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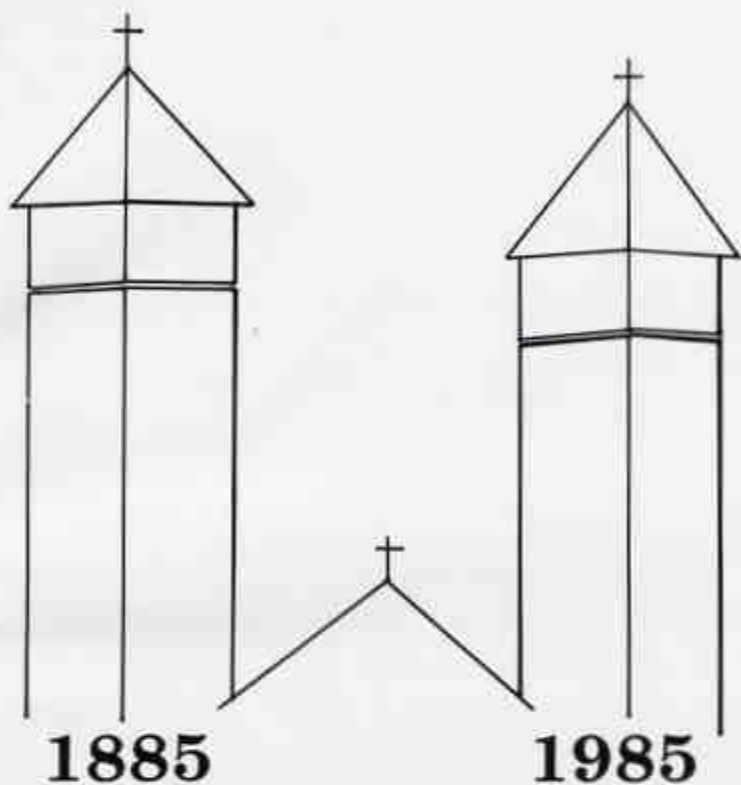
**SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH**

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**CENTENNIAL**

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**That They All May Be One**



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**SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH**

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**CENTENNIAL**

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**That They All May Be One**

*In memoriam . . .*

*Michael and Josephine Litka*

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**History is best recorded in the heart. It is most alive in memories. What follows, hopefully, will touch both memory and heart. It is what may have happened based on what did happen. And there will be a joyful noise of laughter and praise to this God who loves so deeply.**

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*Places Of Hope*

*Faith-Visioned*

*Cathedral Of The Most Blessed Sacrament*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary*

*Nativity of Our Lord*

*Our Lady Queen of Peace*

*Sacred Heart Church*

*St. Albert The Great*

*St. Cecilia*

*St. Gregory*

*St. Leo*

*St. Mary*

*St. Rita*

*East Catholic High School*

*Sisters of Christian Charity*

*Congratulations, St. Elizabeth's!  
100 Years!*

*\$100.00 - each church's gift of celebration*

*Struggling*

*God-centered*





**Father John W. Markham**

# Mirrors

God wanted a mirror. God did not need a mirror, but God wanted a mirror. God willed a mirror?

Why not? A reflection of love and being loved!

A mirror has an identity of its own. It does not need to reflect anything. But in a poetic - yet real - way a mirror wants to do what mirrors do.

It began with creation. Creation reflects many things. Creation is a mirror. Creation gives reflections of God. God's beauty, power, order and life. Mostly life.

As kids we used to play a game called 20 questions. There was only one clue: One of us would state that he was thinking of something which was either "vegetable", "mineral", or "animal". We would all try to discover what the leader was thinking of by asking questions. The leader could answer only "yes" or "no" to our questions. We would try to guess what our friend was thinking of - in 20 questions or less. It was fun.

I think God likes fun. So God willed a mirror. Many mirrors - in which to see His reflection. Mirrors of vegetable, mineral and animal - reflections of Himself.

My favorite at the Michigan State Fair was the Fun House - with its special array of mirrors. We would stand there for hours - making faces - assuming poses - laughing. Sometimes the mirror would make us out to be the way we used to be - sometimes the way we wanted to be - sometimes the way we really are. The last mirror in the

Fun House would always be a plain mirror. What a relief. It felt good to be the way we are.

Each of us is a mirror. A mirror of God. Really. We walk through the fun-house of life and in all of us there are glimpses of the Father, glimpses of Jesus - glimpses of the Spirit. God walks through the Fun House with us and when we reflect enough love and being loved we rise from this life and continue our fun for ever and ever.

St. Elizabeth Parish has been the place of mirrors for 100 years - a kind of Fun House. The mirrors have been each of us. Receiving the Sacraments, living scripture, hearing sermons and homilies, attending school, ministering, enjoying. The Church is people. God's favorite mirrors.

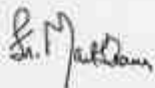
There have been thousands of mirrors over 100 years. Many have risen; some have moved; some are single; some married; others are priests, brothers, nuns. Not one has ever left this family. "Where your treasure is, there your heart shall also be."

June 23, 1985. A day of memories. A day of futures. A day of nows. 100 years of being mirrors.

It was great to look at mirrors in the Fun House at the Michigan State Fair.

It's even greater to be a mirror. Striving to reflect God and His love. No wonder we've gone for 100 years.

We'll go on forever. Being mirrors!



Pastor - St. Elizabeth Family



**St. Elizabeth's First Rectory and Church  
Dedicated June 21, 1885**



**Interior - St. Elizabeth's Church**

# I. Beginnings . . . .

## 1885-1896

### New Buildings: 2 Churches! New Life As A Parish/School

She was stooped now. But otherwise aging had been kind to Ilka. The wrinkles became her gentle, almost shy smile as she traced the cornerstone with her finger:



The folks around thought this Romanesque structure was old. Her uncle, the first pastor here, had built it. Ah - Uncle Anthony. She sat down to be with her memories.

Sundays were always special in the old country. First there was church. Papa was the musician in the family, and he sang as loud as he played. "Oh, Lord my God . . ." The Swedish hymn warmed her whole being.

Sunday, August 15, 1867, was one she'd never forget. Her favorite uncle, Anthony, was leaving for the priesthood. All the family came by - food, laughter, singing. She used to love to mess his wavy hair; he'd hold her high in the air and then bring her down for a hug. Today his hug seemed long.



Father Anthony Svensson  
Founder

"Italy, little Ilka. I'm going to Italy tomorrow."

"Little tea, mama. Uncle wants a little tea."

Anthony studied in Italy for six years. At 21 he was too young to be ordained. The Lord had called the young Swede to America, and he came.

In his journal he writes:

*October 24, 1884*

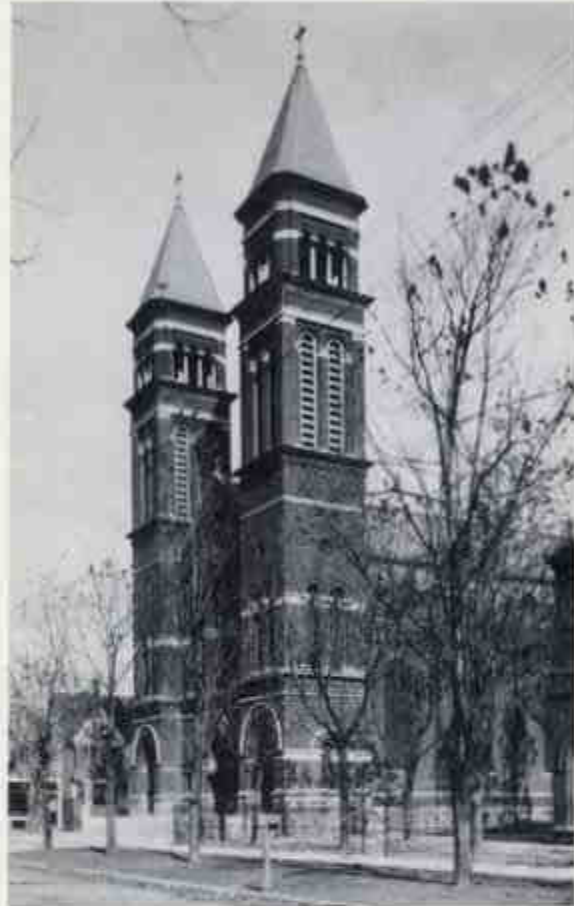
*My Lord, how dear these people are to my heart. Eleven years I have walked with them. But You've given me so many children here at St. Joseph's, Lord. There are over a thousand families!*

*Today I received the Bishop's decree to begin a new parish. I will be a father to them. We will build our new home, together.*

Ilka stood. Sunny days are meant for remembering. Home was only a few blocks away. She walked passed the first church - they called it the school now. What a pretty building!

It had been a school from the beginning. Church had always been on the second floor. How fast the parish had out-grown its buildings! From 150 families to about 500 families in eleven years. Uncle Anthony had built that first church, too.





St. Elizabeth's Second church  
Dedicated Feb. 14, 1892

"Home" was a two-story frame house on Mitchell. Sometimes the past is less lonely than the present. Ilka poured a tall glass of lemonade, found her special box, and went to the swing on the front porch.

She remembered her uncle's letters. Mama had such a smile when she'd see the handsome hand. How much she missed him. His being in America had been very much a part of Mama's decision to come and to make her home here.

June 21, 1893

My Dear Sister,

Surely summer will find you well - it is your special season. Send some loganberries my way - they are hard to come by in Michigan.

Today, as I write, we celebrate eight years as a parish. Our family never stops growing. My children number about 480 families.

The Sisters' house is completed now. In fact, so is the second school. We keep getting more Sisters of Christian Charity and more students. Now we have two school buildings, and it is not enough.

My favorite day is still Sunday. After the Masses I go walking in the neighborhood. Each house is my home. I am always welcome. Since little Ilka is not here, I share my dimes with other children.

My, how Ilka has grown! The picture you sent of the family is a real treasure.

Remember how papa never understood why I had to study in Italy? God's providence has shown me. Besides the many German-speaking families, we now have several Italian families living in the parish boundaries. They get many laughs from my efforts at Italian.

Louise, I am so tired these days. The bishop has spoken of my need for a rest. But who would be with my children? Father Spaeth seems able enough (he is my assistant).

I am considering returning to Sweden, perhaps some time in the Fall. I shall keep you informed. God's blessing to all of the family.

Your loving brother,

Father Anthony

## Homecoming

Hmmm - what a welcome he had received! The house was almost too crowded to turn around in. Father Anthony was really home, home in Sweden, after 19 years! But with the laughter there had been much silent worry — the kind that settles in the heart. How very worn this priest looked. The wrinkled forehead was premature; his color was pale.

Having him home was a gift - six months. Letting him go the second time seemed harder than the first. In March Father Svensson returned to Detroit.

The old lady sat quietly in the swing. "Greater love than this no man has, than that he lay down his life . . ." Father Anthony returned. On May 27, 1896, he went home. He was 44 years old.

How much he and his people had accomplished! Families believed in Catholic education, so they built a church/school. They found their strength in prayer. So when their needs outgrew their buildings, they built bigger ones.

His people felt responsible for their priests and sisters. So they built a rectory and a convent.

Together in faith, they had made dreams come true. The price had been high. Courage, sacrifice, even a life.

Ilka's smile held sadness now, the kind that takes the place of tears when time has brought its gift of distance. She always treasured these words in her heart . . . the words the people of St. Elizabeth had engraved on a marble tablet in the rear of the new church:

Beloved of all,  
 A zealous laborer in the vineyard of the Lord,  
 he watches over the flock  
 entrusted to his care  
 through love, word and example.



St. Elizabeth's first convent on Canfield, 1886.

St. Elizabeth's second school on Canfield, 1891.

June 11 1890

St. Elizabeth's Parish  
Detroit

To Orphan Board, D.C.

Formal No. 480 P. S. H.

Year 1890	\$ 6000
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Dear Father Fenwickland!  
Last year as you will be  
enclosed statement we paid  
\$60.00 towards the Orphan Board.  
It was by all brotherly  
for our parish. Please  
all statement of this year  
\$110.00!! I humbly ask when  
shall I take it from? As you  
in some this year have that  
of last year? Or must we  
be punished by heavier con-  
tributions because we are not  
necessarily compelled to make  
dough for new Church and  
School. I beg you kindly  
to reconsider this matter.  
Respectfully  
Anthony Stensson

Parish debts were really a worry to this first pastor. (Quoted from the Archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit)



Father Joseph Spaeth  
1892 - 1893



Father James Reichenback  
1895 - 1896

I hereby tender my resignation  
as Pastor of St. Elizabeth's Church  
to Bishop J. S. Foley  
Anthony Stensson

We hereby accept the above tendered  
resignation of Mr. A. Stensson as Pastor  
or Rector of St. Elizabeth's Church Detroit  
to take effect on and after this date.

Detroit, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 1896  
Witnessed  
M. J. Dempsey  
Charleston

J. S. Foley  
Bishop

Father Stensson went back to Europe. Six months later he had regained his strength and returned to St. Elizabeth's. This resignation never took effect.

(Quoted from the Archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit)



Father Reynold Kuchnel  
1896 - 1902



*Handwritten entries from a baptismal register, 1885. The text is written in cursive and organized into columns with headings such as 'Columbi', 'Michaelson', 'Rosen', 'Keller', 'Hansen', and 'King'. Each entry typically includes a date (e.g., 'June 1st 1885'), names of the child and parents, and the name of the officiating priest (e.g., 'Father Joseph Stenstrom').*

The first two pages of St. Elizabeth's baptismal register, 1885.



Father Anthony Stenstrom's funeral, St. Elizabeth Church, May 30, 1896.



# II. Growing . . .

## (1896 - 1927)

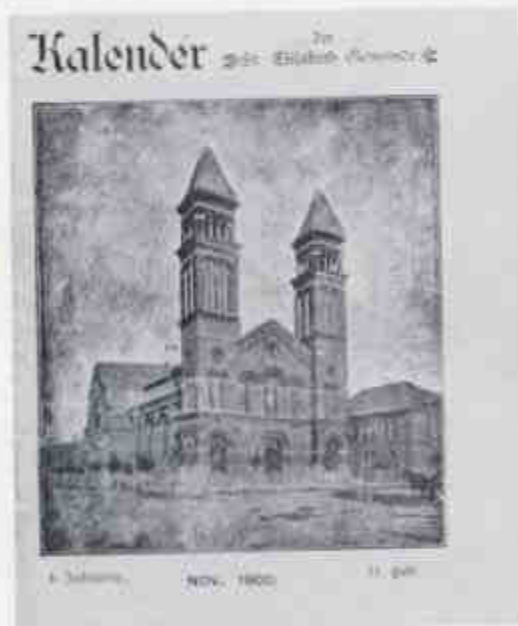
### Multi-National Families; Current School & Convent Built

The wind tickled the leaves, leaving them in laughter. Clouds drifted by as the waves rhythmmed the shoreline, Anthony Ternes knew when Adam awoke for the first time in Paradise, it must have been near a spot like this.

Anthony's thoughts today drifted much like the clouds. Rolling over, he pulled the letter from his pocket, propped his head on his hand, and read:



Father Anthony P. Ternes



Father Ternes began the *Reminder* in 1896.

July 14, 1896

Rev. Anthony P. Ternes is hereby appointed to the charge of St. Elizabeth's Church, McDougall and Canfield Aves., Detroit usque ad revocationem.

+ John S. Foley  
Bishop of Detroit\*

*Lord, will I ever stay put? . . . You know, like one place, I don't question Your wisdom, but I don't pretend to understand it, either.*

*I'm 33 — ordained for You only nine years, and You have sent me to four parishes! You know my shyness, Lord. The people just begin to know I like them, and I am gone.*

*Yours, Lord. Do You know the size of this parish, Lord? 500 families and still growing! German people - I am at home. But Italian, Kashub, Polish . . . ?*

The young, blond priest rested again on the bank of the river. There was a quiet courage about him. As he lay there, peace seemed to settle in. It was his Lord's way with him.

\*This letter was quoted from the *Letter Book, Vol. 14*, with the permission of the archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit.



Father Ternes Hall was built in 1897 for meetings and entertainment.



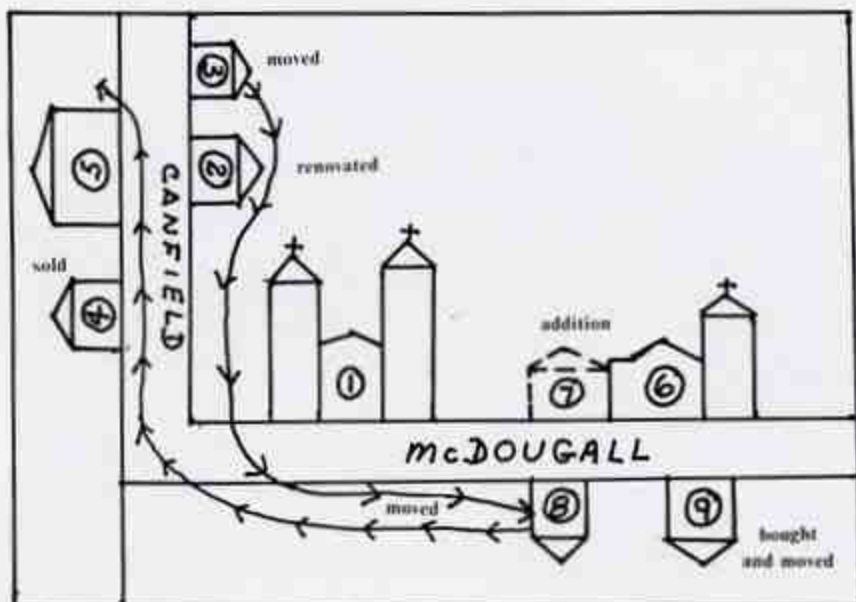
The Church Committee existed from the beginning of the parish. This is the earliest known picture of the committee.



When Father Ternes returned from Europe in 1901 Father Kuchel and the parishioners surprised him. They had bought three new bells.

# The Final Plan Of The Church Committee

1903 - 1904



- a. The convent (#3) was to be moved to lots 8,9. House #8 was to be moved behind Father Ternes Hall, #5. House #9 was to be sold.
- b. An addition containing eight rooms was to be added (#7) to the school (#6). (This #6 was the first church/school, built in 1885.)
- c. The second school on Canfield (#3) was to be converted into a rectory.
- d. The former rectory (#4) was to be sold.



St. Elizabeth's first choir, taken before 1906. After 1906 "only male voices were permitted to assist at the Mass".

On a hot August day, 1908, Sister Meinwerka waited at the rectory door. No, no. This had *always* been the school . . . until a few years ago. She smiled inside. How life had changed in her twenty years here at St. Elizabeth's.

"Come in, Sister." The housekeeper welcomed the unusual visit. She also surmized that news was in the air and found it part of her household duties to catch any such sound waves. She stationed herself outside the office.

"Come in, Sister. Please be seated."

"Thank you, Father." He was the gentleman she always found him to be - reserved, many parishioners said. Yes, reserved and determined. He, too, was of German stock.

"Father, I must leave St. Elizabeth's. My health is not good, so my Community calls me to the Motherhouse. Sister Annunciata will arrive next week. She will do well here."

"You have been a blessing, Sister. You will be missed."

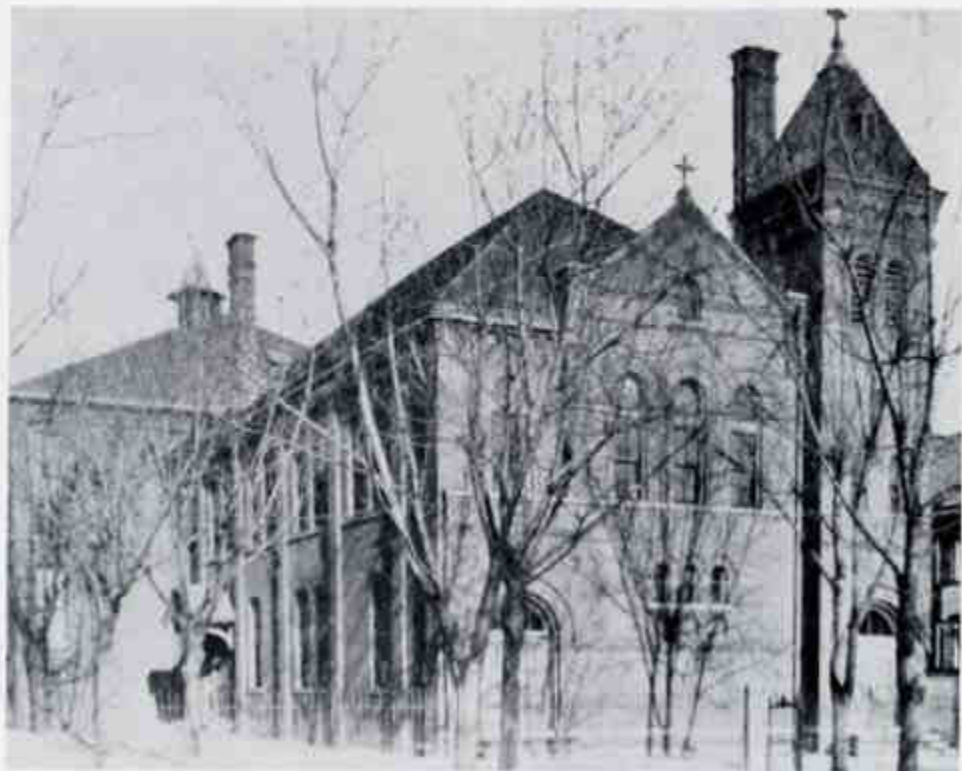
The housekeeper scurried away. Another doorbell took her from her post. She couldn't imagine the school without Sister Meinwerka. The enrollment had tripled during her principalship. The "addition" to the first church was almost new - finished just two years ago. Now the school was in one building.

Father showed Sister Meinwerka to the door. She had said good bye to him. Her last good byes were to these buildings - so full of memories.

Across the street on Canfield stood Father Ternes Hall. That was the pastor's solution to "no room in the inn". The Hall was the meeting place for the parish.

Sister crossed McDougall, and smiled again. Ya, everything changes. The Church Committee and Father Ternes had to rearrange buildings. They rearranged so much that they *moved* the convent - from Canfield to McDougall!

And there stood her beloved school. 760 students. Well, the Lord calls. Then it is time to go. These had been good years and good people. She went inside to be with her Sisters.



The first church/school was built in 1885. The "addition" in the back was completed in 1906.





By 1908 four men from the parish were ordained.

A stillness stole over the priest. It was late now and he was alone in the church. The day had been such a celebration - June 21, 1910.

*Lord, how good it is to be here! 25 years these folks have prayed, struggled, laughed, cried. And much of that they did right here, in Your presence.*

*So how do You like Your new floor, Lord? Know what? It's paid for! Christian Mother's Society and the sodalities. Isn't the jubilee book grand? I really enjoyed reading it.*

*Remember, Lord, when I asked to stay put? These fourteen years have been a real grace.*

Then followed moments when no words were allowed ... silence spoke the depth of Father Ternes' soul. And his Lord understood.



The Knights of St. John helped celebrate the first 25 years, June 21, 1910.



St. Elizabeth's 8th grade graduation - 1918



Emeila Wagner, children - 1921

Emeila Wagner waited, not so patiently, for William, her husband. Being late for church was high on her list of unfavorable things. Getting the girls ready was its own chore, and she had already accomplished that.

Five Masses to choose from, and they would be late for the 11:00 a.m., the last one. "Late" wasn't just embarrassing. Sometimes "late" was standing!

Emeila had been conditioned by her parents, Emeila and Joseph Zielke, to be in the pew long before Father arrived. The Zielkes were among the first 150 families to begin the parish.

Emeila's mother had warned her daughter, "William will be late for the wedding, and his own funeral, too." She'd been wrong. He *had* been on time for the wedding. August 28, 1915. Where had the years gone? Six years and two children later ...

"Will! Willlllllliam."

William appeared. He knew the seriousness of the tone. It always reminded him of the call a bird gives when defending her young. The same usually warned of an imminent attack.

Aside from this difference in punctuality, he enjoyed the compatibility of this wondrous woman. Part of his lateness might even have been due to his pleasure at having her noticed ... with him by her side.

"William, the whole world will be at St. Elizabeth's today."

"Shall we go to another church, my dear?"

Enough. His smile had acknowledged his crime. Today all of the parish was celebrating with Father Ternes. He had been pastor of St. Elizabeth's for 25 years.

Emeila smiled. She liked the priest's gentle ways. He didn't speak much, but kindness danced in his eyes. As a child she had known this. Now her own children responded with the same delight.

The Wagners stood for the celebration. About 110 priests were present. So were most of the St. Elizabeth parishioners.

His body felt like 84 — not its actual 64 years. Anthony P. Ternes had prayed long before he wrote this letter - almost two years. The doctor had spoken of a wheelchair - how rheumatism was changing his life.

There was a hint of autumn in the trees. The old man

noticed it from behind his desk. He had noticed many things through those office windows.

He rolled the letter from his typewriter and re-read the lines.

Detroit, Sept. 15, 1927.

Rt. Rev. Michael J. Gallagher, D. D.

Right reverend, dear Bishop,

In these few lines I am asking of you a very great favor. I have worked faithfully for the Diocese a little over forty years, and I am anxious to end my days in St. Elizabeth Parish, the place of my life's work. I would come to see you in person, but find it impossible at present on account of my severe rheumatism.

The favor I beg of you is to have my nephew, Rev. William P. Schulte, appointed to St. Elizabeth parish with me. He is very close to me and absolutely in my confidence and I could depend on him in every way. I realize that this would be impossible unless he were made Pastor and myself Pastor Emeritus of St. Elizabeth Parish. He is approaching his fiftieth year and was ordained in 1906. In July of this year it was 31 years since I was made Pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish.

I spoke of this to you about two years ago and you looked upon the proposition very favorably. It would surely lighten my burden and make my last years very happy and my gratitude to you very great if you see fit to grant this favor.

Your Lordship's humble and obedient servant

*A. P. Ternes*



Now he'd signed his name. It was time for another. How he hoped it would be his favorite nephew, Father Will. The letter would go in the morning mail. Tonight he needed to see his other Lordship ... the One who would really decide the future. He made his way from the rectory to the church.

*Well, Lord — remember how I asked to stay put for a while? It was a sunny, blue-sky day on the river bank. You've heard my prayer.*

*All the families have been a grace. I have known their love. And they have known mine. And You, Lord ... how much I have walked in the strength of Your friendship.*

*The priest closed his tired eyes. He was walking (the way he used to) down McDougall. Lord, look at this school! Remember all the bazaars folks had "to help with*

*expenses" ... He walked on. What a convent! Big enough for thirty Sisters.*

He had often appreciated the aesthetic beauty of the smoke stack silhouetted against the evening sky. The separate building for a heating system for all the buildings had also been his idea.

Suddenly laughter filled his soul. Father Ternes opened his eyes to gaze on this Lord, so present in the tabernacle.

He, Tony, had been known for years as the jigsaw-puzzle wiz. The constant enlarging, moving and finally rebuilding had tested his genius. But the puzzle-priest had prevailed. He'd put the puzzle together.

He sat before his Lord knowing the joy only a puzzle-maker knows when the puzzle is finished.

*How good it is to be here, Lord.*





St. Elizabeth's church, school and convent as it was by 1924.

## Assistants During Father Ternes' Pastorate



Father Stephen A. Wittliff  
1902



Father Hubert F. Klenner  
1902 - 1906





Father Leo Von Mach  
1906 - 1906



Father Alexander J. Mayer  
1906 - 1917



Father M.E. Halfpenny  
1907 - 1910



Father Leo Huver  
1910 - 1917



Father Joseph Schuler  
1917 - 1922



Father George Schliesh  
1917 - 1922



Father Joseph Staus  
1920 - 1926



Father Bernard Loeher  
1922 - 1925



Father Frank Kaufman  
1922 - 1932



Father Frank Malin  
1926



Father Albert George  
1926



Father Bernard Geller  
1926 - 1929

# III. Settling . . .

## (1927 - 1942)

### Processions, Novenas, Special Ways Of Prayer

Father Schulte had been a chaplain in the Army. He looked military alright - tall and straight, brush cut, chiseled features. He looked military alright.

He had made a lot of trips into the front lines to anoint the dead and dying, risking his life for others. It had made him tough, some say too tough. But the Gattaris and Lottitos, the Ritters and the Shoudys - the immigrants and native born knew the war was over.

### 1928

People and pastor put their gifts together. That's the way it's supposed to be. That's the way it was. The people knew that Christmas was for children. Father Schulte agreed. The children's Mass on Christmas was celebrated at 5:00 a.m. The children were up anyway. During May and October special emphasis was placed on devotion to Mary - all agreed. Family.

### 1929

Nobody knows whose idea it was to renovate Father Ternes Hall. Father Ternes himself was living in retirement with this new pastor who happened to be his nephew. Relatives can live and work together despite what some may say. No one cared much whose idea it was to renovate the hall, at least no one wrote it down anywhere. Furniture, curtains for the stage, kitchen and meeting rooms. Both pastor and people were pleased.

### 1930

"I remember when there were houses on the corner of McDougall and Willis."

"Yeah, the parish bought those houses back in 1930."

"What for?"

"They wanted to round out the property - the organist lived in one of the houses - the other was rented out."



Father William Schulte

"Whose idea was that?"

"I dunno - good one though."

People came from far and wide to marvel at the beauty of the St. Elizabeth Church. Although money was tight after the Depression, Father Schulte and the Family did a major renovation of the interior of the church to accommodate the growing congregation.

On the Feast of St. Ignatius, Father Schulte blessed the new addition to the convent building. As the number of students grew, so did the number of Sisters.

Father Schulte was enjoying the end of the war. pastor often speaks to groups, sororities, committees and congregations. Father Schulte was at his best when someone just wanted him to talk. Even before Vatican II people brought their individual concerns, suggestions, successes and failures, virtues and sins to the parishioner and pastor.



St. Elizabeth's 8th grade, 1929. Enrollment: 1426 students. The high school began in 1930.

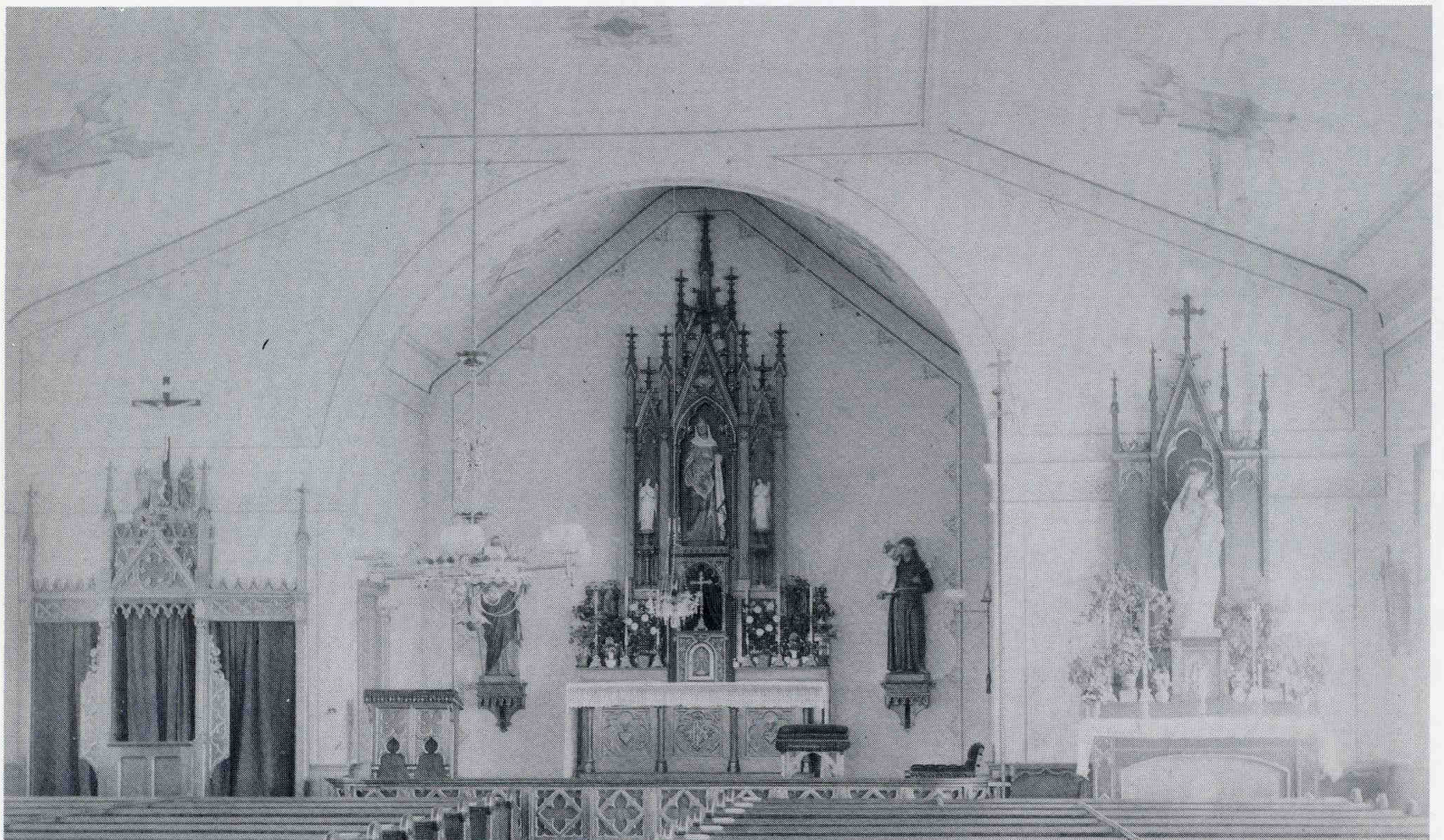


The church was redecorated in 1930. This was to prepare for Father Schulte's Silver Jubilee.





**St. Elizabeth's First Rectory and Church  
Dedicated June 21, 1885**



**Interior - St. Elizabeth's Church**

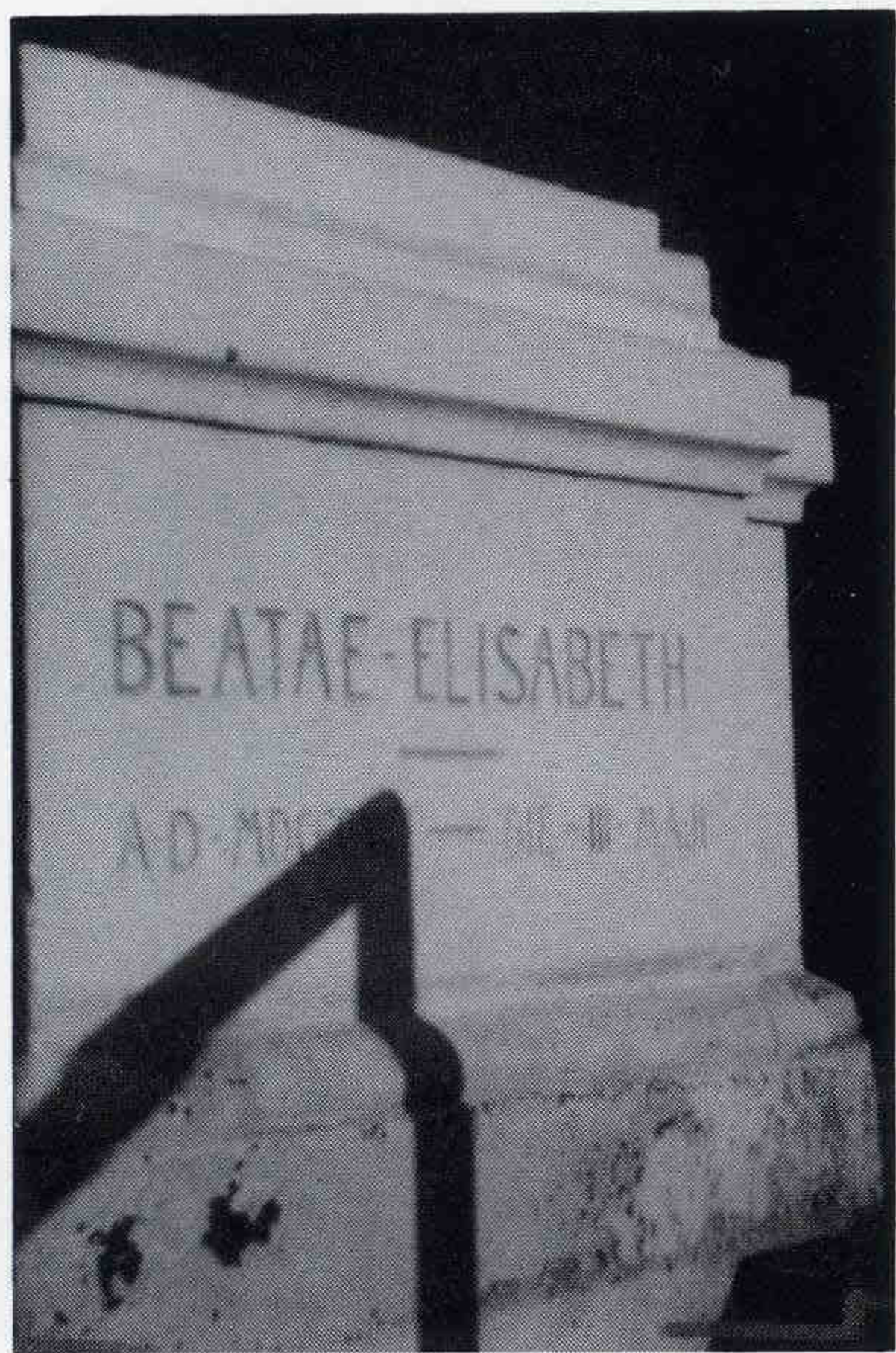


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*Your loving brother,*

*Father Anthony*

## Homecoming

Hmmm - what a welcome he had received! The house was almost too crowded to turn around in. Father Anthony was really home, home in Sweden, after 19 years!

But with the laughter there had been much silent worry — the kind that settles in the heart. How very worn this priest looked. The wrinkled forehead was premature; his color was pale.

Having him home was a gift - six months. Letting him go the second time seemed harder than the first. In March Father Svensson returned to Detroit.

The old lady sat quietly in the swing. "Greater love than this no man has, than that he lay down his life . . ." Father Anthony returned. On May 27, 1896, he went home. He was 44 years old.

How much he and his people had accomplished! Families believed in Catholic education, so they built a church/school. They found their strength in prayer. So when their needs outgrew their buildings, they built bigger ones.

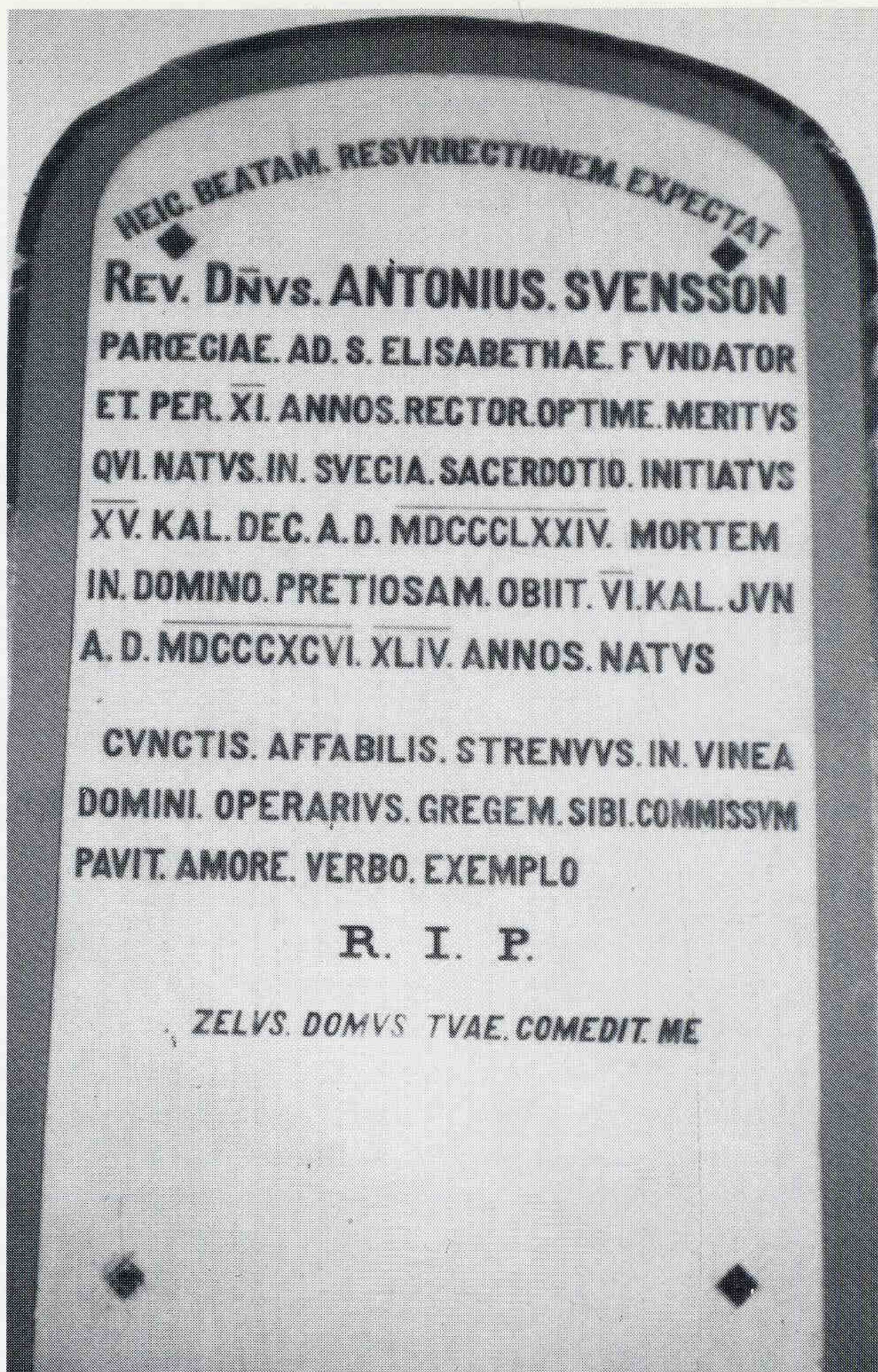
His people felt responsible for their priests and sisters. So they built a rectory and a convent.

Together in faith, they had made dreams come true. The price had been high. Courage, sacrifice, even a life.

Ilka's smile held sadness now, the kind that takes the place of tears when time has brought its gift of distance. She always treasured these words in her heart . . . the words the people of St. Elizabeth had engraved on a marble tablet in the rear of the new church:



Beloved of all,  
 A zealous laborer in the vineyard of the Lord,  
 he watches over the flock  
 entrusted to his care  
 through love, word and example.



St. Elizabeth's first convent on Canfield, 1886.

St. Elizabeth's second school on Canfield, 1891.



June 11 1890

St. Elizabeths Parish  
 Detroit  
 Co Orphan Board Dr.

Terms: No. 450 P. B. H.

Year 1890	\$ 6000
-----------	---------

Rev. Father Tricolland!  
 Last year as you see by  
 enclosed statement we paid  
 \$60. towards the orphan asylum.  
 It was by all debts which  
 for our parish. Please  
 see statement of this year  
 \$110.00!!! I humbly ask when  
 shall I take it from? As my  
 income this year does not  
 of last year? Or must we  
 be punished by heavier con-  
 tributions because we are by  
 necessity compelled to make  
 debts for new church and  
 school. I beg you kindly  
 to reconsider this matter.  
 Resp.  
 Anth. Svensson

Parish debts were really a worry to this first pastor. (Quoted from the Archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit)

I hereby tender my resignation  
 as Pastor of St. Elizabeths Church  
 to Bishop J. S. Foley  
 Anthony Svensson

We hereby accept the above tendered  
 resignation of Rev. A. Svensson as Rector  
 or Pastor of St. Elizabeths Church Detroit  
 to take effect on and after this date.

Detroit, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1892  
 Witnessed  
 M. J. P. Dempsey  
 Chancellor.

John S. Foley  
 Bp. of Det.

Father Svensson went back to Europe. Six months later he had regained his strength and returned to St. Elizabeth's. This resignation never took effect. (Quoted from the Archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit)



Father Joseph Spaeth  
 1892 - 1893



Father James Reichenback  
 1895 - 1896



Father Reynold Kuehnel  
 1896 - 1902



Annus 1885

Friedl  
 1 Annus Domini 1885 die 21 Junii baptizari  
 infantem Antonium Johannem filium  
 leg. Normal et Brothke Junij.  
 natus die 18 ejusdem mensis et  
 anni. Patrim fuerunt Johannes Brothke  
 et Maria Bröhl  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Colombo  
 2 Annus Domini 1885 die vero 28 Junii  
 baptizari infantem Petrum Paulum,  
 fil. leg. Colombo et Rosa Maria,  
 natus die 21 Junii ejusdem anni  
 Patrim fuerunt Henricus Re  
 et Virginia Rigoli  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Rickabaal  
 3 Annus Domini 1885 die vero 28 Junii  
 baptizari infantem Wilhelmum  
 Elizabeth fil. leg. Oleson et Emma  
 Hiber. die 29 Maji ejusdem anni.  
 Patrim fuerunt Joseph Hatcher  
 et Wilhelmina Berg  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Bauer  
 4 Annus Domini 1885 die 28 Junii baptizari  
 Charlottam Elizabeth fil. leg. Nicolai  
 Bauer et Mariae Elizabeth Fleer.  
 natus die 26 Maji ejusdem anni  
 Patrim fuerunt Johannes Kessler  
 et Katharina Kessler  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Kocher  
 5 Annus Domini 1885 die 5 Julii parochus infa-  
 scriptus baptizari infantem Johannem  
 fil. leg. Philippi Kocher et Elizabeth Kuhn  
 natus die 27 Junii ejusdem anni. Patrim f.

1885

Friedl  
 6 Annus Domini 1885 die 21 Junii baptizari  
 infantem Antonium Johannem filium  
 leg. Normal et Brothke Junij.  
 natus die 18 ejusdem mensis et  
 anni. Patrim fuerunt Johannes Brothke et  
 Maria Bröhl  
 Antonius Svensson per.

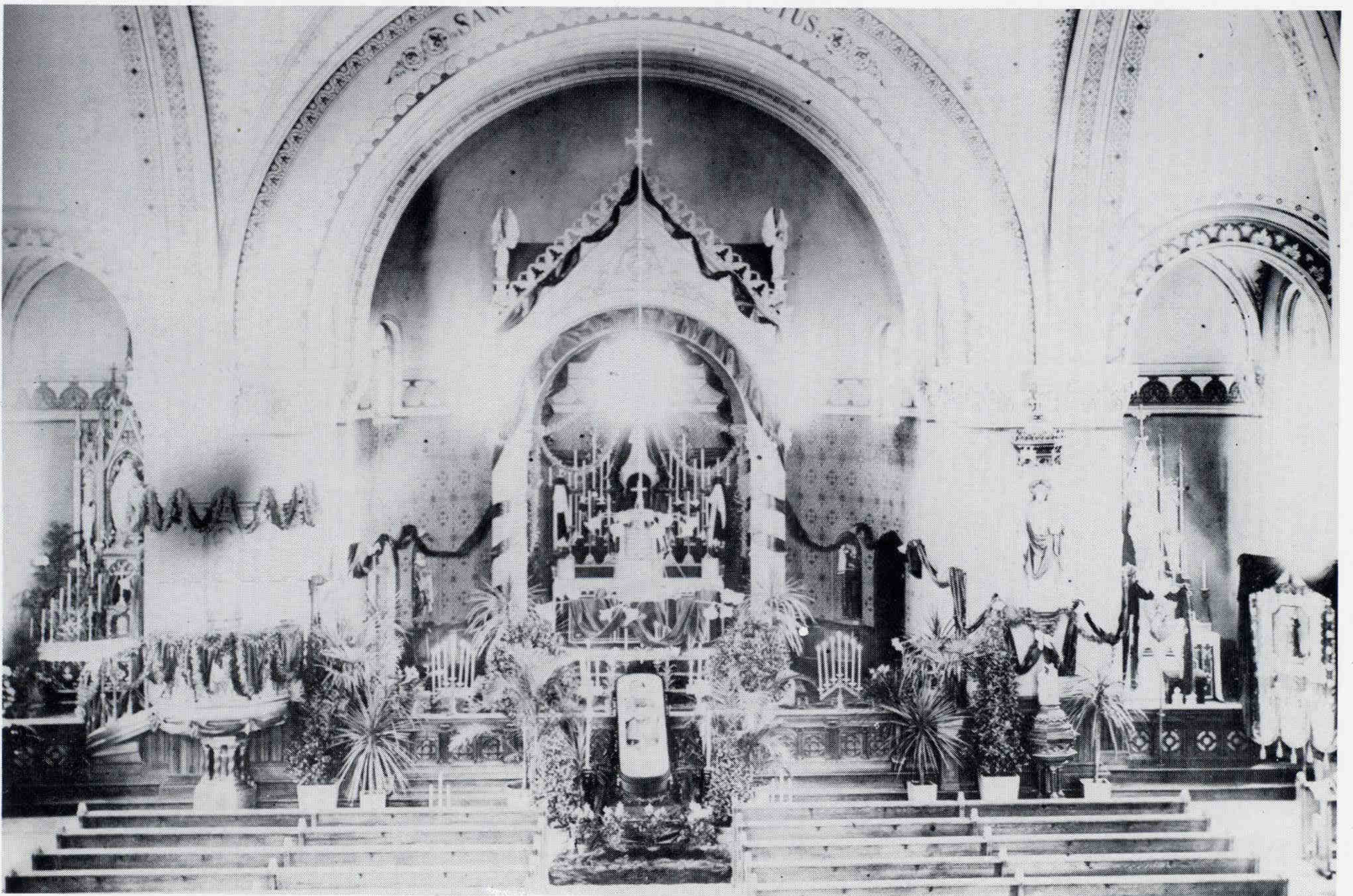
Klebba  
 7 Annus Domini 1885 die 26 Julii baptizari infa-  
 ntem Jacobum Johannem, filium legit.  
 Joannis Klebba et Elizabeth Schmalzer.  
 natus die 2 Julii ejusdem anni  
 Patrim fuerunt Katharina Klebba et  
 Johannes Hager  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Hiber  
 8 Annus Domini 1885 die 2 Augusti parochus  
 inparochus baptizari infantem Rosa  
 Theresiam, filiam leg. Christiani Hiber  
 et Gertrudis Schmitt, Patrim fuerunt  
 Theresia Hiber et Valentinus Fauthoff  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Hannemel  
 9 Annus Domini 1885 die 3 Augusti baptizari  
 infantem Antonium Josephum, fil. leg.  
 Antonii Hannemel et Ludovici Prohaska  
 natus die 28 Julii ejusdem anni.  
 Patrim fuerunt Joseph Richard et  
 Anna Leenan  
 Antonius Svensson per.

Kurz  
 10 Annus Domini 1885 die 2 Augusti baptizari  
 infantem Johannem Xaverium, fil. leg.  
 Josephi Kurz et Ottilias Rieger, natus  
 die 25 Julii ejusdem anni. Patrim  
 fuerunt Johannes et Magdalena Rieger  
 Ant. Svensson per.

The first two pages of St. Elizabeth's baptismal register, 1885.



Father Anthony Svensson's funeral, St. Elizabeth Church, May 30, 1896.



# II. Growing . . .

## (1896 - 1927)

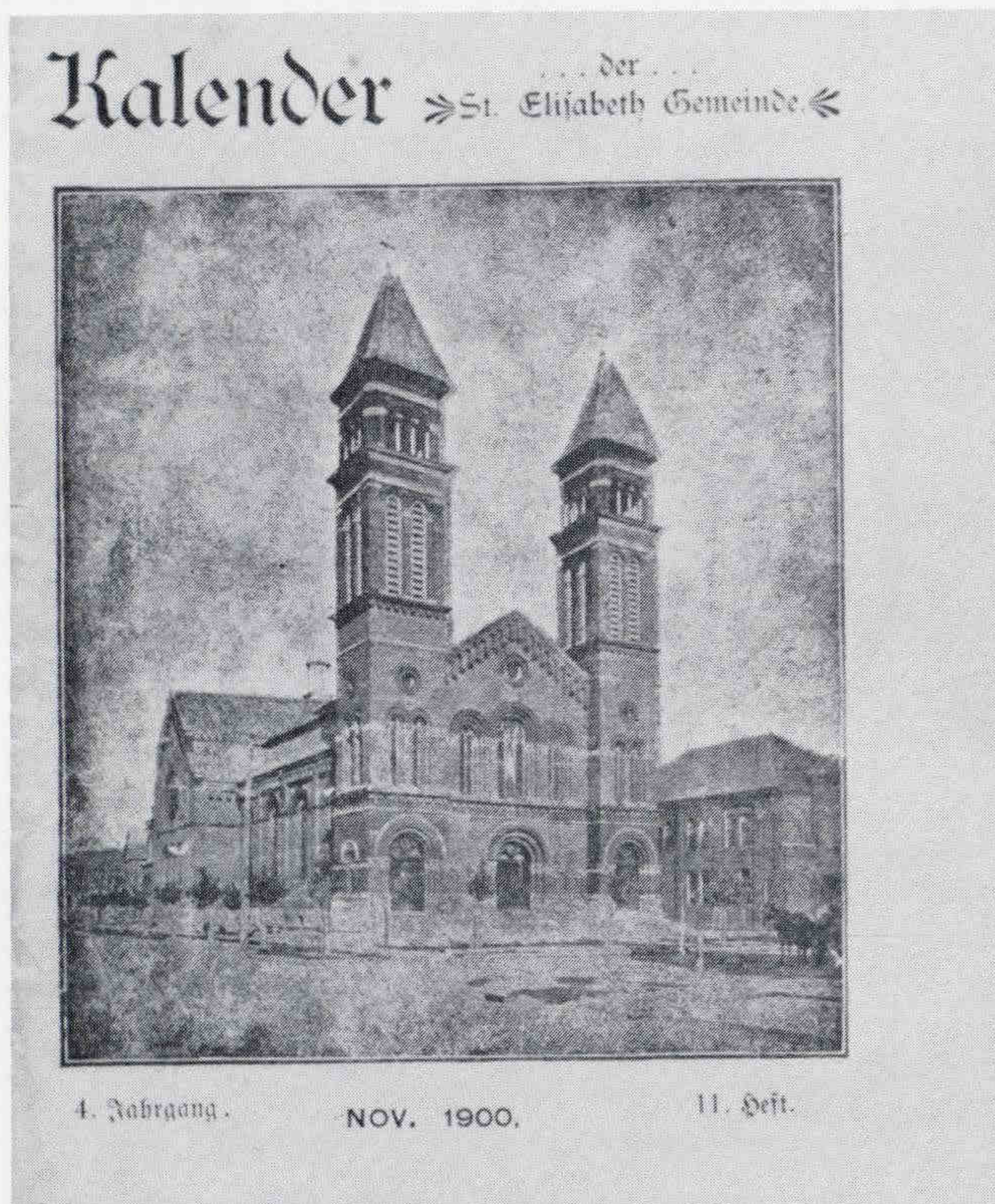
### Multi-National Families; Current School & Convent Built

The wind tickled the leaves, leaving them in laughter. Clouds drifted by as the waves rhythmmed the shoreline. Anthony Ternes knew when Adam awoke for the first time in Paradise, it must have been near a spot like this.

Anthony's thoughts today drifted much like the clouds. Rolling over, he pulled the letter from his pocket, propped his head on his hand, and read:



Father Anthony P. Ternes



Father Ternes began the *Reminder* in 1896.

**July 14, 1896**  
Rev. Anthony P. Ternes is hereby appointed to the charge of St. Elizabeth's Church, McDougall and Canfield Aves., Detroit usque ad revocationem.

+ John S. Foley  
Bishop of Detroit\*

*Lord, will I ever stay put? . . . You know, like one place. I don't question Your wisdom, but I don't pretend to understand it, either.*

*I'm 33 — ordained for You only nine years, and You have sent me to four parishes! You know my shyness, Lord. The people just begin to know I like them, and I am gone.*

*Yours, Lord. Do You know the size of this parish, Lord? 500 families and still growing! German people - I am at home. But Italian, Kashub, Polish . . . ?*

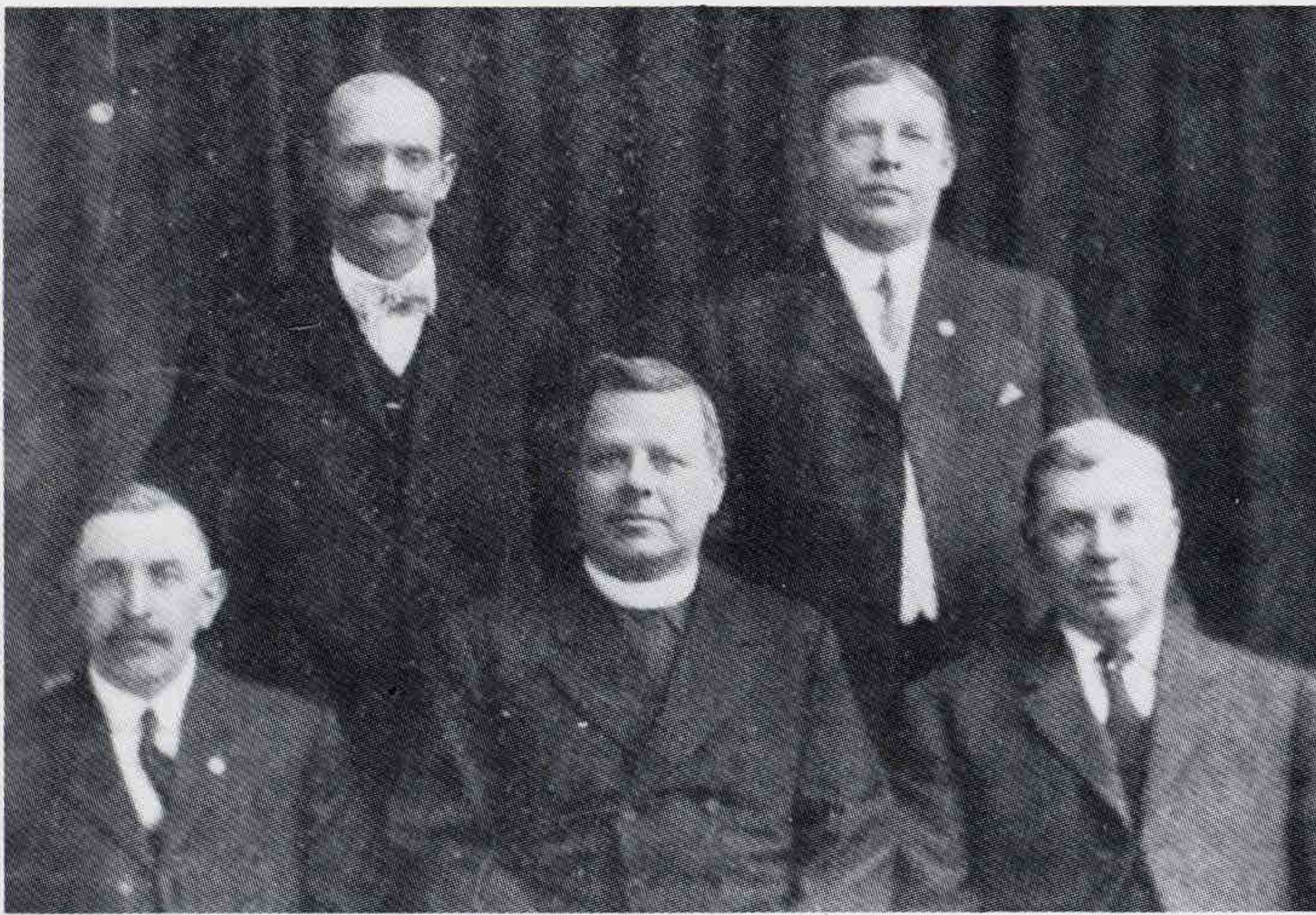
The young, blond priest rested again on the bank of the river. There was a quiet courage about him. As he lay there, peace seemed to settle in. It was his Lord's way with him.

*\*This letter was quoted from the Letter Book, Vol. 14, with the permission of the archives of the Archdiocese of Detroit.*

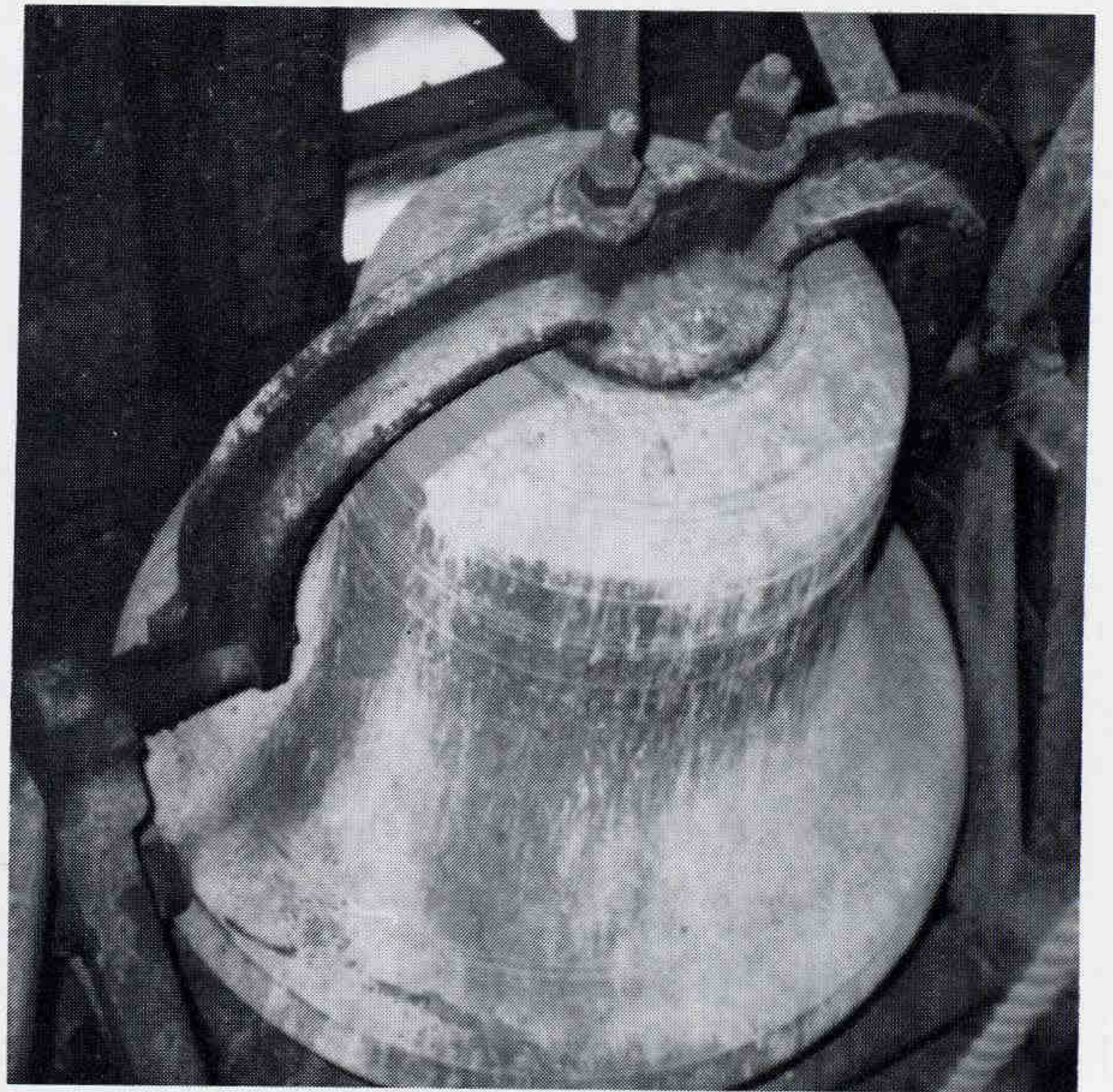




**Father Ternes Hall was built in 1897 for meetings and entertainment.**



**The Church Committee existed from the beginning of the parish. This is the earliest known picture of the committee.**

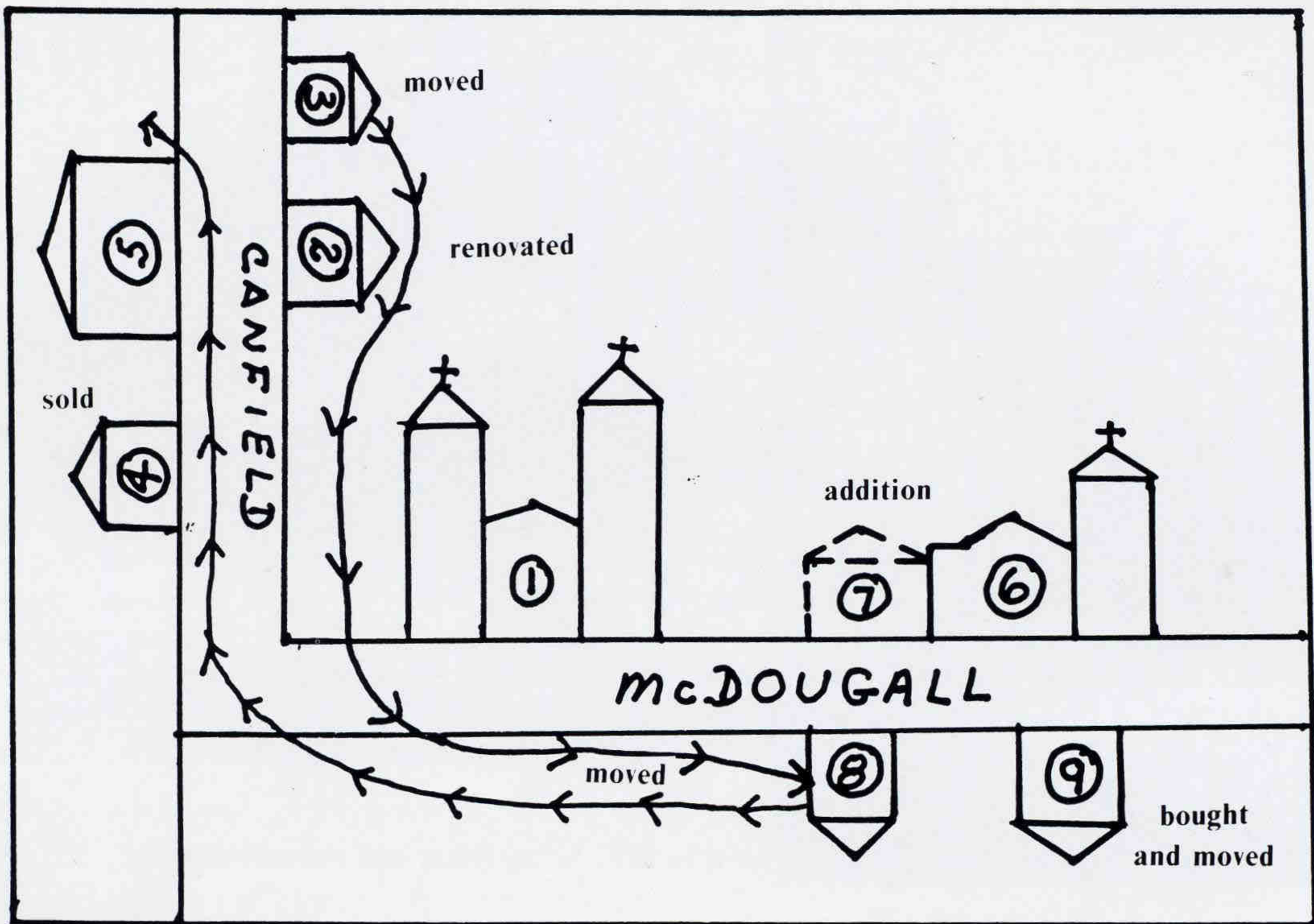


**When Father Ternes returned from Europe in 1901 Father Kuehnel and the parishioners surprised him. They had bought three new bells.**



# The Final Plan Of The Church Committee

1903 - 1904



- The convent (#3) was to be moved to lots 8,9. House #8 was to be moved behind Father Ternes Hall, #5. House #9 was to be sold.
- An addition containing eight rooms was to be added (#7) to the school (#6). (This #6 was the first church/school, built in 1885.)
- The second school on Canfield (#3) was to be converted into a rectory.
- The former rectory (#4) was to be sold.



St. Elizabeth's first choir, taken before 1906. After 1906 "only male voices were permitted to assist at the Mass".



On a hot August day, 1908, Sister Meinwerka waited at the rectory door. No, no. This had *always* been the school . . . until a few years ago. She smiled inside. How life had changed in her twenty years here at St. Elizabeth's.

"Come in, Sister." The housekeeper welcomed the unusual visit. She also surmized that news was in the air and found it part of her household duties to catch any such sound waves. She stationed herself outside the office.

"Come in, Sister. Please be seated."

"Thank you, Father." He was the gentleman she always found him to be - reserved, many parishioners said. Yes, reserved and determined. He, too, was of German stock.

"Father, I must leave St. Elizabeth's. My health is not good, so my Community calls me to the Motherhouse. Sister Annunciata will arrive next week. She will do well here."

"You have been a blessing, Sister. You will be missed."

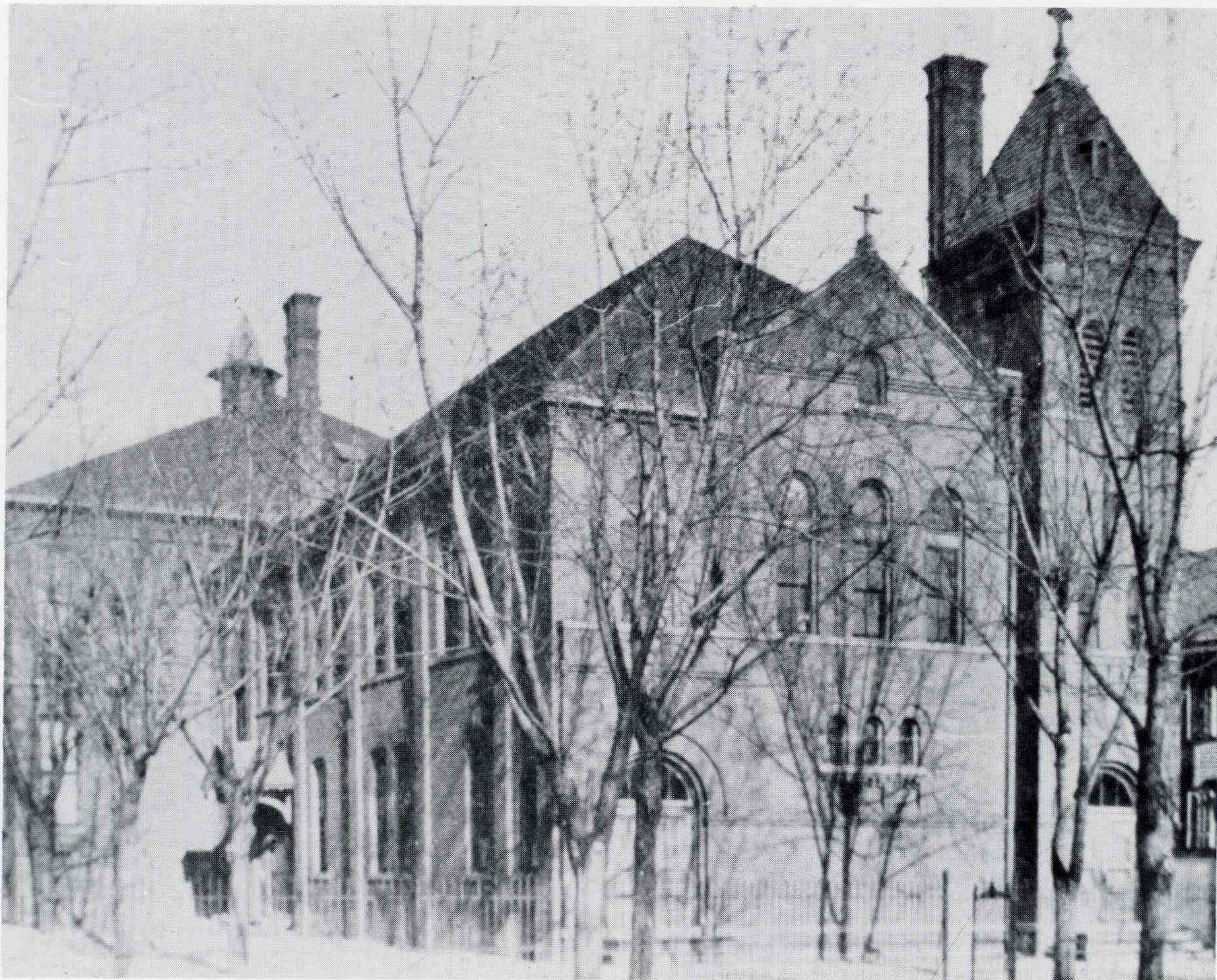
The housekeeper scurried away. Another doorbell took her from her post. She couldn't imagine the school without Sister Meinwerka. The enrollment had tripled during her principalship. The "addition" to the first church was almost new - finished just two years ago. Now the school was in one building.

Father showed Sister Meinwerka to the door. She had said good bye to him. Her last good byes were to these buildings - so full of memories.

Across the street on Canfield stood Father Ternes Hall. That was the pastor's solution to "no room in the inn". The Hall was the meeting place for the parish.

Sister crossed McDougall, and smiled again. Ya, everything changes. The Church Committee and Father Ternes had to rearrange buildings. They rearranged so much that they *moved* the convent - from Canfield to McDougall!

And there stood her beloved school. 760 students. Well, the Lord calls. Then it is time to go. These had been good years and good people. She went inside to be with her Sisters.



The first church/school was built in 1885. The "addition" in the back was completed in 1906.





A stillness stole over the priest. It was late now and he was alone in the church. The day had been such a celebration - June 21, 1910.

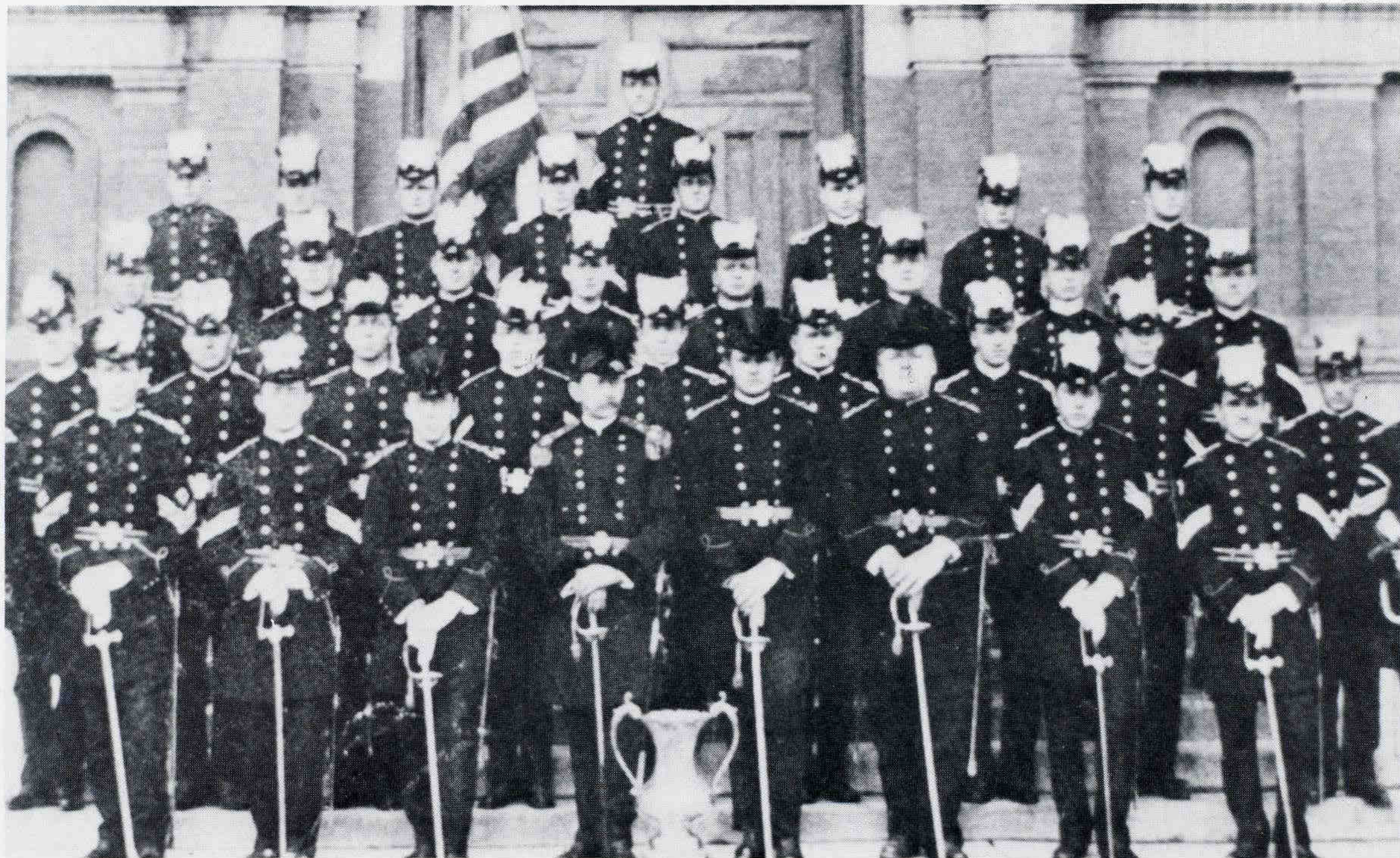
*Lord, how good it is to be here! 25 years these folks have prayed struggled, laughed, cried. And much of that they did right here, in Your presence.*

*So how do You like Your new floor, Lord? Know what? It's **paid** for! Christian Mother's Society and the sodalities. Isn't the jubilee book grand? I really enjoyed reading it.*

*Remember, Lord, when I asked to stay put? These fourteen years have been a real grace.*

Then followed moments when no words were allowed . . . silence spoke the depth of Father Ternes' soul. And his Lord understood.

By 1908 four men from the parish were ordained.



The Knights of St. John helped celebrate the first 25 years, June 21, 1910.





**Father Joseph Stauss**  
1920 - 1926



**Father Bernard Loehner**  
1922 - 1925



**Father Frank Kaufman**  
1922 - 1932



**Father Frank Malin**  
1926



**Father Albert George**  
1926



**Father Bernard Geller**  
1926 - 1929



# III. Settling . . .

## (1927 - 1942)

### Processions, Novenas, Special Ways Of Prayer

Father Schulte had been a chaplain in the Army. He looked military alright - tall and straight, brush cut, chiseled features. He looked military alright.

He had made a lot of trips into the front lines to anoint the dead and dying, risking his life for others. It had made him tough, some say too tough. But the Gattaris and Lottitos, the Ritters and the Shoudys - the immigrants and native born knew the war was over.

### 1928

People and pastor put their gifts together. That's the way it's supposed to be. That's the way it was. The people knew that Christmas was for children. Father Schulte agreed. The children's Mass on Christmas was celebrated at 5:00 a.m. The children were up anyway. During May and October special emphasis was placed on devotion to Mary - all agreed. Family.

### 1929

Nobody knows whose idea it was to renovate Father Ternes Hall. Father Ternes himself was living in retirement with this new pastor who happened to be his nephew. Relatives can live and work together despite what some may say. No one cared much whose idea it was to renovate the hall, at least no one wrote it down anywhere. Furniture, curtains for the stage, kitchen and meeting rooms. Both pastor and people were pleased.

### 1930

"I remember when there were houses on the corner of McDougall and Willis."

"Yeah, the parish bought those houses back in 1930."

"What for?"

"They wanted to round out the property - the organist lived in one of the houses - the other was rented out."



Father William Schulte

"Whose idea was that?"

"I dunno - good one though."

People came from far and wide to marvel at the beauty of the St. Elizabeth Church. Although money was very tight after the Depression, Father Schulte and the Family did a major renovation of the interior of the church to accommodate the growing congregation.

On the Feast of St. Ignatius, Father Schulte blessed the new addition to the convent building. As the number of students grew, so did the number of Sisters.

Father Schulte was enjoying the end of the war. The pastor often speaks to groups, sororities, committees and congregations. Father Schulte was at his best when someone just wanted him to talk. Even before Vatican II, people brought their individual concerns, suggestions, successes and failures, virtues and sins to the pastor, Parishioner and pastor.





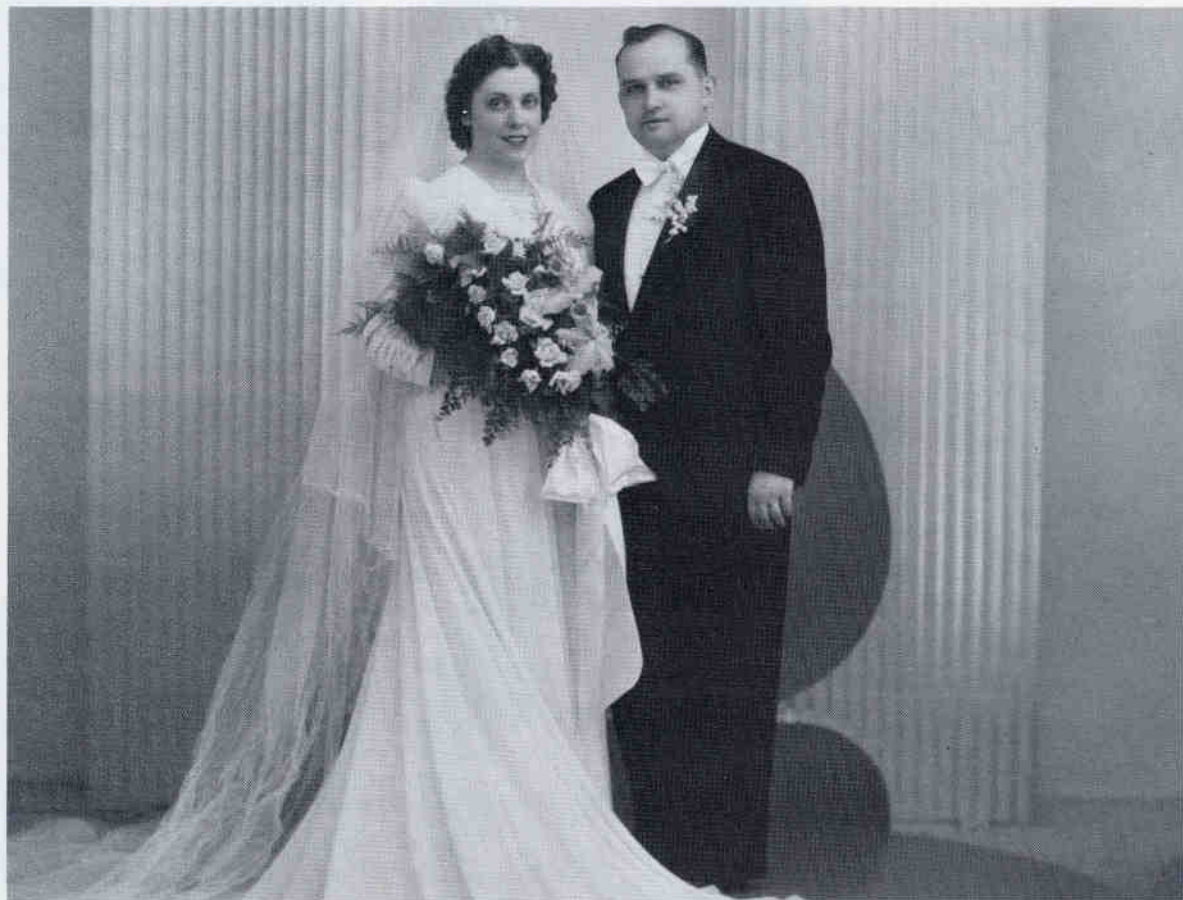
**St. Elizabeth's 8th grade, 1929. Enrollment: 1420 students. The high school began in 1930.**



**The church was redecorated in 1930. This was to prepare for Father Schulte's Silver Jubilee.**



# *Some Gift Their Lives In Marriage*



**Theresa (nee Kotlowski) and John Rudolf were married at St. Elizabeth's on Aug. 17, 1940. Theresa has been a member of St. Elizabeth's for 64 years; John - 45.**

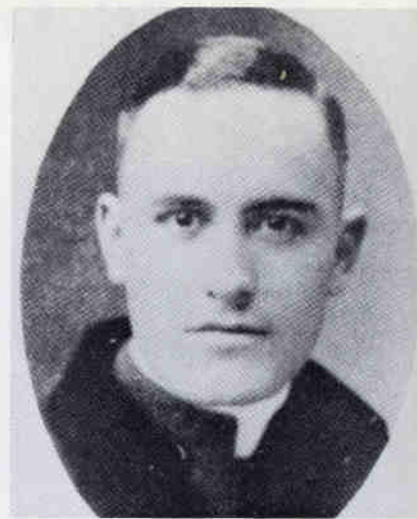


**Adeline (nee Wagner, Emeila's little girl) and Bernard Mitten were married at St. Elizabeth's on Aug. 16, 1941.**

**Assistants  
During  
Father Schulte's  
Pastorate**



**Father George Stern**  
1929 - 1930



**Father Phillip Lariviere**  
1933 - 1934



**Father Aloysius P. Hafner**  
1930 - 1936



**Father Arnold F. Schneider**  
1932 - 1939



**Father Emil A. Capono**  
1931 - 1938



**Father Henry G. Fabry**  
1931 - 1932



**Father Robert Pomponi**  
1938 - 1943

We regret that pictures were not available for the following former assistants:

Fathers

- John Schmidt 1936 - 38
- Leo P. Theisen 1938 - 43
- Msgr. Bernard Kearns 1938
- Herbert Weier 1939 - 44



# IV. Changing . . .

## (1942 - 1968)

### Vatican II Brings Church Home To Its People

Twenty-six years is a long time. For over a quarter of a century St. Elizabeth Parish flourished with the leadership of Father Pfeffer.

Joseph V. Pfeffer was born on September 24, 1893 in Chicago, Illinois. His parents were from Alsace-Lorraine. It was perhaps while attending St. Anthony Grade School in Detroit, Michigan that Msgr. Pfeffer first discovered that his call was to the priesthood.

After fulfilling all of the requirements of spiritual and scholastic readiness, Joseph Pfeffer offered Mass for the first time on the Feast of Corpus Christi in 1919.

He was assigned as an assistant pastor to Annunciation Parish on Detroit's east side where he served for four and one-half years. During this brief period he instructed and baptized one-hundred and ninety-three converts.

On May 17, 1926 Bishop Gallagher assigned Fr. Pfeffer to be pastor of St. Mary's Church in Manchester



Monsignor Joseph V. Pfeffer



Irish Hills Shrine was designed and built by Father Pfeffer.

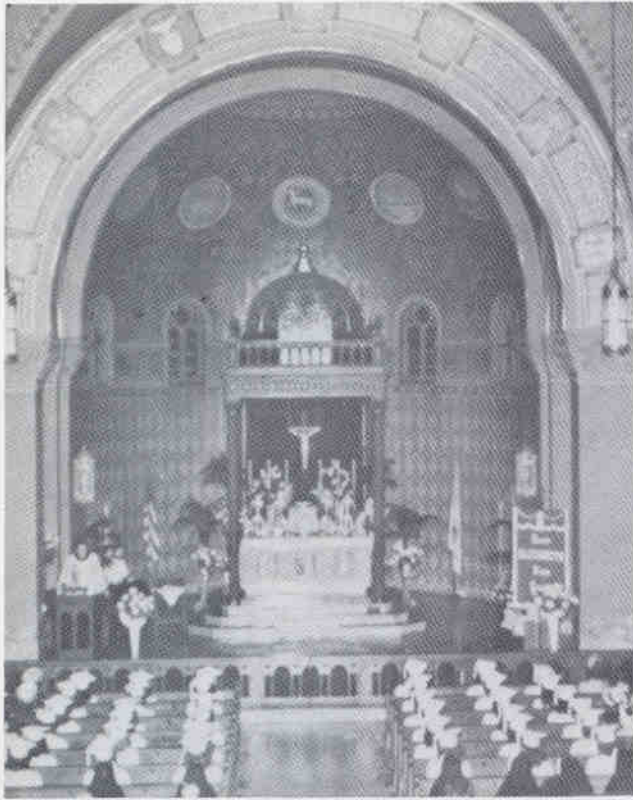
and its surrounding mission parishes. His missionary work continued. In the Irish Hills, he designed and built the famous Shrine and outdoor Way of the Cross.

His next assignment was to St. Vincent de Paul Church in Pontiac, Michigan where he established twenty-two Ladies Guilds which were foundations for several other parishes later established in Pontiac.

In 1942, Monsignor Pfeffer was assigned to St. Elizabeth Parish. He will always be remembered for his interest in the "traditional" practices of the Catholic faith, but his greatest contribution was his willingness to grow with this great Catholic Church.

The Second World War brought much suffering and hardship, but the war brought something else, too: social awareness. The changes were gradual.





The sanctuary of St. Elizabeth Church as it looked after the changes in 1945.

There developed a deeper sensitivity for the working class - a clearer understanding of the Encyclicals: "Quadragesimo Anno" and "Rerum Novarum", and a better understanding of the call of Jesus to reach out to the poor and the disenfranchised. Monsignor accepted this challenge.

St. Elizabeth has always been a "melting pot" of all nationalities. This became even more evident under his leadership in the 40's and the 50's. He was very proud of the fact that this parish is Family without allowing nationality, race, or religion to be a source of division.

The customs and cultures of people of all nationalities were respected and reinforced through music, liturgy, devotions and education.

In March of 1949 the ground was broken for the building of the present center. Monsignor realized that socializing together is a preparation for spending an eternity together. Monsignor Pfeffer and his parish Family were here to stay!

The people had seen another war. When the new center was dedicated, it included a plaque with the names of those who died for their country. The country was getting very tired of war. Society was asking some questions.



St. Elizabeth Recreation Center was dedicated on December 4, 1949.





The first recorded parish bazaar is in 1899. This bazaar seems to be in the early 50's.



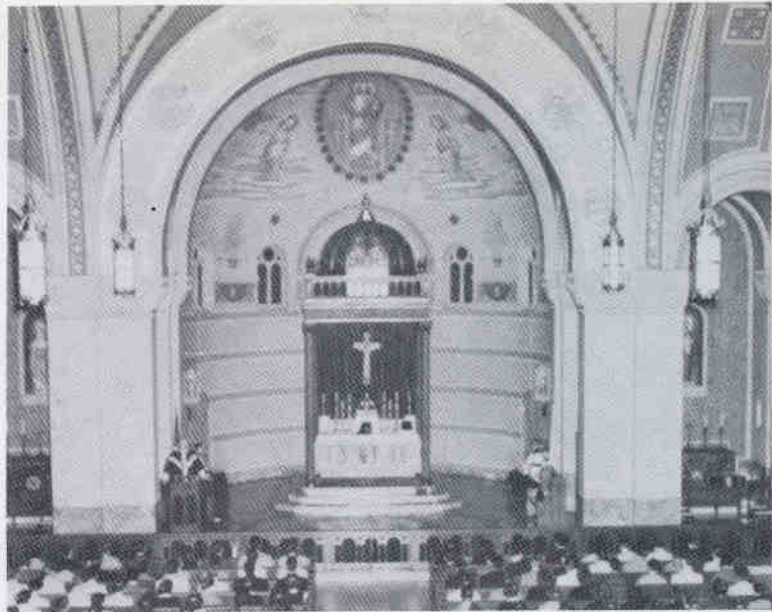
The Home Visitors of Mary were invited by Msgr. to share the Gospel with children in St. Elizabeth's neighborhood - approximately 1955 - 1960.



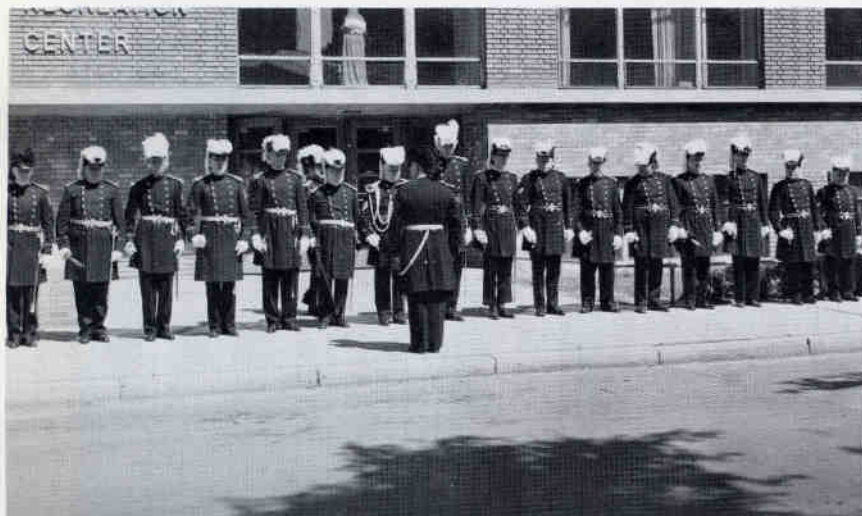
Mary Filippone and students, March 19, 1957



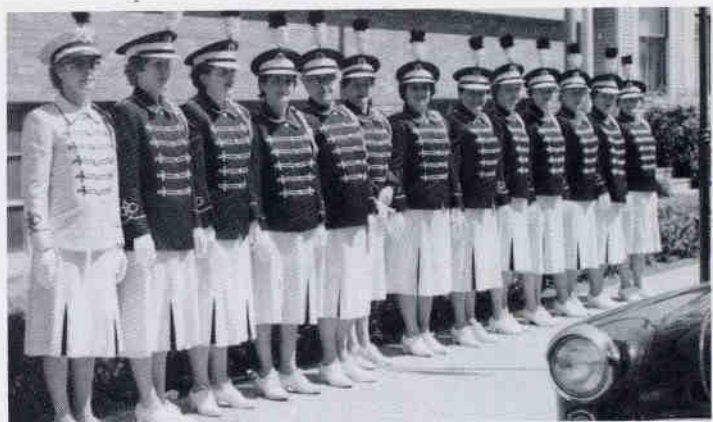
Singing, dancing and plays were always part of celebrating Msgr.'s feastday. This performance is approximately 1957.



The church was redecorated in 1958.



The Knights of St. John, May, 1959



St. Elizabeth's Auxiliary  
Knights of St. John, May, 1959





**In 1954 St. Elizabeth High School became co-educational. This class graduated on June 13, 1965.**



**Altar boys in procession was a familiar sight during Msgr.'s pastorate.**



Sometimes people and pastors do what they read in books, or what others are doing, or what superiors tell them to do. In the late 40's, the 50's and the 60's the people and the pastor of St. Elizabeth's simply did what the people of this parish had always done. They were church. The parish had been home to all from the beginning.

In a way, one might say this parish did too good a job. Italians, Poles, Germans, Kashubs and Blacks were surprised after graduating from high school to find that the world outside had much to learn about family. Today, former parishioners and present parishioners of all nationalities and races and creeds are in parts of this country living family and being church.

People do what they are. They use the gifts they have. What else can they do? Monsignor Pfeffer was definite, firm, and very vocal. These were his gifts. He was also true to himself, true to his people, true to his God. He wasn't always right. No one is. But he was right about what a church is - Church is Family!

Msgr. Pfeffer's greatest contribution was his willingness to grow with this great Catholic Church. Many nationalities would walk through these doors and feel at home.

## Assistants During Msgr. Pfeffer's Pastorate

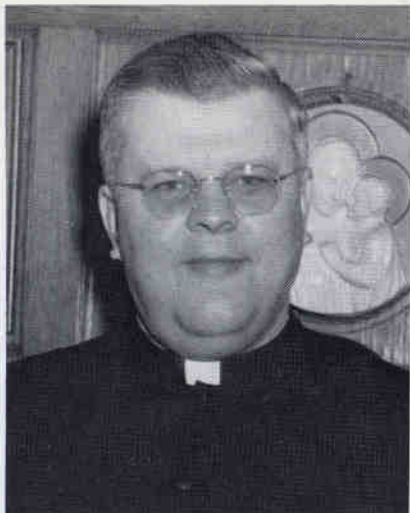


**Father Arthur Oldani**  
1943 - 1949

**Father Joseph Noelke**  
1947 - 1953

**Father Richard Thomas**  
1943 - 1948





**Father George Stromske**  
1948 - 1953



**Father Anthony F. Bologna**  
1949 - 1954



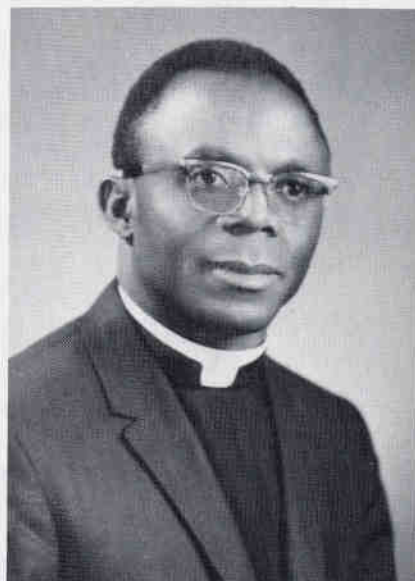
**Father Carl J. Groth**  
1953 - 1958



**Father Nicholas A. Ghelfi**  
1954 - 1959



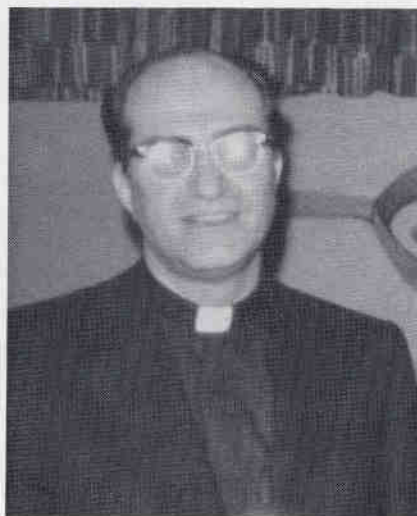
**Father Walter Burke**  
1958 - 1959



**Father James Toba**



**Father Daniel C. Complo**  
1959 - 1963



**Father John Varani**  
1963 - 1969

There was a sense of pride among the Black parishioners when Father James Toba came to St. Elizabeth's. Father Toba lived at the rectory from 1966 - 1968 while he studied at U. of D.