

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

1910 - 2010

No. 89 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



1985 was a milestone year for both Burlington and St. Charles. Burlington celebrated the sesquicentennial – 150th anniversary – of the 1835 arrival of the first men to stake claims to land in the area of what later became Burlington. And St. Charles celebrated the parish's 75th – or diamond – anniversary of the completion of the combination church and school building and its dedication in November 1910. 1985 also marked the completion of a major program that the parish had undertaken in 1980 to renovate the church interior and exterior and to redo the parish hall.

From February 3 through 9, St. Charles School, like other Catholic schools throughout the nation, celebrated Catholic Schools Week. According to information from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, there were 169 Catholic elementary schools in southeastern Wisconsin at that time, and 13 secondary schools. The number of students totaled about 49,450, and the number of teachers, about 2,800. Of the teachers, about 75 percent were lay people.

The theme for the week was “Catholic Schools – Vision and Values.” At St. Charles, special liturgies were followed at each of the daily all-school Masses, and an open house was held on Thursday. Also on Thursday, parents and grandparents were invited to join the students for lunch, followed by a 12:45 p.m. Mass. Mrs. Alice Douglas, who was in charge of the lunch program at St. Charles, said that she and her helpers served 285 meals that day, compared with a normal 160. She added that the special lunch of turkey, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and cinnamon buns, was an annual event that “everyone seems to look forward to.”

When St. Charles School released its second quarter honor roll early in 1985, it included 7 students who had achieved 4.0 averages for the quarter, and 31 who had averages of 3.0 to just under 4.0. The 7 students on the “A” honor roll were fifth graders Amy Deschler, Justin Dow, and Adam Mehring; sixth grader Kimberly Chesick; and eighth graders Andrea Harry, Todd Steinhoff, and Amy Trimberger.

In February, St. Charles hosted the Southern Lakes Catholic Grade School League's round robin basketball tournament for the seventh and eighth grade teams. Teams participating were St. Thomas of Waterford, St. Andrew's of Delavan; St. Patrick's of Elkhorn; St. Francis de Sales of Lake Geneva, and St. Mary's and St. Charles of Burlington.

In the seventh grade portion of the tournament, St. Thomas defeated St. Patrick's for third place and St. Charles defeated St. Mary's for the championship. In the eighth grade competition, St. Charles defeated St. Francis de Sales for third place, while St. Andrew's defeated St. Mary's in the championship game.

At the conclusion of the tournament, awards and trophies for the tournament and for the season were presented. In the seventh grade division, St. Charles won first place in the league and in the round robin; St. Mary's finished second in both the league and round robin; and St. Thomas was third in the league and the round robin. In the eighth grade division, St. Mary's finished first in the league and second in the round robin; St. Andrew's was first in the round robin and second in the league; and St. Charles wound up third in both the league and the round robin. St. Mary's won the Spirit Award. Among the players named to the all-conference first team was Eric LeDuc of St. Charles. Players receiving honorable mention included Kyle Weis and Scott Zwiebel of St. Charles.

March 1 was World Day of Prayer, a day when women of faith around the globe prayed together for peace. The service for 1985, based on the theme, "Peace Through Prayer and Action," had been prepared by women in India. In Burlington, the service, sponsored by Church Women United, was held at Peace Lutheran Church with ten area churches participating. Mrs. Ruth Oberbruner of St. Charles was among those who planned the Burlington service.

St. Charles held its eighth annual spaghetti and meatballs dinner on Saturday evening, March 9. Mrs. Nilva Walsh was again the chairman with Mrs. Marjorie Koenen as co-chairman, and Gerald Richter and Kenneth Pihringer as beverage chairmen. Mrs. Bernice Elderbrook was assistant kitchen chairman. Other committee heads were Mrs. Sue Weis and Mrs. Barbara Reesman, dining room; Mrs. Rita Degen and Mrs. Helen Krismer, decorating; Donald Walsh, tickets and treasurer; Daniel and Judy Weis, prizes; Elayne Reinardy, publicity; Mrs. Nilva Walsh, advertising; Mrs. Mary Uhlenhake, salads; and Mrs. Gwen Ketterhagen, desserts. Hostesses were Mrs. Patricia Finley, Mrs. Joyce Schilz, Mrs. Mary Betzig, and Mrs. Cathy Lee Davis. William and Mary Howe had charge of the prize booths.

Charles Natale, of Natale's Italian Restaurant again made his authentic Italian sauce, and the Cottonpicker Restaurant and Fohr's Meat Co. of Caledonia helped sponsor the event. Silvano's Ristorante of Lake Geneva donated Italian placemats and napkins. McDonald's Restaurant provided bibs for the tots and awarded prizes to the school children who sold the most tickets. The Rosemary Busch Catering Service donated a piece of luggage for a prize, and other merchants made anonymous donations. The proceeds of the event went to the parish's renovation fund.



Items offered as prizes at the 1985 spaghetti dinner included a gold-framed oil painting, an outdoor LP gas grill, a \$50 gift certificate from the Cottonpicker Restaurant, luggage, a basket of liquor, and a cordless telephone set. With a display of the items are (left to right) chairman Mrs. Nilva Walsh, Rev. Raymond Andre, publicity chairman Elayne Reinardy, and Mrs. Mary Uhlenhake, St. Ann's Society president.



Periodically, St. Charles parish honored merchants with a recognition award for their support. The 1985 recipient was Bill Foster (center) of the Cottonpicker Restaurant, who had supported the annual spaghetti dinner for the previous five years. Making the presentation were Mrs. Nilva Walsh (left), chairman of the spaghetti dinner, and Mrs. Mary Uhlenhake, president of the St. Ann's Society.

Additional photos of the 1985 spaghetti dinner, taken by Burlington photographer Emmett Raettig, are on the next page.

On the weekend of the spaghetti dinner, the St. Charles seventh grade basketball team finished an unbeaten season by winning the Our Lady of Assumption Invitational Tournament in Beloit. Other teams in the tournament were host Our Lady of Assumption, Brother Dutton, and St. John's Lutheran, all of Beloit; St. Bridget of Loves Park, Illinois; St. Mary's of Janesville; the Orfordville Basketball Club; and the Milton Basketball Club.

SCENES FROM THE 1985 SPAGHETTI DINNER



Mrs. Luella Hancock, Mrs. Linda Dornacher, and other members of the kitchen crew help prepare the servings.



The assistant kitchen chairman, Mrs. Bernice Elderbrook (in chef's hat), takes a break to mix with the dinner attendees and sample the cuisine.



Marvin and Claudette Daniel and daughter (facing camera) were among the diners who attended the 1985 spaghetti dinner in St. Charles parish hall.



Mrs. Donna Harry, Mrs. Joyce Bauman, Jennifer Zwiebel, and Mrs. Joan Zwiebel help in the preparation of the salads and bread.

The St. Charles seventh graders opened tournament play with a 40-16 win over St. Mary's of Janesville. The Chargers then romped to a 40-14 victory over Brother Dutton and entered the championship game on Sunday, facing the Milton Basketball Club in the finals. The Chargers got off to a slow start, falling behind 9-3, but fought back to a 19-19 halftime tie. For the first part of the third quarter, the teams traded baskets. Then the Chargers slowly moved ahead and maintained a 3- to 6-point lead the rest of the way. The final score was 39-34.

With the victory, the seventh grade Chargers finished the season undefeated with a 15-0 record. The boys on the team were Shannon Redman, Donn Johnson, Chris Bauman, Jeff Ketterhagen, Lenny Brenton, Steve Mehring, Matt Shepstone, and Mark Deschler. The team was coached by Mark Redman, Cecil Mehring, and Brother Stephan Dubuis.

St. Charles Junior Girl Scout Troop 230 and Brownie Troop 138 celebrated Girl Scout Sunday on March 10 at the 9:30 Mass. The girls planned and participated in the liturgy. Refreshments were served later in the parish hall. Troops 230 and 138 were sponsored by the St. Ann's Society of St. Charles.

Seven girls received "I Live My Faith" medals, presented by Rev. Raymond Andre, on Girl Scout Sunday in 1985. Front row (left to right): assistant leader Kathy Kowalchuk, Amy Deschler, Joanna Held, and leader Jackie Pennefeather. Back row: Father Andre, Wendy Simoncelli, Shannon Pennefeather, Jennifer Kalous, and Kimberly Quincey. Not in the photo was Amy Corridon.



St. Charles School held a "spelling bee spelldown" on March 12. The school champion was fifth grader Adam Mehring. The runner-up, also a fifth grader, was Joey Heck. Other participants were Karen Tatera and Kim Chesick, grade 6; Tony Heck and Lisa Muszynski, grade 7; and Amy Scherrer and Amy Whitney, grade 8. Mehring went on to the district spelling bee on March 21 at the Burlington Junior High School.



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Adam Mehring (center) won the 1985 school spelling bee, while Joey Heck (left) was runner-up. Mrs. Suzanne Jones (right), fifth grade teacher, presented the awards.

Thirty-one St. Charles students were named to the third quarter honor roll released the last week in March. On the "A" honor roll were Kimberly Chesick, grade 6; Lisa Muszynski, grade 7; and Andrea Harry, Todd Steinhoff, and Amy Trimberger, grade 8. On the "B" honor roll were 10 fifth graders, 3 seventh graders, and 13 eighth graders.

St. Charles had just one student's work selected among the winners in the local 1985 Helen Mears Art Contest sponsored by the Burlington Woman's Club for sixth through eighth graders. In the seventh grade Class B competition (schools without a formal art department), judges Robert Ohm, Earl Gustavson, and Mrs. Jo Soeth awarded third, fourth and fifth places to entries by Lisa Muszynski of St. Charles.

The school presented its 1985 spring concert to the public on Tuesday evening, April 23. All students in kindergarten through the eighth grade participated. The school band, under the direction of Ed Pierce, presented "Showcase for Showoffs." Several instrumental duets were featured, including Amy Scherrer and Andrea Harry, Alan Pihringer and Todd Steinhoff, Donn Johnson and Denise Robers, and Sue Schindler and Jennifer Zwiebel.

The kindergarten, taught by Mrs. Laurie Leach, and the school choral group, directed by Beatrice Jacobson, performed a variety of American folk numbers, which included cowboy, gospel, railroad, pioneer, and play-party songs and dances.

On April 28, Rev. Raymond G. Andre distributed First Solemn Communion to 34 children. They were:

Jeremy Bauman	Joseph Campbell	Kevin Jones	Rosemary Pennefeather
Sarah Bauman	Cynthia Coca	Robin Kajpust	Tiffanie Plaire
Shannon Bauman	Naomi Corridon	Kelly Kilpin	Benjamin Richter
Jason Baumeister	Stephanie Davis	Ryan Koenen	Katy Scherrer
Sarah Becker	Eric Deschler	Nathan Lebak	Sarah Schmaling
Gene Bird	Eric Holman	Bradley Mehring	Lesley Jean Schmidt
Cessely Block	Michael Huff	Ryan Miles	Kim Vogt
Chad Boulden	Jeremy Jelinek	Brian Morrow	Katherine Wozniak
Jeremy Bousman	Jill Johnson		

Confirmation services, conducted by Archbishop Rembert Weakland, were held at St. Joseph's at Lyons on May 13. Among those confirmed by the Archbishop were 36 St. Charles confirmands, including 3 adults. The St. Charles confirmands were:

Cathy Anderson	Sonia Gonzalez	Julie Matuszak	Brad Spiegelhoff
Thomas Boulden	Jonathan Howe	Chris Meyer	Cindy Strelbicki
Michael David	Jose Ibarra	Andrew Miller	Laura Strokis
Mark DeGreef	Amy Ketterhagen	Joseph Nowicki	Kathy Swatske
Tim Eckert	Debbie Ketterhagen	Jackie Regner	Susan VanHaren
Daniel Fabian	David Kosloske	Laurie Richter	Robin Vos
Margaret Finley	Charles Linneman	Timothy Roegner	Jeffrey Weis
Michael Foley	Karen Madsen	Jerry Robers	Paula Weis
Daniel Foltz	Chris Martin	Dawn Shepstone	Lisa Yanny

In May the Burlington Daughters of Isabella Circle No. 55 made donations of \$400 each to St. Charles School, St. Mary's School library, and St. Thomas School, Waterford. Donations of \$150 each were made to St. Alphonsus School, New Munster, and the religious education program at St. Joseph's parish, Lyons. The donations, among those made annually by the Circle, were available for books, audio-visual equipment, or computer software.

Former St. Mary's pastor, Msgr. Joseph J. Heim, died on May 28 at St. Mary's Nursing Home in Milwaukee at age 86. He had served Burlington's St. Mary's parish from March 1949 until his retirement in June 1976, when he was succeeded by Rev. Robert Gosma.

Msgr. Heim was born in Madison in August 1898, and he grew up there. He was educated at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, where he was ordained by Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer in January 1926. He served at Holy Spirit parish in Milwaukee for 6½ years before returning to St. Francis Seminary as a professor of Latin and English. He also served as Master of Discipline, the equivalent of Dean of Men. In 1942 he became archdiocesan director of the Holy Name Society and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. He also served as director of the Catholic Youth Organization and as chaplain for St. Mary's convent in Milwaukee and its retirement home.



Msgr. Joseph J. Heim celebrated his 25th anniversary as St. Mary's pastor in March 1974.

Upon the death of Msgr. Edward J. Kersting in 1949, then Rev. Heim came to Burlington as just the sixth pastor of St. Mary's since its dedication in 1847. He was elevated to the rank of Monsignor by Pope Pius XII on July 6, 1954. Under his leadership, St. Mary's parish grew from 400 families in 1949 to 950 at his retirement. A new grade school was constructed, as was a high school gymnasium and an athletic field. In 1956, Msgr. Heim was appointed to the Burlington Public Library board, a post he held for 11 years.

Funeral services for Msgr. Heim were held on Sunday evening June 2, at St. Mary's. Principal celebrant and homilist at the concelebrated Mass was retired Milwaukee Archbishop William E. Cousins. Msgr. Heim's remains were buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

St. Charles fourth quarter honor roll included 4 students on the "A" honor roll and 33 students on the "B" honor roll. Those on the "A" honor roll, with averages of 4.0, were Kimberly Chesick of the sixth grade and eighth graders Andrea Harry, Todd Steinhoff, and Amy Trimberger.

Graduation exercises were held at the close of the 1984-1985 school year for 27 eighth graders. The graduates are shown in the following photo.



CLASS OF 1985

Row 1 (l to r): Amy Scherrer, Jennifer Ehlen, Leanne DeGrave, Gayle Robers, Denise Robers, Andrea Harry, Amy Whitney, and Kate Ketterhagen.

Row 2: Mrs. Michelle Smith (principal), Jennifer Zwiebel, Michelle Fabian, Sue Schindler, Holly Smith, Eric Schultz, Alfred Kumba, James VanBolhuis, Amy Trimberger, Catherine Bauman, Traci Alvarez, and Mrs. Loretta Jackson (teacher).

Row 3: Rev. Raymond Andre, Aimee Dorn, Richard Paro, Alan Pihringer, Todd Steinhoff, Eric LeDuc, Scott Zwiebel, Kevin Thomas, Kyle Weis, and Carrie Lynch.

(to be continued)