued through philosophy and theology for his ordination to the priesthood on May 30, 1931.

Father Langenfeld's first assignment was to St. Peter's church at Beaver Dam as assistant pastor. After serving there nine and a half years, he was assigned as pastor of St. Michael's church at Dane, near Madison. About three years later he went to Elkhart Lake. Under his leadership, the St. George congregation built its parish hall. While at Elkhart Lake, Father Langenfeld was a member of the Knights of Columbus council in nearby Plymouth.

Assisting Father Langenfeld in putting his household in order at St. Charles were his cousin, Miss Verena Halbach, and his niece, Mrs. Orville Specht, of Sheboygan Falls. Miss Halbach, who had kept house for him in Elkhart Lake, was also his housekeeper at St. Charles.

Mrs. Specht and Miss Halbach were present at the parish reception, and were introduced by the new pastor, as were his sister, Mrs. Julia Mauer of Sheboygan Falls, her sons, Eugene and Edward J., Miss Beverly Morken, and Mrs. Specht's little daughter, Sandra Ann. Ill health prevented Father Langenfeld's mother, who lived with another sister, Mrs. Theresa Casper, at Johnsburg, from attending the reception. His father had died in 1919.

One of Father Langenfeld's first parochial duties was to conduct the Forty Hours Devotion that opened at 8 o'clock Mass on Friday morning, March 4, and closed with solemn Benediction on Sunday night, March 6. Trustees and committee members were also chosen shortly after Father Langenfeld began his duties. Fred Eisenbart continued as secretary and Al. J. Vande Sand continued as treasurer. Named counselors were Edwin Boyle, Lester W. Coughlin, and Hieron Block; and named to the building committee were Edgar Schiller, Edward Warren, Anthony Rewald, John Degen, Hugh Dardis, Arthur Bauman, and Ralph Larson.

On March 9, St. Mary's new pastor, Rev. Joseph Heim, arrived in Burlington to succeed the late Msgr. Edward J. Kersting. Father Heim's appointment by Archbishop Moses E. Kiley was revealed the previous week. Until his Burlington appointment, Father Heim was director of the Holy Name Society for the Milwaukee archdiocese, with his office in Milwaukee. He was also chaplain for the Catholic home for the aged in Milwaukee. With Father Heim's arrival, both Burlington parishes were ready to go forward under their new pastors.

Two hundred and fifty persons were present on Sunday, March 13, when Rev. Frederick Mann, of Washington, D. C., conducted Burlington's first Cana Conference (see box on next page) for Catholic married couples at St. Charles church and the Knights of Columbus hall.

The group attended 9 a.m. Mass in a body and ate breakfast together in St. Charles hall following Mass. After breakfast they went to the Knights of Columbus hall for a discussion of the problems of married life. They ate dinner in St. Charles hall and the afternoon discussion was held there. The conference ended with Benediction and the renewal of marriage vows by all couples present.

CANA CONFERENCE

The Cana Conference derives its name from the incident in the life of Jesus Christ, when he attended the wedding at Cana in Galilee and performed the miracle for the bride and groom who ran short of wine for the wedding banquet. Cana conferences are for married couples. All talks center about marriage and the problems of the married. There are many people in the world who wish to live a married life that is pleasing to God. Problems confront these people. Cana Conferences discuss these problems and suggest solutions to them. The final goal of a Cana Conference is to give married couples a plan of action for their entire married life.

Cana Conferences are not primarily for families who are having family troubles or to discuss intimate family problems. Cana Conferences center about the greater understanding of the happiness that is possible in Christian marriage. The directors of Cana Conferences are convinced that many family troubles can be solved.

-- Standard Democrat, March 9, 1949

On March 14, St. Charles basement hall received a thorough cleaning when seventy-five members of the parish Holy Name Society turned out to do the job. More work was done on March 17 and the following week the men completed the renovation process by painting the hall. Two weeks after Easter, St. Ann's Society gave the newly decorated hall its initiation at a successful May 1 card party.

At a special meeting of the congregation on Tuesday, April 26, the decision was reached to build a new modern home for the school Sisters. A large number of parish members were present to hear Father Langenfeld present the plans that had been studied and worked out during the previous two months by the pastor and his parish advisors – the building committee, the parish counselors, and the trustees.

The parish voted to build the new home on the site of the frame residence which was then being used by the Sisters, and to begin

construction as soon as plans were completed and specifications were drawn.

The first draft of the architect's plan was presented by Father Langenfeld. It proposed a red brick structure to match the rectory's red brick exterior. The building, which was planned to provide a residence for eleven sisters, was to be a two story building, approximately 65 by 36 feet, facing on Kendall Street. It was estimated that the building would cost \$45,000. It was to be built with a view to providing more room than required at that time, looking forward to the time when a larger staff of teachers would be needed.

The first floor was to include an office-reception room and a music room at the front, a large living room, a sewing room, a kitchen, and a chapel, besides a full length corridor, a wash room, closets, and so forth. The second floor was to include the bedrooms and large bath room. Besides the front entrance, there was to be a side entrance on the north side. The large basement was to include a recreation room besides the regular utility rooms. There were to be two rear entrances, one to the kitchen and one to the basement.

At the special meeting, two new members were added to the building committee – Ralph Schmaling and Carroll Vos. Within the previous month, members of the building committee and Father Langenfeld had visited a newly constructed Sisters' home at New Berlin, and the St. Charles plan, though calling for a larger building, was to follow that general plan.

Twenty St. Charles grade school children received their First Communion on Sunday, May 1. They were:

James Alby	David Keough	Deanna Pfeiffer	Joan Tenhagen
Donald Bauman	Carol Koenen	Lynne Rubach	Philip Trimberger
Carol Beuthling	Virginia Kurtenbach	Elizabeth Rutkowski	Eileen Vande Sand
Kenneth DeVoy	Elizabeth Lackas	Marianne Scheunert	Kathleen Wagner
Wayne Gardner	Jerome Martin	James Stevens	John Weis

Nearly three hundred mothers and daughters gathered at St. Charles church on Sunday morning, May 22, for their annual May day corporate Communion at the 7:30 Mass and breakfast after Mass. The event, sponsored by the St. Ann's Society, was under the chairmanship of Mrs. Angeline Martin, assisted by Mrs. Theresa Schmitt and Mrs. Mary Roter.

Opening the program after breakfast, Mrs. Eleanor Coughlin, president of St. Ann's, greeted those in attendance and introduced the toastmistress, Mrs. Stella Dardis. A musical program was given by the girls of St. Charles school. Mary Wanasek extended Mother's day greetings. Claudette Busher played two piano selections, and Mary Lou Martin sang two songs, accompanied by Mary Kayser. The girls of the eighth grade class sang two chorus numbers. Father Langenfeld, St. Ann's spiritual advisor, concluded the program with a short talk.

Tokens, in the form of flowering plants, were then distributed to the oldest mother, Mrs. Henry Miller; the oldest grandmother and great grandmother, Mrs. Caroline Woeste and Mrs. Elizabeth Richter; the youngest grandmother, Mrs. Virginia McCarthy; the mother of the youngest child, Mrs. Carolyn DeGrave; and the mother with the most daughters present, Mrs. Anna Tenwinkle, with five daughters present.

On that Sunday evening, a piano recital in the form of a musical play, "The Magic Spell," was given by the pupils of St. Charles school of music in St. Charles hall. It was under the direction of Sister M. Charlotte.

The play concerned a princess, played by Karen Eckert, who was put to sleep by a magic melody played on a flute by the Piped Piper (Barbara Bennett). After a doctor (Robert Weis) examined her, it was realized that, to revive her, she would have to hear the same tune again. Many piano numbers were then played, but the bootblack (William Forbes) was the only player who knew the correct tune.

The others who played piano solos were Carol Koenen, Virginia Kurtenbach, Shirley Boulden, Marcia Van Bolhuis, Carol Golden, Kathryn Kayser, Patricia Alby, Marianne Wilson, Clare Lohaus, Claudette Busher, Sally Warner, Betty Howe, Judy Howe, Mary Orth, Michael McCarthy, Suzanne Longley, Marilyn Fabian, Carol Richter, Joyce Brenton, Beverly Bull, Jane Sherman, Barbara Zwiebel, Lyndell Moore, Nancy Runkel, Richard Bauman, John Brenton, James Gardner, Michael Busher, Mary Lou Eaton, Ruth Ann Kayser, Joan Bauman, and Marilyn Koenen.

Graduation exercises were held Friday, June 2, for thirteen St. Charles eighth graders. The ceremonies were held in St. Charles hall, following a holy hour in the church. Father Langenfeld gave the diplomas to the graduates shown in the photo on the next page.

On the following Sunday evening, Father Langenfeld was the speaker at St. Mary's high school graduation. The lack of true peace in the world, Father Langenfeld said, was the refusal by many men to seek the cooperation of God. He said that attempts to "promote the brotherhood of man without mentioning the fatherhood of God" had been of little avail. In wishing the graduates success in their future lives, Father Langenfeld said that to have material successes was not necessary. "As long as you use the talents God has given you and serve Him properly, you are a success in His eyes," he said.

The thirty-second annual reunion of the St. Charles Alumni Association was held Thursday evening, June 16, in the church hall. The banquet was served by the St. Ann's Society, following Benediction services conducted by Father Langenfeld in the church.

At the business meeting following the banquet, officers elected for the coming year were president Merle Scheibe; vice president elect William Pieters, vice president John E. McCarthy, secretary Mary McCourt, and treasurer Mrs. Eleanor Keough.



CLASS OF 1949

Row 1 (l to r): Jane Graham, Rita Luetten, Claudette Busher, and Jean Garvey.

Row 2: Rev. Henry Langenfeld, Diane Reynolds, Eleanor Block, Mary Lou Eaton, and Rev. Hugh Wish.

Row 3: Thomas McCarthy, Robert Wagner, Suzanne Longley, Mary Wanasek, Charles Peterson, and John Schiller.

Father Langenfeld led the community singing, with Mary Kayser furnishing the accompaniment, after which association president, Roman Eckert, introduced the toastmaster, James David, of the class of 1940. Former St. Charles assistant, Rev. Francis McGarry, and St. Mary's assistant, Rev. Leslie Darnieder, were introduced as visiting priests. Piano selections were played by Suzanne Longley and Claudette Busher, members of the graduating class. The welcome to the class of 1949 was given by Dr. John Bennett, of the class of 1935, with Mary Lou Eaton responding for her classmates. Mary Lois Bauman sang several vocal selections accompanied by Miss Kayser on the piano.

Father Langenfeld gave the address of the evening, choosing as his subject the case of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary, a topic that had recently been in the headlines and over the airwaves. Father Langenfeld told how the Cardinal was accused of one thousand falsehoods and a confession was forced from him after he had been weakened both physically and spiritually by the Communist government. Because the Cardinal was not in accord with the communist teachings and openly opposed their governmental restrictions on the freedoms of the press and of religion, and the suppression of Catholic youth, he was placed under arrest and charged with treason, black-marketing, and other acts against the Hungarian government.

"Catholicity and communism will never mix," said Father Langenfeld, "as the latter is concerned solely with sponsoring ideas which make the state supreme and man a slave to that state." The Cardinal's trial and the publicity given the case, Father Langenfeld said, had inspired Christians throughout the world in the fight against the red menace.

In closing, Father Langenfeld reminded the alumni that they must always strive to be active members in the association and foster and promote its strength and membership in the years to come. The Sister Hermana trophy for percentage of attendance was shared by the classes of 1939 and 1943 in a tie.

At a meeting of the parish building committee on June 27, plans drawn by Architect Mark Pfaller of Milwaukee for the new Sisters' convent to be built on the site of the existing Sisters'

home on Kendall Street were approved. Bids for the construction of the building were to be opened July 18. The existing frame convent had been sold to Walter Hegeman of Waterford for \$200. He was in the process of tearing down the building and was to clear the site so building operations on the new convent could start as soon as contracts were let.

Four bids were received on the general contract, which was awarded to the Elmer Scherrer Construction Co. which submitted the lowest bid of \$49,788.90.

Under the Scherrer bid, the heating and plumbing were to be done by David & Poritz, the electrical work by Rewald Electric Co., and the painting by Harold Yonk. Since the former convent building had already been torn down, work was to start as soon as possible and be rushed to an early completion.

On July 17 twenty members of the St. Charles Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) enjoyed a cruise across Lake Michigan on the S. S. Milwaukee Clipper. Counselors Raymond Zwiebel, Jr., Paul Steinhoff, Leon Vos, and Ralph Luetten drove the group to Milwaukee, where the boat sailed at 12:30 p.m. The crossing took approximately six hours and they were in Muskegon briefly before making the return voyage. On board ship they played shuffleboard, saw a movie, danced, and on the return trip witnessed a floor show. Rev. Hugh Wish, club advisor, reported that it was “delightfully cool” on the lake.

The CYO also published summer issues of its newspaper, The Beacon, in 1949 for the first time in its six year history. The paper had co-editors, one from each of the high schools. Romana Zeihen, who attended Burlington high school, and Rita Bauman, who attended St. Mary's, were the co-editors and Dick McCarthy was business manager. Since the paper had two pages of parish news, the paper had a circulation among adults as well as CYO members. Regular features of The Beacon, in addition to the school pages, included a gossip column, a humor page, and write-ups about club and parish personalities. Traced art work and original drawings were also incorporated throughout the paper.

The Beacon had its headquarters in the “press room” in the basement of the church and school building. The paper was started by Father Wish, who had previously put out a mimeographed newspaper at St. Mathias parish in West Allis.

On Sunday, July 24, a number of Burlington relatives and friends went to Racine to attend services at which Rev. Anthony Weiler, who had participated in several St. Charles activities over the years, including the November 1910 dedication of the church building, was invested with the rank of Monsignor. He was one of twelve members of the Catholic clergy of the Milwaukee archdiocese who had recently been named monsignors by the Pope. Auxiliary Bishop Roman Atkielski conducted the services for the former Burlington boy who for 42 years had served St. John Nepomuc parish in Racine. With his investiture, Monsignor Weiler became the only Catholic priest in Racine County at that time bearing the title.



Site of former convent building on Kendall Street being cleared so the new brick convent could be built.

(to be continued)