

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

40 Notre Dame Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45404 937.228.8902

Saturday at 5pm, Sunday: Latin Mass at 845a and regular mass at 11am.

“Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church was organized in 1888 and was the first Catholic Church established in Old North Dayton. While it was never identified as an “ethnic parish” those who launched the parish were German. Our Lady of the Rosary parish currently serves Catholics of any ethnic origin living the geographic area north and east of the Mad and Miami Rivers to Huber Heights and the Greene County line. The first church building, which now serves as Our Lady of the Rosary School, was built in 1888. The present building, designed by architect W. L. Jaekle, was erected in 1918.

Our Lady of the Rosary School

Our Lady of Rosary School has served thousands of children from the local area since it first opened in 1888. Today, while open to Catholic and non Catholic children alike, it’s mission continues as a vibrant educational ministry of Our Lady of the Rosary parish, committed to challenging our students to grow in faith, Christian service, and academic excellence within a caring Christian environment.



History of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

1888 to 1939

Reminiscences of one of Our Lady of the Rosary’s First Parishioners, Ninety Year Old Mr. Joseph Koerner

Already in the year 1886, conversation ran high about a Parish church of Texas, which at that time was a pet name for North Dayton. It was the constant topic of discussion for Mr. Joseph Koerner and Mr. Patrick Feil on their frequent journey to and from Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity Church. One Sunday a year or so later Pat said to Joe, “I think I’ll write to the Franciscan Missionaries in St. Joe, Mo., my home town, and ask them to come here, buy land and build us a church.” When Joe told Pat it was impossible to build a church without something in the purse, Pat replied that the Franciscan Fathers could help us finance the entire project. Mr. Joseph Koerner, however, did not fully favor that solution to the difficulty. So, Joe said, “I’ll tell you Pat, we’ll call on Professor Berberich, and ask him what will be the best thing to do. “

In the evening of the same day, Joe and Pat visited Mr. Berberich, who, when he heard of Pat’s plan was obviously shocked. “What!” choked out Professor Berberich, “don’t you know we belong to the diocese of Cincinnati, and must absolutely obtain the permission of His Grace, the Archbishop, to build a church before any action can be taken? It is best to form a committee and go to Father Goetz, Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, for proper advice and direction.”

Within twenty-four hours Mr. Joseph Koerner had the following committee raring to go: Messrs. Anton Grusenmeyer, Anton Hasenstab, Joseph Kuntz, H. Kroeger, A. Madlinger, Shlaman, and John Lukasewitz. These men proceeded to Father Goetz, who listened with sincere interest to their problem. “Today or tomorrow,” said Father Goetz, “I’ll send your request to His Grace, Archbishop Elder, for permission to build a new Church and Parish.” Three days later Professor Berberich called Mr. Joseph Koerner to him, and disclosed the happy news. Father Goetz received word from the Archbishop that permission was given to build a new church. And at the same time the Archbishop appointed a Pastor for the new congregation. Father Frohmiller was the Pastor.

Without any loss of time, Father Frohmiller and Mr. C. Ferneding sought and decided on a location, on which the new church, "Our Lady of the Rosary," was erected.

After the Mt. Rev. Archbishop Elder had graciously granted permission to form a new German parish in North Dayton, and appointed Father Frohmiller its pastor, the latter lost no time, but called Messrs. John Berberich, John Hefling and John Grave on October 20, 1887, to discuss ways and means. Father Frohmiller, Messrs. Clement Ferneding, John Berberich and Burns, were appointed a committee to select a suitable and reasonable site. The property of Adam Pritz, the present site of the church, seemed the most suitable and reasonable. An option on nine of these lots was obtained December 9, 1887. At a meeting on January 8, 1888, it was decided to take up the option and buy the property.

The consent of the other Dayton pastors, required by the Archbishop, was secured December 13, 1887, as is attested by the following document. "Whereas, the church known as Holy Trinity Church, Heilige Dreifaltigkeit Kirche, Dayton, Ohio, has been found too small to accommodate all the German Catholics who live in North Dayton, who have been and are now members of said Holy Trinity parish and, whereas, it is too hard, even very dangerous for the children of North Dayton and the country in that direction to cross several bridges and several railroad tracks in order to reach the Catholic school, and where as, the people in that part of Dayton and in the country as mentioned, unanimously desire to have a German church for themselves in that part of Dayton; Therefore, we, the undersigned rectors of the Catholic congregation of Dayton, Ohio, heartily approve the plan of organizing a new congregation, with school and church as the times will permit, in that part of Dayton and the country as indicated, and we wish the Rev. John Baptist Frohmiller, the now assistant pastor of Holy Trinity church, who is the leader of the movement, God speed."

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio,
December 13, 1887.

Signed:

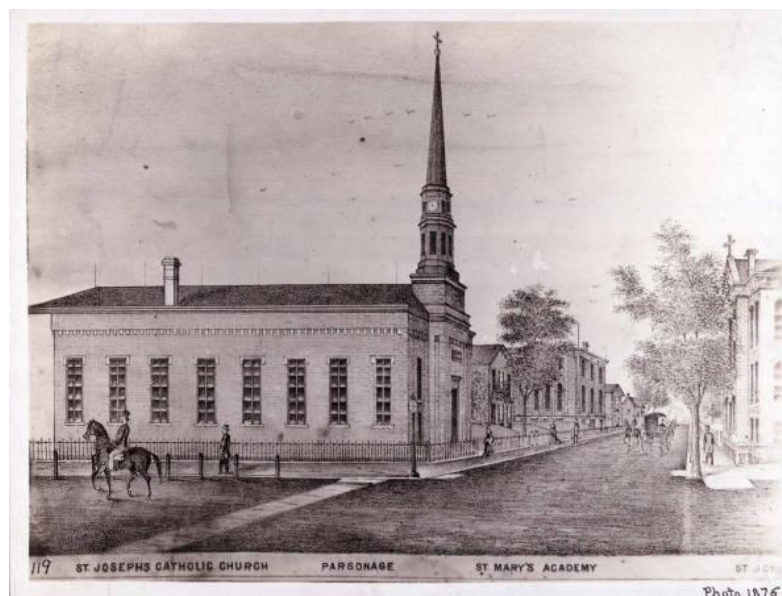
F. J. Goetz, Rector of Holy Trinity Church

Patrick Cusack, Pastor, St. Joseph Church

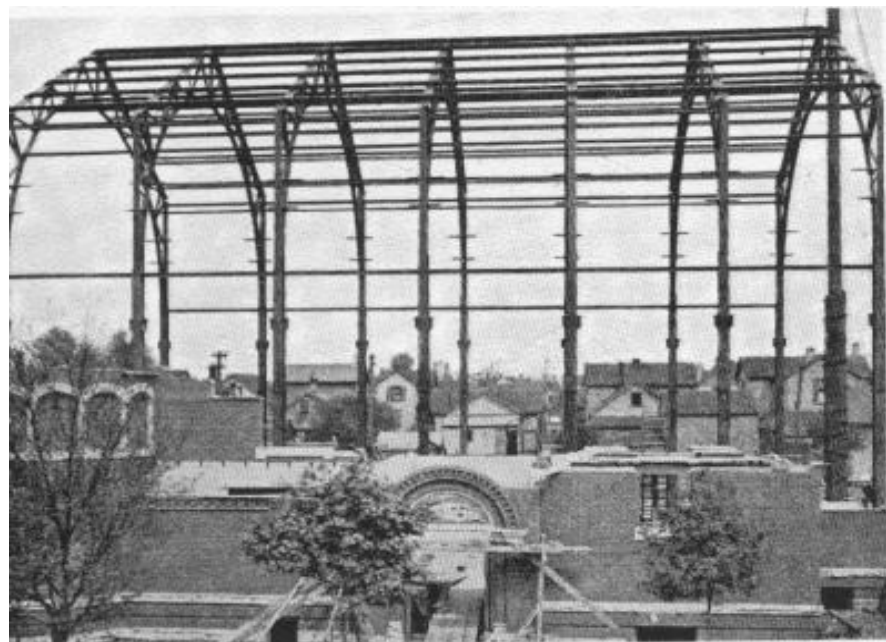
Carl J. Hahne, Emmanuel Church

H. Stukenborg, St. Mary's Church

Roderic A. Finnerty, Pastor, Sacred Heart Church



St. Joseph's Church, 2nd and Madison was erected in 1847. It was razed in 1909 and a new church was built on the site. The founder and first pastor was Patrick O'Maly.



St. Mary's Church on Xenia was built in 1860. It was dedicated on August 15, 1860. The first pastor was Reverend Shiff. It was razed in 1905 and the new church was built on the site. In 2009 it is celebrating 150 years.
Sacred Heart Church, Fourth and Wilkinson, was built in 1887.

The original framework of Holy Rosary.



Emmanuel Church, the first Catholic Church of Dayton, located off Ludlow Street. Built in 1847, it was later razed in 1873 when the second church was built. MAM: Notice the towers in the picture? They are not there today.

With such a favorable document in hand, the Archbishop of Cincinnati gladly gave his blessing and final approval to the project. The first formal meeting of the representatives of the new congregation was held in Holy Trinity rectory. Those present on this occasion were Father Frohmiller, Messrs. John Berberich, Frank Lukasewitz, Anton Hasenstab, John Hefling, Patrick Feil, Mathias Jackowski, Edward Ruh, Anton Grusenmeyer, John Grave and Herman Kroeger. The name of the new parish, "Our Lady of the Rosary," was selected. Messrs. John Berberich, Joseph Kuntz, Jr., Frank Lukasewitz, Mathias Jackowski and Henry Grave were chosen as the first wardens of the parish. The first recorded donation to the new church is that of Clarence Lukasewitz, a school boy, who gave his savings bank containing \$6.20. A fervent God Bless You from Father Frohmiller was his reward. The deed for the property was executed February 1, 1888. The early part of April saw the plans received from the architect, and on the last day of April, Father Frohmiller solemnly consecrated the ground to God and His Blessed Mother. Archbishop Elder laid the cornerstone on June 24, 1888.

On Christmas Day, 1888, the new \$18,000 church building was ready for services. In Father Frohmiller's notations for that day we find the following: "Today, the Feast

of Our Lord, Christmas, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the first time in the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, to God the Almighty and best Father, at 6:00 o'clock in the morning by me, unworthy one, 8:00 o'clock was the second Mass and at 10:00 o'clock Solemn High Mass with Father Frohmiller as celebrant, Father Roderic Finnerty as Deacon and Father George Meyer, S.M., sub deacon. The choir of Sacred Heart Church sang." After Mass, Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament was given. In the afternoon of the same day Father Frohmiller baptized Ulrich Spitiig, Charles Anton Madlinger and Elizabeth Geiger; the first baptisms administered in the new parish. Five days later Father Goetz blessed the new bell and Father Cusack preached the sermon.



The dedication of Our Lady of Rosary Church.

The simplicity of the pastor and his poverty during the first years are attested by many incidents gleaned from the minutes. A bookcase was needed, Father asked Mr. Gilbert, the carpenter, to furnish the doors, while he would build the case itself. Certainly in the history of the parishes, no pastor could be found who underwent the trials of a new congregation so cheerfully as Father Frohmiller. Realizing that Divine Providence meant for him to work out the destiny of the church in North Dayton, he worked with dogged determination and left no stone unturned to benefit

the Catholics of his district. In his later years, he studied the Polish, Lithuanian, and Slavic languages that he might help all his people. Even in the announcements there are words in Lithuanian, for strangers in a strange country. He did his best to give them a welcome and a priest who could minister to them.

The first marriage ceremony was that of Adam Ballman and Mary Magdalene Kuntz, January 15, 1889. Barbara Nock was buried from the church January 6, 1889, this being the first funeral.

On February 4, 1889, two rooms for school were opened under the direction of Messrs. Timothy Wannamaker and John Berberich. May 26, 1889, found all in readiness for the dedication ceremonies of the new church with Father Goetz acting as delegate for the Most Rev. Archbishop Elder. Father Stukenborg celebrated the field Mass on this day. Every pastor of the city was active in the ceremonies connected with the parish.

In August, 1889, the building of the Rectory was begun. It was finished the following year at an approximate cost of \$5,600. It was remodeled in 1911 after the arrival of the first assistant in 1908, and still serves its original purpose. The First Holy Communion class was permitted to approach the Holy table on June 16, 1889. The twenty members of the class were: Joseph V. Bir, William G. Colhowen, Harry G. Feldman, Henry Heilig, Eugene Kissling, Joseph Kleimeier, Walter J. Smith, Peter Waltz, Jacob J. Worner, Charlotte Henn, Agnes Jackowski, Catherine Kinzig, Amelia Koerner, Clara Kunkel, Clara Kuntz, Anna Logel, Nettie E. McTye, Mary C. Miller, Pauline Wannemacker and Magdalene Wassum. Confirmation was administered for the first time the following year to 79 children and adults.

In September, 1890, the Sisters of Notre Dame were given charge of a portion of the school. The first Superior was Sister Boniface. The standard she set is admirably maintained to the present day by our venerable Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

In 1893, Father J.C. Albrink, the Vicar General, blessed the second bell. The parish was growing so rapidly that. It was felt a new and larger bell was needed, to ring out a stronger plea for firm love and devotion to one's church and religion.

FIRST BRIDE & GROOM
OUR LADY OF ROSARY CHURCH



ADAM BALLMANN AND MAGDALENA KUNTZ

January 15, 1880

Adam and Magdalena were the parents of 18 children. Two are still members of our parish, Helen Koerner and Emma Grassmeyer. They have three Grandchildren in the parish, Richard and Rita Ballmann and Thomas Koerner and a great-grandchild Luke Ballmann.

in the last year of the last century a new addition was attached to the school. The parish now could boast of an eight-room school, modern according to the times. The congestion in the church was relieved by adding a third to its seating capacity.

In 1902 the third bell added its tenor tones to the deep basses of the other two. These same bells are in use in Our Lady of the Rosary Church today. The brothers of Mary were assigned to the boys' division of the school in 1903. Brother Theodore Pleumer, S.M., the first Director was sent by the provincial, Father Meyer, to begin the work of the new school. In September of the same year, Father Frohmiller purchased the Brothers' house for \$3,400. This house was remodeled in 1920.

The number of Polish families had increased to such an extent, that a separate parish, St. Adalbert, was established for them in 1903.

At the beginning of the year 1911, dissension arose among the Lithuanians, and near the end of the following year they succeeded in forming a congregation of their own. Archbishop Moeller had considered the problem patiently, and with Father Frohmiller had finally worked out a solution that secured their best interests in obtaining for them a Lithuanian speaking priest.

The year 1913 is memorable in the history of Dayton. This city and vicinity was buried beneath the destructive waters of Ohio's worst flood. Father Frohmiller was to see the wisdom of his choice of land, for it was the only section of North Dayton that was not afflicted with the scourge of water. When the raging terror came on, Father Frohmiller realized, that he was indeed to be the Father of the entire section of North Dayton, and consequently, threw open the doors of church and school to all sufferers.

That Father Frohmiller purchased well and cautiously is evidenced by the fact that the Stations of the Cross, which he purchased in 1896, are still in service in the new Church, and are recognized as beautiful examples of the wood carver's art. In 1897 he bought the organ, which did yeoman service in the old and new church until it was destroyed by fire in 1930.

Growing pains were in evidence on every side. The school was fairly bulging with more children than it was ever intended to house. To build became imperative, so



The Monument and Taylor Street area after the 1913 flood.

These two photos are from the Dayton & Montgomery online library.

How many were housed, how many were fed, how many were given aid in sickness, must ever remain unknown, for there is no record to tell us at this late date. Suffice it to say that even his own house was invaded and the sick lay in his own parlor. It became truly an island of mercy. Everyone who has gone through that trying period has only words of praise for the pastor who spent himself relentlessly in the hour of The Most Rev. Archbishop Moeller sent to the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary the sum of \$6,000, to be expended on the people of the section as best he saw fit. Father Frohmiller's just distribution of this sum was acclaimed by all.

In 1915 the school again had become overcrowded and St. Michael's Club House was purchased by the parish. Crowded conditions were temporarily relieved, but school yard space demanded the purchase of two lots north of the newly acquired property, and this was purchased in 1918. The church could no longer cope with the growing numbers and in 1916 Father Frohmiller began work on the new permanent building. The cornerstone was laid in May, 1917, almost 31 years after the same ceremony for the original church. A year later, September, 1918 saw the dedication of this majestic structure, built under the direction of the architect, W.L. Jaeckle. Brother Thomas Poitras, S.M., was organist at the time. The organ from the old church was used for the dedication ceremonies.

This beautiful House of God, costing about \$136,000, fulfilled the dreams of the priest who had spent himself in directing and guiding a parish that had grown far beyond his anticipations. Father Frohmiller spent days and nights in the new church after its completion, in close union with the Master, preparing for the end he knew could not be far away. It has been well said that Father Frohmiller spent the last seven years of his life in his dream church.

The day, May 24, 1925, witnessed one of those strange mixtures of joyful happiness and bewildering sorrow. In the morning the bells of Our Lady of the Rosary Church rang out the glorious jubilation of a newly ordained priest, Father Edward Vonderhaar, C. PP. S., celebrating his first Holy Mass; in the evening the same bells tolled the heart-rending death of Father Frohmiller. One entered, one left the vineyard of Our Savior. The day before the solemn funeral Mass, where he lay in state in the church, flood sufferers of other days, parishioners and friends filed by the casket in endless procession to gaze for the last time on the face of the beloved priest. The Archdiocese still mourning the loss of the Ordinary, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Louis Nau, administrator of the Archdiocese celebrated the Mass. The body was laid to rest in Calvary, but his spirit still lives on within the walls of the church, calling to his people constantly to be true to God and His Blessed Mother for whom he labored for so many years.

Father Carl Lamott, Father Frohmiller's assistant, assumed charge of the parish, until he was relieved in September by Father Von Hagel, who was appointed administrator and remained with the parish until January, 1926. Father Sieber, in the capacity of Pastor, succeeded Father Von Hagel, but due to poor health resigned in April of the same year. In the month of May, the month of our Heavenly Queen, Father Taske was appointed Pastor. In June he took active leadership and charge of the parish. His immediate endeavor was the readjustment of the school, and the completion of the new church. In 1928 Father Taske installed the new Altar in memory of his revered predecessor. And it is a worthy memorial, imperishable as is the memory of the beloved founder of Our Lady of the Rosary parish, for whom it stands. In the same year the purchase of a Sister's house was made necessary in order to conform to the plans of the Most Rev. Archbishop, John T. McNicholas. The home of Henry Grave was bought, and afforded a residence for the teaching Sisters.

On December 25, 1930, at 4:00 a.m. a serious fire was discovered in the church; so arrangements were made at once to use the Auditorium, that is the Old Church, for the Christmas Masses, reminding the old parishioners of the scene on Christmas Day, 1888, when the first Mass was celebrated. Thirteen days later, services were again held in the new church. Under Father Taske the church was restored and became better and more beautiful, so that it stands as the most beautiful in the city. In 1931 the new Wangerin organ was installed, and lends its majestic tones to the dignity of the Liturgy. A number of Assistant Priests have served the parish during the years of its existence. Father George H. Meyer, the first Assistant, served from 1908 to 1910, when he was succeeded by Father Leonard Redelberger, who remained here at Our Lady of the Rosary for six years.

His death occurred in 1932 and he was buried from the church. Father Henry Gramann came in 1916 and remained until 1921. Meanwhile Father Frohmiller had taken a much needed rest and Father Henry T. Lammers was in charge during this period. Father Ritter came in 1921, and though sickly, tried to remain at his duties, but it became too much of a task and he was forced to go west after a little more than a year of service. Father Carl Lamott came in 1922 and remained until November, 1926. He bore the brunt of changing times in the parish with the death of the pastor, and the consequent changes bringing many priests into the home. Father Cletus Rieger, Father Edward Macke and Father George Lamott served here each for a period of a few weeks.



Stained Glass window from Our Lady of Rosary.

Photo from the online references of the Four Parishes. www.olr.dayton.com

Father Carl Lamott administered to the needs of the parish during the three interims between the death of Father Frohmler and the coming of Father Von Hagel; and again before the coming of Father Sieber and Father Taske. He began the collection of funds for the erection of the Altar Memorial, so nobly perfected by Father Taske.

Father Edwin Richter, successor of Father Lamott, was assistant from November, 1926 until March 7, 1933, when Father Cletus Rieger was stationed at, Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1933 a second assistant was appointed in the person of Father Leo Weigel, C. PP. S from July, 1933, to February, 1936. His successor, Father Albert Frericks, C. PP. S., was with the parish for one year. In February, 1937, Father Richard Steinemann, C. PP. S., took up his duties.

Our Lady of the Rosary has been fruitful in vocations during the first fifty years of its existence. Available records show that 74 have dedicated themselves to the service of God. The children of the parish who became priests to minister at the Altar are Rt. Rev. Monsignor Robert Sherry, who is at present pastor of St. Andrew Church, Cincinnati; Very Rev. Eugene Omlor, C. PP. S., who is rector of the minor Seminary, Brunnerdale, Ohio; Rev. Henry Stich, deceased, was director at St. Joseph Mission for the poor, Dayton; Rev. Aloysius Seitz, S.M., Rev. Humilis Zwiesler, O. F. M., deceased, who was Guardian for the Franciscan House in Indianapolis, Ind.; Rev. Jerome Weinert, at present on sick leave at Denver, Colorado; Father Edward Vonderhaar, C. PP. S., who celebrated his First Holy Mass in this parish; Father Angelus Zwiegler, O. F. M., Father Joseph Sherry, S.M., and Father Edwin Weber, S.M. who celebrated their First Masses here in 1937; Father Walter Roth, C. PP. S., raised to the priesthood this year, who celebrated his First Mass here, May 8th; Father Bernard Stueve, S.M., ordained in Switzerland this year and Rev. Vincent Robers, Sub-deacon.

The Society of Mary has been especially enriched by vocations from the boys of the parish. Besides the priests, Fathers Seitz, Joseph Sherry, Weber and Stueve, there are the following Brothers: Walter Hausfeld, Joseph Dangl, Louis and Aloysius Rose, Paul Omlor, Thomas Law, Leonard and Joseph Kuntz, Walter Bach, Louis Fortener, Vincent Plassenthal, Raymond and Joseph Streiff, Anthony Kuntz, Phillip Lake, Francis Mahle, Edward Nadalsky, Bernard Weitzman, Paul Boeckerman and Charles Zwiesler. Among the students for the Brotherhood are Paul Mahle, Raymond Nartker, Louis Weber and Bernard Rose, Brother Edmund Zwiesler, O.C.S.O. Order of Cistercians Strict Observance Trappist; Brother Ignatius Zwiesler, O.F.M.

Among the girls, vocations have likewise been many. Here the Sisters of Notre Dame have been especially fortunate. The daughters of the parish, who have enrolled with them are Sister Marie Billiard (Gebhart); Sister Margaret Julia (Grave); Sister Ann Cecilia (Hamaker), deceased; Sister Mary Julia (Heil); Sister Mary Felicitas (Huber); Sister Henry Louise (Kleimeier); Sister Mary Lawrence (Kosater); Sister Ann Magdalene (Kraft); Sister Francis Marie (Loges); Sister Juliene Marie (Roth); Sister Rita Dorothy (Roth); Sister Catherine Mary (Roth); Sister Ann Ignatius (Schweitzer); Sister Mary Felicitas (Sherry); Sister Roberta Marie (Sherry); Sister Teresa Loretta (Stachler); Sister St. Bernard (Stachler); Sister Louis Joseph (Stich), deceased; Sister Julia Agatha (Stich); Sister Agnes Elizabeth (Stoppelman); Sister Anageline (Wald); Sister Georgiana (Wilimitis); Sister Alice Theresa (Weber); Sister Martha (Loges). Among the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis, Sister Claudine (Bauer); Sister Cordula (Hummer); Sister Flaviana (Leyes), deceased; Sister Rosina (Thies); Sister Evarista (Seibert).

The Sisters of the Precious Blood are Sister Mary Generosa (Kuntz); Sister Mary Rosita (Poll); Sister M. Josepha (Seitz); Sister M. Rosanna (Seitz); Sister Francis Assisium (Hefling), deceased, a sister of Poor Clares; Sister Mary Pascal (Zwiesler); two sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Ind., Sister Mary Regina (Goetz); Sister Mary Angelita (Zwiesler).

The history of the parish has been a glorious one. May it ever continue such to the honor and glory of God and His Blessed Mother. May it always be blessed with vocations. May it thrive spiritually and materially under the administration of the present and future pastors of Our Lady of the Rosary.

1939 to 1963

The history of the last 25 years has been a continuation of the first 50 years, one of dignified and honorable progress. It is largely the history of the life of one man, Father Henry Taske, who was pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church for 36 years. His work and his achievements among his people during this long period of time were truly remarkable and one hardly knows where to begin in enumerating them.

The great love of Father Taske was the Boy Scouts. He organized the scouts in 1934 and to the very day of his death took a personal interest in their many and varied activities. He attended meetings, visited the scout camp in the summer time,

gave scout retreats and even kept the altar appointments for the scout camp in his own home.

In 1961, the city-wide Ad Altare Dei Program was held in Our Lady of the Rosary Church and although he was deathly sick, he insisted on presenting the awards to the scouts and remaining for the entire ceremony. In these activities he was ably assisted by a number of scout masters and committeemen who remained loyal to him and to the scout movement throughout the years. The first Scout Master was Wilbur Bensman. He was followed in turn by Mr. Charles Brookey, Mr. William Murphy, Mr. Anthony Schwendeman and Mr. Carl Lurz. Mr. Charles Steinbrunner acted as Assistant Scout Master under each of these Scout Masters.

Father Taske was District Chaplain for many years, later Area Chaplain. Several of the first scouts later became priests. A few years later Mr. Leon Pooler organized the Cub Scouts. He was followed by Mr. Ralph Wirrig, Mr. Edward Renick, Mr. Cletus Omlor and Mr. Carl Lurz. These men gave many untiring hours for the youth of our Parish. The Girl Scouts were organized by Mrs. Clarence Cook on March 12, 1938. She was assisted over the years by a group of public spirited women who acted as Girl Scout Leaders and Neighborhood Chairmen. Among them were the following: Mrs. George Schamel, Mrs. Charles Madascy, Margaret Ann Markus, Mrs. Francis Fitzsimmons and Mrs. Edward Schick.

The Brownies were organized in 1946 under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Madascy. Other past leaders were Mrs. Eugene Jordan, Mrs. Loretta Bartlett, Mrs. Norbert Moeder, Mrs. Thomas Shea and Mrs. Roy Schenk. Prominent among his accomplishments was the establishment of a Credit Union, founded in 1940. Father Taske ever interested in the welfare of his people and desirous of helping them financially, founded the Union to provide low rate interest loans, and to promote the habit of saving among his parishioners. He encouraged the virtue of thrift as well as all the other moral virtues that he might raise up a people of character and integrity. In one of his Sunday Bulletins issued in the early 1950's, we read these interesting and arresting lines, "Why borrow money from a bank or loan company and pay 2 1/2 or 3% interest when you can obtain a loan from our Credit Union for only 1% interest"?

He had a great love for children and they loved him in turn. He had the tenderness and gentleness of a child and had little difficulty in establishing rapport with them. He spent many hours in school every week that he might be close to them. When some obstreperous youth was sent to the office for some school violation, he would treat him like the prodigal son and talk to him like a true spiritual father. Many a

youth was arrested on his downward path to perdition by the fatherly assistance of Father Taske. His charity was boundless. Everyone knew that he was lavish in giving to the poor; no one ever discovered how much of his personal possessions he surrendered to them. In dispensing alms, he never permitted his right hand to know what his left hand was doing. Everyone in need knew that he had a friend in this noble man, and that he would never be turned away.

Every Monday night he could be found at a meeting of the St. Vincent De Paul Society where he would pray with them, give them spiritual conferences, and take part in their works of charity. Every year in July the members of the St. Vincent De Paul Societies from the various councils throughout the city would assist at a Mass which he would offer at Our Lady of the Rosary Church and then partake of a communion breakfast with them. He was "Father St. Vincent De Paul" in the city of Dayton. Many years ago, Mr. Paul Little organized a parish bank which took part in all civic and patriotic celebrations, most important of which was the Memorial Day Parade each year to the "North Dayton Memorial" at Valley and Keowee Streets.

Father Taske also played an important role in this annual patriotic event. He was not only the outstanding religious leader in North Dayton, but a highly respected civic leader as well. After his death, the members of the North Dayton Civic Club, on Memorial Day, 1962, presented him, posthumously, with a plaque in recognition of his many contributions to the religious and civic life of the community. He enjoyed great stature among his fellow citizens both as a priest and as a man. That his work among them was sincerely appreciated by his parishioners was strikingly attested to in 1958 when they arranged a parochial celebration, commemorating his silver jubilee as pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church. They presented him with a Chrysler car as a token of their appreciation of his many years of self-sacrificing labors among them.

His surprise and his gratitude are arrestingly revealed in a note which was published in the June 3, 1958 parish bulletin. It reads as follows: "The great demonstration of last Sunday came as a complete surprise to me, and I am extremely grateful to all the members who cooperated to make it a complete success. Special thanks are due to the committee for their efforts. The new car is a honey and in itself is a splendid gift, not to mention all the other gifts. In return, I repeat the promise to you 25 years ago that I will give my best in your service. I also am giving a scholarship both at Julianne and at Chaminade to the most worthy boy and girl graduate. This scholarship will be given every year in the future." Father Taske.

When Our Lady of the Rosary Parish was founded in 1888, it embraced a vast territory, extending from the Miami and Stillwater Rivers on the east, south and west, almost to Tipp City on the north. In the early days, it was not uncommon for the priests to travel 25 miles to make a sick call. As the population in this vast territory grew, it became necessary to create other parishes.

In 1948, the Most Reverend Archbishop appointed Father William Bucheit to found a new parish north and west of the Miami River in what is now Northridge. Although it robbed Father Taske of a considerable portion of his parish, he nevertheless, in a spirit of magnanimity and cooperation, worked with Father in helping to establish Queen of Martyrs Parish. In his outlook on matters ecclesiastical he was truly catholic, which is the antithesis of provincial or parochial. He gladly gave of his personal possessions as well as of the church's appointments to supply altar and sanctuary appurtenances for the new church.

Selfishness was foreign to his nature and character. The parish was further reduced in size geographically in 1958 when a new expressway following the course of Route 25 was begun. To make way for the new freeway, 300 houses in North Dayton were demolished, diminishing the territory and the church population of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. A large number of families were obliged to move and seek residences elsewhere. This loss was compensated for in the late fifties with the development of a new suburb, Huber Heights, north of the Dayton city limits. Within the short space of five years, several thousands homes were built, and the population in that area mushroomed.

With the influx of new families into this area, the school population increased alarmingly. The only catholic school close enough and big enough to accommodate these new children was Our Lady of the Rosary School. The parents of the children living in Huber Heights, eager to provide a Catholic education for their children, sent them here, by bus. As a consequence our school became overcrowded and it became apparent that in the course of time, a new addition would be needed. Father Taske in sermons and communications in the year 1956 presented to the people the seriousness of the school problem and acquainted them with the necessity of building a new school. After a number of meetings were held with the parish trustees and the people, a school committee was selected to formulate plans for a new school. Work on the building was begun in 1957 and in January of 1958 the new school opened. It is a beautiful school, modern in every detail. It stands as a monument to Father Taske and to the people of Our Lady of the Rosary Congregation. It added another eight rooms to those already in use and provided educational facilities for 800 children.

With the erection of the new school, the building program at Our Lady of the Rosary was completed. The parish now had a complete plant, a beautiful church, a 23 classroom school, a combination gym and auditorium and a rectory. During the period of less than 70 years, the people of Our Lady of the Rosary, under the direction of but two pastors, raised up to the honor and glory of God a complete religious and educational plant. During the past 25 years in the preceding years, the faculties of the school were composed of Brothers and Sisters; the Brothers taught the boys and the Sisters taught the girls.

The Brothers of Mary began teaching here in 1903 and continued to teach until June 1958. The Sisters of Notre Dame came when the first school was erected and have been here ever since, a period of 74 years. With the expansion of the system of higher education, many of the bishops of the country, unable to secure facilities for their schools, petitioned the Brothers of Mary to staff them. The Brothers accepted a number of these high schools and in order to get sufficient teachers to man them, were obliged to withdraw their Brothers from parochial grade schools. At length and at last, the Brothers were withdrawn from Our Lady of the Rosary School. It was the last parochial grade school taught by the Brothers of Mary.

The Brothers were replaced by lay teachers and while this transition was difficult and expensive, in the course of time, it has worked out very satisfactorily. The people regretted seeing the Brothers leave and parted with them reluctantly. The Brothers had educated their sons for 55 years and during that time had fostered many vocations to the priesthood and the brotherhood.

Among the young men who entered the religious state during the past 25 years are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Rev. Joseph Zimmer | ☐ Rev. Ronald Schiml, C.P.P.S. |
| ☐ Rev. Vincent Plassenthal, S.M. | ☐ Rev. Vincent Robers |
| ☐ Rev. Walter Bach | ☐ Rev. Donald Ballmann, C.P.P.S. |
| ☐ Charles W. Long | ☐ Bro. Richard Czarny |
| ☐ Mr. Edward Rimkus BROTHERS OF MARY | ☐ Bro. Joseph Belmar |
| ☐ Bro. John Dahm | ☐ Bro. Donald Jones |
| ☐ Bro. Melvin Kuhl Bender | ☐ Bro. Raymond Nartker |
| ☐ Bro. David Dahm | ☐ Bro. Donald Fahrig |
| ☐ Bro. Robert Ivory | ☐ Bro. Robert Kelley |
| ☐ Bro. James Tuite BROTHERS OF ST. FRANCIS | ☐ Bro. Michael Brinkman |
| ☐ Bro. Kevin Duckson, O.F.M. SALESIAN BROTHER | |

At the same time, the Sisters of Notre Dame were none less active and zealous in encouraging vocations to the sisterhood. Numbered among those who have entered the convent in recent years are the following:

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME Sr.

- ▯ Mary Gabriel (Ballman)
- ▯ Sr. Mary Bendan (Heid)
- ▯ Sr. Francis Gertrude (Duwel)
- ▯ Sr. Barbara Louise (Kuntz) SISTERS OF CHARITY
- ▯ Sr. Margaret William (Bensman)
- ▯ Sr. Rita Margaret (Kroger)
- ▯ Sr. Teresita Marie (Dix) SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD Sr.
- ▯ Mary Borrome (Borgert) SISTERS OF THE POOR OF ST. FRANCIS Sr.
- ▯ Ann Kathleen (Haines) THE POOR HANDMAIDS OF JESUS CHRIST
- ▯ Postulant Virginia (Miller)

The parish continued to grow until in 1960, it numbered 950 families. The Masses on Sunday were filled, and the school was crowded. In the meantime, more Catholic families were moving to Huber Heights and to the suburban areas.

The Most Reverend Archbishop Alter, noting both the crowded conditions at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, and the large Catholic population in Huber Heights, founded a new parish in Huber Heights, St. Peter, and appointed Father Leander Schweitzer, the first Pastor. Father Schweitzer offered Mass in a public school from 1960 until Christmas 1962 when the first Mass was offered in his new combination church and school. The children of St. Peter still continue to attend Our Lady of the Rosary School. With the establishment of the new parish, the number of families at Our Lady of the Rosary was reduced by 300. At the present time, there are 550 families registered in the congregation and 725 children attending our school, 550 of our own children and 200 children from St. Peter, St. Stephen and Holy Cross parishes. Our Lady of the Rosary parish has been a generous and a loving mother in caring for the children of her daughter parishes.

In his declining years, Father Taske, because of failing health, was obliged to relinquish some of his many duties to his assistants, but he continued to take an active part in all the affairs of the parish. During the last three years of his life he suffered several serious illnesses, but even these did not temper his zeal for the things of God.

On July 7, 1961, Father Taske offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and afterwards walked about the grounds inspecting some work that was being done.

Just before noon, feeling faint, he retired to his room. When he failed to respond to the call for lunch, his sister went to his room where she found him dead in his chair. Thus was brought to a close the life of a holy and devoted man of God. He had spent 49 years in the priesthood and 36 years in the service of the people of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. His death was mourned, not only by Catholics, but by non-Catholics as well, for he was beloved by all. On July 11th, he was laid to rest. His Solemn Funeral Requiem Mass was offered by Most Reverend Karl J. Alter and the sermon was preached by Father Joseph Oenbrink, a cousin of Father Taske, who gave a summation of his life in these words, "He was the kindest man I knew."

Father Stephen Almasy, C.P.P.S., the first assistant was appointed administrator of the parish until a new pastor was selected. Father Cornelius C. Berning, Pastor of Resurrection Church, Dayton, Ohio, was appointed to succeed Father Taske as pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church on August 9, 1963, and was canonically installed by Right Reverend Monsignor Harry Ansbury on August 20, 1963.

The new pastor had two important tasks awaiting him, 1) to continue the zealous care of souls so admirably carried on by his worthy predecessors, and 2) to renovate the parish plant. The people responded with inspiring generosity to his appeals for funds to repair the church, a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. During the first year of his pastorate, the tower and the roof were repaired. The church was built with 12,000 square feet of fiberglass insulation, and a conversion gas and oil burner was installed in the boilers. At the present time, as a result of these installations, which permit the use of gas, oil, and coal, the church is warm even on the coldest winter days. A new public address system was placed in the church which has enabled listeners in all parts of the church to hear with effortless ease. The entire lighting system in the church was renewed and new decorative fixtures were installed, increasing candlepower threefold. A gorgeous set of vestments and a number of altar and sanctuary appointments were purchased, enhancing the beauty and the decency of divine worship.

During the summer of 1961, new lavatories were installed in the St. Michael Building (the old church) and fluorescent lighting was installed in the classrooms. All the classrooms in the two old school buildings were painted and several hundred desks were refinished. In 1961, remote preparations for the Diamond Jubilee in 1963 were begun. The interior of the church was renovated and decorated. The work was done by the Liskowiak Studios of Milwaukee, Wis., world renowned church artists, who have decorated churches throughout the country.

The church, done in red, blue and gold, is a masterpiece of the decorator's art. The ceiling is in off-white with paneling of gold leaf, and the side walls are done in a delicate pastel green. The dome is a shimmering sheet of 23 carat gold leaf on which has been painted a mural of the Blessed Virgin Mary giving the rosary to St. Dominic. Beneath the Madonna with child in arms, kneels St. Clare in humble reverence. Six angels stand in adoration below the beautiful mural. The ornamental plaster, which is a decorative feature of the arches and ceiling bays, is highlighted with gold leaf. In the frieze, midway between the floor and ceiling, various titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, have been inscribed.

Five pictures depicting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary have been painted over the giant arch of the sanctuary. The theme of the entire church is the Blessed Mother and the Rosary. All the statues and stations in the church were repainted and beautiful altars were placed in the alcoves below the crucifixion group in the west side of the church, and beneath the Sacred Heart statue on the east side of the church. The new church was formally opened in October 1962 with a Solemn High Mass in the morning, and a sacred concert in the afternoon. At the Mass the priests wore a set of scintillating gold vestments recently purchased. Other altar and sanctuary appointments were added to enhance the beauty and decency of Divine Worship. Since the formal opening, two organ recitals were presented by our organist and choirmaster, Mr. James Will, and his assistant Mr. Ernest Flamm, and three sacred concerts were given by our combined men's and boy's choir. They have been attended by large groups of parishioners and guests who have been enthusiastic in their acclaim of these musical presentations. In Lent of 1963, the "Seven Last Words" a sacred cantata by Theodore Dubois was presented in Our Lady of the Rosary Church by a choir of 120 voices and evoked highest praise from the congregation of 700 people who heard it. Our organists and choirs have made significant contributions to the cultural life of the parish, and the city, with these concerts. The purpose of these sacred musicals has been to acquaint the people of Dayton with the beauty and dignity of Catholic Church music.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church was recipient of one of the finest bookracks in the city in 1962, a gift of one of the parishioners. On display at all times are hundreds of catholic magazines and pamphlets of every type and description. The racks are attended by men and women of the decent literature committees of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men and Catholic Women. These men and women are engaged in a laudable work of Catholic action, that of ridding the newsstands in the area of objectionable magazines, and that of providing wholesome Catholic literature to the truth hungry Catholics and non-Catholics of North Dayton.

In 1962, the Parent Teacher's Association, dormant for several years, was reorganized under the Presidency of Mr. Richard Ballman. Monthly meetings were held, at which education and school matters were discussed. These discussions were interesting and informative and mutually advantageous for both teachers and parents. At each meeting, a lecture, on the subject of education, was given by some well known speaker, or a children's program was presented. These programs not only enlivened the meetings, but were an invaluable aid in developing a better informed group of parents.

The Rosarian Youth Club organized in 1951 to care for the youth work in the parish was reactivated in 1962 and its name was changed to the "Booster's Club". This club financed and directed the athletic program of the school and provided sports equipment for the boys and girls. It was instrumental in interesting all the members of the parish in a physical fitness program for the pupils of our school. Our school has been fortunate in acquiring capable leaders and coaches for our athletic teams. Both the football and the basketball championships for grade schools, in the city of Dayton, were won by Our Lady of the Rosary School teams during the year 1962, a tribute to the inspiring leadership of the coaches, and the superior athletic prowess of the boys.

In May of 1962, a boiler explosion in the school sent the 750 children to the streets and the fire department and the news reporters and the television cameras to the inside of the school. The children were evacuated with such order and dispatch, that the incident evoked praise from the city directors of safety and the daily press. Never before, they admitted, had they witnessed such an admirable display of order and discipline.

In August 1962, Father Stephen Almas, C.P.P.S., enlisted as a chaplain in the United States Navy, thus attaining a lifelong ambition. Father Almas, since his seminary days, had wanted to be a priest in the service of his country, but his religious superiors had other work for him to do. After spending a number of years in parishes in Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska, he was appointed assistant pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in 1957 where he faithfully fulfilled his sacerdotal duties until his entry into the Navy. The parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary bade him a fond farewell and parted with him reluctantly. Father Almas was replaced by Fr. Leonard Kistler, C.P.P.S., who came here from Detroit, Mich.

During 1961-1963 efforts were made to enliven and quicken the spiritual life of the people of the parish. Two missions were conducted to provide opportunities for the parishioners to learn more about their faith and to assist them in growing in the

knowledge, wisdom and love of God. The first mission in October 1961 was preached by Father John O'Keefe and Father Francis Diskin, of the Paulist Fathers; the second in March of 1962 was preached by a Redemptorist Priest, Father Arthur Finn. All three priests were well schooled in the spiritual life and were well qualified to relate religion to life because of their many and varied priestly experiences. Father O'Keefe was a missionary in South Africa for six years before being appointed to the rectorship of the Paulist Major Seminary in Washington. Prior to that time he was a member of the Paulist Mission band.

Father Diskin spent many years among the Puerto Ricans in Harlem, before assuming his duties on the Paulist Mission band. Father Finn did missionary work, in the Virgin Islands, for ten years before taking up retreat and mission work in the United States. The zealous efforts of these men vivified the spiritual and the sacramental life of the people of Our Lady of the Rosary.

During 1962 ten men of the parish made the New Crusade, an intensified course in spiritual formation, designed to sanctify the individual and to prepare him to do lay apostolic work in the parish. These men worked with the priests to reclaim the wayward and lapsed members of the parish and to assist them in returning to the sacramental life of their faith. Another group of men under the leadership of Mr. Roy Schenk, Ph.D., a member of the parish, took the leadership training course of the National Council of Catholic Men to prepare them for service to the church. As a result of these programs, there was raised up in the parish, a well instructed and a vocal group of Catholic men, capable of assisting the priest in carrying on the work of the sanctification of souls, and making Christ better known among men. These men together with the men of the Holy Name Society and the women of the Altar-Rosary Society working in concert, gave a new spiritual look to the parish. Continued progress is hoped for and anticipated with increasing crescendo in the future.

A word of praise must be sounded for the generosity and the hard work of the members of the parish who in less than two short years, raised \$75,000 to renew the buildings of our parish plant for its Diamond Jubilee. Their love for their church was spelled out dramatically in deeds of sacrifice. No people could have done more. Our Lady of the Rosary Congregation will continue to flourish in the future because of this courageous spirit, a spirit which has prevailed during its long and eventful life.

Our Lady of the Rosary, the Holy Mother of God has smiled benignly on the people of this parish and has protected them under her mantle of blue. Through her intercession countless blessings and gifts have been showered upon them. Her

prayers and her inspiration have been instrumental in rising up to God a holy people and loyal and devoted sons and daughters of Holy Mother Church. The members of this parish have loved Our Lady of the Rosary in return and have sung her praises in song and deed during these many years. They will continue to honor her in the future as they have in the past, with a true and an abiding love. Their love was expressed in humble adoration at the solemn Pontifical Mass on May 5th, the Diamond Jubilee of the parish.

At the Mass, as honored guests, the following men and women who were residents of the parish:

- Mrs. Amelia Durkin
- Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Worner
- Mrs. Anna Henn
- Miss Rose Heilig
- Mrs. Anna Burkhardt
- Mrs. Rose Kimble
- Mr. George Hasenstab
- Mr. Joseph Hasenstab
- Mrs. Mary Gebhart
- Mrs. Margaret Kirby
- Mr. George Kroger
- Mr. Bernard Kelimeier
- Mrs. Maud Boeckman
- Mrs. Frances Schneider

The Mass was offered in Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful graces He has lavished upon the people of this parish during its long and colorful life. Their gratitude ascended heavenward on that day to a munificent God, who throughout an eventful history of 75 years, has blessed and loved the people of Our Lady of the Rosary Congregation.

1963 to 1987

Our 100th Anniversary as a Parish; what an accomplishment! Reading the first 75 year history certainly shows us that the past 25 years has been more of the same, in terms of accomplishments. The people who sacrificed and built this great institution called Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, can only look down from heaven at those people who are still sacrificing and building, with much gratitude and satisfaction. There were three pastors in the first 75 years of our parish. There

have been five, including Father Berning, in the 25 years since. When Father Berning came to us from Resurrection Church in 1961, following the death of Father Taske, he came into a parish plant in much need of repairs and improvements. In the twelve years Father Berning was here at Rosary, he accomplished much work and many improvements. His major accomplishment, as described earlier, was, with much help from the people, raising \$75,000 to repaint the church interior. He was also responsible for the installation of air conditioning in the church.

During Father Berning's pastorate, he was assisted by Father Louis Barga, C.P.P.C. Father Barga was very interested in the young people of the parish. He could always be seen at athletic events cheering the team on, and he was always present on the playground at recess.

In 1973 Father Berning retired and Father Charles Caserta became our pastor. What most endeared him to his parishioners was his uncanny ability to remember peoples' names. He knew just about every parishioner by his or her first name and called them each by name at Communion.

During his years at Rosary, Father Caserta had many things to finish that had been started by Father Berning, plus many problems to contend with. "The Energy Crisis" was the most pressing problem – no gas, no oil, usually means no heat. We were very fortunate that our plant could still be reconverted to coal to combat cold classrooms. With Father as our most ardent campaigner, we raised \$24,000 for the badly needed new windows in the school. At Father's request his "Hands of Joseph" (men of the parish who always had a willing hand and hammer), remodeled a room in the rectory basement for daily Mass and small meetings. This room was dedicated to Father Taske and filled the need to conserve energy in the parish. Although Father Taske Hall is no longer used for daily Mass, it is still used for meetings.

Father Caserta organized many events. The Wedding Anniversary Celebration was his most popular and lasting. It is always such a great success that one leaves the celebration, anticipating the next years.

Father is also credited with starting the "Over 50 Club", an organization for the older members of the parish. Lay participation in the Mass, in the form of Readers, Gospel and Offertory Procession participants and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, was also implemented by Father Caserta. He was also responsible for implementing guitar Masses, home block Masses, the parish blood bank, penance services,

donuts after Mass and the Marriage Encounter Group – the list is endless. He also involved the parish in the World Day of Prayer and in support of the Food Pantry. His "Hands of Joseph" built the bridal room and refinished the gym floor. The kitchen in the church basement was also remodeled during his time and a new roof put on the church building, at the cost of \$40,000. Father also started the "Rosary Beads", a monthly newsletter for the parish. The "Beads" listed just about everything of importance to the parish that could not be covered in the Sunday bulletin. The "Rosary Beads" was put together by a small group of ladies of the parish, and was very popular and informative.

Under Father Caserta the PTA and the Boosters Club joined together to become the Rosarian. The function of the Rosarian was to provide funds for the school, the scout programs, CCD, and equipment and coaches for all sports in the parish. These funds were raised through fish fries and the Christmas Bazaar. Father established a Tuition Assistance Program for OLR students attending Catholic High Schools. The Parish Festival became another source of income to fund this program. During those years of assistance, 97% of our 8th grade graduates attended one of the Catholic High Schools in the area.

Father Caserta was a great lover of children. He purchased more candy, scout cookies and raffle tickets than just about anyone around. During his years at Rosary, the rectory was often filled with children; his nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews (Uncle Charlie was a much loved babysitter).

Father Donald Hubner made his home at OLR for a short period of time. But the years of having more than one priest to a parish were coming to an end. However, in 1979 Mr. Henry Beck, a member of the parish, was made Deacon and was assigned to Rosary. Henry Jr., was also made Deacon at the same time as his father, and in 1980 was ordained into the priesthood. There is no doubt that during the past eight years "Henry" has been the backbone of the parish. Without his guidance, love and devotion, all of our trials and tribulations would have been close to impossible. We do appreciate and love him and thank God he's ours.

In 1979, Father Caserta's years at Rosary came to an end. He was transferred to Transfiguration Parish, West Milton, Ohio. We were all sad to see him and his unending good humor and spirit go. He has been dearly missed. Father Richard McKenny became our pastor in 1980. Father "Mae" was responsible for adding beauty to our parish. He instigated the school courtyard project and transformed the back yard of the rectory into a beautiful flower garden. He was a great lover of flowers. Father Mae also hired the first lay principal in 1980, Mr. Richard Murphy.

He, like Father Mae, was loved by all. Mr. Murphy was at Rosary until 1984 when he left for Florida in preparation for his Retirement.

Father Mae also hired Mr. John Buehler as our Music Director. John has been a great asset to Rosary. We now have, in the opinion of all that hear, the most beautiful music in the city. John has done wonders with the school children. The annual Spring Concert, put on by the students under the direction of John and his able assistant, is overwhelming.

Father Mae's biggest concern, as was his predecessors, was money. The parish was in debt and there seemed to be no easy way out. Tuition had to be charged to the parents of the school children and it was decided in 1981 to establish a parish bingo. One month later, Father Mae died. The school children were waiting for Mass one Friday when Mr. Beck found Father in the rectory. His pastorate was too short. He has not been here to see our progress, but we all know that he's in heaven helping us to hold it together. The trees in the church yard were planted by the school children, in Father Mac's memory.

In December of 1981 Father John Seaman became our pastor. With him came his German shepherd dogs; Felicia who was well trained and then Rosie who was not. Father Seaman made several contributions to our parish. It was during this time that it was decided that the parish festival, with all its work and aggravation, was no longer feasible as a money making project. To take the festival's place, it was decided that we would have an annual "Five Grand Party". Five hundred, \$40.00 tickets were sold for a chance to win \$5,000. The ticket holder and guest are entitled to attend the Five Grand Cocktail Party. The tickets are drawn and posted all night. The last ticket out is the winner. They have been successful and very popular. We also have a Family Picnic each year to get the families of the parish together for a good time playing games, eating picnic fare and dancing.

Father Seaman was instrumental in reactivating the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Many parishioners and non-parishioners in the area have been helped through rough and difficult times by the society. They particularly make sure families, who would not normally have good holiday meals, have them, through their food basket program. Father was also very interested in making converts. He always had a new group of converts to be baptized and welcomed into the church each Easter.

Father Seaman was involved, for a short time, in the groundwork for our Parish 100th Anniversary Celebration. Before leaving, he was instrumental in having the new public address system, donated by a parishioner, installed in the Church. The

painting of the lower half of the Church was completed and the church pews were refinished by LeRoy Bergman of Dayton. Father Seaman left Rosary in July, 1986 and is now at Incarnation Parish in Centerville, Ohio as an Associate Pastor. Father Lawrence Wessel arrived in 1986, coming from St. John the Baptist Parish in Tipp City, Ohio. He is our seventh pastor. He has arrived in the middle of the Centennial Plans and enthusiastically supports our progress. With the arrival of Father Wessel, work continues in the Church in the form of new carpeting for the altar and the recovering of the kneelers. Refurbishing the magnificent Wangerin organ, installed in 1931, is soon to begin. We are most pleased to have Father Wessel at Rosary and we pray that he will be with us for a long time. Our school has undergone many changes in the past 25 years. Besides the new windows and new gym floor that Father Caserta was responsible for, another major change was in the demolition of a building across Notre Dame Ave., making room for additional parking and playground area. Of course, many staff changes have occurred in 25 years.

The most significant change is that we now have only one Sister of Notre Dame, namely Sister Miriam Joseph Reichert. The remainder of the teaching staff is lay personnel. Sister teaches Religion to the lower grades and has instructed many children, in the last 15 years, for their First Holy communion. In the past year, Sister Miriam Joseph celebrated her Golden Jubilee here at Rosary.

An interesting note is that in 1913, before Sister was born, her parents were members of Rosary. They also, were rescued from the roof of their home during the 1913 flood and taken to Rosary for shelter. In the past few years, our school has benefited from government funds, previously unavailable. With this support, textbooks and teaching materials are now available to our teachers to aid them in providing our children with education comparable with that of public education. In 1980 St. Adalbert's Parish School enrollment had dropped too low to keep their school open. Our enrollment has also dropped so St. Adalbert closed their school and their children now attend Rosary but keep their membership in St. Adalbert's Parish. It was a well planned move and the adjustment went smoothly. We gained 60 students the first year. Although enrollment has dropped to less than 300 students, the quality of education has remained high.

Our school cafeteria is among the most modern and one of the few with cooks in the kitchen. They prepare delicious, nourishing lunches at low prices, every day, thanks to government commodities. Equipment in the cafeteria occasionally needs to be repaired or replaced. The cafeteria staff has combated the cost of this with fundraisers. The most successful is the Dollar-A-Week Raffle. It has been in

existence for six years. Public busing of Catholic School Children was passed, in the State of Ohio, back in the 60's. Children beyond walking distance in our parish are now bused free from Fairborn, Huber Heights, Mad River and the City of Dayton Districts. About 50% of our students ride the bus to school. The last 25 years has seen the birth of a housing development to the North of Rosary called Forest Ridge. Forest Ridge's access to Wright Patterson made it convenient for Air Force families. Since Forest Ridge is within our parish boundaries, we have benefited from the Air Force families. They have been very willing workers and have contributed greatly to our parish. The Air Force families, as well as all people from Forest Ridge have been welcomed and appreciated as parishioners.

Our Lady of the Rosary was started 100 years ago, by people who believed in their religion and wanted their own church in which to worship, regardless of cost or hardship. Today we are still people who believe in the Catholic religion and want our Catholic schools, so we are not afraid to work and sacrifice for this cause. Many names of the first families are still active in OLR today. We have many fifth and sixth generation families in our Old North Dayton parish. We have not let our ancestors down and we are confident that our children and grandchildren won't let us down. In 2087, when our parish is celebrating its 200th anniversary, we too can look down from heaven, as our parents and grandparents are doing today, and say:

LONG LIVE OUR LADY OF ROSARY!

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL HISTORY

Our Lady of the Rosary School had its beginnings in 1888 when the building which currently houses its gym was begun. The school formally opened on September 3, 1889, by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Brothers assumed the duties of teaching the boys in the fourth grade and older. The original building served double duty as both the physical facility for the school and the church for a number of years. By 1915 the enrollment in the school had grown so much that several adjacent houses, including St. Martin's Club House, were pressed into service as temporary quarters for classes. In 1917 the present church structure was completed and ready for use.

By 1957 enrollment had again increased to the point that a new addition was required. The "new" building, currently the principal classroom structure, was opened in 1958. A breeze-way linked the old and new buildings and created a twenty-three room school. During the years between 1958 and 1979, new highways and changing demographics had caused the enrollment to decline. However, Our Lady of the Rosary has maintained a solid enrollment base with the addition of new subdivisions in the outlying areas of its district. In 1980, due to declining enrollment in St. Adalbert School on Valley St., Our Lady of the Rosary Parish offered to open its doors to students from the school who wished to enroll. Since that time families from St. Adalbert parish have been sending their children to Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Sisters' House, at 97 Notre Dame Avenue, was sold in 1979, due to the lack of Sisters to live in the facility. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur still continued on the staff until March of 1990. Sister Miriam Joseph Reichert had become very dear to the parish, having been here for 17 years. She had to retire, due to a serious fall. She had completed 50 years of teaching and 17 years in the parish. The class of 1990 established and named a scholarship in her honor. On September 3, 1989, a 100th birthday party was held for students, teachers and parents in the cafeteria. The Evans family made a cake with 100 candles on it. There was singing and dancing enjoyed by all. The flag pole was erected by the Jergens family as a birthday gift and the marker in front of the flagpole was purchased by the children and parents.

During the year of 1992-93, one of the goals for the school was to beautify the front, which was all asphalt. Mrs. Clara Garza wrote a proposal and obtained money from the City of Dayton for the beautification of the front of the school as well as making a parking lot to the South of the Church. The funds had to be matched by parishioners, which could include work that they did in the project. Mr. Gary Sierschula was the architect who designed the entire project. The Jergens construction Co. handled the main part of the job, digging up blacktop, putting in the sidewalk and filling in the ground. The feast of St. Joseph, March 19, was chosen as the day to plant the Wright Brothers Sugar Maple which is to the right of the front sidewalk as one enters the school. The children and teachers all gathered for the ceremony. Each class wrote their prayers and wishes for the school and placed them in the hole. Each class helped in the planting of the tree. April 12, 1993, was the big planting day for the rest of the plants and shrubs in front of school. Many parents, parishioners and students gathered to help Mr. Ed Ravenstein, who directed the planting. The success of the project is a tribute to the many people who were part of the project.

During the 1996-97 school years the new computer lab was refurbished. The students worked very hard selling candy to pay for many things in the lab. The ISP contributed the tables in the lab. Besides buying new computers, an ISDN line was put in with the use of state money allotted for this purpose. Students and teachers finally were able to use the Internet in many creative ways in the learning process. The year of 1997-98 saw the birth of WOLR, our in-house TV station. With the new TV's purchased by the ISP in place in each classroom, Mr. Pike ran cable to all the classrooms. This then made it possible with a few switches, to install our camcorder in the room above the entry way, which began to be known as the "WOLR studio."

Through aggressive marketing over these past four years the enrollment of Our Lady of the Rosary has gone from 156 to 250. We continue the tradition of Catholic education in the parish, meeting the spiritual and academic needs of the students through a traditional approach yet incorporating technology for the benefit of all. Principals at Our Lady of the Rosary during the past twenty-five years have included:

Sister Marie Theodosia, S.N.D.deN.	Sister Anna Frances, S.N.D.deN.
Sister Agnes Patricia Costello, S.N.D.deN.	Sister Mary Irene Spraley, S.N.D.deN
Sister Eileen Mary Shumaker, S.N.D.deN.	Richard Murphy
Dan Halton	Angela Lelak
Sister Shirley Dix S.C.	Genevieve Ritzel
Gregg Marino	

PHILOSOPHY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL

At Our Lady of the Rosary School, we believe that our educational mission is an integrated ministry embracing three interlocking dimensions:

TO TEACH HIS MESSAGE - the Good News

TO LIVE HIS MESSAGE - to build community

TO SHARE HIS MESSAGE - to serve community

We believe

- That each person is made in the image and likeness of God.
- That each person is created uniquely with special gifts and needs.

- That each member of our Christian Education Community has an important contribution to offer.

IT IS THE DISTINCTIVE PURPOSE OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL TO BUILD: FAITH VALUES:

- To value, experience, and teach Catholic beliefs and tradition.
- To provide students the opportunity to develop moral and spiritual values, ethical standards of conduct, and basic integrity.
- To be compassionate, tolerant, and respectful of others who hold different beliefs, life-styles, and attitudes.
- To enable our students to spread peace in the world by working to bring justice to all peoples.

ACADEMIC VALUES:

- To encourage students to desire the furtherance of their education through exploration, problem solving, discovery, and communication.
- To assist the students in the development of the basic skills, especially those of Reading, English, and Math.
- To further develop knowledge and appreciation of the world and its peoples through the teaching of Social Studies and Science.

CULTURAL AND OTHER VALUES AND ABILITIES:

- To develop an appreciation of the arts through the teaching of music and art as well as their physical attributes.
- To assist the student in his/her development of the sense of organization and responsibility.

Our Lady of Rosary Boys Class of 1944



4th row: James Kammer, Robert Caldwell, Wilbur Feldman, Robert Bangerter, Gene Omlar, William Murphy, Father Taske.

3rd row: Eugene Kauth, Joseph Koenig, Carl Suhr, Francis Zubrick, George A. Mikalauskas, Richard Wallace, Dale Sherman, Thomas Bartz

2nd row: Paul Stich, Raymond Essman, Ronald Hoke, George Szima, Jean Blessing, James Stafford, Paul Fischer, Jean Pooler, Flyod Arkenberg, Robert Randall.

1st row: Charles Russell, Richard Topp, Eugene Gad, Thomas Schultz, Donald Gudorf, Robert Omlor, Theodore Porumb. Joseph Trick.

During this time of OLOR, boys and girls classes were separated. My father George speaks highly of the Brothers that taught the boys, especially Brother Joseph Wasy.

Our Lady of Rosary Girls Class of 1944



4th row: Mary Ann Behringer, Barbara Niekamp, Rosella Meyers, Betty Brookey, Father Taske.

3rd row: Patricia Gross, June Grusenmeyer, Betty Mae Ballman, Patricia Plothow, Barbara Manning, JoAnn Plaspohl, Ann Peterman, Betty Ann Ballman

2nd row: Elsie Lingg, Maru Anello, Frances Lucas, Rita Blackson, Rosemary Bierley, JoAnn Plaspohl, Eileen Van Schalk, Delores Nartker

1st row: Catherine Knopp, Shirley Dabbelt, Mary Risko, Irene Toth, Margaret Seer, Phyllis Hurl, Dorothy Wirrig, Virginia Arnold

Photo courtesy of George A. Mikalauskas. The Class of 1944 meets annually and recently celebrated their 65th reunion!