

## **ST. ALPHONSUS CONGREGATION**

*5960 West Loomis Road  
Greendale, Wisconsin*





*(photo courtesy of Mark Heffron, for Wisconsin Architect Magazine)*





# **ST. ALPHONSUS**

*50 Years  
of  
Community*


**Personal And  
Historical Recollections  
1938-1988**











## **A Gift of the Past, A Promise for the Future**

This booklet is a journey of loving recollections into the past 50 years  
in the life of our St. Alphonsus parish.

In particular, this anniversary publication is in honor of all the people who have  
served St. Al's in large and small ways during the past half-century.

Their dedication and perseverance, and their courage and leadership,  
have given us a true gift of community.

Their gift is our legacy, to embrace and nurture,  
as St. Al's enters a future as unknown and challenging as it must have seemed  
to our parishioners facing their future back in 1938.











## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St. Alphonsus affirm the giftedness of this diverse faith community. We recognize our engagement in the Mission of Jesus and our responsibility as a baptized people. We strive to provide resources through our parish for shepherding the following beliefs:

**WE BELIEVE** that witness as a Kingdom people demands extending our warm welcome to all on this journey in Christ. This is by no means a solitary endeavor but one made in unison with all of God's family.

**WE BELIEVE** that we are the living presence of Jesus. We, a prayer-filled community, gather to celebrate and proclaim the Good News by our active participation through word and sacrament. We commit ourselves to ongoing conversion throughout our faith journey.

**WE BELIEVE** we are called to provide life-long Christian Formation and Education based on Scripture and Catholic Tradition. We recognize the need to nurture growth in faith in all seasons and vocations of life, preparing everyone to actively embrace the ministry of the gospel.

**WE BELIEVE** that the prophetic vision of Jesus ensures human dignity for all people. Therefore, we dedicate our faith community as servants of justice with the specific focus being the preferential option for the poor.

**WE BELIEVE** in the just stewardship of time, talent and treasure through the cooperative efforts of the pastoral team and laity. We commit ourselves to the proper use of all resources placed at our disposal during our stay on this earth.





## ST. AL'S — THE EARLY YEARS

The history of St. Alphonsus Church can be told in one word — **community**.

Since the parish's modest beginnings in 1938, St. Al's congregation has grown and changed but always with a sharp focus on community. The community of Greendale. The community of Catholics. The community of Christ and His family.

Many members of St. Alphonsus remember the days when there was no church — only people who came to Greendale to start a new life in a new place.

### Greendale Gets Its Start

To help the nation recover from the Depression of the 1930s, the federal government built three new towns, all sharing the name "Green" — meaning "pleasantly alluring" according to Webster's. The towns were Greenhills near Cincinnati; Greenbelt, near Washington, D.C., and Greendale in Wisconsin. To live in these new towns, owned by the government, residents had to meet fairly strict requirements. For example, no family could earn more than \$2,400 a year. The family also had to show a housing need, financial reliability and "cleanliness in living habits." Eileen Campbell, a member of one of Greendale's first families, remembers another requirement, which seems antiquated today. "The wife of the family had to stay home and couldn't be a member of the work force," she said.

Mrs. Campbell and her husband moved to Greendale from Omaha, by way of Milwaukee, to help her get over her hay fever. "We heard about Greendale and we thought it would be so much nicer than where we were living in Milwaukee, so we applied and were accepted," she said.

The area was so new back in the late 1930s that there were few stores, no established churches and no public transportation. But the people of Greendale understood how to "make do."

Jim Kendellen remembered riding a shuttle bus that took people to the bus line terminal at South 60th Street and West Forest Home Avenue so they could get to work. "It worked out well for the workers," he said. "But on Sundays, there was no way to get to church unless you had a friend who owned a car and who was going to church in another community and would take you along."

Many Catholic families went to St. Mary's in Hales Corners. Others gathered in the homes of their Greendale neighbors to celebrate Mass.

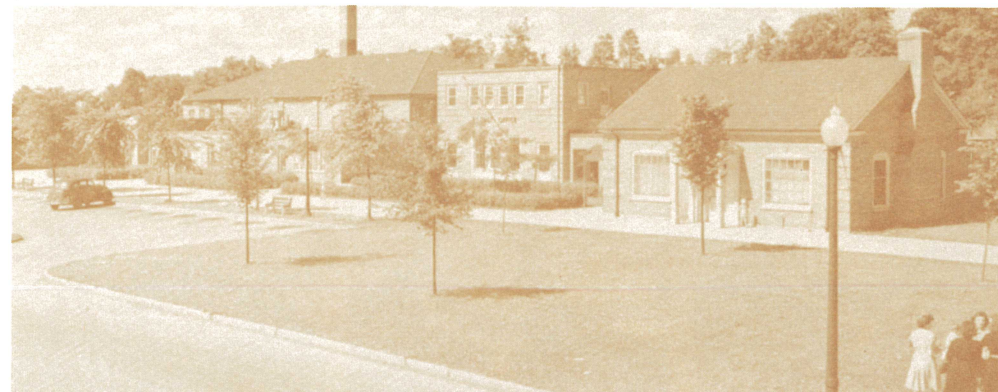
Wally Niemczyk recalled those times well. "The kids would be altar boys, and there was usually a cup of coffee and a little breakfast for the priest after it was finished."

Mrs. Campbell and others often volunteered their homes for Mass. "I felt our home was blessed because we had Mass in it," she said.

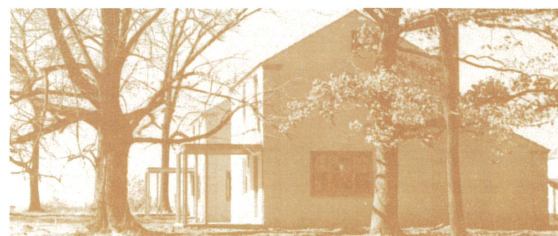
When Greendale's Catholics started to meet each other at St. Mary's, they decided to ask the Most Reverend Samuel Alphonsus Stritch, Archbishop of Milwaukee, for a parish of their own. The Archbishop responded by assigning the Reverend Frederic Arnold, pastor of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary parish in St. Martins, to establish the new mission parish in July, 1938.

The Archbishop also issued a "Decree for Erection of St. Alphonsus Mission at Greendale."

The formal language of the decree hardly hinted at the dynamic growth and spirit that was to characterize the future St. Alphonsus parish. An excerpt from the decree stated that "adequately to provide for the spiritual care of the faithful domiciled at Greendale, Wisconsin, until such time as it is right and competently judged oppor-



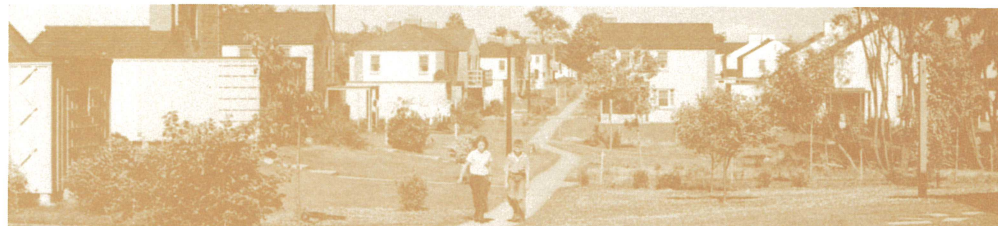
*Broad Street in late '30s*



*Greendale begins life*



*"Pleasantly alluring"*



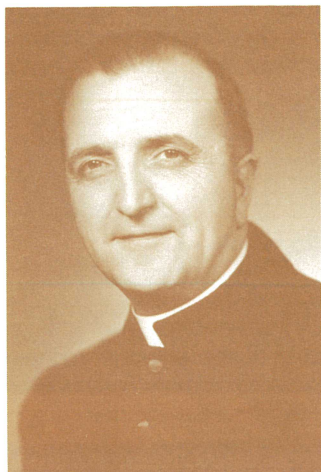
*Village family life*



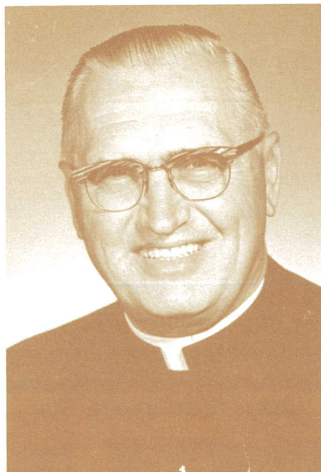
*A birds-eye view in 1939*

(Village photos courtesy of Greendale Historical Society)





Father Frederic Arnold



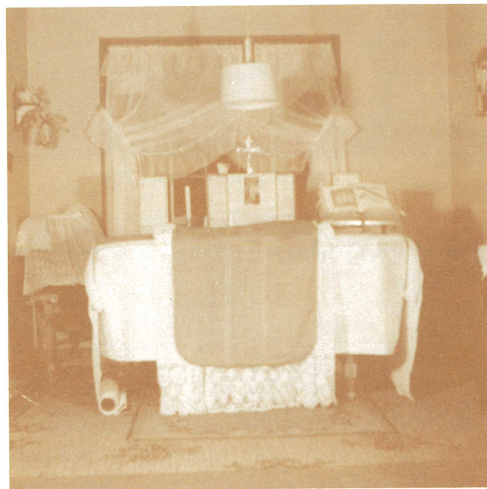
Father Richard Schaefer



Father Joseph Spangler



Mass in Intermediate School basement



Altar in Municipal Square home



Archbishop Samuel Alphonsus Stritch

tune to erect there a canonical territorial parish, we do now erect the territory and only the territory presently owned and administered by the United States Government for a Federal Housing Project into a Mission (*Vicaria non in perpetuum erecta*) under the patronage of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor, without however canonically subtracting it from the Parish to which presently it belongs."

The decree was dated August 2, 1938, the feast day of St. Alphonsus Liguori.

"*Vicaria non in perpetuum erecta*" meant the Archbishop could at any time in the future change the Mission into a parish.

### St. Alphonsus Is Born

The first official St. Alphonsus Mass was July 31, 1938, in the unfinished Mercantile Building in the Village Shopping Center. About 230 people attended. An old desk served as the altar and packing boxes became confessionals.

Services later moved to the basement of the Greendale Community Building, which is now the Intermediate School. The congregation, like Greendale itself, kept growing to a point where more space was needed. When the building was completed as a school, the government allowed people to use the gym for their services. "The Catholic Mass was held early, then the Lutherans held their services, followed by the Community Church," Kendellen explained. "It worked out well for all of us."

The gym was home for the next 10 years, until 1950. Each week, the altar and folding chairs had to be set up in the gym, then put away after Mass.

In June, 1940, Father Arnold was named pastor of St. Rita's in West Allis, and the Reverend Richard Schaefer succeeded him as pastor of both Sacred Hearts Parish and its mission church in Greendale.

### Father Spangler Joins The Family

In the summer of 1941, the Reverend Joseph Spangler — one year out of the seminary — was assigned to be the first resident pastor of St. Alphonsus. Niemczyk and many other St. Al's pioneers remember Father Spangler as "probably the best friend anyone in the village had. He knew everybody."

Along with his religion, sports held a special place in Father Spangler's heart. "He used to spend Saturday afternoons playing baseball with us," Niemczyk said. "He was a heck of a shortstop. More importantly, he was always there for anybody who needed help regardless of which parish they belonged to."

Father Spangler knew that starting a brand new parish meant sacrifices, for himself as well. But, he was so eager to get started in his assignment, he didn't mind personal inconvenience — including having no place to live. As Kendellen recalled, Father Spangler started out by commuting between St. Rita's rectory in West Allis and Greendale. The government had promised him a four-bedroom home on Municipal Square at the east intersection with Northway, but the occupant was still waiting for his own home to be ready.

### Father Spangler Gets Settled

Father Spangler and Kendellen, who was church secretary at the time, went to see the village administrator who arranged a temporary home for the anxious priest. However, the temporary home had limited furnishings — a refrigerator, stove, furnace and electric range.

"Everyone in the parish helped him get organized," Kendellen remembered. "The Catholic Women's Club and the Holy Name Society helped with food, cooking utensils and furniture — all extra items from their own homes."



The Catholic Women's Club also held card parties once a week and a small donation collected there was used to buy him household necessities like towels and soap.

Eventually, the home on Municipal Square became available and Father Spangler moved in, along with his widowed aunt who agreed to serve as housekeeper. Some new items were furnished by the parish, including a much-needed bedroom set. Father Spangler had been sleeping on a cot since he left St. Rita's.

The largest bedroom of the four-bedroom became a chapel where Father Spangler said daily Mass. The second bedroom served as his office, where he also heard confessions. There were many Saturdays when the confessional lines stretched out onto the sidewalk. The other two bedrooms were for Father and his aunt.

Despite his personal housing problem, Father Spangler used this time to become well acquainted with Greendale and its growing community. He visited all the people who had checked "Catholic" on their government application. He met other families as he passed through the village.

Anna Bloechl, who worked a farm with her husband and children on South 60th Street, remembered how Father Spangler stopped by in January, 1943. "Father Spangler happened to be driving past and my daughter, Millie, waved to him. Father stopped to introduce himself to Fritz and me," Mrs. Bloechl said. "Just a few days earlier, I had given birth to my son, John, and was recuperating." John later became the first member of the Bloechl family to be baptized in Father Spangler's home chapel.

### St. Al's Looks For A Home

Soon, St. Al's growing community began to look for a place of its own. Because all the land within Greendale belonged to the government, St. Al's looked for land outside the village, where a church and school could be built. Naturally, money was on everybody's mind. Since the entire nation was in an economic slump, and Greendale's families were low income households, the contributions for the new church were a true sacrifice on the part of many. Kendellen recalled bringing 25-cent contributions each Sunday at Mass to help start a parish fund.

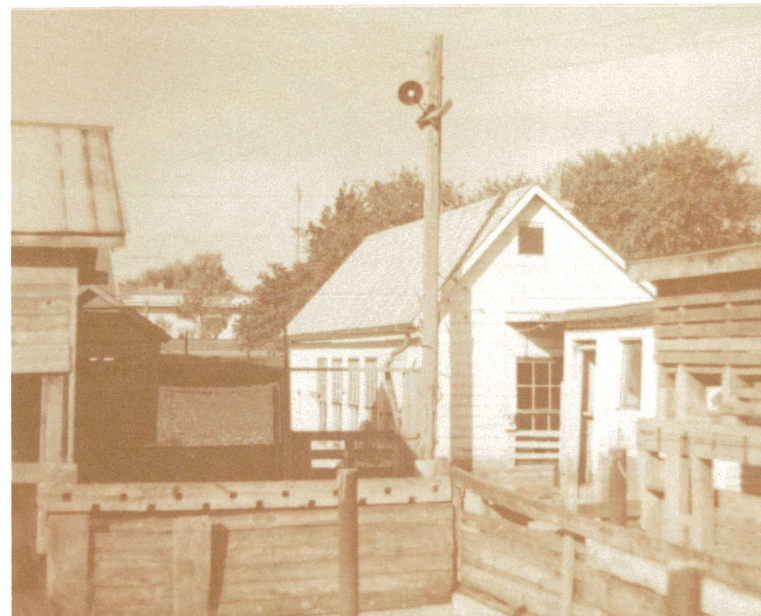
Eventually, the cooperation and the growing spirit of community of the early St. Alphonsus church resulted in the new parish being able to secure an option on three acres of land for \$50 on November 18, 1939. It was located on the west side of Loomis Road, north of West Grange Avenue. The following spring, \$1,250 was donated anonymously to complete the purchase.

Early in 1945, Father Spangler learned that Congress was about to pass legislation to make government land available for religious facilities. As a result, that summer, the parish of St. Alphonsus was able to purchase six acres within the village, including two farm houses. The total cost of \$2,400 was again donated anonymously.

### Raising Money For Construction

Once again, the entire community of St. Al's joined together to raise money for a church building and school. "In order to build the church and school, we held raffles and parish festivals," Niemczyk said. "We even sold bricks for the building at 10 cents apiece. We would wander around the village and solicit people to buy bricks."

In the meantime, Father Spangler and his assistants converted one of the farm houses into a rectory. The Reverend Robert Schneider, who came to St. Al's as Father Spangler's assistant in June, 1955, remembers the priest telling him that the farm house had been a speakeasy during Prohibition. "Father Spangler showed me the wiring in the basement of the house, which was used as an alarm system," he said.



Fritz and Anna  
Bloechl's '40s farm



The good times

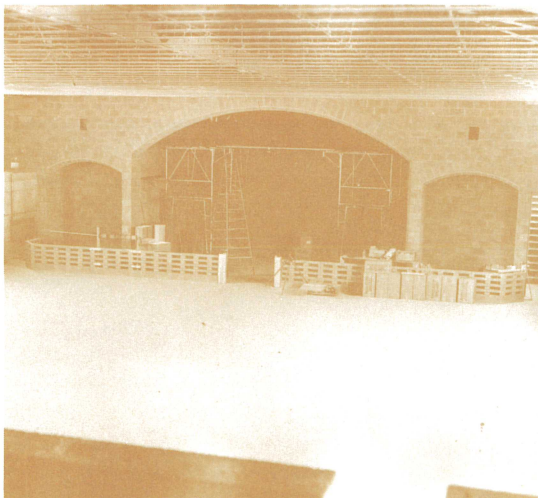




Fr. Robert Van Susteren



Building Churchway Street, towards Northway



Built with love



Willing hands



Second-hand pews



Easter Sunday Mass in new church, 1950

"When the authorities would come to raid the place, the alarms would go off and occupants could duck out the back door and into the woods."

The other farm house eventually became the convent. Until it did, however, members of the parish took turns driving to St. Joseph convent at South 27th Street and West Greenfield Avenue to pick up the Sisters and take them back to Greendale to teach the local children.

According to Niemczyk, the trip was "always fun because you could sneak into the convent kitchen every once in a while to get a fresh doughnut or a piece of bakery and a cup of coffee."

Once the nuns were established in their convent at St. Al's, members of the parish would bring donations from their homes or businesses. Eileen Campbell's husband was a baker, and he would bring freshly baked goods to the convent. Jim Strange was in the meat business, and he remembered delivering a package to the old farm house and getting stuck in the snow. "The Sisters came out and said they would help me," Strange recalled. "Four of them pushed and shoved, and there I was sitting in my truck, like an archbishop."

### The Community Comes Forward

A local architectural firm with background in designing churches was called in to draw up plans for the building. The lower floor was to be used as a church until the new church could be built. Once the basic exterior of the building took shape, the community of St. Alphonsus came forward to do much of the interior work, as well as to remodel the two farm houses serving as rectory and convent. Painting, woodworking, varnishing, laying floors, hanging doors — it was all done by the people of the parish.

Vi Strange made the vestments for the altar, while her husband, Jim, worked evenings and Saturdays helping to finish up the inside by laying tile, installing the ceiling and getting rid of the dirt.

Mrs. Campbell also remembers vividly the work of the community to get the new building ready for occupancy. "When it came time, after the construction, to clean up the school, I was up there on my hands and knees scrubbing the hallway from the north to the south. And it was a blessing to do it," she said.

Father Spangler told Jim Strange that the work of the people of St. Al's saved the church some \$175,000 in labor costs — a fortune in those days!

Eventually, the new church and school began to take shape. Altars were built by the parishioners. Pews were purchased from St. Cyril in Sheboygan. And on Easter Sunday, 1950, parishioners joined together to celebrate the first Mass in the new church.



## ST. AL'S — THE MIDDLE YEARS

If the early years of St. Al's were a time spent forming a Catholic community, the middle years can be characterized as a time of building upon that solid foundation.

For example, in 1955 the parish had about 600 families. By 1963, that number had grown to more than 1,800.

Father Schneider remembered this growing community. One of his first assignments involved administering Last Rites. "I got a call late at night," he said. "A man was dying and his family wanted me to come over to an area in Greenfield where there were no street lights. So I took along a flashlight and managed to find the place. The man was French Canadian and didn't speak English. I didn't speak any French. We couldn't communicate in an ordinary way, but we managed to communicate on a different level. It was my first experience in the parish, and I'll never forget it."

### The Children Of St. Al's

Because so many Greendale families had children who sought religious instruction, one aspect of growth during St. Al's middle years involved the youth program of the parish. Through the efforts of Father Schneider and Father Robert Van Susteren, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) groups were initiated.

Many of the parish's high school students came on Monday and Wednesday evenings for their religious instruction. Grade school children at first attended on Sundays, but later switched to Saturdays due to overcrowding.

Even with a quickly growing congregation, Father Schneider remembered Father Spangler asking him to recruit new members. "It was summer when I arrived and school was not in session. But there was a new subdivision going up in Greendale, and Father asked me to go house to house, as he had done when he first arrived, to find the Catholic families."

Father Schneider spent his first summer at St. Al's canvassing hundreds of families. "I had no sooner finished when we found out that the diocese was establishing a new parish north of us, and all of this territory would be in the new parish. So, I ended up doing the work for the new parish."

Jim Strange said Father Spangler's one fault was "volume. He always felt the more kids in Catholic school, the better. I had a son in first grade who had 66 kids in class with him — and one Sister to teach them all."

Anna Bloechl, who had nine of her 14 children graduate from St. Alphonsus school, remembered Father Spangler as being very lenient regarding tuition fees. "In return, my husband and I shared our harvested crops with them. I would load the coaster wagon with potatoes and other vegetables, and our children would deliver them to the old convent."

Strange also recalled the day a lady had a heart attack right in the confessional of Father Schneider. "Fortunately, she was all right. I asked Father Schneider if her attack had anything to do with the penance he was giving out."

### Youth Activities Start

Besides canvassing for new members and being involved in religious instruction, Father Schneider headed many other youth activities. "We used to go on a lot of ice skating parties at Whitnall Park. I also remember the picnics we would take with the high school kids," he said, "and the church festivals. They always had a little jail at



Fr. Robert Schneider

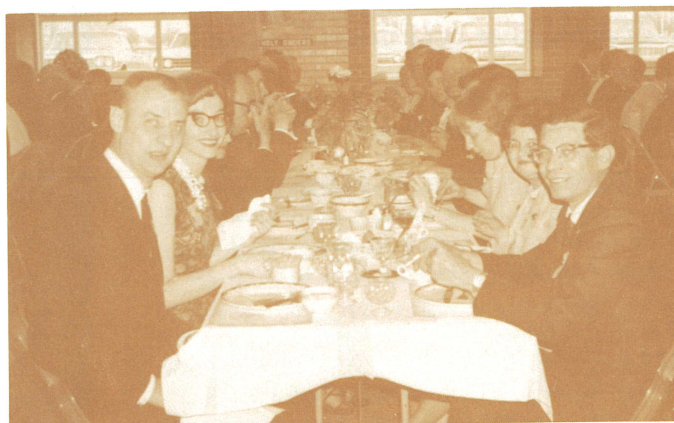
*The fun of recess*





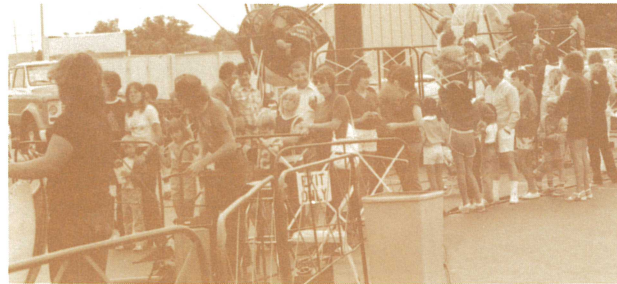


## People, Places and men





# memorable times

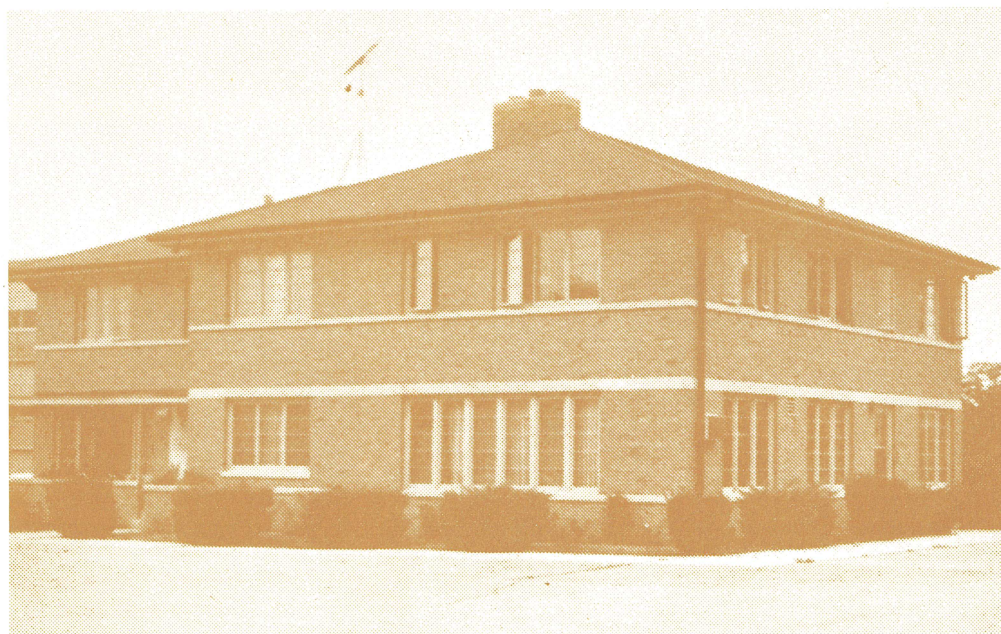




*A man much loved*



*The present rectory (lower)  
The convent, now the PEC*



the festivals and you'd be arrested, and someone would have to come 'bail' you out. I spent a lot of time in jail."

### **St. Al's Seeks To Expand — Again**

As the organizations and membership in the parish grew, so did the need for more space. In July, 1956, the three acres originally bought in 1940 were exchanged with the Milwaukee Community Development Corporation (the organization that bought land in Greendale from the government) for about 10 acres abutting the church on the south. This provided much needed parking space and a playground.

Also that year, the present rectory was built and the old farm house/speakeasy/rectory was sold to make room for the widening of Loomis Road. "When we moved into the new place, it was during the rainy season," Father Schneider remembered. "One of our parishioners owned a construction company and he let us use a big truck with a rear end lift to move our belongings because an ordinary moving van couldn't get through all the mud."

Rain also interfered when it came time to build a second-story addition on the school in 1958. "We were adding another floor to the church and school building on the weekend when there was a tremendous rain," Father Schneider recalled. "The workmen had put plastic over the construction, but it gave way, and we had a flood of water pouring into the building." Long hours with bales and buckets cleared the mess in time for Sunday services.

The new convent was also erected in 1958. It was home to 11 Sisters who, along with three lay teachers, taught some 500 children at St. Al's school. A parishioner donated the shrubs and trees, and Father Schneider pitched in with the landscaping. It wasn't easy. "The ground was like concrete, and to dig a hole we had to borrow an air hammer," he said.

### **The St. Al's Rumor Mill**

Father Schneider's love of gardening got him into more trouble. "That was back in the days when the priests would fast from midnight before they celebrated Mass the next morning," he said. "I used to do a lot of tree trimming at the old convent. One day I was up a tree, and the Sister who was the cook offered me some cookies. I ate the snack, completely forgetting about the fast. Well, I was supposed to celebrate Mass at the school at 11 a.m., so I had to go to the principal and tell her I couldn't celebrate because I broke the fast."

Apparently, some school children overheard part of that conversation. Many of them went home for lunch. "Within a half hour, I started to get calls at the rectory from parents who wanted to know how I was. The story the kids heard was that I'd fallen from a tree and broken my back!"

Along with being a time of growth for St. Alphonsus, the middle years of the parish were a time of sorrow. Father Spangler, the man who led St. Al's for almost 20 years, through its foundation and early years, died suddenly on January 6, 1961. Remembering that sad occasion, Jim Ircink, a parish pioneer, said, "We were very fortunate to have Father Spangler as our first pastor. He was very dedicated and friendly, and you felt like you could get close to him right away."

And the pioneer columnist for the *Village Life*, Doris Ann Krupinski, in her popular "View From the Hill" column wrote, "The death of Father Spangler was a loss, not only to his parishioners but to all of Greendale . . . we are echoing the sentiment of a great many people. He was known and loved all over the village, and will be sorely missed."



## The Parish Regroups And Grows

Despite the shock of Father Spangler's death, the parish continued its efforts to expand in all areas. Father Louis Koren, named to succeed Father Spangler, brought a different style to St. Al's. Where Father Spangler was more sports and activities-minded, Jim Strange remembered Father Koren as "more priestly and religious." He also remembered Father Koren being a little surprised to come to St. Al's and find the church using the pews "he had thrown out of his parish in Sheboygan years ago."

Greendale was the fastest growing Wisconsin community in the 1960s. To meet the need for new services, new organizations were created, such as the Legion of Mary. The Catholic Women's Club gave way to the Christian Mothers Society.

Again, the need for a bigger church and school became an issue. At the annual meeting of 1963, parishioners approved the addition of an L-shaped wing to the existing building, which was to include a church, an auditorium and additional school rooms. Ground was broken in 1964, but plans for the new church were deferred. Instead, six other classrooms of the new wing were not completed in order to provide space for a chapel which accommodated overflow crowds from the church. Archbishop William Cousins dedicated the added building.

## The Second Vatican Council

Perhaps the biggest change for St. Al's parish was still ahead. The Second Vatican Council, which convened on October 11, 1962, had a profound impact on Roman Catholicism.



*Legion of Mary*



*Christian Mothers Society*



*Father Louis Koren*



*Parking lot view of 1964 addition*



*Courtyard view of 1964 addition*



*Mass in the 1950 church*



*Adult Formation meetings*



*Human Concerns planning*

## ST. AL'S — THE LATER YEARS

The Second Vatican Council affected Catholics around the world. And the St. Alphonsus parish entering its later years was no exception. The parish community, which had for so many years concentrated inward on developing the church and the school, began to look outward.

St. Al's continued to be packed with people, "especially during Lent when we had services on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday," Eileen Campbell recalled. But it was packed with a community of people re-examining their faith and what it truly meant to be a Catholic in the 20th century.

Marilyn Bowman moved to Greendale in the late 1960s. She remembered the people of St. Al's "being people exactly like most Catholics were at that time — a little apathetic, and scared and confused about what was happening in their religion, due to Vatican II."

### An Era Of New Leadership

She called that time "an era of new leadership for Catholics around the world. Thanks to Vatican II, people were looking outward — starting to take their baptism seriously and wanting to participate in the church and ministries in any way their gifts could best be used. Things were breaking through."

Among the breakthroughs was a major effort to update Catholic adults on what was happening in the church. "A small group of us got a program of Adult Formation going and it was very well-received," Mrs. Bowman said. "We held a couple of sessions, and 300 to 400 people showed up. We called in some of the finest people who were on top of the theology that was developing to talk about what it meant to be a ministering church and the people of God."

Aline Cardimona was one of a number of persons who relocated to Greendale in the 1960s. She also saw "a great surge" in the education of Catholics during that time. "It was quite a change in attitude and philosophy."

"Raising your consciousness" may have been a cliché of the 1960s and '70s, but it certainly applied to the community of St. Al's. "People really rallied to build a stronger community," Mrs. Bowman said. "People wanted to come together and talk and share, and discuss and learn about their faith and its implications."

### St. Al's Takes On New Directions

As a result, several organizations within St. Al's took on new directions and began working to improve the community around them, especially to help those less fortunate. From the original Holy Name Society and Catholic Women's Club formed in the late 1930s, parish organizations increased dramatically in number. Eventually, more than 50 parish groups were engaged in a variety of charitable, ecumenical, educational and religious activities.

"You can picture this period as people becoming more aware of the need to help each other, rather than waiting for the priest to provide," Mrs. Bowman said. "We became aware that it is our responsibility to find out where the needs are in our community and then to respond to those needs."

For example, many parishioners worked in the ministry at the House of Correction, sharing picnics with the inmates. Others started meals at home programs for the elderly and ill. Still others served meals to the poor through the Benedict the Moor and St. Francis Meal Programs.



The later years at St. Al's were a time of "excitement and maturity," according to Mrs. Bowman. "It was an energizing time because people felt such hope about what could be, so many possibilities for getting involved and making the world they live in better."

### Human Concerns Emphasized

Mrs. Cardimona saw a whole growth of human concerns in the community during St. Al's later years. "I'm a convert, and to me it seemed for so many years that all Catholics did was go to church and make novenas; and that was about it." During the late 1960s and through the 1970s, St. Al's developed an excellent Human Concerns Department. That helped to strengthen the strong feeling of community in the parish.

Helping push this growth was the Reverend Martin Gloudeman who became pastor in late 1968. Father Marty, as he was affectionately called, invited the heads of all the parish organizations to a meeting to discuss the formation of a Parish Council, which would oversee the full mission of St. Alphonsus. A steering committee was formed and first elections were held in August, 1970, for St. Al's first Parish Council which consisted of 13 members.

"Father operated on the principle that whatever you want to do within the spirit of Vatican II, do it," Mrs. Bowman said. "If you think it will work, try it. He was a very appropriate pastor for St. Al's for the times."

It was during this time that St. Al's gained a sister parish — the Trinity-Guadalupe parish which serves the Hispanic community in the vicinity of South Third Street and West National Avenue. "It was a real cultural exchange," said Mrs. Bowman. Members of both parishes met in each other's homes for reflection and discussion. And, each helped out in the other's school. The children of the parishes joined to paint houses of the poor and perform other community service work.

### The Fun Times, Too

St. Al's later years were also a time for many social and recreational activities designed to bring its parishioners closer to one another. For example, the Christian Women of St. Alphonsus and its sister parish celebrated the Feast of Guadalupe together, complete with mariachi bands.

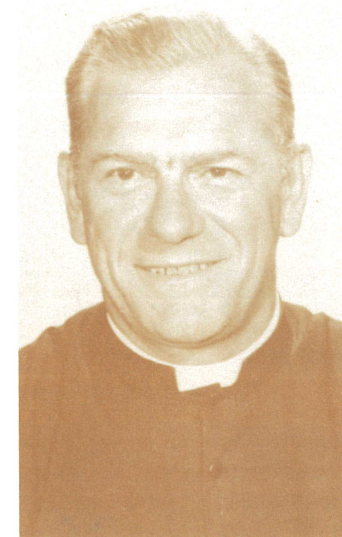
Aline Cardimona also remembers the start of the Good News Singers. In fact, a member of her family has been with the Singers almost since their beginning. "St. Al's was a pioneer with our guitar Masses, as they were called at the time," she said. "The Singers did a lot of Masses at other churches, including services at non-Catholic churches. It was all part of spreading the Good News."

Father Schneider, who came back to St. Al's every Sunday for 13 years to hold Mass in the chapel, recalls those celebrations as "delightful. The chapel was a smaller area and more family-like. The Good News Singers got everyone, young and old, involved, and we all had a great time singing. It was a little different, but very much alive."

There also were the famous St. Al's Friday Fish Fries. "They were well-known throughout the south side of Milwaukee," said Mrs. Cardimona. "We held them on the first Friday of every month and, for years, people would come from all around because of our fish and coleslaw. It was a good fund-raiser for the parish, too."

*Famous Fish Fries*

*Father Martin Gloudeman*



*Good News Singers at Mass*





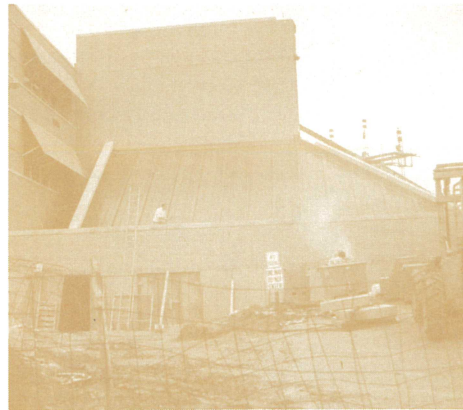
*The good times: Variety Shows*



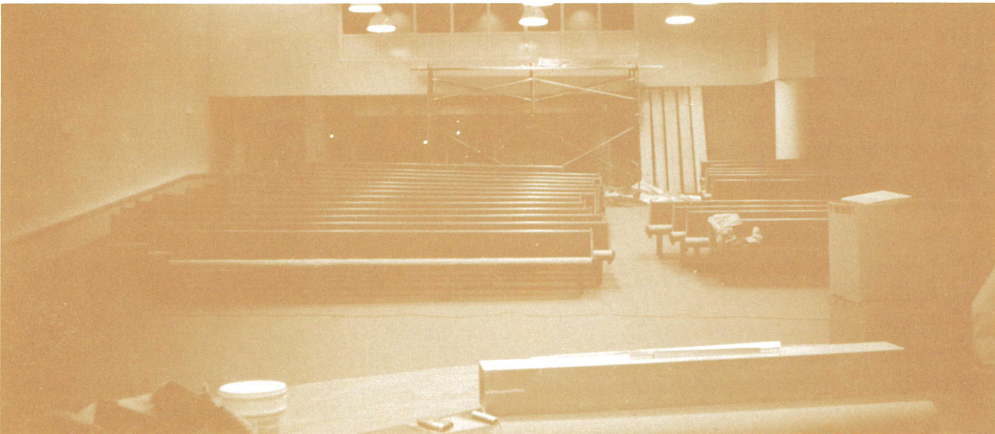
*The work begins*



*Milestone ground-breaking*



*Shaping up*



*And, new pews*

## Variety Shows Debut

Another fund-raiser, and perhaps the most fun event of all, involved the now famous variety shows. "I remember the audience at the close of the first show in 1970," Marilyn Bowman said. "It was just a fun, nonprofessional thing. But the response of the audience was a standing ovation. So much love was generated from them to us on the stage, and from us to them. It was an unbelievable experience."

The experience grew every year, with more and more parishioners getting involved — and getting to know each other as a result. "People would see their neighbors up there on stage and say, 'I can get up there and do that,'" Mrs. Bowman said. Eileen Campbell remembered being part of the senior citizen talent on the show. "In one of them we sang 'Second Hand Rose' and my husband took the part of Jake the Plumber in the song," Eileen said. "We got a roar out of the audience because when he walked across the stage he chose someone else, not me! The variety shows were a lot of fun, but they sure took a lot of planning."

## The Church Expands Again

So did planning for the church's further physical expansion. As in every period of St. Al's 50 years, members of the parish decided that more building was necessary to accommodate the growing congregation. This time the decision was to actually build the church that had been delayed back in the 1950s.

However, it took until the 1980s for work to start on the new church. Spearheading this major undertaking was the Reverend Carrol Straub, who had been named pastor of St. Alphonsus in June, 1977.

Ground-breaking for the church, which was to be housed in an addition to the east of the existing building complex, took place on July 22, 1984. Seventeen months later, the work was completed, and on December 15, 1985, the first Mass was held in a real church instead of what had served as a temporary church for 35 years. The Mass of Dedication was celebrated by the Most Reverend Rembert Weakland, O.S.B., Archbishop of Milwaukee.

A lot of special zeal and effort by a large number of parishioners had raised the necessary funds to start the new church. The project, indeed a mission, that for nearly five decades had been nurtured in the hearts and hands of St. Al's people, had become a reality.



## ST. AL'S — THE FUTURE

During the past five decades, the community of Greendale has undergone enormous change.

Change has also been a part of St. Alphonsus' past — and will continue to be part of its future.

From the 230 people who attended the first St. Alphonsus Mass on July 31, 1938, the parish has grown to 8,000 — some 2,650 families living mainly in Greendale, Greenfield and Franklin. From a community of Catholics whose main goal was to build a church, St. Al's has become a parish with a different and ever-widening mission.

Father Straub reflected on the elements of change that have shaped the later years of St. Alphonsus.

"In the late '60s and '70s, St. Al's surfaced as a very forward kind of parish," he said. "It was a vital parish, one with many gifts."

In fact, that is what Father Straub remembered most about first coming to St. Al's. "I came from an assignment in the inner city and we had to look so hard to find people who could do certain things. At St. Al's, everyone had many gifts."

Father Straub said his role during his 12 years as Pastor has been "to call forth the giftedness of the parishioners and capture their energies so as to direct them to a deeper involvement in Gospel issues."

The role of the laity emerged significantly since Vatican II, and it continues to grow. "I have been very proud of the unfolding of a new attitude that developed since the Second Vatican Council," Father Straub said. "Today, lay folks view themselves not merely as passive onlookers who sit back and wait for things to happen. Rather, at St. Alphonsus, they assume leadership roles and are accountable for that leadership. There seems to be more of an ownership on the part of the parishioner for all that takes place. The day of 'pray, pay and obey' is passed," added Father Straub. Because of this new posture, St. Alphonsus has become one of the outstanding parishes in the Archdiocese. It has been a leader. For example, already for a decade the parish has tithed 5% of its total income to funding areas of Direct Service, Advocacy, and Empowerment outside the parish, he pointed out.

This new attitude will be significant in shaping the future of St. Alphonsus Parish. It is a future Father Straub believes will continue to emphasize the role of the Baptized. For example, the parish recently created two new paid positions — Director of Family Ministry and Director of Spiritual Formation — both filled by qualified parishioners.

These areas surfaced as requiring attention during the recent Synod. In the near future, a lay Business Manager for the parish has to be considered as well, by the Parish Council and the greater parish membership, Father Straub said.

"Someone once referred to the laity as a sleeping giant," he explained, "I think the giant is awakening. Now that the first 50 years have concluded, many marvelous opportunities lie ahead."

In fact, he noted that St. Alphonsus' most recent Mission Statement points out that "We the people of St. Alphonsus affirm the giftedness of this diverse Faith Community. We recognize our engagement in the Mission of Jesus and our responsibility as a baptized people."

Father Straub predicted an "extremely exciting" future for St. Alphonsus. "I think we are at the threshold of something entirely new," he said. "Many of our past parish goals have been achieved, and now it is time for this prayerful, spirit-filled people to dream and fantasize about a new vision for the people of St. Alphonsus in Greendale. They need to dream of structure that will more perfectly achieve the inner conversion called forth by Vatican II for all the people of God. It is, of course, a task that is always unfinished. Evangelization will undoubtedly be at the core of this newly found focus."

"Presently we have with us a truly magnificent staff, perhaps the finest I've worked with in 30 years," said Father Straub. "With such leaven among God's people, wonders of the Spirit will certainly surprise us."

"I feel deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to have been a small part of the St. Alphonsus history, and for the privilege of sharing the lives, the hopes, the dreams, the sorrows and joys of this segment of God's holy people."

"For to paraphrase Vatican II, where those hopes and dreams and sorrows are present, there is God among us."

"I give thanks to my God every time I think of you — which is constantly, in every prayer I utter — rejoicing, as I plead on your behalf, at the way you have all continually helped promote the gospel from the very first day."

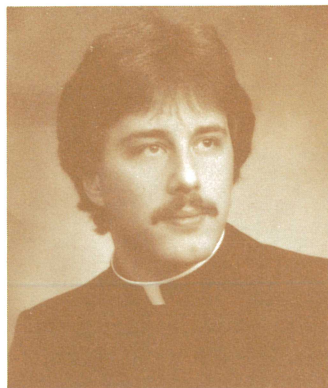
I am sure of this much: that He who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6

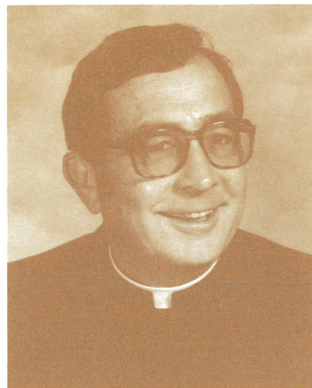




*John Michael Murphy*



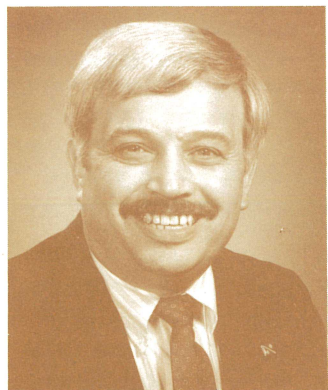
*Michael Petrie*



*Carrol Straub*



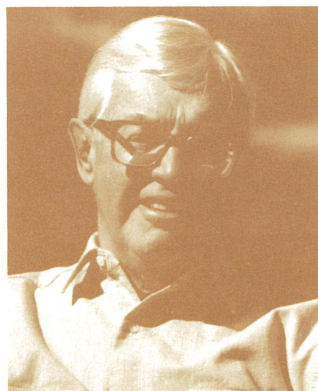
*Ted Gurzynski*



*Jim Leggett*



*Harvey Petre*



*Roland Huber*



*James Strange*

## **PRIESTS ASSIGNED TO ST. ALPHONSUS**

Joseph Anderson  
James Arimond  
Frederic Arnold  
Leonard Busch  
David Cooper  
Thomas Demse  
Richard Fredericks  
Martin Gloudeman  
James Godin  
Michael Grellinger  
Charles Hanel  
Charles Keefe  
Louis Koren  
Robert Krupske

John Michael Murphy  
Michael Newman  
Michael Petrie  
Wayne Repenshek  
Domenic Roscioli  
Richard Schaefer  
Robert Schneider  
Joseph Spangler  
Carrol Straub  
Thomas Trepanier  
Robert Van Sustern  
James Vojtik  
Herbert Wagner  
George Zwadzich

## **PERMANENT DEACONS**

Ted Gurzynski  
Jim Leggett

John Monday  
Harvey Petre

## **TRUSTEES**

1938-1940 Alois Werner  
Fabian Strong  
1940-1942 James Kendellen  
Daniel Molthen  
1942-1944 Karl Schneider  
James Ircink  
1944-1946 Carvel Lawder  
Edward Glennon  
1946-1948 Carvel Lawder  
Eli Surges

1948-1950 James Strange  
Joseph Surges  
1950-1972 James Strange  
Clement Donnelly  
1972-1980 James Strange  
Ronald Muchenberger  
1980-1983 James Strange  
Audrey Lauer  
1983- James Strange  
Roland Huber





*Sister Leon (Florence Russ)*



*Sister Peter (Carol Klaas)*



*Sister Mary Yanny*

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

1949-55 Sister Leon  
(Florence Russ)  
1955-61 Sister Peter  
(Carol Klaas)  
1961-67 Sister Mary Yanny

1967-73 Sister Diomeda  
1973-79 Sister Rose Eschweiler  
1979-87 Janet Kress  
1987- Patricia McGrane



*Sister Diomeda*



*Sister Rose Eschweiler*



*Janet Kress*



*Patricia McGrane*

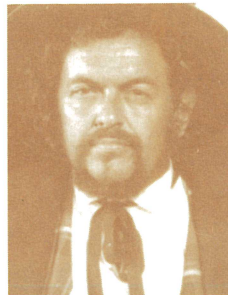




*Ann Temkin*



*Joan Schmidt*



*Dave Heintz*



*Larry Ehren*



*Pat Zealley*



*Lisa Deau*



*Jim Gill*



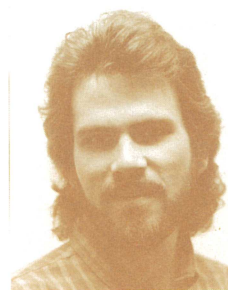
*Angie Alesci*



*Janeen Karakis*



*Wally Moczynski*



*Mark Barder*



*Margo Brunn*



*Marilyn Bowman*



*Thelma Walker*

## DREs (Department of Religious Education)

1970	Ann Temkin	1983-84	Angie Alesci
1972-83	Joan Schmidt		Youth Ministry
	Pre-School/Elementary	1984-86	Janeen Karakis
1972-83	Dave Heintz		Pre-School/Elementary
	Youth Ministry	1984-86	Wally Moczynski
1978-80	Larry Ehren		Youth Ministry
	Adult Enrichment	1987	Mark Barder
1979-81	Pat Zealley		Youth Ministry
	Adult Enrichment	1987	Margo Brunn
1981-83	Lisa Deau		Pre-School/Elementary
	Youth Ministry	1988	Marilyn Bowman
1982-88	Jim Gill		Spiritual Formation
	Adult Enrichment	1988	Thelma Walker
			Family Ministry



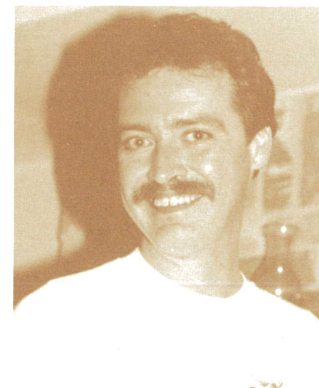
## MUSIC MINISTERS

1973-79 Marianne Harriman  
1979-82 Tim Jaye

1982-83 Barb Beier  
1983 Sheri Masiakowski



Marianne Harriman



Tim Jaye



Sheri Masiakowski

## PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1970-71-72 Tom Streeter  
1973 Tom Duggan  
1974 John Kovacic  
1975 Henry Dluzak  
1976 Tom Frohna  
1977 Tom Kowalski  
1978 Thelma Walker  
1979 Ted Gurzynski

1980 Kenny Wright  
1981 Don Zanutelli  
1982 Tom Cassini  
1983 Kathy Arciszewski  
1984 Kent Korek  
1985 David Walker  
1986 Steve Ozimek  
1987 Otto Sowa

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH COUNCIL

### Front Row

Richard Styza  
Rev. Carrol Straub  
Jim Birmingham  
Dolores Janczak  
Betty Spehar  
Carol Lemke

### Back Row

Gene Miller  
Charles Wallen  
Andy Boszhardt  
Steve Ozimek  
Tom Fogec  
Richard Kartes  
Rev. John Michael Murphy  
Paul Jensen  
Otto Sowa  
Jim Strange  
Al Dobner





# IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE

*To all the sisters who, with love and devotion,  
taught the children of our parish over the years.*

**Sister:**

Agnes Stauner (Amalia)  
Alberta Ditter  
Alice Kilgallon  
Alma Mayer  
Alvina Ruskamp (Catherine)  
Amada Schoenberger  
Angele Ebben  
Angilberta  
Ann Eschweiler  
Aquin Krippner  
Aquinata Enzbrunner

Benedict Labre Du Vall

Cathana  
Catherine Frances Dietzler (Conrad)  
Catherine Watry (Annessa)  
Catherine Wirtz (Ambrosita)  
Christine Marie Salentine  
Claire Puhek  
Claire Marie Sawyer  
Claretia  
Clarina Zander  
Cyrillus Kremer

del Ray Darcy (Mary del Ray)  
Diane Wagner  
Diomeda

Edna  
Edwardin Bach (Beverly)  
Eline Lochen  
Emerentia  
Ernestine Riesteres

Floretta Pfaller (Virginia)  
Francilla Grulkowski  
Fredalene  
  
Georgetta Gass  
  
Haroldine Acker  
Henriann Yanny (Mary)  
Herman Joseph Esselman  
Hildegard Bissen (Leona)  
Honora Stacy (Mary Honora)

Irene Daniels

Janelle  
Janet Heder (Frida)  
Jeremia Bleck  
Joan Brede  
Jodene Zehren  
Jolita Heller (Marian)  
Joyce Korklowski  
Joyce Wagner

Kathleen Sowinski

Laurelle Greiner  
Laurita Guzy (Catherine)  
Leona Russ (Florence)  
Leorita Halac  
Liliosa Klein  
Luciana Steffen (Irma)  
Ludwigis Einhauser  
Luke II Windolph (Lucy)

Madeleva Metten  
Marguerite La Mothe  
Marguerite  
Maribene Kreppel  
Mariel Woznick  
Martha Halsey  
Martha Lanser  
Maureen Hegy

Odilia Bartsch  
Orientia

Patricia Mary Daniels  
Peter Klaas (Carol)  
Phyllis Wirtz  
Pauline Ripp  
Quinta Ruby (Helen)  
Raymond Harriman (Marianne)  
Rita Jean Schmitz  
Rita Rose Martin  
Rodina Linden  
Rosaire Perkowitch  
Rose Eschweiler  
Rose Mary Engel  
Roy Patrice  
Rudolph Thomas (Marybeth)  
Ruth Marie Holzauer

Sigfried Hettinger  
Stephena Ruefer

Theodorine Korte (Mary Clare)  
Teresa Schulte  
Timothy Hettinger (Victoria)

Vivian Bucko  
Victura Weyer

Zoe Heintz

*St. Alphonsus School Opened September, 1950*





*Sunday Mass in the new church*



