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St. Mary Parish, Brillion, Wisconsin. 1881-1981

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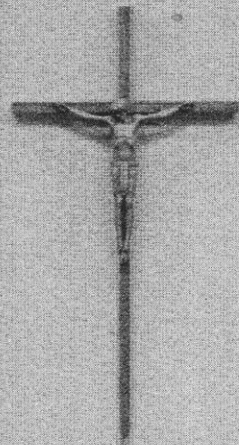
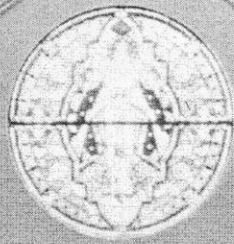
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1881

1981



ST. MARY PARISH

Brillion, Wisconsin

HISTORY OF ST. MARY PARISH

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, established on September 8, 1881, as a second mission of Reedsville, was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Francis X. Krautbauer, Bishop of Green Bay, on November 9, 1881. That was 13 years after the Diocese of Green Bay was established and 4 years before Brillion incorporated as a village.

Early History as a Mission

The history of this new parish goes back 15 years before that when St. Mary Parish, Reedsville (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), was established in 1866, and Holy Trinity, Kasson, was started in 1875 as a mission of Reedsville. With the growth of Brillion and the completion of the Milwaukee and Lakeshore Railroad, residents in the area felt a need to establish their own parish. A petition, written in German, and dated June 22, 1879, was sent to His Excellency, Bishop of Green Bay, asking for permission to build a Roman Catholic Church in Brillion, Calumet County. This document, signed by 35 men, lists the amount everyone pledged to pay annually toward the support of a priest.

With permission granted, 50 of the 80 families who attended the Kasson mission, which was located three miles to the northeast of Brillion, joined the Catholic families of the Brillion community in establishing a new parish. Four lots at the corner of Center and Custer Streets were purchased in 1881 from Edward and Henrietta Daskam, and a frame church was built to the south and west of the present church. The lumber used in construction was hauled from Chilton by parishioners with their teams and wagons. The approximate cost for building the first church in Brillion was \$2,900. Members of the building committee were Jacob Rank, Peter Binsfeld, Sr., and George Egan.

<i>Rev. Tobias Spunar</i> 1881 - 1882
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The early records of the parish are written in German and some in Latin. The first baptism in the parish was recorded on December 18, 1881. During the following three years, another 34 baptisms were recorded with names appearing such as Steinmetz, Jodar, Rank, Schmieder, and Braun.

The spiritual needs of the Kasson and Brillion missions were administered by Rev. Tobias Spunar, the resident pastor of St. Mary Parish, Reedsville. Another document, sent to the Bishop and dated February 8, 1882, has 43 signatures of men who pledged an annual amount for the support of a priest; the total listed is \$305.

<i>Rev. John Videnka</i> 1882 - 1885

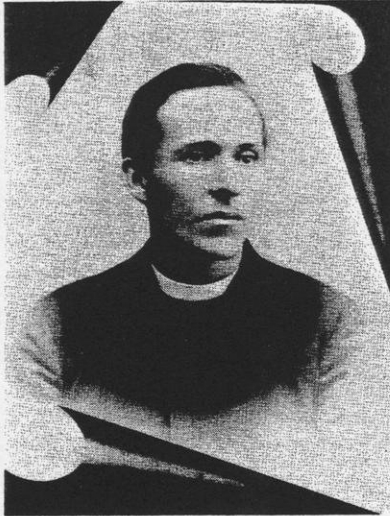
Rev. Spunar left Reedsville in March of 1882 and was succeeded by Rev. John Videnka who officiated at the first funeral at the new Brillion mission in October of 1882. Rev. Videnka, as well as Rev. Spunar, was a native of Austria.

The first acre for a cemetery, located approximately one mile to the northeast of Brillion, was purchased in 1883 from Andreas and Dorathea Seidel. The first person buried there was Mary Seidel who died at age 79.

First Parochial School Established in 1889

With the completion of a church, parishioners began planning for a school. A letter, written in German and dated at Reedsville on August 29, 1883, was sent to Bishop Krautbauer by Rev. Videnka telling of his forthcoming visit in the fall to outline plans for building a "sister school" at the parish in Brillion.

Rev. Videnka died on May 29, 1885, and is the only priest buried in St. Mary Parish cemetery in Reedsville.

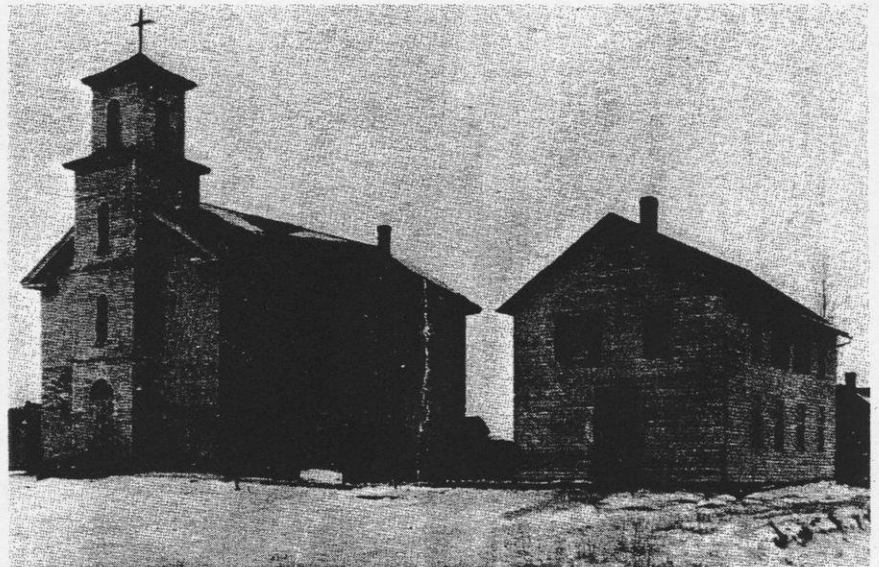


*Rev. William Kraemer
1885 - 1896*

Ordained June 29, 1885, Rev. William Kraemer became pastor of St. Mary Parish, Reedsville, on July 16 of that same year, with missions at Brillion and Kasson. The Milwaukee native, at age 25, brought his youthful energies to his first assignment. He undertook the building of the first parochial school at the parish in Brillion in 1889. The two-story frame structure, financed by the Brillion and Kasson missions, was completed in the summer of 1889 at an approximate cost of \$600. The 1889-90 school year began with children enrolled from the two mission parishes.

The school was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Manitowoc, Wisconsin; the first teacher being Sister Antonella. The first floor of the school served as a classroom and the second floor as a residence for the sisters. Today, the school continues to be served by the same religious order of sisters.

The first church (1881) and school (1889) which faced Custer Street, but stood back from the street. The church was later converted into a school, and together the frame buildings served the educational needs of the parish until 1922.



In 1892 the Confraternity of Christian Mothers was the first society organized with 33 charter members. Two years later, the parish records show 385 parishioners including 76 men, 87 women, and 222 children. In these early years the parish was predominantly German with 53 German families and 9 English families. The market value of the parish property in 1894 was listed as \$5,200 and the parish functioned with \$23.15 cash on hand. The school enrollment in 1896 was 99 students; the two teachers were Sister Theresa and Sister Chyrsantha.

Brick Church Constructed in 1899



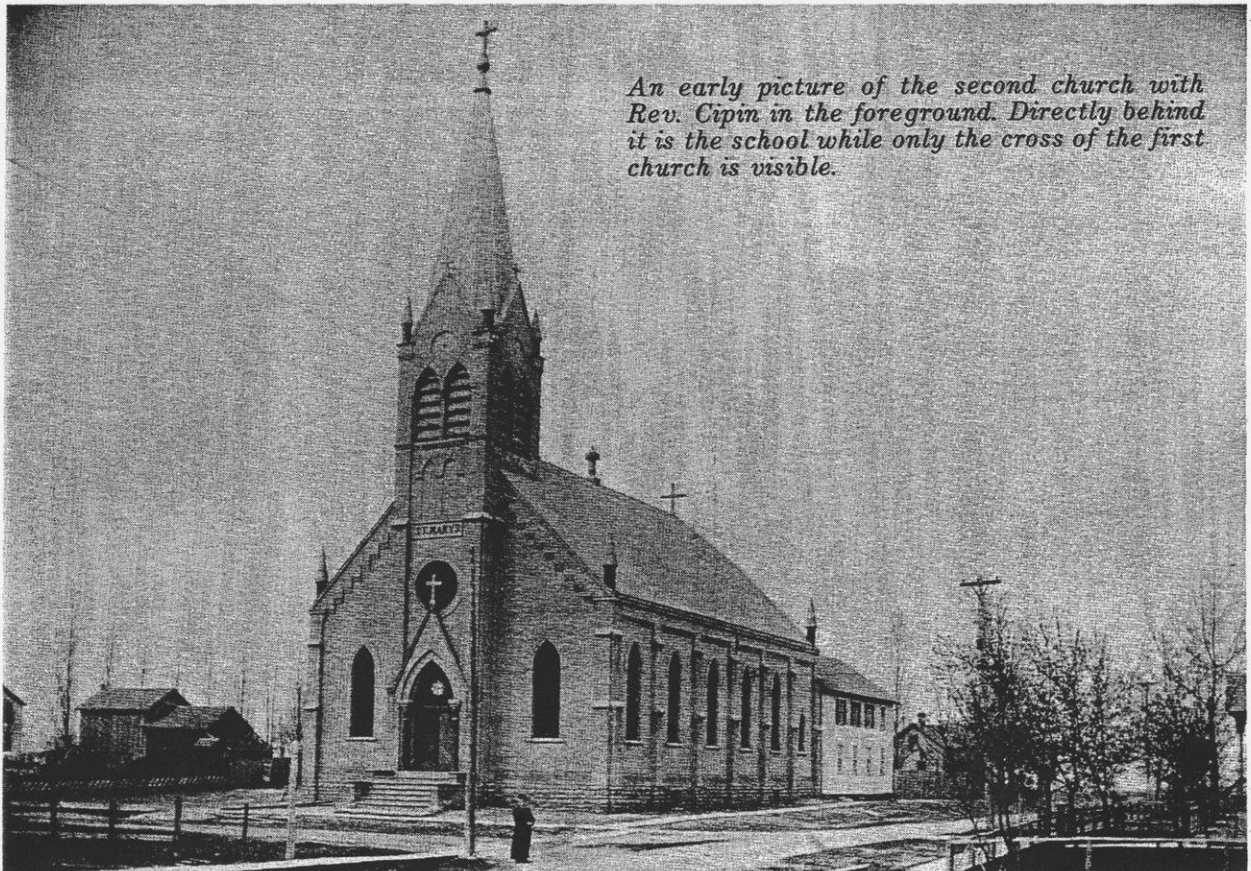
*Rev. Adalbert Cipin
1896 - 1902*

The fourth priest to serve the Brillion mission was Rev. Adalbert Cipin who became pastor of St. Mary Parish, Reedsville, in October 1896. Rev. Cipin, a Bohemian immigrant, was a gifted musician and artist. He supervised the construction of a new brick church which is the present place of worship. Anton Braun, the oldest living parishioner at age 94, recalls that bricks for the outside of the church were hauled from the Leukel yard at Potter, and bricks from the Boetcher yard at Brillion were used for the inside. The report of the building committee credits specific parishioners with each load and number of bricks hauled. The cost was \$861.47.

The church was constructed at a cost of \$7,000 and was dedicated on November 30, 1899. Members of the building committee were N. P. Kiefer, Peter Binsfeld, Sr., Joseph Hoyer, Sr., George Egan, and M. Miller. During that same year, the mission parish became a corporation with the legal title of "St. Mary's Congregation of Brillion, Wisconsin." The five legal officers today are the Bishop and Chancellor of the Diocese, the pastor, and two elected trustees.

Because of expanding enrollment, the old frame church was converted into a school for the older children. The younger children continued to be taught in the original school.

Even with the newly constructed church, Masses were only offered every second Sunday, alternately with those at Reedsville. Anton Braun recalls Father Cipin arriving Saturday evening on the five o'clock train and returning to Reedsville by train on Monday morning. Readers of this history may find of interest that there were three east and three west bound trains daily except on Sunday.



An early picture of the second church with Rev. Cipin in the foreground. Directly behind it is the school while only the cross of the first church is visible.

First Mission Organized in 1903

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary assumed parish status in July of 1902 with the arrival of the first resident pastor, Rev. John J. Sprangers. At that time, Holy Trinity at Kasson became a mission of the Brillion parish. Rev. Sprangers, born in Oostburg, Wisconsin, and ordained in Innsbruck, Austria, felt a need to renew the religious fervor of the faithful and was instrumental in organizing the first week-long mission in 1903.



Rev. John J. Sprangers
1902 - 1907

Andenken an die erste hl. Mission vom 1. bis zum 8. Feb. 1903

gehalten von
Rev. Joh. B. Schmandt, S. J.

1. Verichte jeden Tag gewissenhaft dein Morgen- und Abendgebet. Am Morgen opfere Gott deine Gebete, Arbeiten und Leiden auf und am Abende erwecke Reue über deine Sünden, wie wenn du Nachts sterben müßtest.

2. Wonne an Sonn- und Feiertagen, wo möglich, dem Hochamt, der Predigt und dem Nachmittags Gottesdienst bei, und gehe, wenn du kannst, auch an Wochentagen zur hl. Messe.

3. Gehe wenigstens alle drei Monate oder noch besser alle Monate zu den hl. Sakramenten.

4. Tritt in keine außerkirchliche oder geheime Gesellschaft ein, sondern schlicke dich einem katholischen Verein in der Kirche an.

5. Verleihe gemischte Bekanntschaften und Ehen; unnützbaren Umgang mit Ungläubigen, Freigläubigen und Apostaten; Lesen ungläubiger und unchristlicher Zeitungen, Bücher und Romane.

6. Hüte dich vor Gotteslästerung, Unmäßigkeit, unlauteren Reden, Verläumdung und jeder Art Mergerniß.

7. Frage deinen Theil zum Unterhalt von Kirche, Schule und Arbeiter bei.

8. Erneuere oft deine Vorsätze und Verheißungen und bete täglich um eine selbige Sterbestunde.

9. Denke oft an Tod, — Gericht, — Hölle, — Himmel, — und harre aus bis an's Ende, dann wirst du selig.

Rev. John J. Sprangers, Rector

Remembrance of the First Holy Mission

—FROM—

Feb. 1st to Feb. 8th, 1903,

—AT—

St. Mary's Church, Brillion, Wis.,

GIVEN BY

Rev. John B. Schmandt, S. J.

1. Be faithful to your daily prayers. Offer in the morning all your works to God. Before going to rest, reflect on your sins and repent of them, as if you were to die during the night.

2. Attend mass and instructions every Sunday and holy day.

3. Go to confession, if it be possible, every month, or at least every three months.

4. Beware of entering secret societies; join Catholic societies or sodalities.

5. Avoid mixed marriages, familiarity with infidels and scoffers at religion.

6. Shun reading infidel and immoral newspapers, books and novels.

7. Contribute to the support of the Priest, the Church and School.

8. Avoid drunkenness, improper language, cursing, slander, and every kind of dishonesty.

9. Persevere to the end and you will be saved.

Sweet Heart of Jesus, be my love.—300 days indulgence.

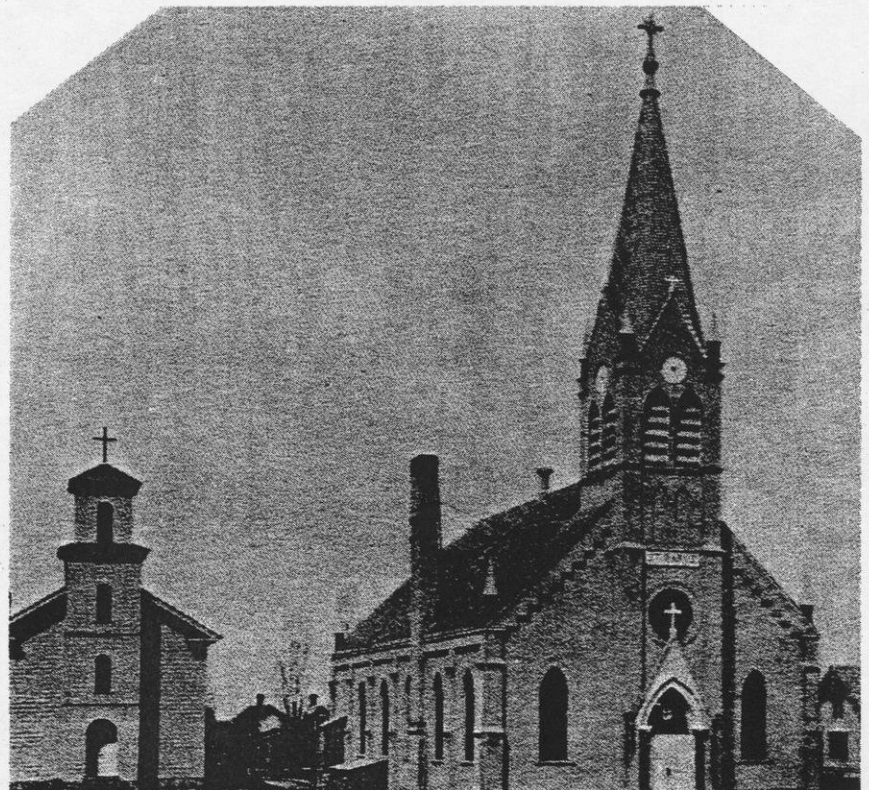
Sweet Heart of Mary be my salvation.—300 days indulgence.

Rev. JOHN J. SPRANGERS, Rector.

The old church (converted into a school), the new church, and the first rectory visible in the background between them. The corner turrets were removed prior to 1913, but the chimney remains on a picture in that year. The steps were widened in 1906.

The financial statement for 1903 lists total receipts of \$3,177.24 and total expenditures of \$3,133.87. Individual listings for the 82 parishioner families show pew rent, totaling \$1,124.75; subscriptions, totaling \$992.15; and pulpit, totaling \$119. The pastor's annual salary was \$400; sisters' salary, \$235; coal and wood expense, \$250.75.

During 1904 three bells of various sizes were purchased for \$910. A christening ceremony was held and three men acted as sponsors for each of the three bells. Leonard Thissen was sponsor for the bell named St. Aloysius, Jacob Rank was sponsor for the second bell, the name of which is unknown, and neither the sponsor nor the name of the third bell is known.



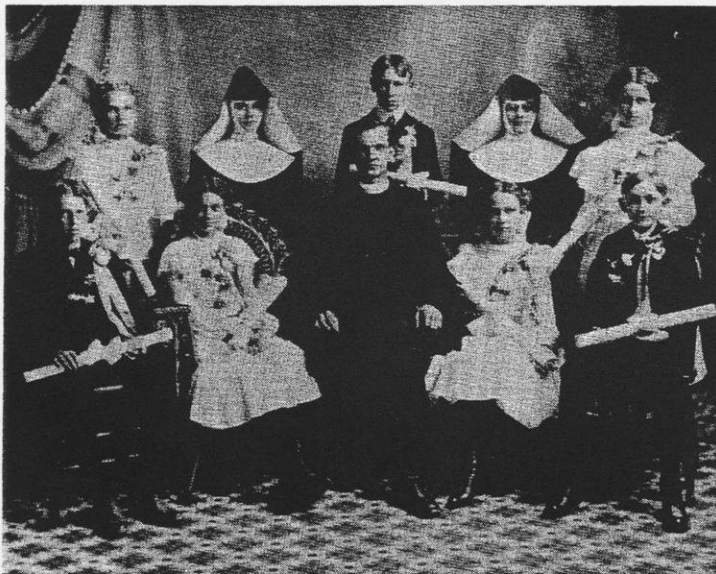
Silver Jubilee and First Graduation Observed in 1906

A tower clock, purchased in 1904 for \$500 with donations collected door-to-door in the community, served as a clock for the entire village. Today it remains as the only public clock in the city and strikes on the hour as well as every 15 minutes. Rev. Sprangers credited "... every member of the congregation, the citizens of the town, and the public generally..." for their contributions toward making the town clock a reality.

In the summer of 1906, the outside steps of the church were widened, and the stone walk was replaced with a cement walk. The work was done by Koch & Geiger.

It was 25 years before a member of St. Mary Parish entered a religious order. Rose Rank entered St. Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac, in 1906 and professed her first vows three years later, choosing as her religious name Sister Dionysia.

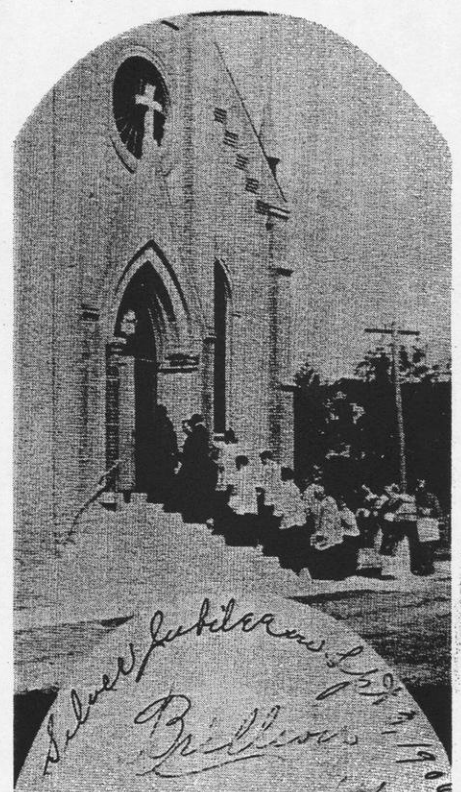
Prior to the school year of 1905-06, no graded school system existed. Rev. Sprangers, seeing a need to improve the educational system, established grades one through eight, and a third sister was hired. The old church, which had become a school for the older children, was partitioned into two classrooms with Sister Emily teaching grades six through eight and Sister Edna teaching grades three through five. Grades one and two were taught by Sister Pacifica in the original school.



Standing: Left to Right — Nora Kiefer, Sister Emily, George Rank, Sister Pacifica, Carrie Pritzl. Seated: Raymond Schneider, Teresa Puser, Rev. John J. Sprangers, Hannah Wirtz, Charles Tikalsky.

Rev. Sprangers presented diplomas to the first graduating class on June 12, 1906, with his words of wisdom, "It is not so much the quantity of knowledge you possess, as the quality of it." At age 89, Nora Kiefer (Mrs. Frank Bohman) is the only one of the seven graduates still living.

The parish observed its silver jubilee on Labor Day, September 3, 1906, beginning with a solemn High Mass at 9:30 a.m. sung by Very Rev. P.J. Lochman, Vicar General of the Diocese, assisted by several neighboring priests. Following the Mass, 30 children received the Sacrament of Confirmation administered by Rev. Joseph J. Fox, Bishop of the Green Bay Diocese.



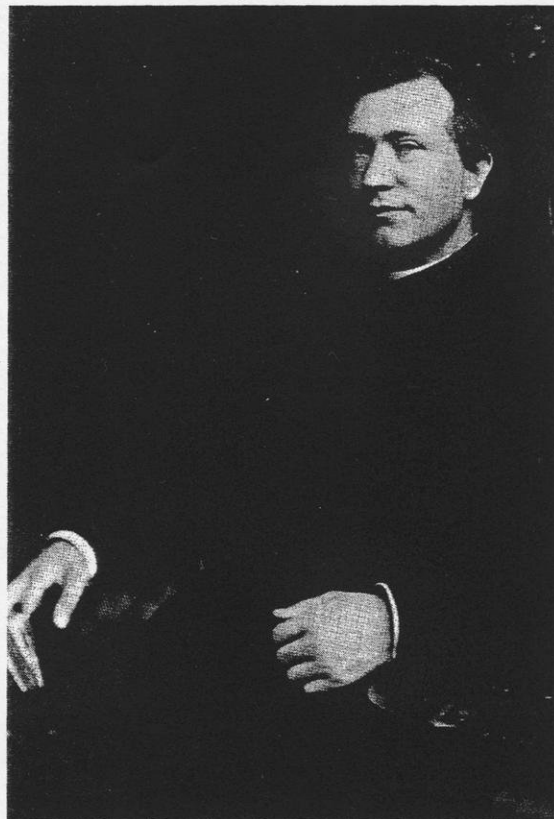
New Brick Rectory Built in 1909

The silver jubilee observance continued with an elaborate picnic in the afternoon and evening at Ryan's Park. Honorable J.A. Kuypers, former Mayor of DePere, was guest speaker. A number of neighboring societies were present, the crowd was immense, and the winner of the silver jubilee watch was Peter Luecker.

The church was redecorated for this occasion by W. Scheer at a cost of \$615, which was financed by a jubilee day picnic and subscriptions. Rev. Sprangers was transferred to St. Paul Parish, Wrightstown, in April of 1907.

Rev. August Garthaus began his 23-year pastorate on April 5, 1907, in an era of strict observance of church rules. Many older parishioners recall his fiery sermons, temper, and use of gestures which included an occasional fist pounded on the pulpit. They also remember his spending one-half hour daily in each of the three classrooms for religious instruction, as well as his stress of physical fitness by allowing the eighth grade Mass servers to use his weight-lifting equipment.

Due to his authoritarian nature and zeal, a new brick rectory was built in 1909 for \$5,956.18, and it was partially furnished at a cost of \$498.20. The brick was obtained from Manitowoc Clay Company for \$404.52. A record of the building committee cannot be found, but Peter Braun served as secretary and Louis Rank, Sr. was treasurer of the parish at the time. A financial report of the new rectory lists contributions of 90 member families, and a significant contribution was received from 32 families of the Kasson mission.

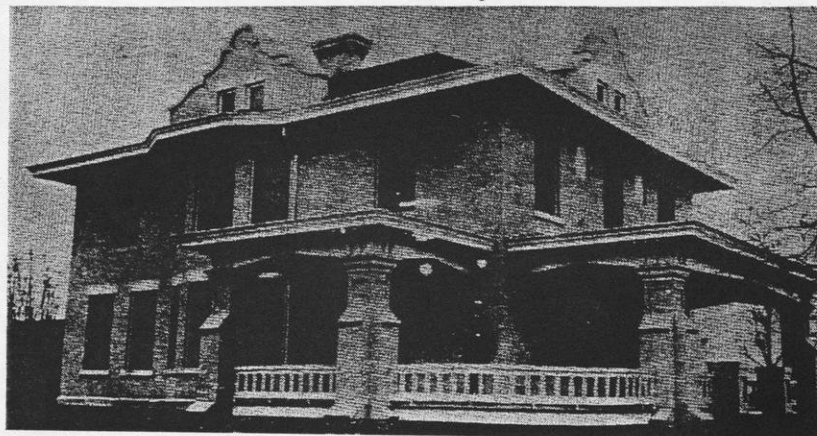


*Rev. August Garthaus
1907 - 1930*

The original two-story frame rectory was sold to Louis Mumm in 1909 for \$322 and moved to 135 East Ryan Street. Today it is the home of the Gary Kalies family.



*The old frame rectory
and
The new brick rectory with its
huge porch of which only the
north side remains today.*



Second Mission Held in 1916 - First Ordination in 1921

Parish Rules.

- 1 Membership is regulated by the Laws of the diocese, but only those are considered full members of the parish and entitled to the services of the priest who comply with their duties towards the church. All grown up members, whether married or single, must rent a seat or pew in the church or pay the pastoral fees or whatever assessments may be lawfully made.
- 2 All persons unable to pay rent or dues for the support of the church must notify the pastor, and he will assign them a pew or sitting. This is all we expect the poor to do, but this is absolutely required.
- 3 Do not occupy an other's pew. Any pewholder finding his pew occupied by another, should at once notify the ushers, who will see that it is vacated.
- 4 No one is allowed to stand in the tower or entrance of the church during services.
- 5 Those in arrears are in conscience bound to pay the same. This is a grave duty. Absolutely all dues must be paid up before funerals.
- 6 Decency and justice demands that those who move away should notify the pastor and settle their account with the secretary.
- 7 Children of the parish are not allowed to attend a public school unless they have finished the grades in the parochial school. This rule applies to all children living within three miles of the church.
- 8 When children have come to the use of reason they must attend Mass regularly on Sundays and holy days of obligation, and must go to confession and Holy Communion at least once a year. Parents are guilty of grievous sin when through their neglect children cannot fulfill these duties.
- 9 The financial report which you receive herewith is ample proof of what can be done even by a small congregation when the people work in harmony with their pastor. May God bless you and your homes for your good will and generosity during the year. Also in spiritual matters a great improvement is noticeable. A constant increase in the reception of the Holy Sacraments, is the most earnest desire of your pastor.

REV. A. GARTHAUS,
Pastor.

For a number of years during the pastorate of Rev. Garthaus, the annual report outlined diocesan and parish rules. A copy from the 1913 report is shown above.



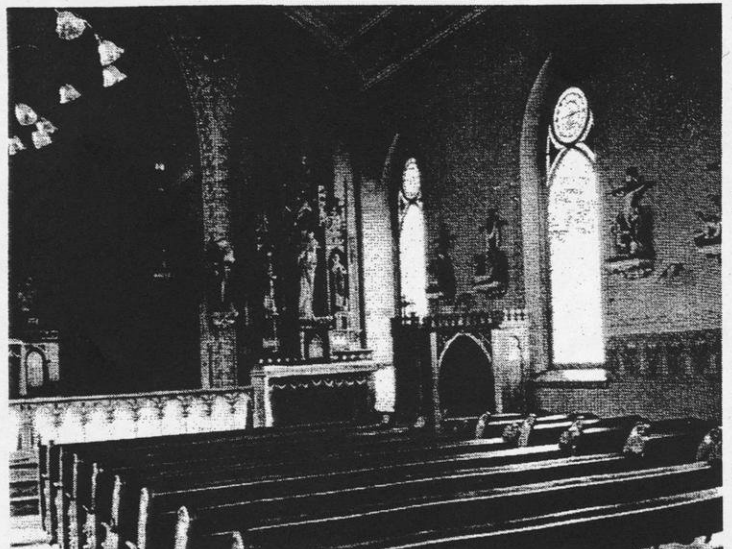
Stations of the cross, financed by donations, were purchased in 1908 for \$532. These replaced the first stations which were in picture form. A donation of \$1,000 in 1914 started a fund to replace the foot-pedaled organ with a pipe organ which was purchased in the following year for \$1,850.

The second week-long mission of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish was held on November 19 through 26 in 1916. It was conducted by Rev. Gottfried Schlachter.

Alfred Pritzl, a member of Holy Trinity, Kasson, became the first priest son when he was ordained May 21, 1921. He returned to St. Mary Parish to celebrate his first Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi, May 26. Remembrance cards were printed in English and German.

An early picture, taken sometime after 1908, shows the many statues on the main altar and one of the two side altars. The pulpit, with statues of the four evangelists around its base and an elaborate canopy above, occupies the left side of the sanctuary. The floor register of the pipeless furnace, the only heating source, can be seen in the middle of the center aisle. A chandelier, the first electric light, hung directly above this register.

A later picture, taken in 1937, shows the north side after the confessional had been moved from the back to the right-front side. The sanctuary lamp hangs from the right side of the arch, and the communion rail has the familiar white cloth. Short pews, seating three or four people, are against the wall. All pews were numbered. The side lights, which replaced the kerosene lamps, are visible between the stations.



School and Convent Built in 1922

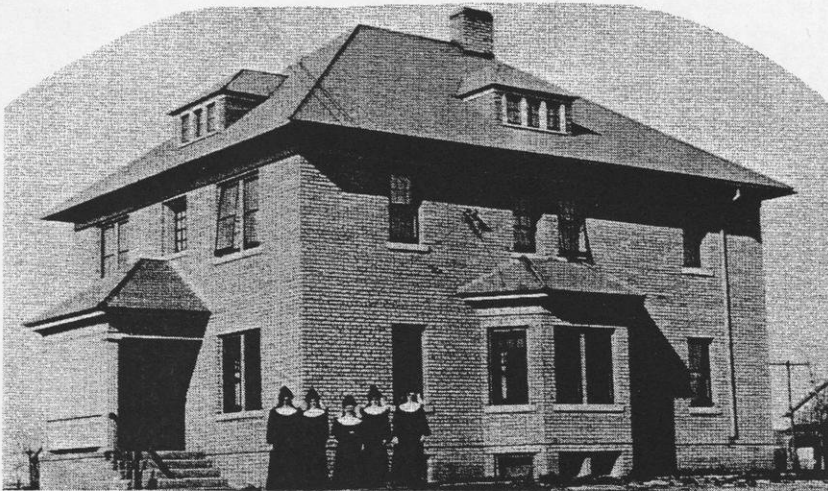
Land acquisitions of three lots in 1910 and two lots in 1917 enabled the parish to embark upon an extensive building project in 1922. A four-room brick school and a two-story brick convent were erected for \$36,581.55. The brick for these two buildings was shipped to Brillion by rail. The financial report for this project shows that an additional \$3,850.44 was paid for interest fees, equipment, and furnishing the buildings.

Thirty-eight members of Holy Trinity, Kasson, contributed \$10,543.49 toward this building project. Members of the building committee were Michael Becker, William Mullins, Michael Mullins, Henry Kersten, and Louis Rank, Sr.

The first school building was sold to Michael Becker in 1922 for \$370 and moved to its present site at 103 Elm Street. Today it is the home of the Richard Sheahan family.

The original church, which served as the second school building, was sold to Calumet-Dutch Packing Company in 1922 for \$450 and was dismantled for lumber.

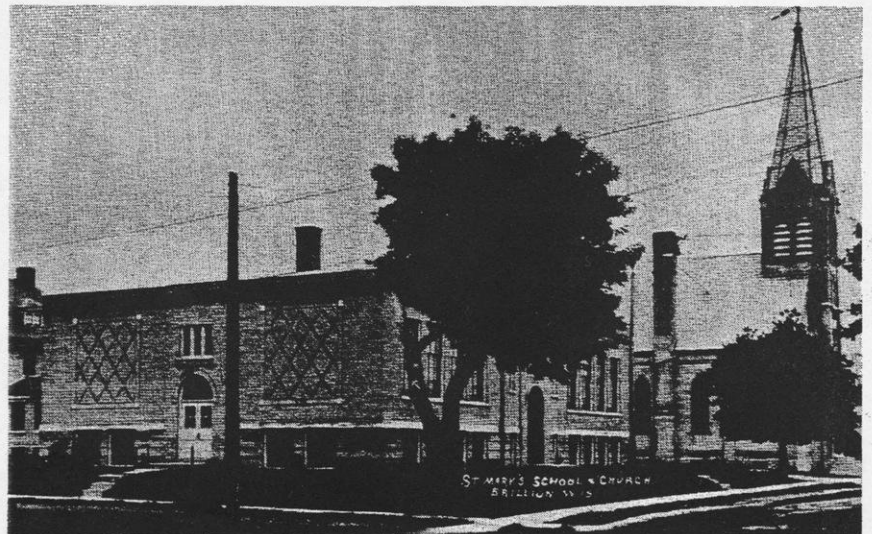
A third structure, which had become the sisters' residence soon after building the new church, was purchased in 1917 by Leo Schumacher for \$510. This house was moved to 216 Schley Street, and today it is the home of the Paul Bohman family.



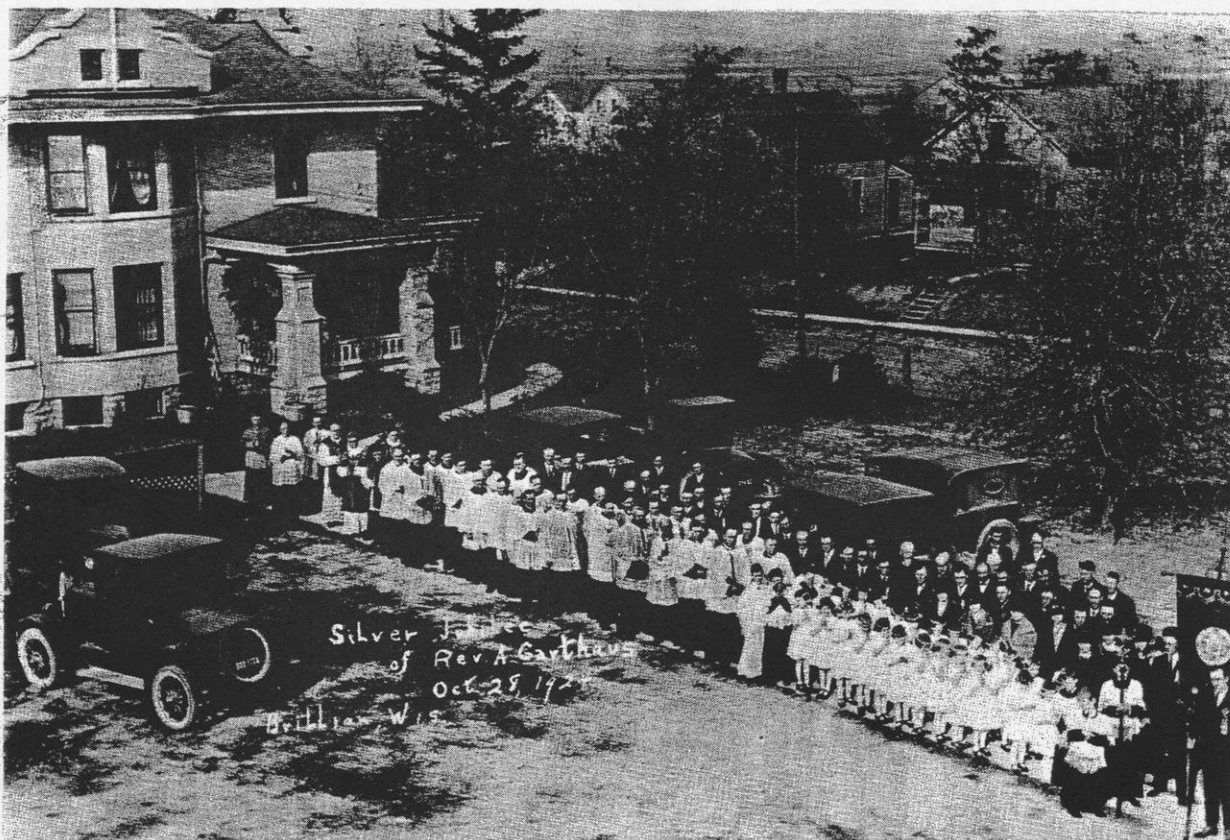
View of convent soon after construction and sisters dressed in the habits of that era.

Southeast view of parish property showing convent, school, and church taken in 1931.

Rev. Garthaus stressed spiritual renewal and, therefore, organized another week-long mission in October of 1923. Every evening a different group of parishioners were reminded of their spiritual obligations according to their state in life. Separate sessions were conducted by Rev. Eugene Gehl for men, women, children, and married couples.

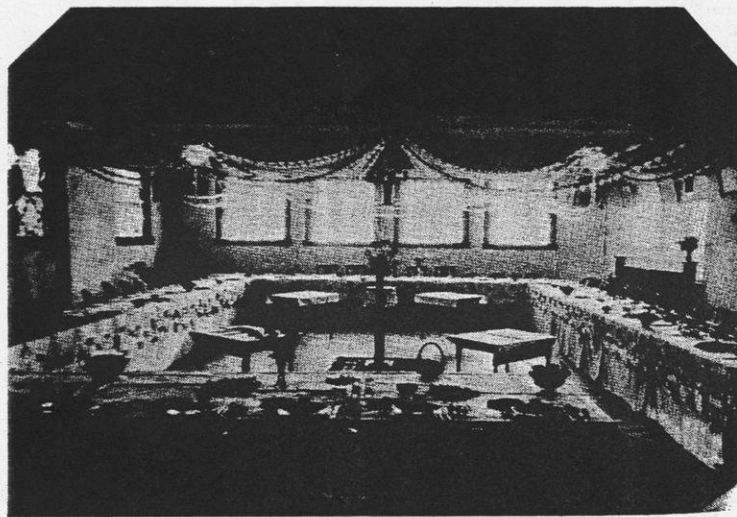


Silver Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Garthaus in 1924



On October 28, 1924, Rev. Garthaus observed the silver jubilee of his ordination. The elaborate celebration was attended by Bishop Paul P. Rhode and more than thirty priests. A festive dinner was served in a beautifully decorated hall (the present school library) and the menu included jubilee aide, crab cocktail, roasted goose, veal, baked ham, asparagus tips, sauerkraut, and a choice of seven desserts. Complimentary cigars were enjoyed by the men in attendance.

Parish hall elaborately decorated for the silver jubilee of Rev. Garthaus. This room now is the present library to which a new parish hall was added in 1962 closing the two windows pictured on the left.



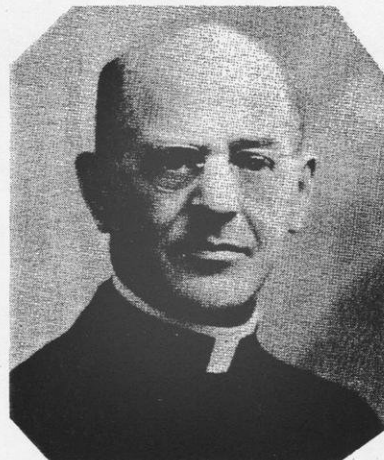
Anticipating the growth of the parish, an additional two acres of land for cemetery expansion was purchased from Peter Binsfeld on March 5, 1926, and remained in agricultural use until 1962. This acquisition adjoining the original purchase from A. Seidel in 1883 constitutes the land boundaries of the present cemetery.

Parish Observes Fiftieth Anniversary in 1931

The church clock was illuminated in 1928 by Bessert Electric Company. The village of Brillion contributed \$200 toward this project and continued to make a \$60 payment for the electricity for another three years. In that same year the church was redecorated by A.H. Rodkey for \$1,150.

Rev. Matthias J. Kraus, a native of Bavaria, became the third resident pastor on September 15, 1930, following the transfer of Rev. Garthaus to St. Joseph Parish, Sturgeon Bay. By 1931 the enrollment in St. Mary School was 130 students. Six Franciscan Sisters served the parish—four classroom teachers, one full-time music teacher, and one housekeeper.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Mary Parish was celebrated on Tuesday, October 27, 1931. The church was beautifully decorated with streamers of gold and white, the colors of the Roman Catholic church. The religious ceremonies began with a Pontifical High Mass at 10 a.m. The Bishop of Green Bay, Rt. Rev. Paul P. Rhode, D.D., was the celebrant assisted by Rev. John J. Sprangers, the first resident pastor. Deacons of honor were Rev. August Garthaus, also a former pastor, and Rev. Alfred Pritzl, a priest son of the parish. Deacon and sub-deacon of the Mass were Rev. John J. Miller and Rev. John Pritzl, both priest sons of the parish. Rev. William Kraemer, a former pastor, delivered the sermon. The service concluded with solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and singing of the hymn "Holy God We Praise Thy Name."



Rev. Matthias J. Kraus
1930-1942

After the solemn service, banquets were served by women of the parish at the Brillion Auditorium (now Karl's Variety) at noon and in the evening. A chicken dinner was served at noon to 400 guests, which included 50 visiting clergymen, officers of the congregation, pioneer members, and other guests. In the evening, members of civic organizations of Brillion attended the supper.

On Wednesday, October 28, at 9 a.m., a Solemn Requiem High Mass was offered for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of St. Mary Parish by the three priest sons, Rev. Alfred Pritzl, Rev. John Pritzl, and Rev. John J. Miller.



Left to Right: SYLVESTER SCHNEIDER, charter member; ANTON PFLUGER, member; WILLIAM KELLER, member; REV. WILLIAM KRAEMER, 3d pastor/resident priest at Reedsville; UNIDENTIFIED; REV. ALFRED PRITZL, 1st priest son of parish; REV. AUGUST GARTHAUS, 2d resident pastor; REV. JOHN J. MILLER, 2d priest son of parish; REV. MATTHIAS J. KRAUS, pastor; LEONARD THISSEN, sexton; ANTON F. SCHWALLER, charter member; REV. JOHN J. SPRANGERS, 1st resident pastor; NICHOLAS P. KIEFER, charter member

Fourth Mission Held in 1935

In 1935 Rev. Kraus organized the fourth mission which was a two-week spiritual renewal held from March 17 through 31. The mission was conducted by Rev. John B. Bradac, C.S.V. with some sessions held at Holy Trinity, Kasson. Later in the same year, on Wednesday, October 9, Rev. Kraus observed the silver jubilee of his ordination with a Solemn High Mass at 10 a.m. with the Bishop of Green Bay, Rt. Rev. Paul P. Rhode, presiding. A dinner in the school hall was prepared and served by women of the parish.

One of the difficulties faced by Rev. Kraus was obtaining sufficient funds during a period of economic depression. Parishioners were assessed \$10 to \$40 according to their ability to pay. Rev. Kraus can be credited with balancing the disbursements with the receipts during that difficult time. Parish disbursements for the year 1936 totaled \$6,236.61 and receipts were \$6,457.19. Parish membership was 183 families.

Death of Rev. Kraus

Rev. Kraus had heart problems and was not well during most of his pastorate. While in Iowa on temporary rest from his duties, he died on April 13, 1942. An all-night vigil by parishioners of St. Mary Parish was kept while his body lay in state in the church. He is buried in the parish cemetery in a lot reserved for priests.

During the absence of Rev. Kraus and the appointment of his successor, the parish was served by the Salvatorian Fathers of St. Nazianz, Wisconsin.

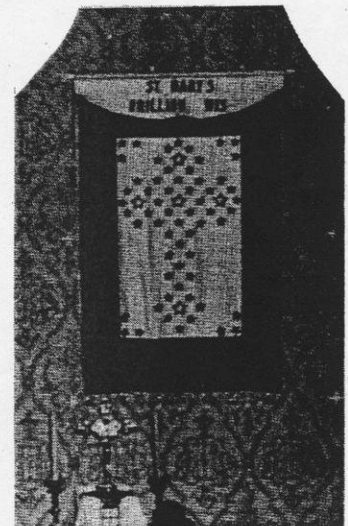
Rev. Raymond Schauer began his 20-year pastorate on June 3, 1942. On May 25, 1943, he celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination with a Mass of Thanksgiving.

In that same year, a stained glass window was installed with money received from the estate of Rev. Kraus. This donation continued a window replacement project, started by Rev. Kraus, that ultimately replaced all of the original stained glass windows except the two that remain on the east side of the church. Each one of these windows was financed with private donations.



*Rev. Raymond Schauer
1942 -1962*

In recognition of men from the parish who served in the armed forces during World War II, this red, white, and blue banner hung in the sanctuary on the right side of the altar. Each blue star was symbolic of someone serving the country, and five gold stars represented those who gave their life, namely: Bernard Becker '42, John Keller '45, Alfred Pritzl '42, Victor Schumacher '45, and Lester Urban '43.



Church Addition and Remodeling in 1951

In 1951 under the direction of Rev. Schauer, the church was remodeled and enlarged at a cost of \$73,419.49. The additional space provided a new sanctuary, two new sacristies, a recessed confessional on the north wall, and two side entrances. The steps of the main entrance were enclosed, and a terrazzo floor was installed at the three entrances. The balance of the floor was tiled. A "crying room" in the northeast corner was provided, and new pews with padded kneelers were installed. The steps leading to the communion rail were reduced from three to one, and the church was completely redecorated. Members of the building committee were Joseph W. Binsfeld, Ray A. Kleiber, George Geiger, Henry Geiger, Arthur J. Neumeyer, and Louis Rank, Sr.

Upon completion of the building project in 1952, liabilities totaled \$20,000. The parish avoided large indebtedness by having picnic fund assessments, special assessments, and pledges dating back to 1944.

Mrs. Violet (John) Pflueger joined four sisters as the first lay teacher on the faculty of St. Mary School for the 1956-57 school year. The enrollment for the following year was 189 students, 22 of them from the Kasson mission.

Land which is currently the parking lot and seeded school playground was acquired through anonymous donations of parishioners in 1950 and 1959. This land, acquired from Henry and Rose Zimmerman, was primarily swamp land and received foundry fill for approximately two years at no cost to the parish. The city provided tile and a storm sewer for proper drainage.



Enlarged church, newly remodeled, with two side entrances, recessed confessional, new rose window in the sanctuary, and longer pews (eliminating side pews).

Bells and Clock Electrified

After approximately 55 years of manual operation by Leonard Thissen and Michael Baer in ringing the bells and winding the clock, extensive repairs were needed. The bells and clock were silent for more than a year before sufficient funds for a new clock were obtained. The bells and clock were electrified in 1960 with donations by parishioners and non-members amounting to \$4,456, and an anonymous donor provided \$3,695.

The final land acquisition was made in 1960. This parcel, located between the rectory and the paved parking lot, was purchased from Ed. Bruening for \$6,000. A house located on the lot was later sold to Alfred Wieting for \$1,000 and moved to its present location at 122 Tesch Street.

Kasson Mission Closed

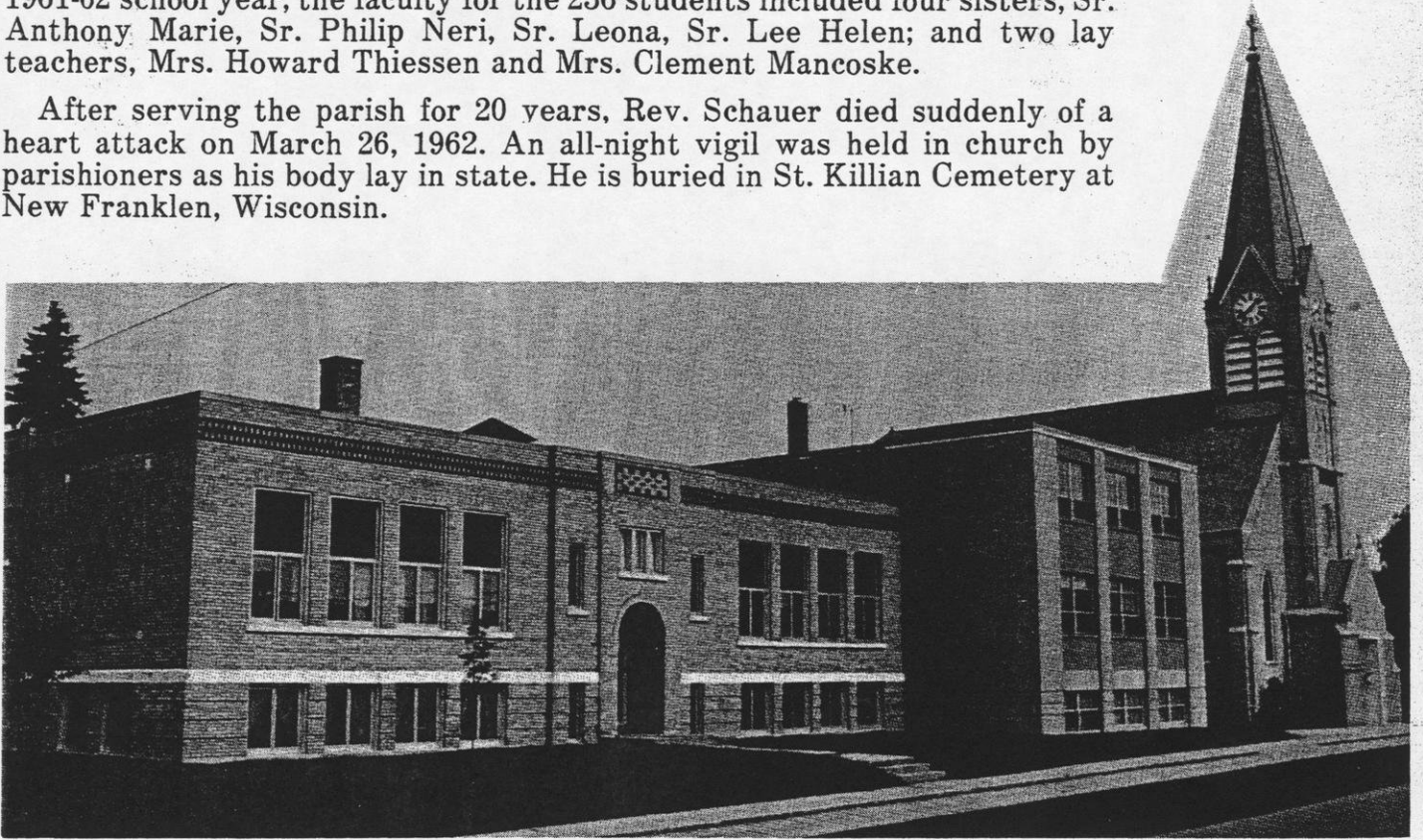
After considerable study, the Kasson mission was closed by order of Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona in March, 1961, and the majority of its members joined St. Mary Parish. To accommodate the faithful, Rev. Schauer was granted permission to offer a third Mass every Sunday.

School Addition Built in 1961 and Dedicated in 1962

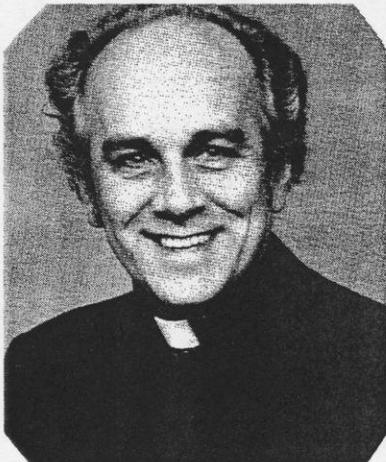
At a parish meeting on March 7, 1961, parishioners decided to add four classrooms, a parish hall, and a kitchen to the school. Construction of the \$133,000 addition began in May; and on September 11 of that same year, it was occupied — two rooms in the old part of the school remained vacant, ready for future use. The addition increased the school's total capacity to 300 students and was built north of the school on land previously used for a playground and parking lot. Members of the building committee were Chairman Ray Kleiber, George Geiger, Vernon Vechart, Edward Barth, Don Schmelter, Robert Ambrosius, Edward Schlies, Michael Ariens, Oscar Neuser; consultants; Wilfred Gries and Emil Tienor; and trustees, William Toomey and Don Sommers.

A new hot-air gas heating plant was installed for the entire school. In the 1961-62 school year, the faculty for the 236 students included four sisters, Sr. Anthony Marie, Sr. Philip Neri, Sr. Leona, Sr. Lee Helen; and two lay teachers, Mrs. Howard Thiessen and Mrs. Clement Mancoske.

After serving the parish for 20 years, Rev. Schauer died suddenly of a heart attack on March 26, 1962. An all-night vigil was held in church by parishioners as his body lay in state. He is buried in St. Killian Cemetery at New Franken, Wisconsin.



Picture taken in 1981 shows the four-classroom addition (88 × 42 ft.) attached to the 1922 building on which windows were replaced in 1975. At the time of this addition, stately elms graced the landscape, but were later removed because of Dutch Elm disease and replaced by two honey locust and one green ash. The enclosed entrance of the church, added in 1951, is shown at the far right.



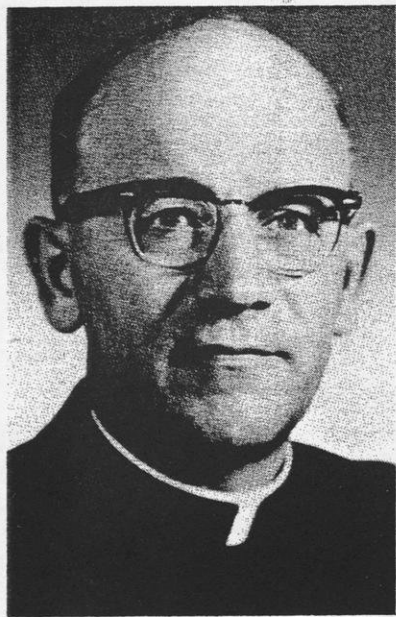
Rev. William Stengel, Associate Editor of *The Green Bay Register*, served as temporary administrator of St. Mary Parish from April to September of 1962.

At a 3 p.m. ceremony on May 27, 1962, the school addition was blessed by Bishop John Grellinger. In the same rite, the sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on 84 children and several adults. Earlier that day, 24 eighth graders graduated at the 7 a.m. High Mass which was also attended by Catholic high school graduates in caps and gowns.

Under the direction of Rev. Stengel, a great share of the present grade and seeding of the playground was accomplished.

Vatican II Changes — Fourth Mission in 1963

Rev. Monsignor Orville Griese, the founding rector of Sacred Heart Seminary in Oneida, was appointed pastor of St. Mary Parish in September of 1962. Early in his pastorate, he instituted a weekly parish bulletin.

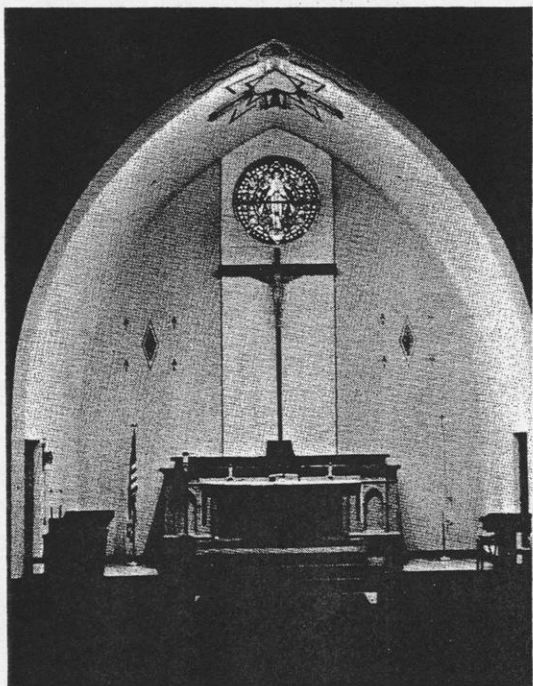


*Rev. Monsignor Orville Griese
1962 - 1966*

He organized a two-week parish mission which was held from October 27 to November 9, 1963. The first week was held solely for senior couples and single adults of senior age, and the second week was for younger couples and young single adults. Rev. John Flynn and Rev. Bernard Guenther, both Redemptionist Fathers, conducted the mission.

During 1963 and 1964, many changes were made to the interior of the church, some of them to meet the requirements of Vatican II. The most notable change was a new altar that allowed the priest to face the congregation during Mass. Additional changes were removing the top part of the main altar, mounting a cross on the back wall, installing a new tabernacle, extending the communion rail, and redecorating the church and sanctuary. The two side altars, purchased in 1903 for \$325, were removed; and one of

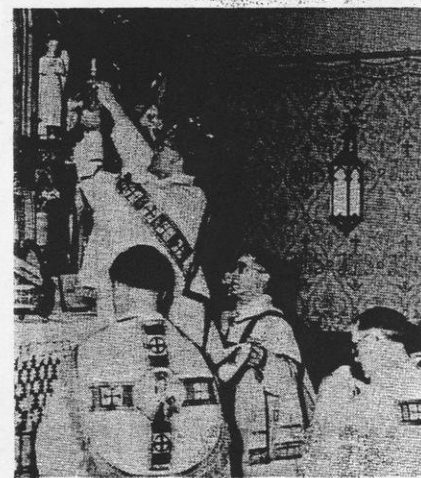
them was put into the sisters' chapel in the convent. Most of these improvements were made by the pastor and volunteer parishioners.



The parish bulletin of January 1, 1964, lists 1,184 souls, 252 families, 67 single paying units and 663 children.

*Before Vatican II
Latin Mass —
Priest faces the back
altar*

*After Vatican II
English Mass —
New altar allows priest
to face the congregation*



The transition from Latin to English in the Liturgy of the Mass began on November 29, 1964. Congregational participation by singing and praying together was encouraged, and High and Low Masses were eliminated.

The organ console was moved from the choir loft to the confessional alcove. The confessional was moved to the area inside the south side entrance of the church. In addition to the interior church improvements, the exteriors of all parish buildings were sandblasted and treated with silicone. The parking lot was blacktopped in 1964.

Eighth Grade Discontinued in 1968

The parish bulletin of January 1, 1966, lists the parish population as an exact 1,300. School enrollment was reaching its peak with the majority of the children of the parish enrolled in St. Mary School. Another lay teacher and a fifth sister were added to the faculty in 1966.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was organized in April, 1964, to take care of the spiritual and temporal needs of parishioners or anyone in need. It is now inactive. In the Fall of 1963, the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) high school program was begun to meet the spiritual and social needs of Grades 9 through 12.

Rev. Monsignor Griese was appointed pastor of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay, and left the parish in September of 1966. He was succeeded by Rev. Leonard F. Woelfel, the sixth resident pastor. During his four and one-half year pastorate, a two-car garage adjoining the rectory was built. The old one-car garage became a storage area for maintenance equipment.

With increased enrollment in St. Mary School, grades one through seven could be accommodated, but the eighth grade was transferred to the public school beginning with the 1968-69 school term.

On September 6, 1968, Robert Marsicek was ordained the sixth priest son of St. Mary Parish. Rev. Marsicek, a member of the Salvatorian Fathers, celebrated his first Mass on September 15. Between the ordination of Rev. Alfred Pritzl in 1921 and Rev. Marsicek in 1968, four priest sons were ordained as follows: Rev. John Miller, February 25, 1931; Rev. John Pritzl, May 30, 1931; Rev. Monsignor Hubert Kleiber, June 1, 1933; and Rev. Richard Kleiber May 31, 1947. Of these six priest, Rev. Marsicek is in Huntsville, Alabama, Rev. Richard Kleiber is pastor of St. Mary Parish in Algoma, Wisconsin, and the other four are retired. In the fall of 1981, Brother Timothy Coonen began studying for a Master of Theology at Boston College in preparation for his future ordination. (While finalizing this book, Rev. Alfred Pritzl died December 4, 1981, and one week later Msgr. Hubert Kleiber died.)



*Rev. Leonard Woelfel
1966 - 1971*

In the past 75 years, since Sister Dionysia entered the convent, seven daughters of the parish have entered the religious life. Sister DeLellis (Helen) Pritzl entered on October 15, 1914; Sister Ambrosette (Anna) Pflueger, in 1926; Sister Cosmos (LaVerne) Miller, on October 16, 1941; and Sister Clara (Ann Marie) Schuh; on August 22, 1952. They are members of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Sister Victorine (Katie) Scharenbroch entered on February 6, 1917, and is a member of the Third Order of Franciscan Sister of Penance and Charity, Milwaukee. Sister Leonora (Elsie) Pritzl and Sister Angela Marie (Ida) Schneider, as well as Sister Dionysia, are deceased.

Permission Granted for Saturday Evening Mass

To relieve some of the congestion at the 11 a.m. Mass, Bishop Wycislo granted permission for a Saturday evening Mass. The first Mass was offered at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, January 5, 1969, and it was changed two months later to 8:00 p.m.

Changes in the Order of the Mass, which resulted in the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, went into effect on March 22, 1970.

Parish Council Organized — Lay Participation Increases in the 70's

The Holy Name Society, organized in 1916 and now inactive, was instrumental in providing playground equipment for the children of St. Mary School. Proceeds from the annual pancake-porky breakfast served by the men of the parish have been used for additional equipment.

Rev. Woelfel was transferred to St. Mary Parish, Tisch Mills, on January 21, 1971, and a new pastor, Rev. Raymond Dowling, was welcomed with a parish reception on January 31, 1971. During his pastorate, Masses were offered in the home for first communicants.

On June 3, 1974, the Saturday Mass was changed from 8 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and continues at that time today. The Sunday Masses continued to be celebrated at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

The first annual Memorial Day Mass was offered at the parish cemetery at 2 p.m. on May 30, 1975. A temporary altar was set up in front of the crucifixion scene, a white monument erected in 1966 in memory of Richard Jensen who died in Vietnam on November 23, 1965.

The Committee of the 70's was organized to study the needs of the parish and encourage more lay involvement. Through the work of this committee, the first parish constitution was written and adopted in November of 1975. The first Parish Council was elected early in February 1976, and a program for lay distributors of Holy Communion was begun with 10 parishioners invested in June of the same year. Today there are 29 lay distributors, and their service has expanded to taking Holy Communion weekly to homebound parishioners.

The American bicentennial celebration and the concept of ecumenism were enthusiastically supported by Rev. Dowling. He and other religious leaders participated in an ecumenical July 4th service at Horn Park. At 1 p.m. the bells of St. Mary joined churches in Brillion and throughout the nation in ringing the clarion of freedom.

The first parish budget was prepared for a six-month period, January 1 to June 30, 1977, which thereafter became a fiscal-year budget.

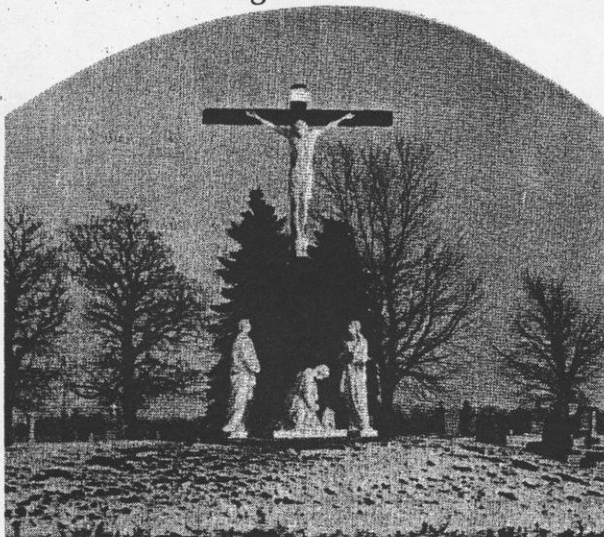
For a period of two years, the large figure of Christ Crucified, removed from the cross above the altar, was arranged in an aesthetic setting on the west sanctuary wall to encourage meditation.

The school was insulated at a cost of \$12,800.00, and "zone control" heating was installed in 1977. These projects in addition to the window replacement in October, 1975, were part of an on-going project to conserve energy.

The eighth grade, after an absence of nine years, was reinstated for the 1977-78 school year.



*Rev. Raymond Dowling
1971 - 1979*



Crucifixion scene erected in 1961 on a mound in the newer section of the cemetery.

Vatican II Directives Continue into the 80's

The organ console was repaired and returned to the choir loft in the fall of 1978. New lighting fixtures were hung in church in June, 1978, and in November a new roof was put on the older section of the school.



*Rev. John O'Brien
1979 -*

On January 21, 1979, Rev. Dowling left to pursue a missionary calling in Latin America. His successor, Rev. John O'Brien, arrived between snow storms and assumed his duties as pastor on January 28, 1979. In compliance with a new church law, he was officially installed by the local vicar, Rev. Milton Suess, on February 24.

Over the past 17 years, the grade school CCD enrollment has grown from 2 students to 140. The success of this program can be attributed to the sisters and lay teachers involved in the program. In March 1979, the first co-ordinator of religious education was appointed.

Later in that same year, a parish office was established in the rectory and a part-time parish secretary was hired. The era of part-time janitorial maintenance ended with the hiring of the first full-time janitor in September, 1979. Part-time janitors and volunteers deserve much credit for the maintenance of parish property prior to this time.

The school kitchen was remodeled to meet government standards and a hot lunch program began on August 27, 1979, serving 197 lunches. Because of cuts in federal reimbursements for the 1981-82 school year, participation dropped.

In that same year, parishioners led a community-wide effort to bring Vietnamese refugee Bui Quang Thach (Stoney) and his family to Brillion. The threesome finally arrived in June, 1980.

Prior to the installation of ceiling fans in 1980, the church attic was insulated. The confessional was converted to a penance room to comply with Diocesan regulations. A pledge system of paying parish dues, adopted two years earlier, was discontinued and a return to assessments was reinstated.

With Masses of Thanksgiving on June 7 and 8, 1980, Rev. O'Brien was the fourth pastor of the parish to observe the silver jubilee of his ordination. A reception was held on Sunday, June 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.

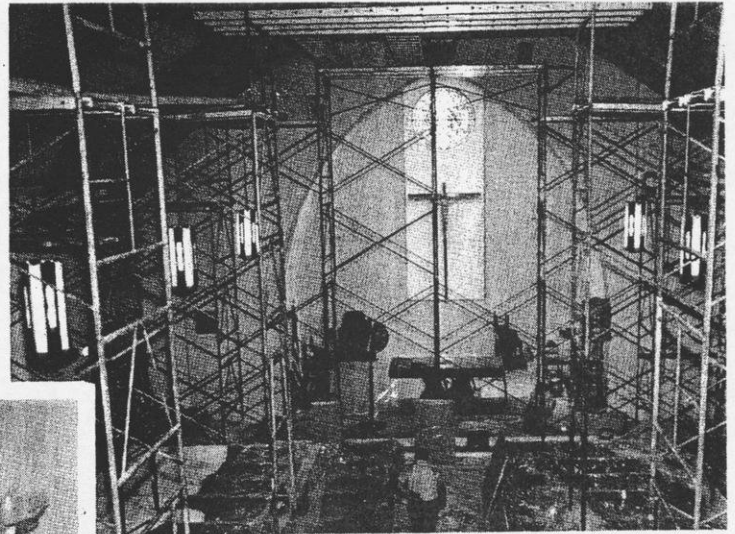
In the fall of 1980, the first lay administrator of St. Mary School assumed her new duties. The teaching staff for the 215 students consisted of three sisters, five lay teachers, and two part-time teachers.

By direction of Bishop Wycislo, St. Mary Parish was named as a satellite parish for the support of Roncalli High School, Manitowoc, beginning with the 1980-81 school year. There are currently 15 students from the parish attending Roncalli during the 1981-82 academic year.

The continued success of lay involvement was evidenced in April, 1981, when the fourth member of the parish made a two-year commitment as a lay minister. This program was started in the parish in 1978.

Centennial Year 1881-1981 Observed

The early months of 1981 were highlighted with plans and preparations for the parish centennial. The church was redecorated and the sanctuary remodeled according to Diocesan guidelines for a total cost of \$50,073.38. Ritchie Bros., Madison, installed ceiling tile, refinished pews, and redecorated. Light brown carpeting was installed throughout the church replacing the red in the sanctuary and green in the aisles. New sanctuary furniture was constructed by Raddatz Custom Wood in which the "old" was retained and took on a "new" form. Parts of the old ornate altar were transformed into the ambo, lectern, six plant stands in three sizes, tabernacle cabinet, and new altar. The baptismal font was made from one of the side altars; the book stand from the old confessional. Matching chairs were made with the same design as previous ones.



The shrine in the alcove on the north wall.

The remodeling and redecorating began in June and were completed in time for the concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. Rev. John O'Brien, pastor, was the celebrant with Bishop Aloysius Wycislo presiding and preaching the homily. Four priest sons, Rev. Alfred Pritzl, Rev. Msgr. Hubert Kleiber, Rev. Richard Kleiber, and Rev. Robert Marsicek; a former pastor, Rev. Msgr. Orville Griese, and neighboring priests joined in the concelebration.

Three sister daughters, Sister Ambrosette, Sister Cosmos, and Sister Clara, presented the gifts of bread and wine. The service concluded with the Papal Blessing given by Bishop Wycislo and singing of the hymn "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" by the congregation. Among the invited guests were members of the faculty and former teachers, religious and civic leaders in the community.

The Mass was followed at 4:30 p.m. by a reception/dinner and program at Michiels Brillion Inn. The dinner of broasted chicken and Swedish meat balls was served family style to approximately 400 people. Included in the program were comments from priest sons, sister daughters, present pastor, former pastor, and the Bishop. Entertainment was provided by the Brillion High School Swing Choir. A visual history of the parish highlighting the past 100 years was on display.

Two weeks later, the centennial observance was continued with a Polka Mass at 11 a.m. in Horn Park followed by a picnic. The climax of the centennial year was a one-week mission held from November 7 to 13, 1981, conducted by Rev. Michael Zuelke, O.F.M. Cap.

Under the guidance of the pastors, volunteer help, and free will donations of time and money throughout the past century, the church has provided for the spiritual and temporal needs of its parishioners. As the parish embarks upon its second century of existence, may God continue to bestow His blessings.

HISTORY OF HOLY TRINITY — KASSON

The history of St. Mary Parish would not be complete without including that of its mother church, Holy Trinity, Kasson, which was located approximately three miles to the northeast of Brillion. It was a friendly little country church where the people visited before and after Mass, sometimes for a half hour or more, to exchange ideas.

The congregation of Holy Trinity was organized in 1875 as a mission of St. Mary Parish, Reedsville, by a number of German Catholic families living in that vicinity. A small frame church was erected for \$1,500 on one acre of land donated by Sebastian Schuh, and the first Mass was celebrated on January 1, 1876. It is not known who assisted in planning this new mission; it may have been Rev. Joseph Maly.

Prior to this time, the spiritual needs of the people were cared for by a "circuit priest" who traveled from one area to the next, returning in about a month. Small groups would meet in the homes for celebration of Mass. People also walked long distances to attend Mass at a neighboring church.

This new congregation was served in 1876 and 1877 by Rev. Julius O. Stroelke, first resident pastor at Reedsville. A native of Prussia, Germany, he arrived in America in November, 1875. In these early years, Holy Trinity was a mission of the Reedsville parish with the exception of one year, 1878, during which time Rev. Clement Lau, pastor of Clarks Mills, served the needs of the people.

Rev. Tobias Spunar was in charge from October, 1878, until May, 1882, and assisted in organizing the new mission parish in Brillion in 1881. Membership in the Kasson mission was sharply decreased from 80 to 30 families.

Rev. William Kraemer served the congregation from August, 1885, until July, 1896. During this time, the church was enlarged and a steeple was added. In 1889 a school was built in Brillion to which Kasson members contributed generously and their children of school age attended it.

From October 1896 until April 1902, Rev. Adalbert Cipin, a talented musician and artist, served the congregation. A former parishioner recalls that choir members rehearsed with Rev. Cipin in Brillion, who on one occasion directed so enthusiastically that he broke a nearby window with his violin bow. The stations of the cross were his donation to the church.

When St. Mary congregation at Brillion gained parish status in July, 1902, with the arrival of its first resident pastor, Rev. John J. Sprangers, Holy Trinity, Kasson, became a mission of Brillion. Masses were then celebrated on a weekly basis — prior to this, Masses were celebrated on alternate Sundays.

Rev. Sprangers was succeeded as pastor in Brillion by Rev. August Garthaus in April, 1907, and served Holy Trinity for the next 23 years. During this time, the annual Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated with an outdoor procession for which parishioners built and decorated three altars in the



*Holy Trinity Church - Kasson (1875-1961)
Picture taken shortly before the church was
torn down.*

Kasson Church Closed in 1961

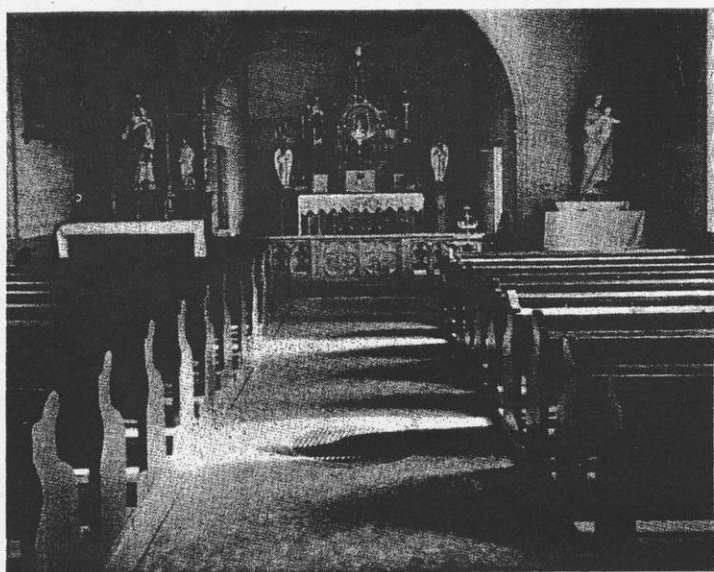
nearby field. The Blessed Sacrament, in an elaborate monstrance, was carried by Rev. Garthaus under a canopy carried by four men. They were preceded by little girls dressed in white carrying baskets from which they tossed flower petals. The parishioners and numerous visitors joined the procession in song and prayer which concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Prior to the automobile, transportation from Brillion to Kasson was by horse and top rig in summer, by horse and cutter in winter. Parishioners came with their horses and sleighs, sometimes across the fields where there was less snow than in the roads. A shed on the premises provided shelter for the horses.

The Holy Name Society was organized on January 1, 1916. Prior to that, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary was organized in November, 1907, and the Christian Mothers Society in November, 1876.

On July 20, 1908, an agreement was signed by officers of Holy Trinity and St. Mary, Brillion, to admit school age children free of charge to the parochial school for which an annual contribution of \$125 was paid. A new agreement, for an annual contribution of \$200, was signed on February 1, 1915, effective until January 1, 1930. Members of Holy Trinity congregation contributed their full share toward the erection of the new brick parochial school and sisters' residence in 1922.

In September 1930, Rev. Matthias J. Kraus began his association with this mission parish which ended with his death 12 years later.



Interior view of Holy Trinity church shows the 12 rows of pews as well as the register for the pipeless furnace in the center of the aisle. Before this furnace was installed, heat was provided by two stoves, one in the back and one in the front.

Rev. Raymond Schauer was the last pastor to serve Holy Trinity from June 3, 1942, until it closed in 1961. In 1951 there was some concern about continuing the weekly Sunday Mass. The Salvatorian priests from St. Nazianz, among them were Rev. Dennis Cooney, Rev. Richard Birdsell, and Rev. Winfred Herbst, had assumed this responsibility under the direction of Rev. Schauer, but steadily serving the mission became difficult. Masses were offered once a month beginning in March of 1951, families continued as members of Holy Trinity, but were obligated to attend Sunday Mass elsewhere on other Sundays.

A letter, dated February 6, 1958, from Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona, stated that he was hesitant about closing the Kasson mission and a further study should be made. A survey in March revealed that 17 of the 27 families were in favor of closing the church. On March 11, 1961, Bishop Bona advised that the members of Holy Trinity should

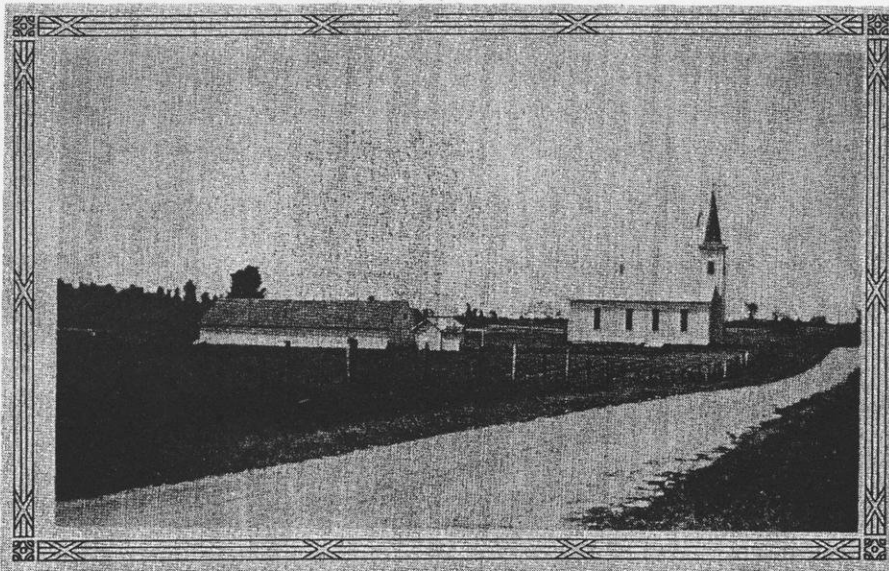
cease to operate as a mission and its members should become enrolled in St. Mary Parish at Brillion. A third Mass on Sunday was offered to accommodate the faithful in the Brillion parish.

The furnishings of the church were divided among parishioners for a monetary donation. The buildings (church, garage, outhouse) were sold to Donald Steinfest — the church was dismantled for lumber in the summer of 1962. Another building, a 20 × 80 foot shed, was sold in 1947 and removed in sections by Wilmer Struebing to be reassembled on his farm as a shelter for mink.

Cemetery Deeded to St. Mary Parish in 1963

The family members at the time Holy Trinity closed were:

Mrs. Vance Bastian	Earl Giese	Philip Miller	Elmer Schuh
Bernard Benzschawel	George Gill	John Moser	George Schuh
Bernard Geiger	Ernest Kleiber	Oscar Neuser	John Schuh
Elmer Geiger	Clement Mancoske	Leo Pritzl	Joseph Schuh
Emery Geiger	Frank Manlick	William Pritzl	Harold Spatchek
Mrs. Frank Geiger	Lawrence Miller	Paul Rasmussen	Rolland Spatchek
Norbert Geiger	Norbert Miller	Leo Reinke	



Looking west, a view of Holy Trinity buildings.

The one acre of land was returned to George Schuh and converted back into farm land. The cemetery of one-half acre, located approximately one-half mile east of the church, was deeded to St. Mary Parish on May 10, 1963. The cemetery land was obtained from John Geiger, deed dated January 16, 1875. In July, 1980, a sign was erected in memory of George and Laretta Schuh to identify this tract of land to passersby.

Additional Items of Interest

Every other Sunday, Mass was offered alternately at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Because of the midnight fast requirement, no one received Holy Communion at the later Mass. The Blessed Sacrament was not kept in church during the week, so those intending to receive the Sacred Host were counted prior to each 8 a.m. Mass. One parishioner received the host during the singing of the last hymn—this host was the one used for Benediction which followed at the end of every Mass.

During Lent the stations were prayed after the 8 a.m. Mass and before the 10 a.m. Mass, and were led by one of the men of the congregation. Thirteen hours devotions were held periodically when the Blessed Sacrament was never left alone—parishioners volunteered their visitation time for private devotion during the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Acknowledgements: The Brillion News; In His Vineyard: A Series of Life Sketches of the Bishops and Priests of the Diocese of Green Bay; Diocese of Green Bay Archives, John Ebert, who supplied reprints of newspaper clippings, pictures, and reports; many past and present parishioners who supplied pictures, financial statements, and memories; translators of German records; convents of the various orders of sisters; Monica Schmidt for pictures; and David Andre, for taking and reproducing most of the pictures.

Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving

marking

The Centennial

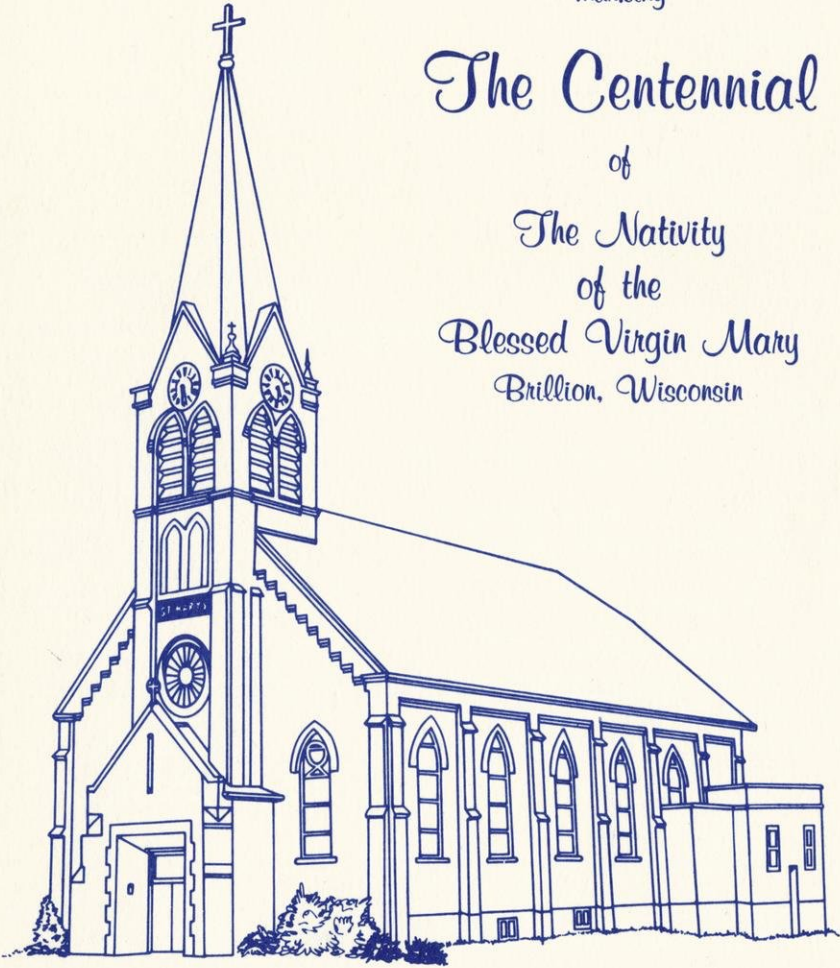
of

The Nativity

of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Brillion, Wisconsin



Sunday, August Sixteenth

three in the afternoon

Principal Participants

<i>Presiding and Preaching</i>	The Most Reverend Aloysius J. Wycislo Bishop of Green Bay
<i>Principal Celebrant</i>	Reverend John F. O'Brien Present St. Mary's Pastor
<i>Concelebrants</i>	Priests-Sons of the Parish: Reverend Alfred A. Pritzl; Reverend Monsignor Hubert J. Kleiber; Reverend Richard J. Kleiber; Reverend Robert Marsicek, SDS; Former Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Orville N. Griese; Priests of the Diocese
<i>Lector</i>	Edward Schlies
<i>Commentator (Petitions)</i>	John Haun
<i>Sacrificial Gift-bearers</i>	Sisters-Daughters of the Parish; Sister Ambrosette Pflueger; Sister Cosmas Miller; Sister Clara Schuh
<i>Acolytes</i>	Steve Gilsdorf; Steve Ambrosius; Andy Geiger; Tim O'Connor
<i>Lay Distributors</i>	Wilfred Gries; Barney Mullins
<i>Precious Blood Cup Holders</i>	Gen Ambrosius; Mary Ariens; Mary Dietrich; Robert Endries; Don Vande Yacht; Reggie Weinreis
<i>Ushers</i>	Phillip Miller; Francis Clavers; William Dvorachek; Charles Schumacher
<i>Music</i>	St. Mary's Choir Cantor - Mrs. James Rock New Horizons
<i>Soloist</i>	Dan Brick
<i>Organists</i>	Helen Bohman; Mrs. Wilfred Gries; Mrs. Willard Coonen



Reception, dinner and program for invited guests and congregation members and friends who have purchased tickets for the dinner will follow at Michiels Brillion Inn.

Order of Worship

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<i>Prelude</i>	Organ Interludes (Helen Bohman) "Play Before the Lord" (New Horizons) "Hail Mary: Gentle Woman" (New Horizons) "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother" (Choir) "O Holy God" (Choir)
<i>Processional</i>	Organ (Helen Bohman)
<i>"Gloria"</i>	Mass of Pope Paul VI (Choir and Congregation) (Page 4 - Missalette)
<i>Scripture Reading</i>	Isaiah 56 & Romans 11 (Lector)
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	(Cantor and Choir)
<i>Alleluia</i>	(Cantor and Choir)
<i>Solemn Proclamation of the Gospel</i>	Matthew 15 (Rev. Robert Marsicek)

The Homily

<i>Offertory</i>	"All That I Am" (Choir and Congregation) (No. 27 - Missalette)
<i>Preface Acclamation</i>	Mass of Pope Paul VI (Choir and Congregation) (No. 1 - Page 18)
<i>Memorial Acclamation</i>	"Lord By Your Cross and Resurrection" (Glory and Praise - No. 72) (New Horizons)
<i>Concluding Acclamation and "Amen"</i>	(New Horizons) (Glory and Praise No. 75 - No. 3)
<i>"Our Father"</i>	(Sister Janet Mead) (New Horizons)
<i>Rite of Peace</i>	"Peace Is Flowing Like a River" (New Horizons) Glory and Praise - No. 39)
<i>Lamb of God</i>	Mass of Pope Paul VI (Choir and Congregation) (No. 1 - Page 27)
<i>Communion</i>	"O Mary Our Mother" (Soloist) "O Lord I Am Not Worthy" (Soloist) "O What Could My Jesus Do More" (Soloist)
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (New Horizons, Choir and Congregation)

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Holy God, we praise thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on earth thy sceptre claim,
All in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign!
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign! | 2. Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name thee,
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim thee:
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery. |
|--|---|

Ignaz Franz

Recessional

Organ (Mrs. Willard Coonen)

Milestones

- 1881 Frame church erected and dedicated.
 1881-1902-1910-1917-1943-1959 Land purchased for parish properties.
 1883-1926 Land purchased for the cemetery.
 1881-1902 Mission church of Reedsville.
 1889 Frame School was built (Financed jointly by Brillion and Kasson Parishioners);
 Franciscan Sisters arrived.
 1892 Christian Mothers were organized.
 1899 New brick church was built.
 1902 First Resident Pastor - Rev. John J. Sprangers;
 Pulpit and two side altars were purchased.
 1903-1916-1923-1935-1963 Parish missions were held.
 1904 Three bells and standard town clock were installed
 (Members of the community contributed.)
 1906 First graduating class and Silver Jubilee of the Parish.
 1908 Stations of the Cross were purchased.
 1909 Brick rectory was built.
 1914 Pipe organ was installed.
 1916 Holy Name Society was organized.
 1922 Sisters' residence and a four-room school were built, church redecorated,
 guilding altar and clock illuminated.
 1931 Celebrated Fiftieth Anniversary of the Parish.
 1951 Church enlarged and completely redecorated.
 1961 The Mission at Kasson was closed and became part of St. Mary's.
 1962 New school addition dedicated.
 1963 Kasson cemetery deeded to St. Mary's.
 1964 Church renovated and redecorated.
 1976 First Parish Council elected; first Lay Distributors for Holy Communion.
 1980 First Lay School administrator; first Polka Mass.
 1981 Complete renovation and redecorating of church.

Pastors

*Rev. Tobias Spunar	11/1881 - 3/1882
*Rev. John Videnka	3/1882 - 5/1885
*Rev. William Kraemer	7/1885 - 8/1896
*Rev. Adalbert Cipen	10/1896 - 7/1902
*Rev. John J. Sprangers (First resident)	7/1902 - 4/1907
*Rev. August Garthaus	4/1907 - 9/1930
*Rev. Matthias J. Kraus	9/1930 - 4/1942
*Rev. Raymond Schauer	6/1942 - 3/1962
Rev. William Stengel	3/1962 - 9/1962
Rev. Orville Griese	9/1962 - 9/1966
*Rev. Leonard Woelfel	9/1966 - 1/1971
Rev. Raymond Dowling	1/1971 - 1/1979
Rev. John O'Brien (Eighth resident)	1/1979 -

* Deceased.