

100
YEARS



M

ost Holy Father

Rev. Edward E. Stenkirchner,
Pastor,

humbly requests
your Apostolic Blessing
for the

People of the Holy Ghost Parish

on the occasion of the Centenary of the Parish
Pentecost Sunday, June 6, 1976

*Hum. Devotus, Benedictorem Hostelicum concedit
& x Aedibus Vaticanis die 2 Jun 1975*

Eugenius Svi, Proban. Apost.

100
YEARS

by
Kenneth C.
Fung

1976

As the pastor of Holy Ghost Church, I am proud to have the opportunity to dedicate this booklet and this entire observance of our centenary to Almighty God who has made it all possible, and to the countless men and women during these years who have made it all happen.

On this happy occasion, we look back and thank God for His countless gifts and graces, and for all these accomplishments which we recall. We also look to the future, and we do so with confidence in God and His people. We pray that the years ahead may reflect the love, the spirit, the dedications and the sacrifice that have brought us to this day!

"Let us come into His presence with Thanksgiving"
Ps. 94:2

Edward E. Steinkirchner



In order to get a better perspective of the history of Holy Ghost Church and parish, it is helpful to know something about the history of the Diocese of Rochester, New York.

In 1810 Western New York had a population of about 200,000 people; in 1820 about 500,000 people. Part of the increase in population was due to the immigration of people from Ireland, Germany, and France. A majority of these people were of Roman Catholic faith. By 1847 the Diocese of Buffalo, which at that time included the area of the present Diocese of Rochester, had an estimated 40,000 Catholics.

Although the Irish, German, and French immigrants had come to the United States prior to 1800, the tide of immigrants of each ethnic group came later. Between 1841 and 1871 over two million Irish immigrants, two-thirds of them Catholic and two million Germans, one quarter of them Catholic arrived in the United States. By 1855 the Irish were the largest segment of the foreign born in Rochester, with the Germans in second place with 6000 people, most of them Catholic.

The Irish were forced to leave their homeland because of long religious, cultural oppression, economic insecurity, and harsh British landlords. But the major force was the potato famine of the 1840's. The Irish fled to Britain or North America. Many of them were unskilled laborers who had suffered from starvation, malnutrition, and diseases such as typhus. Over twenty thousand died on the ships upon reaching Canada, and they were buried along the shores of the St. Lawrence River, sometimes in mass graves. Over one-third of the Irish who reached Buffalo were assigned to the poorhouse and soon died. Poor health continued to vex the impoverished Irish arrivals for some years to come.

The Germans left their homeland because of a potato shortage, cholera epidemics, and Protestant Prussian discrimination among other reasons. Although most immigrants were quite poor, the German newcomers usually came trained in a skill, trade, craft, or had had experience in mixed type farming and they were able to achieve, before long, a modest prosperity. The Irish were able to find employment on the Erie Canal and its auxiliary canals and later on, on the many expanding railroads. They tended to settle along these routes of transportation as well as in the cities.

It is not known for sure just where the first sacrifice of the Mass was offered in the Rochester area, but one of the most popular stories claims that it was in Colonel Rochester's home. We do know that the third Roman Catholic Church in the Western District was founded by Father Farnan and six Irish farmers of zealous faith from the "Paddy Hill" section of Greece. Plans were made, money collected, land purchased, etc. and by 1823 St. Patrick's Church of Rochester was completed. The parish grew so rapidly that a new church twice its size was built by 1831. At the same time in Greece, the Irish farmers were worshiping in their own new church called St. Ambrose. Theirs was the first country parish in New York State. When it was torn down and rebuilt it was called "Our Mother of Sorrows".

Rochester's first German Church originally was incorporated as St. Mary's Church, but was dedicated as St. Joseph's in 1836. It was this church that was to play a key role in the German apos-

tolate of the whole district. After ten years on Ely St., a new and larger church was built on Franklin St. It was just recently destroyed by fire. Prior to building the first St. Joseph's Church, the German Catholic families attended St. Patrick's Irish Church but they could never quite reconcile themselves to belonging to an English language parish. With the help of a Redemptorist priest, Father Joseph Post, St. Joseph's German Catholic Church became a reality. In those days Catholics for all their common beliefs were not monolithic but retained their national traits. Where numerous enough, they formed exclusive national groups. The Redemptorists made an effort gradually to inaugurate at St. Joseph's "all the old rites of the Church" practiced in Germany. Rites such as public religious processions in the streets were not possible. German priests at that time believed that the loss of the German tongue and Germanism were the preludes to the loss of the Catholic faith.



Reverend C. Rosenbauer, C. SS R.

German Catholics who followed their agricultural traditions fanned out from Rochester into the nearby townships acquiring farms in Irondequoit, Webster, Penfield, and Coldwater Station. These farmers built schools or churches as soon as possible even though they were aware of the fact that priests were too few in number to satisfy the immediate appointment of resident pastors. Instead, missionary rectors were usually named to central parishes and entrusted also with one or more missions (that is congregations with churches) or mission stations (that is congregations without churches). The German parishes were pioneers in parish education and were therefore among the founders of the present Rochester diocesan school system.

Many of the early immigrant German farmers who settled in the Coldwater area arrived prior to, during and after the Civil War. Some of their descendants think that their ancestors came from the Western German district of Rhenish Bavaria, although it is known that the German immigrants of that time also came from the Western German districts of Alsace, Baden, Württemberg, Luxembourg and Hesse. Prior to the end of the Civil War, the German Catholics of Coldwater chose to attend St. Joseph's Church in Rochester even though the Irish Catholic Church of St. Feehan's in Chili was close by. Also, the Paddy Hill Irish Church of St. Ambrose was closer than the eight to ten mile trip to downtown Rochester. To make the trip, some of the immigrants used horses and buggys if the roads were clear. Some, who didn't have horses, walked. There were some who owned horses but felt that the horses needed to rest on Sunday. They used the most direct route to Rochester by walking on the railroad bed which was high and dry, and cleared of snow in the winter. Being of German origin, they wanted to attend services that they could understand and enjoy the comradeship of fellow Germans.

By 1865 a small group of families made plans to construct a small frame school building to be located on Coldwater Road which was in the southwestern part of the town of Gates. An acre of land on the William and Euphemia Vogel farm was donated for the purpose. This piece of land comprises the parking lot south of the present church and most of the existing school building space. These immigrants were self-sacrificing, family centered, and very devout. They felt very strongly that their children should have a good religious as well as secular education. They therefore hired a

lay teacher part-time once the 30 x 45 structure was completed. The Redemptorist priests of St. Joseph's Church recognized the spiritual needs, the faith and the zeal of these pioneers. Father Rosenbauer C.S.S.R. was sent to administer to the spiritual wants of these people. He instructed the children in Christian Doctrine and prepared them for Holy Communion. He made visits once or twice a month. Otherwise it was the long trek to St. Joseph's. During this time 1865-1875, Coldwater was considered to be a mission station (no church); so plans were made to build a church as soon as possible.

By 1875 the dreams of the families, now thirty in number, came true. These are the names of some of the pioneer families of Holy Ghost parish: Leonhard Vogel, John Statt, John Derleth, Henry Trabold, Conrad Scheg, Max Scheg, John Wegman, John Kleinhenz, John Schenk, Florian Schmitt, Matthias Stein, John Fredrick, Xavier Knoepfler, George Schenk, Ignatius Wehner, Ambros Hohmann, Michael Hochbrueckner, Liebecks, Lockmiers, Habergers, Helfers, Witzels, Hess, Vogts, and Anthony Klem Families.

The school was moved directly to the rear of its original site and the ground was broken on the former school location for the first Holy Ghost Church. The brick used for the construction of this Church was obtained from a brick manufacturing firm on Monroe Avenue in Rochester. Some of the farmers who had teams of horses and wagons would leave early in the morning and arrive back at noon with a load of bricks. Many of the school boys would help them unload the bricks during their noon hour. The architect, builder, and cost of the building is unknown. It was a brick edifice approximately 30' x 60' with a tower and entrance in the center of the church. The frame school building was attached to the rear of the church, and it was used in one form or another until 1937. The new parish was not actually incorporated until July 3, 1876. At that point in history, the Redemptorist Fathers were relieved of their mission.

The church itself had only one aisle which ran down the center with the pews extended on both sides to the walls. About six people could sit in a pew. It is thought that there were between twelve to fifteen rows of pews giving the church a seating capacity of between 150 and 180 people. There was a small choir loft in the back with one stair reaching up to it. The altar was white with a small sacristy to the rear of it. The church was heated by a steam boiler which was located in a small cellar. Steam pipes were attached to the inside of the outer walls on either side of the church. Later, when part of the church was used as a school, the children would hang their wet garments on the pipes to dry in the winter and



First Church

spring. Kerosene lamps were bracketed to the church walls. There were plain stained glass windows without pictures or images. Outside, in front of the church, to the left side, a set of stairs (four stairs high) were constructed. This was used by the ladies and children to alight safely from the high horse-drawn buggies.

In the latter part of 1875, the cornerstone of the church was laid and blessed by the first Bishop of Rochester - Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid. The Bishop was assisted by Father Rosenbauer and seven priests from Rochester. Many of the men from the parish had ridden on horseback to the Erie Canal to meet the Bishop on his way to the church dedication. This act of respect evidently made a strong impression on him because, on subsequent visits to the parish to administer the sacrament of Confirmation, he would make references to the first cordial reception given to him. On those occasions, he commented to the parishioners on their loyalty and support of the parish school.

It should be noted that Holy Ghost Church is located in the hamlet of Coldwater. The name Coldwater was derived from the station on the Buffalo branch of the New York Central Railroad. This station was originally a part of the Tonawanda Railroad which extended from Rochester to South Byron in Genesee County in 1834. Coldwater was the first stop for the trains going west towards Buffalo. A water pump house was the first building erected at Coldwater. It had one tank at first, and another was added later. In 1916, when one tank was still in existence, it was hit by lightning and burned down to the water level. The station derived its name because railworkers so identified this area with the very cold water from the pump house. A more than ample supply of water, which lacked minerals, was available from the shallow well for the early steam-powered, wood-burning locomotives. The local farmers cut and supplied wood for trains prior to 1865. Water and wood were taken on at the same time. Shortly afterwards, the locomotives started to burn coal. At about the same time as our church was built, a depot was erected near the pump house on Cherry Road (near the site of the Coldwater Lumber Co.) The depot was the economic hub of activity for the tiny hamlet. Mr. Edwin Avery was the first station master. The depot had living quarters upstairs, in those days, for the family of the station master. Later on, the depot served as an official post office, which included the use of Coldwater as a mailing address for a wide area including Gates, Chili and part of western Rochester until 1962. The railroad was of great importance to the farmers of the area, for it not only supplied transportation and supplies, but employment as well. At the height of its activity, there were two mail routes out of Coldwater per day, and twelve trains stopping per day; six east and six west. It is thought that the depot, now located on Coldwater Road, was moved to its present location by being pulled by a locomotive on a flat car.

In 1876 Father August Kraus, a secular priest, was appointed the first Resident Pastor of Holy Ghost Church. Among the first lay trustees appointed were John Statt, Henry Trabold, Max, and Conrad Scheg. About this time, a small house was built about six feet south of the brick church. It is not certain whether this house was built to be used as a rectory or as a lay teacher's home, but it was occupied for a short time by Father Kraus who was in very poor health at the time he was assigned to Holy Ghost Parish. After a pastorate of less than a year, he was transferred to Ro-

chester where he died a short time later. Holy Ghost Parish reverted to the status of being a chapel mission or an out mission of St. John's Church, Greece, N.Y. which at that time was a German Church. From 1876 to 1908, Holy Ghost was under the leadership of a succession of non-resident pastors. They are as follows:

Father Frederick R. Rauber 1877-1879

Father Henry Egler 1879-1880

Father Matthias Hargather 1880-1888

Father M. D. Mussmacher 1880-1890

Father Herbert J. Stratton 1890-1894

Father Jacob F. Staub 1894-1901

Father John M. Boppel 1901-1908



Medina Stone Church-1906

Unfortunately church records of baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc., previous to the pastorate of Father Hargather seem to have been lost. During Father Hargather's pastorate, three acres of land on the west side of Coldwater Rd. were procured from John Snow to be used as a cemetery. Some graves of early parishioners were then moved to the new cemetery from other locations. Evergreen trees were planted and the land was beautified. Father Stratton built an addition to the rectory which was later used for

school purposes. Father Staub had a well drilled in the area where the school parking lot is now located. A large outdoor, wooden, water tank and windmill were constructed for the purpose of conveying water to the cemetery for sprinkling purposes. During Father Staub's tenure, lengthy discussions were held about the need for a larger church. One of the items much discussed was what building material should be used for the exterior of the church. Father Staub and some of the parishioners felt that Medina stone would make the most beautiful and substantial church. Others pointed out that a brick church would cost half that much and serve just as well, particularly since most of the farmers had modest incomes at best. Fortunately for us, Father Staub's viewpoint prevailed, because the early parishioners were willing to accept the sacrifices needed.



Picnic Ticket

The Medina stone was transported by way of the Erie Canal to Greece. The local farmers then transported the large slabs of stone by horse and wagon to the lot directly across Coldwater Road from the old church. Six Italian stone cutters, imported for the job, aided by a few local stone cutters, had to cut each stone with hammer and chisel. The stone cutters would stand the large stone slabs on potato racks to cut them. In the winter they moved into the horse shed which was also across the road opposite the old church. The cutting of the stones took a few years. The stone chips were used in the south wall of the new church, as fill under the sidewalk, and as fill in the area now occupied by the new school.

In 1905 the plans and specifications prepared by the architects, Gorden and Madden, were sent out for bids. The low bidder was George B. Styker of Auburn, N.Y. He would supply labor and materials for the sum of \$14,125. According to the specifications, Holy Ghost would supply all the Medina stone and sand used in the building and be responsible for the grading. Holy Ghost would also supply and pay the wages of the stone cutters. In 1906 a special collection was taken up to pay them. It amounted to \$618. When the ground was ready to be broken Father Boppel asked Henry Trabold Sr. to turn the first shovel full of earth. Teams of horses with scrapers scooped up the dirt to level the earth and dig out the basement of the church. This work was to be started in October by the farmers after their fall work was completed. Getting the stones on the walls of the church was no easy task. A horse, block and tackle were needed to hoist each block up on the walls. The cornerstone was laid and blessed by Bishop McQuaid in May 1906. Father Boppel, who had had some experience in church architecture, watched the construction closely. He insisted on sloping the floor from the rear of the church to the front. The stained glass windows depicting many saints cost \$100 each. They were difficult to maintain because pieces would fall out when the windows were opened and closed. Many parties, socials, etc., were held by both Father Staub and Father Boppel to raise money to pay for the church. By the time Father Erras arrived, the debt on the church was reduced to \$10,500. The old brick church was remodeled and converted into a two room schoolhouse in 1907 due to Father Boppel's perspective of the future needs of the parish.

It might be interesting to turn back the pages of history and look at church finances in the early part of the century. In 1902 the total receipts were \$3,894 and the total expenses were \$3,562. In 1903 some yearly revenues were listed as: pew rent \$765, school collections \$332, horse shed rent \$185, Sunday collections \$125.02, new church donation \$555.79, annual picnic and entertainment \$362.25. Some yearly expenditures were: pastor's salary \$450, combined salaries of two teachers \$658, ordinary expenses \$346.62, sexton \$112, choir \$74.95. In 1904 the same expenditures and incomes were noted in the trustee's report except that the picnic cleared \$476. The picnic netted \$683 in 1905. In those early years

pew rent, the picnic, and socials brought in a sizable portion of the income along with subscriptions from time to time. New church expenditures in the years 1905-1906 were \$11,948. In 1908 Father Erras received \$1,259 from pew rent, \$240 from horse shed rent, \$301 for the Sunday collection, \$267 school collection, \$1,515 from subscription and \$1,293 from the picnic and socials. In 1909 the picnic receipts went up to \$1503. A collection of \$45 was taken up in 1906 for the San Francisco Earthquake Relief Fund. This represented a considerable sacrifice for these people. Former parishioners can still remember Father Erras saying once a month, "Don't forget to pay your pew rent, shed rent, and school money". Pew rent was \$6 and shed rent \$5. In 1920 the weekly envelope system replaced the monthly envelope system.

Parishioners preferred to have pews "up front" in both the era of the old and new church when they were paying pew rent. The one Mass said in the first church alternated from 9 o'clock one Sunday to 11 o'clock the next. The priest came from St. John's Church, Greece and also said Mass in that parish. There were two Masses said in the new church in 1909 and this was continued until 1943.

Later on in Father Jacob Staub's career, he became a trouble shooter in welfare matters in Rochester. He ran the relief department as vice president of the Catholic Charity Guild. In 1914, he helped to save the East Side Savings Bank at Clinton and East Main St. by talking its creditors out of making a run on the bank. As pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, he established Concordia Hall (a model recreational center). He figured in the most progressive welfare movements in Rochester. Father Boppel later became pastor of St. Boniface German Catholic Church attaining the rank of Monsignor in 1931. In 1932, he became the Diocesan Chancellor for Bishop Francis O'Hern. He retired from his Chancellorship in 1936.

The first frame school house had long table's with shelves underneath to hold books. Long benches were used for seats. In 1875 there were about thirty families; by 1905 there were eighty families. From 1875 to 1905 the frame school building and part of the rectory

were used for school space. After the old brick church was converted to a two room school house, the old frame school was used for a lunch room, parish activities and a dining room for the parish festival chicken dinner which became very popular in the community.

Unfortunately, the only lay teacher's name that can be recalled now, prior to 1890, was Annie Zimmerman. In 1890 Father Stratton hired Mr. Engelbert Entress to be a teacher and sexton at Holy Ghost. Enrollment was about 50 at that time. In 1899, a Greece resident, Miss Julia Foos was hired. Both teachers taught until 1918. Mr. Entress had grades one-four; Miss Foos had grades four-eight. It should be pointed out here that along with Religion and the three R's being taught in English, reading and interpretation in German, writing and spelling in German were also taught up to the beginning of World War I. Prayers, sermons and hymns were also in German. However by 1905 it was not a requirement that a child had to take German. That decision was left up to the parents. But English was used more and more as the second generations came along, and then the German language faded very rapidly from the scene.



Reverend Boppel, Teachers and School Children-1889

The famous chicken dinners of the early days were served in the old school and later in the old church. The chicken would be cooked in different homes and brought to the school or church to be eaten cold. The ladies would start cooking as early as seven in the morning for the evening dinner. One lady specialized in bringing hot gravy. All foods were donated. The chicken dinners were discontinued from about 1910-1912 to about 1925. When they were revived, there were cooking facilities in the school; later in the hall. As in the past, not only chickens were donated, but home made bread, salads, ice cream, etc. Each year more and more people attended the dinners from surrounding areas as well as our own. Through the years a particular problem did arise. Occasionally, a donated chicken was very tough! Therefore, in later years, commercially produced chickens were purchased. The ladies were well organized for this affair. Each one specialized in one function and she did the same job year after year.



Reverend Peter Erras (1909-1936)

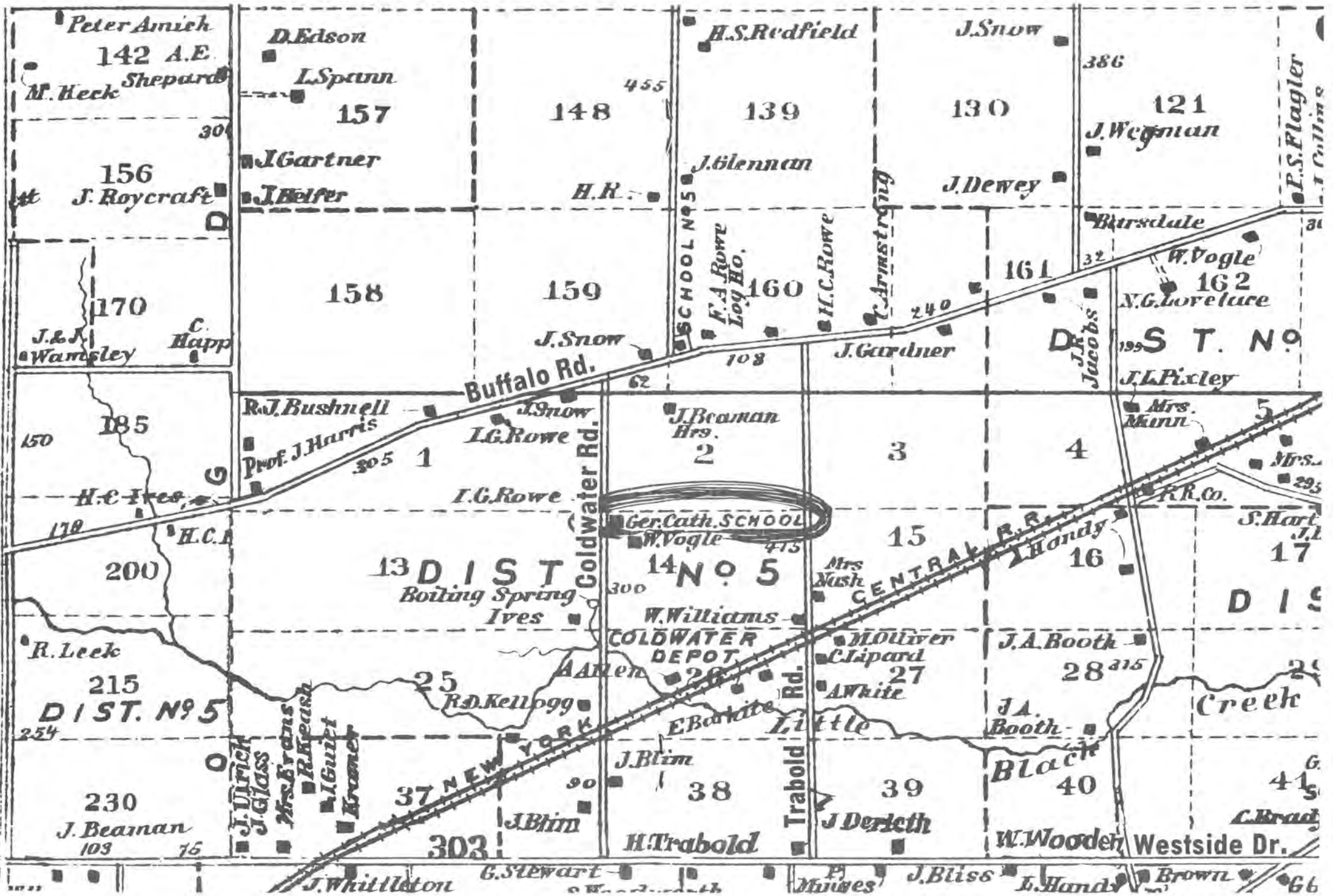
In July 1909, Father Erras was appointed as the second resident pastor of Holy Ghost Parish. He had a new church, and an old church converted into a school. Three weeks after his arrival he had the old rectory remodeled at a cost of \$1,500. Father Erras served this parish for the longest period of time of any pastor to date - 28 years from 1908 to 1936. In 1916, the entire church indebtedness of \$10,500 on the church and \$1,500 on the rectory was paid off. The money raised by subscription was taken up by the lay trustees: Joseph A. Scheg and Alphonse J. Derleth. As of 1926, the parish still had no more than a total of eighty families. Father Erras organized two parish societies; Holy Name for men, Young Ladies Sodality of the Blessed Virgin for single women and girls. The Sacred Heart Society which had been established by Father Stratton (1890-1894) for both married and single women was changed to a Society for married women, by Father Erras. The original school was refurbished in 1930 by Father Erras.

The first graduates from the school were Beatrice (Klem) Lorraine and Agnes (Schirm) Keldorf in 1909. During succeeding years there were as many as thirty-five in some graduating classes.

A new building program was started in 1917 on land purchased from the Brown estate. A new rectory was built north of the present church and occupied by Father Erras during the same year. The total cost of the rectory was \$8,000. Included in this sum was a private electric lighting system, water pressure system, and sewage system. This entire indebtedness was liquidated in 1925 through such means as socials, showers, and collections. In the spring of 1918, the old rectory was remodeled to make it suitable for a convent. One room was converted into a chapel. In order to keep down expenses, Father Erras, himself, rebuilt the altar, which had been taken out of the old church, and set it up in the chapel. Father Laurenzis of Holy Family Church took up a collection of \$340 for the benefit of our convent.

In 1918, the school run by lay teachers closed. Mr. Engelbert Entress and Miss Julia Foos who had been teaching with marked success for many years went on to other endeavors. Miss Foos later joined the order of the Sisters of Mercy as Sister M. Walburga and she continued her life long work of teaching children in various Catholic schools in the Rochester Diocese. Early parishioners fondly remember Miss Foos who often rode a horse or bicycle to school during good weather. She boarded with local families during inclement weather. As late as 1950 Sr. Walburga was superior of St. Charles Borromeo Convent in Greece.

In August, 1918 four School Sisters of Notre Dame assumed the teaching duties at Holy Ghost School. Sister Bartholomew, supe-



Coldwater Station-1872

rior, and Sister Sebastian taught the eight grades. Sister Aletia taught music and singing and Sister Mary Margaret did the house work and kitchen duties in the convent. The sisters' salaries in 1918 were \$350; by 1959 the salaries had risen to \$400 a year.

Prior to the advent of the motor car people traveled to church by horse and buggy. Then, as today, there was a parking need. Four rows of horsesheds were built over a period of time. One was located to the south, one to the north, one to the east, and one across Coldwater Rd. to the west. Later a social hall was built over the south portion of the eastern shed. In 1905-06 alone, \$1,233 was spent in building and repairing these horsesheds. This was a lot of money for the people to spend in those days.

Square dances, card parties, and other social activities were held in the social hall until 1916. There were long benches next to the wall. The walls were decorated by the ladies with buntings (light weight loosely woven fabric) of different colors depending on what festive occasion they were celebrating. Stringed instruments provided the music. There was an unwritten law that no person under 18 could dance there. Miss Foos found it necessary more than once to reprimand young ladies for trying to break this rule. Some of the young men and women found their future husbands and wives while attending these social affairs.

Most entertainment in the early days was at home. Dancing, cards, and games were inside recreation. Ice skating was enjoyed on the many frozen ponds in the area during the winter. Men would often play cards at the stores while the women did embroidering at home.

Christmas was the most important religious holiday in German American homes. A few weeks prior to Christmas "Bellsnickel" would visit the young children in their homes. "Bellsnickel" could be an older relative or neighbor who was dressed in dark clothes and masked. He would often carry a heavy stick used to pound the floor when he asked in a loud voice whether the young children had been good that year. The children were also tested in their ability to say prayers or sing hymns in German. Naturally, some children were frightened on these occasions. In those early days, Santa didn't exist for them. Instead "Kriskin", the Christ Child, trimmed the tree on Christmas Eve. Many families had some sort of signal, such as ringing a bell after the tree was trimmed, to get the children up to open their gifts. Afterwards, the family would go to Midnight Mass in a cutter or horse drawn bobsled.

The original church eventually acquired a pump organ. This pump organ was transferred to our present church and later replaced by a new pipe organ which cost \$1,750 in 1932. The church

had just been redecorated for the first time in 1931 by Aloys Schneider of Rochester for \$2000. Some of the ladies who were in charge of the choir and were organists too were: Mrs. Emma Wegman Scheg, Eleanor Scheg Knoepfler, Alma Statt Redick, and Rose Heeg. Father Stratton (1890-1894) composed some of the music and hymns that were sung in German. Mrs. Alma Redick began a span of forty-two years as choir director and organist when she was fourteen years old.

1926 was a big date for the parish. Father Erras celebrated his silver jubilee in the priesthood and the parish celebrated its golden jubilee. Father Erras died quite suddenly Nov. 27, 1936. Rev. E.M. Lyons was administrator from that time until January 1937, when Rev. E. Heindl took over the post. On June 25th Father Joseph C. Wurzer, a former vice-principal of Aquinas Institute, was appointed pastor.



Reverend Joseph Wurzer (1937-1943)

Father Wurzer immediately had the old landmark one room school, which had been attached to the rear of the converted church-school torn down. It was replaced by a modern classroom, cloakroom, bookroom, a corridor and boasted the fact that there were two inside toilets for the first time. At the same time the entire school was redecorated. Cost of this improvement was \$3,000.

That fall all the sheds on the east side, which contained the old social hall, were torn down and a new hall erected at the cost of \$5,000. It was built under Joseph Entress's direction with much help donated by the parishioners in the form of labor. Money in the treasury paid for the building. It was formally opened in February 1938.

On Wednesday, October 26, 1938 Holy Ghost Parish suffered its greatest catastrophe when the school building (formerly the old church) literally burned to the ground. Mrs. Smalle, who lived across the road, saw smoke in the belltower and the attic of the school about 2:15 P.M. and as Mr. Gustav Smalle ran to the school to notify the Sisters, flames broke out in the upper windows. Sister Monica sounded the fire gong and the Sisters led 82 pupils to safety. Two fire engines from Gates, one from Barnard, two from Chili answered the alarm. The Harris Seed Co. sent its equipment and its entire work force to aid in the work. Many articles were saved. The brick walls helped contain the heat and fire so that the convent just six feet to the south was only scorched. Sparks ignited the rear of the Holy Ghost Church and the convent also but the flames were quickly quelled. Hoses were laid to the little Black Creek by the Gates-Chili Fire Dept. which did an excellent job of keeping the new church and convent from burning.



Church Redecoration-1945

The fire loss was placed between \$15,000 and \$20,000. An \$8,000 insurance adjustment became the nucleus of a building fund for the new school. Temporary school rooms were arranged in the new hall while the new school was being built. The corner stone laying took place on January 1, 1939 and the building was consecrated by Bishop J. E. Kearney on April 21, 1939. The cinder block building contained four classrooms and was heated by oil.

By 1940 there were 500 people in the parish. Repairs were made in the church and the cemetery improved. Father Joseph Wurzer who died very suddenly on July 28, 1943 was buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. His parents erected a memorial shrine in his honor on the Holy Ghost cemetery grounds. They also liquidated the remaining debt on the new school. Monsignor Lyons again administered the parish until the appointment of Father Geiger on August 16, 1943.

Prior to coming to Holy Ghost Father Geiger was an assistant pastor for 16 years at Holy Redeemer parish. He and Mr. Joseph Stoechlein established the Aljo Club, a recreational organization open to young men of all faiths in 1922. In May 1932, at the height of the great depression, the club acquired an athletic field on Hudson Avenue. In a day when personal funds for entertainment were low, the Aljo facilities were as widely used as the YMCA and served as a valuable antidote to delinquency. He also pioneered the idea of a "dry night club". Prior to coming to Holy Ghost he had served as administrator to St. John the Evangelist's Church in Greece and as pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church, King's Ferry and All Saint's Church, Ludlowville.

During the pastorate of Father Geiger considerable expansion of the church property took place. Additional land for parking was purchased; school facilities were expanded; playground equipment and the entire parish property was landscaped. The church was renovated and redecorated by one of the nation's leading ecclesiastical artists, Professor Gonippi Raggi of New Jersey for \$3,800. A professor of fine arts, Raggi taught for many years at St. Luke's Royal Arts Academy in Rome, Italy. He was named a papal chamberlain of Pope Pius XI and XII. Many parishioners will well remember the beautiful interior of the church when it was finished in 1945.

On June 8th, 1947 Father Geiger observed his Silver Jubilee Celebration at Holy Ghost Church at 11 A.M. The Very Rev. Edward M. Lyons delivered the sermon and St. Andrew Seminary Choir sang the mass. On Wednesday, June 11th at 7 P.M. a banquet

and reception was held by the parishioners for Father Geiger at the Doud Post Home on Buffalo Road.

Some of the property purchased during Father Geiger's pastorate was located west of Coldwater Rd., north of the cemetery for parking and playground facilities; some was 25 ft. north of the rectory to provide space for a driveway; some 50 feet east of the hall to provide more space for an addition to the school; and some property was purchased from Chris Flaig in 1957 to the east of the convent and school and this extends to Trabold Road.

A grotto was erected by Mr. Joseph L. Entress in 1958, in memory of his daughter, Marita Bernadette, who died December 28, 1957 during the centenary observance of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes, France. The grotto, a gift to the parish by Mr. and Mrs. Entress, is located on the south side of the church.

The marble statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Bernadette were carved in Italy for the grotto. It also contains a fountain similar to the miraculous spring at Lourdes.

On August 22, 1958, two thousand people attended Mass and witnessed the blessing of the grotto by Bishop Kearney on the lawn of Holy Ghost Church. Water from the Lourdes shrine and prayer cards were given to those attending.

In 1954 a new addition was added to the school. Our present 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are located there now. It joins the old school to the hall. This one story, cement block addition also includes an office, storage space, rest rooms, and a heating plant for both the parish hall and the school. At that time there were about 230 families in the parish and 175 pupils enrolled in the school. The school fund appeal for \$50,000 was a success. In 1958 more room was added to the hall to provide for more adequate kitchen facilities.

The old convent was in poor condition; so a voluntary subscription of \$90,000 was raised to construct a new modern convent in 1957. The convent was completed in 1958 and has ten bedrooms, a chapel, a community room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, two visitor parlors, a priest's sacristy, and a porch. At the same time a large area was blacktopped for school busses and parking. In 1965-66 the rectory was enlarged and remodeled.

In July of 1955 Father Richard Stanton was appointed our first assistant pastor and he served until 1959. A native of Rochester, New York, Father Stanton was a graduate of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained in June 1939. He served as assistant pastor of St. Anthony's Church prior to coming to Holy Ghost Parish. He is presently pastor of Our Lady of the Lake



Reverend Albert J. Geiger (1943-1968)

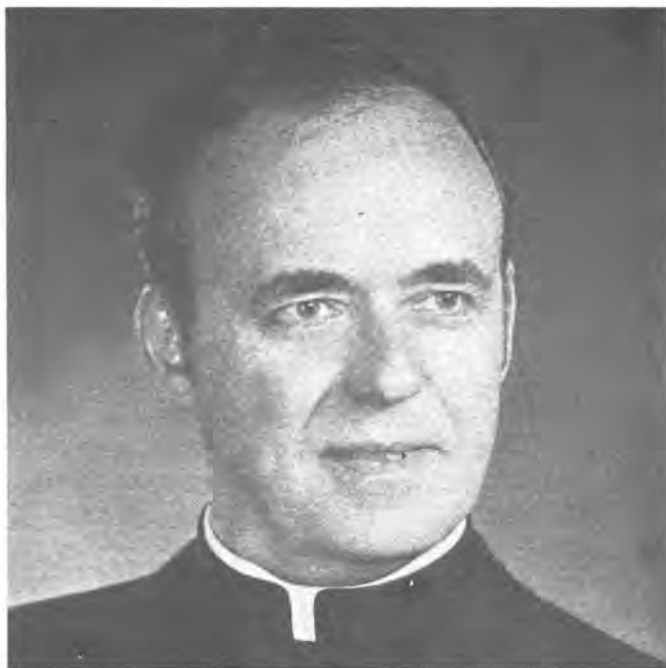
Church, King's Ferry and All Saints Church, Ludlowville, N.Y.

Father Thomas Erdle replaced Father Stanton in 1959. Father Dillon joined Father Erdle as assistant pastor. Both served Holy Ghost until 1966, when they were replaced by Father Bernard Dollen who was appointed associate pastor.

Father Thomas Erdle is a Rochesterian who graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained in 1955. He was appointed assistant pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, Rochester in 1955. At St. Bernard's Seminary he had been trained in the sign language for the deaf by Father John B. Gallagher, C.S.S.R. Father Erdle, who had given guidance to the seminarians who worked at the Rochester School for the Deaf, was entrusted with the whole diocesan apostolate of the deaf by Bishop Kearney. Today, he is Chaplain to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology and Chaplain to the Rochester School for the Deaf.

In June of 1968 Father Geiger retired. He continued to assist in the parish as his health permitted. On January 29, 1971 he passed away and was buried in Holy Ghost Cemetery. He had served this parish for 27 1/2 years.

Father Edward Steinkirchner was appointed pastor in June of 1968. Father, a native of Rochester, was ordained in 1949 after having graduated from Aquinas Institute, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. Father served as an assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Church, Webster and at St. Boniface, St. Michael's, and Holy Apostles Churches in Rochester. For many years he was diocesan director of Sodalitys. Father Steinkirchner, because of his involvement in the Teaching Church Program at St. Bernard's, has, with other Pastoral Education Supervisors, helped to organize "Grapes" (Greater Rochester Area Pastoral Education Supervisors). He has been chairman of that group.



Reverend Edward E. Steinkirchner (1968-

With the opening of two new parishes in the immediate area, St. Jude's and St. Christopher's in 1968, the number of families in Holy Ghost Parish was greatly reduced. However, that loss has been more than regained. The 1974 attendance survey showed that 1,140 families claimed to be members of Holy Ghost Parish. Church services are attended by more than 2,000 people weekly, and hardly a week goes by without a new family joining the parish. Over 4,000 house calls were made in the 1974 census.

One of Father Steinkirchner's first innovations was the introduction of the parish council concept to Holy Ghost. Discussions were begun, a constitution written and accepted, a parish election held, and by December 1968 a parish council was in full operation. In 1969 a long range plan of parish improvements was suggested along with ideas as to how the finance committee and other committees could function efficiently. In 1970 plans had to be made, because of increasing parish expenses and inflation, to have an increased income campaign. Just as important was the fact that it was vitally necessary that the parish prepare for the renovation and enlarging of the church. The growing parish had outgrown the size of the church.

Plans for a new addition to the Church as well as the renovation and beautification were finalized. It was decided to start a "Renovation and Building Appeal". The pastor and parish council hired Foley Associates to put on a campaign to raise \$200,000. Through the efforts of many parishioners \$204,000 was pledged. Phillips and Winkler were engaged as architects in the spring of 1972 and the project was put up to bids. Contracts were awarded to the lowest bidders and construction began in June 1972. The project was completed in April 1973. Rambusch of New York designed and executed the furnishings and interior decor of the church as well as the new windows and lighting. Mr. Carl Zollo (a parishioner of Holy Ghost) redesigned and mounted the old Stations of the Cross in one of the new chapels built. Two chapels were built, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Station Chapel. They added 200 seats to those in the main church, for total capacity of 550. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel may be divided off from the main church and serves as a chapel for daily Mass. One of the confessionals is a reconciliation room. The lower area of the new building has two large meeting rooms, a small kitchen, and lavatory facilities. The entire church and meeting rooms are air conditioned. Total cost of the building and renovation was \$386,641.

Parishioners have been given the opportunity to become much more involved in parish administration, church liturgy, with many more committees and organizations than in the past. For example, there are the lay readers and leaders at liturgy, Teaching Church Program, the Parish Life Committee, the Sacred Heart Society, the Ushers, the Choir, the Folk Groups, Men's Club, Christian Family Movement, Home-School Association, the Youth Club, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Men's Bowling League, Bingo, School Board.

During this period, Father Dollen, who had been assistant pastor since 1966 and who had worked with both Father Geiger and Father Steinkirchner was named pastor of St. Andrew's in



Medina Stone Church-1907

Rochester in March 1972. While he was at Holy Ghost, he had charge of preCana conferences in the Gates area. He also had been a volunteer fireman and police chaplain in Gates and he was formerly a diocesan director of the Christian Family Movement, and for 10 years a Chaplain to the Boy Scouts. Father Dollen was ordained in 1953 and served as assistant pastor at Holy Rosary Church, St. Francis Church, and St. Salome's Church, Rochester.

The Deacon Intern Program began in the Diocese in 1970, and Holy Ghost was assigned a deacon in June of 1971. The SALT Program (Supervisor and Leadership Training) began in 1972 and is part of the Diocesan Intern Program. Father Steinkirchner has headed and directed the Intern Program for the Diocese of Rochester since September 1971. After completing the seminary, a deacon is assigned to a parish and pastor supervisor for one year. During this time he is ordained to the priesthood. After ordination, he remains in the program working in a parish with a supervisor for three more years. Father Steinkirchner coordinates the pro-

gram for the deacons, Priests, and their supervisors. SALT uses business management methods such as contracts, confrontation, third party consultants and ventilation to better the relationship of the intern priests, deacons and their supervisors.

Deacons who have served Holy Ghost and were ordained at Holy Ghost are: Father David Fedor of St. Mary Our Mother in Horsehead, New York, ordained April 15, 1972; Father Donald Schwab at St. Ambrose Church, Rochester, New York, ordained April 12, 1973; Father James Hewes at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua, New York, ordained March 27, 1974; and Father Charles Manning in St. Mary's Church, Waterloo, New York, ordained April 12, 1975. Father Peter C. Clifford is presently assigned to Holy Ghost, ordained March 25, 1976.

Father Thomas Nellis graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. He was ordained on June 4, 1966. He was appointed associate pastor at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, N.Y. in 1966, and associate pastor of Holy Ghost in 1972. Since coming to Holy Ghost Father has been pursuing a master's degree program in liturgy for the past three summers at the University of Notre Dame. This program will be completed in the summer of 1976.

In 1972-73 Sister Loreto Reynolds, S.S.N.D. was hired as Religious Education Coordinator. Her work is to direct the teaching of religion on all levels - Pre-School, Holy Ghost School, CCD, grades 1-12, Adult Education. This year there are more than 800 children under instruction in the various programs, and there are many men and women and young people working as volunteer teachers and helpers. A variety of programs for Adults has been offered. Sister is one of the Staff members serving on the Parish Council.

Sister Mary Patrick, S.S.J. came to Holy Ghost as its first pastoral assistant in July, 1974. Before coming to Holy Ghost she taught for many years in the Diocesan School system. Her role here is, in effect, that of liaison between parish staff and the parish family. Her special concerns are the welcoming and integrating of newcomers into the parish community through the work of the Parish Life Committee, and the forming of small service groups to meet the expressed needs of sick, shut-ins and lonely. Besides assisting in the sacramental programs, organizing and supervising 3-D groups, she is a member of ONE Council, Chili Mental Health Committee and Holy Ghost Parish Council.

In September, 1975, Sister Ann Habershaw S.S.N.D. returned to Holy Ghost School as Principal, a position she had held earlier from 1970-73. Sister directs a faculty of 18 and the activities of a student body of more than 340 children, kindergarten through

grade 8. She also teaches in the religious education program and as a Staff member serves on the Parish Council.

Bishop Hogan has designated these three Sisters as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, and they assist at Sunday Masses in the distribution of Communion, as well as serving as readers.

In 1973 a kindergarten was started in the convent basement. The rededication of the church took place on October 14, 1973. Bishop Hogan presided. A dinner was held at the Three Acre Party House that evening. Father Bernard Dollen served as toast-master and Bishop Hickey was the main speaker.

Father Steinkirchner marked his Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the priesthood at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Pentecost Sunday, June 2nd, 1974. Most Rev. Joseph L. Hogan, Bishop of Rochester concelebrated and preached. The choir and folk group of the parish and the brass ensemble from Gates Chili High School prepared a special musical program for the Mass. For the Jubilee celebration, a dinner was held at the Mapledale Party House. About 750 people attended.

Early in 1975, Holy Ghost Parish Council set up a Centenary Committee and invited Donald and Helen Dudley to serve as chairpersons. Since that time the committee has met countless times to plan the Centenary observance.

Weekend, May 29/30

Walk thru, Holy Ghost School, Centenary projects (after masses, before Concert)

Sunday, May 30, 7:30 P.M.

Concert in church featuring music of the period (1876-1976), followed by refreshments in the hall.

Monday, May 31, 10:00 A.M.

Mass for deceased, Pastors, Sisters, Teachers and Parishioners. Blessing of Graves. Coffee and donuts in the hall.

Thursday, June 3, 10:45 A.M.

Mass for School children, Holy Ghost and C.C.D., followed by picnic lunch on the grounds.

8:00 P.M. Dramatic Presentation, Gates-Chili High School Auditorium.

- Saturday, June 5, 9:00- Midnight** Dance for Teenagers in the hall.
- Sunday, June 6, 11:30 A.M.** Centenary Mass with Bishop McCafferty.
- 5:30 P.M.** Happy Hour and Dinner Dance for Adults at Mapledale Party House.
- Friday and Saturday, July 16 & 17** Centenary Float on Display for Festival.
- Saturday, July 24** Float in Gates Bicentennial Parade
- Sunday, October 17** Twilight Service marking 100 Anniversary of Holy Ghost and Church of the Epiphany.

The people of Holy Ghost Parish are taking the Centenary as an opportunity to thank God for the gifts and graces of 100 years and as an opportunity to dedicate themselves anew to the work of God's people in this Gates-Chili-Ogden area, known as Coldwater!



Renovation & Addition-1973



Priests who have served Holy Ghost Parish

Pastors

Rev. August Kraus (1876)
Rev. Frederick Rauber (1877-1879)
Rev. Henry Egler (1879-1880)
Rev. Matthias Hargather (1880-1888)
Rev. M.D. Mussmacher (1880-1890)
Rev. Herbert J. Stratton (1890-1894)
Rev. Jacob Staub (1894-1901)
Rev. John M. Boppel (1901-1908)
Rev. Peter A. Erras (1909-1936)
Rev. Joseph C. Wurzer (1937-1943)
Rev. Albert J. Geiger (1943-1968)
Rev. Edward E. Steinkirchner (1968-

Administrators

Rev. Msgr. Edward Lyons (1936 & 1943)
Rev. Elmer Heindl (1937)

Associates

Rev. Richard Stanton (1955-1959)
Rev. Thomas Erdle (1959-1966)
Rev. Edward Dillon (1966)
Rev. Bernard Dollen (1966-1972)
Rev. Thomas Nellis (1972)

Deacons

David E. Fedor (1971-1972)
Donald F. Schwab (1972-1973)
James E. Hewes (1973-1974)
Charles T. Manning (1974-1975)
Peter C. Clifford (1975-1976)



School-1976

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Principals of Holy Ghost School

- Sister M. Bartholomew (1918-1924)**
- Sister M. Aloysia (1924-1925)**
- Sister M. Martinella (1925-1931)**
- Sister M. Evangelista (1931-1932)**
- Sister M. Martinella (1932-1938)**
- Sister M. Jean (1938-1939)**
- Sister M. Veronica (1939-1945)**
- Sister M. Sylveria (1945-1947)**
- Sister M. Justin (1947-1952)**
- Sister M. Basil (1953-1955)**
- Sister M. Hubertha (1955-1960)**
- Sister M. Aquiline Donnelly (1960-1964)**
- Sister Ester Mary Helfer (1964-1970)**
- Sister Ann Habershaw (1970-1973)**
- Sister M. Beatrice Neukirchen (1973-1975)**
- Sister Ann Habershaw (1975-**

Religious Education Coordinator

- Sister Loreto Reynolds S.S.N.D. (1972-**

Pastoral Assistant

- Sister Mary Patrick Fleeton S.S.J. (1974-**

VOCATIONS FROM HOLY GHOST

Sister M. Victoria Statt, S.S.N.D.
Sister M. Kortka Statt, S.S.N.D.
Sister M. Emerick Knoepfler, O.S.F.
Sister M. Edward Helfer, S.S.J.
Sister M. Anntonette Helfer, O.S.F.
Sister Bernard Marie Entress, O.S.F.
Sister M. Dorinda Stein, S.S.J.
Sister St. Bernard Witzel, S.S.J.
Sister M. Damien Geere, S.S.N.D.
Sister Ernestine Scheg, S.S.N.D.
Sister Alma Caroline Statt, S.S.N.D.
Sister M. Dominic Scheg, O.S.F.
Sister Carol Datz, S.S.N.D.
Sister Marie Clare Stoe, S.S.N.D.
Sister Joyce Wittman, S.S.N.D.
Sister Bernarde Entress, R.S.M.
Sister Clare Helen Goodman, M.S.B.T.
Mr. James Peters, St. Bernard's Seminary



Convent-1976

ENTENARY OBSERVANCE OF HOLY GHOST CHURCH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chair Persons: Donald and Helen Dudley

History: Kenneth and Jane Young

Artist: Carl Zollo

Printing: Roy Mutter

Dinner: Francis and Mary Gutberlet

Invitations: Raymond and Rose Ann Bennett

Dramatic Production:

Authors: Anna Donner and Carol Fortunato

Producers: Anne Gunn

Costumes & Choreography: John Smalle and
Alan Wren

Scenery: Rob Bourcy and Jim Stalker

Props: Barbara Stalker

Concert: Jack and Mary Risewick

Centenary Float: John Smalle, Joseph Entress, Robert and Marie
Bushman, Norbert and Teresa Davis, Roger and Pat
Waldmiller, Robert Entress, Robert Stich.

Photographs: Robert Entress and Joseph Bietry

Publicity: Joan Clarke


Liturgy & Music:

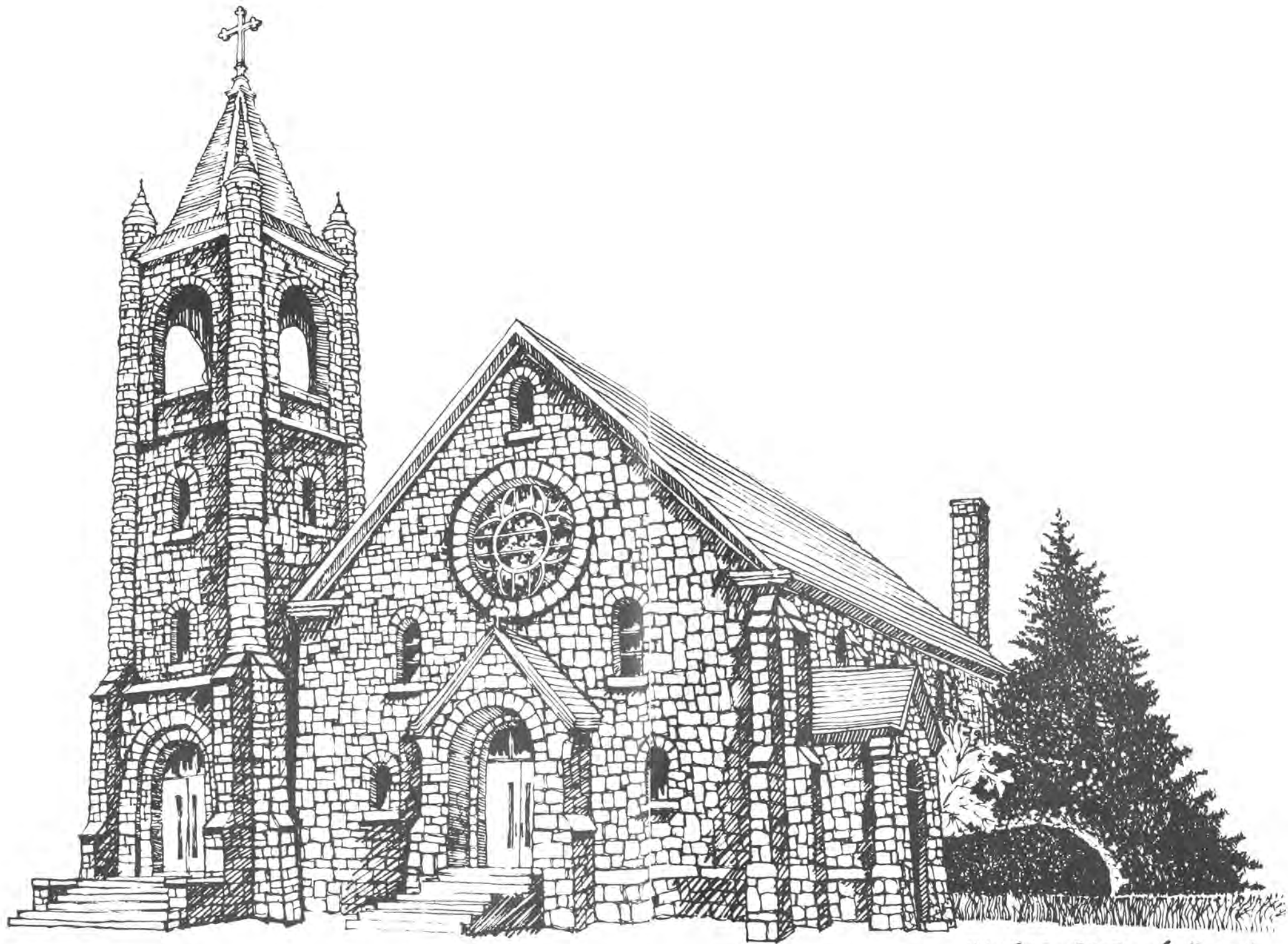
Father Steinkirchner, Father Nellis, Father Clifford, Mary
Donoghue, Marie Landers, Maxine Tierney, Kathy Strat-
man, Jack Risewick, Wilfred Townsend

School Children's Picnic: James and Susanne Habschied

Refreshments: Sacred Heart Society, Men's Club, Senior Citizens,
Home School Association

Gardens: Mr. Fred Statt

 SO MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE ASSISTED IN A VARIETY
OF WAYS



HOLY GHOST CHURCH 6/10/1976

JUNE
76