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A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. PETER'S PARISH NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR

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MOST REV. WILLIAM M. COSGROVE
Aux. Bishop, Vicar General



MOST REV. JAMES A. HICKEY
Bishop of Cleveland



MOST REV. CLARENCE G. ISSENMANN
Bishop of Cleveland, Retired

THE CHANCERY
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
CHANCERY BUILDING, CATHEDRAL SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 7, 1975

Dear Members of Saint Peter Parish in North Ridgeville,

It is indeed a joy to congratulate you on the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Saint Peter Parish.

Much has been accomplished in the past century. The history of the growth of the Parish parallels that of the general community of North Ridgeville.

The physical plant of Saint Peter Parish is impressive. Yet this is but a small manifestation of the myriad of spiritual achievements accomplished through one hundred years of witnessing to the faith. How much we owe to the foresight of our ancestors in forming the Parish and to their unselfish and dedicated work in maintaining it! At the same time, we thank God, with you, for the leadership and sacrifices of the priests, sisters, and lay men and women who have served the Parish through these many years.

It is my prayer that the same evident signs of faith will continue to mark the history and the lives of the people of Saint Peter Parish. Your first one hundred years most certainly have measured up to, or surpassed, the high expectations envisioned by the founders of the Parish. May the next century surpass all the great expectations foretold by your present accomplishments.

With my blessing, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

James A. Hickey

(Most Reverend) James A. Hickey
Bishop of Cleveland



REV. WILLIAM KITT
Pastor



REV. CHARLES RYBA
Assistant Pastor



REV. JOHN MURPHY
Diocesan Superintendent
of Schools, Aux. Help



REV. GAETANO MENEGATTO
Aux. Help

The History Of St. Peter's Congregation 1875-1975

The first Catholic settlers of Ridgeville arrived in the year 1838. In that year Peter Biermacher purchased the place on the Center road, where John Bacher once lived, about one and one-quarter mile north of Ridgeville Center. Desirous of having another one of his own Faith in the vicinity, Mr. Biermacher invited Louis Schwartz to become his neighbor and gave him ten acres of his farm. These men built log houses and made their living by clearing the land from timber, which they burned for the ashes to be made into potash or black salts as they called it. This was hard and tedious work, and the income very small. It took about two weeks to produce a hundred pounds of potash, and the market price fluctuated from one to two dollars per hundred pounds. In 1842 Jacob Schmitz arrived and settled on a small farm of six acres, located between the Stoney Ridge and Center Road. A few years later Nicholas and Mathias Klein arrived and settled on the Center road. In the year 1844, Mathias Pitts, Joseph Diehn, Phillip Bauer and Mathias Myers purchased farms on the Stoney Ridge road. In 1845 Leopold Dusendank arrived and became a neighbor of Peter Schmitz. In 1846 John Hollander, Andrew Meyer and Peter Nuhn became residents of the Center road. The year after Mathias Diederich arrived. In the year 1857 John Adam Barres came, and each succeeding year brought new German Catholic families, until by the year 1870 quite a Catholic colony of sturdy, faithful, honest pioneers had settled in the township.

These families attended to their religious duties in French Creek and Avon. This was quite a hardship for them. The distance was from five to eight miles, and the roads were unimproved and almost impassable. Seeing their numbers gradually increasing, a few men chief among whom were Nicholas Slauf of the Eaton road, John Klein and Nicholas Diederich began in the year 1875 to agitate the question of separating from French Creek and Avon, and organizing a parish at Ridgeville. This idea found favor with most of the families but not with all. Accordingly Nicholas Diederich and John Klein went to Father Dambach, pastor of French Creek, and reported to him the sentiment of the Ridgeville Catholics. Father Dambach was at first heartily in favor of this new project, but later on when he saw some of his best parishioners, including one of his councilmen, Mathias Pitts breaking away from his parish, he regretted that he had given his consent to the separation. Peter Meyer, John Klein and Nicholas Diederich then took up the hard task of canvassing the new congregation for the Funds necessary for buying the land and erecting the church. They found thirty-two families, twenty-eight of whom gladly subscribed towards the new project. Elated over this success, John Klein, Nicholas and Mathias Diederich, went to Cleveland to beg Bishop Gilmour's permission to organize the new parish. The Bishop readily consented, and said that he was surprised that the Catholics of Ridgeville had not organized long before. Upon hearing the report of these men, a committee consisting of Mathias Nuhn, Casper Clemens, Nichols Diederich and Mathias Diederich was appointed to select a suitable location for the new church. Two places were considered. One on the Station road, known as the Cooper place, which was eventually bought; and one on the main road, on which the town hall now stands. The sentiment of the parish was divided on the selection of these sites. Nicholas Diederich and his friends were in favor of the Cooper place, while Peter Meyer, John Klein, Adam Diederich and others worked for the land on the ridge. It was left to a vote of the parish, and on February 17th the majority decided in favor of the Cooper place, only thirteen voting for the other property. One of the reasons that prompted the men to vote against the ridge property, was a rumor spread that clear title could not be had to that site. But the principal reason that caused that unfortunate decision, was the question of money. The Station road property was cheaper, but also much smaller. The Station road site consisting of only eight rods frontage with a dwelling and barn on it, cost $1300.00, whilst the beautiful ridge site, on which the town hall now stands, embraced eighteen acres. It included the high knoll in the rear of the present Town Hall, owned by Mr. James Robinson, and its frontage extended from the old Winters blacksmith shop (where the Post Office stood) to the dwelling west of the town hall, owned by Mathias Lehman. It could have been bought for $1800.00. What a grand investment those extra $500.00 would have been for the parish. First of all they would have had plenty of room for the future. The cemetery could have been placed on the high knoll in the rear. The large frontage would have been big enough for church, school and sisters' residence, and parsonage. A few years later, the congregation was forced to buy more land adjoining the church property for the price of $700.00. And in the year 1909, the old property again proved to be too small for the projected new buildings, and a site, consisting of 16 acres was purchased for $6325.00. Thus the original saving of $500.00 in the course of time meant a loss of $7050.00. What a pity. The Cooper place was accordingly purchased. On it stood a dwelling, a barn and the old town hall, a frame structure. The township had title to that land as long as the town hall would be used for the township; the land to revert to the owners as soon as the old town hall be sold or moved. When in 1882 the township purchased the new property which our congregation had unfortunately passed up, they lost title to their old place. The old town hall was purchased for $300.00, moved south of the church and remodelled into a school. This was sold in 1909 to James Saye and moved to the Center road.

About February 25th, 1875, the parish again met to consider the plans of the new church and the repairing of the house. There was a lively discussion whether the dimensions of the church should be 30x50 or 35x60. The decision was in favor of the larger dimension. On March 26, the contracts were let for the new building: Jake Becker was given the contract for the stone-work, the stone being donated by Peter Wiersch: the carpenter work was let to B. W. Werden and S. C. Terrell.

On July the 25th, 1875, the corner stone was laid by the Vicar General of the Diocese, Father Boff. An immense throng of people came to witness that ceremony. It was a gala day for the parish. The carpenter work was now commenced. It was a joy to the parishioners to see the work of their new church progressing so nicely. The day for the dedication was set for December the 19th; Father Boff, the representative of the bishop in the presence of a large crowd of worshippers performed the dedicatory services. The interior was not quite furnished, and no mass was said until Christmas morning. That was the happiest day of the congregation, that Christmas day of 1875, when the congregation for the first time assembled in their church, the fruit of their hard earned money, to worship their Lord and Master. We may imagine with what holy fervor they all joined in the song "Grosser Gott" to render thanks to Him who had given them health and the means to erect that beautiful little church of St. Peter.

To Father Jacob Heidegger, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Avon, was given the charge of this new parish as a mission. Before the corner stone was laid it was decided to name the new church after the patron saint of the person donating the most money on that occasion. Peter Meyer, living on the Center road gave $50.00, and the church was accordingly named "St. Peter." The High altar was donated by Mathias Pitts, Sr., the statues St. Peter and St. Paul were the gift of William Faulhaber. Some years later two beautiful adoring angels were placed on the high altar. They were the gift of John Laubenthal. The bell cost $700.00 and weighed 700 lbs.

The timber for the sills of the church was donated by Mathias Myers and Adam Barres.

The land for the cemetery, one acre, was donated by Nicolas Juchem, and in return the parish agreed to have a high mass sung each year for the family of Nicolas and Gertrude Juchem, as long as the cemetery be used for burial purposes. The receipts for the first year of this new parish were:

Subscription	$2850.00
Pew Rent	620.60
Extra Collections	606.00
Altar Society	226.60
Young men and ladies	174.85
The Total Receipts were	$4830.11

The history of St. Peter's Congregation would not be complete without essaying a short sketch of the contemplated parish at Dover, just across the county line and the thriving little mission of Catholics, clustered around the Lake Shore Railway depot, at Ridgeville (Shawville), whose spiritual needs were attended to by Father Louis Molon of Elyria.

DOVER

In the year 1873, the Catholic families living in Dover and vicinity, to the number of twenty, finding it quite a hardship on them to drive from four to seven miles each Sunday over well nigh impassable roads to attend to their religious duties, organized for the purpose of separating from Holy Trinity church, Avon, and forming a parish of their own at Dover. The leaders in this movement were Peter Wiersch and William Faulhaber. They canvassed the prospective parish and found twenty families who were anxious to give their aid and influence towards this worthy project. Mr. Peter Wiersch and William Faulhaber, each contributed five hundred dollars towards this undertaking, and their noble example inspired many others to give substantial donations. These two men, with Lawrence Faulhaber, went to Cleveland to seek the bishop's sanction and permission to proceed. The Bishop being absent, they had an audience with Father Boff, the Vicar General of the Diocese. Father Boff granted them the permission for the present, to build a school, but to arrange the building in such a manner so that if future conditions require it, it may be changed into a church.

This news was received with joy by the good hearted people of Dover. Mr. Peter Wiersch donated an acre and a half of nice ridge land for the new building: the ladies conducted a series of suppers and fairs, and together with the donations of the new parishioners, they were soon able to erect a frame building twenty-four feet wide and thirty-two feet long. For two and a half years this school was conducted most successfully. There were twenty-eight pupils enrolled. The first teacher was Miss Catherine Stauder, later Mrs. Frank Molz: the second teacher was Miss Anna Thiesen, later Mrs. Frank Stauder.

The idea of having twenty families separate from the Avon parish did not meet with the favor of the Avon people. Nor was Father Heidegger willing to lose so many substantial families without vigorously protesting against it. Father Heidegger refused to give his sanction to this projected separation and did all he could to oppose it. He told them that they were too small in numbers to support a parish. At one of their meetings he related to them the story of the miller who had built a beautiful mill on the top of a hill, whence it could be seen for many miles, but had forgotten the fact that the water would not flow uphill to drive the water wheel. In like manner he said: "You have built a nice school and were full of zeal to proceed with a church, still your numbers are too small to keep up and support the undertaking."

This project was given up when in 1875, the new parish was organized at Ridgeville. The school was discontinued and the building moved closer to the ridge. It was remodelled into a dwelling and was the residence of Mr. Louis Traxler. The men who tried to organize the Dover parish were the following: Peter Wiersch, William Faulhaber, John Wiersch, Anton Kaiser, Christian Wiersch, Nicholas Schneider, Peter Schneider, Joseph Eichorn, John Eberling, Joseph Puth, Simon Nagel, George Nagel, John Stopp, Mathias Barth, John Schwartz, Adam Wilbert, Caspar Wilbert, Michael Hefele, Jacob Fluri, George Dinger. When this undertaking failed, these families for the most part, joined the new parish at Ridgeville.

THE MISSION AT THE LAKE SHORE DEPOT (SHAWVILLE) (1873)

A small colony of Catholics, principally of Irish descent, employed by the railroad, had settled around the depot at Ridgeville. For many years these people observed the Sunday by meeting in the home of one of their fellow men and reciting the rosary and other prayers in common. Occasionally they would borrow a handcar from the company and travel, as many as could get on, to Elyria or Olmsted Falls, to attend Mass or to receive the Sacraments. When the intrepid Father Molon of Elyria heard of this little colony at Ridgeville, he made arrangements to say mass for them occasionally at Ridgeville and give them all the opportunity to receive the sacraments. The house of John Regan, owned by the railroad company, which stood where the coal yards were, was selected as the place of worship. When this place was destroyed by fire, the home of James Downey was chosen. Once a month for over a year Father Molon attended to this little mission. The men took turns in transporting the priest from and to Elyria. As there were no trains running at the hour convenient for mass, the only way of bringing Father Molon to Ridgeville was by means of a handcar. During these visits, Father Molon said mass, heard confessions and distributed Holy Communion. Father Molon baptized one child at Ridgeville, Michael Gibbons, the son of Dominic Gibbons. The visits of Father Molon ceased when the new St. Peter's parish was organized at Ridgeville. The members of that little mission were John Regan, David Regan, James Downey, Dominic Gibbons, Patrick Connors, Jacob Wiersch, John Wilhelmy and their families. Most of these families have either passed away or moved from Ridgeville. Now to resume the history of St. Peter's parish North Ridgeville.



REV. LOUIS MOLON

1875

Father Jacob Heidegger, the young pastor of Holy Trinity church, Avon, was the first pastor of St. Peter's church, at Ridgeville. He was given charge of it as a mission. He said the first mass in the new church on Christmas morning, after he had said mass at Avon and Sheffield. The years of Father Heidegger's pastorate were years of strenuous labor. It takes patience and hard work to organize a parish; hundreds of articles necessary for church and school must be purchased; and as a rule, the people are poor and the church heavily in debt. But Father Heidegger was equal to the task demanded of him, and attended to his duties with wisdom and skill.



REV. JACOB HEIDEGGER (1875-1879)

1876

In the Fall of this year Father Heidegger organized the Altar Society. At this time both married and unmarried ladies were received into the society. Fifty-four members were enrolled. The parish school was also commenced, with Miss Emma Wagner as teacher. The first child to be baptized in the new church, according to the records was Elizabeth Myers, daughter of Peter and Margaret Myers. The first couple married was Frederick Dean and Barbara Weber. The first funeral on record is that of the infant son of Adam Diederich. The pew-rent amounted to $620.60; the total income was $4830.11. The debt of the parish at the close of the year was $1821.63. There were ten baptisms. Five were called by death, three infants and John Eberling, three years old, John Lehman, sixty-one years of age. One marriage took place. A loan of $800.00 was made. The councilmen were: William Faulhaber, Mathias Pitts, Caspar Clemens and Nicholas Diederich.

1877

During the absence of Father Heidegger who had taken a trip to Europe from April to August, the parish was attended to by Fathers Molon and McCarthy. There were seventeen baptisms and three marriages during the year. Seven deaths occurred: four infants and Patrick Connors fifty-nine years of age, Mary Barres, sixty-nine, and Anna Barbeln, fifty-six years of age. The pew rent receipts were $722.75; total receipts were $1259.20; a loan of $669.00 was made. The parish debt was reduced to $1673.63. The councilmen were the same as the preceding year.

1878

An attempt was made to reduce the church indebtedness. Father Heidegger visited the parish for this purpose and collected $1434.04. Forty Hours devotion was conducted on January 20-21-22. Miss Emma Wagner was still in charge of the parish school.

which had an enrollment of forty-five pupils. Six new candlesticks and a chalice were purchased. Twelve baptisms took place and two marriages. Eight deaths occurred, two infants and Mathias Clemens, forty-two years of age, Barbara Barres, eleven, Margaret Schneider, seven, Elizabeth Schlaff, nine, and Anna Loescher, eleven years of age. An epidemic of diphtheria was the cause of the unusual number of deaths among the children. The pew rent receipts were $733.87. Total receipts were $1379.57. The parish debt was $1030.00. The councilmen were, Nicholas Nuhn, William Faulhaber, Mathias Pitts and Nicholas Diederich.



1879

Rev. Victor Haussner succeeded Father Heidegger as pastor in May. He was the first resident pastor of the parish. Father Haussner was a zealous and a faithful priest. He was in poor health, however, and unfortunately came to Ridgeville at a time when a man of a strong and robust constitution was necessary. In the years of his pastorate, 1880 and 1881, a disastrous epidemic of typhoid fever ravaged the township. Many people were stricken and a large number of them died. Father Haussner also became a victim of this dread disease contracted whilst performing his duties to the sick. For a time he was taken care of by Joseph Myers and John Barbeln, and as he continued to grow weaker he was removed to Charity hospital in Cleveland, where he died on the twenty-sixth of April, 1881. His remains were brought back to Ridgeville and buried from the church, in the presence of a large number of priests and the members of the parish. He lies interred in the parish cemetery, slumbering with hundreds of his flock, awaiting the trumpet call of resurrection day. Miss Emma Wagner continued as teacher of the parochial school, which had an enrollment of forty-five pupils. Twenty-six children were admitted to their first communion, and fifty-six were confirmed by Bishop Gilmour on June the first. Seventeen were baptized and four couples were married. Seven deaths took place, three infants, and Louise Schneider aged four years, Mary Behrens aged twenty-one, Andrew Meyer, aged seventy-nine, Anna Juchem and Anna Thome, aged seventy-two years. The pew rent receipts were $675.15; total receipts were $1275.29. Repairs made to priest and school house amounted to $403.75. The church debt was $1027.90. The councilmen were William Faulhaber, Adam Barres and Mathias Pitts.

1880

This was a sad year for the congregation. Many homes had one or more sick with typhoid fever. The death rate was unusually heavy. Ten deaths occurred from August to December, viz., Anna Gerhartz aged seventy-nine, John Mohr, seventeen, Joseph Bleser, five, Catherine Kramer, twelve, John Loescher, nineteen, Peter Loescher, eighteen, Margaret Wiersch, four, Mary Barres, twenty-seven, Catherine Laux, seventy-nine, Nicholas Juchem, seventy-six years of age. Nineteen baptisms took place and two marriages. Father Haussner was stricken in December, and for that reason no financial record was made for the year.



REV. PETER KOLOPP (1881)

1881

Father Heidegger had charge of the parish during the illness of Father Haussner. In June Father Heidegger was succeeded by Father Peter Kolopp, who resided at Avon and had charge of Ridgeville as a mission, until November of this year. Forty children received their First Communion. The school enrollment was also forty, taught by Miss Emma Wagner. There were seventeen baptisms and two marriages. Typhoid fever continued to claim its victims in the town and parish. Eleven deaths occurred, three infants, and Gertrude Weber, aged eight years, John Loescher, thirty-two, Christina Pitts, twenty-two, William Faulhaber, sixty-five; on April 28th, Father Haussner died at Charity Hospital, Cleveland, and buried from this church on April the 30th. The pew rent receipts were only $442.90; total receipts $828.64. The councilmen were, Simon Nagel, Nicholas Nuhn, Frank Diederich and Mathias Pitts.



REV. H. D. BEST (1881-1886)

1882

In November of the preceding year Father Best had succeeded Father Kolopp. Twenty-six children received their first Communion. The school enrollment was sixty. Miss Catherine Puth was engaged as teacher. The old town hall, which stood beside the parsonage, was bought from the township for $300.00. It was a frame structure, twenty-eight feet wide and forty feet long, and built in the year 1830. It was altered to a large class room by Frank Loescher at a cost of $88.00. Sixteen baptisms took place and six marriages. The death toll was still heavy. Eleven died, three infants, and Christian Bommer, aged sixty-five, John Miller, thirty, Anna Weirsh, six, Elizabeth Wiersh, fourteen, Anna Fischer, forty-six, John Daniel, twelve, Magdalene Rendspach, seventy-four, Mary Loehr, sixteen. The pew rent receipts were $893.21. A church fair conducted in April netted the Parish the surprising sum of $664.00. The total receipts were $2015.41. The church debt was cleared this year. The councilmen were Frank Diederich, Simon Nagel, Nicholas Nuhn and Nicholas Schlaff.

1883

A black vestment (cope) used at funerals was purchased for $60.00. Mr. John Laubenthal donated $20.00 for an altar gong, and $18.00 for a wax Christ-child figure for the Christmas crib. Twenty-eight children were admitted to their first Communion, and sixty-five children attended the parochial school. The Altar society membership had increased to sixty-five. The greatest number of baptisms in the history of the parish, namely twenty-seven, are recorded for this year. Sad to say, also the most deaths occurred during this year. Thirteen passed away, four infants and Flora Born, aged five years, Peter Smith, four, Anna Schmitz, twenty-eight, Margaret Pauli, seventy, Catherine Stauder, eighty-two, Anna Klinkner, sixty-seven years of age. Three couples were married. The pew rent receipts were $1082.42; total receipts were $1469.71. The councilmen of the preceding year were re-elected.

1884

Twenty-one children received their first Communion. The school attendance was seventy, taught by Miss Emma Rech. Twenty-five were baptized and two couples were married. Nine deaths took place, three infants and Anna Hollander, aged eighty-six, John Juchem aged seventy-six, Mathias Otten aged sixty-five, Nicholas Diderich, aged thirty-seven, Nicholas Barres aged nine, and James Downey, aged seventy. The pew rent receipts dropped to $826.17; total receipts $1061.51. The councilmen were Christian Thome, Nicholas Nuhn, Nicholas Schlaff and Simon Nagel.

1885

There were twenty-eight first Communicants. The Altar society membership dropped to twenty-five. A class of seventy-six was confirmed by Bishop Gilmour. A collection for frescoing the church was announced, and $141.00 was generously contributed. Seventeen were baptized and two marriages solemnized. Five were called by death, two infants, and Bernard Mohr, aged seventy-five, Elizabeth Nuhn aged seventeen, Nicholas Bleser aged thirty-three years. Pew rent receipts were $817.55; total receipts were $1253.57. The councilmen were Frank Diederich, Christian Thome and Christian Laubenthal.

1886

Only six children received their first Communion during this year. Bishop Gilmour administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of seventy-six. The school attendance was sixty-five. Miss Louise Alten was teacher. In June the church was frescoed at a cost of $150.00. Nineteen baptisms took place and three marriages. Seven deaths occurred, one infant and John Ackermann aged seven yeas, Jacob Smith aged seventy-five, Elizabeth Durmen aged seven, Anna Kramer and Catherine Lehman aged sixty-two years. The pew rent receipts were $724.55, at a church fair $283.92 was made; the total receipts were $1240.54. There was a debt at the close of the year of $198.92. The councilmen were Frank Diederich, Christian Laubenthal and Christian Thome.



REV. NICHOLAS PFEIL (1887-1891)

1887

Father Nicholas Pfeil, pastor of Holy Trinity church, Avon, took charge of Ridgeville as a mission on February the 20th. Full of zeal and energy, he began at once to instill new life and a new spirit into this now somewhat dormant parish. He found both church and school overcrowded. His first attentions were given the school. He purchased the Faulhaber property south of the church, with a frontage of 112 feet and a depth of 190 feet. A neat two story frame dwelling went with this purchase. This property cost $900.00. The old town hall, which was used for school purposes, was moved to this new site. New benches were secured, and the parish now had two commodious class rooms. Miss Mary Diederich was engaged as teacher. The school enrollment was ninety. To defray the expenses of the newly purchased property, Father Pfeil, solicited subscriptions in the parish and succeeded in collecting $602.75. Father Pfeil also purchased violet, black and white vestments for $140.00. Furniture purchased for the teacher's house, church, and parsonage, cost $234.95. Pew rent receipts were $715.61; fair receipts $282.50, a loan for $700.00 was made. The total receipts were $1822.83. The Altar society membership was forty. A Young Ladies Sodality was organized with twenty-five members. There were fifteen baptisms and one marriage. Eight were called by death, one infant, and Nicholas Hollander, aged ninety-nine years, Margaret Juchem,

aged twelve, John Juchem, eight, Lucia Diederich, ten, Anna Schmitz, thirty, Margaret Durmen, sixty-seven, and Caroline Nuhn, aged sixteen. The councilmen were Frank Diederich, Nicholas Nuhn and Mathias Schmitz.

1888
Father Nicholas Kirch was appointed resident pastor of Ridgeville in January, but remained only until March, when Father Pfeil again took charge of the parish as a mission from Avon. Forty-one children received their first Communion and seventy-seven attended the school, which was again in charge of Mary Diederich. Father Pfeil again visited the parishioners for contributions to clear the church debt. He succeeded in collecting $378.00. The pew rent receipts were $998.14; total receipts were $1881.68. The church indebtedness was reduced to $200.00. Ten baptisms took place and five marriages. Three deaths occurred, Simon Meyer, aged fifty-nine years, Magdalena Faulhaber, aged thirty-two, and Michael Jonas. The councilmen were Frank Diederich, Mathias Myers, Jr., Mathias Schmitz and Joseph Schneider.

1889
The Church having become too small, it was decided after the last old debt of $200.00 had been paid, to enlarge it. The dimensions of the old church were 35 ft. wide and 60 ft. long. It was agreed to add 40 feet to the length, thus making it 100 ft. A cross nave was added 47 ft. wide and 20 ft. long. This addition gave the church the dimensions of general width 35 ft., width in cross nave 47 feet, and total length 100 feet. The height from floor to Roman ceiling was 20 feet. The church easily seated 375. Ground was broken for this addition in June: It was finished in October. The foundation stone was donated by Nicholas Schneider. The members donated their services in hauling material and excavating the basement. Mr. Bronson did the stone-work, and Peter Smith was given the carpenter work. This addition, including frescoing and extra pews cost $1842.35. The young men collected $60.00 for the Communion railing. Father Pfeil canvassed the parish again for funds to defray the expenses of the building; he collected $715.00. In August of this year two Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin were engaged to teach. A portion of the Sister's residence was used as primer classroom. There were 78 children in school. In December two hot air blast furnaces were installed in the church for $235.00. Three beautiful chandeliers were donated by Joseph Schneider. Pew rent receipts were $1001.80; subscription $715.00; $1000.00 was borrowed. Total receipts were $2034.76. There were three marriages; five were called by death, three infants and John Wiersch, aged 84, and Catherin Loescher, aged 55. The councilmen were Matthew Myers, John Wiersch, Frank Diederich and Matthew Diederich.

1890
There were 32 first communicants this year. School enrollment was 59 children. Two Sisters of St. Francis taught the scholars. On the feast of St. Peter and Paul, June 29th, the church was rededicated by Msgr. Felix Boff, assisted by Rev. Schnitzler as deacon and Rev. Hartman as sub-deacon. The pew rent receipts were $1115.50. Two suppers during the year brought in $331.57. Total cash received was $1743.92. The debt was reduced to $1000.00. There were 13 baptisms. Two couples were married. Three passed away: one infant and Catherine Wilhelmy, aged 40 years and Emma Weber, aged 16 years. The councilmen were the same as the preceding year.


REV. SILVAN REBHOLZ
(1891-1893)


REV. NICHOLAS KIRCH
(1893-1900)

1891
Father Silvan Rebholz became resident pastor of Ridgeville on March 20th. Father Rebholz took great pains in beautifying the church. He purchased a pulpit for $200.00, the money having been willed for that purpose by a good-hearted member, John Schlaff. God bless his soul. The young men again took up a collection and with the $44.00 gathered, they bought a beautiful mass book (missal), a censer and a holy water font. He also bought a sanctuary lamp, 3 new vestments, 3 sets of antipendium for the altar and artificial flowers costing $75.00. Two beautiful brackets were placed on the tabernacle, and a vestment case was built. John Laubenthal, good old soul, donated $40.00 for a new ciborium. In fact nearly all the ornaments which, though small in themselves, but added greatly to the beauty of the church, were procured by Father Rebholz, in the course of his administration. He also had a new floor put in the school. Twenty-eight children received their first Communion, and ninety-seven attended the parochial school, instructed by two Sisters of St. Francis. The pew rent receipts were $1090.83, special donations of $313.30 were received, the total receipts were $2705.92. The debt was reduced to $291.00. Eighteen baptisms and one marriage took place. Six deaths occurred, four infants and John Schlaff, forty-seven years of age, and John Yunglas, seventy-two years of age. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Sr., Joseph Pitts, Mathias Diederich and Christian Laubenthal.

1892
Thirty-one children were admitted to their first Communion. On Oct. 10th, Bishop Horstmann, confirmed a large class of children, one hundred and seventeen in number. The school enrollment was ninety-five. Two Sisters of St. Francis were in charge of the school. Early in the morning of June the twenty-seventh, a bolt of lightning struck the church steeple and caused considerable damage. The insurance company paid the sum of $280.00 for the loss. In October, the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, known as Columbus Day, was celebrated with great festivity. There was both a church and a secular celebration. High mass was sung early in the morning and most of the parishioners received Holy Communion. After the church services, the school children, ninety-five in number, joined the district school children in a parade around the town. Then all proceeded to the Town Hall where joint patriotic exercises were conducted. In the afternoon the children were taken to Elyria to participate in the parade of the school children of the county. About two thousand public school children, and seventy from St. Mary's school, Elyria, and our ninety-five pupils, took part in this great parade. Father Rebholz proudly marched at the head of his school, being the only priest of the county in line. A new cemetery bridge was built, the good parishioners donated their time and services as usual. Repairs made to the church cost $57.74, to the school $18.70, to the parsonage $382.20. The pew rent receipts were $1107.00, donations $50.00, total receipts $2324.27. The indebtedness was reduced to $165.00. There were fifteen baptisms and four marriages. Eight were called by death, two infants, and Peter Justen, aged seventy-four, Adam Barres, aged ninety-two, Catherine Schneider, aged fifty nine, Catherine Klein, aged forty-one, Mary Meyer, aged seventy-seven, and Henry Schneider, aged fifty-nine. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Mathias Nuhn, Christian Laubenthal and Joseph Pitts.

1893
Father Rebholz was promoted to St. Mary's Church, Sandusky, on March 30th. The parish again became a mission to Avon, Father Pfeil taking charge of it for the third time. On November 12th, Father Nicholas Kirch was appointed pastor for the second time. Two Sisters of St. Francis still had charge of the school whose attendance was seventy-nine. The Altar Society membership was thirty-eight, and the Young Ladies' Sodality, twenty-two. The pew rent receipts were $1122.25. The total receipts $1517.46. The debt was reduced to $65.00. Fourteen were baptized and two couples were married. Six deaths occurred, one infant, and Mary Faulhaber, seventy-six years of age, Mathias Myers, seventy-three years of age, Edward Schneider, nine years, Christian Laubenthal, forty-eight, and Mary Schneider, forty-two. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Joseph Schneider, Christian Laubenthal and Joseph Pitts.

1894
On April 29th, forty children received their first Communion. A St. Aloysius Young Men's Society was organized with thirty-six members. Also The League of the Sacred Heart, with forty-eight members, and the Holy Family Society, with forty-three members. The Sisters of St. Francis were not engaged this year, instead, a lay teacher was procured to instruct the seventy-nine school children. All the parish buildings were given a coat of paint, entailing an expense of $139.00. The remainder of the debt was paid. From October 7th to October 14th, a parish mission, the first one in the history of this congregation, was conducted by two Jesuit Fathers. The pew rent receipts were $1171.50, two suppers netted the parish $248.54, the total receipts were $1843.86. The congregation was now free of debt and had a balance of $112.56. Thirteen baptisms took place and two marriages. Two deaths occurred, Edward Bleser, aged two years and Mary Bleser, thirty-eight years of age. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Joseph Schneider, Frank Diederich and Michael Hefele.

1895
The interurban electric railway was in building during this year and the following. Two Sisters of St. Dominic (white robed sisters) were engaged to teach the sixty-one pupils of the school. Seventy-nine dollars were made at a strawberry social in the month of June. An "anonymous" gift of fifty dollars was given the church. The statues of the various altars were painted, the cost was defrayed by the Young Ladies Sodality, John Laubenthal and Michael Hefele, each donating fifteen dollars. The pew rent receipts were $1174.80, the total receipts $1702.00. Seventeen baptisms took place, but no marriages. Seven members were called to death, John Klein, sixty-seven years old, Gertrude Lescher, seventeen, Elizabeth Schmitz, forty, John Mohr, fifteen, Nicholas Laubenthal, twenty-four, Peter Schneider, sixty, and Amalia Pitts, forty. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Michael Hefele, Frank Diederich and Mathias Diederich.

1896
On June 21st, twenty-four children received their first Communion. Mr. John Ottke was engaged to teach the school, relieving the Sisters of St. Dominic in August. The school attendance was only forty-seven this year. A baptismal font, which cost thirty-five dollars, was added to the church during the year. Through Mr. John Laubenthal's donation of $27.00, new choir music and candles were purchased. The side altars were repaired entailing an expense of $53.00. The pew rent receipts were $1079.00, total receipts $1684.00. There were fourteen baptisms and one marriage. The death toll was eight, three infants, and Mathias Barth, aged fifty-seven years, Gertrude Puth, aged fifty-six, Adam Barres, aged sixty-three, Anna Obringer, aged twenty-five, and Martha Ross, aged thirty-seven. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Mathias Diederich, Mathias Pitts and Nicholas Schneider.

1897
Seventeen children received their first communion on July 18th. On November 8th, Bishop Horstmann administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of seventy-six. The school attendance was still poor, only forty-nine were enrolled. Mr. Ottke was again engaged as teacher. A second-hand organ was purchased from a church in Buffalo, for the sum of $600.00. As the pipe organ was too high for the choir loft, it became necessary to break an opening in the ceiling. This work, and the enlarging of the choir loft cost $66.00. A special subscription collection was solicited in the parish, and the sum of $666.00, defraying the entire cost of the organ and necessary repairs was collected. The pew rent receipts were $1135.00, total receipts, $2439.30. Fifteen were baptized and six marriages were solemnized. Five were claimed by death, one infant, and Nicholas Junglas, aged seventy-two years, Gertrude Minnich, fourteen, John Laubenthal, sixteen, and Mary Smith, twenty-

three. The councilmen were Mathias Pitts, Mathias Diederich, Nicholas Schneider and John Schneider.

1898
On July 10th seventeen children received their first Communion. Mr. Ottke continued as teacher. The school enrollment was only thirty-two. John Laubenthal, good-hearted soul, purchased the two beautiful "adoring angels" which stood guard at each side of the high altar; he also bore the cost of reguilding the monstrance and the candlesticks. Pew rent receipts were $1124.15, total receipts $1483.89. Seventeen were baptized and four couples were married. Three deaths occurred, Mary Dusendong, aged eighty-four years, Barbara Bauer, and Catherine Winters, aged fifty-seven years. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Mathias Diederich and Frank Diederich.

1899
Miss Mary Wagner was engaged as teacher. Forty-one children attended the school. Pew rent receipts were $1198.75, total receipts $1841.86. Fourteen baptisms took place and seven marriages. Five were called by death, Anna Schlaff, sixty-six years of age, Mary Myers, seventy-four, Catherine Klein, forty-five, Anna Tiemke, twenty-eight. The councilmen were: Mathias Myers, Frank Diederich, Joseph Schneider and John Schneider.

1900
Thirty-one children were admitted to their first Communion on June 17th. Mr. John Loeser was engaged as teacher in September. The school enrollment was forty-three. In August, Father Michael Baker, succeeded Father Kirch as resident pastor. Pew rent receipts were $1180.00, total receipts $1794.13. Eleven were baptized and four couples were married. Eleven died, two infants, and Susanna Zimmer, eighty years of age, Jacob Wearsch, sixty-six, Martin Lescher, nineteen, Mathias Diederich, sixty, Elizabeth Diederich, eighteen, Anna Wilhelmi, ninety-one and Anton Tiemke, seventy-three years of age. The councilmen were Mathias Myers, Joseph Schneider and Nicholas Schneider.


REV. MICHAEL BAKER (1900-1905)

1901
Mr. Loeser was retained as teacher. Forty-seven children attended the school. Two new vestments were acquired at a cost of $114.00. The pew rent receipts were $1256.75. The proceeds of the fair were $356.38, the total receipts were $2191.14. Twenty were baptized and nine marriages solemnized. Two members died, Mrs. Gertrude Juchem, sixty-four years of age, and William Maringer, twenty-six years of age.

1902
The time of the "Forty Hours of Devotion" which heretofore has been in January was now officially changed to the second week of August. Twenty-six children received their first Communion on June 1st, and on June 3rd, Bishop Horstmann administered the sacrament of Confirmation to ninety-six candidates. The school enrollment dropped to forty. Mr. Loeser's services were discontinued in June, and Mrs. J. J. Lehman engaged in September. The old church windows were replaced by new ones, the Young Ladies Sodality bearing the cost of same, $65.15. The interior of the church was redecorated and frescoed entailing an expense of $341.12. The Altar society contributed $41.14 for a new sanctuary carpet. The pew rent receipts were $1231.34, total receipts $2220.33. Fifteen received the sacrament of baptism and four couples the sacrament of matrimony. Seven deaths took place, three infants, and Mary Minnich, eighty-eight years old, Frank Lescher, sixty-two, Julia Fischer, nineteen, and Mathias Otten, twelve. The councilmen were Jacob Bauer, Charles Sutter, Nicholas Schneider and Mathias Myers.

1903
Mrs. J. J. Lehman had charge of the school until June. In September Miss Elizabeth McKenna was engaged. The school attendance this year was forty-five. The parish buildings were given a coat of paint. The pew rent receipts were $1167.25, total receipts $1833.59. Fifteen baptisms took place and six marriages. Six were called by death, one infant, and Catherine Schneider, aged sixty-two years, Elizabeth Klein, aged forty-five, Margaret Lescher, aged sixty-two, Anna Juchem, aged seventy-six, Margaret Smith, aged fifty-five. The councilmen were Nicholas Schneider, Charles Sutter, Mathias Myers and Joseph Laubenthal.

1904
On April 1st, Miss McKenna was succeeded as teacher by Miss Catherine Slavin. Only twenty-four children attended the school. In September Miss Fanny Du Broy took charge of the school. Twenty-three children received their first Communion on April 24th. The pew rent receipts dropped to $949.50, the total receipts to $1387.25, owing to some differences that arose between the pastor and the parish. There were eighteen baptisms and two marriages. Seven deaths occurred, two infants, and Catherine Diederich, aged twenty, Catherine Kaiser, seventy-six, Nicholas Schlaff, seventy-two, Elizabeth Bommer, sixty, and John Barres, aged sixty-nine. The councilmen were Fred Fischer and Charles Sutter.

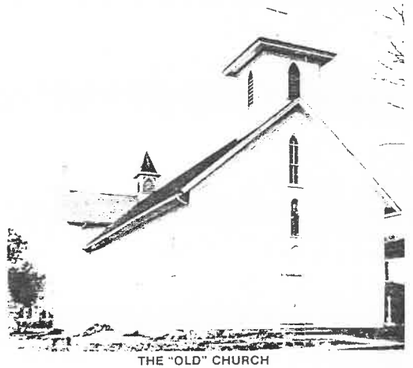
1905
On January 22nd, Father Stuber succeeded Father Baker, and Ridgeville again became a mission to Holy Trinity church, Avon. Miss Du Broy continued as teacher until the end of the school year. Mr. J. W. O'Neil succeeded Miss Du Broy. The school enrollment was

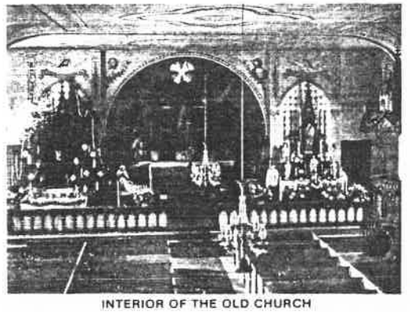

REV. ANTHONY B. STUBER (1905-1909)

thirty-six. Two chalices and one ciborium were gold-plated, costing $22.50. The pipe organ was repaired and tuned by Hugo Stahl for $35.00. A little barn, to accommodate Father Stuber's horse and buggy, was built. The material for this barn (20 ft. x 12 ft.) cost $97.98. The labor was donated by the carpenters of the parish. Additional land was purchased for the cemetery from Mr. John Juchem, and a fence erected around it, costing $285.00 and $35.00 respectively. In November a steam heating plant was installed in the church by C. C. Weaver of Elyria. This cost $635.75. The Altar Society made a donation of $17.60 for artificial flowers. Eighteen were baptized and six marriages took place. Five members passed away, Margaret Mainzer, seventy-three years of age, Nicholas Zimmer, ninety-seven, Fred Shambaugh, Norbert Diederich, five years of age, and Adelaide Wilhelmy, sixty-two years of age. A donation of $200.00, payable in four annual $50.00 installments, was made by the congregation for the new diocesan "Boys' Protectory". The pew rent receipts were $1652.00, total receipts $3070.79. A strawberry festival and several entertainments during the year netted the parish $319.00, at the Thanksgiving Day supper $480.65 was made. The councilmen were Joseph Bleser, Joseph Laubenthal, Joseph Pitts and Mathias Lehman.

1906
On July 22nd, forty-one children received their first Communion. Miss Mary Collins succeeded Mr. O'Neil and taught until June. In September Miss Ella Bogan was given charge of the school. School enrollment was thirty. It was decided by the councilmen and Father Stuber to replace the old pew rent system of financing the church by a straight membership assessment. Each communicant except those who attended Sunday school was to be assessed $6.00 dues per year. All seats in the church were to be free, and persons could take any seat they wanted. John Pitts was hired to be janitor. Assessment receipts were $1520.00. The Young Ladies Sodality purchased a beautiful monstrance for $85.00. A Christmas crib was purchased for $28.00, processional torches for $15.00. Total receipts were $2103.21. Fifteen baptisms took place and eight marriages. Five were claimed by death, Caspar Yung, sixty-eight years, George Maringer, twenty-nine, Adam Diederich, sixty-one, Theodore Grof, thirty-nine, Margaret Slauf, two. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, Joseph Blaser, Joseph Laubenthal and William Rothgery.

1907
On September 23rd, Bishop Horstmann administered the sacrament of Confirmation to forty-six. Miss Ella Bogan was succeeded as teacher by Miss Mary Diederich in February. Miss Diederich continued to teach to the end of the term in June, when the school was discontinued. This was certainly a step backwards. For thirty-one years the school was uninterruptedly conducted at great expense and sacrifices. It had its good and its bad years, like the yield of crops on the farm. There were good teachers and bad teachers and this latter fact, together with the indifference of some and a positive dislike of others towards a parochial school, prompted this assuredly too hasty closing of the school. The results of years of labor and sacrifices were all of a sudden done away with. The history of the school was like the course of a sky-rocket which rises auspiciously, ascends higher and higher until it reaches its climax and bursts in glory, then gradually descends, glowing for a time, and


THE "OLD" CHURCH


INTERIOR OF THE OLD CHURCH

is at last lost in obscurity. Thus the school began most auspiciously under Father Heidegger in 1876, it commenced with forty pupils and this number gradually grew, until it reached ninety-seven in Father Rebholz's time in 1897. This high enrollment lasted for a few years, then gradually dwindled down, slowly, but surely, until in Father Stuber's regime it has decreased to thirty-five and the school was unfortunately closed. When the school was shut down it was with the hope that in the future a new and better school was to arise from the debris of the old. It was with this object in view that the parish now began to look about for a new site. The old property was too small for suitable new buildings. The H. S. Luster property, a corner site at Ridgeville Center, where a dwelling house now stands and the suburban waiting room, was considered for a time. It was, however, encumbered by two leases, which meant a long wait until it could be used for church purposes. Two other properties were also taken into consideration: the southwest corner of the Stoney Ridge and the Center Ridge, and the John Juchem property consisting of about sixteen acres. This latter site was chosen, a strong factor in the choice being its proximity to the parish cemetery. The Stoney Ridge site was the better of the two, but the majority considered it too far from the old site and cemetery. The Altar Society donated altar bells and a missal stand costing $35.00, also a cope and velum for Benediction costing $70.00. A statue of St. Agnes was donated by a friend. There were nineteen baptisms and four marriages. Three deaths occurred, Mathias Pitts, eighty-one years of age, Mr. Kaiser and Margaret Ulmschneider. Assessment receipts were $1661.50, total receipts $2312.32, balance $983.46. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, William Rothgery, Mathew Myers, Sr., Joseph Laubenthal.

1908

The old school building was sold to James Saye for $105.00 and moved to the Center road. It was remodelled into a dwelling. The Sisters' house was sold to Gangolph Juchem for $455.00 and moved to the Stoney Ridge road, about a quarter of a mile north of the Center Ridge. The Altar Society covered the sanctuary floor with linoleum costing $106.61. They also purchased artificial flowers for $28.52. Altar Society membership was about fifty. There were seventeen baptisms and three marriages. The deaths recorded are Anton Minnich, sixty years of age, John Rothgery,thirty, Anna Barnes, Mary Kramer, fifty eight years of age. Assessment receipts were $1587.00, total receipts $3000.26, balance $2383.21. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, William Rothgery, Mathew Myers, Sr. and Joseph Laubenthal.

1909

On June 9th Father Joseph Trapp, assistant at St. Stephen's Church, Cleveland, was appointed resident pastor of the parish to succeed Father Stuber. On July 11th, thirty-six children received their first communion. Father Stuber's last official act as pastor was to take an option on the John Juchem farm containing about sixteen acres. This farm was bought by Father Trapp and Father Stuber on June 21st. A joint "Farewell and Welcome" reception to the old and new pastor, respectively, was given in the town hall by the parishioners on June 21st. On this occasion the



REV. JOSEPH TRAPP (1909-1920)

parish donated Father Stuber a purse of $50.00, which he generously donated back to the church. The new location cost $6000.00. A lot east of this property, originally belonging to this farm, was bought from Mr. Nicholas Smith for $325.00. The greater part of the school now stands on this lot. With the change of location, there commenced a new era of activity for the parish. In fact by force of circumstances this parish soon found itself in a condition where it had to build, not only parsonage and school as was intended, but a church as well. Father Trapp and the councilmen immediately set about to arrange the details of the improvements contemplated for the new location. When the tenants vacated the premises, Mr. William Rothgery and carpenters employed by James Hewitt began to remodel the old dwelling. They learned that it would have been cheaper to build a new place than to try to make a new house from an old one. The carpenter work and material cost $926.18; plumbing, bathroom and gas fixtures $377.40, this work was done by Hicks & Baus. The new foundation for the house, the cistern and cesspool were built by Wm. Sheak at a cost of $270.30. The wallpaper was hung by Jake Yung and the painting done by H. C. Campin. George Myers drilled the gas well, costing $269.00; total cost for remodeling the house was $2095.54. Furniture and rugs cost $258.09. While the parsonage was being remodelled, Father Trapp canvassed the parish to get acquainted with the people, and to endeavor to have

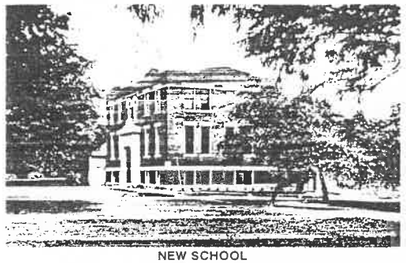


PARSONAGE

every married lady become a member of the Altar Society. His efforts were met with success. The Altar Society membership was increased to ninety-eight. On October 10th, there was a solemn reception of the new members into the society, Father Pfeil preached on this occasion. The old parsonage was sold to Dr. P. L. Morgan who had an option on it, he in turn resold it to John Juchem. The parish realized $2,350.00 from this sale. The two lots south of the church were sold to John Gibbons for $600.00. A successful church fair was conducted in the town hall on Nov. 3-4-5. There were several lively contests among the young people. The Misses Elizabeth Mohr, Mary Meyer and Stella Lehman competed for a gold watch. Miss Meyer won the watch, having collected $83.80. A total of $192.80 was realized from this contest. The first communion girls, Eleanore Pitts, Celia Myers, Clara Wilhelmy and Margaret Biermacher contested for a gold locket. Eleanore Pitts collected the greatest amount, $40.10, and was awarded the locket. $117.94 was made on this contest. The first communion boys also tried their hand in a contest. Six of them entered the contest, but only three persevered, Ephron Bacher, Vincent Dieterich, and Albert Ziegman. Ephron Bacher won the watch, having collected $37.25. The Young Ladies' booths turned in $615.29; the Altar Society $469.85. The grand gross receipts from this fair were $1473.15. Assessments receipts were $1550.00. Sale of buildings and lots $2996.50. Father Stuber left a balance of $2553.53. Total receipts exclusive of loans and balance were $6580.90. The total receipts with balance and loan of $2000.00 were $11,034.48, total expenses were $10,126.17, a balance was left of $908.31. A debt of $2000.00 remained at the close of the year. There were eleven baptisms and six marriages. Five were claimed by death, three infants and Joseph Schneider, sixty-six years of age, and Fred Dean sixty-one years of age. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, Mathias Myers, Sr., Joseph Laubenthal, William Rothgery.

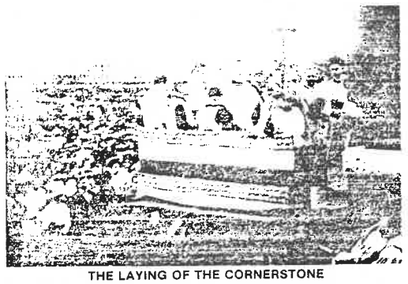
1910

A Young Men's Society with a membership of forty-nine was organized; also a commandery of The Knights of St. John with fifty-seven members. The Young Ladies' Sodality had an enrollment of fifty-seven members. As the sentiment of the parish was in favor of a good parochial school taught by Sisters, Father Trapp, with his councilmen, visited the parish for the purpose of gathering funds for a new school building. They succeeded in collecting $3335.00. Mr. Paul Rissman, an architect of Lorain, Ohio, was engaged to draw up plans for a building to cost about $10,000.00; same was to contain a basement suitable for church suppers, and social gatherings and society rooms. Two classrooms for immediate use, a third large room for a future classroom, to be converted for the present into a chapel. The second floor to serve as Sisters' apartments. The contract was let to Mr. William Rothgery, his bid being the lowest, $10,960.00. Mr. Rothgery sublet the mason work to Eberling Bros. Building was commenced in the beginning of July. On September 25th the cornerstone was laid. This was a gala day not only for the parish but for the town as well. More than 2500 people had come from the surrounding cities and towns to witness the parade and ceremony. About 800 men were in line. Knights of St. John from Cleveland, Elyria and Lorain; also branches of the C.

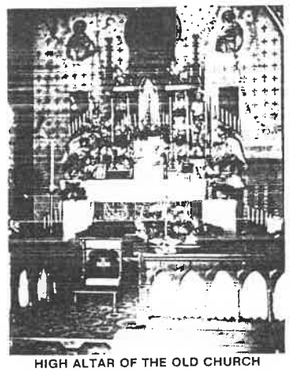


NEW SCHOOL

M. B. A., from the same cities, and the men of the parish. At the head of the parade, on horses, rode the marshals of the day, the four councilmen of the parish. They were followed by the Elyria band and the line of marchers. A beautiful feature of the parade was the school children carrying flags, and the girls, besides, wearing red and blue sashes over their white dresses. The cornerstone was placed by the representative of the Bishop, the Reverend Thomas C. O'Reilly, D. D., chancellor of the Diocese. He was assisted by Rev. George Reber as Deacon and Rev. Francis Faflik as Subdeacon. Father Nicholas Pfeil, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Cleveland, and former pastor here, preached the sermon. Besides the above Reverend gentlemen, the following priests were present; Father Francis T. Moran, Joseph Horstman, George Koob, Leo Hammer, Edward Reilley, Thomas Fahey, Joseph Schmitt, Thomas Mulligan, Edward Fasnacht, Charles Martin, Francis Haessler, Charles Reichlin, Charles Ruzkowski, J. Zink, John Thein, Anthony B. Stuber, Adam Senger, Albert Kistner, Julius Kitter, and Jerome Reidy. The net sum of $586.75 was realized from the collection, dinner, ice cream, candy and soft drinks. The Altar Society had charge of the dinner; the men of the soft drink table, and the young men of the ice cream and candy booth. The young ladies sold souvenir badges and tickets. The marshals of the day were Joseph Pitts Mathias Myers, Jr., Joseph Laubenthal and William Rothgery. The captains were: F. Wm. Gilgenbach, Charles Lescher, Leo Thome and Victor Wilhelmi. The committee of arrangements consisted of John Wearsch, Mathias Myers, Sr., Peter Meyer, Mathias Schmitz, Frank Molz, and Joseph Schuster. Though the weather was cloudy and threatening, it was a grand celebration. The dimensions of the school are: Width 60 feet, length 58 feet. The classrooms are 32x22; the extra large classroom and chapel 46x22; the Sisters' apartments contain seven large rooms; the basement has one large room 58x22 and one small room 22x32, besides a well arranged kitchen and boiler room. The "Forty Hours Devotion" was conducted with special solemnity. The sermons were preached by Fathers Stuber, Horstman and Kitter; there were also present, Bishop Koudelka, Fathers Koob, Reichlin, Fasnacht, Ruzkowski, Kisnter, Reidy, Reber and Schmitz. On Nov. 24-25-26, the Fair was conducted in the town hall. There was great rivalry in a shetland pony contest, in which John Bacher, Joseph Pitts, Henry Loescher and Urban Diederich participated. These men were given tickets to sell at 25¢ each on a drawing for a shetland pony. The man who sold most



THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE



HIGH ALTAR OF THE OLD CHURCH

tickets was to receive a shetland pony as a prize. Mr. Bacher turned in $162.00 and was awarded the pony. Mr. Joseph Pitts was next with $118.00. The other pony was won by George Myers. The total realized from this contest was $363.50. The Altar Society made $464.61 from their sales, and the Young Ladies Sodality, $644.80. Gross receipts from the fair were $1634.47. There were also a few entertainments during the year. On January 9th, the Parish Dramatic Club played the farce "Uncle Rube". On February 7th and 8th, a melodrama "Millie The Quadroon", was produced, under the direction of Mrs. J. J. Lehman. On April 10th, St. Stephen's Dramatic Club of Cleveland rendered "A Count of No Account". On May 10th a strawberry festival was conducted by the Altar Society and the Young Ladies' Sodality. On this occasion a goat, harness and wagon, donated by Mr. Nicholas Biermacher, was raffled. Mr. Joseph Krejci was the lucky winner of the outfit. The net sum of $210.74 was realized from this festival. The assessment receipts $1651.00, offertory $212.72, special collections $297.53, subscription for new school $3012.00. A friend donated $35.00 for the "Mother of Sorrows" statue; the Altar Society purchased a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for $18.00. Total receipts were $3708.58. A loan of $6500.00 was made. This put the parish in debt $8500.00; the school, completed, but unfurnished, cost $11,113.76. Besides a water well was drilled by A. R. Hulse, well and pump cost $36.39; 130 school benches were bought from the Cleveland Board of Education for $69.50; architect fees were $324.00. There were fourteen baptisms and three marriages. Two were claimed by death, Catherine Minnich, aged twenty-four, and Henry Frank, aged forty-two. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, Joseph Laubenthal, Mathias J. Myers and John Bacher.

1911

Fifty two children received their first communion on May 23rd. Two days later, on May 25th, Bishop Farrelly made his first official visit to the parish and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of ninety-six. The appearance of the side-altars was greatly improved by the addition of new statues. Six of them, representing the Sacred Heart of Mary, St. Anthony, St. Clara, St. Catherine, St. Margaret, and St. Agatha were imported from Deusseldorf, Germany. The statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Anthony were donated by a friend. Patrons of the other saints, gave little donations of a dollar or two. In January 150 folding chairs were purchased for the basement and chapel; they cost $83.85; the Young Ladies ' Sodality paid for fifty of them. Also twenty-four folding tables were obtained; the Altar Society paid for eighteen and the Young Ladies for six. In February a gasoline engine and pump for supplying water to the pressure tanks in the parsonage and school were purchased from John Bacher for $131.13. Cupboards for the kitchen dishes and utensils were placed in the school basement by Wm. Rothgery, also some pews for the chapel, this cost $144.50. As the cement floors in the basement were too damp, a pine floor was laid entailing an expense of $290.00. A barn was built by Mr. Ed Bommer and John Rothgery, material and labor cost $320.69. A large closet for the school was built in August by Peter Maringer, Wm. Rothgery did the carpenter work, and Mr. Henry Loescher put on the slate roof; total cost $198.83. Gas and water pipe lines were placed underground from the house to school, same costing $83.82. Gas fixtures cost $47.73; dishes for kitchen, and ice cream freezers $33.98. A small chapel organ cost $13.00. Furniture for the Sisters' apartments and window shades throughout the building cost $295.00. The chapel altar cost $100.00; this was purchased from the money received on All Souls Day. The school, with all furnishings, well, closet, etc., completed cost $13021.32. Sisters of Notre Dame, having their mother-house in Cleveland, were engaged by the pastor. In September three of them arrived and on the 12th, the school was most auspiciously opened with high mass and sermon. The enrollment was eighty-six, and they were at once graded to their respective classes. Thus was made the beginning of the new school. Let us hope and pray that this school will at all time prove to be the handmaid of the congregation, the nursery, in which the future parishioners receive a solid foundation, not only of secular knowledge, but also of religion. May God protect this school, bless it with good teachers, so that it will increase year by year, not only in numbers, but also in knowledge and piety. In the last week of April the pastor invited the men to come with their teams and fill in and grade around the school. The ground was taken from the knoll west of the cemetery.

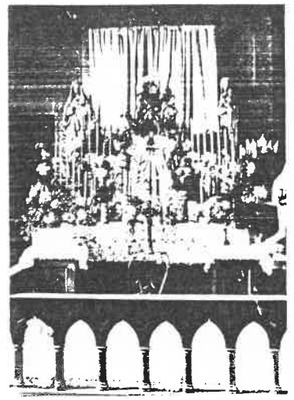
There were twenty baptisms and nine marriages. Five deaths occurred, one infant and Julia Tiempke, eighty-two years old, John Schneider, forty, Norman Diederich, two years, Nicholas Nuhn, eighty-six years old. Assessment receipts were $1601.00, offertory $240.03; special collections $330.00, entertainments: "Little Miss Nobody", $97.50. "The Parson's Troubles", by De Vere Stock Co., $73.50. At a strawberry festival in July $103.20 was made. On Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 2, the church fair was conducted in the town hall. There were several spirited contests this year among the young people. Miss Barbara Schneider and Celia Schmitz competed in selling tickets for a dresser; the one selling most was to receive a dresser as prize. Miss Schneider won the prize, having collected $68.25; Charles Rothgery and Frank Thome were engaged in another contest; they competed for a Turkish rocker; Mr. Rothgery was the winner, he having collected $76.75. The Young Ladies' Sodality booth turned in $471.23; the Altar Society $555.13; the total receipts were $1271.40. The total receipts for the fair were $1271.40. The total receipts for the year were $3678.58. The debt was still $8500.00. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, Mathias J. Myers, Jr., John Bacher and Joseph Laubenthal.

1912

The school enrollment was ninety. On Tuesday, June 18th the school closed its first successful term. This was celebrated with high mass and a picnic at Puritas Springs. During the month of August Father Trapp visited the parish and took up the census. The Knights of St. John organized a baseball team, which for some years to come offered the lovers of this sport quite a recreation on Sunday afternoons. On Oct. 27, thirty-eight children received their first communion. There were twenty-three baptisms and two marriages. Three deaths occurred, Anna Margaret Wearsch, seventy-six years old, Bridgit Downey, ninety-two years, and Veronica Widerkehr, sixty years of age. The pastor distributed little money barrels to the parish, requesting the parishioners, to put in as much as they could. The barrels were opened on the last night of the fair and $552.03 was realized from them. The fair was conducted in the school basement only two nights. Total received from fair including money barrels $1035.95. Assessment receipts $2112.50, offertory $345.48, special $466.23. The steam radiators in the church froze, causing an expense of $115.70; pedestals were built for the new statues, purchased last year, costing $60.00. John Laubenthal donated $15.00 for new altar chimes. The debt remained at $8500.00. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, John Bacher, Joseph Laubenthal, Mathias Myers, Jr.



VIEWS OF THE SIDE ALTAR OF THE OLD CHURCH



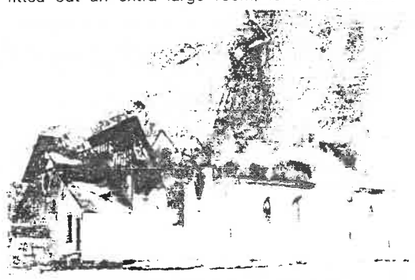
1913

The school enrollment this year was ninety-two. As there were too many children in the two classrooms to do justice to them, the third, extra classroom was opened. This was done in the middle of the year and meant an expense of over $100.00, for putting in a partition of sliding doors to divide the classroom from the chapel. The Altar Society purchased two new beautiful green vestments for $75.00. The church organ was repaired and tuned. In April the men of the parish responded to the invitation of the pastor and spaded over and leveled the cemetery. The cemetery was a tangle of briars, weeds and flowers and made an ugly impression upon visitors. In a few days this rubbish was cleaned away, the ground was spaded and raked, and grass seed sown, with the result that our cemetery is now one of the neatest ones in the diocese. In November the men were again called to donate their services to building a drainage system for the parish farm and incidentally also for the cemetery. This meant weeks of work, for the trench to be dug was fourteen feet deep in the highest part of the land. But the men of the parish responded generously, and spent nearly a month at it before it was finished. They would take turns, different men coming different days. Thanks to the men who were always ready to work for the church when called upon. But I must also give credit to the ladies. Every year they are twice asked to scrub and clean the church, and like the men they have always generously responded. On May 29th, the school children gave an entertainment which pleased the

audience very much. In October Father Trapp took up a house-collection and collected $820.00; the object of this collection was to reduce the debt. The fair was not pushed very hard on account of the house-collection. still the sum of $835.50 was realized, the Altar Society took in $488.00, and the Young Ladies $330.00. There were eleven baptisms and seven marriages. Seven died, Adam Barres, seventy-six years old, Isabella Frank, two years, Richard Gibbons, thirty-two, Regina Schneider, fifty-nine, Mary Kremser, eighty, Gertrude Minnich, sixty-five, Frederick Durmen, seventy-two. Assessment receipts were $2111.50, offertory $672.90, special $396.50, total receipts $5085.85; the debt was reduced $1000.00. Total debt now $7500.00. The councilmen were Joseph Pitts, Joseph Laubenthal, Mathias J. Myers, Jr., and John Bacher.

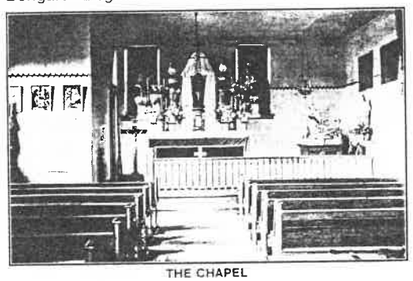
1914

The school enrollment was ninety. On October 25th, thirty children received their first communion. On January 15th, Thursday morning at 9:30, a disastrous fire entirely destroyed the church. With the exception of a few vestments and statues that were taken out with great risk, the entire contents of the building were lost. The Blessed Sacrament was luckily preserved in the chapel, with the chalices and monstrance and was saved. The cause of the fire could not be definitely fixed. To all appearances it started in the altar boys' sacristy. The first was discovered by Mrs. John Juchem who lived in the old parsonage. Looking from her window she saw smoke issuing from the rear part of the church, and immediately gave the alarm by ringing the church bell, which was the fire bell of the town. The entire populace rushed to the scene at once, but they could do little as the fire had progressed too far. In about an hour, the entire building was destroyed. While the church was burning, Father Trapp was at St. Ignatius' church, Cleveland, burying his brother. He was informed of the fire by the railway dispatch at West Park, and when he arrived he found nothing more than a heap of burning embers. This was a great calamity to the parish. it came when they could least bear it, at a time when they were in debt for $7500.00. The total loss to the building and contents was $12,500.00, covered only by $7500.00 insurance. The insurance wiped out the debt of the parish. It was lucky that the parish when erecting the new school had fitted out an extra large room, for a combination



THE CHURCH FIRE, JANUARY 15, 1914

classroom and chapel. The sliding door of this combination room was removed and the classroom arranged in the basement. The large classroom had a seating capacity of about 150. Folding chairs were placed in the aisles and hallway, and even the classrooms were thrown open for the worshippers. Thus the parish had a place of their own to worship in and not obliged to rent the town hall or some other suitable building. On Palm Sunday, April 5th, Father Trapp called a meeting of the men to organize a building committee. The following men were present at this meeting: John Bacher, Joseph Barnes, William Barnes, Frederick M. Bauer, Jacob Bauer, Frank Bommer, Frank Cichy, Leo Cichy, Frank Diderich, Sr., Frank J. Diederich, Alvy Diederich, Theodore Dieterich, Martin Foley, Frederick W. Gilgenbach, John T. Hill, Joseph Laubenthal, Charles Loescher, Henry Loescher, John Laubenthal, Joseph Myers, Mathias J. Myers, Jr., Albert Pitts, Aloys Pitts, Bernard Pitts, Clemens Pitts, John Pitts, Joseph Pitts, Herman Pitts, Mathias Pitts, John Rothgery, Sr., William Rothgery, Frank Schneider, Leo Schneider, Joseph Schneider, Nicholas Schneider, Mathias Schmitz, John Schuster (Cleveland road), Leo Thome and Bongart Ziegman. These men then elected the



THE CHAPEL

following permanent building committee: Peter Meyer, Martin Foley, Joseph Myers, Henry Loescher, Charles Sutter, Mathias J. Myers, Jr., Dominic Gibbons, William Rothgery, Frank Schneider, Frederick M. Bauer, Frank Diederich, Sr., William Barnes, Mathias Schmitz, Joseph Schuster, Aloys Pitts, Nicholas Schneider. These seventeen men, together with Father Trapp, and the councilmen, John Bacher, John Hill, Joseph Laubenthal, and Charles Sutter, formed the building and advisory committee. They immediately organized and elected the following officers: President, Mr. Charles Sutter; 1st Vice President, Martin Foley; 2nd Vice President, Henry Loescher; Secretary, William Barnes; Treasurer, Frederick M. Bauer. At their next meeting on April 14th, they decided to invite different architects to submit plans and sketches for a church to be built of brick, with a seating capacity of about 550, and to cost about $30,000.00. Sketches were submitted by Mr. Thomas, Mr. J. M. Miller, and the Superior Architectural Co. from Cleveland, and Mr. Silsbee and Paul Rissman of Elyria. By the unanimous vote of the building committee, Mr. Miller was selected. In March, Father Trapp sent subscription cards to the parishioners, with

the request that they designate on them the amount of money they were willing to subscribe towards the new church building, and to kindly return them within a few weeks. The building committee visited those members who had failed to return their cards in this manner. $9065.00 was subscribed. This was very encouraging, for the first attempt. Some members far exceeded our hopes with their generous donations, while others disappointed us, by either giving only a little or refusing to give at all. The parish needed horse-sheds. The cry for horse-sheds had been made since the beginning of the parish. As long as the old church existed, the first comers to services had a chance of using the town hall sheds, but when services were conducted in the chapel, the distance to the town hall became too far. Some of the men threatened not to subscribe to the new church if horse-sheds were not built. So the pastor requested all the members who wanted sheds to send in their names. Forty-eight parishioners responded. Arrangements were then made to build 48 sheds; two rows of 24 sheds each were built facing each other and the rear closed in with a high fence. Each row of sheds if 217 feet long, the individual sheds are 20 feet deep and 8 feet wide. The carpenter work was done by Frank and Edward Bommer, and cost including the laying of the asbestos roof, $439.65; the mason work was done by Lawrence Goetz and Joseph Pitts and cost $132.50; painting and spouting was done by Henry Loescher and cost $80.92; lumber cost $841.34; roofing and extra nails and cement cost $220.37; total cost of sheds $1,948.83; as the money was borrowed as needed, and the sheds were in building from June to September.



THE HORSE—SHEDS

Two thousand dollars was borrowed for the sheds. This loan is not considered a parish debt, as it will be paid off by the rental of shed owners, who agreed to pay $5.00 annually until the debt is paid, then a small sum is to be charged to cover the upkeep expenses. The plans for the sheds were gratuitously drawn by Mr. John T. Hill. The Knights of St. John of this parish planned to raise a Fund for the new church building. They accordingly got in touch with their regimental officers of this county and with the Brigade offices of Cleveland. They received great encouragement from these sources and were advised to purchase an auto and send the tickets to the different commanderies in Cleveland and in Lorain County, and to conduct a drawing for the auto at a picnic and reunion which they would hold on the church grounds.August 9th. Tickets were issued in booklets, six to a book, each ticket costing fifty cents. Not only the Knights of St. John, but also the parish helped to dispose of those tickets. The automobile, a new Overland, worth $1075.00 was purchased from Jackson and Harrison, Elyria for $898.13. Our Commandery Knights of St. John disposed of $611.50 worth of tickets, the parish



THE "NEW" CHURCH

$573.50, Father Trapp $649.00, Mr. William Rothgery got the individual prize for selling most tickets. He turned in $80.00; then came Mr. Joseph Pitts with $68.00; and Mr. John Hill and Martin Foley with $60.00 each. The Knights of St. John, outside of the parish turned in $800.00; the Elyria Commandery received first prize, having disposed of $228.00 worth of tickets; St. George Commandery of St. Mary's Church, Cleveland, received second prize. The ground receipts on that day were $1426.80. The total receipts were $4023.34. The expenses of the day and printing were $347.49; the auto cost $898.13; total expenses $1245.62. The grand sum of $2777.72 was turned over to the building fund. A great boost this was. The auto was won by Mr. Edward Hill of Cleveland, brother of John T. Hill, of this parish. To give an idea of the preparations that had to be made for this celebration and the work exacted from the Ladies who prepared the dinner and Young Ladies who sold candy, dolls, etc., and the Knights of St. John, who had charge of the cigars, soft drinks and sandwiches, I will quote a few figures: Dinner sold for 35 cents, and 1036 persons were served. The edibles were donated by the parishioners. The Altar Society realized $362.78 from the dinners. Nearly 2000 ice cream cones were sold; the candy booth took in $174.25; 694 sandwiches and 2871 soft drinks were disposed of by the Knights. A wheel of chance was kept busy raffling books of tickets that were unsold, and $522.75 was made in this manner. The day was spent in playing ball and conducting prize races and drills. Many thanks to the Knights of St. John, and let us hope that the parish will show its gratitude by standing by them and encouraging them by joining their ranks. In December a fair was held in the school basement. The Young Ladies made $272.72; the Altar Society $528.96; the school children $50.00. The clear profits were $728.07. Assessment receipts were $1942.00; offertory $614.28; special collections $500.75; total parish receipts, outside of picnic and building money, $3926.60. Building fund was $4288.70. There were twenty baptisms and five marriages. Seven deaths occurred, two infants and Thomas Moore, sixty-seven, Irene Bommer, eighteen, John Hollander, seventy, Edward

Klein, eighteen, George Tusch, sixty. The councilmen were Joseph Laubenthal, John Bacher, John Hill and Charles Sutter.

1915
There were ninety-two children enrolled in the three classrooms this year in charge of three Sisters of Notre Dame. Altar Society membership was one hundred and fifteen; Young Ladies Sodality, forty-five. Knights of St. John, forty-eight. On November 13, a Junior Young Ladies' Sodality was organized, called the "Court of Mary", with forty-eight members. The "Interest Club" was started. Cards were sent to the members by Father Trapp, with the request to pay a small amount each week, and marked on the card, to the young lady collector, appointed to that district. Nearly $600.00 was collected in this manner. On September 13th, Bishop Farrelly confirmed a class of seventy-five. The Lyceum Players of Cleveland produced the play, "On The Chesapeake", January 24th, and "Along Came Father" on April 11th. Our own Dramatic Club played, "The Old Dairy Homestead" on February 14th, and "A Fisherman's Luck" on June 6th. St. Michaels Dramatic Club played, "The Man From Mexico" on December 5th. The church fair was held in November, it was not a success on account of wet weather, and it was decided to have it another night. February 12th was chosen and the total receipts cleared were $1047.00. The Altar Society made $691.11; the Young Ladies $447.77; and the children $100.50. There were nineteen baptisms and four marriages. Four were called by death, Carl Yunglas, aged nineteen years, Mary Schneider, sixty-four, Frank Cichy, sixty-two, Christian Thome, seventy-five. Assessment receipts were to January 31st, $2266.00; (this was increased by payment of arrears to date to $2387.00); offertory collection $442.00; special collections $527.20; total receipts (excluding Fair Entertainments, Interest Club and Subscription), $3570.26. The Councilmen were Joseph Laubenthal, John Bacher, Charles Sutter and John Hill.

1916
The cemetery bridge collapsed during heavy January floods and was replaced through the efforts of several parishioners. The cost of wages and materials soraed due to the war, and the building of the new church was postponed. Two years ago the bishop would not grant permission to proceed with building plans since we lacked one-half of the necessary funds on hand. At that time, the bids we received were $35,000. This year they soared to $50,000. On Sunday, April 30th, Mr. and Mrs. John Rothgery celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Father Nicholas Schmitz, who married them fifty years ago, presided over the occasion. The others who were present were also married by Father Schmitz fifty years ago: Mr. and Mrs. John Wearsch Sr., Mr. and Mrs. C. Wearsch, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Diederich. School opened in September with an enrollment of ninety children. Four Sisters of Notre Dame staffed the school. In an attempt to raise funds, the parish conducted a fair in November. The children of the school bought a rocker and sold chances on it which brought in about $100.00 for the benefit of the church.

1917
The church building plans had to be set aside again since our country entered the European conflict with the "Entente" (Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Romania, Serbia) against the Central Powers (Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey). With our entrance into the war came a new means of local support--the war gardens. The cabbages, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other vegetables flourished all over North Ridgeville--including in the garden on the parish grounds. The area suffered through a rather severe winter, but the snows brought with it some rather interesting anecdotes. On January 13, the blizzard and severe cold froze the water pipes underground, which did not thaw again for three months. That meant that the water for cooking, washing, lavatories, etc., for the convent and school had to be carried from across the road. On Saturday, January 11th, one of the Sisters had baked a brown bread and was just placing it into the oven when suddenly the gas was blown in the convent and also in Father Trapp's house. The house was cold. Although the janitor was firing his best, the heat in the convent would not go over eighteen degrees above zero. The radiator was warm enough to bake a few apples in about six hours and to warm the coffee. Other than that, bread and butter, preserves and coffee constituted the dinner. The Sisters prepared a little supper in the parsonage on an old gasoline stove that Father Trapp dug up with great difficulty from the horse-sheds. In doing so he fell into the icy creek and almost froze his hands as it was eight degrees below zero. Mrs. Trapp sent over a steaming hot tea pot and the group enjoyed the warmth of it as perhaps they had never done. All night long the storm and intense cold continued. Father Trapp remained in the boiler room during the night to keep up the fire, but in spite of it all, the thermometer showed only twelve degrees above zero the next morning. Two short low Masses were offered on that Sunday morning for the few worshipers who braved the sharp icy wind which here in the open country has nothing with which to break its force. The heavy winter snows had frozen all the corn. The farmers were not able to obtain seed for the spring. Coal was scarce and the price was unbelievably high if it could be found at all. On February 12, the Holy Name Society was organized with thirty members. On Easter Monday, while the Sisters and students were still enjoying vacation, Father Trapp put electric lights into all the convent rooms, the chapel (which served as the temporary church for the parish), and the basement. In June, a class of about twenty-five children made their first Holy Communion in the tiny chapel.

1918
The war continued and caused wages and prices to climb. Farmers received $2.20 a bushel for wheat, butter sold for 75¢ per pound, eggs were 85¢ a dozen, seed corn sold for $6.00 a bushel and meat sold for various prices: pork 36¢ to 44¢ per pound and beef, 35¢ to 50¢ per pound. A total of fifteen young men from this parish served in the war. One was killed and three were injured. The armistice was signed on November 10. "Spanish Influenza" ravished the country during the months of October and November. Churches, schools, and public places were closed from three to seven

weeks. Our school closed its doors on October 11, and did not reopen them until November 13. Over four hundred thousand people died in our country from the flu. One family from the parish lost three of its members within a week. The older boy and his little brother died on the same day, and a little sister, a few days later. What added to the grief of the parents was that they themselves were not even able to accompany the remains of their dear ones to their last resting place as they themselves were prostrated by the disease. The Court of Mary bought a beautiful statue of "Mother of Grace" for the school chapel by paying monthly dues of 5¢ during the year.

1919
The flue epidemic revived again in February. The public schools at Fields and Chestnut Ridge were closed for three weeks. By February 16, St. Peter's recorded eight deaths. In September, ninety-four pupils were enrolled in school. The school was staffed by four Sisters of Notre Dame: Sisters Mary Didaka, Almira, Fidentia, and Rosalia.

1920
Father Charles Fecht was appointed pastor in November. Father Joseph Trapp was transferred as pastor to Holy Trinity, a large parish with five hundred sixty children and six hundred families in Cleveland. Reverend Father Trapp had been a real Father and a faithful friend to his people for more than eleven years. During this time he erected a brick school building which is out of debt. Moreover, he left his successor $34,000 in the building fund for a new church which will soon be begun. The farewell banquet that was given him gave testimony of the peoples' devotedness towards him. Not only his parishioners, but all the neighboring priests, and people from the entire village paid him homage. He was everyone's friend. A grand chicken supper was served to four hundred ninety people, young and old, and a purse of more than $400 was given to him as well as a beautiful surplice made by the school children. On the following morning the school children sang a "farewell" to Father and he was so overcome that he could speak only a few broken syllables at a time. The school enrollment was one hundred. A month after the opening of the school year, the Right Reverend Bishop Farelly confirmed a class of eighty-one children and four adults. Last Easter the men of the Holy Name Society had decided upon a slight improvement: namely, that the school basement should also be fitted out for a church, so as to give all the parishioners an opportunity to see the altar and hear the sermon. In all haste, kneelers were made and an altar was built and on the following Sunday about one hundred fifty persons attended Mass in the basement while some one hundred twenty were in the chapel. Since then, an assistant priest has said two Holy Masses every Sunday and our pastor said two. The annual fair realized $1641.25 even though times were bad with many out of work. Ice cream socials held during the summer brought in nearly $2000.00.

1921
Over the summer months the church and hall were frescoed. A mission was held by two Franciscans from September 5-11. It proved to be very successful.



REV. JOHN RHEIN (1921-1938)

School opened on September 15, with an enrollment of one hundred six children. Father Fecht was transferred to Shelby Settlement and was replaced by Father John Rhein from St. Peter, Canton. Our new pastor succeeded in winning the hearts of his people already at his first sermon on Christmas Day. A new male choir was organized and sang for the first time on Easter



MSGR. ROMAN BACHER

Sunday. One of our parishioners, Roman Bacher, was ordained into the priesthood. (Father Bacher later became Monsignor Bacher.)

1922-1923
Before leaving for Europe in April, our Right Reverend Bishop Schrembs gave permission to build the church. On May 28, ground was broken. On this occasion a total of $1,900 was raised. The following day, the beautiful apple trees were cut down and the digging of the foundation of the church was begun. The cornerstone was laid in July. After Christmas the artist began his work on the interior of the church. Two months later, the church stood there beautifully decorated. The time was at hand for the dedication. Everybody was busy. Men of the parish sacrificed time and labor in hauling ground to fill the front and side yards of the church and parsonage. At last, May 27, the great day of the dedication, arrived. The church altars were beautifully decorated with dark red roses. Sunday morning at 8:45, a decorated auto went to meet the Rt. Rev. Bishop at Fields Corner. At the arrival of the Bishop in Ridgeville, the band played and all the children dressed in white, led by forty Knights in uniform, marched in procession to the parsonage. There a girl spoke a welcome address and handed the

Bishop a bouquet. The Bishop was then led to the church where all waited while he blessed the outside and the inside of the church. Then the large one thousand five hundred pound bell rang forth from its lofty tower inviting all to enter the new house of the Lord. After the solemn high Mass. the Bishop gave a sermon in which he praised the pastor and parishioners for the work they had accomplished in one year's time. The following Sunday a concert was given in the church by Rev. A. Stuber's choristers of St. Peter, Canton, Ohio. The church and rectory were completed at a cost of $125,000. Of this amount, $96,000 covered the cost of the church and its furnishings, while the $29,000 remainder covered the rectory and its furnishings. The parish debt now amounted to $51,000. As Father Rhein stated, "This congregation now has the most modern equipped buildings in the Diocese of Cleveland." The first Mass in the church was said by former pastor, Rev. A. B. Stuber. Twenty-five boys and twenty-six girls made their first Communion on June 10. The graduation exercises of the twelve graduates from the eighth grade were held in church for the first time in the history of Ridgeville on June 17.

1924-1925
The parish purchased public school property for $900.00. The building on the land will eventually be replaced by a Sisters' Convent. The parish sold a similar parcel of land to the public school board for $900.00. Parishioners helped elect two members of the parish to the public school board. With their help as well as the untiring efforts of Father Rhein, the children of the Catholic School as well as those from public schools were transported daily on the buses to and from school and accorded the same privileges as those attending public schools. This increased our enrollment to one hundred thirty five children. On Christmas Day the choir boys appeared in cassock and surplice for the first time. After singing "Silent Night" in the sanctuary, they proceeded to the choir and sang the "Infant Jesus" Mass. The children of the third and fourth grades, thirty-five in number, had the joy of receiving their first Holy Communion on May 24. The church was so crowded that many people had to be supplied with chairs. On June 14, ten children of the eighth grade graduated in the Town Hall. The graduation was followed by a "play" given by the children. Parishioners helped elect two members of theparish to the Ridgeville Township Trustees in order to further protect the interests of Catholicism in the township.

1926
School opened on September 8, 1925 with an enrollment of one hundred thirty children: seventy boys and sixty girls. During Holy Week a beautiful pulpit was placed in the sanctuary. The new pulpit was donated by Mary Molz (Mary Molz later became Sister Mary Francesco who died in 1959) who entered the Sisters of Notre Dame. On Ascension day all were in great excitement because the new stained glass church windows arrived from Munich, Germany. The cost, covered through the donations of the parishioners, was $4,500. In three days' time they were all placed in the windows. The pictures featured were of Christ, His Mother, and the saints. They were strikingly beautiful and delicately colored. On June 13, school closed and the eighteen graduates were given their diplomas at the Town Hall, after which a play was given by the children.

1927
In May, twenty-two boys and twenty-three girls made their first Holy Communion. Twelve of these children attended public school. A beautiful celebration took place in June when the entire parish joined with Father Rhein in celebrating his Silver Jubilee. Solemn High Mass was celebrated in the morning, and in the evening the school children extended their congratulations. A sumptuous banquet was likewise given by the parishioners. School opened with an enrollment of one hundred thirty-seven. During October, Rosary Devotions were held once a week. The good attendance gave evidence of the piety and earnestness of the people. Every week a different Society of the parish led the prayers and the congregation answered. Before and after the rosary, the entire congregation sang a Blessed Virgin hymn. The services ended with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1928
On May 2, at 7:45 p.m., the Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Schrembs administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about eighty boys and girls. The church was beautifully decorated and the bishop had a most inspiring sermon on religious vocations. Then he catechized the children, especially on the Commandments of the Church. Upon having been asked what they should do on Friday with a piece of meat that was left over from Thursday, a little child said, "Give it to the dog." Our annual school entertainment took place in June at the Ridgeville Town Hall. The boys presented the play, "The Enchanted Violin", and the girls presented "The Evils of Curiosity". On November 1, the parish had a cemetery service. It seemed as if the entire congregation took part in the procession from the church to the cemetery. Prayers were recited on the way, a sermon was preached by Rev. Fr. Rhein, and "In Thy Sacred Heart, My Jesus" was sung by the choir and assembly. A double celebration occurred on December 21; the pastor's nameday and Christmas celebration. Songs and poems, a talk by the pastor, and the distribution of a box of candy, a rosary, and holy pictures to the children. The children presented Rev. Father with a twenty dollar gold piece and a beautiful basket of fruit.

1929
The parish purchased the house and lot east of the school. This property will be used for a school when needed. The school enrollment was one hundred fifty-five. Five boys and seven girls were graduated on June 9 from Grade Eight. On June 16, twenty-six boys and twenty-nine girls made their first Holy Communion. The week before, they assembled every day for instructions and practicing of hymns. The annual Forty Hours Devotion was conducted from September 29 until October 1. On Sunday morning at 8:30 Mass there was solemn opening of Forty Hours Devotion. There were two Masses each morning and services in the

evening. The evening services were conducted by Rev. G. Bridge, O.S.B., who was assisted by the priests of the neighboring parishes. The solemn close took place Tuesday night. The uniformed Knights of St. John led the procession, followed by boys from the lower grades. These in turn were followed by girls carrying flowers. Each group was headed by a girl carrying a flower basket. Directly behind the flower girls were twenty-four other girls carrying rose lights. Altar boys and priests followed the girls. The week before Thanksgiving an atmosphere of mystery pervaded the schoolrooms two and three. Something was in the air. On Wednesday at 12:45 the clouds of doubt were broken and the mystery was solved. As the Sisters entered their respective classrooms, shouts of "Surprise!" greeted them on all sides. The teachers' desks--top, bottom, sides--were covered with fruit, vegetables, cake and even two live chickens.

1930
The enrollment for the school year 1930-1931 was one hundred fifty-nine. Along with the regular day school, Sunday instruction classes were begun for those children of the parish attending the public schools. Two of these Sunday instruction classes were begun with a total enrollment of thirty-two children. Shortly after school closed for the summer, carpenters began a series of improvements in the building. The first and most important of these was the chapel. Up to this time the chapel had been located on the first floor of the school building. Now, owing to an increase of children, an additional classroom was necessary. To solve this problem, it was decided to convert the parlor of the Sisters' home into a chapel and use the old chapel for a classroom. After the chapel furniture had been removed, carpenters, plasterers, painters, etc., began their work, not only in making ready the new room but also in remodeling the other three classrooms. By the time school opened there were four completed and waiting classrooms for the children. Shortly after the opening of school a new well was drilled behind the school building. The results were so favorable that pipes were laid connecting the well with the building, a new electric pump was installed, and all water for drinking, cleaning, etc., that formerly had to be carried was pumped into the building. September 14, 15, and 16, were days of grace for the members of the parish. During that time the parish conducted the annual Forty Hours Devotion. Each evening there were services at 7:45. The Rev. Albert Kaiser, C.P.P.S., gave a series of sermons on the Holy Eucharist. From the opening of school the Sisters looked forward to the day when the Blessed Sacrament would be placed in the new chapel. On September 20, the pastor called to tell the Sisters he was bringing the Blessed Sacrament. On Friday morning, December 19, the annual celebration of the pastor's nameday was held. Several Christmas numbers were included. The children presented Father with $20 and a basket of fruit. Each of the children received a box of candy and a folding paper crib.

1931
On May 24, sixty-five children received their first Holy Communion. First Holy Communion is a bi-annual affair in the parish because of the small number of children. The enrollment for the school was one hundred sixty-nine. The total enrollment for the two classes for public school children who received instruction on Sunday was thirty-one. On Wednesday, November 25, the children of the school had the annual "shower" for the Sisters. The neighboring corn fields were "invaded" to supply decorations for the classrooms. The Sisters' desks were covered with all kinds of vegetables, canned goods, cookies, etc. After the usual "Surprise" a little program was given in each room. On Wednesday, December 23, the annual celebration of the Pastor's nameday took place. Nameday greetings, songs, and readings together with Christmas sketches made up the program. The children presented Father with a number of cigars in each of which was hidden some paper money. He also received a fruit basket. Santa arrived at the close of the program and gave each child a box of candy.



REV. FRANCIS DIEDERICH

Parishioner Francis Diederich, (now Rev. Francis Diederich) said his first Holy Mass in our Church on August second. A concrete bridge was built across the creek at the rear of the church.

1932
Right Rev. Bishop Joseph Schrembs confirmed a class of fifty boys and forty-six girls on April 28. Both church and grounds were amply decorated for this occasion, and the Bishop heralded the imparting of the Sacrament by and an examination of one and a half hour's duration. Although this was very comprehensive, the children stood their ground and the Bishop seemed pleased with the children and the congregation in general. About twenty-four priests were present. The enrollment for the school was one hundred seventy-one, while the Sunday instruction classes for the public school children had fourteen boys and fifteen girls. On June 5, the school children gave their annual entertainment for the closing exercises of the school year. One of the interesting features of our annual entertainment was the fact that it was given in the Town Hall. The building resembled the historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Because of the increased enrollment in the school, there were not enough desks and so tables had to be used for some time.

1933
There were no graduation exercises nor First Holy Communion classes in the spring due to the depression. First Communion classes were postponed until later in the fall, hoping thereby, that the farmers

would have some returns for their crops. The enrollment of the school was one hundred seventy-five. Sunday Instruction class consisted of thirteen boys and seven girls. On October I, shortly after the opening of school, the third and fourth graders received their first Holy Communion. There were eighteen boys and twenty-four girls. Five of these attended the public school. The procession wended its way from the school to the church. Two acolytes led the procession followed by the uniformed Knights of St. John, the servers, four flower girls, four angels, and finally the communicants, held colored vigil lights. The "angels" escorted the communicants to and from the altar.

1934

As in the previous year, no graduation exercises were held. The graduates received Holy Communion at the second Mass on May 27. The seven boys were received into the Holy Name Society and the ten girls into the Young Ladies' Sodality. In September, the enrollment was one hundred seventy-three. There were fourteen boys and six girls in the Sunday instruction classes. Due to the ever increasing activities of our parish, the Bishop had seen fit to release the pastor, Rev. John Rhein, at least in part, from some of his many burdens, by giving him an assistant. On July 7, Rev. Joseph R. Buescher, the brother of Sister Mary Denise, S.N.D., who had been teaching here for the last three years, was named assistant. As usual Thanksgiving Day was heralded by a big shower for all the Sisters. Fruits, vegetables, canned goods, pastries, candies, and nuts in abundance were given. A chicken, too, cleaned, dessed, and ready for the oven, came packed in a dainty box. The church basement was converted into an auditorium with a stage through the efforts of many parishioners. The cost of materials was approximately $3,000. This year the school held its annual Christmas entertainment in our own auditorium. The auditorium was constructed by the men of the parish. This year for the first time, four Masses were said on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

1935

Bernard Bacher (grade 8) and Raymond Katka (grade 6) were the school's highest contestants in the Universe Bulletin Subscription Campaign. Each scored four hundred fifty points. Closing school exercises were again very simple due to economic conditions. The fall enrollment for the school was one hundred seventy-three. Twenty students comprised the Sunday instruction classes. On September 9, Sister Mary St. Helen was transferred to Randolph; since Sister had been the organist here, Mrs. Veigh offered her services and filled that position. From September 23 until September 26, the Eucharistic Congress was held in Cleveland. Forty-six third and fourth grade students made their first Holy Communion on October 6. On November 1, the old parsonage which had been moved across the street from the school and then became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Horwedel, was completely destroyed by fire. For a while there was fear for the school and convent since large pieces of burning timber were carried onto the roof. Through the courageous efforts of our firemen, and the helping hands of friends and neighbors, the fire was brought under control. Like last year, the program for the pastor's nameday (December 20), was very short. The "Welcome Chorus" sung by the children of the school, was a tribute of love and gratitude to the beloved pastor. This was followed by a short address, after which Father was presented with a Spiritual Bouquet, a gift of $15, and a basket of flowers. Both Father Rhein and Father Buescher spoke to the children. Mrs. Tamblyn then presented the Sisters with a thirteen pound turkey, a gift of the school children. As usual, Father gave each child a beautiful holy picture and helped good old Santa in distributing boxes of candy to the happy and eager youngsters. A lawn tennis court was constructed for the benefit of our young people at a cost of $290. This sport did much to keep the church the recreational center for the young people. A rock garden with aquarium was built to beautify the church grounds.

1936

One of the outstanding events of the year was Confirmation. It was scheduled for April 21. The services were held in the afternoon where, at a very impressive ceremony, the Most Reverend Bishop James A. McFadden administered the sacrament to ninety-seven souls. This number included ten who attended public schools and seven adult converts. This year our Forty Hours Devotion was substituted for by a week's mission conducted by two renowned Redemptorists, Father Scheigemann and Father Seidel. Their theme was our dependence upon Almighty God and a recognition of our duties to Him and to His Church. The children, too, had a mission all their own. It opened with a short instruction after Mass on Sunday (September 27). On Monday and Tuesday there were two instructions after which the children prepared earnestly for Confession. Father assisted them in this, as he did also on the following morning when they all received Holy Communion. Shortly before noon on Wednesday, Father gave the children a final instruction and received their promise to be always faithful and loyal children of Mary. Their little mission closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Fathers were also untiring in their effort to make the big mission a success. Saturday was the great day of the mission. Mary's altar was banked with flowers and candles. The evening services opened with a large procession in honor of our Blessed Lady, in which all of the school children took part. Appropriate hymns were sung, after which the children renewed their consecration to our Heavenly Mother. Then the adults were invited to follow the example of the children and offer their resolutions to Our Lady, pledging themselves to her service. Sunday night there were receptions into the various sodalities and organizations of the parish. The mission closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the bestowing of the Papal Blessing. This year a special bazaar was held on October 31 and November 1 in addition to the regular bazaar. On Saturday afternoon the hall was turned over to the children who had no end of fun playing penny Bingo and taking chances in penny raffles. The Christmas Program of December 20 was an exceptionally beautiful one. The last playlet was "Felix Aeternus" presented by the seventh and eighth grade classes. They actually lived their parts, portraying the various moods with an adeptness equal to that of older and more experienced actors. Both the matinee and evening performances were well attended, netting a return of nearly ninety dollars.

1937

The second diocesan Eucharistic Congress was held in Lorain on May 26 and 27. A special bus was chartered for our school children who took part in the procession. All morning heavy rains fell in and about Lorain. But when the procession started, the clouds were lifted. Although June 1 marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the pastor's ordination to the priesthood, the parish celebration was postponed until the thirteenth. Fortunately, the Ladies Auxiliary was planning at the same time to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of their organization in the parish. Using this as a cover, the parishioners were able to put over one of the grandest and biggest surprises on Father Rhein that he had ever experienced. A special program had been arranged for the afternoon and evening, and it was not until the little girls and boys, dressed in white, went over to get Father to escort him to his place of honor that he realized his place in the events of the day. Speeches and songs were many and Father was presented with a purse, a token of love and appreciation of his people. The enrollment for school in September was one hundred seventy-nine. The Sunday instruction classes had an enrollment of nineteen. The Young Ladies Sodality, of which Sister Mary George had charge, numbered fifty-one members. On September 27, forty-five children made their First Holy Communion. The Christmas services began a little before midnight. Eighteen servers carrying vigil lights and sixteen girls dressed in gowns, also carrying vigil lights, took part in the procession. They gathered around the crib and sang hymns of praise and worship. The High Mass which started promptly at midnight was followed by two low Masses, during which Holy Communion was distributed continuously. At eight o'clock we had another High Mass and procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The C.Y.O. was organized in our parish with a membership of thirty boys and thirty-five girls.

1938

School opened on September 6 with an enrollment of one hundred eighty-four students. There were nineteen in the Sunday Instruction classes. The Reverend John N. Rhein, pastor of St. Peter's since 1921, died on Tuesday, October 18, at four o'clock in the afternoon in St. John's Hospital in Cleveland after a brief illness. Father had said Mass and attended to his pastoral duties on Saturday. Early Sunday he became ill and on Monday his physician advised hospitalization for observation. The Reverend Joseph R. Buescher, assistant, brought him to St. John's immediately. On Tuesday he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. His condition rapidly became worse. He received the last sacraments and passed away peacefully at 4 o'clock. Sorrowing parishioners received the last mortal remains of their well-beloved pastor in the rectory Wednesday afternoon when his body was returned from Cleveland. Thursday at 3 p.m. the body was transferred to the Church where Vespers and Office of the Dead were chanted by a priests' choir. Parish societies kept vigil in the Church Thursday night and the Knights of St. John stood guard about the casket. The funeral was held at 10 a.m. on Friday. A Mass was sung at 8 o'clock by Father Buescher for the school children. The Office of the Dead began at 9:30. The Most Reverend James A. McFadden, S.T.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, pontificated at the Solemn Requiem Mass at 10 o'clock. Father Rhein died at the age of sixty-two. Thirty-seven years he labored, a zealous priest of God. Of these he spent seventeen years as an untiring pastor at North Ridgeville. During his pastorate, Father Rhein had built the present church and rectory, graded the grounds and cemetery, and completely renovated the school. Father Rhein is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery. On November 11, Father George Martin, formerly pastor of St. Bridget's Church, Cleveland, was appointed temporary administrator of the parish. The Thanksgiving shower



REV. GEORGE MARTIN (1938-1941)

was not as large as previous years due to an early frost that killed the blossoms of a promising good fruit crop. The Christmas play was postponed this year because of the death of the pastor. However on Thursday afternoon, December 22, the school children had a Christmas party and were surprised by a visit from Santa Claus. Each child received a box of candy. Father George Martin, temporary administrator, and Father Buescher, assistant, received a basket of fruit as a gift from the school children. Although the Christmas services for the year were basically the same as the years previous, there was one interesting feature. The services and singing were broadcast from the tower of the Church. This broadcasting began on Christmas Eve at 10:30 and continued until noon on Christmas day. Chimes and Christmas hymns were heard at a distance of about one and a half miles.

1939

An important and new event in the history of North Ridgeville was the May Crowning. All the school children and the Young Ladies Sodality participated in this event on May 5. The procession included cross bearers, two acolytes and servers, as well as flower girls, boys from grades one through eight, fourteen maids on honor who escorted the May Queen. The procession wended its way from the school to the church. Services opened with devotions to our Blessed Mother. After singing a few hymns, the crowning took place. This was followed by a sermon from the pastor. Services ended with the singing of "Holy God." May 21 was a red-letter day for St. Peter's. It marked the dedication of the new flag pole and the unveiling of the monument in memory of Father Rhein, our beloved

pastor. The monument was a gift of the parishioners and friends of the deceased. The ceremony began with a parade. The parade started at Stoney Ridge Road and marched east to the church. George Noll was in charge of the parade which consisted of the Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary from Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties, the parish societies, and the school children of grades five, six, seven and eight. The Knights of St. John Band furnished the music. This was followed by the raising of the flag. The flag pole had been erected on the lawn between the Rectory and the Church. After the Military Solemn High Mass, which was sung by Father Buescher, the congregation assembled inthe cemetery to unveil their memorial to Father Rhein. The monument is a large stone cross, about seven feet tall, mounted on a base of stone which bears the inscription:

In Loving memory of Rev. John Rhein
Pastor 1921 - 1938
From the Parishioners

In the center of the cross is a replica of Father's own chalice. After the unveiling ceremonies, the women of the parish served a luncheon for those who attended. In honor of Archbishop Schremb's Golden Jubilee of ordination, the Diocese of Cleveland held a joint graduation of all colleges, academies, high schools, and elementary schools in the Cleveland Stadium, Sunday, June 11. The twenty-one students of our eighth grade received their diplomas at this time. A picnic was held on the parish grounds and consisted of games, races, sports, picnic lunch and dancing in the evening. School opened on September sixth with an enrollment of one hundred ninety-six students. The Sunday Instruction classes numbered seventeen children. The Young Ladies Sodality which is in the charge of Sister Mary George, has about sixty members. On September 24, the third and fourth grade children received their First Holy Communion. There were fifty-three children who received the sacrament at this time, three of whom were public school childen. On October 8, a novel occurrence took place. At the suggestion of the Reverend pastor, a parent-teacher acquaintance party was held in the school. Friday afternoon brought a great change in the classrooms. Instead of the stiff-back desks, there were daintily set tables and comfortable chairs. On Sunday afternoon, games were played by young and old. Refreshments were served by pupils from the upper grades. All who attended the party spent an enjoyable afternoon there. Father Hyacinth, a Servant of Mary from Chicago, gave the two week mission in the parish from November 5 through the 19. His theme was the dignity of the Christian as a child of God and the importance of the soul. The school children also had a mission all their own. Each day opened with a Mass which was followed by an instruction period lasting about forty minutes. The children's mission lasted until Friday and closed with a public renewal of their baptismal vows and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The first week of the "big" mission was for women and the second week was for the men. Father closed the mission with a very practical sermon on "Why Am I A Catholic." The Christmas services were a bit different this year. Boys acting as shepherds, girls as angels, and two little girls as cherubs, accompanied an older girl who acted the part of our Blessed Mother and carrried the Christ-child to the altar. Father took the Infant and placed it in the manger while the Assistant priest read the Gospel appropriate for the day. Mass followed immediately. It was again broadcast from the Church towers. Another new feature of the Christmas program was an orchestra which accompanied the choir in singing the Mass and Christmas Hymns.

1940

At the beginning of the year, the parishioners collected old gold and silver for a new chalice. The amount collected was not sufficient for a completely new one, so an older one was replated by John Winterich with the gold and silver. From Mr. Winterich it was learned that the chalice was over two hundred years old. It was an early American style that was used by the early missionaries. Barbara and Mary Meyer gave most of the stones that were placed in the cross of the chalice. Mrs. John Gibbons had an old ciborium replated, and the Young Ladies Society had the monstrance replated. In March, a new tile floor was installed at a cost of $756. A Parish Credit Union was suggested and formed by Father Joseph Buescher on April 1. The Parish Credit Union was formed with thirty-five members. Sterling Parks applied for the charter and the following officers were elected:

President -- Anthony Starek
Treasurer -- Sylvester Schneider

Board of Directors and Credit Committee: Joseph Laubenthal, Martin W. Haas, Louis Lacy, Mrs. DeForest Monschein, Joseph Gerhart, William Barnes, Jacob Barnes, George Noll, Lawrence Rothgery, Charles Bommer, Leo Gerhart.

May Crowning was again held this year on May 12. Marian Schneider was May Queen. An added feature was the reception of sixteen candidates into the Blessed Virgin Sodality. Previous to this year, First Communion was always given in September to children of grades three and four. Because this entailed much inconvenience it had been decided to have First Communion in May for the children of grade two. The class numbered twenty-two boys and fifteen girls. On Tuesday, May 28, the Most Reverend Auxiliary Bishop McFadden administered the sacrament of Confirmation to one hundred sixty persons. Of these, sixteen were adults. Due to lack of funds, the public schools closed on April 19. We also closed officially but reopened for two days, Tuesday and Friday, of every week. Lack of busing facilities prevented five day sessions, and because we feared to be deprived of all bus service for the coming year if the school managed to get along now without a bus from April 19 to June 2, by holding full sessions, we chose the minimum of two days a week. The time in school was spent mainly preparing for the coming events of May Crowning, First Communion and Confirmation. Diplomas were given to twenty-six eighth graders on June 2. School reopened on September 3 with an enrollment of one hundred ninety-one; Sunday Instruction classes have a total enrollment of twenty-seven. The school open house and pre-bazaar was held on September 20. The work of the students was displayed. At 8:30 the party opened in the club rooms with cards, followed by bingo. Lunch was served--the girls of grades seven and eight acting as waitresses. One hundred one dollars was added to the bazaar fund. The annual bazaar was held on October 19 and

20. The children of the school assisted by selling packs of envelopes containing numbers from one to five. To spur them on, Father Martin offered a free day to the winning class. Grades seven and eight won with an average of 262 per cent. For the first time in the history of the parish, the Young Ladies Sodality prepared for the feast of Mary Immaculate by a triduum from December 4 through 8. Reverend Louis Wolf of Cleveland was in charge. The Young Ladies responded so well that in the future the Holy Name Society will sponsor a similar retreat. The Christmas services were again broadcast from the Church towers. The parish paid the last installment on the building loan, putting the parish out of debt.

1941

On January 21, a senior C.Y.O., the Upsilon Sigma Pi, was formed. The annual Universe Bulletin Subscription Rally was conducted in the classrooms. Pep songs and playlets written by the school children were given. Besides the guest priest of the deanery, the pastor, Father Martin, and the assistant, Father Buescher, were present. A few days later Father Martin requested the repetition of the program for the program--admission free. The auditorium was filled and all went well. At the conclusion of the program Father Martin spoke. "The reason I had for wanting you parents to see this program is because I want to tell you how proud I am of my children and of the Sisters, their teachers." The Reverend Pastor's nameday was celebrated on April 23. This was the first time a program was presented for Reverend Father Martin. He was much surprised and showed great delight and appreciation. First Communion was received by thirty-one children on May 18. The processional song was played by an organ and violin. May Crowning ceremonies were hold on May 20. Graduation exercises took place on June 1 during the regular Sunday High Mass. On June 13, one of the Sisters stationed here celebrated her Golden Jubilee in religion. Father Martin advised that the celebration for Sister Mary Wilhelma be "made big" and with that in mind, all the Sisters in the deanery were invited for the festivities. Father Martin sang the High Mass for Sister and the ladies of the parish insisted on preparing the dinner for the Jubilarian and visiting Sisters. Following the day of the Golden Jubilee, Father Buescher received news of his transfer to St. Stephen's parish in Cleveland. During his stay at St. Peter's since his ordination seven years previous, Father Buescher earned a prominent place in the hearts of the people. Father was continuously interested in their welfare and ever ready to lend a helping hand. Before anyone could recuperate from this news, more followed. Within the same week, Reverend George Martin, our pastor, who in three short years won the love and esteem of the people, was to be transferred to St. Malachi's in Cleveland. Attempts were made to induce his excellency, the Archbishop, to re-consider the change. Even though this plan failed, the farewell party, in which all the sodalities participated, and in which each of the Fathers received a gift purse of over $300, proved that the love and esteem of the people of St. Peter's Parish for their priests is not mere fiction. The farewell party was held on June 30. Father Martin and Father Buescher had started bingo at house parties, and later these games were transferred to the Church basement. Interest in the games wained, however, and they were discontinued. The installation of Reverend Francis A. Brucker took place on July 20. The following excerpts were taken from the *Cleveland Press* regarding the ceremony:



REV. FRANCIS **BRUCKER** (1941-1953)

..."Reverend Francis A. Brucker, chaplain of Cleveland Council No. 733, Knights of Columbus, and until recently assistant at St. Catherine's, E. 93rd St. and St. Catherine Avenue, was installed pastor of St. Peter's amid surroundings unusually solemn and yet exceptionally beautiful...The colorful pageantry started in the processional at the stroke of noon from the attractive rectory that nestles close to St. Peter's Church...First in the processional came the acolytes and altar boys robed in red and white. They were followed by eighteen little girls. The little ladies looked like they had been clipped from a junior fashion book. They were in the charge of Sister Mary Bernadine and Mrs. T. V. Boylan. Next in line were the Knights of St. John with white plumes and black uniforms and then marched the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in full dress uniform with capes lined in flaming red. And finally the clergy in yellow vestments, with Father Brucker at the rear of the procession...The Reverend Father Edmund J. Ahern, dean of the Lorain Deanery, officiated at the installation which is a liturgical function impressive in its solemnity...Father Ahern handed the new pastor the keys of the church and said, "This is your spiritual workshop--receive this key--you are the custodian of this church-teach your people to love it for the Master dwells here." Addressing the people, Father Brucker asserted, "I expect no advantages for myself--I give you service--there is nothing I ask in return." Later one hundred twenty-five men and women were his guests at a dinner in the parish hall. The school had an enrollment of one hundred ninety-four when it reopened its doors on September 2. Sunday Instruction classes had an enrollment of twenty-seven students. A welcome program from the school children to the new pastor, Reverend Francis Brucker, was presented in the church basement two weeks after the school's opening. The children sang songs, recited poems, presented Father with a bouquet and a picture of the Good Shepherd. Father John J. Pertz was appointed assistant of the parish. The usual Christmas services were held and the Christmas caroles were broadcast from the church tower throughout Christmas Eve. Perhaps it was due to the fame of the beautiful and traditional ceremony that this year the church proved too small to accommodate the crowds at the Midnight Mass.

1942

On January 22, the day that was to have been the celebration of the pastor's nameday, the school children were unable to put on a program and prepare songs due to the fact that Father Brucker was ill. Instead, a small delegation of school children proceeded to the rectory "armed" with a spiritual bouquet and a vermilion cyclamen plant. Father was so pleased that he promised the children a free day. The opening of the Red Cross "Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick" course on January 29, was St. Peter's way of keeping up to the minute on war-time demands. The Pastor, Father Brucker, was the first one in this community to answer the call by offering the facilities of St. Peter's, as well as turning over the activities of the parish sewing circle for Red Cross work. Accordingly, the school basement was transformed into a bustling Red Cross Headquarters where each Thursday fifty to sixty generous women "battled their way to victory" on sewing machines of all sizes and makes. The Red Cross activities here also included a course in Home Hygiene and the Care of the Sick. Due to the overwhelming number of applications, the class was divided into two. One class was held on Thursday morning in the parish auditorium, and the other, in which three of the Sisters also took part was held on Thursday evenings in the newly furnished eighth grade. April 17 marked the twentieth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood for the pastor, Father Brucker. This occasion afforded the parishioners an excellent opportunity to show their appreciation to the new pastor, who, in less than a year succeeded in winning their hearts. Songs, musical selections, and short playlets in which all the grades were represented comprised the program. Grade one and two surprised the audience with "What's In The Basket?" Grades three and four gave the Spiritual Bouquet; Grades five and six brought forth tons of laughter with their "Magic Wand"; Grade seven and eight presented "Heavenly Gifts" and the beautifully given address "Your Anniversary." At that point the program was turned over to the "grown-ups" who presented Father with $250. Speeches, congratulations, and delightful refreshments in which all participated brought this happy day to a perfect ending. Twenty-three children received their First Communion on May 3. May Crowning ceremonies took place on the evening of May 21. Ailene Pitts was the May Queen. Graduation exercises were conducted on Sunday evening, May 31. Father Brucker awarded the certificates to the twenty-two graduates. In his address, Father Brucker stressed the importance of living up to the high ideals which Catholic education has put before them."Our Catholic Schools aim to train the will and the mind, thus building characters of courage and stability," he said. Father Brucker concluded by reminding the graduates of their responsibility, as the years go on, to keep up the standards and the future possibilities of Catholic education. On June 19, Father Pertz, assistant, was transferred to Immaculate Conception Parish in Youngstown. During his year at St. Peter's, Father Pertz distinguished himself by his fidelity in giving weekly instructions to the school children and by his self-sacrificing zeal in administering to the sick. His transfer took effect on June 30. Father Karch replaced Father Pertz as assistant. School commenced on September 9 with one hundred ninety-four students. There were eighteen in the Sunday Instruction classes. The guest speakers for the Forty Hours Devotions on September 29 to October 3, were Rev. F. Diederich, a former member of the parish, and Reverend J. Buescher, the former assistant. On Tuesday evening of the solemn closing, Reverend Urban Gerhart, a former member of the parish, was the guest speaker. The annual bazaar and chicken dinner held in the auditorium to help reimburse the parish fund was a red-letter day due to the fact that the net proceeds exceeded those of former years. The school children, too, went over and above their record for ticket selling, with the fifth and sixth graders on top with one hundred eighty-seven per cent. Their reward was a free day. The second Triduum was held for the Young Ladies Sodality from December 6 - 8. All women of the parish were invited to attend the services conducted by the pastor, Father Brucker. Father Brucker's theme was the dignity of all women at all times. Christmas arrived amid inclement weather and a more solemn spirit due to the sacrifice of the country's men and boys involved in the war. Decorations were simple but beautiful. Electric lights were not used and most decorations consisted in signs of "Peace To The World". The Solemn High Midnight Mass was offered for our boys in the service and for all the members of the parish living and dead.

1943

Janaury 23 was a day of simple celebration in honor of the pastor's nameday. The school children presented Father with a Spiritual Bouquet and a basket of fruit. The blessing of the Honor Roll of men of our parish in the armed forces, on February 22, 1943, was a colorful, religious and patriotic ceremony conducted by the pastor, assisted by the Elyria American Legion, the Knights of St. John, the Young Ladies Sodality, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. The honor roll plaque of simulated bronze, contains the names of eighty-eight men and boys and one young lady of the parish. It includes the name of Sidney Muhar, an aviator, who gave his life for his country in Egypt. The ceremony, besides the blessing of the honor roll and Papal and American Flags, consisted of Archbishop Carroll's Prayer for Civil and Religious Authorities, dedication of the service men to our Divine Lord and His Blessed Mother, patriotic and religious hymns, and was concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. First Holy Communion and May Crowning services were held on the same day--Sunday, May 9; the former at 8 a.m. and the latter at 8:15 p.m. Thirty children received their First Communion at that time. One of the most impressive features of this service was the fact that a crippled and mentally handicapped child (boy) of eleven was permitted to receive Our Lord for the first time. With two canes in hand and escorted by two tiny "angels" and his parents, he slowly and laboriously made his way to the communion rail where he partook of the Body and Blood of the Lord. The May Queen was Marie Gilgenbach. Graduation exercises were held on May 30 at 8 p.m. In his address, Father Brucker said, "Life is a series of commencements. There is nothing more pitiful than to see people who built all their hopes on material things react when all is swept away." School began again in September with an enrollment

of one hundred ninety-one; there were twenty-seven in the Sunday Instruction classes. Classes had begun to become too crowded during the past years. The need for a new classroom was obvious. With the help of Father Brucker and Sister Bernadine, plans were made to convert the basement meeting room into an additional classroom. The Knights of St. John vacated their meeting room quarters there and helped remove cabinets and other materials. Carpenters, plasterers, painters, and electricians then invaded the room. Father Karch, the assistant, worked until three in the morning fitting, drilling, and screwing in the slate blackboard. Later on he also framed and set in the bulletin board. By the time the desks were re-finished it was the calendar date for the re-opening of school. By then there were two bright classrooms where there had previously been two dull meeting rooms. Reverend Karch, priest, musician, carpenter, plumber and teacher, was equipped with the latest electrical tools for all the jobs in which he became involved. Interested in the needs of the Sisters, Father Karch changed the entire plumbing system at the Sisters' second floor convent--a change that was sorely needed. All the pipes which had served in the water system for over thirty years were clogged with rust and sediment from the hard well water. Thus, Father Karch laid a new pipe-line. During a week of Father Brucker's absence, Father Karch wanted to surprise him when he returned with the accomplishment of the major task. At the invitation extended on a Sunday, a number of parishioners came on the specified day when the steam shovel could be used. They laid a new pipe-line from the well at the creek to the Sisters' quarters, and then also a sewage system from the church basement to the creek. It was here that Father Karch was injured while he was working with the men in the dark. Luckily, most of the work was completed by that time and Father Karch's injuries were not as serious as feared. Previous to the installation of the new system, the Sisters had had to wash clothes in the tub--after carrying water to those tubs. With the rationing of canned fruits and the scarcity of fresh fruits and vegetables, home gardening in late summer and home canning were much in vogue. Victory gardens flourished in the area. The Sisters received a donation of canned goods that had been previously reserved for an air-raid supply. Although the Forty-Hours Devotion usually took place in early fall, it was necessary to postpone it until the first week of Advent due to repairs being done in the church sanctuary. The walls were decorated and fluorescent lights were installed. A 10¢ raffle during the bazaar conducted by the school children for the progress of St. Peter's plant netted $400, each class having a two hundred per cent average. Two weeks before Christmas, the classrooms donned every Christmas decoration possible. On the last day of classes before school vacation started, Santa Claus visited the classes in person. Iona Bacher appeared in Santa's outfit and Santa and Father Brucker went from room to room. Christmas services were held as usual with the church tower carrying the Christmas music over a two mile radius. The usual hymns and procession were planned with Margaret Haas representing the Blessed Mother in the procession.

1944

The fourth Monday of every month was scheduled for the boys' Sodality meeting. Thirty-five boys appeared following the pulpit announcement one Sunday. During the instruction given them by Sister Mary George, they were perfectly silent. After the instructions followed a social gathering with music and singing. Then desks were moved aside. The fun increased when Mr. Laubenthal and his wife furnished music for the evening. After that, plans for an athletic team for baseball were introduced and by means of a scrap drive they financed necessary equipment for the season. Nineteen third graders received First Holy Communion on April 29. One child, Dorothy Thimke, the tiniest in the group, was missing on that day because she had scarlet fever. Three weeks after the event, Dorothy was able to receive the sacrament. The girls of the First Communion class attended the special ceremony with her. According to the regulations of our new Bishop Edward Hoban, only children who had completed grade four were to be confirmed. By May 2, grade four was considered as having completed the grade and were legitimately admitted to the Confirmation class. Ages ranged from nine to sixty-seven. One adult had been baptized just two days before Confirmation. Students prepared through daily instructions and a special novena that terminated on Confirmation day. The Bishop was so pleased with the singing of the congregation that he made special mention of it. It was a feature, he said, "which (he) had seldom experienced." May Crowning was held on May 7. Loyola Wensink was the May Queen. Also at that occasion thirty-nine boys were accepted into the Y.M.S. as part of the ceremony. Nineteen graduates received their diplomas on May 14. Father Brucker, rather than speak from the pulpit on this occasion, came down directly to the graduates at the communion rail to extend his congratulations. Enrollment in the day school was one hundred ninety-two on September 5; the total Sunday Instruction enrollment was sixteen. The names of the young men and women of the parish who are in the service of the country were enrolled by members of their families in the pages of the Catholic Universe Bulletin "Service Honor Roll Book." After they had signed the book they were presented with a beautiful picture, a gift from Archbishop Joseph Schrembs. The parish chicken dinner was held on Sunday, October 15. The Young Men of the Sodality assisted in carrying the dinner to the hall and the Young Ladies in Sodality served as waitresses. Various raffles connected with this dinner were sponsored by the people and the children. The school children had a very exciting contest during the days of selling their chances for the dinner. The fifth and sixth graders were the ones to "land in the haystack" with 421%; they were followed very closely by the sixth and seventh grade "riding on a pony with 385%; the eighth grade came next "riding on a donkey" with 238%; they were followed by the first and second graders "on the goat" with 235%; then came "the turtle" carrying the third and fourth grade with 135%. The sum total of the children's raffle was $535. The highest number of books was sold by a second grader, Donald Hobart. Next came Helen Taylor of grade six with thirty-nine books. On the arrival of Santa Claus (in the

person of Clarabelle Sittinger) at St. Peter School on December 20, the children of all the classes sang "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." Father Brucker and Santa then visited all the classrooms and passed out bags of candy. Christmas services were conducted as usual. Alberta Plas enacted the role of the Blessed Mother in the procession.

1945

The Pastor's nameday was celebrated with the Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of St. Francis on Monday, January 29 at 8:30 a.m. Another celebration came for the pastor on April 17 with a High Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of his twenty-third anniversary of ordination. The twenty-seven second graders made their first Confession on January 31. They received First Communion on Sunday, April 29. May Crowning took place on the evening of May 1st. The May Queen was Mary Holtwick. There were card parties on November 21, January 3, and May 10. Each of these was a very successful event due to the cooperation of the parishioners and the different Sodalities responsible for the planning of the activities. Due to the new schedule for Forty Hours in the parishes of the Cleveland Diocese, St. Peter's date was set at May 20, calling for a second Forty Hours celebration in one school year. Father Joseph Lehane from St. Mary's, Elyria, delivered the inspirational sermon. A new event for the school was an eighth grade party, sponsored by Mrs. Perkins and assisted by Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Scheidler on Tuesday, May 15. The hall was decorated for this purpose and seventh graders did the serving of the meal. Party songs, explanations of the class colors, will and testimonies were given. It ended at 8:30 p.m. Added awards were given at the graduation exercises this year. Perfect attendance awards were given to Shirley Perkins and Regina Carley. On Sunday evening, May 6, as Father Brucker was returning from a Forty Hours Devotion at a neighboring parish, he fell in the back of the rectory and suffered a seriously broken ankle. After a week's stay in the hospital he returned to the parish but was semi-confined because of the cast on his ankle. He wore the cast for about a month. Parishioners were glad to see him back on his feet after that. On August 14, the eve of the feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother, the church bells pealed forth in praise and celebration of V.J. Day. On August 19, special time was set aside in order to thank God for peace. Many parishioners also prayed earnestly for a safe return of their loved ones. The school reopened on September 4 with an enrollment of one hundred eighty-nine and fifteen for the Sunday Instruction classes. The annual chicken dinner was held on October 21. Helen Taylor, a seventh grade student at the school, sold the highest number of raffle books. On December 10, 11, and 12, the school was closed because of the flu epidemic. On Thursday, December 13, there were again too many absentees and the children were told not to return until Monday. The following announcement came from the public school that Monday: "School closed until January 2" because of a broken boiler there. This was a blow for our school since there was so much preparation to be done for the coming Christmas holidays. Since there was no school, Santa did not make his visit, but he did leave a bag of candy for each child which they received January 2. In the Christmas ceremonies, the part of the Blessed Mother was portrayed by Marilyn DeChant.

1946

The parish missions opened March 10 with Reverend Daniel Lyons, O.F.M. conducting the two week services. Again the first week was for the women with the second week devoted to the men. For the women's mission, Father spoke on the Blessed Mother and for the men's on love for the Eucharistic King. Twenty-four second graders made their first Confession on February 27 and received First Communion on April 28. Father Brucker congratulated both parents and children and then begged the parents to pray WITH and FOR their children. The May Queen was Betty Pitts. The Crowning ceremonies were held on Thursday evening, May 2. Graduation exercises were held on Wednesday, May 22. The school reopened on September 2 at one o'clock in the afternoon with an enrollment of one hundred ninety-two students. Sunday Classes had fifteen students. On September 22, the male choir accompanied by their own organist from St. Thomas Parish, Cleveland, came to sing the 12 o'clock High Mass. The walls of St. Peter's weren't wide enough to hold such powerful singing and playing. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. After the Mass, the choir held a Clam Bake. The annual chicken dinner and bazaar were held on October 22. Helen Taylor and Irene Thompson were the lead raffle ticket sellers, with one hundred fifty and one hundred twenty books being sold respectively. The raffle ticket returns netted $601.00. The annual Turkey Raffle was held on December 23, the Sunday before Christmas, by the men of the parish. The children of the school again participated in raffle drives and this time Roseleen Diederich, a seventh grader, won first prize. Helen Taylor came in second. The men were very grateful to the Sisters and the children for having contributed to their grand total of $651 and to show their appreciation they presented the Sisters with a large basket of fruit. Santa visited the school this year in the person of Mr. Ternes. In the traditional Christmas eve ceremonies Thelma Gerhart represented the Blessed Mother. During the singing of "Silent Night" before Mass, all the lights in the church were darkened except for one spotlight shining on the procession as they made their way up to the crib.

1947

April 17 marked the day of celebration for the entire parish. It was the Silver Jubilee of our pastor. Weeks and months had been spent in making preparations for the day. One of the ladies from the parish helped in the making of new antipendium and tabernacle curtains for the occasion. She also helped with the making of gowns for the procession. Silver paper had been saved and was used on everything. Silver covered vases holding pink snapdragons and pink carnations graced the altar. It was a beautiful morning, making possible a procession from the school to the rectory and then to church. Those concerned took their place at 10:15: cross-bearer, acolytes, twelve altar boys in red cassocks, other servers in black, several little girls dressed in formals who recited a poem at the rectory, and about fifty-two priests, including the beloved jubilarian, Reverend Francis A. Brucker. As soon as the

priests were in the sanctuary, the organ entoned the Kyrie for the Solemn High Mass. The Jubilarian was, of course, the celebrant; Reverend Father Walsh, the deacon, and one of Father's classmates, Reverend Thomas Barry, was the sub-deacon. Msgr. William Newton, Dean of Lorain County and pastor of St. Mary's, Elyria, was the speaker for the occasion. He congratulated our jubilarian and presented a most inspiring address on the dignity and sacredness of the priesthood. He exemplified a priest's life through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. His last words, making an impression on all who heard them were. "He is another Christ." One item that made the day beautiful was the fact that Father's mother was present, as were his sisters and other relatives. After Mass dinner was served in the auditorium to the priests. The women of the parish willingly lent their services. Father's housekeeper deserved the credit for planning weeks and months ahead in order to make the banquet possible. An evening performance was held in the auditorium. The opening number was a musical selection by the Laubenthal family. William Wensink, an eighth grader, was the announcer and he did exceptionally well. "Keep Thy Priest" was sung by the Sodality choir. Addresses by the various groups, songs, poems, and musical selections were interspersed throughout the children's program. The graduates of 1947 had a special number: Jubilee Bells. Mr. Matthias Myers, the oldest member of the parish, presented the gift from the parishioners. The hall for the occasion was decked in pink, green, and silver streamers, bows, twists, and everything that could suggest appropriateness for the celebration of a Priest's Jubilee. Everyone, especially Father's Cleveland friends, remarked it was the most beautiful piece of work they had ever seen. Since all of Father's friends could not be present on Thursday, Father celebrated a Solemn High Mass at 12 o'clock on Sunday, April 20. The Knights of Columbus paid their respect to their former chairman, Father Brucker. The Reverend Father Bacher was the deacon and the Reverend Father Diederich was the sub-deacon -- both were former boys of the parish. A reception was held in the auditorium following the Mass and a buffet lunch was served. May Crowning ceremonies were held on May 1 in the evening. Velma Wakefield was the May Queen. Twenty-five second graders made their First Holy Communion of the first Sunday of May at 7:55 a.m. Graduation exercises were on May 25 in which twelve girls and eight boys received their diplomas. School opened on September 3 with an enrollment of one hundred ninety-two. There were eighteen students in the Public School Instruction classes. The annual chicken dinner and bazaar was held on a beautiful autumn day, October 13. On December 9 at 7:30 p.m., ninety seven were preparing for their immediate reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. There were eighty four children and thirteen adults. The beautiful procession was made up of altar boys, priests, and our Bishop Hoban. Two girls from the fourth grade presented the Bishop with a Spiritual Bouquet and a basket of red roses. At the same time they extended to him a most cordial welcome in the name of the parish. The Bishop thanked them most heartily for this and delivered an inspiring sermon to the children and to the parishioners. Santa (Bernard Bacher) visited the school children on Friday, December 16, with his ever-loved bag of candy for the children. The annual Turkey raffle, conducted by the men of the parish, was held on December 21. The three highest ticket sellers won a prize: first prize went to Marilyn Myers ($5), the second prize went to Roseleen Diederich ($3), and the third prize went to Richard Zacharias ($1). In the Christmas pageant this year, Roseleen Diederich represented the Blessed Mother.

1948

Father Brucker's nameday was celebrated on January 19. During the Holy Week services this year, Father Brucker gave a special Holy Hour (Thursday evening). Meditations, prayers, and hymns, made the hour seem very short. Although the children had been previously prepared and had received the sacrament many times, the second graders again received the sacrament of Penance on the day before their First Holy Communion. On May 2, twenty-five children received their first Holy Communion at the Sunday morning 8 o'clock low Mass. May 5 was the day set for May Crowning. Father Brucker spoke on Mary's Obedience, Humility and Purity. The procession consisted of the First Communicants, the seventh and eighth graders, eight flower girls, forty Sodality members, six attendants, and the Queen, Ursula Schneider. Graduation was held on May 23. In his sermon, Father Brucker urged the graduates to gratitude for all that was done for them and to prove their appreciation by living good lives and cherishing the principles learned throughout the grades. Over the summer, many renovations inside the classrooms took place. Walls were painted cream with dark brown finishing. New fluorescent lights were added to the rooms; the desks were covered with bakalite and were made to look like new. When school opened on September 8, there were one hundred ninety-four students: eighteen in the Catechism classes. School would have opened a day earlier but the Sisters were asked to participate in the Diocesan Centenary Celebration at the newly erected Cathedral in Cleveland on September 7. Charlotte Conrad was the best seller of raffle tickets for the October 19 chicken dinner and bazaar. The turn-out was rather small due to a heavy downpour of rain throughout the day. For the "Turkey raffle" the children sold chances on a 240 lb. dressed pig. The raffle ticket winners were: first place, Anne Haralampous ($5), second place, George Diederich ($3), and third place, Joseph Welch ($1). Marilyn Myers represented the Blessed Mother for the Christmas procession. The church was already filled for the Midnight Mass by 11:15.

1949

The second graders made their First Holy Communion on May 1. May Crowning was held on May 4. The May Queen was Ruth Zacharias. May 15 marked the beginning of the Forty Hours Devotion. Graduation exercises took place on May 23. The thirteen graduates received their diplomas from the pastor. School opened on September 6 with a growing enrollment of two hundred eleven students. The Catechism classes totaled twenty-five students. The weather was more favorable for the chicken dinner and the bazaar and so it was better attended. The raffle ticket seller winner

was Donald Doptis. The sum of sold tickets was $535. The school had been without heat for sometime but on November 10, men unloaded a new gas furnace from their truck. Now the overground pipe which carried heat from the church furnace to the school building and convent for the purpose of heating could be dispensed with and the cars would no longer be forced to detour. It took five days to install the furnace. Wednesday evening, December 14, the Young Ladies Sodality has a very entertaining party. Julianne Gutschmidt presented a very clever skit: "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth." Several girls also brought their instruments. Lunch was served, during which Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (Marilyn DeChant and Helen Ternes) passed out gifts amid much laughter and merriment. The girls delighted in finishing up the evening singing Christmas caroles and dancing. Gertrude Holtwick represented the Blessed Mother in the Christmas procession.

1950

The U.B. subscription campaign was kicked off with a school pep rally on February 27, for grades five through eight. A new feature to the rally was our school orchestra. Seven of the school children shared their musical talents with the other students. After several weeks of the campaign, the seventh and eighth grade class won. Kathleen Bommer of grade eight sold the highest number of subscriptions. On the evening of March 28, fifty children and fourteen adults received the sacrament of Confirmation administered by Bishop Hoban. The Bishop delivered a sermon on the sacredness of receiving the Holy Spirit and also of the need for vocations. The First Holy Communion Mass was the 8 o'clock low Mass on April 29. There were seventeen boys and twenty girls who received their First Communion at that time. The May Crowning ceremonies on the third of the month were similar to the previous years. Father Brucker addressed the group and spoke pointedly on the duty to be fulfilled in pronouncing the words spoken in the consecration to our Lady. The May Queen was Jean Cummins. This year Forty Hours Devotion opened on Friday, May 12. The services were conducted by a Vincentian Father. There were twenty priests in the final procession. On Mother's Day, May 14, the Sodality girls honored their Mothers. A delicious breakfast was served to the Mothers and daughters by the Ladies' Auxiliary. Graduation exercises were held at the 8 o'clock High Mass on May 21 when twenty-one students received their diplomas. On September 5, the opening day of school, the classes were more than filled to capacity with an enrollment of two hundred ten; there were thirty in the Catechism classes. Each classroom reached the fifty mark and over. On October 15 the annual chicken dinner and bazaar were held. The crowd was exceptionally large due to the beautiful autumn weather. In the annual Turkey raffle, December 17, Deanna Diederich won first prize for ticket selling. Her prize was $5. At the Christmas services a violinist offered her services. The Blessed Mother was represented by Ann Reising.

1951

Friday, April 2, a campaign opened for the building of a convent and school. Father Brucker asked the children to place the campaign in the hands of our Blessed Mother. Everyday, therefore, the Litany of our Blessed Mother was recited. After forty years of service, the overcrowded school was going to be replaced. St. Peter's School Building Committee, consisting of the following members of the parish, was formed: Al Smith, Audeon Diederich, Edward Wysocki, Elmer Gilgenbach, Ray Reising and John Cummins. Architect Roland B. Johns of Lakewood, recommended by Bishop Hoban to Father Brucker, was retained by the committee to draw up the plans for a five room school with a combination dispensary and Sisters' restroom, and a thirty foot basement under the back part of the school. The preliminary cost of the project was $92.000--total cost of the project was $113,803.70. The fund raising campaign was instituted to raise $55,000 for the building. Audeon Diederich was Honorary Chairman, Henry Wagner was General Chairman, and John Cummins was General Co-Chairman. The campaign workers were divided into three teams with Orrie Traut as captain division A. Assisting Traut were Jacob Barnes, John Fritz, and Margaret Sullivan. Division B was headed by Albert Diederich with co-workers Alvie Diederich, DeForest Monschein, Mrs. Leo Schnore, and Anton Janik. Division C was headed by Sam Guinta with Mrs. Cyril Machovina, Mrs. Frank Vencel, andDr. T. E. Finegan as co-workers. April 29 marked the day of First Holy Communion for the second graders. The Forty Hours Devotion services were conducted by a Franciscan. The devotions opened on May 18. Also in May, on the third, was the traditional May Crowning. The May Queen this year was Mary Haas. Father Brucker brought out the idea of simplicity and humility in his sermon for the occasion. Graduation exercises were held on May 27. Immediately after the services, the graduates went to the auditorium to have their pictures taken. When school opened on September 5, there were one hundred ninety-nine students; forty-five were enrolled in Catechism Classes. On November 20, the school held its first Song Fest. Previous to this day, if you chanced to be walking through the school building, you would most probably have heard one class or the other practicing the songs they had selected for the occasion. The school orchestra, consisting of two accordians, a drummer, a trumpet, and two guitars, decided upon the musical numbers they would play and practiced a great deal. Piano and accordian players were chosen as solo performers. The day came and the Pastor and parents came to enjoy the afternoon. That same afternoon, the children and parents surprised the Sisters with the traditional food shower in preparation for Thanksgiving. Scheduled for Sunday evening, December 16, the Annual Turkey Raffle was postponed until Monday, December 17, because of bad weather conditions. School Christmas vacation also started on December 17, due to the large number of students in the area who had pneumonia. Christmas Eve services were beautiful as usual. The crib, tinseled and with colored lights, was laden with evergreen branches. The main altar was colorful with red, yellow, and green lights, behind the tabernacle drape and also behind our spangled-satin antipendium. Garlands of greens, tied with red satin bows and ornamented with white stars hung from the top of the main altar on either side. Large poinsettia plants graced the altar. Candles arranged to form the

outline of a Christmas tree were lit for all the Masses on Christmas day. Two medium sized trees decked with tinsel had their place in the sanctuary next to the main altar. When it came time for the procession, the boys and girls sang "Silent Night" as the Blessed Mother, represented by Janet Steigerwald, placed the Christ child in the crib.

1952

There had been an extraordinarily long vacation for the school children due to severe weather conditions and classes did not resume until January 7. The pep rally for the Universe Bulletin subscription campaign was held on March 3. The final results of the drive proved the fifth and sixth graders the winners with Margie Scheidler of Grade six the highest Catholic Press seller in our school. On April 17, Father Brucker celebrated his jubilee of thirty years. The school children presented a little program for Father in the morning and presented him with a Spiritual Bouquet, a basket of red carnations, and a gift of money. On May 4, at the eight o'clock low Mass, thirty-five children received their first Holy Communion. A beautiful procession on Wednesday evening, May 7, formed to pay tribute to the Queen of May. Loyola Diederich crowned the Blessed Mother, after which Father encouraged everyone to live up to their consecration. Sunday morning, May 11, the Sodalists held a Mother-Daughter breakfast. A tribute was given to the Mothers after which everyone joined in a song in honor of mothers. At the eight o'clock High Mass on Sunday, May 25, fifteen boys and ten girls received their diplomas. Due to almost a month's delay on the construction of additional buildings to the public school, St. Peter School could not start back to school until September 29, since our children enjoyed public school transportation. The delay was by far unpleasant because our new school would have been ready and the children seemed anxious to begin. All knew that the time would have to be made up and were in suspense as to how this would be done. The report from the school board indicated that there would be school on the second Saturday of each month and vacations would be cut short. When classes began there were 226 students at St. Peter's and a total of thirty-five for the Catechism classes. On Sunday evening, December 21, the Turkey Raffle was held. The men of the parish who sponsored the event were grateful to the children of the school who sold raffle tickets because they did better than they had any other year, bringing in $265. Lucy Haas, a seventh grader, won the first prize of $5 for selling the highest number of books. In the Christmas eve procession, Laura Guggenbiller, portrayed the role of the Blessed Mother.

1953

The first Sunday of Lent, February 22, was set aside for all Sodalists and girls of high school age and over, who wished to make a special day of retreat and recollection. Father John Neary, assistant at St. Mary's, Elyria, offered his services for the day. Members of the Altar and Rosary Society gave their time and energy to prepare the meals for the girls. On May 3, at the morning Mass, our second graders made their First Holy Communion. The class was a large one with twenty boys and eleven girls. The May Crowning ceremony was held on May 6 at 7:45 in the evening. The May Queen was Janet Cummins. Graduation for the eighth graders was held on Sunday, May 31, at the Sunday High Mass. Six boys and eighteen girls received their diplomas. On the Sunday before school opened, September 6, Father Brucker told the parishioners at the eight o'clock morning Mass that he was leaving. Father had given thirteen years in the service of our parish. By ten o'clock Father was gone. Because there had not been enough time to thank him before his leaving, the parishioners had a special collection and sent over a thousand dollars to the hospital at which Father Brucker was being treated. School opened for our two hundred eighty-four students on September 9. There were fifty-six children in the Catechism classes. On Wednesday, September 16, army trucks arrived at the parish with the newly appointed shepherd, Father John Koch. Father had been an army chaplin and a Lieutenant Colonel in the air corps for fifteen years. The Right Rev. Monsignor Newton of Elyria installed the new pastor simply but solemnly on the morning of September 20, the following Sunday. The Monsignor asked the people to cooperate with their new pastor wholeheartedly. He had been his teacher in the seminary and had always found him to be very dependable in fulfilling his duties.



REV. JOHN KOCH (1953-1954)

On Octobr 2, the Guild sponsored a fish fry in place of the annual chicken dinner sponsored by the parish. The crowd was exceptionally large due to the favorable weather and the outstanding spirit of cooperation among the parishioners. The men and women of the Guild demonstrated wonderful service and generosity toward the support of the new school. Besides the five hundred dollars they turned in to the pastor, they also purchased eight new swings and an "ocean wave" which now graces the playground. On October 18, the Altar and Rosary Society sponsored a bazaar which was most successful. They were able to contribute $700 to the parish as a result of their efforts. His Grace, the Most Reverend Archbishop Hoban, administered Confirmation to one hundred ninety-seven children and forty-six adults on December 11. During the ceremonies the Archbishop made mention of the need the Sisters had for a new convent.

1954

When the six Sisters returned to North Ridgeville on August 6, they were introduced to their new home--the Rectory. Father Koch moved his quarters to the rooms above the old school where the Sisters had previously

dwelt. School enrollment for 1954 was three hundred and eight. There were forty-eight registered for the Confraternity classes. Various committees and parish organizations raised $4,000.00 through their annual bazaar on October 10. The Fish Fry sponsored by the St. Peter Guild on October 29 had to turn away over a hundred people because more came then they had prepared for or expected. St. Peter's was no longer a cold, drafty church since the Pastor had the good fortune of obtaining the old furnace from St. Gregory's Church, South Euclid. St. Gregory's had to buy a larger one because of greater expansion.. It is impossible to assess the exact savings to the parish for this furnace, since it was also installed by the parishioners. The Pastor estimated the savings at $2,000. Malaria and other complications left our Pastor with little strength to continue his duty. Quietly he left our Parish on November 17. The new Pastor, Rev. Charles Bechler, arrived on December 10. The day before his arrival, however, the Sisters moved back to their old quarters since Father was elderly and would have had difficulty with all the steps. On Gaudate Sunday, December 12, the Right Rev. Monsignor Newton of Elyria installed the new pastor Rev. Charles P. Bechler, simply but solemnly.



REV. CHARLES BECHLER (1954-1955)

1955

On August 9, our beloved pastor, Father Bechler, who had been assigned to the parish just seven months earlier, met with a serious accident while returning from a visit to the Bishop in Cleveland. While only a short distance from the rectory, his car went out of control and ran into a tree. Reverend Father Bechler was so seriously injured, that after six days of suffering, he died. In the months that he was with the parish, he had endeared himself to everyone with whom he came in contact, especially the children. The beautiful funeral was a testimony of his holiness and kindness. Over three hundred fifty priests, one hundred twenty Sisters from different communities, and several thousand people from all walks of life came to pay their respect. Father Bechler had been ordained to the priesthood at the age of fifty, being only sixty years of age at his death. Before coming to St. Peter's he had been on the faculty of the Cleveland Seminary, being secretary, treasurer, and head of Borromeo seminary. School opened with an increased enrollment of three hundred seventy-five children. There were four religious teachers and three lay teachers. Each classroom had between fifty to seventy-two students. One week after the opening of the school, on September 17, the newly appointed pastor, Rev. Father Joseph Eiringer, was installed at the twelve o'clock High Mass. The Right Rev. Msgr. L. Newton from Elyria officiated.



REV. JOSEPH EIRINGER (1955-1959)

The crowd for the October 27 fish fry was even bigger this year than it had been before. The Blessed Mother in the Christmas procession was represented by Theresa Janisek.

1956

In October of 1955, Father Eiringer had contacted parishioner Ade Frank with the idea of reviving the social games (Bingo). Mr. and Mrs. Edward Finegan, Al Schneider, and Ade Frank observed the games in Grafton to obtain ideas. The equipment was ordered and the games were started in January 1956. Approximately one hundred thirty-five people attended the social games on the first night and about $89.00 was earned. (Mr. Orrie Traut worked as Ade's assistant and cashier for fifteen and one-half years until he died in 1970. Ade actively worked with social games until he became ill. Ade passed away in 1973. The success of the games is evident as they have continued to the present. The foresight of Father Eiringer and the efforts of the parishioners have enabled the social games to contribute greatly to the support of the parish.) An indication of the growth of our parish was the large number who made their First Holy Communion on May first: thirty-four boys and twenty-two girls. The traditional May Crowning ceremony was somewhat altered. A simple May Devotion was substituted instead. For the Forty Hours Devotion, celebrated on May 6, 7, and 8, the altar boys were dressed in new white cassocks. Our pastor, Father Eiringer had been at the seminary before coming to North Ridgeville, training young men for the priesthood, so he thought that the eighth grade boys could handle all the singing for the close of Forty Hours. They did well, but it had been "hard pulling" in the beginning. Father Karch was succeeded in 1956 as assistant by Father Martin Finnerty. At the eight o'clock Mass on May 22, twenty-eight eighth graders received their diplomas. When school reopened in September there were three hundred seventy-four students and forty-six enrolled in the Catechism classes. On September 8, Father Finnerty, the assistant, said Mass in the Sisters' chapel--the first Mass said there in a long time. Periodically throughout the year, Masses were offered then in the chapel. Santa visited the children on December 21 and left a little treat for each child. Mr. Frabotta played the part of Santa. The Christmas procession celebration was simpler this year, yet the church was filled beyond capacity. Immediately preceding the Mass, Father Eiringer, Father Finnerty, and the altar boys formed a procession to the crib. In a very simple but beautiful ceremony, Father Eiringer blessed the crib, recited some prayers, and said the Angelus. After this they returned to the altar to begin the Solemn High Mass.

1957

Friday, January 25, saw the arrival of fifty new desks of the table and chair unit type in modern colors of "classroom coral" and "diploma blue" and with a lifetime plastic top on the desk. Thirty-three of these units replaced old desks in the eighth grade classroom. The remaining number replaced seventeen of the old desks in the sixth and seventh grade classrooms. The lucky recipients were more than pleased with the new attractive look in the classroom. To show their gratefulness to the members of St. Peter's Guild, they had an Open House held on the evening of February 14 when the Guild members had an opportunity to see the desks in a classroom setting. In the future the Guild hoped to equip the remaining classrooms with new desks. For years the convent had had a party line phone. The inconvenience which a party line necessarily entails came to an end with the installation of a private line with an extension in the school office on February 1. St. Peter's Guild sponsored a spaghetti dinner in the church hall on Sunday, March 10. The proceeds went toward the defraying of the expenses incurred by the purchase of the new school equipment. First Holy Communion took place on May 5 at the eight o'clock Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday. The year's class was exceptionally large, consisting of seventy-seven children. The communicants were led into church by six little first grade flower girls who wore pink and white organdy dresses and a band of pink flowers in their hair. Each carried a calla lilly. The altars and the sanctuary were decorated with pink and white snaps, calla lilies and palms. Two little flower girls accompanied each group of communicants to the altar where they offered their hearts for the first time as a dwelling place for the Eucharistic Shepherd of their souls. Thursday morning, May 16, saw the arrival of fifty more new desks of the same type received a few months earlier. Thirty-one eighth graders received their diplomas after the eight o'clock Mass on Sunday, May 26. Father Finnerty announced each graduate by name as Father Eiringer presented the diplomas at the communion rail. School opened on September 3, with an enrollment of three hundred seventy-one children. The Catechism classes had forty-eight students attending and were held on Saturdays. On September 22, ceremonies for dedication of the new wing of the Elyria District Catholic High School were held. His Excellency, the most Reverend Archbishop Edward Hoban, blessed the new wing of the school. After the blessing, Benediction was held in the auditorium. Eight of the high school boys sang the hymns during the Benediction. After the ceremonies all attended the Open House to admire the spacious and beautifully equipped classrooms in the new wing. On Thursday, November 7, at seven-thirty in the evening Bishop Kroll came to St. Peter's to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. The confirmation included one hundred twenty-five boys and girls from our school, ten public school children and a group of adults numbering about twenty-five. Two fifth graders, Mary Ann Foreman and Steven Gilfether, gave the address and presented the spiritual and floral bouquets. The Bishop then addressed the confirmandi and spoke to them on the importance of making their lives a shining example of catholicity. The eighth grade Civics Club sponsored a cake raffle at school to raise money for sending CARE packages to Europe and to help the missions. The project earned $30. for CARE and the Indian missions. On the last day before Christmas vacation, Friday, December 20, Santa again visited each classroom and gave each child a little treat. Mrs. Monschein played the part of Santa this year. Santa also gave the Sisters a new steam iron and towel sets.

1958

There were dark clouds and heavy rain on May 4, as thirty-nine boys and twenty-seven girls made their First Holy Communion. One of the little flower girls turned to another who seemed a little worried about her dress and the rain and said, "Kathy, your dress isn't important. It's Jesus who is important. If we please him, nothing else matters." Thirty-eight eighth graders graduated after the eight o'clock Mass on Sunday, May 25, the feast of Pentecost. On August 13, Father Eiringer formally gave approval for the renovation of the basement room of the school in order to serve as a classroom. Time was short but the goal was to have the room converted by the beginning of school. A history-making event - August 13. City water was officially turned on for the "Ridges". Pipe lines, previously installed, were now flowing with water bringing a high pressure convenience to the Ridge inhabitants. A slight delay in the parish piping prevented us from enjoying this convenience immediately. But at 5:35 P.M., on August 28, there was an eagerly watching gathering, waiting for the rapid flow from the faucets when the "turn on" signal was given. What rejoicing! School opened on September 3 with four hundred forty-four bright and eager faces. Catechism classes which were held on Saturday, had an enrollment of fifty-four. A little over a week later, on September 11, the school Open House was held. Special emphasis was given to the new room. The Knights of St. John purchased a new automatic clothes dryer for the basement of the old school and it was installed on October 7. The results of the November 4 elections proved the real growth of North Ridgeville when voters approved its incorporation. On December 20, 1958, confirmation made it officially Lorain County's newest village. The next elections would decide who its first mayor would be. North Ridgeville proudly announced the open house of its new public library on November 16. No longer is a bookmobile necessary to accommodate the needs of the school children and others. They all now have easy access to the centrally located library. At school, free periods during the week of December 15 were set aside for repairing used toys collected from families in better circumstances. After the cleaning, renewing, and mending, the toys were carefully wrapped and labeled. A list of needy families in the parish and otherwise served as a guide for the

Scouts in delivering the Christmass packages. This Christmas project was undertaken by the eighth grade Civics Club and was assisted by the Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts of the Parish. The Guild's "Santa" visited the classrooms in the afternoon of December 19 and surprised the children with ice cream and candy. The annual Turkey Raffle, held for the benefit of the parish, netted a total of $930.00, $598.50 of which was given to the school. A sixth grade pupil, Doreen Janas, merited the first prize of $10 for being the highest raffle ticket seller.

1959

Severe floods hit North Ridgeville on January 22, closing schools and sending everyone out to fight the floods. It was the worst flood since March 24, 1913 that Elyrians remembered. Seventy-three children received their First Holy Communion on May 3. In the May 5 Primary Elections, the new village of North Ridgeville held a special election for mayor, six councilmen and a treasurer who would hold office until the November election. Mr. Luke Loffman was elected first mayor of the village of North Ridgeville and three of our parishioners were elected councilmen: Dr. T. E. Finnegan, Pete Pszenitski, and John Cummins. The treasurer, too, is a member of our parish: Laura Guggenbillar. On' May 31, the twenty-seven eighth graders were thrilled to be permitted to participate in the Corpus Christi procession which coincided with their graduation day. There was an extremely late closing of school this year - June 3. It was quite a new experience for the children. One of the summer projects planned by the Guild was a Strawberry Festival because they had asked the pastor to furnish the Sisters' new convent. The June 14 Strawberry Festival, complete with ice cream, cake and strawberries was quite successful. Eager young faces appeared on September 2 for the opening of a new school year but unfortunately the school was unable to hold as many students as were asking to be admitted. The enrollment was four hundred thirty-five, Catechism classes totalled seventy-two students. The school always gave strong witness to the rapid growth and development of the area. One hundred seventy-five eager and well prepared boys and girls of grades 4 and 5 were confirmed by Bishop Begin at 7:30 p.m. on November 23. Before the ceremonies began, the Most Reverend Bishop was welcomed by a speech and presented a basket of roses by Christine Gerhart and James Kalp, both fifth graders, in the name of all the confirmed. The following day, the whole school enjoyed a free day in celebration of their reception. It was announced on November 29 that Father Eiringer was to be replaced as pastor by Msgr. Edward Halloran. As a farewell to Father Eiringer, a great number of children, parents and other parishioners attended Father's last Mass at St. Peter's on Thanksgiving morning. Father was most appreciative of this last act of love on the part of his parishioners.

Msgr. Halloran, in his first sermon to the people, stressed the duty of love, love of the Pastor for his sheep, love of the sheep for their shepherd. He told the people that he had asked the Bishop for this parish and that in the near future there would be two great St. Peter's in the world - St. Peter's in Rome and St. Peter's in North Ridgeville! It was announced that on the



MSGR. EDWARD HALLORAN (1959-1967)

following Sunday at 12:00 Mass, the formal installation would take place. The Reverend Bishop John Krol was present in the sanctuary while Msgr. William Newton, Dean of the Lorain Deanery, formally installed Msgr. Halloran as pastor of St. Peter Parish on December 6. Also present in the sanctuary were six Monsignori, including Msgr. Navin and Msgr. McBride. Several other priests were in attendance. As the procession left the rectory, the Ridgeville High School Band played a march. The procession was led by the Knights; following were all the grade school servers in white cassocks. Following the Mass and Installation there was a banquet held in the church basement which was fittingly decorated for the occasion. Officers of all Parish organizations were invited plus Monsignor's past associates at the Chancery, his relatives and the Mayors of Cleveland, North Ridgeville and Elyria. Cavoli caterers served the steak dinner. Msgr. Halloran initiated an active building program. The Church parking lot was to be paved, the church redecorated, and the "new" school and Sisters' convent were to be built.

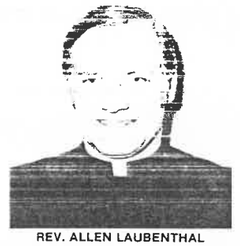
1960

On the only really beautiful Sunday in May, the fifteenth, sixty-seven children received their First Holy Communion. Since his arrival, Msgr. Halloran had made many improvements in the facilities on the parish grounds. The first place he had started was the school. And so when May 18, his 20th Jubilee as a priest came around, the school put on a program for him to show their appreciation. Tradition was abandoned this year regarding graduation exercises for the thirty-five eighth graders. They attended the eight o'clock High Mass. In the evening at eight o'clock the graduation exercises were held. Father Conlon from St. Vincent's, Vincent, Ohio and Monsignor spoke to the graduates. Following the address, the students consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin and sang appropriate hymns. Monsignor conferred the diplomas and the ceremony concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Finnerty was replaced as assistant by Father John O. Jacoby. One hundred and fifty years had passed in the history of North Ridgeville and the inhabitants of the newly incorporated city felt that a big celebration should be held. Many weeks were spent in preparation for the gala events. On one of the nights the history of Ridgeville was told in a pageant. St. Peter's Holy Name

Society was represented in the parade by a beautiful float depicting the bringing of the faith to the Indians by the missionaries. The float was pulled by a jeep driven by Msgr. Halloran and Father Jacoby who waved cheerily to the crowds along the way. Everyone in the city entered into the celebration and enjoyed the four days of merry-making from August 25-28. School opened on Wednesday, September 7, during the hottest week of the year. The children, all four hundred forty-eight of them, received, literally, the warmest possible welcome. There were ninety-six enrolled in the Sunday Catechism Classes. In loving memory of Father Rhein, a Mass was said at 11:30 a.m. on October 18. The mass was attended by all the school children and a number of parishioners. After Mass, Monsignor Halloran spoke a few words about the duty of the parish to remember former pastors and be grateful for their work among the people. A procession to the grave of Father Rhein followed and prayers were said at the gravesight. On December 14, the new Sisters' convent was ready for occupation. The move was achieved after school with each sister carrying what she could. Some women of the parish who were picking up Girl Scouts offered to drive things over in their cars. Later in the evening some faithful men of the parish arrived on the scene with trucks and their strength to do the rest of the moving. The men really had the opportunity to show their strength and power for endurance for the temperature on that December day was 0 degrees.

1961

On May 6, Archbishop Hoban came to St. Peter's for the dedication of the new Sisters' convent. The Bishop entered by way of the screen porch and met the community in the parlor where all present knelt to kiss his ring. He then presented them with an autographed portrait of himself which was hung in the small parlor. Several priests were present for the occasion: Msgr. Koreb, Msgr. Conlon (pastor of St. Vincent), Fr. Wernet (confessor of the Sisters), Father Seikel (pastor of St. Mary's, Avon), and Father Eiringer (former pastor). The clergy went with the Bishop through the house and answered the responses of the dedication ceremony. Upon their return to the chapel, Father Eiringer was given the privilege of cutting the red ribbon at the chapel doorway. His Grace then proceeded to say a Low Mass during which the Sisters sang hymns. In his sermon the Archbishop first mentioned that he offered Mass in thanksgiving and also for "the Poor Souls buried here at your doorstep." "We congratulate," continued the Bishop, "your zealous and active pastor, all previous pastors, the Sisters, the people of the parish, and the Bishop and the Diocese." The Archbishop again remarked about the "zealous pastor who has provided a commodious home on this extensive property far from the noise and distractions of the world where the Sisters can pray, work, and recreate free from interruption." He reminded the group that this was another step in the growth of the stable parish, where the school has grown and will continue to grow in the years ahead. Due to the pressures upon teachers, the Bishop noted that it is important that the faculty is well taken care of both physically and spiritually. Open House for the parishioners to see the convent was May 7 from 2-4 in th afternoon. The people were impressed with the beauty and simplicity of the home as they toured it. Parishioner Allen Laubenthal was ordained on May 20.



REV. ALLEN LAUBENTHAL

Pentecost Sunday, May 21, was the day selected this year for First Holy Communion for the classs of sixty-seven children. The long awaited and happy day of graduation finally arrived for the fifty-two eighth graders on May 28. The class attended 9:30 Solemn High Mass celebrated by the newly ordained Father Allen Laubenthal, a former pupil of St. Peter School. Msgr. Halloran spoke during the sermon of the joys and sacrifices of the priestly life. Only four hundred and ten children were welcomed back to school this year, a drop of thirty-eight from last year's enrollment. The pastor and Sister Mary Celine Therese, principal, have been trying to limit the classes to about fifty children each, therefore, we did not accept any new students this year. Bishop Floyd L. Begin officiated at the Confirmation of one hundred sixty-three children from our school and the Confraternity classes on November 27. Thirty-seven boys and ten men marched into church before the Midnight Christmas Eve Mass to sing carols; the vested choir did very well in their rendition of the old favorites. The servers in white cassocks joined the Pastor and the two assistants in the procession to the crib. It was very beautiful and simple.

1962

Sunday, May 21, was a day of many graces for the parish. At the 9:00 Mass one hundred twenty children received their First Holy Communion and at the 12:15 Mass, Forty Hours Devotion began. On Monday afternoon, May 22, one of the eighth graders, Stephen Hujo, was out delivering his papers. He turned his bike into the path of an oncoming car and was killed. Steve had been a server and therefore was laid out in a red cassock and lace surplus. The accident made a deep impression on the school children and there seemed to be a deepening of the spiritual outlook among them. The graduation of the forty-five students was held on June 2. When our school reopened its doors on Sept. 4, there were four hundred twenty-two students, with one hundred fifty-seven students in the Sunday Catechism classes. Every grade except one had over fifty in the room. Seven girls from this year's graduating class left North Ridgeville to enter the Aspirant school of the Sisters of Notre Dame. A severe snow storm with heavy snowfall paralyzed the town and closed the school from December 7 to the 17.

1963

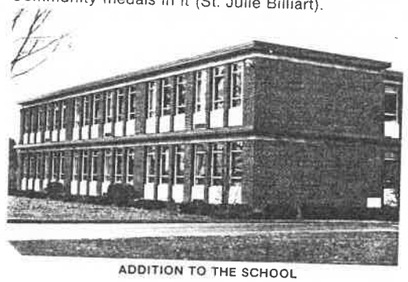
On May 18, eighty-eight children made their First Holy Communion. Monsignor Halloran was ill and in the hospital so the services were conducted by Father Jacoby. Fifty-four eighth graders graduated on June 4. Auxiliary Bishop Clarence E. Elwell consecrated the church altars on August 17. It was a very historical event for the parish since nothing had been previously consecrated. The ceremony itself was divided into three parts: (1) the blessing of the altar with Gregorian waters; (2) the placing of the relics of two canonized martrys in the sepulchre; and (3) the consecration of the altar. During the Consecration the Bishop formed five crosses with blessed grains of incense on the altar that had previously been blessed with water and chrism. Above these grains he placed tapers in the form of a cross. These were lighted so that the incense would also be burned. Then the clergy wiped the oil and other substances off the altar. A group of lay men and women then prepared the altar for Holy Mass. School opened and there were four hundred two children, fifty-two in the first grade. Unfortunately, for that class alone, twenty-two others had to be turned away because of lack of room and facilities. At Christmas, the school children were again visited by Santa, this time in the person of Miss Guinta, the third grade teacher. A precocious first grader announced that he thought the voice sounded more like Miss Guinta than Santa.

1964

At 2:30 p.m. on January 18, Msgr. Roman Bacher, pastor at St. Michael's, Cleveland, was buried in our cemetery. Every year Monsignor Halloran invited a Vincentian Father to conduct a Solemn novena in honor of the Miraculous Medal to be given in our parish. This year, Rev. John McGee was chosen by his community to give the nine day devotion at St. Peter's from February 2 until the 11. The church was filled each evening. On February 21, Father Carty gave a lecture to the school children and a few days later to the parishioners on Theresa Newman and Padre Pio. On the night of April 8, David Behm, a sixth grader at the school, was hit on Route 76 while riding home on his bike. He died later at Elyria Memorial Hospital. The school children prayed much for him. Even the little ones said their own stations of the cross with their own cross bearer, reader and acolytes. The servers took turns standing guard at the coffin until the funeral. On May 21, at 7:30 p.m., our first graders gave a culminating circus for their parents. Monsignor graced the occasion as a giraffe. On May 24, fifty-one of the school children and forty-seven from the C.C.D. classes received their First Holy Communion. Graduation of the forty-seven eighth graders took place on June 2. A development fund drive was started to raise money to increase our school facilities. In July, the "old school", which had served as a House of Worship, a place of instruction, a home for our Sisters, and a meeting place for our societies, was razed to make room for the erection of our new school addition. The new addition was built on the foundation of the old school. The new facilities added six rooms with provisions for adding six more inthe future. Since the old school building had been torn down and the work on the new school began late in August, the school was short two classrooms when it opened in September. The sixth and seventh graders were placed in the Church basement. A semi-curtain separated the two classes. The children used the Bingo tables as desks. Each class had a portable blackboard. The new school was to be ready in November, but since work had progressed very slowly, it was not used during the scholastic year. Sisters and teachers met parents in an Open House which lasted from 2:00 until 4:00 on October 18. The Vincentian Fathers conducted a two-week mission for the parish from November 5 to 19. During the last three days the priests met also with the children for noon Holy Mass and a sermon. On the last day, all received the Papal Blessing. Father Jacoby was succeeded as assistant by Father Bernard Tierney.

1965

Before 12:15 Sunday Mass on May 16, a group of parishioners, altar boys, Sisters and priests "gathered for the blessing of the Cornerstone" of the addition to the school building. It was a very simple ceremony. Monsignor Halloran blessed the cornerstone, placed a steel box in it, and cemented it closed. The day before, May 15, the Sisters had placed some of their Community medals in it (St. Julie Billiart).



ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL

At 11:00, May 18, Monsignor Halloran said a low Mass to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Present were many Monsignori, priests, all the school children and a few relatives of the Monsignor. The congregation prayed and sang aloud. After Holy Mass all the priests were invited for a dinner in the Church basement. The Monsignor declared that the school children could have the rest of the day off and so all had a wonderful time outside in the bright sunshine. Archbishop Hoban arrived to congratulate his personal friend Msgr. Halloran. The sixth and seventh grade students spent May 17-18 in two hastily prepared classrooms of the new school, because of the jubilee preparations for Monsignor Halloran in the church basement. The students used card tables and chairs. Both teachers and pupils were glad to move back to the Church basement. On May 19, the entire school celebrated Monsignor's Silver Jubilee by having class presentations. Each class's section was 10 minutes long. The school gave Monsignor Halloran a hand-lettered "Jubilee Blessing" plaque and a check. The plaque matched the Irish Blessing plaque that they had previously given him on March 17. Monsignor gave

the children free ice cream and the rest of the afternoon plus another day off. The 1965 enrollment in the school was four hundred ten. There were two hundred twenty-three in the Sunday Catechism Classes. At 12:15 on May 30 Monsignor Halloran offered the first English High Mass in our Church. It began the parish celebration of the jubilee. Many persons received invitations to the dinner celebration, held in the cafeteria of Ridgeville High. In the evening there was a reception in the Church basement. Due to the directives from Bishop Clarence E. Elwell, Superintendent of Schools, we eliminated the formal school graduation. Since diplomas were ordered before the directive was received, the eighth grade did receive them. There was Holy Mass for the whole school. The Monsignor then said a few words and passed out the diplomas. The eighth grade went to their classroom, received their report cards, and were dismissed. September 7 was the happy day of the opening of the new school. Workmen were around to the last minute before school opened. Grades five, six, seven and eight were the lucky occupants of the new building. The new section was built on the same location as the old school and Sisters' convent. Our library was moved into the new building. The office was re-established in the new building and the old office room was made into a lay teachers room. Now the lay teachers did not have to go outside and down the steps to get to their room. We added another first grade this year. The number of students was reduced to thirty-five in each room. In order to give the children a greater opportunity to prepare for First Holy Communion, this great day was postponed until the beginning of the third grade. On October 3, fifty boys and forty girls received their First Holy Communion. The children themselves answered all the responses of the Mass and sang appropriate hymns. Monsignor's sermon was very informal; he left the pulpit and came down the middle aisle to ask the children some questions. Father Young a Franciscan, who was originally from St. Mary's inElyria, conducted a solemn novena in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Each night Father spoke about a different apparition of the Blessed Virgin. His main theme was Mary's universality in appearing to various people of various states in life and in various social standings. Father's sermons were informative and inspirational. The Sisters of Notre Dame were given permission to drive automobiles. A parish drive was started to provide a car for the Sisters.

1966

Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann came to confirm one hundred seventy-eight Confirmandi on March 6. The Bishop gave a fatherly talk to the children and asked questions. The children responded well. On June 1, the eighth graders and their parents attended the 8:00 Mass. Father gave a little talk and presented the graduates with a diploma. An honor assembly was planned on June 7 to give all the children who had been outstanding students during the year a proper recommendation for their labors. Honor certificates were presented by Monsignor. School reopened on September 6, with four hundred thirty-one eager-and not so eager students! Many classes looked forward to enjoying their year in nicely carpeted classrooms which were done during the last few months before school had let out in June. There were two hundred thirty-five students in the Sunday Catechism Classes. September 12 brought with it a surprise for the Sisters. As the Sisters were leaving church after the Monday night novena, Monsignor was waiting for all of them. He presented them with a 1965 White Chevrolet Bel Aire. Monsignor handed the keys to the principal and the Sisters had their first "spin" from the Church to the back door of the convent. The car was purchased with the donations made by the parishioners since December of 1965. There were seventy-eight third graders from St. Peter's School and the public schools who received their First Holy Communion on October 2. November 12 was the first open house of the school since the new section was completed. It was postponed last year since the library furniture had not arrived. The parents were greatly impressed withthe children's work, the new school building and improvements in the old, our library, and our audio-visual equipment. On December 6, children from the school and people from the parish brought in food to be packaged and shipped to India where the Sisters of Notre Dame have a mission. The response was gratifying - 820 pounds of food finally packaged into 37 boxes.

1967

Early in March (March 6), the furnace in the new convent went out. The furnace man came the next day and found he could do nothing to help. He surmised that there was water in the gas line. The gas company was called and they came out late at night but said that they could do nothing. They, too, surmised water in the gas line. The plumbers were called and they substantiated the surmise. There was indeed water in the gas line. This meant that all the gas pipes had to be replaced. The gas line was connected to the Church which meant that the pipes ran under the creek. The job took a little over a week. In the meantime, one kind parishioner came every three to four hours to pump water out of the gas line so that those in the convent would not be too indisposed. Another parishioner sent over a whole meal since there was only an electric skillet left on which the Sisters could cook. Forty-six eighth graders received their diplomas after the 8:00 Mass on June 2. School re-opened on September 6 with four hundred nineteen students. The primary grades averaged thirty to thirty-five pupils per room while the upper grades numbered in the high forties. The enrollment for the Sunday Catechism Classes was two hundred forty-two. One extra Sister was added to the faculty this year bringing the total to seven. People of the Diocese were given the opportunity for suggesting the priest of their choice for the position of Bishop. The names of three priests with the most votes would be forwarded from our parish to the Bishop's office. Tuesday, September 12, proved to be a day of departure and arrival: Monsignor Halloran left to take on the pastorate at St. Thomas More. Father Nicholas Novosel came in the evening from Christ the King, Akron, Ohio, to take up his duties at St. Peter's. Father Tierney was transferred and Father E. J. Murray assisted until he was replaced by Father Richard Ziegler. First Holy Communion was set for October 15 for sixty-five girls and thirty-three boys. Father



REV. NICHOLAS NOVOSEL



REV. NEIL O'CONNOR

Novosel guided the meeting of the P.T.U. by his advice and explanations. The principal of the school commented on the needs of the school. Election of officers then took place. Mr. Vessalo, as the newly-elected president, concluded the meeting. On December 5, a Christmas dinner was held. The evening started with a full course meal at 6:15 followed by games with prizes.

1968

For the second time in one school year the parish had the joy of seeing one hundred seven second graders receive their First Holy Communion, April 21. To help the children prepare for living in a scientific world, the school conducted a three day science fair. Children from eight grades were encouraged to prepare their projects and enter them in the fair. Many parents visited the fair on Sunday, and the winning projects were set aside to be entered into the Diocesan School Fair. Our Science Fair was held May 4-6. On June 3, forty-four eighth graders received their diplomas from Father Novosel. When school reopened in September, there were four hundred fifty-one students. The Sunday Catechism classes had an enrollment of two hundred thirty-two. The P.T.U. sponsored a series of ten-cent dinners to raise money for the parish school. A new parish program was designed to give adults a better understanding of the "Truths of Our Faith". Topics discussed were Christ, The Resurrection, Faith, Holy Spirit, The Church, The Apostolate of the Layman, etc.

1969

First Holy Communion services were held on April 13, at 3:00 in the afternoon for one hundred ten children of our school and C.C.D. classes. On Saturday, May 10, at 11:00, Bishop Cosgrove officiated at the Confirmation of one hundred sixteen children from our school and the C.C.D. classes. May 18 was the date of the annual Science Fair for children of the school from grades one through eight. Parishioner Neil O'Connor was ordained into the priesthood on May 31. On June 1, he celebrated his first Mass here at St. Peter's. This was the first vocation to the priesthood in several years. Many sisters and laity celebrated with Father the joys of the day.

On the evening of June 2, forty-three eighth graders received their diplomas at graduation exercises conducted in Church by Father Novosel. The school enrollment was four hundred seventy-six when school reopened on September 4. The number attending Catechism classes was three hundred nineteen. Thursday, December 19 marked a first at St. Peter's School when the entire faculty along with our pastor, Father Novosel, and the assistant, Father Ziegler, enjoyed a catered Christmas meal together.

1970

First Communion was held on April 5, Good Shepherd Sunday at the 8 o'clock Mass for one hundred twenty-three second graders of the school and C.C.D. classes. On May 28 the eighth graders participated in a day of recollection conducted by Father Tezie. The day was well spent in prayer, discussion, and climaxed by Holy Mass. Forty eighth graders graduated from St. Peter's School on June 7. The Parish picnic was held August 16 at Klinects Picnic Grounds. The first prize for the raffle of the picnic was a Chrysler station wagon. The parish made a profit of $8,000. Tuesday morning, September 1, found five hundred nine students beginning school at St. Peter's. The C.C.D. class enrollment was three hundred thirty-one. An Ecumenical Service on Tuesday evening, November 24, was held in St. Peter's Church to thank God for His blessings and benefits. Two ministers from the neighboring Protestant churches joined with Father Novosel and Father Ziegler in conducting the celebration. Work on a "crying room" in the church to be utilized by parents with small children was begun. A new heating system was installed in the church in preparation for the installation of air-conditioning.

1971

At the 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday, April 18, the children from St. Peter's School and the C.C.D. classes made their First Holy Communion. There were sixty-two girls and fifty-six boys. A vocation day was held for the eighth graders on May 7. The State Inspector, Mrs. Putman, visited our school on Tuesday, May 11. Eighth Grade graduation was held on Sunday, June 6. There were forty-five graduates. On Sunday evening, August 15, the parishioners of St. Peter's had their farewell for Father Novosel who was transferred to St. Mary's, Mentor. On Tuesday, August 17, Father Liam (William) Kitt arrived. Father Kitt came from Ascension parish in Akron to take up his duties as Pastor at St. Peter's. Sunday morning, September 5, was the official installation of Father Kitt as pastor of St. Peter's Church. Father Engelhart, Dean of the Lorain Deanery officiated. Holy Mass on Tuesday morning, September

7, ushered in the first day of school. The enrollment was four hundred and ninety-two for the regular school three hundred and sixty-three for Catechism classes. A fire broke out in the choir loft of our church on Monday night, September 27. It was about 9 o'clock when the sirens were heard. Over the radio the news flashed that there was a fire in St. Peter's Church. Members of the parish were immediately on hand to help. The fire was extinguished in short time. There was smoke damage to the church and the organ was damaged. The following day, ladies of the parish showed up to clean the soot from the pews and the walls. The damage was estimated at $25.000. The church interior was repainted and the organ was repaired. During the year the cemetery was placed in the care of Harold Bogner, the director of the local funeral home. Also during the year, the creek was covered with cement slabs and a new concrete bridge was installed in place of the wooden pedestrian bridge which was then taken down. Four new garages for maintenance equipment were built. In order to accommodate the changes in liturgy, a folk Mass was added to the weekend Mass schedule. The folk Mass was given the Saturday, 5 o'clock time. A daily Mass was added to the school schedule so that the school children are assured of a special weekday Mass every two weeks. Parishioners were asked if any of them were interested in forming a Steering Committee to establish the guidelines for the formation of a Parish Council. The Parish Council would function as an instrument through which the parishioners (clergy, religious, and laity) might become involved in the planning, initiating, evaluating, and the decision-making of programs and projects of the parish. The following formed the Steering Committee:

Father R. Ziegler	Dorthy Genson
Sister Mary Joan of Arc, SND	Bernard Noll
Judy Ansbro	Eileen Ruppelt
Cathi Burke	Donald Smith
Robert Burke	Jim Vanek
John Butkowski	John Vopat

1972

On Monday evening, February 28, Sister Mary Maurya gave her first of three talks to the parents of the First Communicants. The purpose of initiating these talks was to enable the parents to share in the preparation of their children for First Communion. This year First Communion was on Saturday, April 12. There were two Masses, one at 9:00 and one at 11:00. Altogether there were one hundred fifty-five First Communicants, seventy-two from St. Peter's, and eighty-three from C.C.D. Bishop William Cosgrove came Sunday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Including the adults, there were three hundred twenty-five to be Confirmed. The children wore red robes which added to the solemnity of the occasion. Our school had its first Field Day on Ascension Day, May 11. The children of grades 1-4 participated in the morning. The afternoon was given over to grades 5-8. Events included ball throwing, jumping, running, and other skills. Father Kitt, our pastor, presented the winners with trophies and ribbons. There was a special Mass on Sunday evening, June 4, at 7:30 for the graduates. Before the Offertory, the children received their diplomas. Scholarships were awarded to John Vandenberg, Ellen Serazin, and David Diederich. School opened for another interesting year on Tuesday morning, September 5. The schedule had been adjusted and school opened at 7:50 a.m., had a forty-five minute break for lunch, and closed at 2:25 p.m. The total enrollment for St. Peter's School was five hundred seven. The C.C.D. class total was five hundred nine. The lay council Steering Committee met diligently through the year to establish the Council Guidelines, Constitution, and Commissions. Their work culminated with a parish election in December. In order to represent all parishioners, the following people would be elected: One Senior citizen (sixty years plus) will be elected for a two year term. Six adults (19-59 years) receiving the largest number of votes would serve two years with the next seven for one year. A High School Senior would be elected for one year and a High School Junior for two years. All subsequent elections would be for a two year term. In addition to the elected members, the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, and School Principal would serve on the Council. Ballots were mailed to all registered parishioners by December 3, and were collected at Masses on December 9 and 10. The following were elected to the parish Council:

Two Year Terms:

Otto Laubenthal, Beth Forthofer, Al Jurco, John Vessalo, Mary Zacharies, Bernard Noll, William Yonkof, and Frank Masny.

One Year Terms:

Darlene Lovell, Kathleen Forthofer, Ken Schneider, Tom Edwards, Mary Serazin, Jim Fischer, Betty Zywczyk, and Jerry Barna.

Sister Mary Jane Elizabeth (Superior and School Principal), Father Kitt, and Father Ziegler represented the religious and clergy on the Council. Lay ministers of the Eucharist were commissioned to help and women were added as Lectors and Cantors. The girls were added to all the C.Y.O. programs. Re-activated were the Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, and Legion of Mary Societies.

1973

At the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, April 28, eighty second graders of the C.C.D. class received our Divine Savior for the first time. This same privilege was afforded seventy-four second graders of St. Peter's school at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on the same day. On Monday, June 4, our eighth grade students spent the day at St. Joseph's Monastery in Avon, Ohio. Father James Viall, from St. Phillip and James in Lakewood, conducted a day of recollection for them there. Three novices and three postulants from Notre Dame Educational Center led the discussion groups after the conference and played the guitars and assisted with the singing at the outdoor Mass which was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Father Kitt and Father Ziegler were also present at the Mass for the forty-nine eighth grade graduates: the students received their diplomas after the homily, and scholarships were awarded to Paula Vessalo and Edwin Carandang. Early in the year the mortgage on the church was finally paid off. To

celebrate the occasion properly, the mortgage was burned by Father Kitt at a 4:00 Mass during the Fun Fest. St. Peter's, North Ridgeville, was one of the few schools selected to conduct a two week workshop for teacher aides from July 2-13. Sister Mary Jane Elizabeth was named superior and head of the workshop. The enrollment for St. Peter's was five hundred fifty-seven; the C.C.D. students numbered five hundred eighty-six. On Friday, September 14, our associate pastor, Father Ziegler, left St. Peter's to take up new duties at Holy Family in Stowe, Ohio. He was replaced by Father Charles Ryba from Barberton, Ohio. On Sunday, September 23, the parishioners of St. Peter's gathered in the church hall to bid farewell to Father Ziegler and to welcome Father Ryba. A musical program was given by the choir and speeches and presentations were made by the head of the various organizations. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the parish. Ecumenical Services were conducted at St. Peter's on Thanksgiving Day. A social hour followed in the church hall. On Saturday, December 1, at the 11:00 Mass, Bishop William Cosgrove, assisted by our pastor, Father Kitt, and our assistant pastor, Father Ryba, administered the sacrament of Confirmation to two hundred thirty students from St. Peter's school and C.C.D. John Smith of grade seven (St. Peter's School) gave the welcome address to the Bishop, while Elizabeth Sliva of the C.C.D. presented the basket of roses. The readings and petitions were done by members of the class. The Parish Council established the following commissions: Maintenance, Finance, Planning, Liturgy, Education, and Parish Relations and Ecumenism. The site for the construction of a proposed gym was chosen. The gym would be located on the land on which had been standing the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Horvatin, our custodian, to the west of the rectory. Mr. and Mrs. Horvatin generously relinquished rights to the house and the land was vacated for construction. A building fund had been established for the new gym. A parish "Fun Fest" was held in June to raise money for the new gym. A ticket raffle was held with twenty trips as prizes. The Fun Fest was a success and raised approximately $28,000. Sister Agnesmarie, new superior and school principal, replaced Sister Mary Jane Elizabeth on the Parish Council. Parish Council elections were held in December with the following being elected: Jim Fischer, Mary Ann Serazin, Darlene Lovell, Jerry Barna, Bernadine Butkowski, Jim Vanek, Ginny Yeager. Beth Forthofer and Mary Zacharias resigned and were replaced by Terri Lysaght and Lew Barclay. The church hall downstairs was renovated as well as the railings and porches at all the church entrances. A parish sign-board was purchased and installed to advertise our various events. C.Y.O. football was added to the list of our many activities.

1974

Bids for the construction of the new gym were opened on January 4. Bids were received from five construction firms and were sent to the Diocesan Chancellory for approval. The bid from McGinty Building Company was selected. Their bid was $374,100.00. An appreciation dinner and Mass was held at the parish as an expression of gratitude to all those parishioners who were actively involved in the parish during the year. On January 27 at 4:00 p.m. Mass was offered and was followed by the buffet-style appreciation dinner. The Liturgy Commission sponsored a program entitled "The History of the Liturgy of the Mass" for all the parishioners on Fridays from March 1 through April 5.

Peter's Post, the school newsletter, was initiated by the Education Commission of the parish early in the year. Miss Ann Fitzpatrick was placed in charge of the newsletter. Volume 1, Number 1 was published for distribution on Sunday, March 3, *Peter's Post* was begun as an effort to keep parishioners informed about the activities of the parish day school and C.C.D. programs. In March it was also decided that the parish approve the Catholic Universe Bulletin parish coverage plan so that every family in St. Peter's parish would be able to receive it. This was an attempt to somehow provide continuing religious education for all adults. Diocesan approval for the actual construction of the gym came in March. At that time also a new driveway easement was presented to the school board for approval. On Tuesday, April 16, as the Sisters were returning home from a convention held in Cleveland, the car they were driving "gave out." Since the repair on the car would have required a considerable outlay of funds, Father Kitt and the finance committee decided to purchase a new car which arrived at the parish convent on April 19. A construction loan for the gym was taken out through Lakewood First Federal Savings and Loan for $300,000 at an interest rate of 8¼%. The entire First Communion Class from both St. Peter's and the C.C.D. had a total of one hundred forty children. First Communion took place on April 27. On May 7, two large bulldozers arrived and began excavation for the new gymnasium. The land had been previously cleared of many large and beautiful trees. On Thursday, May 16, Father Robert Mayer, S.J., the brother of Sister Mary St. Ignatius, S.N.D., and a missionary in India, came to the school to speak to the children and to show them slides of his missionary activities in India. The children were impressed and appreciative. At the evening Mass on Tuesday, June 4, fifty-five eighth graders graduated from St. Peter's. The two annual P.T.U. Scholarships of $100 each were awarded to Margaret Schuerger and Robert Sabo, both of whom planned to attend Elyria Catholic High. The summer Fun Fest netted approximately $21,000 for the Gym Building Fund. During the month of June, the constitutionality of House Bill 993 was upheld for Ohio and $81 million was released to the Ohio non-public schools for auxiliary services. These services were to provide remedial reading teachers, speech and hearing therapists, guidance counseling, auxiliary materials, etc., to the non-public schools. During the summer months, seminarians Martin Smith and Dale Staysniak were employed by the parish and they worked especially on the census of the parish contacting close to 900 families. On August 22, a workshop was held here for teacher aides. Sister Mary Paul Rene stationed at St. Gregory, South Euclid, was the guest speaker at the first half-day workshop for mothers who would serve as volunteer teacher-aides in the classrooms. The mothers, who attended two all-

morning sessions, received information on professional ethics, teacher assistance, and the importance of home school communication. On August 28, the first faculty meeting for St. Peter's School for the 1974-1975 school year was conducted. The meeting was mainly devoted to an explanation of the government funds allocated to our school this year out of the $81 million provided through House Bill 993. Our allocation was $187,000 which was used throughout the year to purchase auxiliary services (audio-visual aides, remedial reading teachers, and a speech and hearing therapist, etc.) and a number of other sorely needed materials. Five hundred and sixty-three children began school at St. Peter's on September 4. There were four hundred sixty-two students enrolled in the Saturday Catechism classes. Religious instruction for four and five year olds began on October 6 when the Preschool Program was initiated at our parish. Ninety-five children attended the weekly classes held in the school during the 11:00 Mass on Sunday. There were seventeen children in each of the three and four year old groups and fifteen children in each of the five year old groups. The six teachers and mothers involved with planning crafts worked under the direction of Sister Mary Paularose, along with the co-ordinators, Cathi Burke and Marie Fera. The aim of the program was to help the young child grow in an awareness of God and his gifts to us. During the year Father John Murphy, from Borromeo, who had occasionally come to our parish to help out with Mass on the weekends, became a permanent weekend helper. With the added help on the weekday evenings as supplied by Father Gaetano since 1972, Father Kitt and Father Ryba were able to offer Mass daily in the convent chapel. Mr. Ron Engel, director of the high school C.C.D. program, set up special education religion classes which began on October 27. These classes were held in the school during the 11:00 o'clock Sunday Mass. Months of preparation preceded the first Communal Anointing of the Sick offered at St. Peter's Church on October 20. All religious education classes explained the meaning of the sacrament and the eighth grade at St. Peter's School made posters announcing the day of the reception of the sacrament, the banner used at the liturgy and the memorial cards which were given to the forty parishioners who received the sacrament at that time. After the concelebrated Mass which incorporated the Anointing, refreshments were served, giving everyone an opportunity to meet those who had received the sacrament. To help defray the building expenses of the gym and to give each child at St. Peter's School the satisfaction of having shared in the building project. each grade sponsored one fund-raising activity during the year. Grade eight started off with a cupcake sale; grade seven tried their hand at caramel apple selling; grade six sponsored a spook house held in the school basement and invited everyone to tour it; grade five offered popcorn balls for sale; grade four sold brownies; grade three sponsored a cupcake sale; the second graders sold geraniums (by that time, they were the perfect Mother's Day Gift, too); and grade one had a hand-made articles raffle. Each project netted about $100. The money collected from the various activities was placed in a savings account in order to collect interest until the end of the school year when it would be presented to Father Kitt - along with $1,000 from the Christmas card sale. Reports were made periodically throughout the year on the best and most economical fuel for heating the new gymnasium. With the gas shortage, the expense of electric heating, and other difficulties, propane gas was finally secured for the gym. Because of the crowded conditions on Sundays, an additional 11:00 o'clock Mass was begun on October 3. This Mass was held in the Church basement. The parking lot was extended to include most of the area in front of the convent. This was to accommodate increased crowds at parish activities. Four bids were received for the parking lot work. The accepted bid was $4,500.00 A 10,000 gallon holding tank was installed in October to control the sewage system of the gym until the sewage line had been approved. Even though the parish grounds were repeatedly disturbed for purposes of building growth, they remained natural beautiful settings due to the efforts and generous contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thibo, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pitts, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zemanek.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day had a special meaning at the school. Classes had prepared Bible celebrations and other paraliturgical functions concerning the different saints. Crowns were made for the budding new saints, banners were designed, and dressed-up saints wandered down the halls and into classrooms. The remembrance of the deceased who still awaited eternal happiness expressed itself in prayerful cemetery processions by the various classes, where they paused and prayed by the graves of those they knew and loved. This activity was made especially moving since the school as a community suffered two losses very close together. On July 4, Mrs. Carol Bender, our school secretary for over three years, passed away and Michael Farrell, a young second-grader at the school, died only three days after receiving his First Communion and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on October 11. An adult education series on the Scriptures by Len Zamborsky was held on Monday evenings from November 18 through December 9. An ecumenical service was held at the Lutheran Good Shepherd Of The Ridge Church on Wednesday evening, November 27. Four churches of North Ridgeville were invited to this annual Thanksgiving ecumenical service. Fellowship and refreshments followed the prayer service which was conducted by the ministers and our associate pastor, Father Charles Ryba. November 28, Thanksgiving Day, began with a specially prepared Thanksgiving Mass. Families from the parish were asked to be responsible for different parts of the celebration. All members of the families were encouraged to share their family's contribution: banner, antipendium, procession, etc. Each family was asked to bring up a food offering during the preparation of the gifts. After years of negotiations and hopeful transactions, the parish was able to purchase 10.7 acres of land located from the cemetery to the South rear lot line of Root Road from Northridge Investments (Mr. Frank Detorre) for $21,000, plus the five acres of land owned by the parish from the back of the cemetery through the woods. Included in the agreement was a sixteen foot easement along the east boundary out to Center Ridge Road. The money had been raised through the efforts of Mr.

Harold Bogner and his cemetery assistants in order to pay for the land. The land was needed for additional playground area and for future expansion of the cemetery. Bishop James A. Hickey had signed the authorization for the exchange. In preparation for the 100th anniversary of our parish in 1975, the Parish Council scheduled several events for the Centennial Year including an appreciation dinner, a school program, May crowning, an antique show and sale, a P.T.U. dinner/dance, and a special year-end Mass and dinner for past pastors, priests, sisters, etc. Ever-faithfully, Saint Nick made his appearance at the parish school. He came in the person of Mr. Robert Burke, who brought each child a box of cracker jacks. The Parish Council elections in December resulted in the following people who would serve on the Council: Otto Laubenthal, Bernard Noll, John Vessalo, Clifton Perryman, Frank Masny, Al Jurco, Ruth Fritz, and Teresa Dorrow. Jim Vanek resigned and was replaced by Carolyn Yanik.



LAY COUNCIL

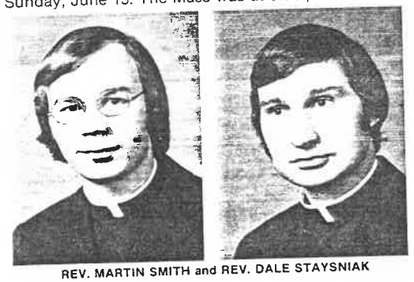
Front L.R.: C. Yanik, R. Fritz, L. Barclay, Fr. Ryba, B. Butkowski, B. Noll, J. Vessalo, Fr. Kitt, O. Laubenthal. Back L.R.: T. Dorow, F. Smith, M. Serazin, D. Lovell, F. Masny. (Missing: Sister Agnes Marie, Clifton Perryman, Anita Terrion, Jim Fischer, Al Jurco, Jerry Barna)

"St. Peter's Hall", as our new gymnasium was named, was completed by the end of the year. Special plans were made for first Masses and othr activities in the gym for the up-coming new year.

1975

Construction of St. Peter's new gymnasium was completed and we celebrated the occasion by offering the Eucharist, celebrated by Father Kitt. On Sunday, January 12, the parishioners assembled for the celebration of the 11:00 Mass in the new gymnasium. Members of the various parish organizations and commissions were special participants in the liturgy. The entire school participated in the liturgy on Tuesday, January 14, at 1:00. The Mass of Dedication for a Building was the reminder that all of the activities in the gym were meant to bring glory and honor to God and a sense of accomplishment to those who used the gym. On the following day, Saturday, January 18, the children in the C.C.D. classes participated in a similar liturgy. The special altar used for these occasions in the gym was from the Diederich family. The spirit and joy of these opening celebrations was evident - our long awaited gymnasium had become a reality. The first Bingo game held in the new gym took place on January 15. There were about 450-500 people in attendance and $2,000 was netted that evening. The games had been revamped and door prizes had been added to the event. A special Bingo card booth was constructed by Mr. James Traut for the parish. Parent sessions for the Sacramental Preparation for the reception of First Penance began with an opening session introducing and explaining the program to the parents and children. This was held on two evenings to accommodate the one hundred eighty-two children and their parents. Nearly all the families involved attended the first session conducted by Sister Paularose on Monday, January 20, at 8:00 p.m. Father Ryba spoke to the parents on the theme of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Parish Appreciation Dinner was held in the new gymnasium on Sunday, January 26. Flowers for the occasion were the donations of the Diederich family. Visitation of the sick and the shut-ins of the parish was begun on February 2 by the lay ministers of the parish. The "rafters" of the new gymnasium literally rang out on February 28 as the entire school presented to their families and friends the centenary program entitled "Peter's Challenge." The program portrayed the history of our parish in narration, slides, song, and dance. The sixth grade "shadow play" on the call of St. Peter set the tone for the evening program. St. Peter was made head of a church that was to expand and grow. Looking back on our parish's growth was made very entertaining through the use of slides made from old photographs contributed by some of the elder members of the parish. There were songs and square dances as the children looked to the challenges of today and tomorrow. Over one thousand people attended the program; together with the five hundred children in the program, the gymnasium was put to the test of space and passed with flying colors. The program was an immense success and enjoyed by all who attended. The eighty second graders of our parish school received the Sacrament of Penance on Thursday evening, March 6, during a Penance service. The evening was chosen so that the parents would be present to celebrate the sacrament with their children. Refreshments were served in the school basement for the families. Approximately one hundred C.C.D. children received the sacrament on Saturday morning, March 8. The ceremony in church was followed by refreshments served to the families. An Ecumenical Prayer Service was held on March 28 at 7:30 at the First Congregational Church. Our assistant, Father Charles Ryba, and three other ministers shared the pulpit as they spoke on the seven last words of Christ on the Cross, the chosen topic for the day, Good Friday. A Diocesan Workshop for Pre-school Religion was held at the Religious Education Office on the campus of Borromeo Seminary on Saturday, April 5. Five of the mothers involved in our parish Pre-school program and the director attended the workshops which included talks on children's liturgies, home and classroom celebrations, and the basics of a pre-school program. A Day of Renewal for the parish was held on Sunday, April 6, from 1-6:15 at the Fathers of St. Joseph's House on Case Road in Avon. The First Communion liturgy was celebrated for our one hundred and two C.C.D. children at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26. At an 11:00 Eucharist, the eighty children of our parish school received our Lord. The services were very inspirational and the children's participation enhanced the beautiful celebration of their first reception of our Lord. The Diocesan meeting for

the St. Vincent de Paul Society was held at our parish on May 10. The Society began their meeting with the Eucharistic celebration at 3:00 in the parish church with Bishop James A. Hickey. A luncheon followed in the gym at 4:00, where the meeting was also conducted. As part of their contribution of the celebration of the centennial year of our parish, the Altar and Rosary Society planned to sponsor a May crowning. The May crowning took place on May 29 at 7:30 in our church. The students of St. Peter's School and membrs of the Altar and Rosary Society participated in a Living Rosary followed by the crowning and then Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Margaret Jurco, an eighth grader of the parish school, crowned the statue of our Lady that had been placed in front of the sanctuary. All parishioners were invited to attend. May 29 also marked Field Day at the parish school. During Field Day the children of the school performed a series of gymnastic and athletic exercises and were rated for their performance according to a point system. On May 30, honors were given out to those students who successfully achieved on these exercises during the Field Day Awards assembly. At the assembly, the school children presented Father Kitt with the check that represented their gym building fund efforts during the year and the money from the Christmas card sales. The total amount was $2,000. Graduation for the eighth graders was held inChurch on Monday, June 9. The eighth graders processed into the Church and before the evening Mass began, they viewed a reflective slide presentation highlighting the events of the year that were periods of growth and maturing for them. The two P.T.U. Scholarships were awarded to Indra Klein and Margaret Jurco. After the graduation, refreshments were offered to the graduates and their families in the school hall. Rev. Martin Smith and Rev. Dale Staysniak, two newly ordained boys from our parish, concelebrated their first Mass in St. Peter's Church on Sunday, June 15. The Mass was at 3:00 p.m.



REV. MARTIN SMITH and REV. DALE STAYSNIAK

After the Mass, parishioners, friends and relatives of the newly ordained priests were invited to offer their congratulations to them at the reception provided in the new gym. The reverence and beauty of the celebration impressed all those present. The annual Fun Fest scheduled for June was not quite as successful as usual, yet it was still a parish activity that united those parishioners involved. During July a parish picnic was sponsored by the Holy Name Society in conjunction with the celebration of the parish centennial. The picnic was held on our own parish grounds. A summer School Bible Program was sponsored in connection with the Ecumenical groups in the area. Fields Methodist Church, the First Congregational United Church of Christ and St. Peter's, all participated in the program which used the facilities of the Congregational Church. The program was coordinated through the efforts of Mrs. Rita Yule and was especially designed for children between the ages of three and twelve. So successful was the program that the children were looking forward to another program in the future. On August 9 and 10 an Antique Show and Sale was held in the new gymnasium. There was some Diocesan news that made a special impression on the people of our parish. Father John Murphy, a teacher from Borromeo seminary, who assisted with Masses in our parish on weekends, was named Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. Parishioners were proud of the appointment but retained the hope of still seeing Father around on weekends. When school opened its doors on September 4 to a new school year and to five hundred seventy-nine eager and other not-so-eager students, there were more students than the building could hold. Because of the crowded conditions at the school and because the parents recognized the importance and significance of a Catholic education for their children, plans were made to send those children on our waiting list to St. Mary School in Avon. Twenty-one children of St. Peter's Parish attended classes there. Transportation was worked out for those children through the public school bus system. During the summer the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled a Pennsylvania non-public school state aid bill unconstitutional. Since the bill was similar to Ohio House Bill 993, our auxiliary monies were also cut off but another bill was then introduced into the Senate (SB170). It provided money for non public schools for text books. The bill had been signed by Ohio Governor Rhodes, but a long delay was expected before the bill would have any practical effect. Thus, the reading specialists and other auxiliary personnel were missing when school reopened in September. At the first P.T.U. meeting, the new parent handbooks were distributed to all families with children in school. Parents were also asked to review and comment on the philosophy of the school as part of the self-study that the school would be undergoing throughout the year. As part of that self-study the program, facilities, personnel, finances, and school/community relations would be studied. Sister Agnesmarie, principal of the school, explained the study to those present. A series of questionnaires were distributed to the parents, the parishioners who did not have children attending the school at the time, the students, the faculty, the administration, and the clergy. The self-study teams worked toward presenting their reports by the beginning of December. The review team was expected to be in school to study the reports and the school in March of 1976. The P.T.U. sponsored a dinner/dance on September 13 in the new gym. The hall had been decorated in a "Bicentennial of the Country" theme. A series of weekly lectures were given by Father Becherer from September 23 to October 21. Father spoke as the Diocesan representative for marriage

counseling. His topics covered all aspects of marriage and family growth. The lectures were extremely well attended - every Tuesday night found the Church basement filled to capacity with standing room only. The Parish was involved in a renewal program from October 16 through 23. It was conducted by a Franciscan, Father Michael Brown, who arrived for the renewal week on his motorcycle. Father had learned how to ride the motorcycle when he was 58 years old. A Family Offertory program was initiated on October 5. The family presenting the offertory gifts would be announced prior to the Mass on Saturday evenings and Sundays. The school project for the closing of the parish celebration of its centennial was a program presented in the new hall on Tuesday, November 25. Combining the themes of parish centennial, our nation's bicentennial, and Thanksgiving Day, the school children delighted the parents, friends, and relatives, through song, dance and playlets of the historic periods of our country. The annual ecumenical services were held on Wednesday, November 26, at Fields Methodist Church. The following day, Thanksgiving Day, was celebrated in the parish by a specially prepared morning liturgy. In preparation for the season of Advent, the Liturgy Commission, in cooperation with the Education Commission, sponsored an Advent Wreath project on November 30 during which parishioners were aided in making their own home advent wreaths. This project was also sponsored last year and the response had increased this year. The various activities scheduled throughout the year, led eventually to the beautiful and inspirational Mass and Closing Ceremonies for the Centennial on December 7. Bishop Hickey , Bishop Issenmann, and a number of other priests and religious who had rendered service to the parish during its century of growth were invited to the concelebrated Mass, followed by a dinner at St. Peter's Hall and the official dedication of the hall by the Bishop. The Commissions in charge of the activity had hoped to plan the Mass, close to December 19 or 25, the historical dates of the parish when the first St. Peter's Church on Avon Belden was originally opened to the parish for dedication ceremonies and first Mass respectively. There was no better way to conclude the first hundred years of our existence as a parish then by returning in gratitude and love to the God who has formed us into a parish community and has given us so much. St. Peter's Parish has ended one century of growth in faith and then, with that same firmness of faith, has begun another.

Deo gratias!

THE GROWTH OF ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

YEAR	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
1876	No record
1877	No record
1878	45
1879	45
1880	No record
1881	40
1882	60
1883	65
1884	70
1885	No record
1886	65
1887	90
1888	77
1889	78
1890	59
1891	97
1892	95
1893	79
1894	79
1895	61
1896	47
1897	49
1898	32
1899	41
1900	43
1901	47
1902	40
1903	45
1904	24
1905	36
1906	30
1907	School discontinued
1908	School discontinued
1909	School discontinued
1910	School discontinued
1911	86
1912	90
1913	92
1914	90
1915	92
1916	90
1917	No record
1918	No record
1919	94
1920	100
1921	No record
1922	112
1923	110
1924	135
1925	130
1926	No record
1927	137
1928	144
1929	155
1930	159
1931	169
1932	171
1933	175
1934	173
1935	173
1936	162
1937	179
1938	184
1939	196
1940	191
1941	194
1942	194
1943	191
1944	192
1945	189
1946	192
1947	192
1948	194
1949	211
1950	210
1951	199
1952	226
1953	284

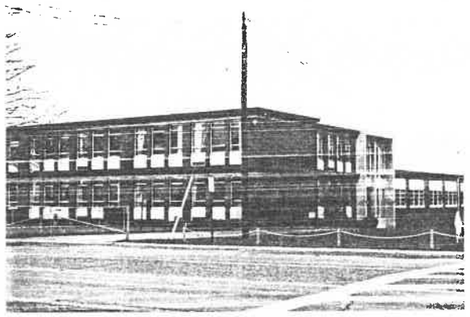
THE GROWTH OF ST. PETER'S SCHOOL (Cont'd.)

YEAR	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
1954	308
1955	375
1956	374
1957	371
1958	444
1959	435
1960	448
1961	410
1962	422
1963	402
1964	398
1965	410
1966	431
1967	419
1968	451
1969	476
1970	509
1971	492
1972	507
1973	557
1974	563
1975	579

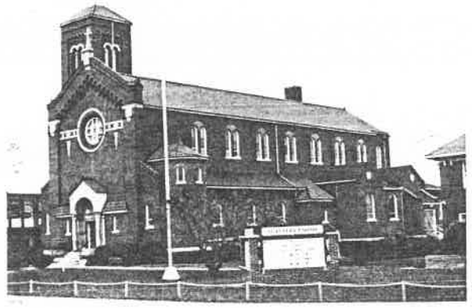
THE GROWTH OF ST. PETER'S C.C.D. CLASSES

YEAR	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
1930	32
1931	31
1932	29
1933	20
1934	20
1935	20
1936	23
1937	19
1938	19
1939	17
1940	27
1941	27
1942	18
1943	27
1944	16
1945	15
1946	15
1947	18
1948	18
1949	25
1950	30
1951	45
1952	35
1953	56
1954	48
1955	No record
1956	46
1957	48
1958	54
1959	72
1960	96
1961	No record
1962	157
1963	239
1964	237
1965	223
1966	235
1967	242
1968	234
1969	319
1970	331
1971	363
1972	509
1973	586
1974	462
1975	506

Parish Facilities 1975



SCHOOL

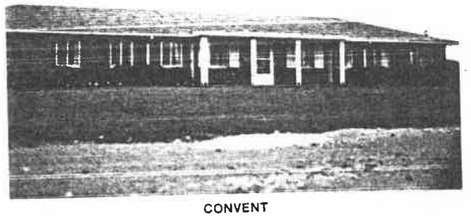


CHURCH



RECTORY

Parish Facilities 1975



CONVENT



GYMNASIUM



PLAYGROUND - CEMETERY