

75-Year Record Recalls Work Of Pastors And Parishioners

Wholehearted cooperation between pastor and people evidenced in the celebration of Holy Redeemer Parish's Diamond Jubilee is marked throughout the 75 years of the parish's existence.

The result has been the development of a complete parish plant which through the years has brought outstanding material progress and immeasurable spiritual benefits.

Retreats and missions have been held periodically in Holy Redeemer Church on Hudson Ave and many opportunities offered for the spiritual advancement of the people. The parish sodalities have been under the constant watchfulness of the priests and Holy Redeemer Church has carried out the word of Holy Mother the Church's attention is given to make the most of all its beauty.

On the greater feast days special events more impressive and people from all parts of Rochester visit the church to admire the beauty of its decoration. The sick and those confined to their homes receive special attention and the consolations of their religion are brought to them.

Redemptorists First

The history of the parish goes back to forming of an organization in the north east section of Rochester for the care of Catholic orphans. Rapid growth of that section necessitated a church and the establishment of a parish placed for a time in the care of the Redemptorist Fathers.

In 1860, the Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid D.D. appointed the Rev. Fidelis Oberholzer as pastor of the new parish. A zealous priest, an able administrator and a tireless worker, Father Oberholzer accomplished a work that is even to this day a monument in his memory.

After almost 17 years of pioneer work, Father Oberholzer relinquished his active care of the parish in June, 1877, when the Most Rev. Bishop appointed the Rev. Jacob Staub administrator of the parish.

The pastorate of Father Staub is a part of the history of Rochester especially of the northeast section.

Father Staub's Record
A man frail in appearance, but gigantic in energy, Father Staub accomplished wonders. Not only in the organization of his new parish, after Father Oberholzer was called to his eternal reward in 1877, but in every civic and religious activity, his name is written large in the events of this city.

With a real love of the poor and an intense interest in the welfare of the laboring man, Father Staub became their real champion. Years before many recognized the value of the papal encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on the condition of labor, called "Rerum Novarum," Father Staub organized study clubs and brought home to many labor leaders the real position of the Catholic Church. He seized every opportunity to meet union organizers and impressed upon employer and employee the right and duties of both. On many occasions he was called to arbitrate their disputes because his clear judgment and impartiality was admitted by all.

Father Staub was the founder of the Catholic Charities in Rochester. No work was too great for him when the poor were concerned, going even so far as to collect personally old clothes and furniture to be reconditioned and given to the needy. To him the Catholic Federation, a body of representatives from various Catholic Societies who acted as a clearing house on legislation and Catholic interests, owes its origin. A thorough believer in organization, he accomplished untold good for God and Country.

Father Staub's pastorate extended over a period of only 21 years. The priest had thrown all his energy into those years so that when illness overtook him in January, 1902, this great man and great priest became an easy victim. Volumes could be written and hosts of friends still hold in revered love the memory of Father Staub.

The parish was administered for almost six months following the death of Father Staub by the Rev. Adolph Edelmann and the Rev. Albert Geiger (see assistant pastors, this page) and when the new pastor was appointed to Holy Redeemer in 1903 everything was in readiness for him.

Fr. Stauber Appointed
On July 8, 1903, Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, D. D., called

Tribute Paid Nuns' Work

Coming of the School Sisters of Notre Dame to Holy Redeemer Church antedates the appointment of its first pastor. People who had come to our land from Germany at that time carried with them the knowledge of the value of religious education and began immediately to carry on the tradition of the home-land here.

In 1867, the Sisters of Notre Dame started the school and for 75 years have carried on their work of education of the young for God and country. Only the scroll of God's books will record the noble work, well done in His behalf.

Sister Mary Robertine, the superior, and fourteen Sisters continue the work so heroically started.

upon the present pastor, Rev. William F. Stauber, to take up the work where Father Staub had left off. Father Stauber was ordained in St. Patrick's Cathedral on June 9, 1908 and on June 8, he was appointed assistant to Rev. J. Emil Gofell, Ph. D. at St. Peter and Paul's Church in this city.

After twelve and a half years accurate there, Father Stauber was made pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Webster, where he succeeded the deceased Rev. Joseph Miller on Jan. 20, 1923. In Webster, Father Stauber won the affection and regard of the people of all faiths. It was with keen regret that the people of Webster bade him God speed at a public farewell reception after such a brief stay. In this short time, Father Stauber had built a new convent for the sisters of the school and had made a number of improvements and set off the burden of debt.

When Father Stauber went to Holy Redeemer, there was a mortgage of \$40,000 on the church property and a great deal of maintenance work to be done on the buildings which on account of their age needed constant repair.

In 1929, the church building which had not been decorated in many years, received the first attention of Father Stauber.

This was a great task. So many things had grown out of date and deteriorated that it was decided by the trustees, Mr. John Swartale and Mr. Frank Wala, and the pastor to make a complete job of the renovation.

A new and substantial roof was placed on the building which required the reinforcing of the trusses. The exterior was repainted, the entrances and vestibules were completely remodeled, new stained glass ornamental windows

of imported English gold glass replaced the frosted windows, the radiation which had become obsolete and inadequate was replaced and set into the walls for greater space in the side aisles. The confessionals which occupied niches in the transepts were remodeled into altars of St. Ann, St. Joseph and St. Anthony and the baptismal font placed in a chapel of its own. New lighting fixtures replaced the old carbon lamps which had been in use from the beginning of the installation of electricity in the church. The floors were carpeted to replace the old style matting and finally the two galleries in transepts, which were no longer needed, were torn out and on the side walls the huge doors were replaced by two mural paintings, one of the Nativity and the other of the Blessed Sacrament.

Idea of Redemption

These murals are the work of the Hungarian artist, J. Kely, who had just returned from captivity in Russia during the World War I. The church was redecorated in polychrome and the murals carried out the decorative scheme. The murals carry out the idea of the Redemption, namely the Nativity as the beginning of the redemption, the crucifixion scene over the altar, the fulfillment of the Redemption, and the other mural of the Blessed Sacrament, the effects of the Redemption coming to man through Jesus Christ in Holy Communion and hence the title, The Church of the Most Holy Redeemer.

The firm of Herman J. Butler and the Lusk Studios decorated the church. Pike Art Glass furnished the windows. E. C. Brown, Rochester, installed the new heating. E. W. Edwards, the carpets. Frank Lill and Sons carried on the remodeling by the architect, George Lorenz. John Braun, the ornamental wrought iron work. Ploach and Schmidt, the new work and Anthony Linn and Sons the carpeting.

The entire cost was \$25,000 which included a new roof on the school which was laid at the time.

Find Dormant Accounts

A remarkable stroke of good fortune fell to all of this parish in 1930 when quite accidentally two dormant accounts were discovered by the banks of Rochester. One amounted to \$2,119.98 while the church interest in the other brought an additional \$1,300.00.

With this windfall, Father Stauber was able to remodel the convent home of the sisters. For years the sisters' sleeping quarters were in the attic of their present building with very few conveniences to which they were entitled.

The new work on the convent gave to each sister a room of her own with everything that a modern bedroom should have. Each room was furnished with a new bed, clothes closet, table, rug

'67--Diamond Jubilee--'42



HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH with its twin spires will be scene of commemorable Diamond Jubilee ceremonies next week. Catholic Courier photo. Inset, the Rev. F. William Stauber, pastor, in charge of the Jubilee. Meek Photo.

wash basin with hot and cold water and hardwood floor. New bath rooms were built and the entire convent refurnished with modern furniture. The chapel was redecorated and is equal to any convent chapel in the city. All in all, Holy Redeemer Convent has been made into a real convent home for those who give their lives in the care of our children.

Crowning Achievement

Zealous and hardworking pastors, faithful and self-sacrificing parishioners have down through the 75 years built well spiritually and materially. The church, the school, the convent, the hall and the rectory stand as monuments of the past and present generation of Holy Redeemer parishioners.

Crowning the glory of pastor and people-cooperation is the well-aiding effort made for the Diamond Jubilee celebration. Practically every grown-up over a period of 15 weeks has contributed out of modest means for there is not one rich person in the parish, to amass the sum of \$11,000. This with the \$3,500 of the H. R. A. A. and the \$3,000 of the Sacred Heart Sodality will enable the pastor to pay for improvements made for the Jubilee.

To his parishioners, Father Stauber has expressed pride in their cooperation and faithfulness and his gratitude to them and to the great God Who has blessed Holy Redeemer parish during its 75 diamond-studded years.

Jubilee Reveals Creditable Record Of Assistants

Assistant Pastors past and present at Holy Redeemer Church are being paid tribute as the parish marks its Diamond Jubilee.

Adding the Rev. Jacob Staub pastor, through many years and helping to lighten the burden of a large parish were two assistants whose work made them widely known.

The one, the Rev. Francis X. Kunz, almost uninterruptedly from 1903 to 1929 served Holy Redeemer people with burning zeal and devotion.

It was he who organized the Order of Martha, a society working for the missions, which became nationally known for its marvelous work for the poor missions of our country. The influence he exerted over the parish sodalities still bears fruit today.

He was made pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church of Rochester in 1922 where he labored until God called him to his eternal reward in 1934.

The other assistant was the Rev. William W. Heisel, now pastor of Holy Family Church, Rochester. A great favorite with men, he organized the Holy Redeemer Athletic Association which today is perhaps the outstanding men's organization of Rochester.

Organized New Parish
Father Heisel went to Holy Redeemer's shortly after his ordination in 1916 and was given charge of St. Salome's Chapel in Sea Breeze which Father Staub had

built for the convenience of cottagers at the lake. Growth of the city northward necessitated year-round attendance by the priest and the building of a school for Catholic children.

Father Heisel was directly responsible for the financing of this work and when in 1924, Bishop Hickey appointed the Rev. Edward J. Scherich its first resident pastor, he found a well established parish which promises to grow into one of the prominent parishes of the diocese.

After 20 years, both Father Kunz and Father Heisel still are held in highest regard by the people of Holy Redeemer Church.

Father Kunz and Father Heisel were followed by the Rev. Adolph Edelmann, a boy of the parish, and the Rev. Albert J. Geiger. Father Edelmann remained but two years at Holy Redeemer. Ill health compelled his transfer and a few years later he was called to his eternal reward.

Youth Record Stands

Father Geiger remained almost 15 years. A great friend of young people, he devoted all his energy in their behalf. The records of the city show a marked falling off of delinquency cases in the neighborhood which social workers attribute directly to the work of Father Geiger among his young people.

He transformed the parish hall into a social recreation center which he personally supervised every evening of the week and which brought him into direct con-

tact with young men and women of all faiths.

Father Geiger was compelled to relinquish this work in 1930 owing to illness which disabled him for almost two years. Today his boundless zeal is working wonders in two small parishes at Kings Ferry and Ludlowville.

In June, 1925, Bishop Hickey appointed the Rev. Adelbert J. Schneider as assistant at Holy Redeemer. Father Schneider had just been ordained. He went to his first assignment with all his youthful energy and endeared himself to all.

Children of the school found a warm spot in his heart and they looked for his coming. He was most active and aided materially by his money-raising ability.

Goos to Wayland
Father Schneider remained until March, 1941, when Bishop Kearney selected him for the pastorate of Wayland where the Rev. William W. Heisel had served for more than 10 years. Father Schneider's friends are many, both in the parish and throughout the city.

The transfer of Father Geiger from Holy Redeemer's created a real need for someone to continue the work among the youth of the section. Happily, selection of the Bishop fell upon the present assistant, the Rev. Walter Carron who had assisted the Rev. Dr. William E. Cowen at St. Mary's Church, Auburn.

Father Carron's experience with young people dates back to his

early seminary days when as a consultant at summer camps he learned to understand the rising generation.

It was felt that his experience would be helpful at Holy Redeemer's. This hope was fully realized in the manner in which Father Carron endeared himself at once with the young as well as with the older people. Father Carron is an able organizer and an energetic worker.

Practically all the success of the various social activities of the parish and especially the Diamond Jubilee Subscription are due to his business-like management. His calm, kindly manner and his real priestly makeup, his energetic persistent work in all he undertakes have made him an invaluable assistant to Father Stauber since December, 1937.

Father Schneider's transfer to Wayland brought to Holy Redeemer's a newly ordained priest, the Rev. William Schifferli. He had been ordained at Christmas-time in 1940 and had served in Our Lady of Lourdes parish for a few months during the absence of one of the priests there and went to Holy Redeemer Church on April 11, 1941.

His arrival has created a new atmosphere in the rectory and among the people. His happy disposition, his desire to do for others, his interest in the young, make approach to him easy and is bound to win the hearts of all, it is stated at the parish.