



# **ASCENSION PARISH**

**1926      Baseline, Michigan      1951**

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Society of Michigan

## DEDICATION

*This is the story of the twenty-five years of determined effort of Ascension Parish to give expression to its love of God.*

*To all parishioners, both living and dead, whose strong faith, intrepid courage and heroic sacrifice, have made this history of Ascension Parish possible, this Jubilee Book is gratefully dedicated. With humble supplication to the Ascended Christ, let us pray that the future of the Parish will be spiritually golden.*

SILVER JUBILEE BOOK  
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD PARISH  
1926 — DECEMBER 30 — 1951

Do  
an  
So

# The Papal Blessing

————— C A B L E G R A M —————

DECEMBER 15, 1951.

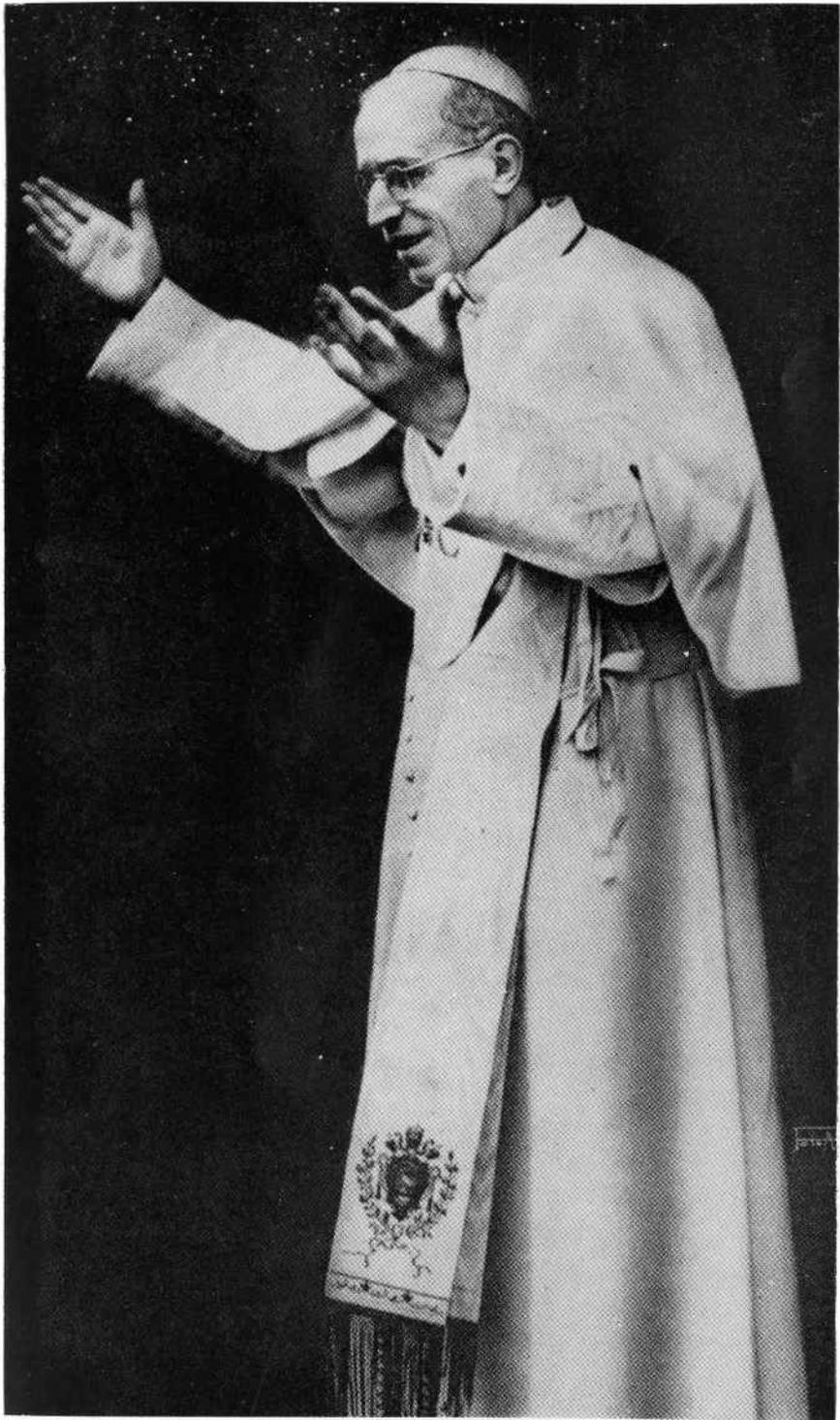
VATICAN CITY  
ITALY,  
c-o EDWARD CARDINAL MOONEY  
1234 WASHINGTON BLVD.,  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
  
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION  
21050 ASCENSION ROAD  
BASELINE, MICHIGAN

DEAR FATHER KOLANCZYK

THE HOLY FATHER ON THE HAPPY OCCASION OF THE  
SILVER JUBILEE OF THE ASCENSION PARISH CORDIALLY  
IMPARTS TO YOURSELF, TO THE ASSISTANT PRIESTS, THE  
SISTERS AND PARISHIONERS HIS PATERNAL APOSTOLIC  
BLESSING AS A PLEDGE OF ABUNDANT DIVINE GRACES  
AND FAVORS.

(Signed) J. B. MONTINI  
ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

————— C A B L E G R A M —————



*His Holiness Pope Pius XII*  
Gloriously Reigning since March 12, 1939

## The Ascension

It is forty days since Christ came forth from the tomb glorified. The hour of His departure draws nigh. For the last time the Saviour gathers together His disciples in the upper room. At noon He makes ready to leave. Again He leads them out to the Mount of Olives as He did on the night when His sacred Passion began. Slowly He ascends the mountainside. Now they have reached the summit. Jesus bids farewell to His trusted ones. It is a solemn moment. He extends His arms over them, saying: "All power is given to Me in heaven and on earth. Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world". He then blessed them with a blessing that comes from the fullness of His loving Sacred Heart. While He is yet blessing them, His Body rises slowly from the ground in majestic dignity. Higher and higher He goes. A wonderful halo of light surrounds His glorified body. Just a few seconds more, and a bright cloud hides Him from the Apostles who were gazing after Him.

He now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. The longing of the Saviour, expressed in His sacerdotal prayer, has been filled: "Father, glorify Thy Son that Thy Son may glorify Thee".

Dear Lord who hath ascended into heaven, I believe in Thee.



*His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney*  
Archbishop of Detroit since August 3, 1937



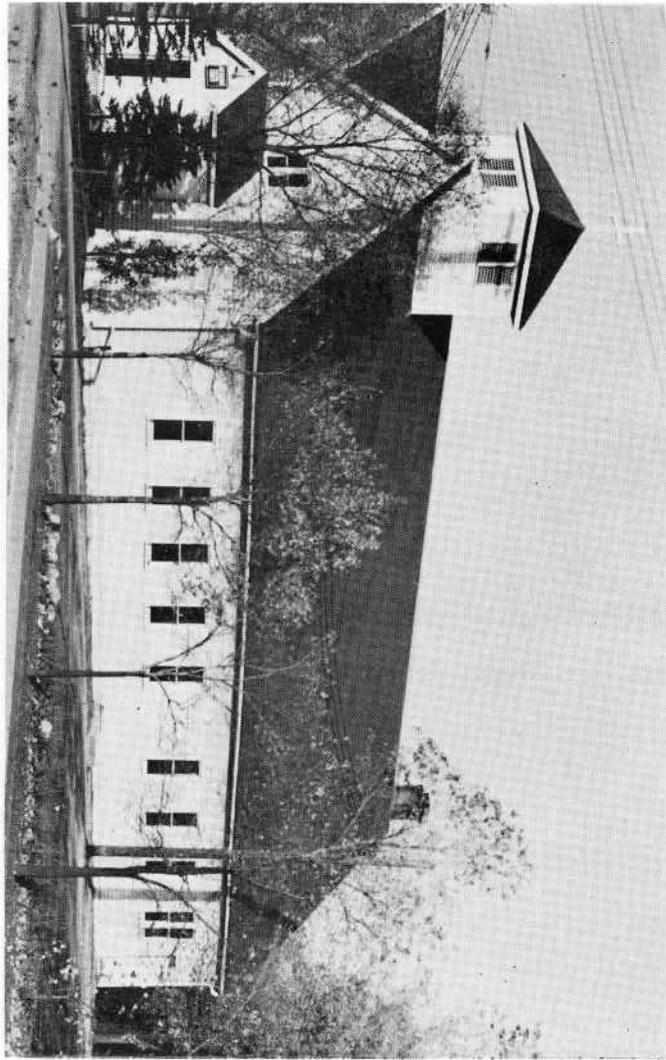
*His Excellency*  
THE MOST REV. ALLEN J. BABCOCK  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit*

Consecrated March 25, 1947

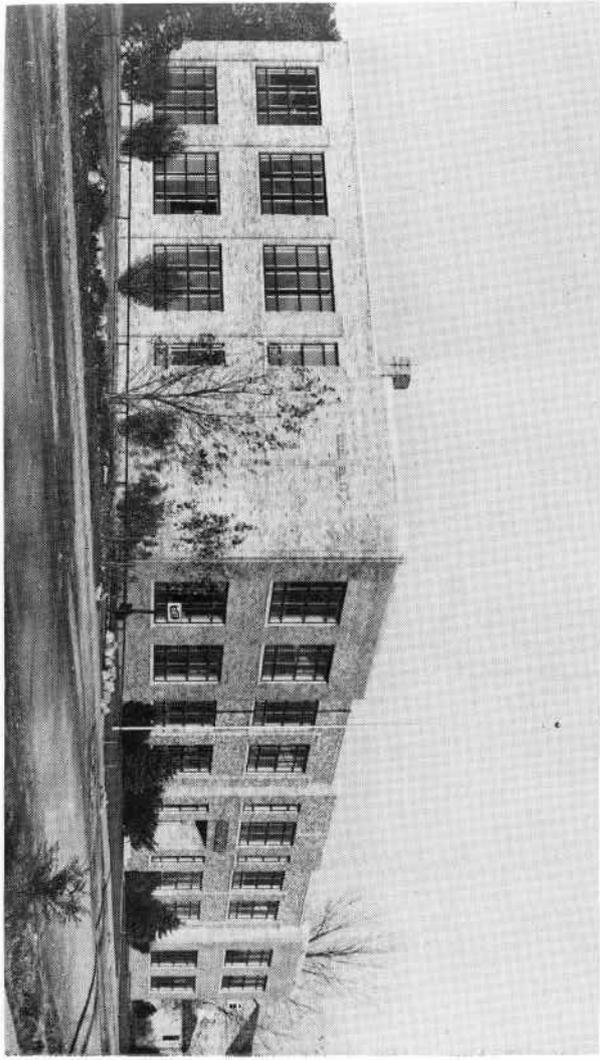


*His Excellency*  
THE MOST REV. ALEXANDER ZALESKI  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit*

Consecrated May 25, 1950



THE CHURCH



THE SCHOOL

## MY DEAR PARISHIONERS:

A Silver Jubilee is pre-eminently a time to recognize with gratitude and appreciation those who made Ascension Parish what it is. The history herein contained is only briefly recorded. So much more could be told, so many of the small, human, subjective things that make up the heart of a parish; the prayers and sacrifices, the toil and generousities, that far more than brick and mortar, are needed to build a parish.

Foreign missionaries say that it is a great event in the history of any locality when Holy Mass is celebrated there for the first time. Devils are restrained and the presence of God is intensified. For twenty-five years Mass has been said daily on our grounds, bringing Christ, the Redeemer of mankind, among us to represent to His Father the wounds He received for us in His mortal combat with Satan and his legions. If this parish has accomplished nothing else during the last quarter of a century than to have had Mass said every day on this site, we have ample reason for celebrating a Jubilee.

Think, too, of the numerous souls which have been delivered from Original Sin and made children of God and heirs of Heaven by the waters of Baptism. Think of those who have received the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, of the multitudes who have been reconciled to God in the tribunal of Penance! What is there in human life which can give us more reason for rejoicing than the supernatural achievements of a Catholic Parish where human beings cooperate with the Holy Spirit!

In dedicating a church the Bishop reminds Christ of His promise that he who asks shall receive and he prays that all who seek help in this church may find it. Prayer is the main activity of a parish. How many calamities have been averted by the prayers said in this church in the past twenty-five years. How many souls have been saved from sin, how many sick comforted and cured! How many were strengthened in their final hour! Souls given to prayer are the glory of a parish. May God reward those of the parish who pray so well and so faithfully making amends for those of us who do not pray as well as we should. These holy souls have brought down many blessings upon us and upon the community as a whole. May they continue to pray for the weak among us.

If we believe that God made children to His image and likeness and has called them to earn the Beatific Vision by faith and good deeds on earth, we must esteem our school as vital to Ascension Parish. We must be very grateful to the Sisters who have taught in our Parish for the past twenty-five years. How light they have made our heaviest task! How can we adequately thank them and assure them of our respect and gratitude. Our Parish Jubilee reaches its highest note in a salute to our Sisters of St. Joseph.

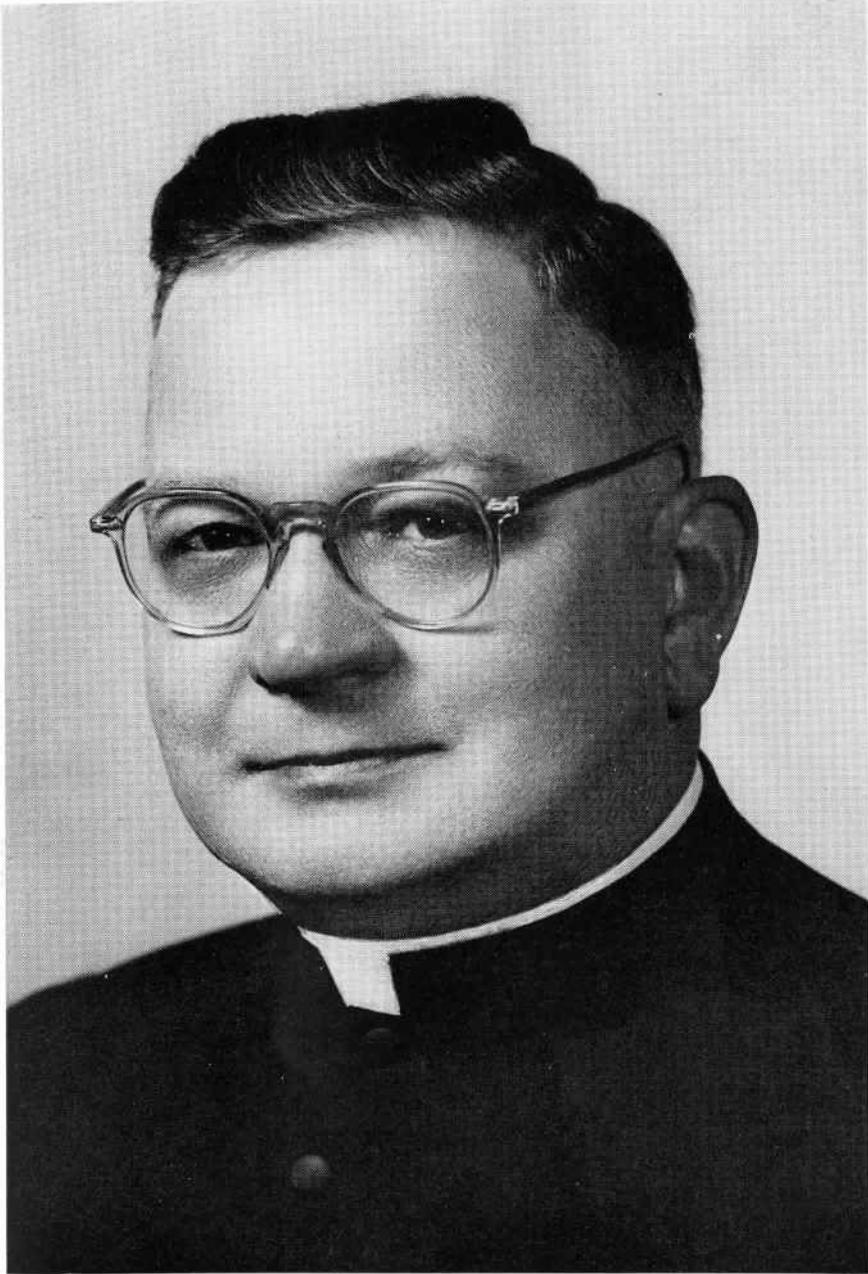
Our tribute to the builders of Ascension would lack faith and confidence if we did not behold our church filled with invisible worshippers. Death has taken its toll of the members of this Parish. They are gone to enjoy the vision of God forever. Believing in the Communion of Saints, we cannot doubt their continued interest in Our Parish. They rejoice in everything we accomplish and their spirits hover here now. They are celebrating our Jubilee with us. Those in Purgatory, I am sure, will be grateful for our prayerful remembrance of them on this happy occasion.

My eleven years with you as your Pastor have been happy because you have been ever loyal and faithful and generous despite my shortcomings. It is you, not I, who have made the Parish. I have seen enough of your faith and liberality to convince me that I am dealing with more than average Catholics. To be good Catholics is to prefer God to all creatures. You have given abundant evidence that you do this. You have given much to build up Ascension and you maintain a school by great sacrifices. This is evidence that God comes first in your affections. *May it continue to be thus!*

From my heart I bless you and I pray God to shower His grace upon every individual and every family at Ascension during this, our Silver Jubilee. May the future be as edifying as the twenty-five years just past.

*God love you ever,*

FATHER KOLANCZYK.



*THE REV. ANTHONY J. KOLANCZYK*

Ordained February 7, 1926

*APPOINTMENTS:*

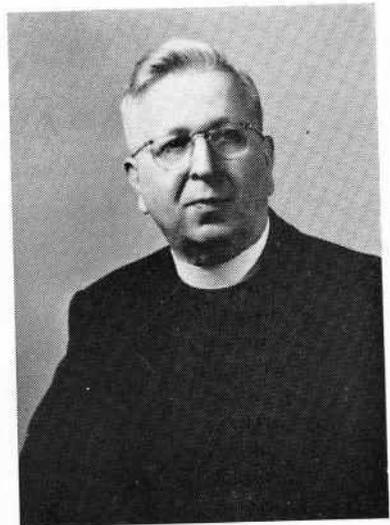
Assistant to Bishop J. Plagens at Sweetest Heart Church February 22, 1926

Assistant at St. Florian, March 11, 1936

Pastor of Ascension, September 19, 1940



REV. HENRY PODSIAD  
*Founder and First Pastor*  
 Appointed February 1, 1927



REV.  
 ALEXANDER JARZEMBOWSKI  
*Second Pastor*  
 Appointed June 29, 1929



REV. EDWARD JOSEPH SOBCZAK  
*First Full Time Assistant*

Attended Assumption Grade School, Sacred Heart High School and College  
 Theology at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary  
 Ordained May 27, 1934  
 Appointed to Ascension July 7, 1941

OTHER PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED THE PARISH

Rev. Henry Torzala, Rev. Edward Popielarz, Rev. Constantine Cyran,  
 Rev. Alexander Cendrowski, Rev. Stephen Rojewski, Rev. Edward Kalinowski

OTHER PRIESTS WHO SERVE THE PARISH

*for extra occasions or for Confessions*  
 Rev. Francis Lukasiewicz . . . of Holy Cross Hospital  
 Rev. Stanislaus Weinert . . . of St. Augustine Parish

## OUR ASSISTANTS

### *Rev. Paul Edward Sierocki*

Born—August 21, 1917, Arcadia, Pa.  
Parents—Paul and Mary Sierocki. Both died.  
Attended SS. Peter and Paul School, Arcadia, Pa.; St. Luke School, Detroit; High School and College at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, Mich; Theology at Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Ordained June 3, 1944, by His Eminence Cardinal Mooney.

Home Parish—St. Luke's, Detroit.

Home Address—7621 Freda Ave., Detroit, Michigan.

Served at Holy Name Parish: 1944-1946; St. Cunegunda: 1946-1950; appointed to Ascension June 15, 1950.



### *Rev. Leo Edward Totte*

Born—May 13, 1924, Detroit, Mich.

Parents—Edward and Mary Totte.

Attended: St. Philip Neri Grade School, High School and College at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit; Theology at Mount St. Mary, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ordained May 21, 1949, by His Eminence Cardinal Mooney.

Home Parish—St. Philip Neri, Detroit.

Home Address—2945 Newport Ave., Detroit.  
Appointed to Ascension June 15, 1949.

### *Rev. Wallace J. Filipowicz*

Born—December 12, 1913, Detroit, Mich.

Parents—Vincent and Frances Filipowicz.

Attended: St. Francis of Assisi Grade School; St. Mary's High School and College, and Theology at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Mich. Also: post graduate course at Columbia University, N. Y.

Ordained June 3, 1939, by His Eminence Cardinal Mooney.

Home Parish: St. Francis of Assisi, Detroit, Michigan.

Serves as Professor at St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Mich., since ordination.

Since August, 1943, serves at Ascension on week-ends, Holydays, and with extra help.



De  
an  
Sc

*Ad Multos Annos*

**25**



*May the true Spirit of the Ascended Christ reign  
within the realm of the Ascension Parish for All  
Days to Come.*



Most Sincere and Heartfelt Felicitations

Sisters of St. Joseph  
of the Third Order of St. Francis  
GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

# The Story of Ascension Parish

The history of any parish in the great Archdiocese of Detroit, no matter how short and insignificant, is essentially bound up with the beginnings of Catholic life in southern Michigan. Each parish in this historic territory is an offshoot of the mustard seed first planted by the missionaries and now in full bloom, strong and sturdy in one of the world's greatest cities.

When the first priest guided his canoe into Detroit waters in the year 1670, he found amidst the primitive beauty of this lovely land an altar to a pagan god venerated by the Indians. Father Dollier had come from Quebec and was passing through the Detroit River in search of the Potawatomi Indians who had expressed their desire to see a missionary. They lived along the Mississippi. Father Dollier tells this story: "we pursued our journey accordingly toward the west, and after making about 100 leagues on Lake Erie arrived at the place where the lake of the Hurons, otherwise called the Fresh Water Sea of the Hurons, or Michigan, discharges into this Lake. This outlet is perhaps half a league in width and turns sharp to the north-east, so that we were almost retracing our path. At the end of six leagues we discovered a place that is very remarkable and held in veneration by all the Indians in these countries, because of a stone idol that nature has formed there. To it they say they owe their good luck in sailing on Lake Erie, when they cross it without accident and they propitiate it by sacrifices, presents of skins and provisions, when they wish to embark upon it. The place was full of camps of those who had come to pay their homage to this stone, which had no other resemblance to the figure of a man than what the imagination was pleased to give it. However, it was all painted, and a sort of face had been formed for it with vermilion. I leave you to imagine whether we avenged upon this idol, which the Iroquois had strongly recommended us to honor, the loss of our chapel. (The party had lost all their Mass equipment in a storm on Lake Erie). We attributed to it even the dearth of provisions from which we had hitherto suffered. In short, there was nobody whose hatred it had not incurred. I consecrated

one of my axes to break this god of stone, and having yoked our canoes together, we carried the largest pieces to the middle of the river, and threw all the rest also into the water, in order that it might never be heard of again" (The Catholic Church in Detroit, 1701-1888). This idol was located somewhere between the mouth of the Rouge River and the army post at Fort Wayne.

When Cadillac landed at the sight of the new outpost of Detroit in 1701 he brought with him two priests, one a Jesuit, the other a Franciscan, who were to establish a mission. Mass was offered for the first time two days after the landing and the first church was soon built of log timbers. It was, of course, the famous St. Anne's.

With the French settlement now situated on the Detroit River many of the Indian tribes returned to the rich fields of southern Michigan. Before the founding of Detroit they had hesitated to remain in Michigan because of the proximity of the fierce Iroquois to the east. There were some Indians in the territory, of course, but they were forced to keep constantly moving about. Now within the range of Fort Detroit they felt more secure and they settled down, some of them in the vicinity of Baseline. From the small chapel within the stockade the priests went out to bring the teachings of Christ to these primitive peoples. Any progress was later halted by a fresh outbreak of Indian wars.

In these years God's Grace has been with us. Where once the Indians paid worship to an idol, there now stand some 250 altars on which the Divine Lamb is offered daily.

Macomb County was founded and settled by some few white men in 1818. The Catholic Almanac of 1844 gave the Catholic population of the Detroit Diocese as 25,000 faithful. The first Catholic church near our locality was the "Chapel of the Assumption", erected in 1847 to serve some German families living along Gratiot Road. This chapel later became Assumption Grotto Parish. In 1865 Bishop Le Fevere dedicated Sacred Heart Church in Roseville and the next year Mass was said for the first time in Utica.

*Congratulations . . .*

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The earliest baptismal record of St. Clement Church in Center Line is dated 1854. The parish itself, however, was not officially organized until some years later. These pioneer parishes continued to provide religious service for the growing Catholic populace in the new community.

Throughout the early years of 1900 the locality became a sizeable nest for the Ku-Klux Klan. In their terroristic manner they tried to keep the faithful from moving into Baseline and Van Dyke. Their fiery crosses and cries of bigotry, were quite familiar to our early residents. The Cross of Christ was soon to take the place of the emblems of these misled zealots.

And so it was in the midst of the roaring, rowdy Twenties that the idea of a new Catholic church for the community began to occupy the thoughts of a few good souls. Calvin Coolidge was in the White House, Ty Cobb was managing the Tigers, and Henry Ford was turning out hundreds of Model T's. Everybody was going wild over the Charleston: jazz was born. It was a great time to start anything in these United States.

By 1926 there were many Catholics living in this area of Baseline and Van Dyke. Some of them were the descendants of pioneer Detroiters, others were immigrants recently arrived from across the seas. Most of them came to this small community to earn their livelihood from the expanding industries of Greater Detroit.

From the beginning, of course, there was the usual problem of a convenient place to fulfill their religious obligations. The closest parishes were then Holy Name, Assumption Grotto, St. Clement in Center Line and Sacred Heart in Roseville. All of these churches were several miles from this locality. St. Clement's performed the greatest service to our people in those early days since it was the only thriving center of Catholic life within a reasonable distance. Our Lady, Queen of Heaven Parish was not as yet organized in the Outer Drive district.

It was under these trying circumstances that a group of zealous laymen decided to petition Bishop Michael J. Gallagher to send them a priest to establish a new parish within the boundaries of Baseline and Van Dyke. Pressed and burdened on all sides by the thunderous

growth of his diocese, the venerable Bishop nonetheless graciously granted the request and assigned Father Henry Podsiad to the task.

Father Podsiad had every reason in the world to feel like a Jesuit missionary as he surveyed the locality in which he was to plant the Cross of Christ. Though the Indians had long since disappeared Father found himself without funds and with no place to live. His only asset was his will to succeed. For some time he continued to live at St. Albertus Church, his former appointment, and commuted to the sight of the proposed church in an effort to get the project under way. The first building committee was organized and included: Mr. Wilczek, John Kostera, Edward Jaroszewski and Joseph Pershon. Upon their advice a parcel of land was purchased from Otto and Theodore Henkel at a cost of 28,000 dollars. These areas were a part of the extensive farm owned by the Henkel family. Father Podsiad set about to establish credit and to secure a loan to pay at least part of the cost of the land. The Albert Bach family advanced the sum of 4,000 dollars and another 2,000 dollars were borrowed from another party, unfortunately forgotten. And so in those early days of financial insecurity, by the heroic efforts of so few, the foundation was at last laid for the better things to come. A debt of thanks is certainly due to those who with much foresight advanced the funds which Bishop Gallagher was unable to grant.

On November 2, 1926 everyone rolled up their sleeves and began to build the present church themselves. John Kostera was the chief construction man. With the help of the other parishioners he gave his time and talents generously without pay. Father Podsiad himself was the contractor and he did a major portion of the carpentry and all the electrical work on the new edifice. He was often seen scaling the roof top nailing down shingles. Xavier and Mary Prebe donated the altar and Edward Jaroszewski presented the church bell. Mass was first celebrated in the new building on Christmas Day, 1926. Without pews or heat or electric lights the scene was truly reminiscent of the First Christmas. The deep spiritual joy of the Holy Season was there in abundance.

Father Podsiad was appointed officially as the full time Pastor on February 1, 1927. Shortly after, Auxiliary Bishop

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*Detroit, Mich.*

Joseph C. Plagens accompanied by a score of priests solemnly dedicated Ascension Parish. It is interesting to note that Father Kolanczyk was present at the ceremony. At the time he was an assistant pastor at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, where the Bishop was Pastor.

Among the early parishioners to share in the first fruits of their labors were those bearing the family names of: Ciesielski, Dolenga, Groth, Grzybowski, Jaroszewski, Joswicki, Kolaczynski, Kostera, Kulesza, Kowalski, Kruszka, Krol, Koss, Lipski, Marheffo, Mantel, Maday, Miskiewicz, Nowak, Nowicki, Ochendalski, Pershon, Radlinski, Rucinski, Rachocki, Sliwinski, Skotzke, Skowronek, Szymanski, Surant, Stachnik, Stanczak, Stanley, Schultz, Swieczkowski, Szczordrowski, Schmidt, Tomczyk, Wilczek, Walentowicz, Zarek.

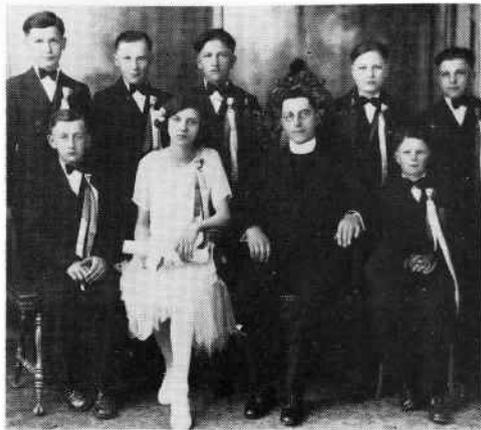
With not too much help from a gasping organ Joseph Zarek formed the first choir in June 1927. There were thirteen members, viz: Joseph, Frank and Stanley Schultz, Edward Skotzke, Paul Ciesielski, Frank Ruscinski, Frank Rochocki, Helen Pershon, Anna Swieczkowski, Mary Kostera Carlu, Sophia Zarek, Helen Kruszka and Frances Sliwinski.

The success of any parish depends largely on a school. Both the Pastor and the people desired to have one but with such meager means at their disposal the problem was apparent. Father Podsiad struck upon the idea of conducting classes in the church building. He began to search for a Sisterhood to assume the teaching responsibilities. Mother Mary Clara, the provincial Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, of Garfield Heights, Ohio, promised to send some teachers to



First Convent, built 1927

open the school if proper housing could be provided for them. The Pastor then purchased a lot from the Kroll subdivision for 1200 dollars and built the house at 8258 Fisher Avenue for 6,000 dollars. This home is now occupied by the Joseph-Hudak family. The first convent was completed in October of 1927 and three Sisters arrived to begin their work. That year 142 children enrolled in the makeshift school, a rather sizeable group for such primitive accommodations. Sister Mary Paul and Sister Evarist struggled along bravely and the first class of seven



First Graduating Class, 1928

students graduated in the Spring of 1928. The class included: Grace Groth, Louis Kowalski, Leonard Schultz, Henry Dolengo, Francis Swieczkowski, Raymond Skupny, Frank Kostera and Thaddeus Borawski.

It was soon obvious that better school facilities would have to be provided. Once more Father Podsiad called upon the pioneer parishioners to get out their tools. This time they constructed the hall, which is still used, at a cost of 3,000 dollars. Immediately it became both a school and a social center. During the



The Hall

day the hall was partitioned lengthwise into two classrooms. In the evening these were set aside to make room for adult parish activities. And so in midyear of

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*Van Dyke, Mich.*

MEMBER OF ASCENSION PARISH

1928 everyone could at least say that they had more elbow room. The school enrollment rose slightly to 154 children.

During all this time Father Podsiad was living in the sacristy of the church. The community itself was mired down in a sea of mud. Water could be obtained only across Van Dyke Avenue which was not as yet fully paved and daily the Sisters and Father had to bring in a supply in buckets for their needs.

Finally the Pastor bought a house on Fisher Avenue with his own savings where he was able to perform his parochial duties with some facility. During these years Father Podsiad received very little salary.

The financial picture began to grow darker. Those were booming days in Detroit but not so in this suburban community. The dark hand of the depression was already reaching out to seize its victims. The Parish was faced with dozens of smaller debts. To dissolve them, the Pastor borrowed 42,000 dollars from the bank. The long range payment plan offered by the bank was the only hope of survival. Father was freed for a time from the large number of creditors. Finally in June of 1929 he was relieved of his tasks here and appointed to St. Mary's Church in Kinde, Michigan, where he still is stationed. There is very little that we can say to this devoted priest who did so much for Ascension.

His reward will come from Our Lord Himself, but from us — a grateful "Thank you, Father".

On June 29, 1929, Father Alexander Jarzembowski, an assistant at St. Louis the King Parish became Ascension's second Pastor. This man was faced with the same difficulties which so harassed the founder of the Parish. Though new people settled in the community there were not enough of them to adequately support a growing parish.

Notwithstanding this fact Father Jarzembowski set about to erect a permanent



The Rectory

rectory. How he managed to build the house during the height of the depression remains one of the mysteries in the annals of our history. Nonetheless, with Joseph Kastler as the architect, it



Banquet scene following the blessing of the rectory, 1931. Know anyone in the picture?

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was completed in 1930 and blessed early in 1931. Nobody could ascertain to what extent the Parish would grow. The rectory has since become very inadequate for the amount of work that goes on within it.

These years were characterized by a marked spiritual growth at Ascension. Father Jarzembowski originated some of the lovely devotions to which we have all become attached, especially the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. In the trying days of the early Thirties there was much need for confident prayer. When material progress was impossible it was wise indeed for both the Pastor and his people to devote all their efforts to spiritual progress. In this they succeeded admirably.



Sanctuary view before 1941

On September 19, 1940, Archbishop Edward Mooney appointed Father Anthony Kolanczyk to be the third Pastor of Ascension and Father Jarzembowski was transferred to St. Josaphat Church in Detroit. Father Kolanczyk had served with Bishop Plagens at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church and also as an assistant at St. Florian Church. He always had a premonition that if he became a pastor it would be at some country parish which was nearly bankrupt (Class of 1928 can testify to this). His fears were fully realized. In 1940 Baseline was still farm land. There were few homes, fewer roads and oceans of mud in the spring and fall. And the Parish was poverty-stricken. The annual income was 7,800 dollars in 1940.

Father Kolanczyk was much encouraged by the sight of a capacity crowd of friends who attended his first Mass here on Sunday, September 22, 1940. Among them was a large delegation of his family from Chicago, Father's home

town. He delights in telling how his sister, Catherine, greeted him with tearful eyes and asked, "What have you done that the Bishop has sent you here?"

Certainly it wasn't anything that Father had done that brought him to Baseline, but it was what he was expected to do for the good of the Parish. Archbishop Mooney had asked him to try to pull Ascension out of debt and out of the mud. And he added that if this was impossible the Parish would have to be closed and disbanded.

First, of course, something had to be done which did not cost too much money. And so sidewalks were laid in October, a decisive victory over some of the mud. The Sherman brothers, Joseph and Carl, and Joseph Swieczkowski led the pick and shovel crew that accomplished this task. Then someone brought in a bag of grass seed and trees and shrubs were planted so that the place would not float away. A few little alterations were made in the church and the altars were renovated. At least something was going on besides F.D.R.'s New Deal. The people were delighted even with these minor improvements and they began to attend Ascension rather than going long distances to churches with better facilities. Father Alex Mayer of St. Clement, Center Line, was especially helpful when he encouraged Baseline and Van Dyke residents, who were accustomed to attend his church, to return to their rightful Parish. Soon four Masses were being offered each Sunday to accommodate the new parishioners.

With these encouraging signs all thoughts turned immediately to a new school so badly needed. Father Kolanczyk visited the Archbishop to lay before him the financial condition of the Parish and the plans for the school. He was happily impressed by the progress. The income had trebled in a few short months and 256 families had pledged fifty dollars each toward the new school. The Archbishop graciously gave us a loan of 40,000 dollars and on May 11, 1941, on a beautiful spring day before 2,000 parishioners ground was broken and the new building was under way. Indeed the Parish was at long last on the way to better things.

The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Stephen Woznicki on July 13, 1941. In the cornerstone was cemented a copper box containing all the historical notes of

Phone: SLocum 7-6464



# GAY FLORIST

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*DESIGNS*

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VAN DYKE, MICH.

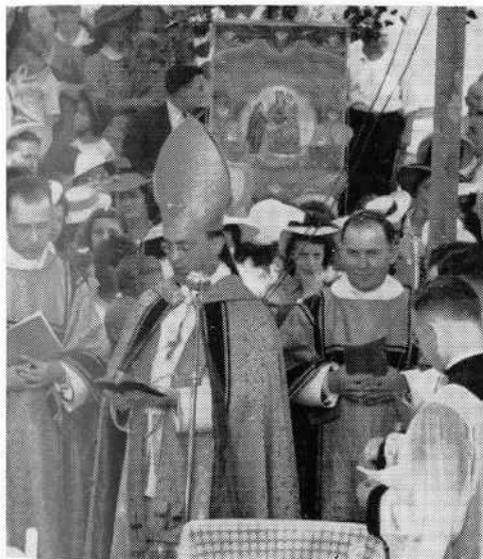
— *Member of the Ascension Parish* —



The Pastor Fr. Kolanczyk, using a golden spade, marked the spot for the school site. In the ground breaking ceremony, he was followed by Sisters of St. Joseph who came from the six Michigan missions, then by hundreds of parishioners.

the Parish that were available, likewise the daily papers, an account of the ceremony, the signatures of the participating clergy, photographs of the Bishops of the Archdiocese and of the Pastor, some

coins, the Ascension Bulletin and pictures of the Parish buildings. Most important of all, a sheepskin on which were inscribed the names of the donors for the building was included.



Bishop Woznicki "Blessing the school cornerstone" July 13, 1941



The Archbishop, shortly after congratulating Ascension people at the school dedication, October 12, 1941

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Member of Ascension Parish

*Congratulations . . .*

**JACK DUNN**

*Warren Township Trustee*

In September 353 delightful children carried their books into the new school. The original building, the middle section, contained nine modern rooms, a clinic and the principal's office.

On October 12, 1941, Archbishop Mooney came to dedicate the new building. He appeared highly pleased with our efforts especially when he learned that the school had cost only 45,072 dollars. He had wagered it would cost much more and he presented the Pastor with a box of cigars as the winner's trophy.

Hardly had the joy of these full days struck us when the awful sorrow of history's greatest war was upon us. With Pearl Harbor all thought of Parish progress was set aside as we prepared ourselves to get the job done — to win the war. 186 Ascension boys and five girls marched off to battle. The girls were:

Rosemary Kuhn, Loretta Sklar, Bertha Kolaczynski, Shirley Reed and Mary Brewer. The Parish devoted itself to constant prayer for peace and for the safety of its sons and daughters. Four Ascension men gave their lives on the field of battle. They were: Stanley Grunalt who died in the battle of the Bulge; Orlando Romano who died in New Guinea; Nelson Klanosky who gave his life on the Island of Leyte; and Stefen Polowek who likewise sacrificed his life in the Pacific. We shall always remember these gallant men. May they rest in peace!

During the war years the community grew with record speed. New industries moved in and with them thousands of new residents, a good portion of them Catholics. Father Edward Sobczak was the first resident assistant-pastor ap-



The Archbishop and the Pastor at the Dedication of the School, 1941.

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pointed to Ascension; he came on July 7, 1941. In the spring of 1942 another Sunday Mass was added and that necessitated securing additional help. It came from St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake, Michigan, in the persons of Father Torzala, Father Cyran and Father Cendrowski; each of whom successively filled the post. Finally in 1943 Father Wallace Filipowicz, of the same St. Mary's College became our Sunday assistant and he is still with us.

A mere three years after the ground breaking for the school the debt was wholly dissolved. The 256 parishioners who had pledged a generous sum of money had made their promises good. To celebrate this great event a banquet was held in the hall at which Bishop Woznicki, now Bishop of Saginaw, hon-

ored us with the principal address. Father Peter Walkowiak, the Pastor of St. Florian Church in Hamtramck and our good friend and advisor, was the toast-



Speaker's Table at "Mortgage Burning Banquet" May 11, 1944

master. A capacity crowd attended this noteworthy occasion. Certainly it was a time of grand celebration; Ascension had not seen so much money, in all its history.



The moment of Mortgage Burning, 1944.

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About this time our attention was turned to the reorganization of parochial activities in accordance with the plan of the Most Reverend Archbishop. The Rosary Confraternity consisting of twenty-six ladies and the Holy Name Society having only nine members were in dire need of regeneration. Certainly the spiritual and material welfare of a parish is increased by group activity. Elsewhere in this book you may read the history of these societies and the marvelous account of the progress they have made. At present there are thirteen groups actively engaged in every type of parochial work. Thirty percent of all Ascension people belong to these various organizations.

During these years the spiritual life of the Parish became more intense. Various devotions were included in the liturgical year; all designed to give the people added opportunity for works of piety. Monthly Holy Hours, First Friday devotions and Novenas to St. Therese, St. Anne, St. Jude, St. Rita, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, and to Our Lady of the Rosary are anticipated by all the parishioners. The devotion to Our Lady of Fatima for peace is held on the first Saturday of each month after the eight-thirty Mass. We have always been proud of the extraordinary attention the message of Our Lady of Fatima has received at Ascension Parish. On most first Saturdays every seat in the church is occupied and all the priests are needed to hear confessions. It is indeed a very gratifying sight and we feel confident that Mary will hear our prayers.

Our people have always been encouraged to take their Religion home with them; not leave it in church. For this reason family prayer, in the form of enthronements of the Sacred Heart in the home, the block Rosary and night adoration, is consistently on the increase. It is impossible to determine the great spiritual wealth which these devout practices have brought to the entire community.

The most insignificant devotion on our schedule often secures tremendous graces; the Rosary is recited every Thursday evening of the year for the conversion of hardened sinners within our territory. Only the priests know the value of these humble prayers.

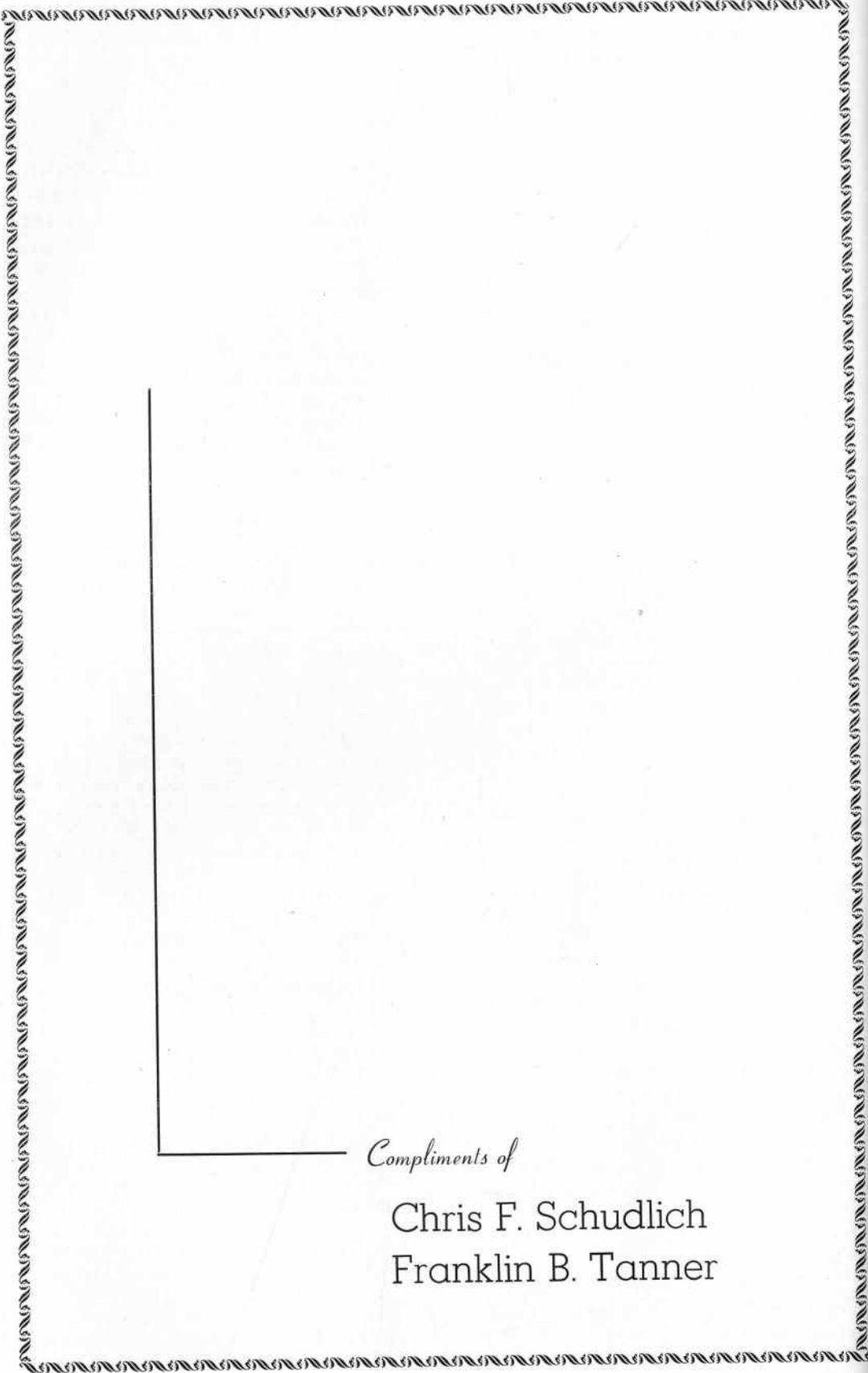
The love of our people for the Blessed Sacrament is magnificently shown throughout the quiet hours of Holy Thursday evening and Good Friday

morning when they participate in the all night vigil before Our Eucharistic Lord. Ascension Parish was one of the first in the Archdiocese to adopt this admirable practice. Entire families join with the various societies in the continuous Holy Hours which are led by the priests and by the lay people themselves. The sight of such piety defies description.

We must return again to the material growth of our Parish. Another milestone in our history was reached in October, 1945, when all debts of every kind were marked paid. In 1940 when Father Kolanczyk came to Ascension a debt of 70,000 dollars remained from the lean years dating back to 1926. Despite this burden the school was built and paid for in record time. And happily in 1945 Ascension breathed freely with the dissolution of these past obligations as well.

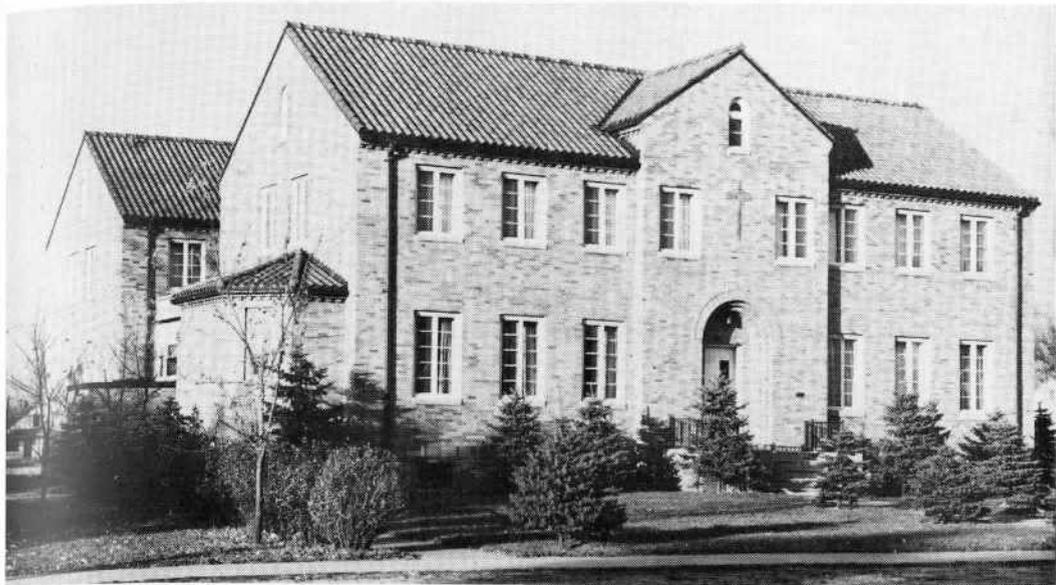
Now the way was paved for more action. By 1946, 659 children were enrolled in our nine-room school. Half-day sessions were reluctantly introduced as an emergency measure. An addition to the school was surely necessary but it could not be undertaken until the Sisters were more adequately housed. At the time twelve sisters were still living in the original convent by now much too small. Plans were quickly drawn up and presented to Cardinal Mooney for his approval. Once again he kindly gave his permission for Ascension's second big building operation. Ground was broken on March 19, 1946, and the next day construction was under way. Fortunately the Government had recently relaxed its restrictions on building and though they were invoked again soon afterwards all our bids for scarce materials had been made.

As always the parishioners came forth generously to answer the Pastor's appeal. Contributions were numerous and 176 families donated one hundred dollars for the building. Suddenly a critical labor shortage developed and the people themselves took up the work. We recall the evening when twenty-nine men were nailing down the roof. The hammer blows echoed for miles. Later some forty-two men were engaged in finishing the interior of the home; laying the floors and painting the walls. Soon after a crew of thirty women hurried in to clean up the house after the actual construction had been completed. Never were Ascension people so overwhelmingly united in one project. Everyone was intent on giving the Sisters

A decorative border with a repeating scroll pattern surrounds the page. An L-shaped line is drawn on the left side, starting from the top and extending down to the text.

*Compliments of*

Chris F. Schudlich  
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The new home of our Sisters.

a fine place in which to live. Seventeen months later on September 6, 1947, the sisters moved into the new convent.

The building ranks among the finest convents in the Archdiocese. It is ideally laid out; it has fifty-seven rooms, each designed to give the sisters every possible convenience. There are some few parts of the building where better materials could have been used but these were not available at that time. In every other way it is an excellent piece of work and

a monument of our appreciation to the Sisters. The cost of the building and its furnishings was 108,000 dollars; a price recognized by everyone as ridiculously low for a home sufficiently large for twenty-four sisters.

On October 1, 1947, Bishop Woznicki consecrated the altar in the chapel and



Bishop Woznicki consecrating the Convent Altar



Convent Chapel

blessed the other rooms. Thus was concluded another happy page in the history of Ascension Parish.

Now with the sisters all out of the rain the time was at hand to enlarge the school. Again the Pastor went to see the Cardinal; by now Father Kolanczyk was a familiar visitor. And again the permission was granted, plans were drawn up and approved and work was begun on June 15, 1947, immediately after classes were suspended for the summer. A new wing was erected on each end of the original school, giving us eight more

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*Matthew Lalewicz*

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classrooms, a library, several storage rooms and a new heating plant. This work was completed by the next fall at the cost of 89,000 dollars. The school is modern in every way, though there are luxuries which could be there, but which very few parochial schools can afford. Old-fashioned desks given to us by other schools are still in use; these will soon be replaced by new ones.

In 1949 a few more acres were added to the Parish property and an athletic field was made and equipped. In 1950 two additional lots on the north side of the grounds were purchased and a road was put in to make the parking lot easily accessible. Usually there are some four-hundred cars, parked around the church on Sunday mornings, rather an amazing sight for those who recall the bleak days. Few people remember that the church property was little more than a mud puddle as late as 1940. Some 3000 loads of dirt were required to fill in and to level the athletic field and parking lots. The companies who built the Briggs plant and paved so many Detroit streets supplied us with the fill dirt; much also came when the sewers were being constructed in Baseline in 1942.

On June 15, 1949, Cardinal Mooney sent a second full-time assistant to Ascension. This was Father Leo Totte, who is still with us. With another priest in the

house and more rectory business being transacted it was necessary to enclose the porch of the rectory to make more office space. This is now a very pleasant spot.

On January 29, 1948, the drive for the new church was officially opened. This is our dream now; a fine church, a worthy house for Our Eucharistic Lord! Though our people are all of modest means they have responded heartily to this latest appeal. At this writing the fund exceeds 77,000 dollars. Over 370 families have contributed their share of one hundred dollars. Some sixty-six young single people have donated fifty dollars each. Despite high prices it is evident that we must build; Father Podsiad's hand made church will soon tumble down. 1952, we hope, will be Ascension's biggest year! Elsewhere in this book you can read about all the plans for the future.

In the summer of 1950, four Dominican Sisters took up a general census. This terrific task took almost two months to complete; during which time all 2,595 homes in our territory were visited. Of this number 1,392 were Catholic homes with 4,749 souls. The result of the census clearly laid out our work for future months. It was found that 224 couples had attempted marriage outside of the Church, 107 other couples were separated, 122 children had not been bap-



Baptizing the 31, after the census 1950.

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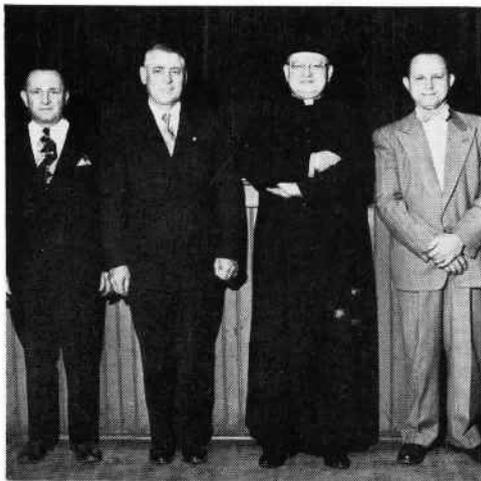
— *Member of Ascension Parish* —

tized, 419 adults had not made their Easter Duty, 122 had not been confirmed. It was discovered that 254 children attended a public grade school and 194 fellows and girls were attending a public high school. This was a shocking picture to be sure, but it could be far worse in as much as Baseline and Van Dyke has long been considered an "escape" community. The only alternative was to get busy. The priests assisted by the men of the St. Vincent De Paul Society set out to gather the stray sheep back to the fold. On August 20, 1950, thirty children were baptized. Many marriages were convalidated and dozens of negligent adults returned to the Sacraments. Special effort was made to make the work of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine more effective and a record number of public school children enrolled in the two instruction classes. This work still continues daily; in many ways it is very discouraging. But such is the work of Christ at all times and in all places.

Since informed Catholics are holier Catholics, all parishioners receive the Archdiocesan weekly newspaper, *The Michigan Catholic*, free of charge. The wisdom of this new service has been frequently manifested.

On November 30, 1951, one of the final hurdles in our program was happily passed. It had always been of some concern to us that a sizeable parcel of land running straight through the church grounds did not belong to the Parish. It belonged to the Henkel farm, and on various occasions it was sought but the Henkel Estate refused to sell. Finally the Rivard Brothers, headed by Mr. Loyola Rivard, purchased the entire Henkel property for the expansion of their own business and they presented the desired piece of land to the Parish

as a most generous gift. We all have great reason to thank those thoughtful gentlemen who have always been outstanding parishioners.



1951 Parish Committee: (Left to right) Joseph Jankowski, Loyola Rivard, the Pastor, Paul Buback. Missing are: William Romano and Joseph Kargula.

This is the end of the story of Ascension Parish. The past twenty-five years of its history have been but small part of the two-hundred and fifty years of Catholicity in Greater Detroit. Yet no one will deny that it has been a significant part.

We thank God and Our Blessed Lady, today, for the wonderful graces that have been ours during the past years.

To His Eminence, Cardinal Mooney, the Parish expresses deep gratitude for his interest and confidence in us and for his counsel and encouragement.

May all the priests and sisters and lay people who have worked for God at Ascension Parish be rewarded an hundred fold in Heaven.

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## "OFF THE RECORDS"

BAPTISMAL BOOK: Total 2382.

1. Bernice Komonowski, daughter of Joseph and Caroline, January 9, 1927.
2. Irene Virginia Mantel, daughter of Anthony and Frances, February 25, 1927.
3. Casimir Schultz son of Casimer and Anna, May 8, 1927.

MATRIMONIAL BOOK: Total 676 (mixed 124)

1. Stephen Rachocki with Mildred Sauer, February 22, 1930.
2. Andrew Bojkow with Julia Kejzel, March 22, 1930.
3. Edwin Jacobson with Stella Mason, June 21, 1930.

FUNERAL BOOK: Total 379 (Died without Sacraments 178)

1. Frances Muckenthaler, age 74, buried July 18, 1929.
2. Joseph Jackowiak, age 40, buried August 5, 1929.
3. Adam Klosowski, infant, September 4, 1929.

CONFIRMATION BOOK: Total 1655

1. Joseph Bawol, 2. Lottie Bawol, 3. Anna Bielski.—May, 1928.

SICK CALL BOOK: Total 2031 visits.

1. Francis Bayer, Aug. 28, 1929. 2. Julia Tessmer, Oct. 13, 1929.
3. Frances Schultz, Nov. 3, 1929.

FIRST COMMUNION BOOK: 2,026.

(No records available before 1935)

1. Victor Burcar, Jr., 2. Rosemary Eisbrenner, 3. Gladys Frischitz, May 26, 1935.

MEMBERSHIP BOOK: In 1927 — 42 families; in 1951 — 1,292 families.

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# Historical Notes

## 1926

- September 9 — Bishop Michael J. Gallagher appointed Father Henry Podsiad to establish a parish in the Van Dyke and 8 Mile District.  
October 20 — Parish site was purchased from Otto and Theodore Henkel for \$28,000.00.  
November 2 — Building of the frame (present) church was started; John Kostera was builder.  
December 10 — Xavier and Mary Prebe donated the first altar.  
December 25 — Mass was offered for the first time Christmas Eve.

## 1927

- February 1 — Father Henry Podsiad was appointed Pastor of the Ascension Parish.  
June 20 — First mixed choir group of 13 members was organized under direction of Joseph Zarek, the first organist.  
September 1 — Three Sisters of St. Joseph, Garfield Heights, Ohio, arrived to open our grade school.  
September 12 — The school was opened; classes were held in church.  
October — House at 8258 Fisher was completed for Sisters at cost of \$6,000.00; the lot cost \$1,200.00.

## 1928

- June 17 — First Graduation Class included 7 students.  
November — Hall (still existing) was completed. It gave "our school" 2 additional classrooms. John Kostera was the builder.

## 1929

- June 15 — Father Alexander Jarzembowski was appointed Pastor by Bishop Gallagher, to succeed the founder, Father Henry Podsiad, who was transferred to St. Mary's Parish, Kinde, Mich.

## 1930

- November 11 — Rectory was erected; architect was Joseph G. Kastler.

## 1933

- May 1 — Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help was introduced by the Redemptorist Fathers.

## 1940

- September 19 — Father Anthony J. Kolanczyk was appointed Pastor by Archbishop Edward Mooney. Father Alexander Jarzembowski was transferred to St. Josaphat, Detroit.  
October 10 — Cement walks were built around the church with the help of Carl and Joseph Sherman.  
October 17 — Friday Bingos were introduced.  
November 1 — Fourth Mass was added to the Sunday schedule. Father Henry Torzala, professor at Orchard Lake Seminary, became week-end assistant.  
December 1 — Weekly Ascension "Bulletin" first appeared.

## 1941

- January 1 — Ushers Club was formally organized; 16 men volunteered.  
February 2 — Archbishop Mooney approved a "drive" for a permanent school.  
February 9 — First meeting to organize the Knights of Columbus (now Father Kramer Council) was held in the rectory.  
March 2 — William Schwartz, first World War draftee, left for Fort Brady, Mich.  
March 16 — All statues and all interior of the church was remodeled and repainted with the help of paint, donated by Ed. Jaroszewski Hardware.  
March 18 — Father Remegius, O.F.M., gave a one week mission.  
April 6 — Archbishop Mooney approved final plans and promised the loan to build school.  
April 20 — All our property was redeemed from the County by payment of \$775.93 in taxes.  
May 11 — Ground was broken for new school of 9 classrooms; to cost \$45,072.00.  
May 22 — John Lewnau, gratis, remodeled all altars and stands.  
July 7 — Father Edward Sobczak was appointed first full time Assistant Priest.  
July 13 — Bishop Stephen Woznicki, in a formal ceremony, laid the school cornerstone.  
August 3 — Mrs. M. Rivard offered a lot for a Raffle for Parish benefit.  
August 10 — A complete census of the parish was started. The homes of all Parishioners were blessed.  
September 11 — New school was completed and children moved into it.  
September 12 — Archbishop Edward Mooney, assisted by a score of Priests, dedicated the new school.  
December 6 — Sister M. Raymond, principal, organized the P.T.C.

## 1942

- April 17 — St. Jude statue was blessed and weekly Novena in His honor started.  
May 7 — Archbishop Mooney confirmed 177 children.  
May 24 — A sixth Mass was added to the Sunday Mass schedule and Father Constantine Cyran, then Father Alexander Cendrowski, became week-end Assistants.  
July 5 — Ascension ZPRK Society, Gr. 1404, was organized by initiative of Joseph Papierski.  
September 13 — Bowling Leagues, 12 teams for men and women, were organized the first time.  
December 6 — Young Ladies Sodality had their first annual Recollection day.

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# Historical Notes

1943

- March 10 — New Stations of the Cross were purchased.  
April 22 — Holy Thursday, all night vigil, was first introduced.  
March 14 — St. Rita statue was blessed and first Novena in Her honor started. Gift of Mrs. Minnie Bousson.  
November 4 — St. Rita Young Married Ladies Sodality was organized.

1944

- January 23 — St. Vincent de Paul Conference was organized.  
February 13 — First Father and Son Banquet was held under auspices of Holy Name Society.  
March 6 — Father Bernardine, O. F. M., conducted a week's mission.  
March 7 — 632 children were enrolled into the Holy Childhood Society.  
April 13 — Parish Youths were organized into AYO.  
April 16 — St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box was first set up in church.  
May 11 — Three years to the day, after its completion, the School debt was paid and a Banquet marked this occasion; principal speaker was Bishop S. Woznicki.  
May 21 — Bishop Stephen Woznicki, Auxiliary of Detroit, confirmed 192 children.  
May 26 — Girl Scout Troop was organized. Mildred Lavelly was first leader.  
June 4 — Campaign to build a Sisters' Convent was formally begun.  
July 18 — St. Anne Statue was purchased, blessed, and Novena to Her was started.  
July 26 — St. Ann Society was organized for the Polish speaking women of the parish.  
August — Father Wallace Filipowicz became our Sunday Assistant.  
November 10 — 25 men, under auspices of St. Vincent de Paul Society, went for a 2-day Retreat to Manresa for the first time.  
December 10 — Enthronement of parish homes to the Sacred Heart was started.

1945

- January 14 — First Annual Recollection day for Holy Name Society was introduced.  
June 10 — Catholic Order of Foresters, Gr. 2010, was organized under leadership of Stanley Guzdial.  
October 8 — All the parish debt incurred since 1926, amounting to \$72,000.00 in 1940, was liquidated.  
November 8 — Ascension Post of the Catholic War Veterans was established under the leadership of Alfred Stone.

1946

- March 7 — Cardinal Mooney granted permission to build the Sisters' Convent.  
March 15 — Boy Scouts held their First Fish Fry.  
March 19 — Ground was broken for the Sisters' Convent.  
March 24 — A three week Mission was begun by Father Lawrence Karch, O.F.M.  
May 20 — Father Edward Sobczak began the 2nd general parish census.  
June 10 — Bishop Woznicki confirmed 157 children.  
July 22 — Parish volunteers completed the painting of church, hall and rectory.  
November 20 — Father Edward Kalinowski succeeded Father Sobczak as Assistant. The latter was transferred to Queen of Apostles Parish.  
December 1 — Father Paul Lussier, CSSR., conducted a 1-week Mission in French. He came to us from St. Anne de Beaupre, Canada.

1947

- January 8 — Introduced the Thursday 7:00 p.m. weekly Rosary for hardened sinners of the parish.  
February 3 — Cardinal Mooney granted permission to consult an architect to enlarge our school.  
February 11 — Rosary Ladies made their first one day retreat at Reparatrix Convent.  
February 18 — Monthly Holy Hour of Reparation was first introduced by Holy Name Society.  
February 16 — Over \$7,000.00 was realized on a Raffle of a Ford, donated by Rivard Brothers.  
March 1 — Sketches were approved for the "wings" to be added to our original school.  
April 12 — New roof was put on the church; courtesy of Joseph DeNardi.  
April 20 — A dialogue Mission for non-Catholics was conducted by Paulist Fathers: William Sullivan and William West.  
May 11 — First "Mother's Day Dinner" by Young Ladies was held.  
June 15 — Feast of Sacred Heart, the annual Church gathering for enthroned Families was introduced.  
June 16 — Work on the wings to our school began.  
October 1 — Bishop Stephen Woznicki consecrated the altar in Sisters' chapel and blessed the Convent building.

SLocum 7-1547

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# Historical Notes

1948

January 28 — Campaign for a New Church was officially announced, although donations for this our most needed building were slowly flowing in from 1946.

January 29 — Inauguration of NCCW.

March 9 — New Wurlitzer "Orgatron" organ was purchased and blessed.

March 14 — Father John Carty, foremost street and radio preacher of St. Paul, Minnesota, conducted a 7 day Convert-Mission.

April 14 — Linen Bingo by Rosary Ladies for a new church main altar was introduced.

May 1 — First Saturday, Fatima Devotions were introduced.

June 5 — Parish was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

August 13 — Purchased 14 lots, adjoining our plot to the north, from Theodore Henkel.

September 19 — Cardinal Mooney granted permission to say an extra Mass in the school or hall when necessity demands it.

October 3 — A seventh Mass was added to Sunday schedule.

October 7 — Of the 232 churches in Detroit, ours was one among the 19 to which Pilgrim Fatima statue was brought and publicly honored.

October 14 — 172 children were confirmed by Bishop Woznicki.

November 21 — Holy Name Society had first Minstrel Show.

1949

May 10 — Ushers joined the Eastern Deanery Softball League.

June 15 — Father Leo Totte was appointed second resident assistant.

October 30 — Rectory's front open porch was enclosed and became second office of the rectory.

November 6 — Youth Club joined the CYO basketball league.



One of the greatest days in our history was celebrated when the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima was venerated in our church on October 7, 1948. The statue was brought to Ascension on its tour of the U. S. on its way to the borders of Russia in a gigantic plea for the conversion of the Reds. We were so honored because ours was one of the first parishes to inaugurate the Fatima Devotion.

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# Historical Notes

1950

- February 14 — Public telephone booth was installed on our grounds for convenience of guests at our parish affairs.
- March 19 — Father Angelus Stunek, O.F.M., conducted a one week's Mission.
- June 15 — Father Paul Sierocki replaced Father E. Kalinowski as an Assistant.
- June 26 — Adjacent property was graded and made into a softball field with backstops, et al.
- June 26 — Four Dominican Sisters from Monroe started taking a general home-to-home parish census.
- July 30 — Purchased 2 lots (85-86) on Westminster to have an exit for our parking lot and a one-way drive.
- August 20 — At a solemn ceremony, as the result of the Sisters' census, 3 priests baptized 31 children.
- September 5 — Station Wagon, a Ford Country Squire, was presented to Sisters for their many uses. The fund was sparked by Mrs. Violet Wells and under the auspices of P.T.C.
- November 8 — Bishop Alexander Zaleski confirmed 198 children.
- December 6 — Block Rosary introduced. Over 200 homes responded quickly.

1951

- February 1 — Michigan Catholic was sent free to all parishioners, for first time.
- February 25 — 1000 Baltimore Catechisms distributed to Adults, free.
- March 7 — Family Holy Hour sermon was preached by Bishop Charles Nelligan of Windsor, Canada.
- April 8 — Bishop Allen Babcock confirmed 240 children.
- July 19 — Red Cross Blood Bank Mobile Unit received 102 pints of blood.
- August 5 — Unable to get a priest for the 7th Mass, the Pastor trinated, by special permission of His Eminence.
- November 21 — School was enthroned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; the 134th enthronement.
- December 16 — School children gave their Jubilee Play.
- December 17 — This Jubilee Book came off the press.
- December 30 — Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving on our Parish Silver Jubilee.
- December 30 — Jubilee Banquet at Silver Crown Ballroom.

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## THE PARISH PRIEST

The spiritual assistance of the Parish Priest is the most important service anyone can receive in this world. From your earliest days, a Priest has played some part in your life. He is with you from the cradle to the grave!

At the very beginning the Priest entered your life as he gave you that marvelous new life of Sanctifying Grace, a sharing in the life of God Himself, when he poured the saving waters of Baptism on your head. By this act, you became a member of the Catholic Church, God's adopted child, a temple of the Holy Spirit! You received the right to Heaven.

Your parents taught you to respect the Priest. They impressed upon you the fact that Our Lord sent the Priest to take His place. So your mother and father told you never to call him "Mister" but always "Father".

You later went to school to learn about God and His Church. From that time on, never a week passed without being with the Priest at least once—at Sunday Mass. You were happy to see him come into the classroom. You ran up to him to say a few words when you saw him in front of the Church. You enjoyed talking to him at the Rectory when sister sent you over with a message.

It was the Priest who heard your first confession. He still remains in the confessional week after week, so that you can have your sins forgiven and obtain more graces.

Perhaps, at one time or other, you have had the terrible misfortune of committing a mortal sin, and thereby, killed the very life of Sanctifying Grace in your soul. Who absolved you from that horrible sin which was enough to put you in hell? Who brought you back to life—that supernatural life which is much more precious than natural life? Who consoled you, encouraged you and told you "to go in peace; your sins are forgiven"?

The Priest placed the Sacred Host on your tongue for the first time on your First Holy Communion Day—that day of days. And if all the Priest could do was to give you Holy Communion once in your life time, that alone would be reason enough to be ever thankful to God for the Priesthood, and to hold in high esteem, every Priest. But how many times did the Priest give you the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ as the food for the life of grace in your soul?

It is the Priest who makes it possible for you to assist at Mass. Do you appreciate just what that means? The Mass is not merely a series of prayers but it is a Sacrifice—the same as the Cross. For every time Mass is offered, Our Lord really and truly sacrifices Himself again in an unbloody manner under the appearances of bread and wine. Therefore, the Priest brings Calvary to you every Sunday and even, every day!

How much have you learned from the Priest, as he instructed you in the classroom, as he preached in Church, as he explained some point of Catholic doctrine in the confessional or at your home or at a meeting?

How many times have you come to the Rectory? You may have rung the Priest's doorbell for many reasons. He was always there to assist you in any way. Tragedies have been averted and many hearts have been solaced because Catholics instinctively came to the Priest.

The Priest plays a prominent part even on the day of marriage. The nuptial vows are made in his presence. He gives the special blessing of the Church to the couple whom he prepared for marriage with priestly advice and instruction. He offers the Holy Sacrifice for them and administers to them the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The Priest is ready at all times to give you the Last Sacraments if you should be in danger of death.

There will be a Priest at your funeral so that you will receive the final rites of the Church. He will even accompany your body to the grave. Then, the Priest continues on for you, to pray and offer up Masses for the happy repose of your immortal soul.

Without a Priest there could be no Parish, since the sole purpose of a Parish is to bring the Church of Christ to some particular territory.

There would be no Parish today if there were no Priests. The Church would be an empty building because the tabernacle would be empty.

*The Parish Priest means everything in our life and in Eternity.*

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1. Sacred Heart altar before the new deal. 2. Bishop Woznicki speaking at the "Mortgage burning banquet", 3-4. Scene from Arbor Day, a school activity in 1947. 5. Sanctuary. 6. Hall on Sept. 22, 1940. 7. Kindergarten graduation. 8. The 2,000 throng at School Dedication, 1941. 9. Planting trees. 10. May 11, 1941. 11. Sisters and group of men who worked on the Convent. 12. The early flood, showing garage and shindig stand. 13. The 1940 Smile. 14. Outdoor Bingo Party, Aug. 1941. 15. The church without walks, 1940. 16. The roads. 17. Joe Trendell filling ruts. 18. Outside Crib, 1950. 19. Blessing of church by Bishop Plagens, 1927. 20. Procession from church after installation Mass of Father Kolanczyk, Sept. 22, 1940. 21. Autobus waiting to take Safety Patrol boys to Briggs Stadium. 22. Main altar in 1940.

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## ASCENSION SCHOOL

The purpose of Catholic education is to give God His proper place in the training of His children. This is a constant task which in modern times can only be accomplished in the hallowed halls of Catholic institutions. Catholicism is a way of life and cannot be learned unless it is lived daily. If matters of faith and morality enter each hour of a man's life, it follows that they must be taught in each hour of class-time. Truth indeed is one. Hence when the arts and sciences are taught without the Divine Truth of faith and morality they become, then, only incomplete truths, or half-truths and frequently blatant falsehoods. This tragically is the prime weakness of public education. It is almost totally secular and therefore fails to train the whole man. Every child in school must be seen as a Child of God, supernaturalized by His Divine Grace and destined for Heaven. Each person must be taught to live with an eye to the great things to come.

Below is a chart indicating briefly the academic and spiritual record of Ascension School. It stands as a tribute to our Catholic parents:

Year	Sisters	Enrollment	1st Communion	Confirmation	Graduates
1927	3	142	—	0	
1928	3	154	—	0	8
1929	4	164	—	88	16
1930	4	187	—	0	12
1931	4	215	—	97	20
1932	4	183	—	0	19
1933	4	179	—	95	15
1934	4	161	—	0	16
1935	4	165	8	68	12
1936	4	170	36	0	25
1937	4	173	37	77	12
1938	4	140	10	0	20
1939	4	173	21	0	15
1940	4	188	28	0	10
1941	9	445	26	0	7
1942	12	555	131	162	32
1943	12	667	115	0	39
1944	12	659	118	171	46
1945	11	573	117	0	50
1946	14	611	89	159	48
1947	16	676	104	0	53
1948	18	799	140	160	51
1949	19	834	129	0	59
1950	20	889	158	201	72
1951	21	880	151	240	71
		9,960	1,418	1,518	728

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# THE GOOD SISTERS

There are two things which nobody can do better than the Catholic Sister. She is indispensable to the Church in its primary mission of teaching Christ and Him crucified. She is without equal in assisting parents in their duty of raising their children in the fear and love of Our Lord. The Catholic Nun stands as a pillar of charity and devotion even in the eyes of the world.

It is indeed fitting that on the occasion of this happy Jubilee, we thank God for the many vocations to the Sisterhoods with which He has endowed us. We offer our deep gratitude to the Sisters of St. Joseph from Garfield Heights, Ohio, for their generous services during these many years.

Our good Sisters first came to Ascension in 1927 with the blessing of their Provincial Superior, Mother Mary Clara. In the early pioneer days they suffered many hardships, patiently. They bore grave inconveniences, cheerfully, and their work prospered. Only God knows the glorious fruit of their labors.

## Principals and years of service:

Sister Mary Paul	1927-1931	Sister Mary Raymond	1941-1945
Sister Mary Sophia	1931-1935	Sister Mary Richard	1945-1951
Sister Mary Jerome	1935-1941	Sister Mary Raymond	1951-

## 73 Sisters of St. Joseph who have worked at Ascension School:

(Year before name, means date of first arrival. Number after names, means years of service. + means: requiescant in Pace.)

1927 — Sr. M. Evarista, 3	Sr. M. Leonette, 6	Sr. M. Paulette, 3
Sr. M. Susanne, 3	Sr. M. Narcissa, 6	Sr. M. Vitalia, 1
1928 — Sr. M. Pafnucia, 1	Sr. M. Seraphica, 4	1948 — Sr. M. Aquinata, 1
1929 — Sr. M. Eva+, 2	Sr. M. Virgiliana, 3	Sr. M. Benilda, 4
Sr. M. Henriette, 1	1942 — Sr. M. Agatha, 1	Sr. M. DeSales, 3
1930 — Sr. M. Euphrosine, 1	Sr. M. Leonille, 2	Sr. M. Raymond II, 3
Sr. M. Sygfriede, 1	Sr. M. Remigia, 3	Sr. M. Rogers, 2
1931 — Sr. M. Cyprian+, 2	Sr. M. Terencia, 1	1949 — Sr. M. Asteria, 3
Sr. M. Caroline, 1	1943 — Sr. M. Augustine, 1	Sr. M. Basil, 3
Sr. M. Nepomucene, 4	Sr. M. Bartholomew, 1	Sr. M. Bertille, 3
1932 — Sr. M. Magdalen, 3	1944 — Sr. M. Barbara, 1	Sr. M. Emily, 3
1933 — Sr. M. Apolinaria, 2	Sr. M. Cherubim, 8	Sr. M. Leopold, 3
1935 — Sr. M. Constance, 5	Sr. M. Gabriel, 8	Sr. M. Rosanne, 2
Sr. M. Dulceline, 3	Sr. M. Radegunde, 4	1950 — Sr. M. Angelette, 2
Sr. M. Perpetua, 1	Sr. M. Theresitta, 1	Sr. M. Deotima, 2
1936 — Sr. M. Bernard, 2	1945 — Sr. M. Apolonia, 1	Sr. M. Florette, 1
Sr. M. Redempta, 4	Sr. M. Charles, 7	Sr. M. Gerard, 1
Sr. M. Zita, 1	Sr. M. Euphrasia, 2	Sr. M. Virginette, 2
1937 — Sr. M. James, 2	Sr. M. Rosalia, 4	1951 — Sr. M. Celine
1938 — Sr. M. Ludgera, 1	Sr. M. Theonille, 1	Sr. M. Celsia
1940 — Sr. M. Ambrose, 1	1946 — Sr. M. Antonine, 6	Sr. M. Eligia
Sr. M. Leona, 1	Sr. M. Donata, 3	Sr. M. Florentine
1941 — Sr. M. Clarentia, 7	1947 — Sr. M. Laurentia, 4	Sr. M. Hermenegilde
Sr. M. Damascene, 3	Sr. M. Michaeline, 3	Sr. M. Veronette
Sr. M. Felicita, 2		

1951 —

Sr. M. Angelette  
Sr. M. Basil  
Sr. M. Celine  
Sr. M. Cherubim  
Sr. M. Eligia  
Sr. M. Hermenegilde

## The Jubilee Year Staff

Sister Mary Raymond, Principal

Sr. M. Asteria  
Sr. M. Benilda  
Sr. M. Celsia  
Sr. M. Deotima  
Sr. M. Florentine  
Sr. M. Leopold

— 1952

Sr. M. Antonine  
Sr. M. Bertille  
Sr. M. Charles  
Sr. M. Emily  
Sr. M. Gabriel  
Sr. M. Veronette  
Sr. M. Virginette

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# VOCATIONS

The number of vocations to the religious life from a parish is an accurate norm of its spirituality. Faith and sacrifice are the qualities which bear the rich fruit of religious vocations. Many of our families have displayed these fine qualities and as a result fifteen of our girls have put away the things of the world and have embraced Christ as their Spouse. Though God has blessed Ascension Parish with many vocations to the Sisterhood, it still remains our fondest desire to have one of our boys raised to the Holy Priesthood. One young man, Anthony J. Spitzig, is studying at St. Charles Seminary, Cartegina, Ohio.

Ascension's history has been enhanced by the following young women who have entered the convent:—

## SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH, TOSF Garfield Heights, Ohio

Family Name	Class of:	Convent Name
1. Leona Mazza	1946	Sister Mary Herman
2. Patricia Heusing	1946	Sister Mary Ruth
3. Ludvina Beaudin	1946	Sister Mary Eunice
4. Joan Buback	1947	Sister Mary Maristella
5. Rita Frankowiak	1947	Sister Mary Anthony
6. Shirley Fick	1947	Sister Mary Dominica
7. Phyllis Cilwa	1949	
8. Helen Huellmantel	1950	
9. Louise Kondziolka	1950	
10. Joyce Krajniak	1951	
11. Barbara Feleo	1951	

## URSULINE SISTERS Old Washington, Ohio

12. Rosemary Ash	1944	Sister Margaret Mary
------------------	------	----------------------

## REDEMPTORISTINE SISTERS Toronto, Canada

13. Dorothy Reed	1947	Sister Mary Ann
------------------	------	-----------------

## SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC Racine, Wisc.

14. Barbara Messman	1934	Sister Mary Columba
---------------------	------	---------------------

## SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC Adrian, Mich.

15. Theresa Groulx	1947	Sister Mary Immaculate
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TWInbrook 1-2000

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## THE PARENT-TEACHERS CLUB



When we adults were youngsters in school perhaps the only time our parents came to school to talk to the teacher was when we had gotten ourselves into a predicament. Those were sorry moments, indeed, as we stood before the "judge's bench" to hear the sad details of the teacher's indictment revealed to our folks. Thereupon followed the inevitable spanking and torrents of tears.

All of these hard experiences have, in a large measure, been eliminated at Ascension School by the formation of the Parent-Teachers Club. This wise move was occasioned by the efforts of Sister M. Raymond, the principal, in December, 1941. Through this Club problems are solved before they actually occur. At the quarterly meetings much time is allotted to the discussions of classroom procedure, disciplinary methods and other school regulations, with the happy result that the parents understand the motives of the faculty behind such actions. The parents have ample opportunity to seek out the teacher of their children and to discuss their progress with them. These are invaluable aids in preserving efficiency in the

school. Also at each meeting the Pastor and Sister Superior will address the group on some pertinent topic. Often these lectures are accompanied by informative movies dealing with points of adult education.

The first president of P.T.C. was Mrs. Margaret Cavazos, who has since passed to her eternal reward. Eugene Ducharme, Frances Sobczak, Irene Helhowski and Andre Callens assumed the office in succeeding years.

The Club has, in many ways, been very generous to the Sisters. Each year it sponsors a party for the benefit of the household needs of the convent. In 1950 the members purchased a station wagon for the Sisters.

All parents of our students are expected at the meetings. Usually over two-hundred fathers and mothers avail themselves of this valuable opportunity.

The 1951 officers include: Bernardine Clark president, Paul Buback and Kathryn Schauer vice-presidents, Alphonse Symbert treasurer, Frances Sobczak secretary and The Pastor as spiritual advisor. They are pictured above.

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# THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matt. XXVIII,20). With these words Our Lord gave the Church the authority to teach and the obligation to teach in His Name. To accomplish this apostolic task the Church has organized the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. This large group of priests, sisters and lay-people direct their attention primarily to Catholic children attending public schools either because their parents ignore their obligations or because the local Catholic school is overcrowded.

In Baseline, particularly, many of our young people attend the public school because we have not the funds to establish a high school department of our own. The work of the Confraternity is then of the utmost importance in our territory.

Barbara Messman, now Sister Columba O.P., first initiated the Confraternity at Ascension in 1930. This zealous girl gathered her small charges beneath the trees or even in the garage to talk about the good things of God. This first group of children, hardly more than two dozen, were really the "victims" of Ascension's "hard times". The poor facilities of those dark days certainly must have tried their

Faith. But the bleak clouds were soon lifted as the dream of a new school became a reality. Today the work of the Confraternity goes on in the encouraging atmosphere of a comfortable building. Our own Sisters teach the public grade school children each Saturday morning. This class numbers around 125 children. One of the Parish priests conducts a class for public high school students each Monday evening. At present sixty-eight young fellows and girls attend this session. And so what was begun by a young pioneer over twenty years ago on the back yard lawn has grown into an efficient unit of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. And yet there are dark days now, too. For the important work of the Confraternity is hampered on all sides and at all times by the appalling indifference to the Faith of the students themselves, especially those of high school age. This has always been the chief danger in a public school education. To refuse to know God is, in effect, to deny Him. A second problem, equally tragic, is the notorious neglect on the part of many parents toward the religious instruction of their sons and daughters. These grave evils of our times can be conquered only by our devout prayers and continued labors.



Violet Wells presents Sister M. Richard, former principal, with the title to the new station wagon on behalf of the Parent-Teachers Club of Ascension School, September 5, 1950.

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## THE ALTAR BOYS



May we direct your attention to the angelic faces pictured above? No. Those are not the flushed faces of cherubs but the chubby cheeks of Ascension's altar boys. On some occasions those fellows up there act like gremlins bouncing here and bouncing there until alas with a heavy sigh the priest will invariably say "just keep out of my way". But then, there comes the day when Father mounts the altar only to discover that he has forgotten the chasuble and there to recover the poor Priest's fumble is that little guy, the altar boy, a mighty fine fellow.

Oceans of thanks are in order, on this happy occasion, to all those boys, past and present, who have given such fine service to the Priests of Ascension in the Sanctuary. They have added great dignity to the liturgy of the Church and indeed their services were indispensable. We could never have managed without them. On more than one occasion we have been inspired by their devotion to their duty before the altar. Through the rain and snow these boys literally beat their way to the sacristy door to join the hundreds of angels around the throne of

the Lamb of God. May we say right here, an additional word of appreciation to all those Sisters whose special task it was to train these fine boys and who, in a large measure, are responsible for their devotion.

It is beyond us, of course, to name all the boys who have helped us so generously during the past years. But as always some fellows stand out a little more clearly than others, though all are the objects of our profound gratitude. We remember especially the "older" boys who continued to give their time even for years after they had left our school. You will recall, certainly, the stately Stanley Stachnik, who would have served at his own wedding had that been possible. Then we can't forget the early Mass team of Tony Stencel and Bill Huellmantel. The other memorable faithfuls include Joe Papierski, Jim Pelkey, Stanley and Kenneth Ciacuch, John Smilnak, Mike Ulicny, Gilbert Measel, Ben Rosinski, the Kolassa boys and other really great fellows whom we wish we could recall. Certainly we need not add that all of these boys have laid up for themselves treasures in heaven.

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## THE USHERS CLUB



Order is Heaven's first law. Hence in every church, which is the "gate of Heaven" order is most essential. It is the purpose of the Ushers Club to assist the Pastor in the preservation of this basic requirement. In so doing the faithful members of this Club add dignity to the Sacred Liturgy of the Church and by their work and demeanor reflect the piety and devotion of the people.

Week after week the ushers go about their various tasks which so help the parishioners whether it be during church ceremonies or during any other general Parish function. During the past years these men have accomplished their work with admirable efficiency. They are all vitally interested in the Parish because they have assisted the Pastor in the complex operation of Ascension's growing plant and they realize the struggles involved to keep all things running orderly. For this reason we must call upon these energetic men constantly to be the backbone of almost all parochial activ-

ities, whether spiritual or social. Happily, they have always responded generously.

Prior to 1940 there were only five ushers in service: Joseph Swieczkowski, Frank Marchwinski, Joseph Papierski, Edward St. Pierre and Anthony Sieczynski. In October of that same year the Ushers Club itself was formed. Additional Masses and a constant influx of new parishioners necessitated this move. Only men who were loyal to the Holy Name Society and devout Catholics were chosen to initiate the new group. Today fifty-four men enjoy the honor and privileges of the Ushers Club. The members also engage in various social activities, but their greatest compensation comes from the knowledge and realization that they are working for the glory of God.

The Officers for 1951 are the following gentlemen: Joseph Kirk, chief; Paul Buback, assistant-chief; Edward Fladzinski, secretary; Alphonse Symbert, treasurer; Father Kolanczyk, spiritual director.

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## ST. VINCENT De PAUL SOCIETY



Our Lord loved the poor with a fatherly tenderness. Throughout the centuries the Church has sought constantly to imitate Him by diffusing in various ways the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Ascension Parish takes part in this work of the Church through the devoted labors of its conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Ascension's conference was organized in January, 1944 and since that time, though perhaps you do not see them, our Vincentians have gone about the Parish aiding the poor, visiting the sick, mending broken marriages and guiding neglectful Catholics back to the Fold. They foster religious instruction for public school children, distribute Catholic literature, direct the devotion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home and nocturnal adoration and they promote the family Rosary. They arrange retreats for men and send children to summer camps.

The Conference carries on its work

through the personal donations of its members and the generosity of all the parishioners especially in their support of the Penny Day and the Poor Boxes.

In the past seven years our Vincentians have visited 4,650 families, distributed 70,000 pieces of Catholic literature, loaned, 2,278 books from their library. They have spent almost 3,000 hours of labor for the parish, established 190 hours of Nocturnal Adoration and 208 Family Rosaries in various homes and they have dispursed 7,000 dollars in aid to the poor. Some 177 men have accompanied our Vincentians to Manresa for their annual retreats. They meet every Monday at 8:30 p. m. in the basement of the rectory.

The 1951 members include these gentlemen: Eugene Ducharme, president; John Skwiers (not in photo), vice-president; Joseph Poisson, secretary; William Craig, treasurer; Stanley Krajniak, clothes-keeper, also: Stanley Stencel, Michael Sherman and James Karas. The Pastor, Fr. Anthony Kolanczyk, is spiritual advisor to the Conference.

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## THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY



On September 20, 1274, Pope Gregory X issued a letter to the Dominican Fathers urging them to stress devotion and reverence to the Holy Name of Jesus in their preaching. Blessed John of Vercelli who was then the Superior General of this great Order followed out the Holy Father's directive by organizing the Holy Name Society. Beneath the banner of the Holy Name, Catholic men the world over have rallied to the cause of Christ, combating the secularism of each age in all of its diabolical forms. Today the Holy Name Society remains the voice of manly faith everywhere, fostering reverence for the Name of Jesus, striving to restore the Divine Authority in civil affairs and defending at every turn the Church and all the things of God.

Ascension's Holy Name Society is the pillar of strength in our parish and community. From its small beginning in June, 1931, it has grown to a membership of 350 men. An additional 400 boys comprise the Junior Holy Name.

The men of Ascension are intent upon their own sanctification under the pledge of this ageless Society. For that reason the members receive the Sacraments faithfully each month. One of the great spiritual activities of the year is the Day of Recollection held each January. Many parishioners have been inspired by the

great spectacle of our men working to readjust their spiritual values. The Holy Name also takes a special part in the monthly Holy Hour, making it very much a father and son affair.

Naturally, since the Society is the strongest in the Parish, it is prominent in all parochial activities. The event that attracts universal attention, however, is the annual Father and Son Banquet. This celebration is always terrific. A star-studded program of famous sports figures, some notable speaker and good food go into this perfect evening. And of course this past year our Holy Name men went all out in their participation in the National Convention of the Society held in Detroit in October. Over 500 men and boys marched in the big parade behind our tremendous float depicting the Ascension of Our Lord.

All in all it is a great thing to belong to Ascension's Holy Name Society. The Parish will never forget these fine men. At the moment of death as well as in life, they are the constant objects of Our Lord's tender solicitude and our prayerful remembrance.

The 1951 officers include: Andrew Ulicny, president; Joseph Poisson, vice-president; Daniel Durocher, treasurer; Anthony Frankowiak, Jr. secretary; Alphonse Symbert, marshal and Father Paul Sierocki, spiritual advisor.

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## OUR HOLY NAME ON PARADE



Ascension's Holy Name, 500 strong, marching down Woodward Avenue in the huge parade concluding the National Convention of the Holy Name Society on October 7, 1951. In the foreground is the float depicting the Ascension of Our Lord. Gregory Ulicny portrayed Christ and Alice Groesbeck, the Blessed Mother. Following the float are the Boy Scouts with their color guard, the three priests and the men and boys. It was a tremendous demonstration of our Faith.

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## THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY



The pleas of Our Blessed Lady at Lourdes and at Fatima calling all to the devotion of the Rosary have not fallen on deaf ears at Ascension Parish. The good ladies of the Rosary Confraternity have taken upon themselves the task of bringing this lovely prayer to a place of high distinction in their own lives and in their own homes. They seek first to develop in themselves an ardent devotion reverence and love for the Rosary by reciting it daily while meditating on the various mysteries. These wives and mothers are the objects of Mary's constant solicitude and they are urged on by her tender help to model their families after the Family of Nazareth.

The Rosary Confraternity was begun in 1930 with Frances Schultz president; Helen Pershon, vice-president; Josephine Skotzke, treasurer and Anna Swieczkowski, secretary. It is, then, the oldest society in the parish, humbly dedicated under the patronage of Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary. It was reorganized in October of 1940 and its membership totaled some fifty women. In 1944 the Confraternity was affiliated canonically with the Most Holy Rosary Confraternity in Rome and the members began to enjoy the rich spiritual benefits granted to them by the Holy See.

The ladies of this fine group now number two hundred and ten and we are

proud to say that they have always been one of the hardest working organizations in the parish. They have promoted countless parties including the Field Day with its popular cedar chest raffle and they have assisted in other civic and parish enterprises. By their weekly Wednesday afternoon linen bingo parties they have established a sizable fund for the main altar in the new church.

With all these activities the ladies never lose sight of the things that really count in heavenly values. They are devoted to their Communion Sundays, the days of their annual Rosary Novena and the quiet hours of recollection at Mary Reparatrix Convent.

In addition to all the spiritual benefits of the Confraternity itself, each member is assured of a constant remembrance even after she has passed into eternity.

The past presidents were: Helen Pershon, Lucille Machwinski, Sophia Nowak, Hildegard Lowe, Anna Burcar, Sophie Rosinski, Isabel Jankowski, Clara Stencil, Rose Palonis, Betty Coursey and Rose Muzyk.

The 1951 officers include the following ladies: Eleonor McCormack, president; Rose Muzyk, vice-president; Agnes Craig, recorder; Kathryn Karas, treasurer, Edith Motz, correspondent and Father Anthony Kolanczyk, spiritual advisor.

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## THE SODALITY OF OUR LADY



The Sodality of Our Lady, an association founded by the Jesuit Fathers and sponsored by the Holy See, is a religious body which aims at fostering in its members an ardent devotion, reverence and filial love toward the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through this devotion and with the protection of so good a Mother it seeks to make the faithful gathered together under Her name good Catholics, sincerely bent on sanctifying themselves, each in her state of life, and zealous, as far as their conditions in life permits, to save and sanctify their neighbor and to defend the Church of Jesus Christ against the attacks of the wicked.

It was with this purpose in mind that Father Kolanczyk re-organized the Sodality in October of 1940. It was affiliated with the Prima Primaria, the head Sodality at Rome on the 12th of April, 1942. The Ascension group is under the Patronage of Mary in her Immaculate Conception and the secondary patroness is St. Margaret Mary.

Some eighty-five girls comprise the Ascension Sodality at present. The fine spiritual program assists them in the task of their personal sanctification. The girls receive Holy Communion together

on the first Sunday of each month. Every year a Day of Recollection is conducted by some visiting Priest. Special spiritual helps are offered to the members at their meetings by the moderator and by various committees.

Social activities provide more interest for the girls. The annual mother and daughter program is always something very special. Likewise the reception of new candidates ranks high on the calendar of events. This year the girls made an excursion to Irish Hills in July. In addition they sponsor parties and religious goods sales for the benefit of the Parish.

The members of the Sodality are truly the best girls in the Parish. We try to express our appreciation to them by granting them some special privileges at the time they marry. Their devotion to Mary has caused Her to shower down Her choicest blessings upon us.

The present officers are: Alice Groesbeck prefect, Betty Richer vice-prefect, Delphine Karpinski corresponding secretary, Florentine Kolas a treasurer, Carole Sherman recording secretary and Father Paul Sierocki moderator.

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## THE ST. ANN SOCIETY



Anyone who observes the activities of the eighty-six lovely ladies of the St. Ann Society must feel some inspiration. These women are true "Ascensionites" who support their parish far beyond the wildest expectations of their Pastor. They are gathered under the mantle of the Good St. Ann. That is why they themselves are just plain "good".

Around the year 1940 Ascension Parish became the home of the Americans of all foreign extractions and it was thought necessary to suspend the use of the Polish language in our services. It would have been disheartening to many to lose those fine Polish customs which had traveled so far from across the sea. And so on July 26th, 1944 the St. Ann Society was organized to preserve these quaint Polish traditions which attract the devotion of all Americans.

Anna Swieczkowski was the first president of the new group. She headed the campaign which earned for the members

a fine statue of St. Ann which they placed in the church. After a few years Josephine Pietruchowski became president and remained in office until her death on February 6, 1950. Both of these ladies have a marvelous record of work and achievement.

Personal sanctification is the first aim of these women as they gather about St. Ann to implore her intercession. They are devoted to their Communion Sundays and to their annual pilgrimage to the Motherhouse of our Sisters in Garfield Heights, Ohio. The members seek to incorporate the graces of these laudable spiritual exercises in their daily routine at home. Certainly, what this Society lacks in numbers is compensated for its intense activity.

The 1951 officers include: Celia Galka, president; Irene Gardocki, vice-president; Anna Hilla, treasurer; Helen Kulesza, secretary and Father Paul Sierocki, spiritual advisor.

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## The Fraternal Societies

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Three fraternal groups, branches of the three most powerful Catholic National Organizations, were established during the past years of Ascension's history to bring to our parishioners the particular benefits of each. Beside the great advantage of constant association with devout and faithful fellow Catholics, these organizations provided various insurance plans for a secure future.

The Polish Roman Catholic Union, Gr. 1404 was founded here on July 5, 1942. Mr. Joseph Papierski has always remained the chief figure in the group. The officers of the Z.P.R.K. for 1951 are: Viola Watchaski, president; Casimir Stojanowski, vice-president; Joseph Dombrowski, secretary; Joseph Papierski, treasurer; Joseph Zarek, recorder.

The Catholic Order of Foresters Ct. 2010 was organized through the efforts of Stanley Guzdial on July 22, 1945. The Order shows almost constant progress and its future looks bright. It has the largest per capita insurance in the state. Those holding office in C.O.F. in 1951 include: William O'Connor, chief ranger; Edward Sosnowski, vice-chief ranger; Adolph Kulaszewski, past chief ranger; Sigmund Stachowski, recording secretary; Raymond Thiesen, treasurer; Frank Wilk, financial secretary; John Cavender, speaker; Ernest Chiesa, juvenile director; Robert Brighton, Leo Wojcik, Romuald Przedmojski trustees; John Pavelka, John Reznik, conductors; Ronald Heughens and Romuald Przedmojski, sentinels.

We are happy that the Father Kramer Council of the Knights of Columbus was also founded at Ascension. In the fall of 1940, Father Kolanczyk and Mr. William Romano personally set about to initiate the Council. Since then this group has grown with terrific speed and it now has a fine, permanent home down the street in Center Line.

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## THE ST. RITA SODALITY



Though young married women are perhaps the busiest people alive, there is always some time for a little activity outside the home. And if this is centered about the church it is much more beneficial. The St. Rita Sodality was organized in 1943 to provide just such a need while at the same time granting to its members the many spiritual privileges of a Sodality associated with Rome. This group has as its first patroness the Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the secondary patroness is St. Rita whose life is a constant inspiration to young married women.

Certainly the first years of wedded life are the happiest but again the most difficult. The founding of a Christian home and the beginnings of family life require of wives and mothers a generous heart and a profound knowledge of the principles of Catholic living. Within the St. Rita Sodality the strength and the courage to fulfill the sacred promises of the matrimonial union are sought first through prayer and personal sanctity and secondly through a better understanding of the teachings of the Church.

Corporate Communion each month and the annual novena in honor of St. Rita are times of special graces for the members. And each lady is expected to put the graces to practical use in their home environment.

The fifty-three members take part in various social activities also. Certainly they give valuable assistance in every general Parish function especially the annual bazaar. On other occasions they sponsor parties for their children and dances for all the young married people of the Parish. Funds from such famous events as the bake sale are being saved for the purchase of side altars for the proposed new church.

There is every reason in the world why these girls cherish their own Sodality. They appreciate the abundant spiritual benefits and we suspect that they enjoy an occasional evening away from hubby and the kids.

The 1951 officers include: Virginia Rafalski president, Catherine Swieczkowski vice-president, Bernardine Clark Secretary, Gladys Kozyra secretary, Tassy Dygowski treasurer. Father Leo Totte is spiritual director.

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## BOY SCOUT TROOP Mc 18



"In the spiritual family you are the youth, the hope of the future, generous, blooming, full of vigor, the hope of religion and the Church". These are the words of the Holy Father directed to Catholic Boy Scouts everywhere. Much depends, in our day, on the training of masterful leaders, loyal to God and to Country. Since 1910 the scouting movement throughout the world has been bringing to youthful minds the sense of responsibility and the idea of devotion to duty that makes for men of sterling character. Scouting is actually a pleasant mode of education. What at first sight often appears to be a tribe of wild Indians on the warpath is actually a group of lively boys learning to live with each other. Frequently the learning is difficult, but not nearly so hard as the teaching. To the men of Ascension who have worked long hours making thoughtful gentlemen out of "savage Injuns" and who have often financed the Troop with their personal allowances, our sincere thanks. Yours is, indeed a patriotic labor and true Catholic Action.

Troop Mc 18 was organized in July 1940 and it received its first charter the following year. Paul Buback was the first scoutmaster and he was assisted by Frank Palonis, chairman; Benedict Ro-

sinski, secretary-treasurer; Harry Beauchamp, advancement chairman and Richard Barrett committeeman. Second Scoutmaster and longest in time of service was Frank Kolassa, who resigned a few years ago.

Thirty-five boys make up the troop at the present time. And these fellows are busy with so many activities it is difficult to recall them all. The big event each year is, of course, the two-week camping trip in the good ole summer time. The investiture ceremony is also very important and indeed very impressive. Then there is the annual Fish-Fry which provides the troop with the major portion of its funds. This is the biggest doggone eating party you ever did see. The fish dinner these boys turn out is sumptuous. Everyone seems to look forward to it.

These are the men who are doing such a fine job with our boys in 1951: Joseph Oldani, scoutmaster; John Niehoff, chairman; Paul Buback, secretary; Frank Palonis treasurer; Ben Rosinski advancement chairman. The Scout Committee: Joseph Kirk, Edward Lassen, Walter Forthoffer, Joseph Jankowski, Walter Gerus, Joseph Angaran. Father Paul Sierocki is spiritual advisor.

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MEMBER OF ASCENSION PARISH

# Calendar Of The Silver Jubilee Festivities

1926

1951

SUNDAY AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 AND 17, 7:30 P. M.

School Jubilee Play at the Parish Hall.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 TO 21

Garland of 4,400 Rosaries recited by the children with a plea to Our Blessed Mother to bring back to the Church the many lukewarm and negligent Catholics living in our community.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 8:30 A. M.

Solemn High Mass for all the children who attended Ascension School and their parents who were so kind to them. Also for the Sisters who taught these years in our school.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 7:45 A. M.

High Mass for the deceased Founders, Parishioners, Benefactors.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 7:45 A. M.

Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving for the Graces of the past 25 years bestowed upon the people of this parish.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 5:30 P. M.

Silver Jubilee Banquet at Silver Crown Ballroom.

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# Program of the School Jubilee Play

Presented December 16 - 17 - 23, at 7:30 P. M.

## THE SPIRIT OF ASCENSION

### PART I

Address . . . . .	Leo Torzewski
Welcomettes . . . . .	Grades 1, 2, 3, 4
Guardian Angel of the Parish . . . . .	Marilyn Chandler
Waif . . . . .	Geraldine Resovsky
Greed . . . . .	Ronald Nowicki
	Comrades — Grade 6
Vanity . . . . .	Beverly Fabian
	Attendants — Grade 6
Pleasure . . . . .	Patrick Brannigan
	Dancers — Grade 5
Folly . . . . .	Kenneth Hylenski
	Comrades — Grade 6
	Tappers — Grades 6, 7
Faith . . . . .	Arlette Skobler
Service . . . . .	Arthur Norkiewicz
	De Anne LaBarge
	Gloria Sankuer
	Judith Symbert

## THE BETHLEHEM SCENE

Mary	Joseph	Shepherds	Wise Men	Angels
Assembly Singing . . . . .				Audience

### The Orchestra

Stanley Stachnik, Leo Torzewski, Nicholas Nagy, Bruno Wolff, James Hagan,  
Barbara Malkiewicz, Louise Hoppe, Joann Smith, Patricia Kehoe

Reception Committee . . . . . P. T. C.

## ASCENSION IN JUBILEE

### PART II

Guardian Angel of the Parish . . . . .	Marilyn Chandler
Breezes . . . . .	Grade 4
Spirit of Music . . . . .	Caroline Oestman
Harmony . . . . .	Grade 5
Spirit of Flowers . . . . .	Geraldine Pruzinsky
	Geraldine Koperwas
Roses . . . . .	Grade 2
Spirit of Gratitude . . . . .	Rose Mary Dina
The Herald . . . . .	Elmer Bonk
Attendant of Spirit of Gratitude . . . . .	Geraldine Campbell
Promenade of the Contributors . . . . .	School
Garlands . . . . .	Grade 3
Spirit of Prayer . . . . .	Judith Sobczak
Silver Wreaths . . . . .	Grade 1
Spirit of Poetry . . . . .	Judith Clark
Rainbows . . . . .	Grades 1, 2
Spirit of Christ . . . . .	Gregory Ulicny
Jubilee Greeting . . . . .	Kindergarten
Finale . . . . .	Tableaux

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Teaching Staff extends a most sincere "THANK YOU" to the Orchestra Members, the Receptionists and to all the parents who have so splendidly cooperated in making this program possible.

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# The Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving

*Sunday, December 30, 7:45 a.m.*

Celebrant . . . . . Father Anthony Kolanczyk  
Deacon . . . . . Father Wallace Filipowicz  
Subdeacon . . . . . Father Paul Sierocki  
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Father Leo Totte  
Minor Officers . . . . . Our Altar Boys

## THE JUBILEE BANQUET

*Sunday, December 30, 5:30 P. M.*

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### PROGRAM

Prayer . . . . . The Pastor

### CHICKEN DINNER

(Family Style)

*Dinner Music by Frank Potestio*

Greetings from the Clergy . . . . . Father Paul Sierocki  
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Father Edward Sobczak  
Greetings from the School Children . . . . . Marilyn Chandler  
Greetings from the Women of the Parish . . . . . Rose Muzyk  
Greetings from the Men of the Parish . . . . . Eugene Ducharme

### *Introduction of Guests*

Remarks . . . . . Father Leo Totte  
Acknowledgments . . . . . The Pastor  
Finale . . . . . Ascension Song

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## A GLANCE AHEAD

We have been saying a lot of things about the past. What about the future? Ascension has some mighty big plans. Many of them, with God's help, will soon be carried out; others remain much in the realm of speculation. But it is refreshing to dream: —

In the spring the present church will be moved and attached to the hall, forming a "T" shaped building. The interior of the hall will be separated from the interior of the church by doors which will be opened on Sunday so that the hall can be used to accommodate larger crowds at Mass. This arrangement will provide 300 additional seats. The present church would have to be moved or torn down to make room for the new building. At the moment its foundation is in an alarming state of deterioration and the structure would have to be raised for repairs in a few short months anyway. It seems, therefore, that the best plan is to move the building next to the hall and to attach them in the most presentable manner possible. Certainly, when the new church is completed, these frame buildings together will provide over twice the recreation space now available to us. Several meetings or other activities will be able to be conducted concurrently with the proposed partitioned buildings.

This plan would have been executed much sooner except that a parcel of land amounting to about 30,000 square feet running directly through the Parish grounds was not in our possession. This valuable plot of land was purchased from the Henkel Estate by the Rivard Brothers and generously given to Ascension by these fine men.

Obviously the project dearest to our hearts is the new church. Funds have been coming in slowly, but steadily since 1946. In spite of the high cost of construction it is imperative that we build as soon as possible. Naturally this cannot be done until we have sufficient money to support the sizable loan which will be necessary. Otherwise, of course, the interest will gobble up our holdings in short order. Much depends upon the generosity of our people, especially between now and April of 1952.

Plans for the new church have been under consideration for a long time. Pending the approval of His Eminence, Cardinal Mooney, it has been quite conclusively decided to build a modified American colonial-type church. This is a very practical building both in design and in cost and it will fit in nicely with the contour of our neighborhood. The church will seat about 800 persons and it will be erected in close harmony with the other permanent Parish buildings.

While the new church is going up we hope to seize the opportunity to enlarge the rectory. At present the rectory is very high and it looks quite large, but actually it has very small rooms and is wholly inadequate. It was built for the service of a small parish, but as Ascension grows bigger the house shrinks. Four rooms will be added to the front and four rooms to the rear of the building. Likewise the roof will be replaced by another much lower and of the same color as the other buildings. The addition will include more office space, conference rooms and work shops.

After this we hope to build an auditorium north of the rectory, facing Ascension Street. The auditorium will be large enough to seat 1000 persons and also high enough to make a perfect gymnasium. The basement will have meeting rooms, a cafeteria, athletic storage space and shower rooms. Behind the auditorium a four car garage will be built.

Then will follow a professional landscaping job, the two frame buildings will be torn down and the parking lot will be black-topped. With this, all mementos of the difficult past will have disappeared — including the mud.

We hope eventually to establish a high school — certainly a great need in the community. The proposed Ascension High School will be a separate building facing Federal Street at the north line of the property. In the event, however, that in the next few years the enrollment of the grade school should decline, then the upper floor will be used for secondary classes. We cannot have a high school until the gymnasium is built, otherwise an adequate program is impossible.

Some of us certainly will not see Ascension Parish reach its glorious peak, but certainly the celebration of its Silver Jubilee should inspire all of us to work harder to bring that wonderful day closer.

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## USHERS SOFTBALL TEAM - 1951



As members of the Eastern Deanery Ushers League, the 1951 Team reached the play-offs. (Left to right) Last row: Chester Biniecki, George Heughens, Joseph Kirk, Paul Buback, Frank Palonis, Michael Major. Middle row: Father Paul Sierocki, Jack Cavender, Anthony Janchar, Foster Cichocki, Alphonse Symbert, Joseph Jankowski (umpire). Seated are: Ernest Fabian, Frank Drwencke, William Licavoli (manager), John Swieczkowski, Walter Forthoffer, Edward Fladzinski, Hans Hemmingsen. Bat boy: Ronald Buback.

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## ASCENSION C. Y. O.

It isn't easy to recount failures on the happy occasion of our Silver Jubilee. But this is an objective history of the Parish and so we must be truthful in all things. Hence we are forced to admit that our athletic program as well as our youth activities, on the whole, have not met with too much success.

As early as October, 1940, the Pastor invited Bud Boeringer from the University of Detroit to establish a youth program at Ascension. A men's softball team was begun and this team won the Motor City League Championship in 1941. Frank Wind was the manager.

Another attempt was made to broaden the program in April, 1944, with the founding of the Ascension C. Y. O. Once again there was a surge of interest, but it was short lived.

When Father Totte arrived in 1949, adding another priest to the staff, it was the expressed desire of Father Kolanczyk that he should devote a good portion of his time to youth activities. Accordingly the Youth Club was established to provide social activities for young parishioners between the ages of 17 and 26. This venture proved highly successful for almost two years. In 1950, 140 young people were affiliated with the group. That summer two softball teams for boys were fielded. The younger boys were coached by Tony Frankowiak, Jr., and they won the divisional championship in the Farwell Field Recreation League. The older boys were coached by Jack Sherrer and they had a highly successful season just missing the championship playoffs in the C. Y. O. A girls' team was also in operation under the leadership of Eleanor Van Loo, a teacher at Lincoln High School and director of girls' athletics at St. David High School. Unfortunately the girls lost interest just as Miss Van Loo was beginning to make

good progress. They participated in the C. Y. O. league for one season.

Likewise in the fall two basketball teams took the floor, a major and minor team coached by Father Totte. The record was very disappointing, much below the 500 average. The next season a junior and a minor team was organized and ably coached by Tom Zott and John Udvare of Center Line. The junior team was dismissed from the league because the boys were not interested enough to appear for the scheduled games. The minor team came off with a 500 average, beating the league leaders, St. Raymonds, by a score of 36 to 34 in the last game. Satisfied with this much success at least, the team was treated to a delicious dinner as a reward for their fine efforts and enthusiasm. The junior team for the coming season will be coached by Jack Cusmano. We hope the boys enjoy great fun! Good luck!

At present a much more successful sports program is being conducted in the school by the priests. Softball, soccer, football and volley-ball are featured each day during the noon recess, weather permitting. It is quite a problem at times keeping 850 boys and girls happily playing something, but we succeed often enough to keep the program going.

Ascension's C. Y. O. is indebted to the coaches named above, to the Van Dyke School Board for the use of the Lincoln High gym each season and to the various merchants who have sponsored some of the teams. A word of thanks to the officers of the Youth Club who tried so hard to make it work: Stanley Ciacuch, Betty Richer, Tom Buback, Bill Huellmantel, Delphine Karpinski and Pat McCormack. Perhaps if we do just a little at a time we will someday succeed. Until then—perservere!

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- 1951 -

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# Calendar Of The Silver Jubilee Festivities

1926

1951

SUNDAY AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 AND 17, 7:30 P. M.

School Jubilee Play at the Parish Hall.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 TO 21

Garland of 4,400 Rosaries recited by the children with a plea to Our Blessed Mother to bring back to the Church the many lukewarm and negligent Catholics living in our community.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 8:30 A. M.

Solemn High Mass for all the children who attended Ascension School and their parents who were so kind to them. Also for the Sisters who taught these years in our school.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 7:45 A. M.

High Mass for the deceased Founders, Parishioners, Benefactors.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 7:45 A. M.

Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving for the Graces of the past 25 years bestowed upon the people of this parish.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 5:30 P. M.

Silver Jubilee Banquet at Silver Crown Ballroom.

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# Program of the School Jubilee Play

Presented December 16 - 17 - 23, at 7:30 P. M.

## THE SPIRIT OF ASCENSION

### PART I

Address . . . . .	Leo Torzewski
Welcomettes . . . . .	Grades 1, 2, 3, 4
Guardian Angel of the Parish . . . . .	Marilyn Chandler
Waif . . . . .	Geraldine Resovsky
Greed . . . . .	Ronald Nowicki
Comrades — Grade 6	
Vanity . . . . .	Beverly Fabian
Attendants — Grade 6	
Pleasure . . . . .	Patrick Brannigan
Dancers — Grade 5	
Folly . . . . .	Kenneth Hylenski
Comrades — Grade 6	
Tappers — Grades 6, 7	
Faith . . . . .	Arlette Skobler
Service . . . . .	Arthur Norkiewicz
	De Anne LaBarge
	Gloria Sankuer
	Judith Symbert

## THE BETHLEHEM SCENE

Mary	Joseph	Shepherds	Wise Men	Angels
Assembly Singing . . . . .				Audience

### The Orchestra

Stanley Stachnik, Leo Torzewski, Nicholas Nagy, Bruno Wolff, James Hagan,  
Barbara Malkiewicz, Louise Hoppe, Joann Smith, Patricia Kehoe

Reception Committee . . . . . P. T. C.

## ASCENSION IN JUBILEE

### PART II

Guardian Angel of the Parish . . . . .	Marilyn Chandler
Breezes . . . . .	Grade 4
Spirit of Music . . . . .	Caroline Oestman
Harmony . . . . .	Grade 5
Spirit of Flowers . . . . .	Geraldine Pruzinsky
	Geraldine Koperwas
Roses . . . . .	Grade 2
Spirit of Gratitude . . . . .	Rose Mary Dina
The Herald . . . . .	Elmer Bonk
Attendant of Spirit of Gratitude . . . . .	Geraldine Campbell
Promenade of the Contributors . . . . .	School
Garlands . . . . .	Grade 3
Spirit of Prayer . . . . .	Judith Sobczak
Silver Wreaths . . . . .	Grade 1
Spirit of Poetry . . . . .	Judith Clark
Rainbows . . . . .	Grades 1, 2
Spirit of Christ . . . . .	Gregory Ulicny
Jubilee Greeting . . . . .	Kindergarten
Finale . . . . .	Tableaux

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Teaching Staff extends a most sincere "THANK YOU" to the Orchestra Members, the Receptionists and to all the parents who have so splendidly cooperated in making this program possible.

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# The Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving

*Sunday, December 30, 7:45 a.m.*

Celebrant . . . . . Father Anthony Kolanczyk  
Deacon . . . . . Father Wallace Filipowicz  
Subdeacon . . . . . Father Paul Sierocki  
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Father Leo Totte  
Minor Officers . . . . . Our Altar Boys

## THE JUBILEE BANQUET

*Sunday, December 30, 5:30 P. M.*

SILVER CROWN BALLROOM

### PROGRAM

Prayer . . . . . The Pastor

CHICKEN DINNER  
(Family Style)

*Dinner Music by Frank Potestio*

Greetings from the Clergy . . . . . Father Paul Sierocki  
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Father Edward Sobczak  
Greetings from the School Children . . . . . Marilyn Chandler  
Greetings from the Women of the Parish . . . . . Rose Muzyk  
Greetings from the Men of the Parish . . . . . Eugene Ducharme

### *Introduction of Guests*

Remarks . . . . . Father Leo Totte  
Acknowledgments . . . . . The Pastor  
Finale . . . . . Ascension Song

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## A GLANCE AHEAD

We have been saying a lot of things about the past. What about the future? Ascension has some mighty big plans. Many of them, with God's help, will soon be carried out; others remain much in the realm of speculation. But it is refreshing to dream: —

In the spring the present church will be moved and attached to the hall, forming a "T" shaped building. The interior of the hall will be separated from the interior of the church by doors which will be opened on Sunday so that the hall can be used to accommodate larger crowds at Mass. This arrangement will provide 300 additional seats. The present church would have to be moved or torn down to make room for the new building. At the moment its foundation is in an alarming state of deterioration and the structure would have to be raised for repairs in a few short months anyway. It seems, therefore, that the best plan is to move the building next to the hall and to attach them in the most presentable manner possible. Certainly, when the new church is completed, these frame buildings together will provide over twice the recreation space now available to us. Several meetings or other activities will be able to be conducted concurrently with the proposed partitioned buildings.

This plan would have been executed much sooner except that a parcel of land amounting to about 30,000 square feet running directly through the Parish grounds was not in our possession. This valuable plot of land was purchased from the Henkel Estate by the Rivard Brothers and generously given to Ascension by these fine men.

Obviously the project dearest to our hearts is the new church. Funds have been coming in slowly, but steadily since 1946. In spite of the high cost of construction it is imperative that we build as soon as possible. Naturally this cannot be done until we have sufficient money to support the sizable loan which will be necessary. Otherwise, of course, the interest will gobble up our holdings in short order. Much depends upon the generosity of our people, especially between now and April of 1952.

Plans for the new church have been under consideration for a long time. Pending the approval of His Eminence, Cardinal Mooney, it has been quite conclusively decided to build a modified American colonial-type church. This is a very practical building both in design and in cost and it will fit in nicely with the contour of our neighborhood. The church will seat about 800 persons and it will be erected in close harmony with the other permanent Parish buildings.

While the new church is going up we hope to seize the opportunity to enlarge the rectory. At present the rectory is very high and it looks quite large, but actually it has very small rooms and is wholly inadequate. It was built for the service of a small parish, but as Ascension grows bigger the house shrinks. Four rooms will be added to the front and four rooms to the rear of the building. Likewise the roof will be replaced by another much lower and of the same color as the other buildings. The addition will include more office space, conference rooms and work shops.

After this we hope to build an auditorium north of the rectory, facing Ascension Street. The auditorium will be large enough to seat 1000 persons and also high enough to make a perfect gymnasium. The basement will have meeting rooms, a cafeteria, athletic storage space and shower rooms. Behind the auditorium a four car garage will be built.

Then will follow a professional landscaping job, the two frame buildings will be torn down and the parking lot will be black-topped. With this, all mementos of the difficult past will have disappeared — including the mud.

We hope eventually to establish a high school — certainly a great need in the community. The proposed Ascension High School will be a separate building facing Federal Street at the north line of the property. In the event, however, that in the next few years the enrollment of the grade school should decline, then the upper floor will be used for secondary classes. We cannot have a high school until the gymnasium is built, otherwise an adequate program is impossible.

Some of us certainly will not see Ascension Parish reach its glorious peak, but certainly the celebration of its Silver Jubilee should inspire all of us to work harder to bring that wonderful day closer.

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Muschong, Peter and Magdalena  
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Nowicki, Leon and Pearl  
Nowicki, Theodore and Mary  
Nowinski, Valentine and Alice

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Oestman, Ernest and Phyllis  
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Onifer, Paul and Sophia  
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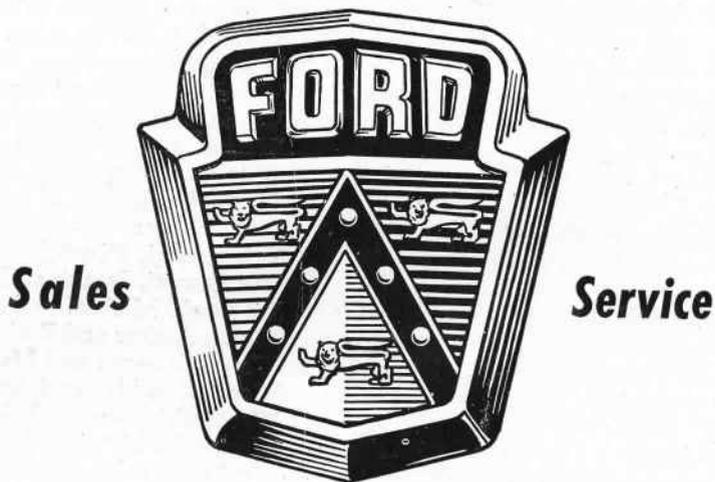
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## Thank You Kindly

*I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has helped me, in whatever way, to make this Jubilee book the success it is. I thank especially the "old timers" for sharing with me their cherished memories and for the information and pictures they gave me for use in the final copy. A word of gratitude to Father Paul Sierocki for the excellent way in which he handled the financial end of this work and to the men and women who helped far beyond my most anxious anticipations. I am also much indebted to Father Leo Totte for his talent and time in editing these recorded pages of the Jubilee Book. Of course any omission or inaccuracy has not been intentional. This effort is not meant to be a complete history of Ascension. Many things perhaps have slipped my attention and have gone by unheralded. However, all things are recorded by the Angel and are known to God.*

*My debt of gratitude also to the Sisters and children for their part in the celebration of the Jubilee, especially for the fine play they presented. I wish finally to thank the various committees for their extraordinary efforts and all the merchants who contributed advertisements so generously to our book.*

*May God bless all of you!*

*Anthony J. Kolanczyk*

