

## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 79 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



A number of Burlington Catholics joined others from throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese on April 22 and 23, 1977, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the Most Rev. William E. Cousins, Archbishop of Milwaukee, to the Catholic priesthood. He had been a member of the first class to graduate from Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, where he was ordained to the priesthood on April 23, 1927.

As part of the ceremonies marking Archbishop Cousins' golden jubilee, a concelebrated Mass was held on Friday evening at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee, and a public reception was held on Saturday afternoon at De Sales Preparatory Seminary in Milwaukee. The pastors of the two Catholic churches in Burlington, as well as representatives from the two parishes attended the ceremonies. Father Raymond Andre, of St. Charles, asked his two trustees, Martin Itzin and John Ketterhagen, to accompany him. Father Robert Gosma, of St. Mary's, also received invitations for two, and offered them to two lay people to serve as representatives of that parish.

Earlier in April, the St. Ann's Society celebrated the birthdays of all members at a supper party held in conjunction with its monthly meeting. Each month of the year was represented at a specially decorated table and by a special cake. Festivities included games, prizes, gifts for all, and a harmony songfest accompanied by Eunice "Fritzie" Paepke on piano. Chairmen were Bea and Grace Clausen. The party was judged so successful that plans were discussed for making it an annual event.

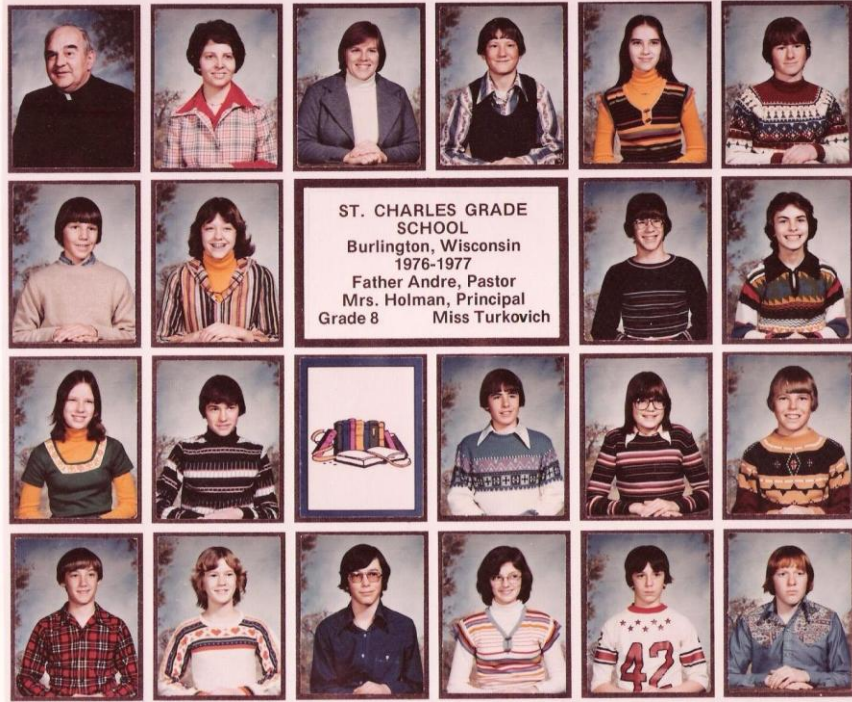


April birthday celebrants at the St. Ann's all-member birthday party in April 1977 were, seated (from left), Clara Clausen, Marie Nelson, Mary Ann Renton, Marcella Fallon, and Dorothy Fabian; standing, Helen Coyne, Rose Dolat, Linda Dornacher, and Cordella May.

On Saturday, May 28, at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee, St. Charles graduate, Charles G. Zabler, was ordained a priest for the service of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Archbishop Cousins was the principal celebrant of the liturgy at the ordination. Two weeks later on Saturday evening, June 11, Rev. Zabler celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Charles. An open house and dance followed the 7 p.m. Mass.

On the path leading to his ordination, Rev. Zabler had attended St. Charles grade school; Burlington High School; Wisconsin State University-Whitewater; St. Francis De Sales College; the Clinical Pastor Education program at Providence Medical Center, Portland, Oregon; and St. Francis Seminary School of Pastoral Ministry.

In early June, 18 members of the eighth grade class received their diplomas in graduation ceremonies at St. Charles. The graduates are shown in the collage on the following page.



CLASS OF 1977

Row 1 (l to r): Father Raymond Andre, Mrs. Susan Holman (principal), Miss Linda Turkovich (teacher), Robert Epping, Jean Schwochert, and David Elderbrook.

Row 2: Douglas Hozeska, Barbara Pervisky, Robert Uebele, and Doris Weyrough.

Row 3: Therese Clark, Guy Elderbrook, Barry Moe, Joan Middlecamp, and Jeffrey Bartz.

Row 4: Richard Strohm, Michael Vos, Louann Uhen, Jesse Thomas, and Joseph Regner.

The early morning of Sunday, July 24, 1977, was a memorable and heartrending one for Burlington area residents, especially those belonging to St. Mary's parish. Sometime between midnight and 4:20 a.m., a spectacular fire began which destroyed the steeple, roof, bells, organ, and side altars and effectively gutted the 86-year-old St. Mary's Church. The fire, which is thought to have started between the roof and the church ceiling, was first reported to the fire department around 4:20 a.m. When the firemen arrived, the entire steeple was ablaze and, within minutes, the upper section of the steeple toppled, hit the roof, and bounced to the street below.



St. Mary's Church was heavily damaged by a fire in the early morning of July 24, 1977.

The determined leadership and faith of the parish were demonstrated that morning in that the fire did not halt the customary four Sunday Masses which were said in the old gymnasium.

The fire also had the effect of uniting the community, bringing parishioners and others together to provide moral and financial support to rebuild one of the city's most important and identifiable landmarks. Rebuilding took more than two years, with the church being rededicated on her patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception in December 1979.

Also in July 1977, St. Charles 1963 graduate, Thomas R. Schneider, was appointed director of the Racine district office of Catholic Social Services. His administrative duties included office staff supervision and offering a variety of counseling services. He also was to serve as a family and marriage counselor.

Schneider, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Schneider, was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin's School of Social Welfare. He had received training at St. Francis School of Pastoral Ministry and St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee, and clinical pastoral training in Los Angeles. Schneider had also worked as a volunteer organization leader in the black community of Greenwood, Mississippi.

Schneider and his wife, Jane, were instructors in the Couples Communication Program and had helped to develop and conduct the "Enrichment Day for the Engaged" program for the Catholic Family Life Program. As members of St. Frederick's parish in Cudahy, the Schneiders had developed a program dealing with marriage preparation and enrichment.

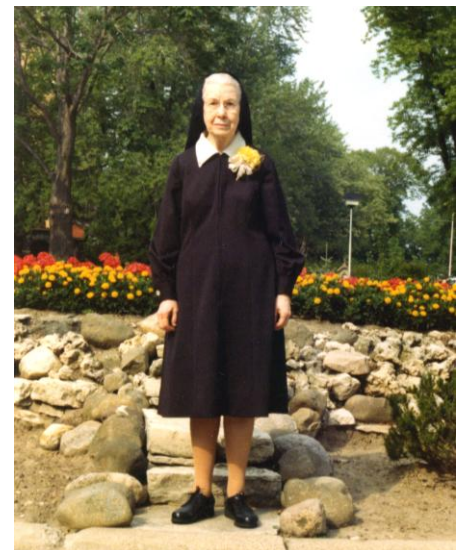
Another St. Charles graduate, Rev. David Brehm, S.J., of the class of 1938, joined 29 other chaplains during the summer of 1977 at St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee, in a clinical pastoral education program. Father Brehm was on a 15-month sabbatical leave and was to study at the School of Applied Theology, Graduate Theological Union at the University of California-Berkeley, after completing his summer of hospital training.

While at St. Luke's, Father Brehm gained experience as a chaplain in various areas of the hospital. Chaplains remained on call around the clock to meet the needs of emergency cases and families who were trying to cope with death and dying. The hospital also offered experience for the chaplains in specialized areas, such as intensive care, psychiatric care, long-term rehabilitation, and pediatrics.

In August, another St. Charles graduate, Sister Mary Lewine Leber, a member of St. Charles' first graduating class in 1911, returned to Burlington to celebrate her 60th jubilee as a professed Sister in the Order of St. Francis of Assisi. A special Mass of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday morning, August 21, at St. Charles.

Born Martha M. Leber in 1897, she had attended St. Mary's Grade School through the seventh grade. When St. Charles opened in September 1910, she became a member of the school's first eighth grade class of five girls. She was the first member of the new parish to enter religious life.

On August 14, 1913, she left Burlington to enter the sisterhood and was received into the order as a postulant the following day. After four years of study and preparation, Sister Lewine professed her religious vows on July 2, 1917. She then engaged in a long career as a teacher. Among her assignments were St. Joseph's in Lyons and St. Francis Xavier in Brighton.



Sister Mary Lewine Leber, the first St. Charles parishioner to enter the religious life, celebrated her 60th jubilee as a Franciscan Sister in August 1977.

Earlier in August, Sister Lewine and seven other Sisters of her order had celebrated their 60th jubilees with a special Mass at the St. Francis Convent in Milwaukee. Archbishop Cousins had delivered the Mass homily on that occasion.

St. Charles Grade School opened for the 1977-1978 school year on Tuesday, August 30, with an enrollment of 174. Mrs. Susan Holman continued as principal, with a teaching staff of Mrs. Patricia Finley, Diane Ensing, Sister Mary Clementia Wafle, Sister Mary Eloise Murphy, Mary VanderBeke, Mrs. Suzanne Jones, Jeffrey Albaugh, Mrs. Georgia Duesing, and Mrs. Ruth Oberbruner. Sister Teresita Palzkill joined the faculty in March 1978.

On September 17, Archbishop Cousins retired as Archbishop of Milwaukee. Archbishop Cousins was known for his affable presence and spirit. Pope Pius XII had named him to the episcopacy in December 1948, and he had served as an auxiliary bishop to then Archbishop of Chicago Samuel Stritch. He was named Bishop of Peoria and installed in that post in July 1952. After six years in Peoria, Bishop Cousins was assigned to be the eighth Archbishop of Milwaukee in December 1958.

Marking Archbishop Cousins' time as head of the Milwaukee Archdiocese was Pope John XXIII's announcement of the Second Vatican Council. During the council, Archbishop Cousins was a member of the Commissions on Communications Media and the Lay Apostolate. He also had served on several commissions before and after the council.

During his time in Milwaukee, Archbishop Cousins had worked to implement the changes directed by the council in one of the most uncertain times in the history of the Archdiocese. It is thought that his even-handedness had spared the Archdiocese the level of polarization experienced in other American dioceses during the post-conciliar time.

Archbishop Cousins saw the social upheaval of the civil rights and peace movements during his episcopacy. The civil rights marches that had been led by Father James Groppi resulted in much pressure on Archbishop Cousins to sanction the priest and others involved. Throughout the controversy, however, Archbishop Cousins had maintained his even-handed nature. He strongly supported open housing and affirmed the efforts of those working on the issue, although he did not condone all of their tactics.

Archbishop Cousins had approved major changes in archdiocesan offices and was known for giving priests and laity the latitude to creatively initiate programs aimed at solving the problems of the day. He also had ordained the first group of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese and was a member of the Board of Governors of the Catholic Church Extension Society. In addition, he was Episcopal Advisor to Serra International and had served on many committees of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On Tuesday, September 20, St. Charles' janitor discovered shortly after he arrived to open the school, that the building had been burglarized. A rear door on the northeast corner of the church had been forced to gain entry to the building. The principal's office had been entered, a file drawer opened, and papers scattered about. Taken was \$212 in bills.

On October 30, the following 27 boys and girls received their First Solemn Communion from Father Andre. Four had received First Communion earlier in 1977.

Officer Douglas Lind of the Burlington Police Department investigates a burglary of St. Charles' principal's office in September 1977.



Sherry Ahnert	Tricia Dalton	Connie Kach	Jacqueline Schlitz
Renee Alby	Darren DeGreef	Sherry Lapp	John Schnering
Brian Allender	Robert Dirksmeyer	Jami Martin	Kendra Thate
Donald Banta	Douglas Dorn	Jennifer Mischel	Cindy Weis
Paul Bauman	Thomas Gramza	Cindy Muszyinski	Paul Weis
David Beix	Richard Heitkemper	Mira Poudrier	Keith Zwiebel
Kristine Crotteau	Kathleen Hewitt	Paul Reesman	

In mid-December, Catholic Social Services (CSS) opened a part-time office in Burlington. The new office, located in the Human Resource Center on North Pine St., was open on Wednesdays from 1 to 7 p.m. It was staffed by the Racine district office, under the supervision of Burlington native Thomas Schneider, who had been named district director earlier in the year.

A CSS official said that the Burlington office would remain open for six months on a trial basis, after which it would be evaluated by CSS' Racine district advisory board to see whether it was meeting a real need. While the agency served predominantly Catholics, all persons and families were eligible for service. Only family counseling services were available in Burlington during the initial six months. Other agency services, including unwed parent counseling, adoption services, outreach services to the Spanish-speaking, and Parent Effectiveness Training were available to Burlington residents through CSS' Racine office.

CSS received funding from United Way Campaigns and the Archbishop's Fund Appeal. Fees were charged for family counseling services according to a sliding scale, based on a family's ability to pay; however, the same service was given whether a fee was paid or not.

As 1977 drew to a close following the Christmas season, which included the parish's Christmas Fair on December 3 and the Midnight Mass and pre-Mass concert by the senior choir on Christmas Eve, the parish books showed that, in addition to the 27 First Communions, there had been 31 Baptisms and 19 marriages recorded during the year.

Catholic Schools Week for 1978, which all Catholic schools in the United States celebrated, was held from January 29 to February 4. The theme of the week was "Catholic Schools: Everyone Grows!" "It expresses the essence of education," a St. Charles spokesman observed, "growth, as well as each school's contribution to family, parish, and community life. At St. Charles, we stress education with a firm foundation based on faith."

The St. Charles students attended Mass every day during the week and students' parents were invited to visit the school during school hours on Wednesday, February 1. The school also held an open house on February 24 during which student displays, demonstrations, and a science fair were featured.

During the last weekend in February, St. Mary's Grade School sponsored a boys' basketball tournament in which eight teams vied for the championship. It was the first time St. Mary's held such a tournament. In addition to St. Mary's and St. Charles, the teams were from St. Thomas of Waterford, St. Francis of Lake Geneva, St. Andrew's of Delavan, Washington-Caldwell School of Tichigan, and Randall Consolidated School of Twin Lakes.

A free throw by Greg Weis with ten seconds left in the game gave St. Charles a 28-27 win over St. Mary's in the championship game. St. Mary's had a chance to win the game with time expiring but a last second shot hit the rim and fell away. St. Charles had advanced to the

finals by beating St. Thomas, while St. Mary's had gone into overtime before defeating Randall in the semi-finals. Randall finished third by defeating St. Thomas. St. Andrew's lost to Washington-Caldwell in the consolation game.

The following weekend, the St. Charles girls' basketball team played in a similar tournament at St. Mary's. The teams from two Burlington schools, St. John's Lutheran and St. Mary's, both of whom were unbeaten, led an eight-team field in the tournament. The other teams, in addition to St. Charles, were St. Francis of Lake Geneva, St. Andrew's of Delavan, St. Patrick's of Elkhorn, St. Thomas of Waterford, and Randall of Twin Lakes.



On the St. Charles 1977-78 girls' team were (front row, from left) Maureen Boyle, Nancy Hozeska, Donna Thomas, Janet Uebele, Carlyn Bauman, and Terri Schwochert. Back row, coach Joan Middlecamp, Mary Jo Ramczyk, Mary Hewitt, Ann Euteneier, Ann Foltz, Kathy Ketterhagen and Mary Regner. Absent were Julie Regner and coach Jeffrey Albaugh.

VanderBeke, finished with a 9-1 mark. Team members were Steve Ramczyk, Jay David, Mark Larson, Dan Bartz, Pat Krismer, Jeff Fabian, Mike Isferding, Tony Martin, Bob Lois, and Mark Bauman. The fifth grade Chargers, coached by Bruce Bauman and Richard Zwiebel, finished with an 8-1 record. Team members were Neal Larson, Jerry Weis, Pete Madsen, David Banta, Bill Tenwinkel, Brian Zwiebel, Keith Swanson, Mike Euteneier, Tim Boyle, Scott Epping, David Dirksmeyer, and Pat Vos.



The 1977-78 eighth grade boys' team, displaying its various trophies, included (front row, from left) Mike Wermeling, Mike Slein, Bruce Newbury, Buck Spiegelhoff, and Dan Eckert. Back row, coach Glenn Rossmiller, Greg Weis, John Vogt, Bill Betzig, and Rick Long.

A last second basket propelled the St. Mary's girls to the tournament championship over Randall, and a 16-0 record for the season. St. Mary's had advanced to the finals by upending St. Andrew's. Randall had earned the right to play in the final game by defeating St. Charles. The St. Charles girls rebounded to defeat St. Andrew's in the third place game.

The other St. Charles basketball teams all had outstanding seasons. The seventh grade Chargers team, coached by Dave Spiegelhoff, finished with an 18-1 record. Its only loss came in the St. Mary's Tournament, in which it placed second. Team members were Jim Banta, Bill Epping, John Bartz, John Euteneier, Tim Koenen, Randy Spiegelhoff, Robert Weis, Terry Weis, Tom David, Bob Block, Jim Weidert, and Brad Newbury.

The sixth graders, coached by Mike VanderBeke, finished with a 9-1 mark. Team members were Steve Ramczyk, Jay David, Mark Larson, Dan Bartz, Pat Krismer, Jeff Fabian, Mike Isferding, Tony Martin, Bob Lois, and Mark Bauman. The fifth grade Chargers, coached by Bruce Bauman and Richard Zwiebel, finished with an 8-1 record. Team members were Neal Larson, Jerry Weis, Pete Madsen, David Banta, Bill Tenwinkel, Brian Zwiebel, Keith Swanson, Mike Euteneier, Tim Boyle, Scott Epping, David Dirksmeyer, and Pat Vos.

(to be continued)