

ST. JOSEPH PARISH—THE FIRST 100 YEARS



Crescent Springs Train Station

Humble Beginnings as a Railroad Community Church

At the turn of the twentieth century, the small rural community of Crescent Springs, Kentucky began to prosper. The Cincinnati Southern Railroad, which ran from Cincinnati, Ohio to Chattanooga, Tennessee passed through the small town. Commercial and residential buildings sprang up on either side of the tracks. Recreational travelers took train excursions through the area from Cincinnati every Sunday for a ten cent fare. Real estate agents, such as Thomas K. Poage, also frequently showed up on Sundays to offer tranquil country lots in Crescent Springs for \$25. Such reasonable land offers quickly increased the population of Crescent Springs.

The railroad community of Crescent Springs felt the need for a Catholic Church as early as 1909. A group of 24 Catholic families, most of whom were parishioners of either St. Boniface in Ludlow or from a congregation which was meeting at the St. John's Orphanage in Fort Mitchell,



Seissiger Store

formed a committee to found a new parish in their own community. J. A. Seissiger, whose family owned a dry goods store near the railroad station, led the committee. He approached Bishop Camillus Maes, who told him that he would need to gather signatures from residents to establish sufficient interest in a church in Crescent Springs. Along with the signatures, the list had to include the

number of children in each family, and the financial amount each family was able to donate to support the creation of a new parish. On February 28, 1909, Mr. Seissiger convened an organizational meeting in the town. Thirty interested residents signed the document confirming interest in a church and committed to financial support. The people pledged about \$1,400, with individual amounts ranging from \$5-\$200. Bishop Maes and the Diocese soon gave approval for the creation of the new parish.

The committee of laymen interested in the new church chose a hilltop overlooking the growing city of Crescent Springs as the site for the new church. Under the name of Rev. Ferdinand Brossart, Bishop of Covington, the diocese purchased land lots numbered 12-21 from Thomas K. Poage, real estate agent.

When the community learned that land had been purchased by Catholics for a church, many non-Catholics in the area became visibly upset. They stopped patronizing Catholic establishments, hoping to drive them from the area. Mr. Seissiger's grocery store lost many of its customers as a result of the rising prejudicial temper. Soon the Ku Klux Klan joined the effort to drive the church from the area. They burned crosses on church property as both a protest and a warning against the projected church. One early parishioner remembers that a woman, living in a house across the road from the church property, swore that she would tear down the church brick by brick.

Nevertheless, the people of the community built the church with their own hands and named it St. Joseph. There is no written documentation on why the church was named St. Joseph. A descendant of Mr. Seissiger recalls that St. Joseph was chosen as the name in honor of all the

SIGNERS OF PETITION FOR A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CRESCENT SPRINGS, KY FEBRUARY 28, 1909

Mr. J.H. Ratterman
Mr. Ben Ratterman
Mr. Louis Boh
Mr. John Amon
Mr. Lorenz Boh
Mr. Harry Nelson
Mr. Carl Hudson
Mr. Anton Rudert
Mr. Henry Bramlage
Mr. J.A. Seissiger
Mr. Ed Michaels
Mr. Wm. Raffenberg
Mr. Geo. Ramler
Mr. August Nordman
Mr. Ant. Hagedorn
Mr. Y.S. Jonas
Mr. Casper Shafer
Mr. Frank Thornton
Mr. Adam Noll
Mrs. J.A. Seissiger
Mr. J.W. Scott
Mrs. H.A. Schlutker
Mr. Henry Shafer
Mrs. Frank Michaels



Old St. Joseph Church

workers (parishioners) who built the church building. St. Joseph is the patron saint of carpenters and was popular with the heavy concentration of German immigrants in the area. Parishioners donated most of the labor to build the structure. They dug the foundation with horse and scoop. They gathered rocks from nearby creek beds and hauled them to the church site on flatbed wagons. These rocks formed the foundation of the church building. The builders used rocks taken from old railroad piers for the upper part of the foundation. The original railroad trestle had accommodated only a single track, and when the railroad built a double trestle, the piers from the original were left standing. When the church was being built, Mr. Seissiger happened to notice the large columns. Thinking they would be perfect for the foundation, he asked for and received railroad company permission to remove them to the church (on the condition that the company not be held liable in case of injury). The parishioners climbed the piers, knocked down the huge stones, and broke them into usable fragments. Stone mason Elbert Powers took responsibility for laying the foundation.

On Sunday, May 28, 1916, Bishop Ferdinand Brossart laid the cornerstone. Fifty mounted men, whose horses flew ribbons of the church's new colors, met the Bishop at the end of the streetcar line (near Dixie Highway and Buttermilk Pike). There were also 100 members of the Knights of St. John, and a large number of members of the Catholic Order of Foresters. Crowds gathered from Covington, Erlanger and Ludlow to see the spectacle. After the ceremony, Bishop Brossart delivered a sermon in English, while Rev. Virgil Niesslein O.S.B. delivered a sermon in German, and the Mother of God Church of Covington choir, under the direction of Edward Strubel, performed a musical program.

Bishop Brossart appointed Rev. B. H. Busse, who had become Chaplain of Villa Madonna Academy in May 1916, to become the pastor of St. Joseph Church. By June 1916, the brick work on the church structure was finished and a tile roof crowned the structure. The bricks used in construction of the church were from the Busse Brickyard in Covington, Father Busse's family's business. The original lighting was a gasoline system. Pews were donated to the church by other parishes such as St. John's and St. Benedict's both in Covington, Kentucky. Holy Cross in Latonia donated some statues which the men of the parish repainted. On the left hand wall between the windows was a painting of Purgatory, picturing the souls reaching toward Heaven. The building also included two rooms in the rear that were used as a school. Restroom facilities were outdoors. The basement was employed for school play space, and also for parish gatherings and socials. The church capacity was approximately 250 persons and was completed for the approximate cost of \$7,000.



Rev. B.H. Busse – Pastor 1916-1929

Bishop Brossart dedicated the church on Sunday, September 3, 1916. The women of the parish served the many visitors a Kentucky chicken dinner at the dedication. On that day, the assembly generously offered \$800 in collections, which contributed to a healthy financial start.

PASTORS

- Rev. R. H. Busse
1916-1929
- Rev. John A. Bankemper
1929-1937
- Rev. Earl E. Bauer
1937-1940
- Rev. Gerald J. Connolly
1940-1947
- Rev. George L. Stier
1947-1970
- Rev. R. Leroy Smith
1970-1982
- Rev. David H. Roeding
1982-1991
- Rev. James E. Quill
1991-1994
- Rev. Raymond S. Hartman
1994-2001
- Rev. Edward J. Brodnick
2001 – 2010
- Rev. Phillip W. DeVous
2010 - present

DEACONS

- Rev. Mr. Ralph Collatrella
- Rev. Mr. Marvin Holstein
- Rev. Mr. Joseph Baker
- Rev. Mr. Hudson Henry

Parishioners anticipated that the new church would attract many Catholic families to the Crescent Springs area. Property was available at a low price. A church and a school were now here. Situated as it was near the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, St. Joseph Church became a landmark for travelers from the South to Cincinnati.

The Small Parish Thrives

Parishioners financed the new church through Sunday collections and various other fundraising events. Families in the parish were not rich; a Sunday collection of \$3.25 was considered quite a good collection. John Ammon, his brother, and his sister led many fundraising events. Mr. Ammon lived on a farm, as did many parishioners. He organized festivals where the raffles would frequently consist of fresh produce, a slaughtered calf or pig. Mr. Ammon also organized monthly euchre games. Admission to the gathering was 25 cents. Members of the congregation donated fresh produce; Mr. Ammon made up baskets. Euchre winners were awarded with the baskets of fresh produce. These euchre gatherings attracted many people from the city, hoping to win the produce baskets. The



St. Joseph Parishioners at Church Dedication – September 3, 1916



Sister M. Agnetis Green, First Principal of St. Joseph School

church also raised funds by auctioning off stalls in the shed near the church used for sheltering horses during services. The highest bidders received the first choice of stalls.

St. Joseph continued to grow, improving constantly from the time of its foundation. The school was a very important part of the parish community. The Benedictine Sisters took charge of the school in

September 1917. Sister M. Agnetis Green was the first principal and continued as teacher-

principal until 1932. Parishioner Robert Noll, Sr., on the occasion of his being honored with the first St. Joseph Service award which bears his name, reflected on his childhood memories from 1919.

“One of my earliest memories of being at St. Joe’s was when I was 5 years old. I was sitting on the steps leading down to the basement of the church, waiting for them to announce the winner of the drawing for the grand prize for the 1919 festival. The prize was a 25 pound bag of sugar.”

Mr. Noll remembered there was only one other first grade student in the school with him, and that the school rooms were behind the sacristy of the old church. Ironically, where the present school building is, he recalled there was, “a row of outhouses, eight holes for the men and I don’t know how many for the women.”



Early Class Picture – 1920’s



Small Children Outside St. Joseph Church

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
CROCKETT SPRINGS, KY.

VILLA MADONNA
LUDLOW, KY.

Villa Madonna Ludlow Ky Sept. 10/20
Rt. Rev. Ferdinand Rossart D.D.
Birmingham, Ky

Dear Bishop:-

Kindly grant permission to have
short cement sidewalks around our
church & school, the first the cost will be
about \$500.00. We are awaiting your
answer, & try to remain.

Respectfully Yours
Abraham Busse
Admin. St. Joseph's Church Crockett Springs

2/2/20
+ 9. 13

P.S.
Father Busse's name
Please give permit for Mass table,
& mail in Crockett Springs

Father Busse's Letter to Bishop Asking to Construct Sidewalks Around Church and School

In 1917, an unknown donor gave the parish a large oil painting of St. Joseph, which had been painted by a prominent Covington artist named Johann Schmitt. It was an honor for the parish to receive such a prized piece of artwork. Mr. Schmitt, born in Germany in 1825, had immigrated to America and become part of an art studio formed by Benedictine priests at St. Joseph's Church in Covington. He later joined the Society of Christian Art in Cincinnati, and executed many commissions from churches and chapels all over the country. His artwork was recognized for its unique coloring and purity of design. Mr. Schmitt even donated one of his paintings to Pope Leo XIII, and it hangs in the Vatican at present. Mr. Schmitt taught many local artists including Frank Duveneck, who is one of the area's most famous local painters.

Within three years of its founding, the parishioners of St. Joseph Church already were thinking of fun and fellowship. In 1919, the tradition of summer celebrations began. In 1919, this event was called a Summer Euchre. One of the highlights of the euchre tournament was fried chicken. The chickens were killed, dressed and fried in the church yard. Mrs. Lillian Voskuhl fried chicken on army camp stoves. Parishioners helped serve fresh vegetables from their farms. As noted earlier, the Grand Raffle prize was a twenty-five pound

bag of sugar. In later years, it would be a ton of coal!

The laity of the parish became officially involved in church affairs in December 1919. Father Busse appointed George Krumpelman, Bernard Noll, Sebastian Berberich, and Bernard Ratterman as trustees of the parish to serve for a term of three years. In June 1920, Father Busse saw the need for

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
CROCKETT SPRINGS, KY.
via Erlanger Ky

VILLA MADONNA
LUDLOW, KY.

Crockett Springs, via Erlanger, Ky April 28/24
Rt. Rev. Francis M. Howard D.D.
Birmingham, Ky

The Rev. & Dear Bishop:-

Please grant permission for a Euchre
& Lotto, Wednesday May 14, afternoon and
evening, for the benefit of our church.
I remain

Respectfully Yours in Christ
Abraham Busse
St. Joseph Church, Crockett Springs

1924 Letter from Father Busse to Bishop Asking to Hold a Euchre and Lotto

BISHOP'S HOUSE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
COVINGTON, KY.

Villa Madonna, Ludlow, Ky.

Rt. Rev. Ferdinand Rossart D.D.
Bishop of Covington

Dear Bishop:-

I respectfully submit plans, specification
and cost of new addition to our school at St
Joseph's Church Crockett Springs Ky, and trust
you will give permission to go ahead with building
of same.

Respectfully Yours,
Abraham Busse

Father Busse's Letter Requesting An Addition to St. Joseph School - 1920

additional classroom space for the schoolchildren of the growing congregation. He wrote for Bishop Brossart's permission to add to the existing two classrooms, but was unable to get approval. However, Father Busse continued to work for the betterment of church facilities. He asked Bishop Brossart for permission to put a concrete sidewalk around

the church and school for the convenience of the parishioners. The Bishop approved, and the sidewalk was installed at the cost of \$350 - \$400.

Grant

Crockett Springs, via Erlanger, Ky.
Nov. 9th 1925

Rt. Rev. & Dear Bishop:-

Kindly grant permission
for a Euchre on Thursday afternoon
and evening Nov. 19, for the
benefit of our Church & school.

Sincerely Yours in Christ
Abraham Busse

1925 Letter from Father Busse to Bishop Asking to Hold a Euchre

During the early years of the parish, Father Busse lived at St. Walburg Convent. He and Sister Agnetis, the school principal, walked to and from the convent each day. In inclement weather the Krumpelmans, who lived near the convent, took them to church in their horse and buggy. Father Busse saw the need for the pastor to have a residence close to the church, and asked Bishop Brossart's permission to build a parish house. Bishop Brossart approved the purchase of two more lots for \$900 and a rectory for \$1000. The people of the parish were happy to build the rectory for Father Busse, and they constructed a residence for him on church grounds. That structure remains on the church property and today is the Pastoral Center housing church offices.

The small country parish was coming into its own. In the spring of 1924 and 1925, the parish again held euchre tournaments at the church with the Bishop's permission. Proceeds went to finance the parish. Times were not easy in the rural community; however, the new parish still sought to help others. Records show that there was a check



Old Church and Rectory

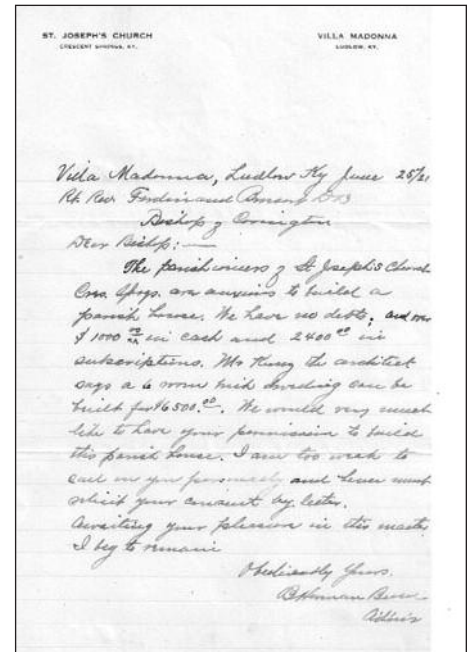
In 1928 Father Busse received permission from Bishop Francis Howard to build a parish house both for classroom space and for the sisters as Father Busse thought it was too dangerous for the sisters to travel to and from the school each day. The school had 86 pupils, and the seventh and eighth grades were particularly crowded; 24 students made Confirmation that year. In addition, Father

Confirmation Class of St. Joseph's Church, Council of St. Joseph's, Confirmation by Father Busse, St. Bernard, May 30, 1928	Crozier Name	Age	Sponsor
1 Oscar Casci	Josephine	13 yrs	Grand Parents
2 Mae Fiedrich	Agnesina	14	Sts. Krumpelmann
3 Joseph Kolar	Josephine	13	Sts. Krumpelmann
4 James Kolar	Mathew	14	Sts. Krumpelmann
5 Augustus Fiedrich	Agnesina	13	Joseph Fiedrich
6 Andrew Hagelstam	Therese	13	Joseph Krumpelmann
7 Leo Bobl	Edmund	14	Edmund Brandy
8 Mrs. Krumpelmann	Johnnie	13	Johnnie Brandy
9 John Graded	Lawrence	13	Lawrence Bobl
10 Pauline Brandy	Josephine	13	Henry Brandy
11 Ernest Brandy	Josephine	14	Joseph Brandy
12 Robert Bobl	Johnnie	13	Johnnie Brandy
13 Edward Bobl	Josephine	14	Lawrence Bobl
14 Marie Bobl	Therese	14	Therese Bobl
15 Martha Bobl	Anna	13	Therese Bobl
16 Dorothy Bobl	Therese	13	Therese Bobl
17 Grace Brandy	Josephine	13	Lawrence Brandy
18 Barbara Bobl	Josephine	13	Joseph Bobl
19 Margaret Bobl	Agnes	14	Edmund Brandy
20 Josephine Bobl	Annelle	13	Annelle Brandy
21 Rosemary Brandy	Agnes	13	Edmund Brandy
22 Katherine Brandy	Therese	14	Edmund Brandy
23 Anna Brandy	Louise	14	Louise Brandy
24 Regina Bobl	Marie	12	Marie Bobl

Edmund Brandy Bobl

List Students Confirmed May 30, 1928

sent by Father Busse to the Bishop for "Indian and Negro Missions" in 1926. Father Busse wrote to the Bishop on several occasions in 1926 on behalf of parish families who could not afford to pay the \$5 per month tuition at the high school. The Bishop granted permission for these individuals to pay based on their financial ability.



1921 Letter from Father Busse to Bishop Asking Permission to Build a Parish House



Father Busse with First Communion Class 1920

Busse asked to appoint a parish secretary or treasurer to help with the management of the growing parish as his health was failing. The Bishop granted permission to build the house for \$4,800. He did not, however, allow Father Busse to make the requested appointments as he maintained he could not give official status to the lay people of the parish.

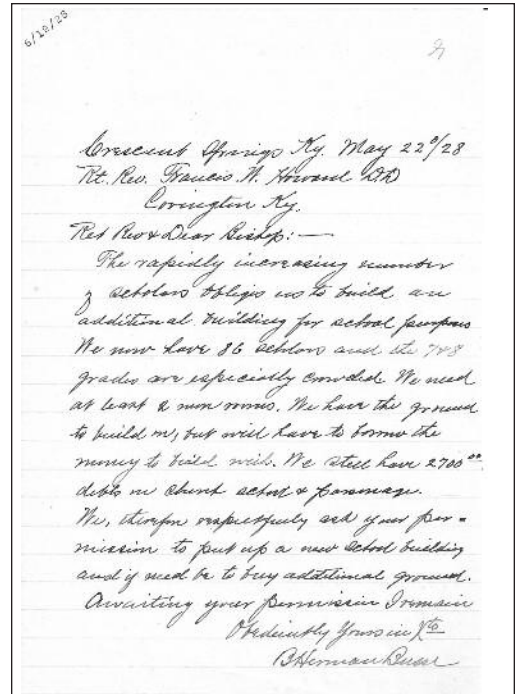
The new church was a close knit group of families who enjoyed fellowship and gave generously of their time and talent for the benefit of the church.

**PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE,
ASSOCIATES, ASSISTANTS,
ADMINISTRATORS,
PAROCHIAL VICARS**

- Rev. Jerome C. Britt
- Rev. Maurice F. deLange
- Rev. Wilfred A. Doll
- Rev. James Dunne, CSSp
- Msgr. Dominic K. Fosú
- Rev. Robert C. Fricke
- Rev. Elmer J. Grosser
- Rev. Jerome Heist
- Msgr. Donald Hellman
- Rev. Jo P. Joy, CMI
- Rev. Mark A. Keene
- Rev. Ronald M. Ketteler
- Rev. Douglas J. Lauer
- Rev. Hugh J. Milligan
- Rev. Robert J. Reinke
- Rev. Carl C. Schaffer
- Rev. Joseph E. Schuman
- Rev. John J. Sterling
- Rev. Frederick L. Terhar
- Rev. Robert L. Vater
- Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl
- Rev. Thomas J. Wilcoxson

There were many euchre tournaments, socials, lottos and events for the children. On December 27, 1928 and again on January 30, 1929, the church sponsored moving picture shows, such as The Lightning Reporter, to benefit the new school fund. That same year, the congregation held a May Festival and arranged bus service from the end of the Fort Mitchell car line to attract visitors from other cities.

Near the close of his tenure as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Father Busse again asked for permission to add classroom space that was separate from the sisters' house. On May 22, 1928, he wrote to Bishop Howard, explaining the need for a new two-room school. The parish had no debt, and Father Busse thought the parishioners could raise the \$3000-\$4000 necessary for the new space. The Bishop denied permission, stating that he was not in favor of the parish taking a loan to cover the cost. Father Busse's health was failing, and he had to take some time off to rejuvenate. During his sick time, the Bishop encouraged him to look for a replacement priest to cover some of his duties at the parish, since there were no available priests in the diocese to help. Given Father Busse's failing health, the Parish Church Committee requested permission for an audience with the Bishop to discuss the building of the small school. Bishop Howard declined to meet with the parishioners, but did meet with Father Busse one last time, and finally granted approval for a smaller building not to exceed \$2000. This approval was a fitting tribute to Father Busse's tenacity and his dedication to the parish, which he had guided for thirteen years. He died at St. Elizabeth Hospital on July 21, 1930.



1928 Letter from Father Busse to Bishop Asking to Build an Additional School Building

GROWING STEADILY BUT QUIETLY: THE 1930'S AND 1940'S

Rev. John A. Bankemper became pastor in 1929. With the Bishop's permission and under the direction of Father Bankemper, the parish was able to purchase a two-room frame kit structure from



White Frame School House

Sears Roebuck

and to erect it for less than \$2,400. This building was constructed on the present school site, and it was used as the school. Father Bankemper also painted the interior of the church in November 1931—the first time it had been painted.



Grotto

The late Joan Meder, who wrote several articles chronicling the history of St. Joseph Parish, recalled arriving at the parish when she was a teen in the 1930's. Father Bankemper did not drive, so he would catch a ride from one of the parishioners, or he would take the bus. Due to the Great Depression, there



Father Bankemper

were quite a few unemployed people in the parish, and during that time, the men helped to build a St. Joseph Grotto which stood on the upper edge of the parking lot until the present church was built in 1958. Because air conditioning was practically unknown at the time, Mrs. Meder's father, Ed Meder, Sr., volunteered to add the "sleeping porch" above what is now the entryway to the Pastoral Center so that Father Bankemper would have a cooler place to sleep on hot, humid Kentucky nights.



Sleeping Porch



Grades 1 – 4 1933

Even though times were tough financially, the church did have a few festivals and social gatherings in the 1930's while Father Bankemper was pastor. Current parishioner, Ms. Julie Kremer, remembered her father, who was in charge of one of the festivals that ran late into the evening, had to take the festival proceeds home with him since it was so late. He stayed up all night watching the money until daybreak when he could return it to the church office. Ms. Kremer also recalls being taken out of class on Monday mornings to help Father Bankemper count the money from the Sunday collection. Because she missed some classes, Father quizzed her on the day's material while they were counting, so she never fell behind.



Grades 5 – 8 1933



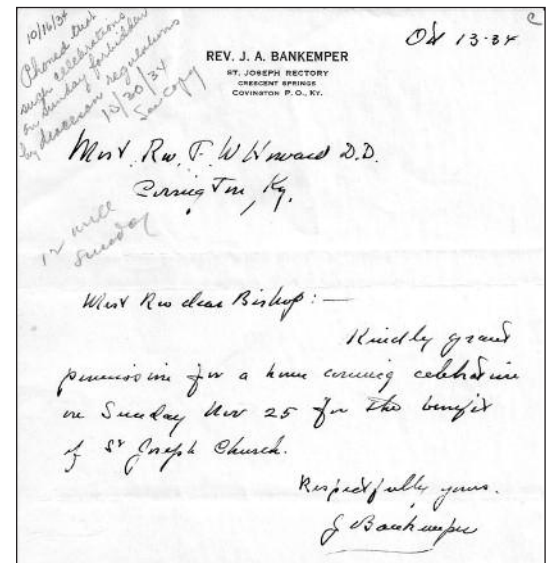
Fr. Bankemper with First Communion Class 1932

During those days, the present parking lot was gravel, and there were tennis courts in the front yard of the current rectory. Stables for horses stood near the entrance of the present school. Ms. Meder recalled one student who rode his pony to school, but everyone else walked, and some of the students had long walks. There were no snow days, so students had to walk through snow, rain,

and every kind of inclement weather. She remembers one student who arrived with slightly frostbitten feet. The only time there was a weather-related school closing was during the 1937 flood, due to contaminated water. The frame school building was not easy to heat, and was therefore only used when enrollment demanded it. The ink froze in the inkwells. There was no cafeteria or indoor plumbing. Students brought lunches or bought food items at Thirs grocery on Anderson Road. All students attended daily mass. Ms. Meder recalled:

"We even had a 'holy dog.' 'Mickey,' the Schwartz family dog, came to school each day, went into church with the children, stayed until mass was over and then went home."

In the 1930's there were several clubs for parishioners, such as the Holy Name Society, St. Ann's Club, Young Ladies Sodality, and also a sewing bee once a week to make quilts and altar linens. In November 1934, Father Bankemper asked permission of Bishop Howard to hold a Homecoming Celebration at the church on the Sunday after Thanksgiving as a social activity to benefit the church's finances. However, the Bishop replied that such Sunday celebrations were forbidden by diocesan regulations



Homecoming Celebration

9/21/37
 Please let Howard know
 that I would like to
 have a pre-Thanksgiving
 supper at St. Joseph's

RECTORY
 ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
 CLEVELAND STREET
 COVINGTON, KY.

September 21, 1937

Most Rev. Francis M. Howard, Ill.
 Covington, Ky.

My dear Bishop:

At a congregational meeting
 last Sunday the parishioners
 requested me to ask your kind
 permission to hold a pre-Thanksgiving
 supper for the benefit of our
 depleted treasury on Sunday
 November 7th.

It seems to me from a careful
 reading of the acts of our
 last Synod p. 71 # 14 that
 you will be pleased to grant
 this favor.

RECTORY
 ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
 CLEVELAND STREET
 COVINGTON, KY.

This is certainly a rural parish
 and is dependent on city patrons
 who will gladly lend a helping
 hand on any Sunday.

I can assure you that
 I shall do all I can to
 see to it that nothing will
 occur which may be
 inconsistent with the keeping
 holy of the Lord's Day.

Thanking you for past favors
 for your people and asking your
 blessing I am,
 Your humble servant,
 Earl B. Bauer

Pre-Thanksgiving Supper Letter

Father Bankemper left St. Joseph to become pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Newport, KY., and Rev. Earl B. Bauer became pastor at St. Joseph in 1937. Although his stay at St. Joseph's was only three years, he made a kind impression on the parishioners. He made a tree swing and taught the children to play dodge ball. He drove a fast car that could go 50 miles per hour! In 1937, like his predecessor, Father Bauer asked the Bishop for a fundraiser, this time a pre-Thanksgiving supper on Sunday, November 7, 1937 to benefit the depleted church treasury. Father explained to the Bishop that this was a rural parish that depended upon city patrons to lend a helping hand on Sundays. To no avail, he assured Bishop Howard that there would be no festivities out of line with keeping holy the Sabbath.



Fr. Earl Bauer

Even though the Parish had limited funds, Father Bauer made quite a few changes to the church. He remodeled the main altar of the church, and beautified the sanctuary with the help of donations from parishioners. Mrs. Schultz donated \$250 for this project, and Marie Graue donated a new Eucharistic tabernacle in memory of her parents. The Benedictine sisters donated artistic labor on a large crucifix, which Father Bauer installed behind the altar. Father also purchased an automatic stoker, which eliminated the need for someone to throw coal on the fire all day. To ensure that the children attended Mass on Sundays and listened to the sermon, Father Bauer required the students to do weekly assignments on his sermons. Ms. Meder recalls the children bringing paper and pencils to church on Sundays to take notes. He also started the first Christmas Midnight Mass.

During Father Bauer's tenure as pastor, Sisters Theodore Feldman and Emily Meyer were teachers. By all accounts, the students were very fond of the sisters for their participation in various activities and games with the children, including the making of simple but useful Christmas gifts



Sr. Theodora 1937

during the Great Depression when money was scarce. Ms. Meder recalls the sisters taking the students to Malapelli's place to pick walnut and hickory nuts. The walk there included the crossing of Dry Creek at the end of Eubanks Road. On one occasion when the creek was not dry, the sisters had to cross carefully on stepping stones, except that Sister Emily slipped and fell waist deep into the creek. However, this did not deter her, and after a quick cleanup, they all proceeded on their way. Sister Emily also encouraged the schoolchildren to participate in music and art. She held choir practice in the sisters' living room where there was a piano. Whenever one of the children had a birthday, Sister would play "Happy Birthday" on the piano and sing to them. Both Sisters Emily and Theodora were creative artistically, and spent fun days with the schoolchildren decorating for Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. They baked cookies and made caramel apples for the children on Halloween night.

After the construction of the frame school building adjacent to the Nordman property, the Sisters frequently opened the doors and windows on hot days, hoping to catch a breeze. As the Nordmans raised goats for a time, it was not unusual for a goat or two to become a student. Ms. Meder remembered a mother goat and all her babies coming into the classroom while Sister Emily had her back to the class writing on the chalkboard. The students burst out in gales of laughter. However, sister was able to use the moment as a teaching tool, and gave a lesson all about the usefulness of goats in agriculture.



Fr. Gerald Connolly

In 1940, Rev. Gerald J. Connolly became the new pastor. On May 30, 1941 the parish celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its foundation by holding a summer festival. Later that year, Father Connolly made some alterations to the church basement, enlarging the kitchen serving window, the dining room door, and cutting a second door to the serving room to facilitate the handling of crowds at chicken suppers – all for less than \$200! He installed cafeteria equipment and buffet lines. This was the first time the parishioners were served buffet style, and they were amazed at how quickly everyone was served. Since the parish

was still a country church in a farming community, parishioners donated much of the food, and chicken dinners were already very popular!

During World War II, the parish lost its first parishioner to war, PFC William F. Niemeyer. Times were hard and resources were



Fr. Connolly with graduation class 1942

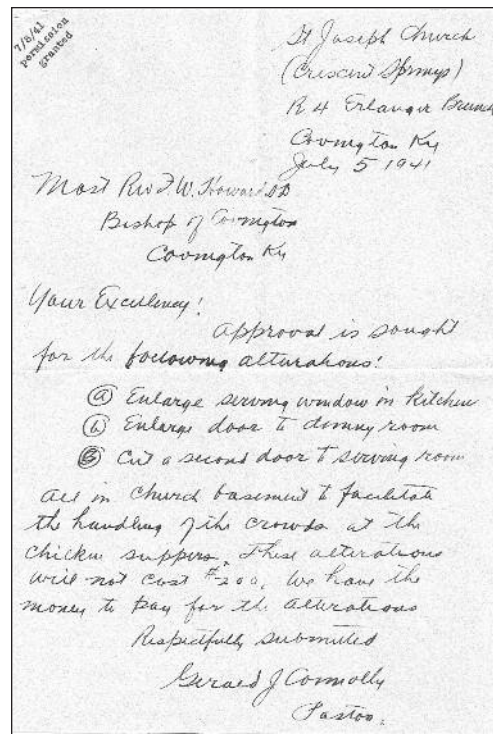
scarce. With shortages of everything, including able-bodied help, there was not much activity in the way of improvements or social events. However, in 1943, Father Connolly asked for and received permission to paint the

church. The school was an official place of registration for food and gasoline rationing, and the sisters did most of the registration work. In spite of this, the people pulled together, donated their time and the bounty of their harvest to the

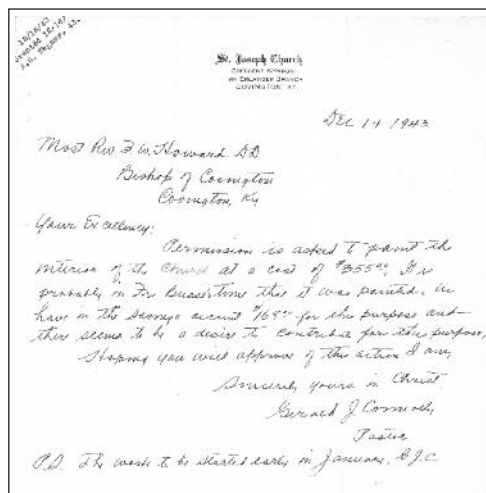


Claire Moriconi school children mid-1940's

church so that it continued to thrive and grow. Father Connolly introduced Thursday evening holy hours, consisting of a sermon, rosary and benediction. He continued Sunday afternoon services with benediction. His sermons frequently featured prophecies which he believed would occur in the 1980-1990 time frame. He also began a Midnight Mass tradition on New Year's Eve to pray for peace.



Alterations to accommodate chicken dinner



Request to paint church 1943

December 16, 1943.

Reverend Gerald J. Connolly,
St. Joseph Church,
Crescent Springs,
Route 4, Erlanger Branch,
Covington, Kentucky.

Reverend dear Father:

The Most Reverend Bishop directs me to advise you that the permission you request to paint the interior of the Church at a cost of \$355.00, is granted.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

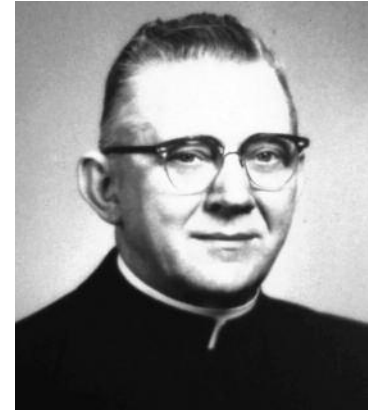
A. G. WAGNER,
Secretary.

Permission granted to paint church



Srs. Viola, Emily, Leonella, OSB 1945

Rev. George L. Stier became pastor of St. Joseph Church on July 1, 1947, following the death of Father Connolly in March of that year. The parish officially welcomed him with an all-day party and dance on February 8, 1948. For the next twenty-three years, Father Stier led the country church on its path to become the large suburban parish it is today. He conducted the first parish census, and he recognized the need for many improvements of existing facilities. Largely neglected during the war years, the buildings were in desperate need of repairs.



Fr. George Stier

The parish finances also were low due to fundraising inactivity. Father Stier's first effort was a cleaning of the church in July, 1947. In October, the men of the parish cleaned the basements of the church and rectory, so that these facilities would be suitable for parish meetings and social gatherings. The men even cleaned the bricks of the church to give the building a more respectable appearance.



Else Schreiber

Father Stier and his housekeeper, Else Schreiber, were hard workers. With the help of volunteers and quite a few of the boys in the upper grades, they refurbished the sanctuary with decorative panels placed behind the altar, and added carpeting to the altar platform. They removed the old chandeliers and installed florescent lighting, which brightened the church considerably. They moved the large crucifix from the side wall

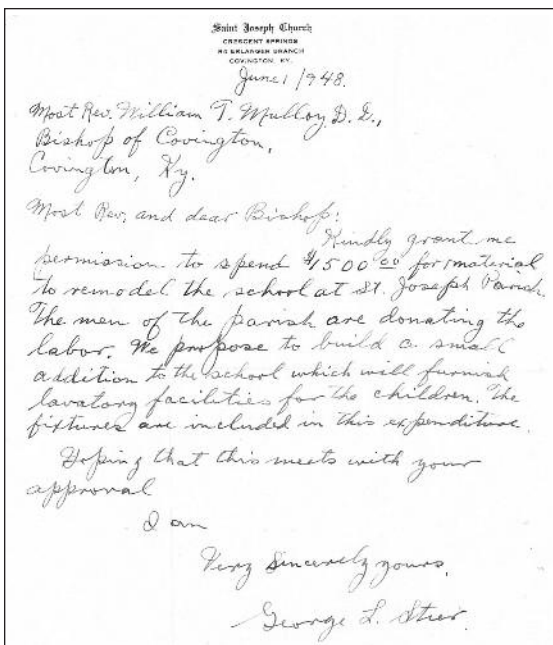
to behind the altar. One parishioner recalled that Father orchestrated one of the fastest paint jobs in history when he recruited junior high and high school boys from the parish to paint the interior of the church between



Old Church Interior

the end of 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday and the Bishop's arrival for Confirmation that evening at 7:30! Those attending the Confirmation were amazed at the transformation!

The parish school also was a serious concern for Father Stier. Since finances were low, many volunteers undertook the renovations to the church and old rectory. Father also acquired two oil-burning heatrolas for the school in August. They were beneficial not only for the heat they provided, but also because they eliminated smoke, ashes and coal. Parishioners removed old outhouses and installed indoor plumbing. Current parishioners recall the lack of running water at the school, fondly reminiscing about the buckets of water that would be brought into the school each day with one ladle from which students drank! The men recall that, as schoolboys, Father Stier put them to work on construction projects around the church and school, as if work were just another part of the curriculum. On Fridays, after lunch, the boys took a break



Request to Remodel School

from their studies to paint or build or fix things. The girls also got a break from studies on Friday afternoons, as they worked with Ms. Schreiber to clean the church. The rewards were sweet: Ms. Schreiber, whom the school children loved, had candy to distribute to the helpers. During Lent, she substituted licorice, recalled one former student, since it really was not candy, but a laxative!

Father Stier, whom former students also remember with fondness, kept everyone busy. Since funds were scarce, it made sense to have the youth of the parish contribute their labor to the church grounds, and it provided the young people with a sense of ownership in the parish. The people of St. Joseph Church, who were still mainly farmers at the time, did not have much in the way of material things. Parishioners remember Father Stier nearly every Sunday at Mass praying for good crops. Sister M. Emily Meyer, O.S.B. was principal of the school at that time. An adult choir was formed in 1947, and moved to an upstairs choir loft.

Although festivals had not been held during the war years, parishioners began organizing summer festivals again in 1947. Parishioners recalled that Ms. Schreiber “volunteered” to fry the chicken, and that in 1949, the Grand Raffle prize was a television. In the late 1940’s, other social activities, such as monthly novelty bingos, began to increase revenue. Societies and clubs, which had been dormant during the war years, were reactivated and encouraged to hold fundraising activities. The school cafeteria opened for the school year, so the parish seemed poised for prosperity.

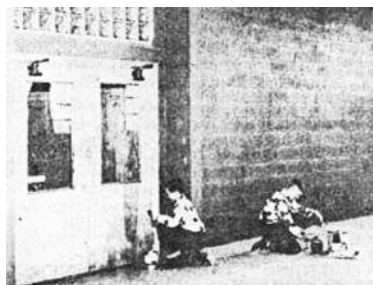
THE BUILDING YEARS: 1950’s AND 1960’s



1952 School

Father Stier recognized the need to improve the educational facilities of the parish. In Spring 1951, he announced the building of a five-room school, at an estimated cost of \$75,000. In July, 1951 he led the effort to begin construction of a new one-floor brick building to be used as a school. Father Stier worked hard to find ways to save the parish money, and often was involved in the work himself. To save the Parish funds, Father Stier acted as the general contractor for the new school project and supervised volunteers as they completed much of the work on the new building themselves. He directed the seventh and eighth grade boys to install the acoustical tile ceilings. Parishioners painted walls, laid tiles and varnished doors during the summer of 1952.

Architect Charles Hildreth, of Crescent Springs, designed the new school to be completely fire and explosion proof. For safety reasons, the boiler room was isolated from the rest of the structure. The roof was a concrete slab; only the wooden doors were not constructed of either concrete or brick. The building contained four classrooms, a multi-purpose room, and a kitchen. It supposedly was air-conditioned (although no witnesses ever recalled it working!) with radiant heat, and built so a second floor could be added later if necessary.



Kids at new school

BENEDICTINE SISTERS WHO SERVED ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Sister Adele Keller
 Sister Louise Hillebrand
 Sister Geraldine Hillebrand
 Sister Mary William Hellmann
 Sister Viola Fedders
 Sister Carla Cook
 Sister Jonathan Arlinghaus
 Sister Christa Kreinbrink
 Sister Lea McGuire
 Sister Antonella Melchior
 Sister Esther O’Hara
 Sister Mechtilde Probst
 Sister Concetta Robinson
 Sister Valeria Schmidt
 Sister Fleuresita Schriever
 Sister Estelle Schulte
 Sister Jean Scott
 Sister Felicitas Weberding
 Sister Rosemary Howell
 Sister Cyrilla Marks
 Sister Leonilla Klein
 Sister Antoinette Languemare
 Sister Josephine Voss
 Sister Hope Runda
 Sister Emmanuel Pieper
 Sister Agnetis Green
 Sister Ida Platz
 Sister Theodore Feldman
 Sister Regina Brueggeman
 Sister Agatha Fischer
 Sister Emily Meyer
 Sister Kathleen Feeney
 Sister Francesca Fischer
 Sister Sylvester Shea
 Sister Jeanette Frisch
 Sister Berenice Byron
 Sister Mary Carol Hellmann
 Sister Mary Tewes
 Sister Bernadette McNamara
 Sister Juanita Anneken
 Sister Virginia Smith
 Sister Mercedes Wolking
 Sister Mary Anne Wolking
 Sister Pauline Rice
 Sister Jean Scott
 Sister Timothy Ries
 Sister Dolores Finke
 (Sr. Walburg)
 Sister Betty Cahill
 Sister Nicholas Jones
 Sister Augustine Sheehan
 Sister Joyce Kiely
 Sister Maria Alexander



Side view of one floor school

The school was dedicated by Bishop William T. Mulloy on Sunday, November 23, 1952. At that time, the school housed grades one through eight, comprising 130 students. When the new school year began, only three classrooms were used because of the shortage of teachers. Three sisters from the Benedictine convent, under the direction of Sister M. Ida Platz, made up the faculty. This new brick building replaced the 20-year-old frame building built by Father Bankemper. The white frame building, in fact, was moved from its original location to make room for the new school. It was used after that for storage.

Throughout the early 1950's the Summer Festivals continued to grow. Mrs. Marie Krumpelman handled the cooking of chicken dinners. Ms. Julie Kremer, Mrs. Lucille Schreiber (mother of Mrs. Carol Hodge), and Mrs. Dorothy Noll (mother of Tom and Bob Noll, Jr.) assisted. All the girls



8th Grade Graduation 1952

of the parish who were in the eighth grade or older also were expected to help in the dining room. They served the food "family style" in the church basement. Parishioners donated cole slaw, beets, sliced tomatoes, green beans, mashed potatoes and other vegetables to serve at the festival. Some of the activities included Big 6 Wheel, card games and a very popular cake raffle. Bob Noll, Sr. began frying the chicken in 1955 in the old church basement. (He later moved this operation to the boiler room of the present church, and then when the metal awning was installed outside the church hall, he began frying outside.)

February 1, 1950

My dear Father Stier:

The permission which you requested in your letter of January 31, to have a third Mass at St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs, is hereby granted. I am very happy to know that you will have Father Ramsey assist you for this Mass.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Covington.

Reverend George L. Stier,
St. Joseph Rectory,
Crescent Springs,
Route #4, Erlanger Branch,
Covington, Kentucky.

Request for 3rd Mass

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH
264 LOHMAN AVENUE
CRESCENT SPRINGS
SOUTH FORT WICKELL, KENTUCKY
November 23rd, 1952.

The Most Reverend William T. Mulloy, S.D.P.,
Bishop of Covington,
1140 Madison Ave.,
Covington, Ky.

Most Rev. and dear Bishop:

Kindly grant permission to St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs to have a fourth mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation and to have a priest assist, if necessary. Our last two masses are overcrowded because the church is even too small to accommodate all of the children at one mass. In the event that permission is granted, shall I secure the services of a priest for this mass or will you be kind enough to appoint one?

Will you also grant permission to have an evening mass on Holy days of obligation except when they coincide with a Sunday?

I would like to have an assistant but the parish house was not built to accommodate an assistant. To build an addition on to the rectory would be money thrown away as the house is defective in its foundation and eventually will have to be torn down.

I could accommodate an assistant if all of the sisters would reside at the convent of Villa Madaine. At present there are only two sisters staying at the parish. The other three sisters go back and forth on their school bus which passes here. If all would live at the convent, I would have quarters for an assistant and for a guest in case of a mission or some other occasion. This is just an idea which I submit for your consideration and advice.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

George L. Stier

Request for 4th Mass

As the 1950's began, the church became more and more crowded. Father gained permission from Bishop Mulloy to add an 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays to relieve overcrowding at the 7:30 and 10 a.m. Masses. In 1955 Father again requested and was granted permission to add a fourth mass on Sundays and also an evening mass on holydays to relieve the crowding. Father also asked for an assistant to help with the workload of the growing parish. The Bishop denied the request because there was no suitable place on campus for the assistant to live. It was deemed inadvisable to add on to the rectory due to its defective foundation (although that building still stands today as the Pastoral Center). The Bishop suggested that Father ask the sisters to move to Villa so that the sisters' house could be used for more space.

These growing pains, combined with the anticipation of an expressway being built near Crescent Springs and the recent development of the suburb of Villa Hills, made it obvious that the parish was going to need a new, larger church. In December 1956, Father Stier submitted a plan to the Bishop for a new church and rectory, and also requested permission to apply for loans for the construction. His proposal was to obtain a loan for \$250,000 from five different banks, because banks limited church loans to \$50,000. In May 1958, Bishop Mulloy approved the plans for the new church, which called for a main church, children's chapel and priests' residence.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new St. Joseph Church took place on September 8, 1958. Before the work could begin, however, the large white



Groundbreaking for church

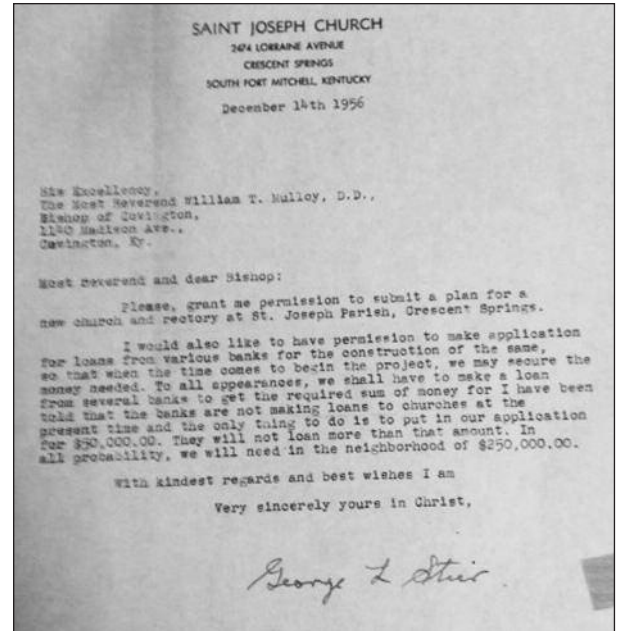
frame house in which the sisters resided had to be moved. It was relocated around the corner from the new church on Lorraine Court, where it still stands. Architect Charles Hildreth, who had designed the five-room school in 1950, also designed the new church. As he had done with the construction of

the school, Father Stier served as general contractor. Bert Lalor of Art Glass Service, Cincinnati, designed the windows, which displayed modern symbols of the seven Sacraments, and the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph in blue and green tones. These windows were donated to the church by various families of the parish. In gratitude, the donors' names were inscribed on plaques attached to their respective windows. So those members of the parish who donated windows for the old church were not forgotten, their names were likewise engraved on the new windows.



Groundbreaking for church

The new church was a T-shaped building: the right wing served as the priests' residence while the left wing served as a children's chapel. Father Stier gave much thought to the design of the new church. At the time, the masses were still being celebrated with the priest facing the altar and his back to the people. The new church altar was designed with a space behind it so that when the time came for saying mass facing the people, it would require only a minimum of change to implement the new way. The chapel area, which had an entry facing the school, was designed primarily for use by the school children during the week. Father Stier



Request to Build New Church



Moving Sisters' house



Bell tower



Front of Church

originally intended to have the altar on a turntable so that it could be made to face either the main church or the chapel as the demand dictated. However, the architect discouraged this idea due to cost and logistical considerations. The church had a seating capacity of 800, including the choir loft and the children's chapel. A tall, cylindrical bell tower contained a set of electronic bells.

Many of the church furnishings were new, while many of the religious items in the old church were transferred. The new church had new statues of the Infant of Prague and Mary, Queen of Mothers in the children's chapel. The designers brought the Statues of Mary and Joseph on the side altars in the main section of the church from the old church, along

with other statues placed in the rear of the church. These statues were repainted by Sister Emily, O.S.B. The designers also brought the Stations of the Cross and the Sorrowful Mother Novena plaques from the old church to hang on the walls of the main church. The new space housed the old Baptismal Font, which was refinished. Some of the pews from the old church were placed in the new choir loft. Father Stier refinished and moved the box containing holy oils to the new church.



Interior of New Church

In the interior of the church, the main altar was made of white Alabama marble, and altar steps and Communion steps were made

of pink Tennessee marble. A large crucifix hung behind the altar, against a marbled background trimmed with bronze grill work, which was brought from the old church. The sanctuary included pews and other woodwork of limed oak, two large hanging plaques bearing symbols of the Blessed Virgin and the Holy Spirit. Imported Carrara marble statues of St. Joseph the Workman and of Mary, Queen of Heaven stood outside on cement pedestals on either side of the main entrance.

As with the construction of the five-room school building in 1948, parishioners donated much of the labor in construction of the church. Volunteers painted the interior walls and raised money for the new church. Committees organized raffles, festivals and dances to raise funds. Women of the parish held monthly bingos. They divided into groups; each month a different group was responsible for the organization of the bingo. Securing finances for the new church truly was a group effort involving a huge number of parishioners.

The new church officially opened on May 15, 1960, and this date was chosen to coordinate with the celebration of First Communion for the schoolchildren. Because Bishop Mulloy had died before the opening and a new Bishop had not yet been installed, Msgr. Herbert F. Hillenmeyer granted Father Stier permission to bless the church privately on May 14, 1960. That evening, Father Stier had the altar stone moved from the old church to the new church. In November 1960, Father Stier moved into the new rectory attached to the church. The old rectory was used as the sisters' house for some time.



First Communion at new church - 1961



Dedication of New Church

On May 6, 1962, Bishop Ackerman formally dedicated the church with a pontifical mass. Msgr. Leo Streck, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, delivered the sermon. The new St. Joseph Church, he said, "expresses the faith of the people who built it. As long as it




Dedication of New Church

stands here, it will be a fortress that the people of the community believe in God. . ." The words of Msgr. Streck expressed the dedication and hard work that parishioners gave with their own hands to build the church. Rev. Paul M. Arbogast, assistant, Cathedral Basilica Parish, was the organist and directed the Priests' Choir at the solemn occasion. The Bishop also consecrated the main altar and the side altars, which contained relics of Saints Pius, Abdon and Sennon, Martyrs. The side altars were dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph.

Stripped of its splendor, the old church became a gymnasium, complete with small basketball court. This was a welcome addition to the youth of the parish. A new assistant, Father Carl Schaffer, organized the young people, established a seventh and eighth grade boys basketball team, and introduced high school C.Y.O. baseball and basketball teams. The old church hall became a gathering space with pool tables and a canteen.

As the parish continued to grow, Father Stier made adjustments in the school facilities to keep pace. The new five-room school had been designed for such contingencies: the multi-purpose room formed the shell of additional classrooms. In 1964 the new school was expanded to eight rooms. In addition, the old white frame building had been remodeled. It added two classrooms to the growing school. The old church building was developed into one classroom, a library, teachers' lounge, basketball court and lunchroom. This brought the number of available classrooms to eleven by September 1964. Sister M. Walburg Finke, O.S.B. was school principal at this time.

RICHARDUS HENRICUS

MISERATIONE DIVINA ET  SEDIS APOSTOLICAE GRATIA

EPISCOPUS COVINGTONENSIS

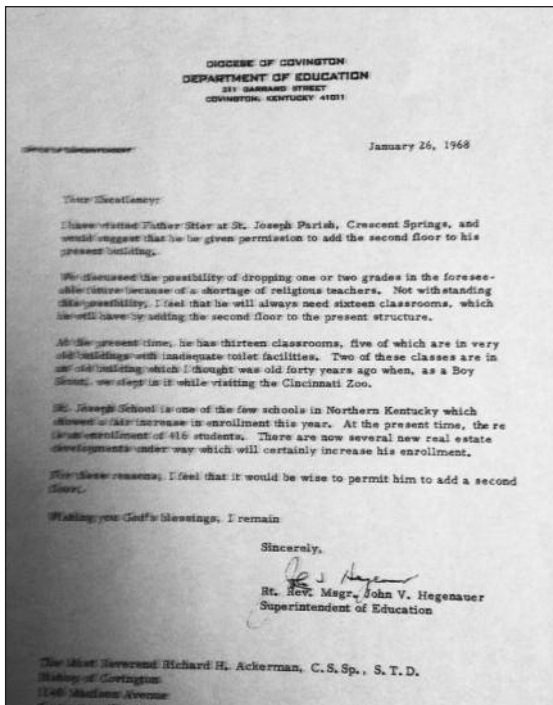
On the sixth day of May, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen-hundred-sixty-two, the Most Reverend Richard H. Ackerman, C. S. Sp., S. T. D., Bishop of Covington, consecrated the tables of the main altar, and the side altars dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and to Saint Joseph, in the Church of Saint Joseph, Crescent Springs, and enclosed in the sepulchres thereof the relics of Saints Pius, Abdon and Sennon, Martyrs.

Richard H. Ackerman
Bishop of Covington.

George J. Stier
Secretary.

Relics

On April 26, 1967, Father Stier, Sister Bernadette, O.S.B. and Sister John Marie, O.S.B. met with 175 parishioners to organize the Parish Board of Education. The parishioners elected five people to the board, and Father Stier appointed four additional members. George Miner was the first president. The Parish Board of Education became responsible for the overall education of St. Joseph Parish. This included the elementary school, C.C.D. program and adult education. The school board developed its constitution in April 1969, and then revised it in June 1970. According to the constitution, "The board determines all policies relating to the organization and administration of all educational programs in the parish." In June 1969, St. Joseph School was granted certification by the Department of Education. It was the first time that the school officially received state recognition. Sister Bernadette McNamara, O.S.B. was the school's principal at that time.



Letter from Diocese re school 2nd floor

Father Stier kept busy modifying the grounds of the school and the church to keep up with its growth and with the times. He improved the parking lots by having black top poured around the church and school grounds. In December 1966, he received approval from Bishop Ackerman to change the altar in the main church to accommodate the priest saying mass facing the congregation. In 1967, Father Stier constructed two classrooms with lavatories in the old church building to accommodate religion classes for first graders who were not allowed under diocesan regulations to attend the Catholic school. Two months later, he started religion classes for high school students attending public high schools on Sunday afternoons. Bishop Ackerman commended him for his interest in the Confraternity Program for teens.

In January 1968, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools suggested that Bishop Ackerman approve a second-floor addition to the school. It needed sixteen classrooms, even though there was a shortage of religious teachers at the time. The recommendation mentioned that the current thirteen classrooms were in very old buildings with inadequate toilet facilities. It also referred to St. Joseph School as one of the few Northern Kentucky schools with a fair increase in student enrollment, totaling 416 students.

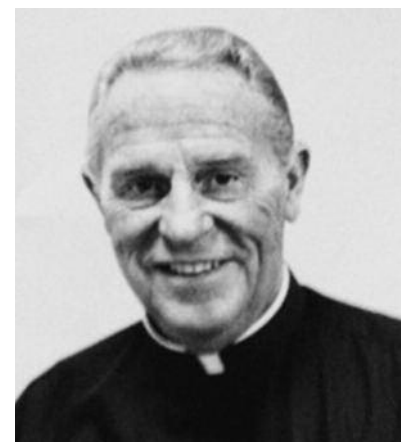
Also in 1968, the War in Vietnam took the life of parishioner Sgt. Ronald Niewahner. This was the second war casualty the Parish would suffer.

DIRECTORS/ COORDINATORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sister Mary Bonita
Sister Mary Ann Adele
Sister Mary Margene
Mrs. Peggy Haupt
Mrs. Bonnie Kovacic
Ms. Tina Klare

SUBURBIA FLOURISHES: 1970's AND 1980's

In 1969 Father Stier thought of retirement. He felt that a younger man would be better suited to carry on the work of the growing parish. He proposed to retire at the end of the year, and his formal resignation was on January 15, 1970. Father R. LeRoy Smith was appointed new pastor; Father Wilfred Doll was appointed part-time associate pastor.



Father Leroy Smith

The early 1970's brought many changes. Impending development brought rapid growth to the communities of Villa Hills and Crescent Springs, as

farmlands gave way to single and multi-family dwellings. Recognizing the need to reach out to the new residents of the community, Father Smith sought permission from Bishop Ackerman to celebrate Mass right in these new subdivisions. This occurred three times a month in anticipation of getting the new residents of the community to become involved parishioners. He also obtained permission to begin a Mass on Saturdays at 7:30 pm to fulfill the Sunday obligation. Father Smith even asked to celebrate Mass at the newly built Prospect Point in the hopes of reaching "fallen away" Catholics and inviting them to the parish. In this small way, the tiny country parish of 1916 began the work of evangelization in suburbia.



Request to have mass in the suburbs

By 1975, the parish had grown to nearly 800 families, up from only 200 families just 10 years prior! Many of these families were young with small children. Father Smith could see that the school facilities were inadequate and

crowded. With Bishop Ackerman's approval, work began in 1975 to complete a second floor on the school building. In addition to the second floor, the ground floor was renovated with new ceilings, floors, lighting, and new entrances and stairwells at the end of the building. The building was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Ackerman on September 5, 1976, who complimented builder and parishioner, Matth Toebben, on a job well done: "He is an admirable man, an extraordinary Catholic and an accomplished artisan."

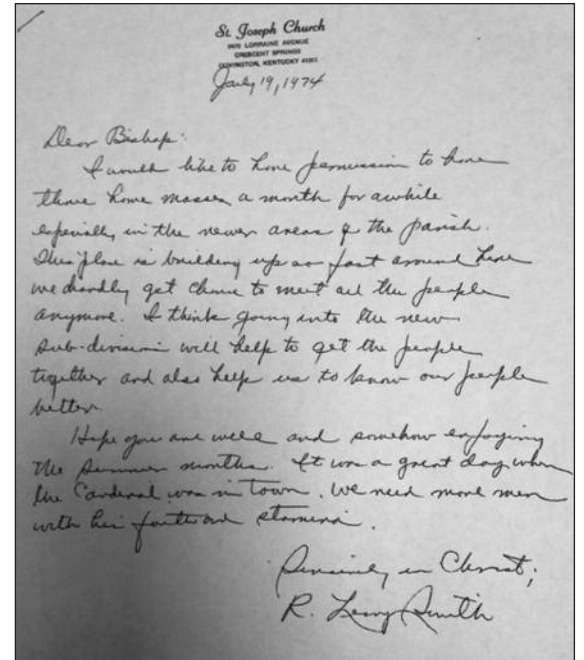


Addition to school 1975

In February 1976, the first Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were installed. The ordination of the first St. Joseph parishioner as a priest, Father Dan Noll in June 1976, also underscored the growing exuberance of spiritual growth.



Fr Dan Noll 1st Mass



Request to have mass in the suburbs



Installation of Eucharistic Ministers



Sr. Mary Suzanne



Sr. Mary Lynette

In 1980, the Sisters of Notre Dame replaced the Benedictine Sisters in the staffing of the school. Sister Mary Suzanne Rose was the first principal, followed by Sister Mary Lynette Shelton. The Notre Dame Sisters also responded to the parish need for a Director of Religious Education. Sisters Bonita Schack, Ann Adele Fritz and Mary Margene Koester served this role in succession until 1994.

The year 1981 brought renewal to the church building. Air conditioning was installed in the church and Father Smith and his advisory committees decided that the "T-shaped" formation of the 1960 church needed to be changed. The existing building had a door on the right side of the altar leading to the rectory, and another door on the left side, leading to the children's chapel in the left wing. Father

Smith consulted with parishioner and architect Rick Hampton about removing the wall into the children's chapel to open up the sanctuary. Three parishioners, Bob Beckman, Jack Hodge and Kenneth Krumpelman, offered to do the work at a huge discount, saving the parish around

\$10,000. In addition to the removal of the wall, both side altars were eliminated. A beautiful hand-carved wooden statue of St. Joseph, donated by a parishioner, and also a matching statue of the Blessed Virgin, which previously were in the children's chapel, were placed in the main sanctuary.

At a Mass on August 30, 1981, celebrated by Father Smith, Father Daniel Vogelpohl (associate pastor), Monsignor Donald Hellmann

and Bishop Hughes, the whole parish celebrated the openness and beauty of the new sanctuary in bringing the faithful together.



1981 Sanctuary renovation



1981 Sanctuary renovation



Father Dave Roeding

Father Smith was transferred in 1982, and Father David Roeding became the pastor. His guidance, together with the large number of new parishioners and young families, brought an energetic vibrancy to the parish. New spiritual opportunities, such as a parish religion school for those attending public schools, Christ Renews His Parish, Preschool religion, Vacation Bible School, Babysitting, Hospitality, Marriage Preparation, Baptism Preparation, Liturgy and Bereavement Committees were new ways to involve lay people in the parish.

Parishioner Jennifer Blazejewski Zumbiel, recounted her childhood memory of one Christmas Eve at St. Joseph Church during the 1980's:

"I can remember being about 8 or 9 years old. It was the late 1980's. We were sitting in the 'side' part of church for Christmas Eve Mass. Mass had not started yet and people were having quiet conversations. There could have been some Christmas music playing. All of a sudden, the entire church went silent. There he was, walking up the aisle with a bright red suit and a sack over his shoulder. Santa Claus had made a stop at St. Joseph Church. No matter the age, everyone was in awe. He silently walked up the main aisle, made his way to the Nativity and that tiny manger and knelt down. Santa Claus said a prayer to baby Jesus with his head bowed in total reverence. He stood up, turned around and walked back down the main aisle just as quietly. That moment spoke everything I needed to know about Christmas. It was beautiful at the time and is still a beautiful Christmas and childhood memory today."



VBS

The 1980's also brought more physical changes to the campus. With school enrollment at 500 students, the parish was faced with the prospect of having to turn students away due to lack of space. The school had been adding one class of students each year for the past three years to accommodate growing enrollment. Builders in the parish estimated that in the next few years a total of 500 single family and 600 multi-family homes would be built in the area. These figures were confirmed by the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission. The community was well on its way to outgrow its sleepy rural farm character. In Spring 1985, parishioners formed a committee, led by Michael Crawford, to raise money for eight new classrooms, a multi-purpose room, and a gymnasium. Prior to this time, the gym classes had been held in the cafeteria! The anticipated fundraising goal was \$500,000, but within a short time parishioners pledged \$750,000, and construction started on Thanksgiving Day 1985. The parish dedicated the new addition in November 1986, and named the gymnasium complex the Crawford Center in honor of Mr. Crawford, who died unexpectedly before the work was completed.



Blessing ground for school addition



New school addition 1986



EVANGELIZATION AND EDUCATION: 1990's AND 2000's

As the parish grew physically, it also experienced deeper spiritual richness. A group of dedicated parishioners formed an outreach committee, which collected funds through the use of envelopes, to benefit local causes, such as Habitat for Humanity, Be Concerned in Covington and the Covington Community Center. In the 1990's and early 2000's, this same group began to minister not only to those in our community but to those in other parts of the world.

This committee participated in the sale of free trade products, such as coffee to benefit people in Central America. In 2001, they started a mission for the people of Haiti and worked with other parishes to build schools in Haiti. In this small but significant way, the parish, with its humble rural roots, began having international influence!

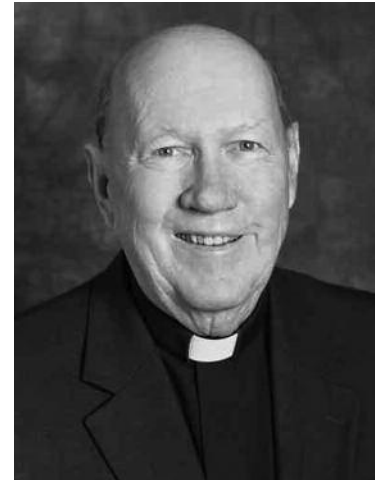
Haiti



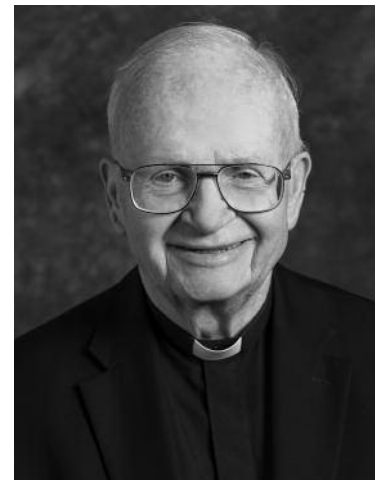
Father James Quill became pastor in 1991. A year later, Rev. Ronald Ketteler, who was teaching full time Thomas

More College, arrived to reside at the parish and assist with weekend masses and sacraments. That same year, the parish

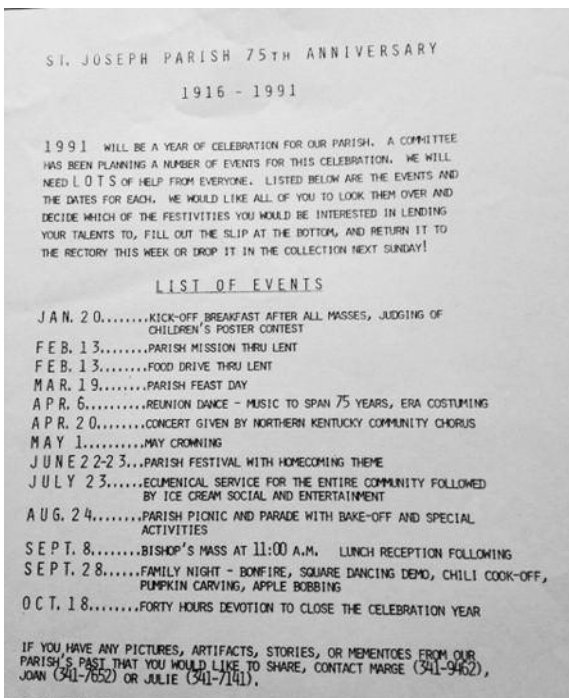
observed its 75th Anniversary with a Mass celebrated by several priests who had been previously associated with the parish. To commemorate the occasion, the parish undertook the lighting of the bell tower as its 75th Anniversary project. Shortly after the anniversary celebration, it was recognized that the enrollment in the school and the parish warranted yet another expansion. In order to accommodate more student classrooms, the school library and the music room had been moved to the original old church building, which by that time needed frequent and costly maintenance. Once again, the pastor and consultative counsels began discussing the expansion of the school and church structure. A pledge drive was launched in 1993 to fund these expansions.



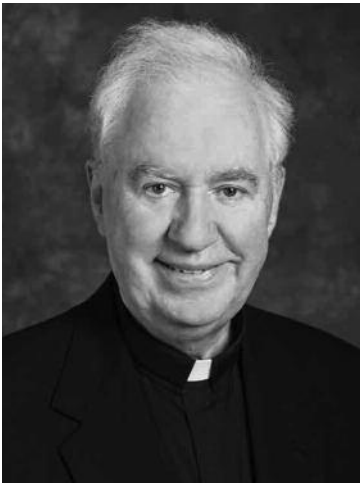
Father James Quill



Father Ronald Ketteler



75th Anniversary Events



Father Raymond Hartman

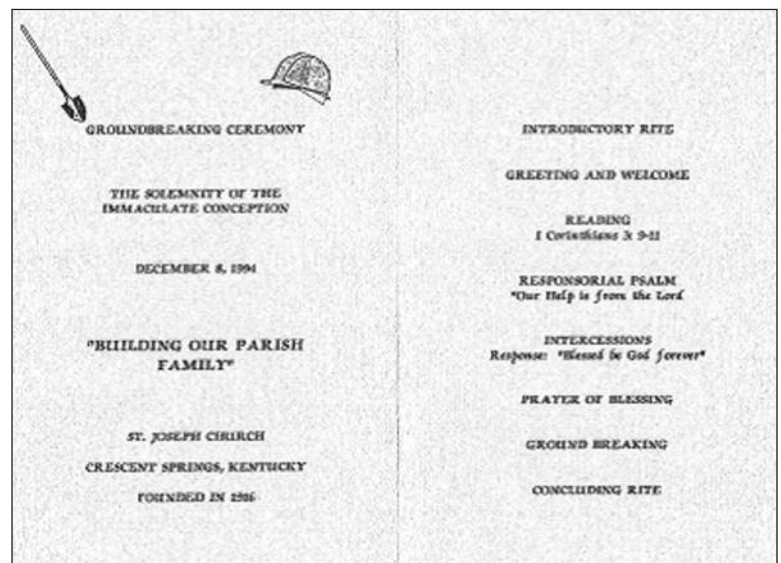
Father Raymond Hartman, who became pastor in 1994, commented on the capital campaign called "Building Our Parish Family." He stated, "We are trying to build a vital living parish of people who are ready and willing to do things." More than 30 individual donors pledged \$10,000 or more as part of the campaign to finance renovation of the church,

as well as an addition to the school. The students raised \$20,000 through a walk-a-thon. Within a short time, the pledges reached \$1.4 million. The new plan called for the removal of a wall in the main body of the church so that, instead of the "L-shape," the two sides became connected with a triangular addition. This included a new section with seating for 100, a new entrance, and a beautiful glass Blessed Sacrament chapel to house the tabernacle, and also to allow people to pray privately before the Eucharist. The new tabernacle would be a tower made from cherry and cardinal woods and glass to match the new main altar.

The renovation plan also called for a new tile floor and the covering of the concrete block walls with drywall. Six parishioners saved the parish \$2,500 by removing the old flooring themselves. The sanctuary walls were overlaid in dark green marble and walnut wood. Deep red carpet covered the steps. The new shape of the worship space required the installation of a new sound system. Father Hartman commented on the new look of the church: "I think people need to take pride in the place where they worship. This builds a sense of parish unity and purpose."



Remodeling Groundbreaking – 1994

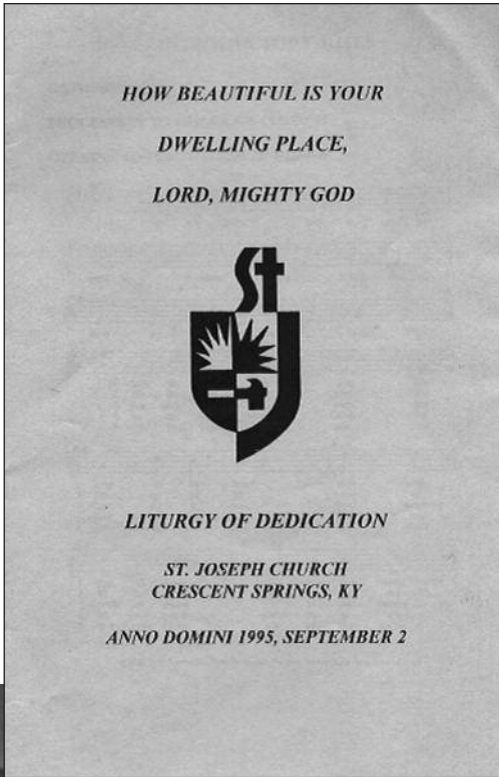


Groundbreaking Program



Tearing down old church

The school addition included two stories with new classrooms, a library, science lab, music room, and a multi-purpose room called the Faith Community Center for use by both the school and the parish. To accommodate this renovation, the original church from 1916 had to be torn down. However, the original crucifix and stained-glass windows were saved to place in the new part of



Remodeling the church



Dedication Mass 1995



1995 Sanctuary



St. Joseph Church Current Exterior

the church. The campus even got a new entrance created off Buttermilk Pike to make the church easier to find and also to add more parking. The former convent building, which had at one time been used as the priest house, with its sleeping porch above the front porch, became the new Pastoral Center, containing pastoral staff offices, as well as a meeting room and kitchen area. Monsignor Donald Hellmann, administrator of the diocese, dedicated the new church on September 2, 1995 in a liturgy entitled, "How Beautiful is Your Dwelling Place, Lord, Almighty God."

In 1994, Sister M. Lynette ended her tenure as principal at St. Joseph School. The Sisters of Notre Dame were experiencing a shortage of teachers, and had decided to focus their efforts on inner-city schools with fewer resources. St. Joseph hired its first lay principal, Ms. Judy Hoferkamp. The school grew and flourished under her guidance.



1995 Sanctuary

In March 1997, the parish instituted a Service Award named in honor of its first recipient, Robert Noll Sr. At this ceremony, the hall beneath the church was named “Noll Hall” in his honor. As Mr. Noll reflected on his many years as a parishioner and a volunteer in the parish, he observed that school sizes have changed, but parishioners’ dedication to Catholic education has not. Buildings and communities change, he said, but the people do not.

The next decade marked an increased diversity of spiritual activities. The Preschool Religion Program grew; Children’s Liturgy of the Word began to educate children in grades 1-4 about the gospel during Mass; and a Youth Ministry was developed to address the needs of teen parishioners. The

Men’s Society, which always had been an active group, renamed itself the Holy Name Society. This generous group continued to be a mainstay for male fellowship, and also continued its dedication to helping other ministries financially and with manpower. The group helped sponsor a monthly bingo at Madonna Manor, sang Christmas Carols there, sponsored a turkey dinner and a pancake breakfast among other things. They also helped fund a master chime system so that the sound of bells would emanate from the church bell tower.



Youth Ministry

In 1998 the parish instituted a new leadership structure consisting of five commissions under one pastoral council. The Family Life and Youth Commission oversaw activities for young people. The Finance Commission provided the Pastor on guidance on financial matters. The Education Commission served as an advisory body on school and

religious education matters. The Worship Commission planned liturgies. The Apostolic Life Commission was in charge of many small groups such as Arimatheans, Christian Outreach, Familia, Small Faith Building, Giving Tree, Just Faith, Book of Intentions, Prayer Chain Ministry, Respect Life Ministry and Visitation.

**ROBERT B NOLL, SR.
SERVICE AWARD
RECIPIENTS:**

Robert B. Noll, Sr.
1997

Marge Kremer
1998

Family of Edward J. Meder
1999

Joseph L. Foltz
2000

Bob & Sharon Ballman
2001

In Memory of Betty Breetz
2002

Jim Cleves
2003

Ursula Haskamp
2004

Evelyn Seeger
2005

Carol Hodge
2006

Bill Frietch
2007

Ginny Wuellner
2008

Donna Burris
2009

Bruce & Sherry Barton
2010

Joseph B. Schmidt
2011

Julie Kremer
2012

Lee Powell
Elaine Fieger
2013

Steve and Marianne Fieger
2014

Charlie and Diane Hammond
2015

St. Joseph Parishioners
1916 – 2016
Barbara Fritz
2016

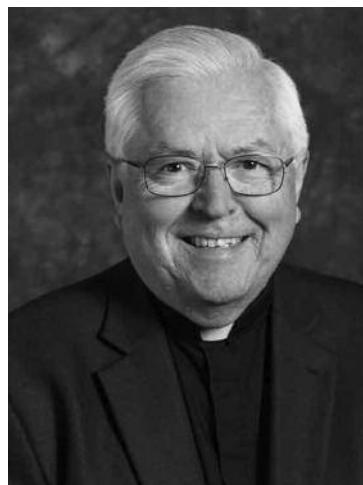
PRINCIPALS OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

- Sr. M. Agnetis Green, O.S.B., 1917-1932
- Sr. M. Theodore Feldman, O.S.B., 1933 – 1942
- Sr. M. Rosemary Howell, O.S.B., 1943
- Sr. M. Viola Fedders, O.S.B. 1944-1945
- Sr. M. Emily Meyer, O.S.B., 1946-1947
- Sr. M. Geraldine Hillenbrand, O.S.B., 1948-1950
- Sr. M. Ida Platz, O.S.B., 1951-1955
- Sr. M. Regina Brueggemann, O.S.B., 1956
- Sr. M. Theodore Feldman, O.S.B., 1957
- Sr. M. Kathleen Feeney, O.S.B., 1958-1960
- Sr. M. Antonella Melchoir, O.S.B., 1961
- Sr. M. Walburg (Dolores) Finke, O.S.B., 1962-1964
- Sr. M. William Hellman, O.S.B., 1965-1966
- Sr. M. Bernadette McNamara, O.S.B., 1967-1972
- Sr. M. Virginia Smith, O.S.B., 1973-1975
- Sr. M. Pauline Rice, O.S.B., 1975-1980
- Sr. Mary Suzanne, S.N.D. 1980 - 1987
- Sr. Mary Lynette, S.N.D., 1987 - 1994
- Ms. Judy Hoferkamp 1994 - 1999
- Mrs. Karen Bieger 1999-2001
- Ms. Rebecca Brown 2001- 2009
- Mrs. Cathy Stover 2009 - present

The new parish leadership ensured the vibrancy of the parish through varied activities and events. The arrival of Father John Sterling, who was much-loved and served as parochial vicar at the parish from 1998-2001, also helped to reenergize the parish. The Family Life and Youth Commission organized the return of the parish family picnic in 1998. That same year, the Abner and Fassel families organized a Living Rosary service in October to honor Mary, and this popular event remained a tradition for families for many years. Volunteers worked with the parish office to organize monthly coffee and donut fellowship after all the Sunday masses. In a joint venture with the Knights of Columbus and the Diocesan Office of Worship and Evangelization, the parish hosted a live nativity in the front yard on Buttermilk Pike. This included human actors as well as flocks of animals, choral singing by diocesan groups, and hospitality in Noll Hall.

The parish continued to spread its influence both locally and in other countries. A Just Faith group began in 1999 to explore Catholic social teaching and the call to gospel values. That group got the parish involved in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a sheltering program to aid families affected by homelessness. It also was part of the inspiration for the parish helping Welcome House and at other parishes in Covington, having Parish Service Day and even sending nine parishioners to Haiti in 2001 to help build schools in conjunction with other parishes.

In 1998 a Parents of Preschoolers group formed to provide activities and support for parents with small children. In just three years, this group increased from 15 to 60 families! In response to the growing number of preschoolers, St. Joseph School opened a kindergarten in 2000. Enrollment at the school grew to nearly 550 students and there was barely enough space to accommodate all of them.



Father Ed Brodnick

Father Edward Brodnick became pastor in 2001. Under his guidance, parish enrollment continued to grow, and new activities sprang to life. At the same time, the traditional activities, such as the Summer Festival and Sunday Night Bingo, continued going strong. After the leadership of parishioners Michael Crawford and Denny Wright to start the bingo during Father Smith's tenure, Bob and Sharon Ballman and Eddie and Donna Vogt took on the task of keeping the Sunday night bingo going by tirelessly organizing seven different crews of 18-20 volunteers weekly. This event raised nearly \$90,000 per year for the parish.

The parish End of Summer Festival Celebration, which had started in 1919 as a summer euchre tournament, increased to three days with more rides and children's games for the increasing number of young parishioners. The ever-popular



Festival



Noll Chicken Dinner



Festival

festival bingo, run by Ms. Julie Kremer and her family since its inception in the 1920's, and the Noll Chicken dinner, headed up by the Noll family since 1955, and assisted by Mrs. Jane Terrell since 1989, continued to be a highlight. In fact, the chicken dinner was featured in the June 2003 issue of *Cincinnati Magazine* as being one of the best festival foods in the region. In describing the chicken dinners, and what makes them special, the author wrote, "Maybe it's the recipe – this chicken IS pretty amazing – or maybe it's the family, the four generations of Nolls who have dedicated half a century of summers to their parish." Tom Noll, who was interviewed for the article, explained that he started frying in 1955 alongside his dad at the festival, who passed the recipe on to his descendants. The next three generations of the family have carried on the legacy. The Noll Chicken dinner is more than a meal or even an event. It's a tradition.



Bids & Bites

The early 2000's saw the birth of some new fundraising and fellowship activities. In 1996, a committee of parishioners organized a Bids and Bites dinner auction, which was a huge success both financially and socially. This event, was chaired by Mrs. Amy and Mrs. Laura Arlinghaus, Ms. Barb Fritz and Mrs. Sheila Topmiller for more than 10 consecutive years. In 2000, a group of creative and

artistic parishioners organized a Christmas Walk. This huge event involved many hours of labor, and approximately twelve beautiful new homes in The Orchard neighborhood, which were all decorated for Christmas in different themes. Each home also had an area where participants could purchase the decorations, which were all handmade by some of the best artists and craftsmen in the parish. Ms. Fritz also organized an indoor flea market in 2006, which has continued every year to raise about \$6,500 for the parish and also provide low-cost items to others in the community. In 2005, parishioner Ryan Maher was ordained a priest. That same year the parish donated land on Horton Street and helped in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity to build a house. It was with much sadness that St. Joseph Parish lost EOD CPO

**SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME
WHO SERVED
ST. JOSEPH PARISH**

Sister Mary Suzanne
Sister Mary Ellen
Sister Mary Juanelle
Sister Mary Magdalita
Sister Mary Barnaba
Sister Marylyn
(Sister Mary Elene)
Sister Mary Bonita
Sister Mary Josine
Sister Mary Laurence
Sister Mary Maureen
Sister Mary Ann Adele
Sister Dianne Marie
(Patricia Marie)
Sister Mary Lynette
Sister Angela Marie
Sister Mary Raymonde
Sister Mary Vincente
(Janet Marie)
Sister Mary Shannon
Sister Mary Eduard
Sister Lea Marie
Sister Mary Ruthann
Sister Nancy Marie
Sister Mary Stefanie
Sister Margene

Gregory J. Billiter during the Iraq War, bringing to three the number of parishioners who lost their lives in the service of their country.

The school flourished under the direction of principal Rebecca Brown. Enrollment was at nearly 550 students with three classrooms in each grade. All students also enjoyed a Spanish and an art appreciation curriculum. The St. Joseph Activities and Athletic Association was established to oversee sports, including basketball and volleyball, as well as clubs, such as drama, quilting, Lego League, and Art Club. The school also received a generous donation to install an elevator.

In 2006, St. Joseph School earned the distinction of being named a United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon School. This exclusive award honored schools that scored in the top 10% on state assessments, and also completed a rigorous application process. The following year, Ms. Brown won the National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Principal Award. The students at St. Joseph School were being recognized more frequently for their academic talents and



Blue Ribbon

were receiving scholarships to diocesan high schools. At the same time, the following St. Joseph School teachers received awards for their dedication to the profession and catechism: Mrs. Sharon Serey, Mrs. Karen Stolz, Mrs. Kathy Schlachter, Mrs. Linda Reynolds, Mrs. Leslie Hughes, Mrs. Sandy Strassburger and Ms. Dawn Franzen.

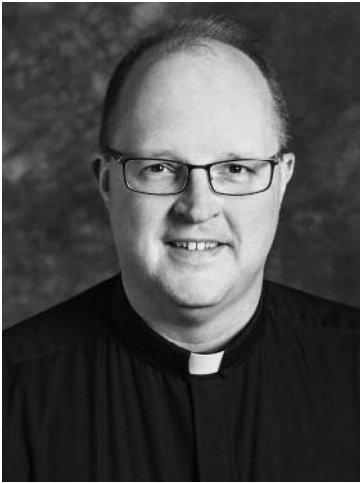
In 2008, St. Joseph Church recognized those parishioners who had been a vital part of its history with the celebration of Heritage Day. This event, organized by Dr. Shelly Voet, was a tribute to those parishioners aged 70 and over, and included the celebration of



Heritage Day

Mass, a reception and a video. The parish fortunately still included many parishioners who either were founding members, or whose families were founding members. The day was an opportunity for those who had formed the parish to share what they had built with their faith, their perseverance, and with their own hands for all the people of the parish, especially for all the newer younger families.

FACING THE FUTURE WITH A DEEPER FAITH: 2010 - PRESENT



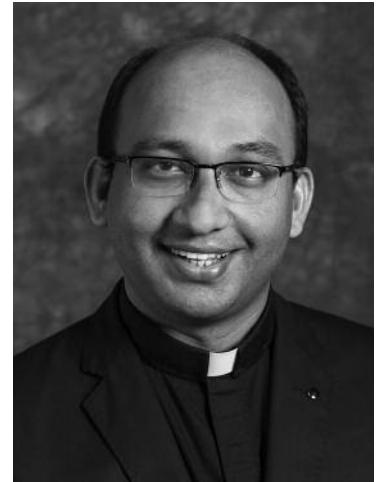
Father Phillip DeVous

In 2010, Father Phillip DeVous became pastor. Parishioners soon learned what a gifted speaker he was, and have been known on at least one occasion to applaud after a homily! The following year, Father Ronald Ketteler, who faithfully had served at the parish since 1992, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination as a priest. The parish has been fortunate to enjoy twenty-three years of Father Ketteler's humor, support, wisdom and quiet guidance.

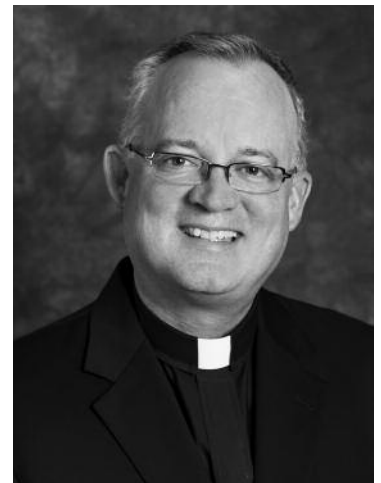
During the past several years under Father DeVous' leadership, the parish has continued to change. The young families who arrived in huge numbers in the 1990's have grown up, and this has decreased somewhat the school enrollment for the elementary grades. As parish population

has matured, there has been a rejuvenation of prayer life and spirituality. A group of men from the Christ Renews His Parish groups and the Holy Name Society began meeting Saturday mornings for prayer and socializing at Pee Wee's Place, a restaurant owned by parishioner, Tim (Pee Wee) Reese. The meetings have become a regular Saturday morning routine, and have provided support and love to parishioners and non-parishioners alike. The intensity and sincerity of this group became influential in attracting several people to Catholicism, and even inspired those at other parishes to join this group. The long standing tradition of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph's experienced an increase in participation in the last few years. After many years of working to expand interest in Eucharistic Adoration, a small committee led by Carol Hodge and supported by Father DeVous succeeded in renovating the chapel so that it could accommodate prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day.

In 2012 Father Jo Joy came to the parish from India and became parochial vicar. He started monthly inner healing masses to promote spiritual renewal. Rev. Mr. Hudson Henry also joined the parish in 2013 as full time deacon, and he has provided leadership and guidance to the RCIA program, as well as lending a helping hand wherever there is a need.



Father Jo Joy



Deacon Hudson Henry



Mrs. Cathy Stover

Mrs. Cathy Stover, who taught junior high at the school for nine years, before leaving to become principal at St. Clement School in Cincinnati, was named principal of St. Joseph School in 2009. She brought back the Academic Team, which had been dormant for some time, and in 2016 the school's Quick Recall Team finished third out of 350 schools in the State of Kentucky, making it the first Catholic School in the state to finish in the

final four. Mrs. Stover also implemented a preschool curriculum for three and four year olds. This development has been immensely successful in getting the youngest members of our parish involved. It



Academic Team

has increased enrollment, and has prompted more families to commit to Catholic education for their children at a young age. During her tenure as principal, Mrs. Stover also has been unyielding in her efforts to acquire air conditioning for the school – something that had remained elusive for decades! The school held student walk-a-thons and pie sales, which netted enough funds to cover installation of air conditioning a few classrooms at a time. Slowly but surely, all of the classrooms are becoming more comfortable during the heat of August and September.



Men's CHRP



Women's CHRP

Parish prayer and spiritual life continued to flourish. Ms. Tina Klare, who had served as Youth Ministry Director for many years, became Coordinator of Religious Education in 2014, and Mr. Adam Frazier became Youth Ministry Director, continuing the parish tradition of evangelizing parish youth. For the past four years, more and

more parishioners have participated in Christ Renews His Parish weekend retreats for men and women. This movement is but a small reflection of the growing number of parishioners who continue to nourish their faith at St. Joseph. In addition, in 2015, the parish sponsored a bus trip to Bardstown and Gethsemani where parishioners spent the day exploring the early faith foundations in Central Kentucky.



Bus Trip to Bardstown

In early 2012, a renovation project called Transformation Alive beautified the interior of the church. Mrs. Laura Arlinghaus enhanced the Stations of the Cross with frames and paint so that they are visually more appealing. Mrs. Tracy Sanborn worked with a committee to add an elegant coffered ceiling to the triangular portion of the church so that its





Tabernacle

appearance in relation to the main body of the church is more cohesive. Also, some new flooring was installed and the interior walls were painted. In addition, Father DeVous moved the tabernacle back to its traditional place behind the main altar on a small altar constructed by members of the Holy Name Society. He also turned the main altar slightly to face the large section of the church.

The parish looks forward with great pride to the ordination of son of the parish, James Brockmeier, in this our Centennial year. James will be a priest in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

In just 100 years, sleepy Crescent Springs transformed from a humble rural stop on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad into a sprawling suburb with many homes, developments, restaurants and businesses. The small country church, which began

with thirty families, has grown to serve over 1,400 families. The faithful farmers who founded this church and built much of it with their own hands may not recognize this community for all its outward changes. However, that same faith, grit and determination that burned so brightly in the early members still endures. Perhaps it is reflected in the face of a three year old learning about Jesus at school for the first time; in the smiles of the hordes of people who flock to the festival each year for the fun, food and fellowship; or in the peace and quiet of one's contemplative prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. As Mr. Noll so aptly remarked in 1997: "Buildings change, times change, but the people and their dedication to their faith do not."

Acknowledgements

This work is a collaborative effort of many parishioners working together. The following resources provided valuable information in comprising this history.

"A History of St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Kentucky," by Susan Barth. April 21, 1975.

"The Bicentennial Celebration, The Crescent-Villa Community," by Susan Barth and Mike Cunningham. 1976.

"The Carpenter's Press," articles written by Joan Meder and Jane Terrell.

Private Interview with Mr. J.A. Seissiger, by Susan Barth.

Private Interviews with various parishioners by Barb Fritz, Jay Winstel and Sarah Barlage Bilott.

Research and Primary documentation conducted by Barb Fritz.

Written by Sarah Barlage Bilott and Susan Barth.

Edited by Barb Fritz with Paul Tenkotte.



CELEBRATORY EVENTS

March 11-18, 7:00 p.m.	Novena to St. Joseph – Church
March 19, 5:00 p.m.	Centennial Opening Mass with Bishop Foys
March 19, 7:00 p.m.	Centennial Celebratory Dinner – Noll Hall
June 12, 2:00 p.m.	Old Fashioned Family Picnic – Church Grounds
September 11, after 11:30 Mass	Cultural Fest – Noll Hall
Fall, 2016	Centennial Church Bus Tour
November 18, 10:00 a.m.	Forty Hours Devotion - Church
November 20, 6:00 p.m.	Forty Hours Devotion Closing – Church
November 20, 7:00 p.m.	Centennial Closing Reception – Noll Hall

Several times throughout the year, the Centennial Time Line and Museum will be available for parishioners to view.

We will also be selling commemorative Christmas ornaments and notecards with pictures of the original church as well as raffling a quilt made of Festival t-shirts.