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**Pictures of our Past**

1933
In historic soil, the ground on which stands the present Church of the Sacred Heart in Appleton. It was the scene of Indian warfare and missionary labor, explorers' enthusiasm and fur-traders' bargaining in the seventeenth century. It was under the flags of France and Great Britain before the American flag was raised over it after the Revolutionary War in the eighteenth century. To it flocked migrants and immigrants in the nineteenth century. And only one year before the twentieth century began it saw the founding of a new center of the Faith which was first brought here by the French Jesuit Black Robes.

Spain claimed the whole Mississippi Valley by reason of her conquests and explorations following Columbus' discovery of the New World in 1492. But France held the old Northwest as part of her American empire, and it was a Frenchman, the dauntless and admirable Jean Nicolet, who was the first white man to set foot on Wisconsin soil.

In 1634 he came in a birch bark canoe paddled by Huron Indians, all the immense and perilous distance from the St. Lawrence River by way of Mackinac. He entered Green Bay from Lake Michigan, is said to have voyaged up the Fox River to Lake Winnebago, perhaps even to the present site of Fond du Lac at the lower end of the lake.

In going up or down the Fox, Nicolet and all who followed him would be balked by the falls, so he is supposed to have portaged his canoe until he found a creek which would lead him out of the wilderness back to the stream below or above the rapids and enable him to resume his adventurous voyage. That creek may have been, in some instances, the one that flowed through the ravine between the Henry Frantz and Wenzel Sinkule homes on Lake (now S. Oneida) St. Old timers will remember the creek, which passed through a culvert under Lake St., then through the Poland property and into a little bay of the Fox River. Boys of the 1880s and 1890s called this bay the Bayou, a reminder of the French origins of Wisconsin, of Appleton, and that part of Appleton south of the Fox River, known until recently as the Fourth Ward.

While France held the old Northwest, the river which separates Sacred Heart parish from the northern part of Appleton was used by the Jesuit missionaries, such as Marquette and Allouez; by traders, adventurers, and soldiers. In going up the Fox to Portage and thence down the Wisconsin to discover the Mississippi, Father Marquette must have passed the site of Appleton, in his canoe and on foot when his canoe had to be portaged. He may have landed on the southern shore, been within a few blocks' distance from where Sacred Heart church stands. As for Father Allouez, one account of his journeys says that once his canoe was wrecked in the rapids where Appleton was later located. When the British defeated the French in the struggle for North America, the missionaries and soldiers of France disappeared.

A few of the fur-traders remained, among them the Grignons, whose name is a reminder of our State's and city's history as part of New France.

After the British had formally ceded their former colonies to the United States in
1783, the Ordinance of 1787 created the Northwest Territory out of all the land northward and westward of the Ohio River. This included Wisconsin, where there were only Indians, some half-breeds and a few scattered white settlers. The Fox flowed silently past the future Appleton and what would be the Fourth Ward, and the ax of the pioneer was not yet heard in the thickly-wooded land. Then the Black Hawk War of 1832 drew attention to this part of the Northwest and the first wave of emigration and immigration began. "Wisconsin became the frontier a second time. It was a different sort of frontier this time, but the spirit of adventure and the heroic urge of pioneering were fundamentally the same. The romance of civilization and Christianization began anew, in a widely different form from that of the French trader and missionary." (Bittle, Celestine N., O. F. M. Cap., in "Three Hundred Years of Catholic History in Wisconsin"; The Catholic Herald Citizen, Milwaukee; Dec. 20, 1934; p. 17.) Among the heroes who wrote this nineteenth-century chapter in the Church history of our State were the traveling priests, the Catholic circuit riders who offered up Mass in the log homes of the early settlers along the Fox River and ministered as best they could to the few and scattered Catholics.

Among the many worthy successors of the French Black Robes was the Dutch Dominican Vanden Broek, who is of special interest to us because he worked mainly in the Fox River Valley and because he founded Little Chute, only a few miles from the Fourth Ward. At first an Indian village, then a settlement of immigrants whom Father Vanden Broek brought from the Netherlands, Little Chute had a church to which pioneer Catholics of Appleton and vicinity went for Mass and the Sacraments. The children of the earliest settlers remembered how these traveling priests stopped at their parents' or grandparents' log cabins, on old Lake Road or along another route between the little settlements.

When a great wave of immigration into Wisconsin began about one hundred years ago, the Catholic newcomers were chiefly from Germany and Ireland. Soon there was a considerable settlement on the northern side of the Fox River, but the southern side, later the Fourth Ward, was still almost as much a wilderness as in the days of Nicolet and Marquette. However, one after the other clearings were made and log cabins built and the South Side became something like a little village. A majority of the Catholics who found homes there were Germans and Austrians, with the Irish and Hollanders ranking next in number.
The first Holy Mass in Appleton, not counting any which the French Jesuits may have celebrated, is said to have been offered up in the White Heron, an inn kept by the Grignons at Pecos Point, east of the present Alicia Park. "The date is not definite, but it must be set in 1848 or 1849." (Roemer, Theodore, O. F. M. Cap., St. Joseph in Appleton; 1943, p. 8.)

At that time Appleton was in Milwaukee diocese, which included all of Wisconsin, besides Upper Michigan and Eastern Minnesota.

1859

In 1859, Col. Theodore Conkey, who was not a member of the Church, gave the Catholics of Appleton a piece of land near the Outagamie County court house. It seems that the building of a Church on this site began in August of 1859, but that the church was not completed until October of 1860. This, Appleton's first Catholic Church, was called St. Mary's. It was for all the faithful of the City and vicinity.

1867

In time, differences arose between the Irish and the German members, the latter wishing to have a Parish and Church of their own. Accordingly, a Meeting of the German-speaking parishioners was held on January 1, 1867, and Bishop John Martin Henni of Milwaukee, was asked to sanction the project.

He gave His approval, and so St. Joseph's parish was established on St. Joseph's day, March 19, 1867.

EARLY ATTEMPTS TO ERECT A CHURCH

In spite of the usual early difficulties, both St. Mary's and St. Joseph's prospered. The faithful living on the South Side of the Fox River attended one or the other of these Churches, which were close together and equally distant from the Fourth Ward. Gradually, as their numbers increased, the Fourth Warders began to dream of a Church of their own.

The people of the Fourth Ward were no "milk and water" Catholics who practiced their religion when it was convenient. Although there was a great improvement in religious life on account of the two Churches and a school across the river, many of these staunch Catholics were disheartened because of the laxity of a number of them, who
excused themselves from crossing the river to attend Mass. They feared the effect of this bad example on their children. They felt the need of a Church in their midst, and of having a Priest on hand to look after their Spiritual needs. The more the good Catholics considered the matter, the more reason they found to establish a Parish on the South Side. Surely, they reasoned, if they built a small Church the Bishop of Green Bay would send them a Priest. They argued and encouraged each other in this project.

It is to be regretted that the minutes of the meetings held by these pioneers of the South Side are not available. However, a record of pledges for the establishing of a Parish is at hand one hundred and sixty names are listed. Some of these pledges were given by friends of the South Siders. Contrary to the belief, that the project of the erection of a Parish in the Eighties was carried on without the cooperation of the Bishop of the Diocese, there are the entries of transactions in the Register of Deeds Office at the Court House which show that the Bishop purchased the property for the establishing of a Parish on Aug. 11,

1884

The property located at the corner of Jefferson and Harrison streets was purchased to erect Sacred Heart.

On Feb. 19, 1885, the bishop of Green Bay transferred the Deed to the pioneers under the title of "St. Francis Parish," with signatures of F. X. Krautbauer, Bishop; John Bauer, Secretary; John Vander-Linden, Treasurer; Rev. Bernard Schmitz O.F.M. Cap. Pastor.

Despite the acquisition of the property and the work of erecting the Church, the Pioneers were induced as if by an Act of God, to desist from carrying out their plans. The site of the Proposed Church was on the Southwest corner of Jefferson and Harrison Sts. After the structure had been started, a strong gust of wind came along and destroyed it. All that remained was the foundation.

The builders however were not easily discouraged. They started a second time, and a second time a heavy gale wrecked their work. The project was then abandoned, with the lumber concern volunteering to accept all lumber returned for full credit.

One of the pioneers of the Eighteen-eighties, who was an eye witness of the futile attempt to erect the Church, on being questioned regarding the frustrated
efforts of the Catholics facetiously said "the good Lord did not want the Catholics to have a Church as He was not pleased with them and did not approve their project.' The answer was given, "It might be that God often puts obstacles in the paths of those whom He loves; or that He didn’t want the Faithful to spend their hard earned money in building a Church when He knew that before long there would be one ready-made for their purpose," -the little frame building of the German Methodists at the Northwest corner of Harrison and Monroe Streets.

1887

In 1887, a young energetic pastor came to St. Mary's, Father Walter J. Fitzmaurice. He erected a school there and he was very sympathetic to the people of the South Side. He had studied in Innsbruck and Augsberg and spoke German as well as if he had been born in Germany. He often conversed with these earnest enthusiastic men of the Fourth Ward. He, too, saw that unless the south side had a church of their own, many would fall away. He caught their fervor and determination, he could not let them down. He discussed the possibility of a south side church with Monsignor Fox, the vicar general. The Monsignor (later Bishop) Fox finally delegated Father Fitzmaurice to look for a suitable plot of ground for a church.

Father Fitzmaurice found that Mrs. Amanada West owned a German Methodist church, the minister's house and the barn on the corner lots of Monroe and Harrison streets. Her husband had donated the land to this congregation on condition that it would revert back to him if they ceased to use it for religious purposes. (Appleton Post-Crescent, April 20, 1932, p. 39.)

The church had been idle for several years and there was no hope of the reopening of it. Mrs. West was anxious to dispose of the property before it was ruined by disuse. It was finally agreed that $2,000 was a fair price for the land and buildings. The church was small and needed repairs badly because of its long in occupancy. The minister’s house was typical of the times, having none of the conveniences of the modern house. It was in unkept shape.
Honor Roll

OF THE CATHOLIC PIONEERS OF THE SOUTH SIDE
AND THEIR FRIENDS OF THE EIGHTIES

Matthew Heid
Mary Schulz
H. Moislain
F. W. Eiser
Anton Stark
Wm. Fink
Walter Munch
Joseph Bayer
Mary Gass
John Braun
Peter Faas
M. Schiador
Fred Nabefeld
John Vander Linden
I. Beiseg
I. A. Hubert
John Elseng
John Hassler
Henry Franz
Joseph Faas
Christ Bosser
Henry Vosbeck
A. B. Whitman
F. Kneipl
F. Segert
Andr Segart
Richard Lehrer
Anton Bacher
John Baum
Joy Romar
Anton Muhr
Frank Trierbr
Wil Hafs
Carl Stark
John Van Sten
Wenzel Schmid
John Gossen
Jacob Grassl
Anton Schaefer
Jos Christl
Anton Renz
Ignatz Mauther
Andrew Christl
Hubert Vette
Adrian Ucha
Martin Knijit
Jochem Kassler
Joseph Stelzer
Mich Braun
John Bauer
Aloys Huber
C. Funk
Joachim Bosser
Frank Kugler
E. Weinor
Luis Bovar
Kary Mory
John Schindler
G. Hawley
Fred Lynch
Wm. Pauli
G. Dorow
E. Weng
Gottl. Yung
Louis Umath
John Tracy
Frank Gallagher
Henry Schimberg
John Trierber
Thomas Gonnan
Louis Kole
Joseph Monas
William Bosser
G. Alles
William Bosser
H. Habermeister
H. J. Yomsen
W. Tracy
Baro Brain
John Gossen
John Ryan
John Haebig
G. H. Kamps
John Redner
A. D. Wittman
W. Ballard
Wm. Knorr
George Schudles
Jos Schimmer
Henry Perse
John Recher
Frank Humer
Mrs. Long
Karl Gottfried
John Lossyung
John Bary
Nick Arndt
K. L. Ballac
John Gallzar
Theo Kamps
John Brill
Henry Vandlat
Martin Weinberg
B. W. Murphy
D. Elambach
Peter Manant
George Hobarty
Arnold Vande Hey
Wm. Weinberg
John Sier
Joseph Koffend
Peter Schaefer
Jacob Rast
Julius Bohde
Joseph Schmidt
I. P. Raether
John Dietzler
Went Sanders
H. Van Voorst
D. B. Baby
F. Schreiter
Jos Brettenschieder
M. Peterson
F. E. Westengel
Nick Weiland
George Walters
Frank Pries
Joseph Schmid
L. Heinz
Edw Haebig
B. Ellengar
Wm. Didlerich
Mike Alberthy
Louis Schenz
M. Rossmeissl
I. Rossmeissl
H. Nabefeld
Arnold Peerenboom
C. S. Moeskes
B. C. Wolters
M. Weimer
Julius Zeulke
Jos. Stier
Leonard Martl
M. Waltman
John Heid
E. H. Enos
M. Alart
M. H. Martin
M. Back Co.
Aug. Lohman
Stef Bar Dach
W. E. Knepl
P. Leonard
I. M. Karry
Jacob Kaber
G. Kamps
A. F. Blauman
Harmon Lahn
Karl Koe
Thomas Braun
Finally on March 9, 1898, Monsignor Joseph Fox, administrator of the diocese in the absence of the bishop, came to Appleton to make arrangements for the new parish. This was the property that Monsignor Fox came to look over; three weeks after the Maine had been blown up in Havana harbor, apparently he was satisfied that this was suitable for the new parish on the south side, because Bishop Messecmer, on his return to Green Bay from and ad limina visit to the Holy Father, approved it.

The Most Rev. Sebastian G. Messmer, D.D., fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, authorized the establishment of Sacred Heart Parish, and later on blessed the Church and the School, Placing them under the patronage of The Most Sacred Heart a Jesus. He also assigned the territory south of the Fox River as the parish limits.

With the help of God, nobody gave up. On June 20, 1898, an existing Methodist Church, located at the corner of Monroe and Harrison Streets was purchased for $2,000. The structure (having been a Protestant church) had no sacristy, sanctuary, kneelers, statues or steeple cross.

It would be a lack of gratitude if these Annals would not contain an acknowledgment of the assistance received from the Capuchin Fathers of St. Joseph Parish. The good Capuchin Fathers with projects in hand for the spread of Christ's Kingdom in Mission lands and at Home, their Minor Seminary at Mt. Calvary which
gave many poor deserving young men their preliminary education to the Priesthood, nevertheless gave their support to the erection of the new Parish.

They permitted the use of St. Joseph's Hall to the Parishioners of Sacred Heart for a Bazaar promoted by Father Kaster, which netted $1800.00. They likewise encouraged a collection to be taken up among the members of St. Joseph's which amounted to $800.00. An altar was constructed, vestments and furnishings were borrowed or donated. One of the earliest donations was a statue of our Lady. The young women of the parish could not wait for the carpenters to build a pedestal; they used the box the statue came in for this purpose and adorned it with white paper. Kneeling benches were made and a cross had to be mounted on the steeple.

Michael Schmid was ready to ascend the ladder with the cross. A scaffold was erected at the tower and Foley and Nabbefeld tugged on the rope attached to the cross borne by Schmid. (We have here a graphic picture of every Christian life. Everyone must take up his cross and follow the Lord. We have help to do this in the Sacraments. Sacramental grace is portrayed in the help given by Foley and Nabbefeld.)

The first parish meeting was held September 21, 1898. William Ulrich was chosen as the first secretary of the parish. John Faas as the first treasurer. It was at this meeting that the parish decided to remodel the church by adding a sanctuary and sacristy. (The Catholic Citizen, Milwaukee Oct. 8, 1898 p. S.) "The church is being remodeled and will have a congregation of 130 families. The dedication ceremonies will be held next Sunday."

On October 7th a meeting was held to decide on the procession for the Bishop, the clergy and St. Joseph's society. Next Sunday, October 9th was the day of days for the new congregation. On this day the chief shepherd of the diocese blessed the new church. A truly wonderful spirit of cooperation was shown as seen from the newspaper accounts of the event.

In October of that year Bishop Messmer preached at the High Mass in St. Joseph’s Church and announced the full separation of the new parish, telling all parishioners south of the river to join the new Sacred Heart parish.

Although some of the new parishioners were separated from St. Mary’s Parish, the bulk came from St. Joseph’s. Thus St. Joseph’s became the mother of a daughter parish. In truth the parishioners of St. Joe’s were not very anxious and enthusiastic about this separation, yet they helped to gather funds for the new building projects and offered the facilities of their hall for money-gathering affairs. Therefore, later complaints about this matter were not entirely deserved.

Some of the new parishioners, however, found it difficult to attend services in the new church. They petitioned the bishop to be permitted to retain their old affiliation. After much hesitation, they received the requested permission. Later attempts were made to gather them in the fold of Sacred Heart and, for the most part, they were effective.

So, with the establishment of Sacred Heart Parish, Appleton, became the home for three CATHOLIC parishes.
Father John Kaster 1864 - 1923
1898 - 1900

It was September before the new pastor, Father John Kaster, arrived. He came from Shawano, where He had been the Pastor of another Sacred Heart Parish. He was in the prime of life and an energetic man. There were no automobiles in those days, but walking was too slow for Father Kaster, so He rode a bicycle. Members of the Parish would see him pedaling about the ward for all he was worth with the tails of his black coat flying out behind him.

Rev. Kaster said the first mass at Sacred Heart on October 16, 1898. He oversaw the building of the school at a cost not to exceed $6,000. It was dedicated on August 17, 1899.

Father Kaster was born in Green Bay, January 6, 1864. At the age of 13 he was instructed in Latin by his pastor, Rev. Frederick X. Katzer, who later became his bishop. He entered St. Francis Seminary and was ordained in the Cathedral at Green Bay by Bishop Katzer on April 3, 1888. For two years he worked in Waushara and Marquette counties. In 1890 he was appointed pastor of Shawano. This he held until September 1898. He was the first pastor of Sacred Heart; after two years he was appointed to Freedom and then to New London. He died there June 18, 1923. He was an energetic, hardworking, humble man. He was an able speaker and very spiritual. He gave several retreats to the students at St. Norbert College; they were very successful. He was constantly engaged in helping needy institutions. He was generous to a fault.

Finally, on October 9, 1898, Sacred Heart Church was dedicated and a series of "firsts" in parish history solemnly followed. The first high Mass was celebrated on October 16, 1898 by the Rev. John Kaster. The first baptism (James Richard Muehlheiser) was on October 15, 1898.
The new church of the Sacred Heart in the Fourth Ward was dedicated Sunday afternoon by Bishop Messmer of Green Bay with impressive ceremony. The service was attended by over 2000 people including several priests from surrounding places.

At 1:45 O'clock the following societies met at St. Joseph's hall and formed an escort to the bishop and clergy on the march to the Fourth Ward. St. Joseph's society, Catholic Order of Foresters, Branch No.6 and 128 Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, St. Aloysius society, St. Joseph's Stanislaus Society drum corps and the various ladies societies of St. Joseph's church. The parade was a long and imposing one.

At the church the services commenced with the blessing of the church by Bishop Messmer after which the new bells were blessed. Later the bishop delivered two sermons, one in German, the other in English. Other priests delivered short sermons. The preaching services were held in the open air owing to the size of the audience.

It is said, Father Kaster had great vision of the south side of Appleton becoming one day greater than the north side. But, the vision of Father Kaster transcended the limits of an earthly metropolis. His vision was set on the Kingdom of God, a region that would not be a passing or a temporal one. The great vision that inspired him in promoting the parish of the Sacred Heart was to provide a school in which the young people would be educated and good and loyal citizens of our country, but fit to be one day citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

As The Prince of Peace began his great mission on coming to this earth by adapting a stable so as to draw the minds and hearts of men away from the temporal things of this earth-so did Father Kaster. Fifty-four little ones were brought to a one-time stable of a former parsonage, which was converted into a school to teach them to know Christ, our Savior, their true source of peace and happiness, in the very first year of the founding of the parish.

Father Kaster had arrived and taken charge of the new church. There was still some work to be done to the interior. The first high mass will be said by Father Kaster next Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The new pastor had tremendous energy, unbounded zeal and a large heart.

The great majority of the people who attended the church wanted a school nearby. Neither they nor their pastor realized how difficult it would be to maintain. Although the Catholic Citizen reported it was a congregation of 130 families it was more nearly 50 families that would contribute their bit to the support of the school and church.

Their pastor had tremendous faith that God would provide. At a parish meeting on October 16th it was decided that the horse barn should be put into condition for a school. The children who had started to school on the other side of the river were to continue. The small children who were ready for school, but too small to cross the railroad tracks in the Flats, were to be accommodated in this primitive school building. Second hand desks, benches and boxes were used by the children. Their teacher was Miss Anna Jacobs, later Sister M. Leona of the Sisters of St. Agnes.

A general meeting of the congregation was called on December 31, 1898. William Scheer was chosen to succeed William Ulrich as secretary. John Faas
succeeded himself. At this meeting the motion by Father Kaster and seconded by Conrad Verbrick to have the congregation known as Sacred Heart congregation carried. Thus in a half year, the congregation was making rapid strides. It had taken St. Mary's parish about thirty years to decide on having a parish school. Sacred Heart did not wait a year. Naturally everyone realized that the barn school would be but a step toward a real school. Father Kaster had visions about the Fourth Ward that would make it greater than the north side. But he overestimated the prospects of the infant parish. What he had not foreseen was that some of the people of the south side would present objection to the Bishop to joining Sacred Heart parish and obtain permission from him, for a time at least, to continue as members of the parishes across the river. Some of the most financially able people continued to attend the parishes across the river and thus prevented the broad vision of Father Kaster from being realized.

FINANCIAL SHOALS

The plans of Father Kaster called for a substantial school for the parish and a hospital for Appleton to be erected on the south side. He was instrumental in securing the help of the Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, to take over the hospital building when it was erected.

1899

The first funeral (Johanne Wendlberger, age 63) was January 3, 1899.

Construction of Sacred Heart School began on June 9, the feast of Sacred Heart. The school had an eight room capacity, with installation of five classrooms, an auditorium and Sister’s apartment.

The building was dedicated on August 27, 1899. The first class of 119 students started school on September 6, 1899.

For the immediate needs of the Parish a three or four room school building would have sufficed. At a much lower cost of money and efforts, (the manual labor, hauling of brick and stone, excavating, etc., was performed by parishioners.) The first convent which was incorporated into the school could have been obtained by the purchase of a frame dwelling for the Sisters a church hall by excavating under the church. However, the pioneers had their eyes set on future development of the parish.

On February 12, 1899 Father Kaster called a meeting of the parish to decide on a new school. It was decided at this meeting by a vote of 33 to 9 to build a school at a cost not to exceed $6,000. The parish appointed Father Kaster, John
Melcher, John Laos and Lorenz Sommer as a building committee. The site was east of the church on Harrison Street. The plans called for a two-story structure of brick with basement and attic. The basement would contain besides a furnace room, a kitchen and dining room for the sisters. Their community room and a bed room were to be on the west end of the first floor. The rest of the first floor was to be given over to class rooms. There was to be a class room on the east end of the second floor: the rest of this floor was to have a hall and stage.

Now one could see, almost every day, Father Kaster and a young man, who later became Father Bernard Jacobs, going from door to door soliciting funds for the new school. Many years later, Father Jacobs related how, happy with receiving a few dollars at one place, they would hear such a sad tale at the next that Father Kaster would reach into his pockets and give away the few dollars he had received. Father Kaster was noted for his generosity. Whatever he had was at the disposal of the first needy person or persons who asked an alms.

The fall of the second year of 1899 saw three times that number of children enrolled in the new school, erected through the efforts of Father Kaster and the good members of the parish.

Until the school closed the noblest work of man, the educating of young people to attain this true peace and happiness, has been accomplished in the parish of Sacred Heart. Because the great heart of Father Kaster went out beyond the limits of his own parish to promote the Kingdom of God, the parish he founded, needed leaders who would be more conservative in coping with its financial needs.

When the frost left the ground, the contract was awarded and Father Kaster could then be seen holding the plow or the scraper for the foundation of his school or for the foundation of St. Elizabeth’s hospital. Six thousand dollars seems small to us now, but that was a fearful sum in 1899. Masons and carpenters received from a dollar to a dollar and a half a day which was twelve hours long. There was no limit to the amount of bricks that a mason might lay except his own ability and strength.

The school was dedicated on August 27, 1899. Societies from Green Bay and Kaukauna came with the Bishop by train. Dinner was served in the new school and after this societies from Appleton, Buchanan, Neenah, Menasha, Green Bay and Kaukauna paraded about the block. Bishop Messmer and Father Ignatius Ulrich O.F.M. Cap. gave addresses. The Bishop blessed the school and Father Kaster welcomed all the visitors. In the evening there was a program at which the Bishop spoke on the value of schools; Pat Martin, the father of Justice John Martin of our state supreme court, spoke on the duties of Catholic men; Theodore Kersten spoke on the press; Adolph Weber on the duties of Catholic Youth.

On the feast of St. Louis, August 25th, the school Sisters of Notre Dame had come to conduct the school. Sister Daniela was the superior. The others were Sisters M. Gertrude, M. Melora, and M. Bonfilia, a novice lay-sister, and a candidate, Anna Graff. They were not able to move into their convent until September 6th, the opening day of school. The cornerstone of the school had been laid on June 9th, the feast of the Sacred Heart and the school was blessed on the Sunday after the Assumption which was the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

There were 119 pupils the opening day and by October 13th there were 132. A few
more came later. Many parochial schools did not have more than five or six grades, but Sacred Heart had eight grades from the start.

During 1899 there were four unerals, six weddings, and 24 baptisms.

The Sacred Heart Society, a branch of the Central Verein celebrates the Golden Jubilee of its organization with the parish. It was founded by Father Kaster Dec. 11, 1898. The Sacred Heart Society has always been prominent in the history of the parish. The Christian Mothers Society was founded 1899 and has also contributed much to the welfare of the parish. See detailed history in Society section.
Rev. John Bernard Scheyer  
Sacred Heart 1900 – 1901  
Father Scheyer was born in Bavaria in 1870. It seems that he finished his philosophy before coming to the United States. He completed his theology at Me. St. Mary in Cincinnati. He was ordained December 8, 1895 and appointed to St. Mary’s parish at Peshtigo. In October 1900 he came to Sacred Heart. He remained here until about the middle of November 1901. He was appointed to St. Francis Xavier Church in Merrill. When the new diocese of Superior was formed in 1905, Father Scheyer was in it. Eventually he left that diocese for Newark, N. J. In 1932 he left parish work to become chaplain to the Providence Sisters. In 1934, he retired completely and died August 14, 1936 in Newark, N. J.

On June 30, 1900, seven students were graduated. They were: Albert Schimberg (the well known writer), Lynn Sheldon, Helen Jacobs, Pauline Payr, Helen Toonen, Rita Vetten and Alma Vander-Linden.  
It is interesting to note that Sacred Heart school also had a 9th grade; Sister Daniela, the teacher and Theodore Jacobs, the scholar.

Father Kaster was succeeded by Fr. J. B. Scheyer who had been born in Bavaria and had completed the greater share of his studies in Germany. He completed his theology at Mount St. Mary Seminary of Cincinnati. He was of moderately well-to-do parents and had associated with rich and noble persons of Bavaria and Austria. It was not uncommon for seminarians to leave Germany during the kulturkampf of Bismarck and to come to American seminaries. Because of this Father Scheyers successor also came to this country.

Father Scheyer was a pleasant, gentlemanly priest who preached ably. He did not mingle with the people as freely as Father Kaster, but those who knew him well hoped that he could establish the congregation on a solid footing. He wrote to his friends in Europe for help and received donations, but not enough to take care of the interest on the debt. The income of the parish could not take care of the current expenses. Father Kaster at Freedom lent a hand in conducting a bazaar in the old armory. He had one of his parishioners take Mrs. Wm. Scheer of Sacred Heart among his farmer members travelling by horse and buggy, soliciting help for the bazaar. This bazaar held at the armory netted $1,000, a nice sum to encourage the new pastor.

Although Father Scheyer appreciated his predecessor's help he did not feel equal
to the task. He had no training to drive hard, and he lacked confidence that the people would support him. When he was pastor at Sacred Heart for little over a year he asked to be released. He was to be succeeded by a priest who was to be pastor for forty years, a shepherd who was to remain with his flock.

1900

Rev. Frederick Lawrence Ruessmann
1864 - 1941
Sacred Heart 1901 - 1941

Father Ruessmann was born September 6, 1864 in Westphalia. He was just 8 months younger than the first pastor. He completed his classical studies and was hindered from going to a seminary by the kultur kampf. A scholarly priest, he conversed in several languages. In 1882, he came to Grand Rapids where Bishop Richter found him. After a brilliant course at St. Francis he went to the Propaganda College in Rome. There his course was just as distinguished. He had doctor's degrees in philosophy and theology, yet no one ever heard him speak about it. Father Fitzmaurice while on a walk in

Appleton with the writer said, "There is a priest," as he pointed across the river, "who is the smartest man in this diocese." As an administrator, he used every penny wisely and gradually helped the parish reduce its debt. In 1906 that debt reached $7,000, but it was paid off by 1924.

A pioneer priest, good Father Ruessmann, remained as pastor of Sacred Heart through forty lean years until called to his eternal reward (twenty-three of which, he lived with his nieces as housekeepers in the small frame parsonage which the congregation had acquired with the frame church at its organization) he and his committee decided upon the erection of a priest's house, designed to be enlarged for the convent of the future for the Sisters of Notre Dame. It had also been through his wisdom and foresight in promoting the erection of the rectory, which was adapted to be enlarged into a convent, to erect the same in the location best suited for the future development of the parish. This encouraged the new pastor Father Schmit, who succeeded Father Reussmann, to concentrate on the project of the new church.
The substantial brick parsonage erected during Father Ruessmann's pastorate.

After a few years of work in Grand Rapids, he came to Green Bay. He was pastor at Eagle River, then Phlox, Portage and then Sacred Heart. He came to Sacred Heart, November 4, 1901. He died at Milwaukee April 13, 1941. Physically, mentally and spiritually he was a big man. He was six foot one and weighed 270 pounds. He had tremendous shoulders. He was a mental giant. To the end of his priestly days he read Latin and Greek as if it were English. He understood what he read in Latin and Greek with the same clarity. He conversed easily in German, French and Italian. He had a good working knowledge of both Polish and Holland.

He had the humility of St. Thomas Aquinas. He was faithful and loyal to his friends. He was just and firm. Some mistook this for lack of kindliness. He was kind and considerate or others. Nationalities meant no barrier to him. He was as friendly to the Irish, French, Polish or Hollanders as he was to his own Westphalians. He performed his spiritual exercises with great regularity.

Father Ruessmann came to Sacred Heart on November 4, 1901. That same year a young farm boy came to Appleton from St. John. There were too many mouths to feed and he had to fend for himself. He found in the new pastor a warm friend and a good counselor. This farmer boy was no other than Nic Dohr who rose to great prominence in Appleton. Later in life, when he was able to help the pastor of Sacred Heart, he returned material favors to his friend.

The first few months were spent in going over the books, the debts, and studying for possible sources of income. There had to be rigid economy and every penny had to be contributed to save the parish from bankruptcy. Msgr. Seubert gave excellent advice and on January 6, 1902 it was decided to borrow $150 from the Sacred Heart society at 3 to payoff a loan due to the Catholic Knights. At the end of January two loans totaling $700 were authorized. These were trying times for the parish and the pastor. Father Ruessmann sold his beloved violin and piano to get food and fuel. He and the sisters tried to live on a subsistence salary. The "girls," Emma and Clara Federspiel kept house without salary and had their clothing donated them by their brothers and sisters. Even the furniture in the parsonage was donated by their parents. Good old Mrs. Hantschel and Sister Baptista, superior of St. Elizabeth's hospital, often pitied this poor young pastor and sent him food.

He was forever grateful to them and in his old age spoke feelingly of their kindness. But the reader must not think that the parish was thoughtless and heedless. The people were ready to make great sacrifices under the leadership of a strong and firm hand. They had to be molded together into a solid unit. On February 17th the
parishioners accepted an assessment to pay for shingling the church roof and to buy fuel for that winter and the next.

The pastor was studying the debt clearance problem as he had formerly studied his theology. The savings obtained by the Credit Unions of the Central Verein gave him a fruitful idea. At a parish meeting, June 15th he gave the parishioners his plan. He explained that if each member contributed according to the plan he outlined, current expenses, the interest and $1000 on the debt principal could be paid each year. Those who earned $3.00 to $4.50 a week were to contribute 12 cents a week; those in the $6.00 to $7.50 a week bracket, 24 cents eta. The highest wage class, $18.00 a week were to contribute 50 cents a week. This was agreed upon although not without some opposition. The good parishioners realized that drastic action must be taken and they were ready to share the burden of debt under the resolute and just hand of their young pastor. The next week William Diderrick, Peter Jacobs and Theophile Lewandowski were named to the assessment committee. Henry Vosbeek, Marinus Knuijt assisted the pastor on a board of review. From that time the debt was reduced little by little. After much effort, he secured the privilege of paying on the principal more than once a year.

1905

In 1905, it was necessary to expand the parish facilities and Henry Heimann stepped forward with a $1,000 donation, a substantial amount of money in those days. A parish meeting was held May 25, 1905 and was recorded in English for the first time. Up to this time sermons were preached in English and German, henceforth they would be in English. There were too many members now attending that could not understand literary German.

At this meeting the parish was informed of the donation. A letter was sent to Bishop Joseph Fox and to Msgr. P. J. Lochman, vicar general of the diocese to inform them of the gift and its purpose. The trustees and pastor were authorized to begin the construction at once if the present debt were not increased.

A six foot excavation was made under the enlargement. The old part was raised and placed at right angles to the street. A 2. foot wall of coursing stone was placed under the entire church. The old and new parts were covered with the same siding. The church had been 56 feet long and it was extended to 92 feet exclusive of the sanctuary. Six new pews were added. The men donated St. Joseph's altar, the young ladies, the communion railing. Eighteen windows were installed, and the cross was gilded. Wm. Scheer decorated the church.

The church was raised so a wall could be placed under it and the structure was expanded from 56 to 92 feet. A sanctuary was added in addition to new pews, windows and a heating system.
School started in September with 173 pupils; a goodly increase over the previous year.

On November 19th the enlarged church was blessed by Bishop Fox. Again as in 1899, societies from Menasha, Appleton, Kaukauna and Little Chute were present. The Bishop celebrated the 8 o'clock mass and distributed Holy Communion to a very large number of parishioners. The people of Sacred Heart have been known for their faithfulness in attending services and for their reception of the Sacraments. Msgr. Lachman celebrated the 10 o'clock mass assisted by Father Fitzmaurice and Father Lukas, O.F.M., Cap.

1906

In 1906 that debt reached $7,000, but Rev. Ruessmann had it paid off by 1924. In July, 1906 it was announced at a parish meeting that John Conway of the Sherman House (now Conway hotel) had donated a boiler. It was decided to install a steam heating system in the church. Conrad Verbrick, John Vette, William O'Neill repaired and placed the boiler in position.

On September 22nd of the same year, Bishop Fox called a conference of the pastors of Appleton and explained that Bishop (then Archbishop) Messmer had ordered the people of the Fourth Ward to attend Sacred Heart parish when it was established. He urged the pastors to observe this regulation. The records show that Sacred Heart had a debt of $7000 at this time and that the pastor was still not drawing a full salary. Bishop Fox issued a letter to all the parishes.

Since 1903, there was a growing recognition of the inadequacy of the sisters'
quarters. On January 24, 1908 it was decided to have a home for the sisters as soon as possible. First the debt had to be paid and money raised for this new project. Improvements and repairs were made. At the end of 1915, the corner lot on Madison and Harrison was bought and paid for with voluntary subscriptions.

1917
In 1917 the first World War came and many of the young men of the parish joined the army or the navy. A service flag was placed in the church; fifty stars adorning it along with three gold stars later.

1924
By 1924 the debt had been paid, a sum sufficient to put up a brick parsonage and to enlarge the old parsonage for the sisters, had been raised. On June 29th the contracts were awarded for both. On March 4, 1925 the pastor and sisters moved into their new respective quarters. The parsonage was quite bare on July 26, 1925. On that day Nic Dohr gave a substantial gift in honor of St. Anne, his wife's patron, toward furnishing the house. He also agreed privately to help the parish and Father Ruessmann to build a beautiful new church. From this time on money was saved toward that proposed structure.

After the crash of 1929 so many people of the Fourth Ward were without work that some of the money set aside for the new church had to be used for current expenses. It was also during this time that the school furnace burst and the expense of a new furnace had to be met.

1931
Rev L.A. V. DeCleene, O Praem
Sacred Heart 1931 – 1941

Father DeCleene was born near De Pere, April 4, 1893. He completed a classical high school course and was at West Point when his thoughts turned to the priesthood.

At West Point he was a friend and companion of many of the high ranking army officers of WWII. He came to Sr. Norbert's College, finished his philosophy and theology and was ordained June 7, 1919. After a year's experience in parish work he was sent to the Catholic University, where he secured a doctor's degree in mathematics. He returned to teach at St. Norbert's College.

Then he served as chaplain at Sr. Joseph's Academy at Green Bay,

In 1931, he became the Sunday assistant at Sacred Heart parish. He kept this position until Father Ruessmann died. Then the Bishop appointed him administrator of the parish until the new pastor Father Emil Schmit came June 30, 1941.
Besides teaching mathematics, he gave retreats to laymen and laywomen, to young people, and to priests and sisters. He contributed articles to magazines and he gave conferences to various groups. He has been the National Moderator of the Third Order of St. Norbert, and the National Director of the arch confraternity of the Holy Mass of Reparation.

In February 1931, a two week mission was conducted by the Redemptorists. On May 1, 1931 Father Ruessmann secured Rev. L.A.V. De Cleene, Ph.D., O Praem as a Sunday assistant. He continued to assist as long as Father Ruessmann lived and then was appointed by Bishop Rhode as temporary pastor for a few months.

1935

With improving conditions in 1935, again sums were set aside toward a church fund. In order that the parishioners could more quickly achieve their desire, Father Ruessmann asked Bishop Rhode to clarify the question of the proper parish limits for the people of south Appleton. He reaffirmed the former statements of his predecessors. The pastors of other churches were not to accept on their parish lists people south of the river.

Besides repairing the old buildings, redecorating the church and saving money for a new one; a garage was erected in 1939. This was the year of the pastor's golden jubilee. The people expressed their love and loyalty to him in financial and spiritual gifts. They asked the Most Reverend Bishop to confer the Monsignorship upon him. He notified the bishop that he did not want that honor. This was a keen disappointment to the people of Sacred Heart.

1940

Father Ruessmanns health began to fail in 1940 and he knew that he would never erect the church for Sacred Heart parish. He tried to interest the parishioners and friends to leave something in their wills to the church. When he made an entry in his records January 21, 1941 that the bishop had approved the elected trustees, he had the feeling that this record would be his last. His condition was so alarming that he entered St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee in March for a complete examination. He returned to preach his last sermon to his beloved flock on Passion Sunday, March 31st. He returned to Milwaukee for an operation, but died late on Easter Sunday. He was buried the following Thursday.
1. The Most Rev. Paul P. Rhode, D.D., of blessed memory showed a keen interest in the growth of the parish. It is to him that three sons of the parish owe their ordination to the holy priesthood. He likewise ordained five of the assistant priests of the parish.

The Bishop desired impartial information regarding the residents in south Appleton who supported Sacred Heart church. For this reason he appointed Father De Cleene as the administrator. Since his appointment would be brief, Father De Cleene quickly appointed young ladies under the able leadership of Celia Wilz to make an exhaustive survey of the Catholic, Protestant and non-Christians of the south side. The young ladies did an excellent job and were sincerely praised by the Bishop. The second task was to increase the number of Sunday masses from 3 to 5 and to arrange them at the most convenient time for the people. The third task was to organize the Ushers Club so that more young men might take an interest in working for the parish.

There had been a question in the mind of Most Reverend Bishop Rhode as to whether the present church property was in the proper location to serve the Catholics of the South Side. The survey made through Father DeCleene by the census which had been taken by the Young Ladies Sodality was clearly marked on a city surveyor's map of the South Side. Each place of residence of a family belonging to Sacred Heart Parish was marked with a distinct color different from the colors indicating the homes of Catholic families not affiliated with Sacred Heart Church.

This map survey was presented to the Most Reverend Bishop, who decided that the parish property was ideally situated and accordingly, there would be not further thought of changing to another location for the future of the parish. Accordingly Father Schmit called together a committee of men of the parish to deliberate on the project deemed most necessary to provide facilities for the parish.
Rt. Rev. Joseph A. Marx, V.G.P.A., the present Vicar General of the Diocese, and Protonotary Apostolic, who as chancellor of the Diocese, and as Vicar General under Bishops Rhode and Bona, has always taken a lively interest in the welfare of Sacred Heart parish.

1941

A church hall and kitchen, two restrooms and boiler room were constructed under the frame church by Al Utschig & Sons, general contractors, Wm. Wenzel heating and Ray Selig, plumping for the cost of $12,429.67. Edward A. Wettengel was architect for the project.

The war time prosperity and our Government's drive to raise money for the prosecution of the war, was an opportune time for the parish to invest in War Savings Bonds, and to invite members to invest some of their war savings bonds in the name of the Congregation, and thus to promote the project of creating a New Church Building Fund.

Rev. Emil J. Schmit
1887 - 1976
Sacred Heart 1941 – 1966

On June 30th, 1941 Father Emil J. Schmit was appointed pastor. Father De Cleene stayed on as assistant until a regular assistant, Father Ernest Kaim, took over his duties.

In 1958, he was selected by Pope Pius XII to be a monsignor.

Father Emil J. Schmit, who served as sub-deacon at Father Ruessmanns funeral Mass, became his successor as pastor of the Fourth Ward parish. He was born January 5, 1887 at Green Bay, Wisconsin, received his elementary schooling in St. Francis Xavier Cathedral parish where he was Baptized and received also the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. He was also Ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral on April 14, 1916.
Father Schmit made his studies for the priesthood, seven years at Campion College in Prairie du Chien and four years at St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Upon being ordained by the Most Reverend Bishop Paul Peter Rhode, D.D. he received his first appointment as assistant to Father John Hummel at St. Mary's Menasha, who as pastor of the Cathedral at Green Bay had encouraged him in his preparation for the Holy Priesthood.

Father Schmit's service as assistant at Menasha ended in June 1918 when he was appointed as assistant to Father John Kaster, pastor of the Most Precious Blood Parish of New London, Wis. His stay with his future predecessor lasted but two months when he was appointed to Crandon, Wisconsin as pastor of St. Joseph Church, with missions St. Mary's at Argonne and St. Joseph at Hiles. In 1924 he received the appointment as pastor of St. Isidores Parish, Manitowoc County located in the town of Meeme with a mission St. Fidelis at Spring Valley. In 1927 Father Schmit was appointed pastor of St. Wendel at Cleveland, Wisconsin with a mission of St. George. In February 1934 he was appointed pastor of Holy Angels. Rev. Emil J. Schmit Parish at Darboy from whence he was appointed to be pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Appleton, his pastorate commencing July 1, 1941.

FATHER ERNEST KAIM was born in Chicago Heights, Ill., Dec. 24, 1913. He attended grade school at St. Joseph's in Chicago Heights, graduating in 1928; St. Bonaventure's High School, Sturtevant, Wis., 1928 to 1932; St. Francis College, Burlington, Wis., and St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Wis., 1933 to 1937. He then entered Kenrich Seminary St. Louis, Mo., 1937 to 1941 and was ordained May 31, 1941 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at Green Bay. He celebrated his first Mass June 1, 1941 at St. Joseph's Church, Chicago Heights, Ill. His first appointment was Sacred Heart, Appleton, Sept. 1954 and subsequent appointments were New London, Wis., Polonia, Wis., and Thorp, Wis.

The members of this 1941-1944 Building Committee were: George Selig, Edward Skotzke, Fred Scheppler, Joseph Recker, Edward Bodway, Edward Knuijt, Herman Giesbers, Lynn Sheldon, William Becher, Charles Strobl, Ben Kools, George Laux, Joseph Reagan and Joseph Stoeger.

The first consideration given by the committee was the future expansion of the church property and for the purchase of any lots that could be obtained to enlarge the church grounds. At this early date it seemed to the pastor and committee that Madison Street might lend itself in the future as more desirable for the erection of the church than on Monroe Street. Upon an announcement made in church that the parish was interested in extending the church property, it was revealed that a deal for the purchase of the Joe Hantschel house arid lot on the corner of Fremont and Madison Streets was pending. Leo Engel, who was negotiating to purchase the property conceded that it should go to the congregation. The sale price offered by the owner for $3,300.00 was
met from the net proceeds of a picnic and a Bazaar totaling $2794.49 and $605.51 from the general fund.

In 1941 Sacred Heart Congregation and the three other parishes of Appleton were the benefactors of a legacy of the Mrs. Kate Bootz Estate, each parish receiving $5109.90. Two other legacies came to the parish, $1000.00 from the Ed. Ryan Estate, $116.81 from the Mary Grassl Estate. The cash assets of the Congregation at the close of 1941 were $10,000 with the Appleton Bldg. & Loan Assn., $5,000.00 with the Milwaukee Federal Loan Co. and cash in the bank in the general fund of $4,920.70 giving a total of $19,920.70.

`With this tidy sum of money on hand, the Building Committee, decided that the growing parish would soon need more class rooms. It was agreed the space allotted in the school for the parish hall would have to give place to the needed classrooms and to have a church hall constructed under the church. Accordingly Edward A. Wettengel, architect, was engaged and the present Church Hall and kitchen, two rest rooms and a boiler room addition were constructed at a cost of $12,429.67. Al Utchig was the General Contractor for the Church Hall with the Engel Heating Co. and Wm. Wenzel, Plumber. Langstadt Electrical giving subsidiary contracts. The project of the church hall was begun in 1941 and completed in 1942; the dedication of the church hall being held in October.

The installing of three extra classrooms in the school was completed in the summer of 1942 by Arthur Steiner Construction Co. at a cost of $2,556.76. A collection was taken up for the purchase of an orgatron organ from the Meyer & Seeger Co. at a cost of $1,600.00. A church front enclosure was constructed for $464.08, the painting of the church and convent $596.00, the painting of the eight class rooms $323.00, purchases for the Church Hall and kitchen equipment $529.67, new classroom furnishings $351.98. The total disbursements for improvements and equipment amounted to $6,418.49.

The Committee and pastor agreed that the War time prosperity and our Government's drive to raise money for the prosecution of the war, was an opportune time for the parish to invest in War Savings Bonds, and to invite members to invest some of their war savings bonds in the name of the Congregation, and thus to promote the project of creating a New Church Building Fund.

1942

Property at the corner of Fremont and Madison Streets was purchased. The following year, three classrooms were added to the school to replace the church hall. The work was done by the Arthur Steiner Construction Co. at a cost of $2,556.76. Edward A. Wettengel was architect for the project.

The addition of class rooms in the parish called for more teachers, necessitating more convent room.

At the dedication of the new Church Hall in 1942 the pastor proposed the project of a new Church and Rectory, the present rectory to be converted into a convent, to be achieved for the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the parish in 1948. It was not
foreseen at this time that inflationary rise in costs would exist as they do today, neither was it contemplated that the parish would receive a large increase of new families, whose children would tax the capacity of the school so recently enlarged to eight classrooms. The Committee decided that it would be wise to promote the raising of money for the proposed new church and rectory by engaging the service of an architect to study the location of the future church and rectory and to provide a picture of the same. The architectural firm of Fueller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahns of Green Bay was consulted and Mr. Berners upon a survey of the block suggested to the committee that the Ferd Haberman lot next door to the Rectory to be the most appropriate site for the erection of the future Church, the church to face on Monroe Street and the rectory to face fronting on Fremont Street, on the Harry Hove property. Mr. Berners pointed out, through the location of the future church and rectory as suggested by him, all of the buildings in the future would be on the west half of the block, and the east portion be reserved for playgrounds.

A picture of the church and rectory with a floor plan of the church of 750 capacity was executed by the architects and set up in the church as an inspiration to the pastor and members to promote the new church building project, to be realized for the Golden Jubilee of the parish in 1948.

With the completion of the construction of the Church Hall and kitchen and the installation of the new classrooms in 1942, the building fund stood at a low level, however, the $5,000.00 invested in the Milwaukee Federal Loan Co. was left untouched as a sizable foundation for the new church building fund. The distinction of giving the first War Savings Bond and the first donation to the building fund goes to Mr. John Kraft, Sr. who pledged the same at the dedication of the new Church Hall.

1943

The year 1943 witnessed the departure of Father Ernest Kaim from the parish in August. He had won the confidence of the young people and his instruction class with the young people of the CYO and regular monthly breakfast meetings with the young ladies of the Sodality were well attended.

Father Felix Van Drise coming from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Marinette succeeded Father Kaim. Father Van Drise was an indefatigable worker and in the fall of the year when the pastor was prostrated by illness the picnic did not suffer from lack of leadership. By means of a fall festival and bazaar $5,724.66 was added to the building fund.

During Father Ruessmanu's pastorate an Entertainment Committee was organized in the parish. To the ladies of the Christian Mother's society credit goes equally with the men for the success of the money raising events which were held in the parish.

1944

In August 1944 Father Van Drise was appointed assistant to Monsignor J.J. Sprangers and he was succeeded at Sacred Heart by the Rev. Father Patrick McMahon who had been assistant at St. Patrick's of Green Bay. He, as his predecessor, took over
his duties as spiritual director of the young men and ladies of the parish and held weekly instruction classes.

Father McMahon will long be remembered by the young people of the parish who appreciated his interest in their welfare and who was always willing to entertain them by singing at their repeated requests. During his two year stay in the parish he was instrumental in promoting the new church building fund by supervising the evening Bingo parties until the Thompson law dispensed with them. He also successfully promoted softball and basketball for the C. Y.O. and managed school teams.

1945

It is impossible to give honorable mention to all the members who were outstanding in promoting the material welfare of the parish. One good lady, Mrs. Conrad Alferri, who has passed to her eternal reward, did not cease in her efforts. When suffering with a weakened heart she made beautifully patterned quilts which were raffled and brought in considerable money. The entertainment committee, a regular institution of the parish, which had so diligently and successfully assisted the pastors to raise money, ceased to function during the war. At this time Uncle Sam's state officers in the beverage department clamped down on the popular game of Bingo.

This came about because of abuses by racketeers in promoting the game in other cities. There were also other difficulties on account of which it was decided to omit the annual picnic in 1945.

The popularity of Bingo which drew patronage from outside the parish had on Sunday evenings brought in more than $1,000. It was promoted by members of the entertainment committee along with a number of other men who were on hand to serve the patrons.

During this same time ladies of the parish conducted a house to house "New Church Fund" drive netting $1,865.00 and a Fall Festival which realized $1,200 for the fund. The large sum of $4,065.00 was thus added to the building fund even though the annual picnic event had been eliminated.

The years 1945 and 1946 also witnessed the completion of the new parish the site for the erection of the church of the future.

In 1945 the Ferd Haberman lot and house south of the rectory was purchased. The house was sold and moved off from the lot; the transaction for the lot costing the parish $3,600.
1946

In 1946 the Harry Have lot on Fremont Street was purchased at approximately $5,000. The additional cost of this transaction was due to the necessity of moving the house east two blocks to a new location, the purchase of a lot, providing a new basement and porch etc., and paid by the a desirable location for a Fire Station, years ago, were no longer held for this purpose.

The Parish Committee, contemplating the expansion of the School, saw the necessity of providing a larger Convent for the Sisters, than the frame building (a former parsonage) in which they resided, and decided that the lots across from the Church would be a desirable location to move the old Sisters' Home. Mr. Edward Knuijt, member of the Parish Committee, and Alderman of the Ward, was instructed to present the proposition for the purchase of the two lots from the City. The City Council was agreeable to the sale of the lots to the Congregation at the original price for which the lots had been purchased as a Fire Station site, i.e., $900.00. It is planned to relocate the present Sisters' Convent to one of these lots across from the Church, to serve as a temporary home [or the priests until the large residence on the Southwest corner of the Parish grounds is acquired. According to present plans, the present rectory will be given over to the Sisters and' additional rooms constructed to provide ample room as a convent for the enlarged teaching staff of the school.

Father Wilbert Staudenmaier came to Sacred Heart in 1946 replacing Father McMahon as assistant pastor. Coming to Appleton from St. Luke's parish in Two Rivers he also had a fine record of promoting the welfare of Catholic youth. Besides his regular duties Fr. Staudenmaier undertook the management of the National School Lunch program in the school beginning in the fall of 1946. For its two years in operation the local program has established itself as one of the most successful in the state.

The program has dependable cooks in Mrs. Clarence Hopfensperger and Mrs. Henrietta Vander-linden and their able helpers to whom Fr. Standenmaier would like to give all the credit for its success. The dining room has been managed success-fully during the two years by Mrs. John Driessen, Mrs. Ed. Jansen, Mrs. Clement Young and Mrs. Jack Smith with over a hundred meals being served each school day.

Recognition also goes to Father Staudenmaier for the first Cana Conference held in the city of Appleton. This event was attended by more than 100 couples in the church and parish hall. Conducted by Father Mann, a Redemptorist father, it received the highest praise from all who attended the conference.

In 1946 the annual picnic was Resumed and along with other social money making events the building fund was increased by $5,000. The 1947 and 1948 events were history making netting additional $23,500 to the building fund. The success of these projects leading up to the Golden Jubilee year may be ascribed to the fine co-operation of the members of the parish.

It is evident that the growth of the Church building fund from $5,000 to $100,000, in the last six years was not due to picnics and bazaars alone. Through these events approximately $35,000 was accumulated. The major portion of the fund has been raised by the contribution of the members. A large number of friends from outside of the parish have contributed to the building expansion program of the parish. Their contributions
total a little over $10,000. May their generosity bring them a hundredfold return from the Sacred Heart of the God man whose admonition "Let the little ones come to me," will not permit their charity go unrewarded.

1948
The architectural firm of Fueller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahns of Green Bay was consulted and Mr. Berners upon a survey of the church property suggested to the committee that the Ferd Haberman lot next door to the Rectory to be the most appropriate site for the erection of the future Church, the church to face on Monroe Street and the rectory to face fronting on Fremont Street, on the Harry Hove property. Mr. Berners pointed out, through the location of the future church and rectory as suggested by him, all of the buildings in the future would be on the west half of the block, and the east portion be reserved for playgrounds.
A picture of the church and rectory with a floor plan of the church of 750 capacity was executed by the architects and set up in the church.

1943
FATHER FELIX VAN DR.ISE was born in Luxembourg, Wis., January 19, 1914. He attended and graduated from St. Mary's School in 1927; Luxernberg High School in 1931; St. Norbert's College in 1935, and St. Paul's Seminary in 1939. He was ordained in Green Bay on May 31, 1939 and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at Luxemberg, June 4, 1939. He served as assistant at Algoma from June 1939 to July 1940; at Lourdes, Marinette, July 1940 to August 1943, at Sacred Heart, Appleton, August 1943 to August 1944 and at St. John's, Little Chute, August 1944.
1944

FATHER PATRICK McMAHON was born in Kaukauna, Wis., Feb. 19, 1916. He attended St. Mary's Parochial School from the fall of 1920 to his graduation in the spring of 1928. After attending Kaukauna High School one year he entered the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio in the fall of 1930, and was ordained May 30, 1942. He served as assistant at St. Patrick's, Green Bay, August 1942 to July 1944; Sacred Heart, Appleton, July 1944 to July 1946 and St. Luke's, Two Rivers, July 1946.

1945

The years 1945 and 1946 witnessed the completion of two noteworthy projects which gave to the parish the site for the erection of the Church of the future as planned by the building committee back in 1942.

In 1945 the Fred Haberman lot and house south of the rectory was purchased. The house was sold and moved off from the lot; the net transaction for the lot costing the parish $3,600.00.

1946

In 1946 the Harry Hove lot on Fremont Street was purchased for approximately $5,000.00. The higher cost of this Hove transaction was due to the necessity of moving the house east two blocks to a new location, the purchase of a lot, providing a new basement, porch, etc., paid by the congregation.

Two city lots, diagonally across from the Church, were purchased from the city of Appleton. These lots, which had been designated by the City Council as a desirable location for a Fire Station, years ago, were no longer required for this purpose. Mr. Edward Knuijt, member of the Parish Committee and Alderman of the ward, was instructed to present the proposition of the purchase of the two lots from the city. He received the co-operation of Mr. Joseph Engel, realtor, a son of the parish, whose letter to the City Council received favorable action in reducing the price of sale of the two lots to the parish from $1,300.00 to $900.00 the original price for which the lots had been purchased as a Fire Station site.

Social events to raise money for the Building Fund were a decided success. The popular game of Bingo and Church raffles, ranked high as an innocent source of
revenue until the State legislature, in its worthy purpose to outlaw slot machines and professional gamblers' rackets, forbade every form of lottery.

FATHER WILBERT STAUDENMAIER was born at Wathena, Kansas on March 7, 1911. He attended school at Lourdes High at Marinette; Providence College, Providence, R. 1., St. Bernard's Brighton, Michigan; Jordan College, Menominee, Mich; St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., and Kenerick Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained at the Orphanage Chapel, Green Bay by Bishop William O'Connor on September 8, 1943; and served as assistant at St. Luke's, Two Rivers until July 9, 1946 when he came to Sacred Heart, Appleton as an assistant.

1948

Approximately $35,000.00 had been accumulated by means of card parties and picnics when the building fund in 1948 had reached the sum total of $100,000.00. The major portion of the fund was raised by contributions of members. Generous friends of the parish also contributed to the building fund. The pastor's appeal for outside help being based on the service the parochial school gives to the community morally, educationally and saving in civic school taxes to the tax payer.

The building committee, which was called together in 1942, has taken on new members to aid in the deliberations made necessary as the aftermath of the war; some of the original group discontinued to serve. George Selig Moved to Menasha and Edward Knuijt was called by death.

The picture of the group appearing in these annals, comprises the membership which has brought to a final conclusion, plans which they feel best suited to meet the demands for our time and the future.

Minutes of the meeting July 21 which follow best disclose just what present plans entail.

The decision as made by the building committee was presented to the Most Reverend Bishop Bona who appointed a committee to investigate the proposed plan and to report as to its feasibility. On this committee are Rt. Rev. Monsignor Jos. A. Marx, vicar general of the diocese; Rev. John Gehl, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay; Rev. W. Kiernan of the Annunciation parish at Green Bay. The committee conducted its investigation on August 27 consulting with the pastor as to the possible growth of the parish along with the present status of the building fund.

The report of the committee was reviewed by the Bishop on August 27 and the Rev. Schmit was informed that the committee was agreed as to the need of the proposed building program. A seating capacity of 750 was proposed for the planned
The Bishop accepting the report of his special committee then instructed the Rev. Schmit to authorize the drafting of a sketch by the architects of the proposed building. This sketch as illustrated in this book shows the ground plan for the proposed new church, along with the school changes and other plans under the extended expansion program.

The realization of the school plan for the 1949 school year depends to the greater extent on the growth of the building fund and the securing of acceptable bids from contractors. Because of the imperative need of the additional class rooms and a large church auditorium it is expected that architect plans will be ordered within the near future.

BUILDING COMMITTEE 1945-48
Top Row: Robert Schindhelm, Fred Scheppler, Steve Cvengros, Paul Neubauer, Edward Skotzke, Mike Kugler, Jr.
Center: Ben Kools, Wenzel Sommers, Robert Fahrenkrug, Herman Giesbers, George Laux.
Front: Lynn Sheldon, Father Schmit, Chris Schink and George Treiber.
Absent when picture was taken: John McCann, George Hoffer, Joseph Engel.
The Corner Stone for the new Church and school addition was blessed on Sunday, September 18, 1949 by the Most Reverend Bishop John B. Grellinger, S.T.D., Ph.Mag.Agg. A number of visiting priests and a large concourse of people witnessed the historic event.

The Most Reverend Bishop was assisted by priest sons of the parish as seen at left in the picture, as a most eloquent sermon was being given by the Bishop explaining the corner stone laying event and its significance to future generations to come for the glory of God and the upholding of our country's honor in preserving the inherent rights of man by the fostering of the principles of Christian education. The Most Reverend John B. Grellinger, Titular Bishop of Syene, was appointed as assistant to Most Reverend Bishop Stanilaus V. Bona by our gloriously reigning Holy Father Pius XII, and the function of the corner stone laying was one of his first official duties given to him by Bishop Bona the Ordinary of the Diocese. To grace the occasion the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John Loerke, Rt. Rev. John Hummel and Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Sprangers, dean of Outagamie County were present at the ceremonies as also members of the John Barry Post of the Catholic War Veterans and the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.
June 1, 1949, children, sisters and priests were assembled at the grotto of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to sing praises and offer prayers for friends and benefactors. There was rejoicing because of favorable bids for the new church and school addition, received the previous evening.

Since then some members and benefactors have gone on to meet their Lord, - Him in whose honor this first building project was realized. Others too, will pass that way. We extend the invitation to the man or woman who is giving serious thought of making a will to consider the advantage of including Sacred Heart Parish in their legacy. They will be among the elect who chose to remember Christ's expressed wish "Let the Little ones come unto me, etc." Luke 18:7. The legal form and title of the congregation as follows:

"hereby give and bequeath to Sacred Heart Congregation, Incorporated, Appleton, Wisconsin the sum of ..... "
GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR 1949 CELEBRATED WITHOUT THE NEW CHURCH

Already in the fall of 1946 the prospect of erecting the new church for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the parish grew dim. The abnormal rise in costs of building material and labor had not been fully anticipated. Neither was it contemplated that the parish would receive such a large influx of families whose children taxed the capacity of the school so recently enlarged to eight class rooms. Undaunted, however, the committee members continued to plan for the church of the future with a school addition included in the program to be accomplished as soon as possible. The overflow of worshippers at the late Sunday masses stressed the necessity of providing for a larger church building besides more school space.

Meetings to promote the building project continued without arriving at a definite conclusion. In view of the high costs of building construction the pastor upheld that the idea of building the church of the future should be given up. He suggested that a provisional church building such as gymnasium for the future could be erected in place of a church structure which would cost approximately $50,000.00 to $75,000.00 less and afford a sufficiently large church auditorium. He suggested that the church building of the future could be erected, when the parish would be in a better financial status, on the site of the present frame church.

The evening of July 12, 1948 a compromise plan was voted on by the Building Committee. It was to erect a church building designed for a capacity of 750 persons, but to omit some of the auditorium space and the narthex which would afford a seating capacity of 550; the church building to be extended to its full capacity at some later time when the debt assumed by the parish would permit further expenditure. Included in the minutes of this meeting, to be presented to the Most Rev. Bishop for approval, was the added project of converting the priest's house into a convent; the priests to have their domicile in the former convent until a more convenient priests' house could be obtained.

The Most Rev. Bishop, upon receiving the parish Building Committee's report, sent his diocesan committee to investigate the need of material expansion of the parish. The committee reported to the Most Rev. Bishop that conditions at Sacred Heart warranted immediate expansion of facilities of the parish. Omitted in the Souvenir Brochure of the Golden Jubilee of the parish in 1948 was the recommendation submitted by the Bishop's Building committee to the Most Rev. Bishop that the Fox River should be the dividing line between the parishes of the north side of the River and Sacred Heart parish; which would give more membership to Sacred Heart parish and insure sufficient support for the erection of the church of the future, the school addition and convent expansion. At the time the Souvenir Book was published the Bishop had not yet made public his decision to reaffirm the Fox River as the boundary line separating the parishes of the north side. Although the Jubilee year of the parish did not see the erection of the first church to be erected by the members, (the frame church though later
enlarged by the parish, had been erected by a sectarian church body) they could rejoice in the prospect of the erection of the new church for which the Most Rev. Bishop authorized the pastor to have sketches drawn up.

The Most Rev. Bishop's letter reaffirming the Fox River as the boundary line was published April 10, 1949 and read from the pulpits of the three parishes concerned. The Bishop said, in part, "We, therefore, following in the footsteps of our Most Reverend predecessors, reaffirm the boundary line established so many years ago between the Sacred Heart parish and the parishes to the north of the Fox river, in the city of Appleton; and we insist that from Easter Sunday of this year, all who are living within Sacred Heart parish and south of the Fox river, belong to that parish and give it their full support".

The opening of bids for the new church and school addition brought great rejoicing to the members of the building committee, who having had meetings with the architects to determine the material and appointments to go into the new structure, became apprehensive as time went on that the cost of proceeding with the erection of the church and school would be prohibitive. The building fund, having reached the sum of close to $125,000.00, the members were anxious that the overall costs, including the contemplated conversion of the rectory into a convent, would not exceed $300,000.00. The opening of the bids on this memorable night revealed that the church and school addition of four rooms could be erected for $250,000.00.

And herewith we give the names of our Contractors, each of whom has given value received for his participation in the construction of the new church and school addition. To them we offer our sincere thanks for the roll they have taken to erect the building dedicated to God's service. Our thanks also is given to many collaborators with our contractors and to all who performed the minor rolls to complete the work essential to its realization.

The Paul Hoffman Construction Company was low bidder for the General Contract for the new church and four room school addition, $211,100.00
August Winter & Sons, for heating contract $20,008.00.
Roman Wenzel for plumbing, fixtures, etc., $11,532.00.
Superior Electric Co., complete electrical wiring installation $4,580.00.
Robert Fahrenkrug's Modern Electric, fixtures for the school rooms $982.00. Total amount of the contracts $250,434.00.

Five out of six contracts went to Appleton firms. Other costs toward the church and school contracts were:
Architects fees approximately $15,000.
Pews including cushioned kneelers $9,810.00.
Main and accessory electric church fixtures $2,854.00.
Totaling $27,664.00.

The project of moving the old Sisters house and setting up on its new location had cost the parish approximately $5,000.00, also the purchase of the Giesbers house on Fremont Street $5,228.00, giving a grand total of expenditure assumed by the congregation $277,326.00.

Following close on the signing of contracts for the church and school addition there still remained work for the Committee and the pastor to obtain plans and specifications for converting the priest's house as a convent for the Sisters. The architectural firm of Green Bay to which he parish ever should feel greatly indebted for the beautifully designed church, exteriorly and interiorly, and for all the services rendered by its staff, is the Foeller, Schober, Berners, Stafford and Jahns Co. of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The Building Committee and Pastor had occasion to meet most often with Mr. Ed. Berners and Mr. Clarence Jahns. It was Mr. Berners, one of the engineers of the Architectural firm who first contacted the pastor and whose sage advice for future parish development and the selecting of the site for the present building project, also met with the approval of the Building Committee. It is to Mr. Clarence J alms' conception, as a designer, that the new church merits the deserved approval it receives. Mr. Horace Towsley who officiated as supervisor of construction has been a frequent welcome visitor to contractors and to owners alike.

The satisfactory service rendered by the Green Bay architects naturally inclined the Building Committee to look for their service for the expansion of the priest's house as a convent. Mr. Edward Wet tengel of Appleton with whom the pastor had had most agreeable and successful business relations in erection of a school building and Sisters convent at Darboy, had been first sought to render plans for the Sisters house project. Mr. Wettengel had been the architect for the erection of the rectory under the pastorate of Father Ruessmann which was now to be converted into a convent. The St. Mary's Convent project of Menasha, however, forbade him to assume the task for Sacred Heart Parish.

Upon completion of plans for the extension of the rectory to a convent by the Green Bay architects, bids were received and Mr. Al Utschig & Sons received the general contract, August Winter and Sons the heating contract and Ray Selig and Sons the plumbing contract, Robert Fahrenkrug, Modern Electric received the electrical contract. The sum of these contracts was $25,550.00C. This added expenditure brought the total costs to $301,876.00.

With only a little over 125,000.00 in the savings account, including minor extra costs the parish has had to borrow $175,000.00 which was obtained from the
The history of the Building Project could come to a close but there is yet to mention the names of members of the parish who should receive honorable mention for contributing furnishings for the new church, the Altar by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scheppeler, the hand carved crucifix and candlesticks equipment for the altar by Mrs. Conrad Verbrick, the large hand carved plaque and statue of the Sacred Heart by Mrs. Nic Dohr and Catherine Maurer, the Tabernacle by the pastor, Father Schmit, and the tester by Wm. Pauly, a cousin of the pastor. The side altar and statue of the Blessed Virgin by Miss Rose Haug, St. Joseph’s altar and statue by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Engel. Mr. and Mrs. George Hoffer, the beautiful stained glass window depicting the scene of the apparition of Our Savior to the humble Sister Margaret Mary of Alacogue at Paray Monial, which is located above the choir loft in the church facade, the hand carved altars and other equipment as stated above are the product of the E. Hackner Co. of La Crosse. The stained glass window is the production of the Columbia Stained Glass Art Co. of Milwaukee, Wis. The wrought iron sedilia in the sanctuary is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kools, the Lecturn the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Woelz, the credence table and the sanctuary light stand also of wrought iron construction, additional gifts of Mrs. Conrad Verbrick.

In concluding this simple unadorned account compiled to commemorate the Dedication Ceremonies of another Sacred Edifice erected to the greater Honor and Glory of God, may we refer to a previous statement concerning the costs of building construction, which preceded the opening of the bids on May 31st, viz. "the minds of the committee and pastor were filled with apprehension that the costs would be prohibitive." Be it remembered that great jubilation and rejoicing ensued on that evening of the last day of May in 1949 when bids showed that the building project had not been a hopeless endeavor.

The next morning the school children on this first day of June on coming from the church where they had attended mass, assembled before the grotto of the Sacred Heart on the church grounds. They sang a hymn expressing love to the Sacred Heart. As said there was joy in the hearts of everyone who had heard the good news of the evening before that the new church was to be a reality. But as from a clear sky this joy was turned to deep sorrow. Loving parents had to be called by the priests to witness their loving bright eyed boy stilled in death from a baseball accident on the playgrounds. It was school picnic day. Bewilderment, confusion! Why should this have happened especially in view of the sacrificing spirit of parishioners and friends of the parish to their God to promote a work to His glory?

Sister Antonine in discussing the sad occurrence which overshadowed the joy of the project of the new church said, "I once heard that a new church demands a sacrifice. The price of the Founding of the Church by our Savior was His death on
the cross."

May we never count the sacrifices too great which we are asked to make to the Honor and Glory of God's Holy Name. To you our many friends and sponsors of this booklet commemorating the completion and dedication of our church and school addition we extend the wish, that your sacrifices made gratuitously or in charity to us, will inspire you ever to make the sacrifices you are bound in duty to accept, so that you may enter one day with the Son of God to everlasting glory.

BUILDING COMMITTEE 1945-48
Top Row - Robert Schindhelm, Fred Scheppler, Steve Cvengros, Paul Neubauer, Edward Skotzke, Mike Kugler, Jr.
Center - Ben Kools, Wenzel Sommers, Robert Fahr cnkrug, Herman Giesbers, George Laux.
Front - Lynn Sheldon, Father Schmit, Chris Schink and Geor ge Treiber.
Absent when picture was taken - John McCann, George Hoffer, Joseph Engel, Ray and Julius Pritzl.

1950
The construction and dedication of our present church was built in 1950 under the direction of The Rev. Emil Schmit. Thirteen classrooms were added to the school from 1950-55

The new church was dedicated on Sunday, June 18, 1950.
1951
Rev. Emil Schmit began the first Perpetual Adoration devotion in the diocese in 1951. Faithful parishioners continued their presence before the Blessed Sacrament both day and night for the next 36 years.

March 11, 1951 $100,000 set back because of fire.
June 18, 1951, completed, $325,000 project of a New Church and four room school addition and convent for the teaching staff of sisters.
Left to right: Joe EngeL Clarence Hopfensperger, Ray Selig, Herman Giesbers, Secretary, Joe Weyenberg, Ed. Diedrich, Treasurer, Father Schmit, George Laux, Father Slaudenmaier, Al Utschig, Rosemary Bloomer, Frank Bloomer, Mrs. Robert Schindhelm and son, Joey Bloomer, Marlene Weyenberg, Joyce Theyel.

Bottom row: Rita Kneice, Palsy Moriarity, Jimmy Moriarity, Daniel VanderLinden, Lynn Cvengros, Mrs. Joe Utschig and son, Mrs. Donald Heilpas and son.

In the picture above, the pastor, Father Schmit breaks the ground for the lesser of the three units of the new building project, the parish house facing Fremont Street to be built on to the rear of the new church. The school gymnasium and basement dining hall and four new class rooms which comprise the main part of the new building project, did not call for breaking of the ground as shown above.

All that was left as a result of the fire March 11, 1951 of salvage value to forward the erection of the new gymnasium after the debris from the fire of the old gymnasium was removed, was a hole in the ground, the excavation of the old church basement. Witnessing the ground breaking ceremony in the picture above are the assistant pastor Father Staudenmaier, the church officers, members of the building committee, contractors, and more members of the Sacred Heart Parish.

The youngest people of the parish also were invited to be present. It is to provide facilities for them that the main project of the building construction is under way at the present time. Whilst the adults in the picture express their appreciation of the meaning of the breaking ground ceremony, the crying baby in the foreground on the right side of the picture gives a graphic expression of what the prospects are for the present one year old children, to be eligible to attend Sacred Heart school at school age of 6 years in 1957. As early as 1955 the four new class rooms included in the building project, will not suffice for the children, whose parents will seek admittance for them.
The census of the parish, taken in 1951, shows 838 families belonged to the parish with 825 children eligible to be in the eighth grades of Sacred Heart by the year 1955. Last year, 1951, there were 545 children attending Sacred Heart School. The census showed that in the Fall of 1952-13 rooms would be needed with 600 children. One of the four new class rooms under construction will be put into use as soon as completed.

As Planned by the pastor, the trustees and the building committee the future needs of providing for school attendance would have been accomplished, by the fall of 1955 with 20 class rooms if the fire had not destroyed the old church. Although razing of the old church by fire, -which had been converted to a recreational center, - gave us $60,000, collected from fire insurance and a damage suit, now allocated to a new gymnasium, however, since the old church was totally destroyed, the building of a new gymnasium, larger of proportions, 60 by 95 and of brick and stone construction, has imposed the burden of an extra $100,000 for the new gymnasium, exclusive of the four class rooms.

If the fire had not intervened, the two permanent class rooms alone, upper left in the sketch below, would have been the only building project for this year, costing in the neighborhood of $40,000. The present project of the gymnasium and four new class rooms exclusive of the new parish house is approximately $175,000 including architects fees and equipment.

Next in the program for providing the necessary room capacity by 1955 is the construction of the six room second story to the new school unit (the second story unit is seen in the architects drawing between the new church and new gymn) which appears on the cover page. The cost of this project will be
$100,000. At that time the sisters home should be likewise expanded (picture below).

The necessity of erecting the new gymnasium at this time places this unexpected burden on the parish. This is a great burden indeed, because of recent completions of the new church, school rooms, and convent for $325,000.00.

As shown above, the convent home of the sisters, which was the former priests house extends parallel with the excavation site for the new gymnasium. The picture gives the north exposure of the former priests home which was converted and enlarged to a convent by Al Utschig & Sons when the new Church and four classrooms were under construction by the Paul Hoffman Co. The further expansion of the school by 1955 will necessitate extending the convent again to provide more rooms for the sisters. The why and the wherefore narrative of the erection of a new priests house facing on Fremont St. follows.

**NEW PARISH HOUSE**
As planned from the very beginning of the pastorate of the present pastor, with the approval of the Most Rev., Bishop of the diocese it was decided that the old Schuster residence located next door to the church should be purchased for it more convenient home for the clergy and to better serve the parish than the
present rectory, the former Sister's house located one block from the new church.

However, instead of the parish paying the stipulated sum of $20,000, the owners agreed to sell their real estate, only on a land contract. The terms of the land contract were a $2,000 down payment and $150 per month to be paid to the former owners until paid in full. The parish agreed to take over the property on these terms. However, the parish also decided, rather than convert the same for a parish house, to leave three tenants reside there, with rent totals monthly of $140.00. The front apartment of the house, formerly occupied by the owners has been given over to the janitor's family of the parish. The release of the janitor from living in a house owned by the parish, has made possible to sell this house for the sum of $9,200.

It was because of the willingness of the parish to pay, if necessary, $20,000 for the purchase of the old Schuster property and the opportunity to sell the old house for $9,200, (and that the old Schuster house would in time come into full possession of the parish, without any cost to the parish if the tenants would remain in the same as tenants) that the project of erecting, an entirely new parish house was proposed to the officers of the church and to the Most Rev. Bishop.

The actual increase of debt to the parish because of the erection of the new parish house is less than $25,000.00. The new parish house, built onto the church, will afford greater convenience to the clergy. It will provide two reception rooms and a church administrative office, easily accessible to and from the church auditorium.
When the priests move into the new parish house, their present home which was the old sisters' home will most probably be sold and the sale price applied to the cost of the new rectory.

It hoped that the "Why and the Wherefore" of the new parish house, the lesser of three units of the present parish building project, does not diminish appreciation from what has been stated as to the set back to the parish finances, brought about by the destruction of the old church by fire.

The facts as stated show that Sacred Heart Parish in building again faces the dismal prospect of having to forego the giving the little ones of the parish by 1955 the education in the parochial school their parents desire for them and to which they are entitled, if $100,000 needed to construct the second story on the new six room school unit will not be available within three years. At which time also the convent will need to be further enlarged.

Other parishes have taken up the challenge of meeting the costs of school development without crying over their growing pains and of holding up their hands for any outside help.
In all candor, the other Catholic parishes have not suffered from a disastrous fire and have not had to meet a challenge compared with this parish which, although organized in 1898 to serve the entire territory south of the Fox River, had not been able to receive the income the parish was entitled to receive until two years ago.

The pastor, the compiler of this building prospectus brochure humbly asks that kindly consideration be given Sacred Heart Parish because of the destruction of the old gym by the destructive fire of March 12, 1951.

He has little Joey with him in the picture below. Joey is only one of the hundreds who may be denied the Catholic schooling his parents have in mind for him unless success attends the efforts of the parish to raise the money.

More than one half of the 900 families of Sacred Heart, who have become members in the past five years have had to erect new homes and have burdened themselves with debt. In spite of the payments they must make to meet their financial obligations in building, they are giving what they can in a true spirit of self-denial to themselves and their families. We ask God to bless them for their generous spirit of support to their parish which will not go unrewarded. Those who cannot give in money can give in service. The event of our picnic, July 18, 19, and 20.

Father wishes to know if you have money to loan to the parish. Little Joseph doesn't know what it's all about but "I" he too is interested in what Father wants. Instance in which help was needed. For the success of the picnic, workers, as well as spenders were needed. Both responded to make the picnic a
success. More than 1200 books at $5.00 containing tickets for meals and entertainment were purchased by the members.

1952
The gym, cafeteria and rectory were constructed. Seven classrooms were added to the school that year.

June 18, 1952 - Contracted $225,000 project - School, gym, dining hall, 4 more class rooms and parish house.

The registration on August 17, 1952, indicates closer to 650 attendance.

1953
Fall of 1953 - 14 rooms - 675 children and two more new rooms of present building project to be used.
Fall of 1954 - 17 rooms - 750 children, which means there will be one class room short.
Fall of 1955 - 18 rooms - 825 children.
Fall of 1956 - 19 rooms - 875 children.
Fall of 1957 - 20 rooms - 942 children.

1955
In 1955, the convent was built

The parish has a bonded debt with the Appleton State Bank of $150,000.00 on which it is paying 2 interest in bonds maturing Oct. 1, 1955. 3 interest on bonds until April 1, 1960. To offset this debt the parish has assets received from Fire Insurance, from membership dues, Building Fund Donations, social events totalling approximately $125,000.00.

Instead of liquidating the bonded debt of the $150,000 with it's favorable terms of interest, in order to make another loan to cover the entire indebtedness of the parish which will be in the neighborhood of $250,000 but at a higher rate of interest at this time, the pastor and officers of the parish look forward to obtain individual loans at favorable terms of interest. These loans will be secured by the Green Bay Diocese.

A rescript of the notes to be given with the signature of the Most Rev. Bishop, the Vicar General, The Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the parish is shown below. The notes will be held strictly confidential and are earnestly solicited. Applications to be made to one of the priests or officers at interest
rate of 3 inclusive. Money loaned to the Green Bay Diocese carries the best security.

1956
1955 at Appleton to J. J. BROWN or survivors the sum of One Thousand Dollars with interest at 3 percent per annum, after date, until paid. The Congregation of Sacred Heart by its directors:

Since July 11, this year, the parish has received another assistant priest appointed by the Most Rev. Bishop in the person of Rev. Jerome Watry. He came to Sacred Heart from West Kewaunee, Wis. where he had been administrator. Prior to this latter appointment he had been assistant to the Most Rev. Bishop John B. Grellinger, Auxiliary Bishop of the Green Bay Diocese.

April 14 - Father Emil J. Schmit celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Ordination

1957
Convent chapel added in 1957.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame served as teachers and administrators of the school. Through many struggles, they served our parish for 89 years, devoting their lives to educating our children.

1963
The old school was completely renovated.

1967
Rev. Wilbert Staudenmaier
1911 -
Sacred Heart 1967 - 1987

Sacred Heart Church and School met many challenges under Rev. Wilbert Staudenmaier. His greatest asset was finding ways of helping those in need help themselves. He organized Keen-Ager Corporation, the Big Family Buying Club and the rented gardens project.

He oversaw the establishment of a national school lunch program at Sacred Heart, which provided nourishing meals at a minimal cost.

He helped launch the $5 garden rental plots. His idea flourished and eventually, 2700 local gardens were planted and the idea spread across the nation.
He founded Keen-Ager Retirement Homes, which has helped senior citizens at Sacred Heart and many other parishes. He was a strong advocate of pro-life as well as the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

When the Rev. Staudenmaier was pastor, he always had at least one and sometimes as many as two or three associate pastors. But the days of having more than one priest at Sacred Heart are gone due to the shortage of priests.

1972
The hot lunch program was expanded to include noon meals for senior citizens. "Meals on Wheels" evolved as volunteers began delivery hot meals to shut-ins and the elderly.

1976
Through 1976, more than a million meals were served at Sacred Heart.

1987
Rev. William M. Kuhr
Sacred Heart
1987 – 1998

When the Rev. William Kuhr became pastor in 1987, he had two assistants. Later, he was the parish's only priest, yet he performed his duties well despite a busy schedule.

1989
In 1989, Sacred Heart Grade School was the last Catholic parish school in the city to close as the Appleton Catholic Educational System (ACES) evolved. The closing of the school, finalized the departure of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Some students in the parish, who attended Sacred Heart, opted for public schools. That increased the need for religious education teachers. To accommodate students' needs, religious education coordinators were hired at Sacred Heart to oversee the program.
1995
With many priests retiring and few newly-ordained ones to replace them, the parish turned to deacons to help take care of its spiritual needs. Today, Deacon Don Gigure (who was assigned to Sacred Heart in 1995), Deacon Gib Schmidt and Deacon Don Koszalinski assists at Mass and presides at baptisms, weddings and funerals.

1998

1998 - 1998

Rev. David Funk
Sacred Heart

Rev. Brian Coleman
Sacred Heart

1998 -

Rev. Brian Coleman
Sacred Heart

1998 -

????

Rev. Robert Karuhn
- 2010

2010

Deacon Jim Dennison
Parish Director
2010
Pictures of our Past
1933

Class of 1933