

# ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION



#### **PIONEERS**

What a wonderful celebration we had for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our parish. It was a beautiful expression of the diverse and vibrant community that we have become. I wonder if those first settlers to our area could have dreamed that 150 years later we would be 1000 families strong with a school, a church building and a staff of seven. The original families which gathered where they could until they were able to provide a church would probably be both surprised and proud of what we have become.

I love history so I have really enjoyed learning more about the early years of our parish, about some of the "characters" whose stories are fondly remembered, and the triumphs and tragedies that our community experienced. Because of this love of history I have enjoyed, over the years, visiting the Village of Yesteryear on the edge of the Steele County Free Fair grounds. It is fascinating to see the simple cabins that sheltered those intrepid pioneers and to reflect on the difficult life they endured. They had lots of courage and lots of perseverance.

The challenges they faced caused some to perish on the journey and others to turn back. But those who found in this area a home planted the seeds of a new life. They probably did not bring much with them, at least at first. They brought the essentials and perhaps a few small treasures to remind them of those they loved.

Among the essentials they brought their faith. Beyond the physical necessities of life they knew that, without their faith and the grace of God, their journey would not be possible. So it did not take long for them to look for opportunities to come together in prayer, to form a community of faith and to welcome priests

BY: FATHER JOHN SAUER

who served their needs.

I am not sure I would have made a good pioneer priest. When I grew up I enjoyed riding our horses but probably would not want to do it for weeks on end. And I love that I have a roof over my head and a warm bed at night. These men are heroes to me for the zeal they had for the faith and the sacrifices they made for their flock. I can hardly imagine what it must have been like for our first pastor, Fr. George Keller to serve a parish that was based in Faribault but extended from Rosemount to Blooming Prairie and from Pine Island to Killkenny. According to one of our parish history books he once walked the forty miles from Hastings, rather than pay stagecoach fare out of the money he had collected for his parish.

Today, we take up the responsibility of providing a firm foundation for the next 150 years. It is hard to imagine what life will be like in 2166. What will people say about those of us who celebrate faith, family and community today? I hope that they will look back and say that Sacred Heart was — and is — an amazing parish who drew their life from the Eucharist and lived the mission of Jesus Christ. What a blessing that would be.



A special message from Sacred Heart Church to all of our members

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What a year we've had! Our Sacred Heart staff, parish council, and anniversary committee knew we had to do something special to mark our sesquicentennial...or 150 years of being formed and fashioned as the people of God, being equipped for discipleship, and sent forth week after week, year after year, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ with our words and our lives.

So what did we do to honor this momentous occasion? The most prominent was, no doubt, our celebration during and after the 4 pm Mass on Saturday, September 24, 2016. We invited former pastors, staff, and seminarians to celebrate with us, and got the word out through the Courier, the Owatonna People's Press, and the Owatonna Today Show as well as internal communications at Sacred Heart: bulletin, announcements, posters, facebook, email reminders, and website. We were overjoyed to have Bishop Emeritus Bernard Harrington concelebrating with our pastor, Fr. John Sauer, our parochial vicar, Fr. Jose Morales, and much beloved former pastor, Fr. Ed Mountain. As the first beats from the Litomyslaneous polka band rang out, feet and heads began tapping in the very full assembly, and all heads turned to see four colorful green and gold flags being waved in the procession, carried by S. Franchon Pirkl, OSF, hospice chaplain; S. Sarah Hennessey, FSPA, former Pastoral Associate of Sacred Heart; and longtime Sacred Heart members John & Jan Klecker. What festivity they added! After a beautiful celebration of Word and Eucharist, we invited each concelebrant to say a few words to us. Fr. Morales spoke in Spanish to our Hispanic sisters and brothers celebrating with us and Fr. Mountain received a standing ovation as a sign of our love and affection. Afterward, Mayor Tom Kuntz and his wife, Shelby, were recognized in the assembly, and Mayor Kuntz presented a proclamation from the city of Owatonna to our faith community. It is a powerful statement.

After Mass, people were invited to linger in the Parish Center, where a beautiful history display was set up. Tables of

photos and memorabilia on black linen cloths could be viewed, as well as statues and quilts and other unique items that told the story of our parish. Most things were from our archives, but parishioners were invited to bring wedding and/or baptism photos in for the display as well.

From there, we made our way to St. Mary's School, where Pope Francis himself (or a very close likeness) was waiting to greet us and offer photo opportunities. As the guestbook was signed and nametags completed, our community could head downstairs to a decorated cafeteria to eat a delicious dinner of pulled pork sandwiches donated from the Owatonna Knights of Columbus, or a burger or brat, along with award-winning beans donated by Dave & Mary Lax, chips, and homemade bars from our parishioners. There were free will donations accepted for the meal, but no meal ticket was sold in order to make this an affordable celebration for all of our families. Popcorn, cotton candy, and beer were sold upstairs near the gymnasium, where a duet called Coda played music for us on a keyboard and saxophone, and many children's activities awaited: face painting, twisty balloon artist, crafts, a Lego station, and a build-a-bear workstation. The beautiful weather allowed families to play outdoors on the playground of St. Mary's as well.

In addition to the event itself, the parish also:

•Adopted a parish prayer that has been prayed by the gathered community before the start of every Mass:

Heavenly Father, You have gathered us together as a parish to be Your visible life in our world. Here we unite in worship, proclaim Your word, celebrate the Eucharist, and are sent forth to share Your love and make disciples. Lord, we take Your Great Commission seriously and long for our parish to be so on-fire that we draw people to You. Help us in that endeavor, as we strive to work together—ordained, religious, and laity. Please make our parish amazing, through Your power and Your grace. Amen.

- •Created a color brochure with a photo and a message from all of our living pastors, past and present: Fr. John Sauer, 2008-present; Fr. Peter Klein, 1998-2008; Fr. Thomas Jennings, 1994-1998; Fr. Harry Jewison, 1985-1994; and Fr. Edward Mountain, 1977-1985
- •Initiated weekly amazing memory sharing by parishioners in the bulletin, perhaps the most treasured thing we've done. To have various voices recalling things for us, things that either enlighten us with thoughts like, "Wow! I didn't know that!" or jog our own memories and make us say, "Oh, yeah, I remember that!" has been truly beautiful.
- •Sponsored the National Catholic Youth Choir from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN for an evening dinner, concert, and reception at Sacred Heart on June 22, 2016
- Sponsored a children's service project: collecting new stuffed animals for area First Responders
- •Co-sponsored an area-wide teen Pizza, Praise, & Worship night at Sacred Heart on October 12, 2016

None of this celebrating would have been possible without our generous sponsors (see list on page 7), the many volunteers who baked or came early to set up or stayed late to tear down, who served food, bused tables, or helped at the children's activities. Thank you! Special hats off to our hardworking 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee who shared leadership with me: Jackie Evans, Sue Gerdts, Tina Heim, Gordy Hofius, Sue Pap, Bev Seykora, Mary Trenda, and Kay Wagner.

God has richly blessed our faith community with all of these efforts, and all of these years of handing down a rich faith tradition. As Meister Eckhart, Dominican monk and one of the most profound thinkers of the Middle Ages, proclaimed, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

During our AMAZING 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the following three parishioners are accomplishing something unique in their lives. They are listening to and answering God's call, and God's very real claim on our lives. Caroline Stiles, now known as Sister Ann Immaculee, a first year novice with the Sisters of Life Religious Order based in New York; Father James Stiles, priest for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis / St. Paul; and Scot Berkley, his wife Becky and family, in diaconate formation for the Diocese of Winona were each asked how they are answering God's call.

# CAROLINE AND JAMES: ROOTED IN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

In speaking with Sharon Stiles, the mother of both Sister Ann Immaculee and Father James, one could sense her awe at the wonders of God's presence in the lives of their family. Sharon said, "It truly is a call within their hearts that they felt, and wanted dearly to respond to with a Yes. I see it as a great mystery of God. I could never have predicted this. God did all of this. God is full of surprises. I still marvel...I still find it all a great joyful mystery. One thing I know that helped inspire their openness to 'hearing the call' is they attended daily Mass and daily Eucharistic Adoration. They also received the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently and sought the advice of a Spiritual Director."

#### S. ANN IMMACULEE

This is my story of joy. I grew up at Sacred Heart Parish, receiving my sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation there. I am tremendously grateful to my parents who so lovingly ushered me into the Church with confidence and constancy, whether I wanted it or not. I grew to understand the truths of the faith there within the safe helm of my family and the larger family of the parish. We grow from our roots, so the foundational graces and formation I received from the community around me imprinted upon me the strength and firmness of who I am now. We cannot get back those initial days of childhood that so quickly teach us love, goodness, and mercy.

However, it's safe to say that many of us drift from these roots. We cast our anchor into the world's riches, hoping our ship won't break free from the loose sand that appears to be happiness itself. I know this feeling well, for when I was in high school, I did exactly that. I sought after everything that looked good to me: sports, popularity, good grades, guys, student council, and all the typical joys of high school.

But when I graduated, everything changed. The summer after my senior year, I went on a wilderness trip to Colorado and spent a week with nine other students climbing up a 14,000 foot mountain. Little did I know that it was here on this trip that I would encounter God in a personal way for the first time in my life. The leader of our trip kept reciting these words to us throughout the week, "God is throwing pebbles at the window of your soul." And these words sank deep into the recesses of my mind, for they spoke a truth about me until then I had never realized.

So when I was 18 years old and about to head off to college, I made the first sincere prayer of my life that changed me indefinitely: "Jesus, if You are real, and You want me to know You, then show Yourself to me. I have no desire to pray or change my life, but if You are who they say You are, then give me the desire to know You." I gave God permission to woo me into His arms and to stir up within me the greatness that we are called to be. He stepped toward me and brought joy like I had never known before, and I stand here today a religious sister who has given up everything I thought would fulfill me only to find perfect fulfillment in Him. I never thought I would be called to religious life. In fact, all I wanted was to become a wife and a



mother. But as I grew to know Jesus through prayer, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass, I found that He alone could satisfy my heart, and He alone was calling me to a deeper relationship with Him as His wife and the Church's mother. With boldness, I proclaim, "Open wide the doors for Christ!"

#### **FR. JAMES STILES**

My parents in conjunction with my Catholic education instilled in me and helped nourish my faith in God. No. doubt, I, like most boys in their adolescent years, was much more interested in friends, girlfriends, video games, movies, sports, etc. However, my faith in God, however weak or strong it may have been any given point, remained with me. Toward the latter part of my high school years and in the early part of my college years, I experienced a slow and subtle drifting from my faith. Yet, God in His Mercy, came to me as my Shepherd to rescue me from drifting too far. I experienced a deeper conversion than ever before. At the heart of this conversion was being deeply reminded that I was created by God and for God; therefore, nothing and no one could satisfy the longings in my heart except God. I began to notice that many people around me were not experiencing what I was. I wanted to share this Good News with other people. I desired, I suppose, to be a shepherd to them as Christ was to me. After a couple of years of prayer and seeking spiritual direction from a priest, it became clearer to me that God might be calling me to the priesthood. I've been a priest since May of 2015. I am so blessed to be a priest. To sum it up, I am loved by God, and I get to serve His people as a sign of my love for Him.

#### **SCOT BERKLEY**

"Slowly, slowly" would be a good description of how my diaconal vocation has come to where it is today. I grew up in Winona, in the Lutheran church. Sunday school, youth group, weekly worship service, we were there. In college I moved out West, and my faith became lazy more than anything, which mimicked my first couple years of classes too. I came back

Continued on page 4

to the Winona area following my heart, and reset a lot of things, including my studies. After a short engagement, I married my best friend, my love, a Catholic. As I finished up engineering school, Becky pulled me closer to the Catholic faith. I would say slowly, because at times, I was a bit resistant, maybe more than a bit. We moved to Owatonna and I met Fr. Klein. RCIA started in the fall of 2001, and at Easter Vigil 2002, I was received into the Church at Sacred Heart.

I enjoyed learning more, and more, about the faith. The great depth of the Catholic Church kept pulling me in. One day I picked up the shorter form of Morning and Evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours after Mass at a religious items sale, was intrigued, and bought it. I began working my way through how to pray with it. Morning Prayer at first, and then adding evening prayer later. Eventually I purchased "Christian Prayer" the more complete set of Morning, Daytime, Evening and Night prayer, with the hymn music included. My understanding of how the Hours worked continued to grow.

I am a member of the Owatonna KC's and served as the recorder for 10 years before starting formation. At one meeting a brother knight was recruiting for the new perpetual adoration that was starting at St. Joe's. He was looking for overnight



hours especially, and I took a 4 am shift. This has been a cornerstone of my prayer life ever since. God keeps drawing me closer in, and I often am slow to accept. During the 2009-10 school year I attended the Together in Faith program offered by the diocese and had my first Ignatian retreat at the end of the program. I felt called to further discern the permanent diaconate, and found a priest spiritual director. We met regularly in the two years before the application process began. I vividly remember the day I closed my discernment to apply for formation. Soul singing joy!

We applied to the diaconate formation program in 2012. I say we, because Becky had paperwork too, even a letter to Bishop Quinn stating she was okay with moving forward in the process. After the interviews, and requirements were met, I was asked to join the program. Discernment started again, this

time more seriously. At our first formation session, our director gave us the "second most important book we will have" – the four-volume set of the Liturgy of the Hours. My prayer again took a leap with formal training on how to pray the Divine Office.

At the beginning of the fourth year in formation, God continues to mold me, like clay on a potter's wheel. My discernment about being a deacon is all but closed; I'm all in. I don't often know what is next, but when He says go, I go. When He says do, I do. I look forward to His guiding wisdom in the years to come. It isn't easy, sometimes it isn't even close, but it is joyful. He provides what we need, sometimes slowly, for our benefit. Thanks be to God!

#### CONCLUSION

And with these three vocation stories, our Amazing Parish prayer becomes less a dream and more a reality. Listen as our Sacred Heart faith community continues to pray faithfully each week, "Help us in that endeavor, as we strive to work together---ordained, religious and laity," and think of the many ways God is drawing each one of us to a life of service. We pray that Sacred Heart will continue to become a truly amazing parish, a people that is on-fire for Jesus and that all who enter our doors will come to know and deepen their love for Jesus Christ.

#### SACRED HEART'S BELL

BY: KAY WAGNER ALONG WITH OTTO RYSAVY, FRANK KRUMHOLZ AND THE BELL

#### Engraved on the Bell:

Dedicated to our forefathers, who by their Catholic faith, perseverance and resolve founded this SACRED HEART PARISH.

#### Wording on the bell:

Henry Stuckstede B.F. Co. St. Louis, MO 1903

Joannes Nepomucenes

For many years this great bell beckoned the faithful to worship.

Through the generosity of the Owatonna Knights of Columbus, this bell, now in silence, still serves as a reminder of its once great service to this Catholic community. It was placed here in 1990 during the pastorate of Rev. Harry Jewison.

#### History of the bell:

The bell still hung in the belfry after the fire in 1922. Between 1977 and 1985, under the direction of Father Edward Mountain, it was discovered that the original timbers were weak, and it became unsafe to climb to the belfry. Afraid that the tower might not be able to hold the bell much longer, Father Mountain had the bell removed and placed in the southwest part of the parking lot. It was put between two ash trees. People had to drive around it to



be able to drop passengers off near the south doors of the church.

In May 2014 the bell was placed on the west side of the new parish offices.

# OUR LADY OF BEAURAING: THE LADY WITH THE GOLDEN HEART BY: KAY WAGNER WITH INFORMATION COMPILED FROM THE 2002 DIRECTORY

Our grotto was built in 1955, and originally was located east of the south entrance to the church. It commemorates 33 visits the Blessed Virgin made to five children in the village of Beauraing, Belgium between November 29, 1932 and January 3, 1933. The children who claimed to have seen the apparitions were Fernande (15), Gilberte (13), and Albert (11), children of Hector and Marie-Louise Perpete Voisin. With them were Andree (14) and Gilberte (9) Degeimbre, daughters of Germaine Degeimbre, a farmer's widow.

On the evening of November 29, 1932, four of the children walked to a school conducted by the Sisters of Christian Doctrine to meet Gilberte Voisin and walk home with her. When they reached the school, Albert pointed out a lady dressed in a long white robe, appearing in a Hawthorne tree near a railroad viaduct just past the school. The other children reported seeing her as well. Mary identified herself as the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven.

Over the next several weeks, they saw the Lady 32 more times, generally in the garden of the convent-school. The final apparition was on January 3, 1933. The children reported that the Lady requested that a chapel be built at the site and stated that *I am the Immaculate Virgin*. She also desired for pilgrims to

come to the site and asked the children (and everyone) to *pray, pray, pray,* and in one of the last visions revealed her *Golden Heart*.

In the final vision, the Lady reportedly asked one of the children called Fernande: "Do you love My Son?" She replied, "Yes." She then asked her "Do you love Me?" And she again answered, "Yes." The Lady then stated: "Then sacrifice yourself for me" and bade them farewell before the children could reply. After the apparitions, the five children all grew up, married, and lived quiet lives with their families.

The shrine at Sacred Heart in Owatonna, MN is the first built in the United States. It was donated by George Herter of Waseca, MN. Herter's son was stricken with typhus and doctors said the young boy would not live. His mother, who had a piece of the Hawthorne tree, placed it under her son's pillow. He rallied. In gratitude, Mr. Herter donated fifty aluminum statues to churches and other religious sites. A splinter from the Hawthorne tree was placed in each replica. Stones from the foundation of St. Mary's Academy were used in the construction of the Shrine.

The message, which the Mother of God gave, is one of consolation. The statue is one of Mary with open arms – a mother always ready to help. She wears a dia-

dem on her head — a sign of the powerful mediator she is, eager to show us the way to God by showing us her great love and by asking for prayer and sacrifice. In the near future, because of a substantial gift to the parish by Fran Janous, a "Mary Garden" will be created between the parish offices and the church building in which all the plants and flowers will have some connection to the Blessed Virgin. Our Lady of Beauraing will be installed in the garden. We hope it will be a beautiful place to visit, to rest, and to pray.



#### MARIAN SCHOOL ~ ST. MARY'S SCHOOL HISTORY

Portions of the following were taken from the "Education for All" section of the Owatonna Memories & Milestones publication (page 89-90):

St. Mary's School has had a long history in Owatonna, beginning in 1877 when Mother Alfred of the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois was invited to inspect sites in Waseca and Owatonna to build a Catholic academy for women.

Sister Alfred chose Owatonna and made plans for the school with the Reverend Francis Pribyl, the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. The school was built at 730 South Cedar and cost approximately \$8,000 when it opened on October 1, 1877 with 60 students under the direction of Sister

Augustine. The Academy was destroyed by fire in 1913. The building was adequately insured and was immediately rebuilt. In 1916 boys were allowed to attend the school for the first time. A decline in religious vocations in the Catholic Church during the 1960's had a negative impact on the financial picture of the St. Mary's/Marian School systems. With fewer nuns and priests to operate the schools, a more expensive lay faculty had to be hired. This combined with declining enrollment, forced the closure of Marian High in 1975. In 1980 St. Mary's dropped the 9<sup>th</sup> grade program to develop a more natural alignment with the Owatonna Public School district. A full

day every day kindergarten option was offered in 1990 to better meet students' needs. Three years later a preschool program was begun.

We are proud of the ongoing legacy of St. Mary's School which we support with St. Joseph's Church.



### 150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS & EVENT





















#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS & EVENT



In honor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, children and their families participated in offering new stuffed animals as a service project for Owatonna's First Responders during weekend Masses on October 1 and 2. The stuffed animals will be made available to young children during emergencies to comfort them by our local first responders. Pictured presenting the stuffed animals to Sacred Heart First Responders is (L-R) Sacred Heart members, Ken Ringhofer, Gold Cross Ambulance Paramedic, and Rob Kniefel, Police Department Sergeant; Fr. John Sauer, Pastor; and Wendy Caduff, Pastoral Associate. Not pictured, but also a recipient, is the Owatonna Fire Department.





# amazıng



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE



Pictured: (Back L-R) Bev Seykora, Mary Trenda, Pope Francis, Father John Sauer, Kay Wagner, Tina Heim (Front L-R) Wendy Caduff, Sue Pap, Jackie Evans, Sue Gerdts (Not pictured: Gordy Hofius)

Like our ancestors, the Church of the Sacred Heart today is fortunate to have parishioners who are willing to invest their time, energy, ideas, and financial resources to keep our family of faith vibrant all these years later and for generations to come. Thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to help make our parish a place to come and encounter Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, and an amazing asset to the Diocese of Winona and to the City of Owatonna. If you would like information on how to become more involved at Sacred Heart, simply seek out a familiar face you see active in ministry here, or talk to any member of our pastoral staff.

#### **KEEPSAKE DVD**

To purchase a keepsake DVD of the 150th Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Harrington, Fr. John Sauer, Fr. Jose Morales, and Fr. Ed Mountain, with polka music provided by Litomyslaneous, please contact Limberg Productions directly at 475-1317. The cost of the DVD is \$15. Thank you Scott Limberg, for the amazing footage you captured for us!

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS - THANK YOU

With a grateful heart, we again want to recognize the following individuals, non-profits, or businesses that have given financial or in-kind donations to make our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

Thank You

Anonymous
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Kenneth W. & Dorothy G. Carroll
Gerald & Carol Deetz
Terry & Jackie Evans
Barb Hartle
Jo & Jim Hartle
Jan & John Klecker
Teresa Klecker & family
\*given in memory of Thomas D. Klecker,
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#### PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

BY BEV SEYKORA WITH EXCERPTS FROM

THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK, "WE REMEMBER...WE CELEBRATE...WE BELIEVE"

In the 1990's there was a growing apostolate for Parish Nurse Ministry. Parish nurses are Registered Nurses who initiate a health care ministry in a church setting. The ministry is structured around a partnership between the pastor, congregation, and registered nurse.

Sacred Heart was the first parish in the Diocese of Winona to embrace parish nursing. Mary Trenda, RN, and Pat Mollenhauer, RN, began the program in the fall of 1993 and became certified parish nurses in May 1994 through Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Serving our

parish today are Carol Rypka, RN and Tracie Peterson, RN.

Our Parish Nurse Ministry has included a broad scope of things such as: monitoring parishioners' blood pressures; discussion of topics such as end-of-life decisions, living will, human organ donations and transplants; support in grief and loss; eating disorders; AIDS; CPR; prayer shawl ministry; Elizabeth ministry; caring ministry; ensuring the Sacrament of Anointing is available to the sick and elderly, and all the while providing dignity, humor and laughter for both caregivers and volun-

teers. Whatever kind of help parishioners need in finding health services and resources in our community, our Parish Nurse Ministry program and the Pastoral Care team will help. Everything is done in a setting of prayer and spiritual enrichment to assist parishioners in their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Celebrating 150 Years 1866-2016

#### SACRED HEART CLUBHOUSE

BY KAY WAGNER WITH EXCERPTS FROM

THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK, "WE REMEMBER...WE CELEBRATE...WE BELIEVE"

After the fire which destroyed Sacred Heart Church in 1901, along with the decision to rebuild the church, a new rectory was built (in later years it became the Clubhouse).

When the present rectory was built in 1938, it replaced the old rectory on Oak Street. In 1950. Father Kasal oversaw the addition onto the back of the Clubhouse with assistance from Father Paul and the men of the parish. The clubhouse was built and divided to allow for more than one activity to be going on at the same time. In addition to a large dining room, there was a large kitchen area which included a multi-purpose room that was used for meal preparation and storage of dishes, but also served as a meeting room. It became one of the best equipped and most modern of all parish halls in the Diocese at that time.

The lower level of the building was ideal for the young people of the parish. Both the upper and lower levels were equipped with a stage.

Many activities took place in the Clubhouse, including:

- Mother-Daughter Banquets
- Father-Son Banquets
- Drama Club presentations
- Wedding and anniversary receptions
- Farewell parties for departing priests
- Many banquets served to local organizations

- Parish dinners
- Recognition banquets
- Bingo parties
- Sewing for the missions meetings of the various Guilds
- Meetings of the Junior Little Flower Sodality
- Meetings of the Knights of the Sacred Heart
- Pinochle Club
- Meals and lunches served after funerals

The floor in the large dining room was wooden. Several times a year, it was necessary to completely refinish it. It was awesome to walk into the facility after it was finished, as it was so beautiful and shiny. Many hours of labor went into the maintenance of that floor!

Parishioners worked very hard in that clubhouse preparing meals to serve several hundred people at a time. There was no dish washer, no air conditioning, no large coffee makers, no paper plates or foam cups. Food was prepared from "scratch." In other words, potatoes were peeled, cabbage for slaw was shredded by hand on a sauerkraut cutter, dressings were prepared in the kitchen, and coffee was cooked in large coffee pots on the stove. Often egg coffee was made, which then needed to be strained before serving. The kitchen became unbearably hot

with all of the ovens going and food being cooked on top of the stove. It was quite something to see the piles of dishes needing to be washed by hand after serving a large banquet.

The ladies worked diligently when called upon. It was quite a sight to see bowls of mashed potatoes, gravy, meat, vegetables, cabbage slaw, etc. that were carried out to the tables by waitresses who resembled a professional staff, as they were dressed in dark skirts, white blouses and white organdy aprons.

All in all, the Clubhouse underwent two expansions before it was torn down and the present Parish Center was constructed.

The discussion began in 1984 about whether to repair the old wooden structure or to replace it with a new one. The Clubhouse was located across the parking lot from the church and during inclement weather, access to the facility was difficult. Also, it was not accessible for the handicapped. With input from the parishioners, the decision was made to build a new facility onto the west end of the church. This took place under the leadership of Father Edward Mountain, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Finance Committee.

The new 68 x 100 foot structure was completed in late 1985 and an Open House was held in December.

#### HISTORY OF SACRED HEART

BY BEV SEYKORA WITH EXCERPTS

FROM "THE STORY OF SACRED HEART CHURCH" A 1954 PUBLICATION AND THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK, "WE REMEMBER...WE CELEBRATE...WE BELIEVE"

Over one hundred and fifty years ago the first settlers came to Owatonna. Their spiritual needs were cared for by Father Keller from Faribault. He made his headquarters with Mr. Charles Shoen, the first wagon-maker and blacksmith of Owatonna, and Mr. Michael Toher, the sheriff. Father Keller obtained permission to offer Mass in the town hall. A few years later, in 1866, the Catholics decided to build a church of their own.

The church was 42 feet wide and 72 feet long. The lumber was obtained from Minneapolis at \$992.45, and the freight on it was \$131.99. The total cost of the church was \$2,600. It was located on the very spot where the present Sacred Heart Church stands.

By 1891 the first Sacred Heart Church was too small for the rapidly growing congregation. The Irish and German Catholics decided to build a church of their own. The mother parish contributed \$1800 toward the building of the new St. Joseph's Church, located at 512 South Elm Avenue.

On December 17, 1901, Sacred Heart Church was destroyed by fire. It is not known how the fire originated, but the supposition is that the fire started from the furnace. Total loss was estimated between \$5000 and \$6000 on which there was insurance of \$2500 on the church and \$500 on the furnishings of the church and vestments.

Once again the Sacred Heart parish was divided. The Polish members decided to build a church for themselves at 820 South Elm Avenue, naming it St. Hyacinth. The mother parish gave \$4000 toward the building of St. Hyacinth's. The actual church structures of Sacred Heart, St. Joseph and St. Hyacinth's were physically only blocks apart. However, the ethnic boundaries were miles apart. Eventually, economics and cultural assimilation no longer warranted three Catholic Churches in Owatonna. St. Hyacinth closed and is now used as our Knights of Columbus Hall.

In 1902, construction began on the new Sacred Heart Church. Plans were drawn up by Maybury of Winona. Hammel Brothers and Anderson, a local construction firm, built the new brick church. It was contracted for \$13,000. The generous laity donated nearly all the inside furnishings. During the pastorate of Father John Pivo, a new rectory was built at a cost of \$2,000 and sat on South Oak Street. It later became the Sacred Heart Club House.

On March 22, 1922 fire destroyed the second Sacred Heart Church in a morning blaze. The cause of the fire was uncertain although it was believed that it started from the furnace. The fire was a terrible blow to Father Pivo as he watched the church he built burn to the ground. The burning out of the church left practically nothing of the wooden construction or contents of the building unconsumed. Only the brick and stone walls and the brickwork of the large and smaller tower still standing along with a few twisted pieces of steel in the charred mass of ruins which fell into the basement.

The same year, under the direction of Father Pivo, the third Sacred Heart Church was built at a cost of about \$90,000 and was placed on the original foundation. Dedicated on June 16, 1923, this church is the present Sacred Heart Church. The date on the cornerstone of our church building reads, "1902" and that is because the foundation was able to be reused.

A flurry of activity was started by Father Kasal soon after his arrival in 1937. He organized the Holy Name Society for all men of the parish. Eighty-two members streamed to the basement of the church with wheelbarrows, picks, and shovels and in one evening's digging they emptied the basement of the debris from the church that burned in 1922. They hauled out enough dirt to lower and even out the floor.

The present rectory was built under

Father Kasal's direction in 1938, and the old rectory facing South Oak was converted into a small clubhouse. The clubhouse was enlarged in 1950 and served for many years as one of the best equipped parish halls in the Winona Diocese. In 1984 discussion began about whether to repair the old wood structure of the clubhouse or replace it with a new one. The Clubhouse was located across the parking lot from the church, and during inclement weather, access to the facility was difficult and was not handicapped accessible. With input from parishioners, the decision was made to build a new facility onto the west end of the church. Permission was given by Bishop Loras J. Watters and under the leadership of Father Edward Mountain, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Finance Committee, the clubhouse was torn down and the present Parish Center was constructed at a cost of \$337,372 in 1985. Plans were drawn up by Kagermeier, Skaar Architects, Inc. of Mankato. The new facility houses the Parish Center, the narthex, nursery, kitchen, parish nurse ministry office, storeroom and restrooms. Being connected to the church, it has influenced the way we interact as a parish community and serves as a welcoming space before entering our worship area. Perhaps our narthex is shaping our parish life the most.

In 2014 with the blessings of Bishop John M. Quinn, and under the leadership of our Pastor, Father John Sauer, the Parish Council and Building Committee, the Sacred Heart's Parish Office Center was built. Plans were by Armstrong, Torseth, Skold and Rydeen Inc. from Minneapolis. The new office building affords Pastoral Staff an adequate area in which to work and provides a meeting space for small groups. It is accessible to all. It also enabled the parish to return the rectory to its originally intended use as a private living quarters for our priests and visiting clergy.

SAVE THE DATE: PHOTOS FOR OUR NEXT PICTORAL DIRECTORY WILL BE TAKEN JUNE 9 THROUGH JULY 2, 2017.



2016-2017

# Sacred Heart Pastoral Council Members:

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# Send your newsletter articles and photos to:

office@sacredheartowatonna.org

#### **Bulletin Announcements:**

office@sacredheartowatonna.org
Bulletin materials are due by Tuesday,
12:00 pm for the upcoming weekend

## Sacred Heart Church

810 So Cedar Avenue Owatonna, MN 55060 507-451-1588

Combined Music Ministry Choir Concert
Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Choirs

#### "Sounds of the Season"

Sunday, December 18th 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church

www.sacredheartowatonna.org
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#### Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th

6:30 p.m. Mass and Celebration Dinner (Español)

#### Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Litomysl 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. (Español)

#### Christmas Day, December 25th

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

#### Mary, Holy Mother of God, January 1st

(Standard Weekend Mass Times)

