

1902 - 1977



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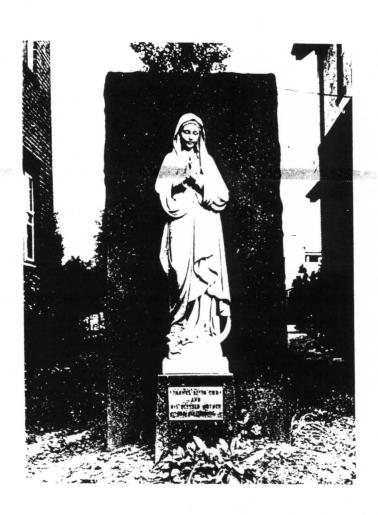
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SaintJohn Nepomucene Parish

CLEVELAND . OHIO

THANKS BE TO GOD

and
HIS
BLESSED
MOTHER



FOR ALL THINGS

SAINT JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Independence Road - Cleveland, Ohio

This brief edition compiled and written by Frank P. Matousek assisted by the St. John Nepomucene Jubilee Committee, 1977

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St. Johns

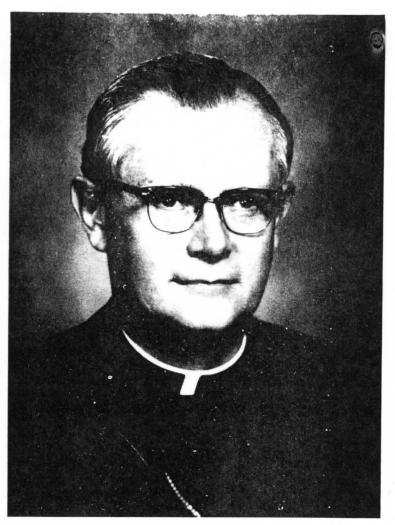


POPE PAUL VI

(Religious News Service Photo)

and part of an audience of 3,000 children at the Vatican

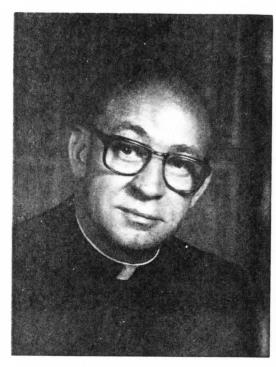
THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING OF
HIS HOLINESS, POPE PAUL VI HAS BEEN
EXTENDED TO THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE
OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR PARISH



MOST. REV. JAMES A. HICKEY Bishop of Cleveland



MOST. REV. MICHAEL J. MURPHY
Aux. Bishop of Cleveland



MOST. REV. GILBERT I. SHELDON Aux. Bishop of Cleveland



MOST. REV. CLARENCE G. ISSENMAN Aux. Bishop of Cleveland



St. John Nepomucene Martyr - Saint

OUR PATRONS (Sainted Confessors)

St. John Nepomucene, martyr to the Seal of Confession as confessor to the Empress, wife of the Emperor Wenceslaus (not the saint, King Wenceslaus), and , his namesake, St. John Nepomucene Neumann, who, as a priest, was confessor to his bishop.

St. John Nepomucene Neumann Bishop - Saint





THE PARTY OF

MONSIGNOR FRANCIS J. HROCH Founder and First Pastor

Father Hroch was known for his accomplishments in Marblehead. and Port Clinton, Ohio. where he led the building of a church to serve the people in that area. He was pleased with his appointment to work among the Czech people in Cleveland. Father Hroch came to this country from



Bohemia, and had been a parishioner of St. Procop Parish on Cleveland's west side. There he offered his first Mass on December 29, 1885.

The leadership and zeal of this priest was soon evident as he approved plans for a combination church and school on East 50th (south of the present church); and, called his people to a meeting at Joseph Masek's Hall on Fleet Ave. and East 52nd Street on August 5th, 1902. At this meeting the first parish council members were elected namely. Anthony Chlanda, Sr. and Vincent Roztocil to serve for two years and Albert Marek and Frank Trhlin to serve one year terms. It was also agreed then to purchase the lots on which payments had previously been made.

The prayers, the work, and the sacrifices resulted in the breaking of ground for the new building on the 16th day of August, 1902. On October 12th, 1902, the Rev. Anthony Hynek being delegated

by the Bishop, laid and blest the cornerstone in the

presence of parishioners and pastors of Cleveland Czech and neighboring parishes. On that day, Bishop Horstmann formally established St. John Nepomucene Parish, and appointed Rev. Francis J. Hroch to be its first pastor.

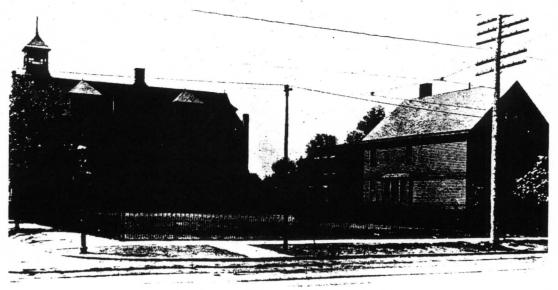


During the building period, St. Stanislaus Parish graciously offered the

use of their basement chapel to Father Hroch where he offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for parishioners of his new parish.

Completion of St. John's first church-school building allowed for the first Mass to be offered here on February 7th, 1903. The main altar was the gift of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, the side altars were the offering of parish societies. Furnishing was completed through the generosity of individual parishioners and families. Pews and a church bell were installed in 1905.

Present with Bishop Horstmann to bless the new church was Rev. Joseph W. Koudelka, later Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland and Milwaukee and Bishop of Superior, Wisconsin. He was one of the first Czech bishops in the United States. John Nepomucene Neumann, a native of Bohemia was consecrated forth bishop of Philadelphia in 1852.



The concern of the early settlers for Catholic education for their children, and the efforts that they made in this direction culminated in the opening of the parochial school at St. John's on September 7, 1903 with an enrollment of 300 students. At the invitation of Father Hroch, the Sisters of St. Dominic of Adrian, Michigan had accepted the responsibility for the educational and spiritual development of the new students. On the first staff were Sister Philomena. superioress, Sisters DePazzi, Margaret Mary, Bernard, Clementine, Benedicta and Charlotte. Miss Antonia Roch, a lay teacher (and first church organist) joined them. Her tenure, however, was short. She died while in her second year of teaching. The vacancy was filled by Sister M. Clare who taught her class for the remainder of the school year.

More building was begun in 1903, and within two years the church-school, and sister's home were built. In 1905, the painting and decorating of the buildings was completed - a testimonial of the spirit that existed and the leadership by which it was guided.

School enrollment continued to increase, and in 1906 another classroom was added in the auditorium. In the year following, it was necessary to build an addition to the convent to provide two more classrooms.

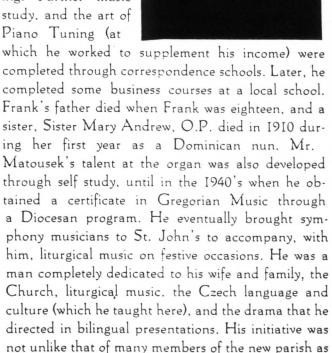
Achievements of 1908 included the purchase of another lot on Independence Rd. and enlargement of the auditorium to foster the arts and social life at St. John's.

With the rapid growth of the parish, the need for more Masses became evident. Additional families required more ministers of the Sacraments and pastoral counselling. Rev. J. B. Neustich, a Jesuit from St. Ignatius College, West 30th and Carroll Ave. (first location of John Carroll University), assisted Father Hroch with these duties until on the 18th of November 1909, Rev. Francis J. Faflik was appointed the first assistant priest at St. John's. In those times, religious instruction (catechism) was also taught on Sunday afternoon after Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Faflik seems to be remembered for his particular direction of these sessions. In 1911, he was transfered to Marblehead, Ohio. Later, he came back to Cleveland to serve as pastor of Holy Family Parish (East 131st Street). Father Neustich then returned to St. John's.

A solemn ceremony marked the 8th of April, 1913 that filled the Parishioners with pride and joy. Eleven and one-half years after its establishment, St. John Nepomucene Parish burned the mortgage on all that had been purchased and built to that time.

It was in 1909, after Miss Sylvia Sindelar resigned as organist that Mr. Frank A. Matousek was hired and began his many years of service at St. John's. His tenure of fifty-two years was the longest of any one person employed here. Later, when a shortage of teachers developed, he became a member of the staff - a position he also held for many years.

Frank A.
Matousek's early
study of music was
taken with a nun
while in parochial
school at St. Adalbert's Parish. At the
age of twelve he began work in a bolt
factory and practiced
the piano in the evening. Further music
study, and the art of
Piano Tuning (at

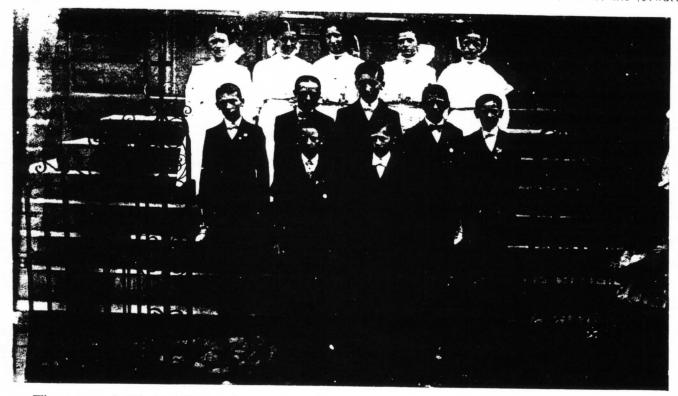


The momentum of building was still going strong, here, in the I900's and the goal of a new church and expanded school facilities was now before the people of St. John's. In the year I910, enrollment

they persevered in pursuing their chosen vocations.

had increased to 700 students. To support the expansion program many socials and other activities were planned which brought forth the generosity of the parishioners. In addition to the pleasure that these events gave, the means to continue the growth of the parish were realized. By the year 1916, a small fortune of \$50,000 was accumulated in a continuing fund drive.

The ever increasing school enrollment made the building of more classrooms necessary. Further expansion was achieved with the purchase of a home adjacent to parish property that was then remodeled and furnished for school use. The laying of the first brick is recorded on the second of August. 1917. In the form of a cross, as was customary, the ground plan was laid and Roman-osque architecture rose from and around it. The church is built of rod bokhara brick. On the inside, the lower walls have a wainscoating of Vermont marble that surrounds the interior almost completely. In the aisles and vestibule, the floor is of red tile and in the sanctuary, marble brick. Imitation marble known as scagliola and regalico makes up the original main altar. Rising high over this altar is a baldachin (canopy) supported by four columns. Originally, matching urns were located in front of the forward



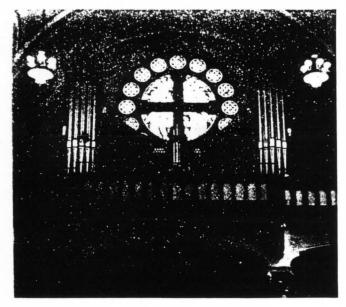
The start of World War I found Father Hroch in Europe visiting the place of his birth. Security was tightened in the countries involved making travel difficult. The parishioners were relieved and grateful when, after some delay, he returned to Cleveland. Because of the war, differences developed over the question to build or delay. This work of God was destined to continue and a consensus to proceed was soon reached.

Quotations for general work were \$91,000. for the church and \$25,000. for the rectory. These figures did not include heating, plumbing, electrical work, stained glass windows, decorating, pews or light fixtures.

columns and adoring angels kept vigil on either side against the sanctuary wall. St. John Nepomucene Church with a seating capacity to accomodate 800 people was completed and dedicated in the year 1920.

In this larger edifice, the small pump organ pressed into service from the school chapel was soon deemed inadequate to support the liturgy. A campaign for an instrument that would be appropriate was initiated by the church choir. Their efforts resulted in a contract with the Votteler, Holtkamp, Sparling Organ Company, of Cleveland, for a two-manual pipe organ at a cost of \$5,500. It was installed in 1924 and blessed at a Sacred Concert on Sunday September 28th of that year. That organ served as

an accompanion of the constraint because of the high cost of proper releablement was replaced by an electronic instrument. The original pipes can still be seen as a backdrop for the choir.



With the completion of the new church building, the first two floors of the original combination structure were remodeled for school use exclusively. On the third floor, the auditorium provided recreation for the students and a place for meetings, socials and other activities.



In 1926, Pope Pius IX elevated Rev. Francis J. Hroch to the honor of Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor. This honor he richly deserved for with his guidance and leadership St. John Nepomucene Parish grew as rapidly as almost any other in the city of Cleveland.

Religious vocations were now the special fruit that stemmed from the hard and dedicated work of the priests, sisters, parishioners, and the faith of our founders. The first student of St. John's School was ordained to the priesthood on May 3rd, 1926. He was Rev. Joseph Andel the son of early parishioners. His brother, Rev. John Andel, also a student, was ordained in 1936 and is currently pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The second student to be ordained was Rev. Wenceslaus Maruna. The Maruna family also gave Rev. Francis to St. John's and the priesthood.

Sister Mary Charitina Bitzan was the first girl to take vows as a nun. Her sisters, Sr. M. Liguori and Sr. M. Justine followed her later into this vocation as members of the Dominican Order.

Since 1927, the Parent Teachers Unit has served St. John's school and parish. Their purpose is to maintain a mutual understanding between parents and teachers, a support of better child development methods, and provide funds whereby good school conditions and equipment are sought and maintained. Their achievements have been many. Each and every year has recorded some contribution the result of interest, dedication and sacrifice. St. John's has every reason to be proud of its PTU.

On October I2, I927, a double celebration was held to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of St. John's, and Msgr. Hroch's... pastorate. Bishop Joseph Schrembs offered the Sacrifice of the Mass in thanksgiving with an overflowing number of priests, religious, and parishioners participating in the liturgy.

Spiritual and corporal works of mercy have been the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society since its beginning on December 19, 1927. Our Conference is a member of the Diocesan Particular Council and the national and international society formed in Paris, France in 1883. Led by Frederich Ozanam, eight law students at the University of Paris organized to affirm by their actions the vitality of their faith in answer to atheistic attacks upon the Catholic Church. "Show us your deeds" was the challenge they met. Today, it is to be a witness for Christ. Annually, the Society also has conducted a clothes drive here at Thanksgiving for the Bishop's campaign to clothe the needy in other countries. Members receive, sort and pack the clothing given

by people of the parish, for shipment overseas. During one such drive, a note placed in a suit asking for a response from the recipient, brought a letter of deep gratitude from a resident of a country in Central Europe.

Sometime in the year 1928, the Holy Name Society was organized in our Parish. It was formed to increase the reception of the sacraments among men, promote respect for the Names of God and Christ, and to help to offset by Catholic-Christian living the materialistic and immoral influence upon people. The Holy Name was very active religiously and socially through the years following, and it was inspiring to witness some 250 men receiving the Eucharist as a group each month. The membership has since decreased but their spirit is being renewed and is vital and growing again. Family Communions, and Renewals are now being encouraged and members are offering their services in fund raising and renovating projects in the church and school.

On the 18th of August, 1929, a warm welcome was given Msgr. Hroch when he returned from his second trip to Europe. There he joined other Czechs from throughout the world to commemorate the one thousandth anniversary of death of St. Wenceslaus, Czech King and martyr one of Bohemia's



greatest saints. His feast continues to be observed annually with liturgical and banquet celebrations, at which various Czech parishes alternate as host.

At the request of Msgr. Hroch, the Men's Choir was organized in October, 1931. It was formed by Frank A. Matousek in obedience to the Motu Proprio on Sacred Music of Pope Pius X. This Choir continued until in 1966 when the redirection of choirs by Vatican II had begun to be implemented here. The present Adult Choir of mixed voices was conducted for the past ten years (from 1967) by

Leonard Vavruska who came from a family of singers, members of the original choir. Mr. Vavruska had served as organist of St. Wenceslaus Parish on Broadway for more than 30 years until it was closed in 1966. The Choir's rendition of traditional and contemporary music, particularly on festive occasions, has served our Parish well in this period of transition. One member of the present choir, Mr. John Klima, has sung as soloist with the adult choirs for a period of time approaching fifty years. His dedication to this service in the Church is worthy of commendation.

Dramatics played a prominent role in the social and literary life of this Parish. At the very beginning, it was the St. Cecilia's Dramatic Singing Society under the direction of the spirited Father Hroch with the assistance of Miss Antonia Roch. Later, Father Joseph Kresina directed the youth and Father Oldrich Mazanec specialized in Bohemian plays. Our nuns showed their theatrical skills in coaching student performances. Those who are most remembered are, Sisters M. Beatrice, Assumpta, Grace Genevieve (English and Czech), Ann Gertrude, Therese Marie and M. Norena. Although increased activities de-emphasized dramatics, the teaching sisters continued to utilize stage performances for celebrations and student experience.

In 1906, Father Hroch organized the St. John's Catholic Club to promote wholesome recreation for the young men of the parish. This group, too, gave many dramatic presentations in its early years.

In about 1928, the Nepomucene Players were organized. Directed by Frank A. Matousek, who was still employed as organist, choir director and teacher, this group was most active from 1930 to 1934. Among its dramatizations was "The Seal of Confession", and the musical classic, "Prodana Nevesta'' (The Bartered Bride) by Bedrich Smetana. The Nepomucene Players distinguished themselves. and the Parish, with a presentation of a musical, "ZCeskych Mlynu" (From The Czech Mills) in the Little Theatre of Cleveland's Public Auditorium on October 9, 1932. This group disbanded in 1934; however, the Choir, Alumni Association, Young Ladies Sodality (of the Blessed Virgin), Ladies Auxiliary, P.T.U., students of our school, and later Youth Groups continued to give of themselves in this art form for the entertainment and enrichment of themselves and their audiences.

Looking back for a moment into the education at St. John's, we find that it progressed for some years beyond the elementary grades. In 1923, thirty-eight graduates of the parochial school returned to become the first class in a two-year commercial high school. This schooling prepared students for careers in business or provided the necessary credits for those who went on to higher learning. Socially, these classes produced an Alumni Association that renewed the friendships of earlier days and with their many contributions broadened the scope of parish life.

In 1937, due to illness (and perhaps fatigue) Msgr. Hroch was unable to continue the active administration of the parish. This brought the appointment of Rev. Albert Masat to the pastorate at St. John's, on July 8th of that year. Msgr. Hroch

stayed on as Pastor Em

Father Masat had been ordained on August 28, I908 in Toledo, Ohio by Bishop Koudelka. In September of the same year he was assigned to SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Lakewood. Father Masat had not been in the best of health when he came



to this Parish, and therefore, remained only until October 22, I94I when illness forced him to resign. He died on November 25, I950 while in residence at St. Charles Parish, Parma, Ohio. He was succeeded by Rev. Clarence Dik.

The jubilee of the 200th year of the canonization of St. John Nepomucene was celebrated in a very festive yet solemn manner here on May 19, 1939. The Parish buildings were decked with colors of the Universal Church, the United States and Czechoslovakia. In these words, expressed in his homily that day, Redemptorist Father Oktavec said, "St. John Nepomucene is the paragon of all priests today and days to come. He is a shinning example of the Seal of Confession. He is a patron of the Church everywhere."

A familiar and pleasant sight at most religious functions through out the years was the appearance of two uniformed groups which were complements to these observances. The Knights of St. John, Commandery No. 44 (1903), and the Ladies Auxiliary No. 267, organized later in 1932, have represented St. John's (and the Church) before the reviewing stands of the public. They also traveled to other cities to participate in drill team competition, distinguished themselves, and were always a welcome support of liturgical celebrations here. Their work currently includes a prayer hour for peace conducted with the Knights and Auxiliary groups from other parishes. This prayer hour has been continued monthly without interruption since the end of World War II in 1945.

In reference to that war, a memorial plaque was dedicated here to those parishioners who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces. It was erected in our church in the alcove (behind a side altar) to the right of the sanctuary, and honored and maintained there for some years thereafter.

A note of mourning now enters this historical sketch. On October 6th, 1939, Monsignor Francis J. Hroch, Pastor Emeritus, was called to his eternal reward after fifty years in the service of the Lord, thirty-five years of which were spent in the building and guidance of St. John's Parish. He was born Septembr 13, 1864 and ordained December 24, 1889. To understand the feeling of the people then, and even some now, is to know something of this man of God.

He had little regard for his physical health as he gave generously of himself. All his energies were spent for God and his people. He not only taught the way of life by his words and instructions, and brought his God to his people in obedience to his priestly powers, but humbled himself when he donned the clothes of a workman to make a much needed repair on church property, He believed that idleness is the devil's playground. In dramatics which he initiated here, or sports, he led the children in the development of mind and body so necessary to the support of the soul.

A bronze plaque in his memory is located in the vestibule of the Church. It was erected by the parishioners in 1940.

Assigned to the pastorate of St. John's on October 22, 1941, to succeed Father Albert Masat, Father Clarence Dik had been ordained June 6, 1914 by Bishop John P. Farrelly. His first appointment was to Our Lady of Lourdes on June 17, 1914.



On October 14, 1926 he was made pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish on Broadway at East 37th Street. St. Wenceslaus was closed, and the buildings razed to make way for Interstate 77 in 1968. The right of way of this highway also forced many of the people in the East 48th and East 49th street area to relocate. Some moved out of the neighborhood, and St. John's lost part of its membership.

Father Dik was an excellent photographer. He was often seen on special occasions snapping pictures - helping to preserve the memories of parish life for future generations. His Christmas greeting was given in the form of a picture of our altar or crib. Some of the photos appearing in the Golden Jubilee Booklet were from his collection.

A sharp contrast to Msgr. Hroch in personality and teacher of the Gospel, Father Dik's manner was quiet and unassuming. He was a very frugal man which trait sometimes put him at odds with those around him. His savings, however, contributed to the start of the fund for the building of the new school. The church debt here, at that time, was also cleared during his pastorate.

There were those who were impressed by this soft approach, and his converts loved him. During his pastoratge, additions and improvements were made to the south side of the church building. The church was painted before the Golden Jubilee and the design on the sanctuary wall that he selected was retained intact for the redecorating in 1977.

Four original paintings (1920) have also been preserved to this day. Above the side altar on the left, Christ is depicted with small children. In a similar location on the right side, He is shown as the Good Shepherd. On the same side of the church,

and above the side entrance, the artist has illustrated Peter's lack of faith as Christ walks on the water. The painting above the entrance on the opposite side is that of St. Wenceslaus.

With the approaching Golden Jubliee, in I952, it seems that the spirit here had weakened. Could it have been that many parishioners who were students of the forceful and energetic Msgr. Hroch needed a strong hand rather than the soft words of Father Dik? In trying to analyze the atmosphere existing then, it must be considered that many people of the "Old School" had passed on, and changing times did not fulfill the assumption that the new generation would approach parish life in the same way as their parents.

The meeting for the preparation of the Jubilee brought, as in the beginning of the Parish, disagreements and criticism. But sparks of the pioneering spirit remained, and once ignited sent the committees into action. Those who believed that the old hall, with a capacity of about 300 would be more than adequate for the celebration, must have been amazed to see the response of parishioners and former parishioners. It was necessary to secure the larger Slovenian National Hall (East 80th) for the occasion to accommodate more than twice that number.

At the Eucharistic celebration the church rang with prayerful song with the Choir leading a capacity congregation in some of the hymns for the occasion. Many in attendance were introduced to this music by the choir director and the sisters during their school days. At that time each class from the fifth to the eighth grades were trained and sang as individual choirs.

St. John's was now riding a crest of spirit and enthusiasm. On May 23, 1954, Father Dik's forty years in the priesthood was acknowledged by his parishioners with a gathering of friends that filled the church and exceeded the banquet facilities here. Again in November, the people responded in numbers exceeding hall capacity to give testimonial of Frank A. Matousek's forty-five years as organist and choir director. Five years later, a more modest tribute was given him on the occasion of fifty years of dedicated service. Women of the parish prepared and served these banquets with taste and efficiency that rivalled the professional caterers of the Golden Jubilee.

On June 18, 1961, Mr. Matousek passed on, and in the year following, Rev. Clarence Dik, his pastor, associate in the liturgy, and friend of twenty years, went to his reward after a period of illness - notes of sadness, beginnings of change, and renewal. Frank P. Matousek succeeded his father as choir director for five years before Mr. Leonard Vavruska arrived; and, Margaret Haller Riegelmayer conducted the Youth Choir and offered her talents of organ accompaniment on special occasions.

Rev. Joseph Step, assistant priest and student of St. John's, was appointed administrator. In his short tenure, he began the renewal that many times was necessary after a presiding pastor's illness. He stayed on in this temporary assignment for several months after which time Rev. Clarence Liederbach was appointed pastor in 1962. Father Step then became assistant priest at Ascension Parish and Rev. James Vesely was transferred from Ascension to assist Father Liederbach. As of this writing Father Step is pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Lorain, Ohio and Father Vesely is pastor of St. Procop's, Cleveland.

As we pause and reflect on the work of the assistant and associate priests here, a tribute must be given to all who served the people of St. John's and helped them to grow in their faith. The conversions that came through their words and example were numerous; still, the energy that they spent as they gave of themselves may never be known in our time. They assisted their pastors in taking the Eucharist to the sick, and administered the Last Rites of the Church to the seriously ill and dying at all hours of the day and night. Countless hospital visitations were made, particularly before the assignment of hospital chaplains. Throughout the years these priests were obedient in service to God, the Church, and in ministering to the needs of the parishioners. The success of liturgical or community celebrations ws due in part to these men working with their pastor, parish groups, and people for the enrichment of all who would participate. This limited history does not record their specific contributions, and their many efforts are not generally known, but those who benefited will remember them eternally.

Rev. Clarence Liederbach was ordained to the priesthood on February 20, 1937. He came to St.

John Nepomucene Church the first time as assistant on April I, 1937. He was then transferred to Our Lady of Lourdes parish on July I7, 1940. On June 30, 1941, he was appointed principal and assistant Chaplain at Ursuline High School in Youngstown, Ohio. Then he came back to St. John's on September 18, 1942. Holy Family Parish in Corlett was his next assignment on October 4, 1944. On March 19, 1953 he was appointed to St. Procop's Church. Then on April 28, 1955, he became pastor of St. Adalbert's Parish in Cleveland. From St. Adalbert's, he was appointed pastor of Holy Family in Corlett, and then in 1962 he assumed the pastorate of St. John's, where he already had an acquaintance with many of the parishioners.

On May 19, 1963, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Altar Society, with the pastor as moderator, celebrated sixty years of care of the church altars, sanctuary, and sacristies. This organization of dedicated women began in the year following the establishment of the parish and continues to this day. In their celebration they acknowledged also, the cooperation and support of the Dominican Sisters in carrying out their concern for properly maintained liturgical clothing, fixtures, and facilities.

In this year, the parishioners gave support to the building of the new Adrian (Michigan) Dominican Motherhouse Infirmary. Care there has been given to ailing sisters, many of whom were students of, and served as teachers at St. John's. Some still live on there with fond memories and certainly prayers for all.

In pre-Vatican II days, a priest was limited, for the most part, to offering two Masses on Sunday. With two priests in residence, and six Masses scheduled, assistance was sought. The Benedictine Fathers of St. Andrew's Abbey (Cleveland) responded to the request, and for a period of twenty years thereafter, continued to provide the ministry for these services. As an acknowledgment of their assistance, a donation was made in the name of the parishioners of St. John's, to the Benedictine High School Building Fund.

In 1963, the Second Vatican Council's influence of liturgical and religious change in the Church was felt at St. John's. The first dialogue Masses with lector were offered, and the choir, in obedience to teaching authority, rendered the ordinary of the Mass

in the vernacular.

In January, 1964, Father Liederbach received permission from Archbishop Edward Hoban to replace the original Church-school-hall building with a mod-

ern school and social hall.
In initiating the campaign,
Father Liderbach cited
the right of the child to
receive education and the
duty of the parents to
provide the same. The
capacities of the soul need
to be developed, along¹/₂
with directing the will in
the practice of vir-

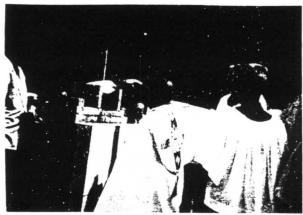


tue through moral and religious training. "you educate your children but once," he said, "and that once must be done well."



The location selected for the school was part of the playground area, hence additional property was purchased, to the south, for recreational purposes. Sister Francis Catherine, O.P., a member of the faculty, turned over the first shovelful of earth to break ground. Building, once started, proceeded at a scheduled pace.

In addition to the obligations now accepted, this Parish met its quota of \$80,000 for the Diocesan High SchookBuilding Fund.



Cornerstone for the new school was laid on August 2. 1964. The social hall was named for Blessed John Nepomucene Neumann (later St. John). This was the only building known to be given under his patronage until after his canonization in 1977. In 1965, classes begant in this new place of learning with a library which was the first in an elementary school in the Diocese of Cleveland. In 1966, a P. A. system and FM radio were added.



Cardinal Beran of Prague, Czechoslovakia, visited Cleveland in 1964 with his cause of freedom for that subjected country. The people of St. John's showed their sympathy and support with a monetary offering as well as their prayers for the freedom of the Czechs, Slovaks, and Moravians of that nation.

One of the largest organizations affiliated with St. John's is the St. John's Catholic Club. This unique group of men has maintained a membership of parishioners past and present. It was started by Msgr. Hroch, and in 1966 celebrated sixty years of active fellowship. While being more social in nature, requirements for membership have included reception of the sacraments and adherence to Church teachings. Annually, at Eastertime, the men receive the Eucharist in a body and follow their Mass celebration with a social breakfast at the Parish Hall. This club's response to prayer services at the time of sorrow in the family of a member has always been consoling to those who were grieving.

Father Lieder-bach left St. John's in 1966, and on October 23, 1966, Rev. Paul Plafcan succeeded him as pastor. This was Father Paul's first pastorate. Following his ordination on May 31, 1947, he was assigned to St. Wendelin's Parish. From 1952 to 1957



he served at St. Ignatius, from 1957 to 1959 at Corpus Christi, at Our Lady of Mercy from 1959 to 1960, at St. Procop's from 1960 to 1965, and at Holy Family from 1965 to 1966.

1967 - A year of celebration, tribute and acknowledgment of Catholic Action and service.

January 28th - Diamond Jubilee of the Adrian Dominican Sisters - - a time for acknowledgment of their dedicated serviced as teachers of our children and youth and as living examples of Christianity.

February 29th - Fortieth anniversary of the P.T.U. at St. John's - - a time to reflect on the countless hours spent in support of the teachers, students, and parish facilities for education.

July I6th - Fortieth year of the beginning here of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Many families remember the help which they received when they were in need.

September 17th - Thirty-fifth year of the Ladies Auxiliary No. 267 of the Knights of St. John.

Disciplined as a team to march and stand at attention, these ladies and Knights also honored their Lord by maintaining vigils each year in church during Easter Week.

October 22nd - Sixty-fifth year of the Sacred Heart of Mary Society No. 101 of the Czech Catholic Union. Celebrating years of promoting fraternity, service and security among its members.

In October and November, the Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops were organized. They continue to provide valuable training for our youth through the years for God and country.

The work of the Vatican Council, guided by the Holy Spirit, was beginning to be felt now at St. John's. Father Plafcan was deeply moved by the council's conclusions and the door was literally opened for change here, in liturgy and community life and action. The call for greater involvement of the parishioners was out. Sister Carol Gross, O.P., was appointed Religious Coordinator and Adult Education sessions began on January 9, 1968.

On May 31, 1968, St. John's was chosen for the Deacon Internship Program, and on July Ist, Rev. Stephen Walick arrived, the first of four deacons to serve here. The others were: Rev. Mark Hollis, Rev. Norman Douglas and Rev. Jeff Jeney. All of these men were subsequently ordained to the Priesthood.

Parish Councils were encouraged by the Vatican Council as necessary lay administration of parishes. On June 8, 1968, Steering Cmmittee members were elected to form a council here. An open meeting was conducted on January 27, 1969

and in March of 1969, four commissions: Laurgy. Education, Finance and Public Relations of the Parish Council (officially "parish Congress") were established. The following year the St. John Nepomucene Parish Congress was formed. Elected were: William Bican, Joseph Fortuna Sr., Joseph Kocab, Jr., Frank P. Matousek, Albert Geller. Joseph Fortuna, Jr., to serve two years; and Robert Nowak, George Dlouhy, Frank Sroub, Irene Hrdlicka, Frank Houdek, and Eleanor Seid, to serve one year. Many of these people were memb ers also of the Steering Committee. Serving with these twelve were Father Walter Hyclak, Associate Pastor, Sister Pauline, School Principal and one other Sister. The pastor was ex-officio a member with no vote. but with right of veto.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF SAINT JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH CONGRESS Preamble

We as living members of the Mystical Body of Christ, as encouraged, urged, and requested to become more expressive of St. John Nepomucene Parish, do declare ourselves willing to become active in the mission of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

AWARE — THAT "a great many benefits are to be hoped for from familiar dialogue between the laity and their pastors: in the laity, a strengthened sense of personal responsibility, a renewed enthusiasm, a more ready application of their talents to the projects of their pastors," and that "in this way, the whole Church, strengthened by each one of its members can more effectively fulfill its mission for the life of the world."

WE DO HEREBY UNITE to form a Parish Congress according to the spirit of the Vatican Council II, recognizing and affirming our communion with the Vicar of Christ, Our Holy Father, the Bishop of our diocese, and his representative, our Pastor.

to assure the transmission of the Deposit
 of Faith necessary for salvation,
 to work together in the building up of the
 Body of Christ,

sorovide channels of communication between clergy, laity, the Christians and the secular community,

ongage in continuing apostolic formation of parish members,

study the needs of the Christian and the secular community and to work toward discovering and providing the resources to meet these needs,

sorovide greater effectiveness in the management of the life of the parish,

associatge the clergy and laity more cosely in the saving mission of Christ. On this, the eighth day of June 1970.

Tanges in the liturgy and the manner of its Ver Vatican II had, as in the Church and unsettling effect here upon many server vices in the vernacular, turning of the altar, These changes ters seneed, of course, in an effort to make the meaningful and make us more aware ser - worshiping not only as individuals 50 Semmunity. Some saw the Sign of Peace as may the attention, during the short span of from the Sacrifice on the altar. It seemed more hours were available at other times, se a contion to our Brothers in Christ. Perhaps, statice which occurred within the span of story might both serve to make for a betse amending of the opposition and, at the same seemt it for consideration for revival in some has not already been suggested in the To make for example, which have been started ame a marishes in this southeast area.

heard very often now is the traditional among Catholics here (and perhaps generally). Upon meeting outside of the work or after services, and in other public would say, "Pozdrav Pan Buh", or the Lord.." The reply was, "Zaplat which was a return of the same wish. which was a return of the same wish. "Panem Bohem" or "Go With these exchanges were expressed in their anguages among the Slovaks, Poles and other Catholics. The vernacular and other Catholics. The vernacular would evoke sincere feelings toward

one another in a continuation of the prayers of the liturgy into our public lives.

During 1968, ecumenism was advanced with a Byzantine Rite Liturgy celebrated by Father Nicholas Ivan. This year also included important traditional celebrations of the Knights of St. John's sixty-fifth year (the Knights were originally the official escort for the bishop); Father Joseph Step returned to his home parish to observe with parishioners and friends, his Silver Jubilee of Ordination; and St. John's was host to other Czech parishes in the annual celebration honoring St. Wenceslaus. Bishop Issenmann celebrated the Mass and remained for the banquet that followed.

An emphasis on youth participation was now growing with a Mass sung to guitar accompaniment. On August II, 1968 the CYO Hi-Club was organized, and under the guidance of Rev. Walter Hyclak earned, in 1971, the Apostolic Action Award. Former students who were active with this group are seminarians Joseph Herman and Joseph Fortuna, Jr., who was one of the youngest persons to be elected to serve on our Parish Congress. Father Hyclak was assigned to our parish in June of 1969. Rev. John Vrana, whom h succeeded, then began studies in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to prepare for a professorship at St. Mary's Seminary. In 1977, Father Vrana was also assigned by Bishop James Hickey as his delegate to the Charismatic Renewal Movement.

Reorganization of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine here (currently the Parish School of Religion) was begun in August 1968. It has taken on the awesome task of religious education for all public school children, four and five year old children and adults in the parish. The first Communal Celebration of Penance was also held in August 1968. Saturday evening Masses began in 1970.

On June 20th our present school Principal, Sister Rosemary Asaro, O.P., succeeded Sister Pauline. Within the year our parish witnessed and was deeply impressed by Sinster Rosemary's final profession of vows as a Dominican Nun. The intention here is not to overlook or minimize the lifelong dedication of her



predecessors, or other nuns who were and are committed to this vocation, but to note that this decision came at a time of change in the Dominican Community with options for service for the individual member and a lessening of vocations to the sister-hood. Recognizing the needs of all people in a fast changing world, the Dominican Sisters realized that vocations can be fulfilled in many ways from teaching of youth to working with the elderly. The options allowed were to have members of their community serve where they believed themselves to be most effective.

With greater awareness of the needs of the elderly, senior citizens of our parish and the surrounding community were given new companionship in the formation of the Golden Agers. The many activities and travel they enjoy has certainly afforded them much happiness and perhaps, a renewed life.

The kind of relationship that existed in the past and still exists today among those who are now the elderly, was seen in the first fifty year reunion of a St. John graduating class. On July 25, I97I, the Class of I92I came together that day to participate in a concelebrated Mass; and, later reminisce after the banquet to learn of each other's activities throughout the years. Twenty-five classmates attended with their husbands, wives or friends - - a total of forty-six people.

Along with the renewal encouraged by Vatican II came the necessity of physical renewal, repairs and renovations. The school mortgage payments had to be met while operating costs increased.

The choice of service allowed to the sisters, and fewer vocations resulted in a shortage of nuns available to teach in the schools. The lay teachers who were hired to fill teaching positions commanded higher salaries. Increased financial burden was not unique to St. John's and the "solutions" in many other parishes meant the closing of their schools. St. John's remained open with the cooperation of parents and support from the Social Committee. This group was organized by Father Liederbach as "Ways and Means" after the building of the new school. These dedicated men faithfully conducted weekly socials that provided a sufficient income to allow Father Plafcan to complete payments on the school mortgage in 1975. Receipts from the Socials eventually subsidized ordinary operating expenses of the Parish.

To be most effective proper education should have a philosophy and a goal. These were revised and stated in the 1974 School Handbook as follows.

The primary goal of the educational program at St. John Nepomucene School is to develop the total child (spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically) in an atmosphere stressing positive values and success for each student according to his individual capabilities.

Educational Objectives:

- I. To provide a climate of trust, respect and personal interest in each child so that he will learn to appreciate his own worth, because Christian principles are shown more by actions than by words.
- 2. To foster in each student a social awareness of and personal responsibility for both the school community and the society in which he lives.

- To provide a positive atmosphere of growth through awareness of each child as an individual and his need for success in daily school experiences.
- To strive for imparting greater appreciation of cultural opportunities and other special events.
- To continue to keep parents informed of the academic and social progress of their child.

The quality of education at our school has been recognized in our graduates attending high schools. Some teachers there have expressed their adament of our school program as being effective in properly preparing students for advanced learning.

In recent years students also benefited by the challenge of the Annual Science Fair. This competitive event reveals the talents and stimulates learning processes of the participants and all students from the fifth grade on take part in some measure.



Reception of the Eucharist for the first time is an experience perhaps unparalleled in the life of a Catholic. This is particularly true in children when two of Christ then, deserves our attention and to Our continued reception of this Sacrament whom Christ cited as most worthy of our emulation.

increase in weekly contributions. The dilemma of sufficient support of pastor and parish continues.

Approaches to physical and spiritual projects in the Congress were broadly those of conservative and traditional as opposed to liberal and contemporary, or change. These attitudes were developing in most parishes of the diocese, the Church in America,



all Catholic parishes) the burden of support rests with about one-half of the memberhsip. Those who realized their obligations, here, continued their support. Special projects, such as extensive repairs to the church roof in 1974 and electronic changes in ringing of the state bell in 1973 were successful. (The bell was retained in the latter improvement. Weekly contributions were modestly increased by pleas from the Congress and Finance Committee. The displacement of those parishioners on fixed incomes by younger, productive families, however, has not shown itself in any substantial

and the Universal Church. Memb ers who would, "make haste slowly" spent themselves reining in the impetuous youth, who were supported by a pastor and associate pastor convinced of the "now" of renewal, and the right to proceed with convictions in faith that payments would be met.

Even with plans for the future undefined publicly (particularly for the school), involvement in the larger community proceeded and interfaith services with other denominations took place. Cooperation with neighboring parishes was increased with new Baptismal Rites' instruction. Confirmation, Communal Penance Services and Annointing of the Sick.

The option of face-to-face Reconciliation was later made available here. New groups were organized for Youth and Adult Renewals and Home Mass programs were initiated. Sister Mary Ann Schikowski, O.P., was hired by St. John's, St. Stanislaus and Immaculate Heart Parishes to direct the Southeast Service to the Elderly which served the retired and aged of these parishes. Her work, broadly, showed concern for the needs of these people personally, and served as liaison to federal, state and local agencies to obtain aid that is rightfully theirs. In 1977, Catholic Charities took over the financing of the Southeast Service to the Elderly.

On M ay 28, 1972, the people of St. John's commemorated with Father Paul, his Silver Jubilee in the Priesthood. Preceding the banquet was the Eucharistic Celebration with a large congregation participating. The liturgical program ended with this tribute, "Well done Father Paul. We appreciate your dedication. We value your presence and pray for your success in your years ahead . . ."

Turning to the surrounding community Father Paul and parish organizations took part in the grand opening of the New Karlin Hall and Club on May 3, 1973. Masses of Thanksgiving were celebrated at St. John's and at Our Lady of Lourdes. Located at Fleet Avenue and East 53rd Street, Karlin was organized in 1936 by members of the Catholic Workmen. The first stock holders were parishioners of St. John's with Msgr. Francis Hroch serving as chaplain. Later some parish organizations invested in the corporation and with a shortage of meeting rooms at St. John's, they found it more convenient to conduct their business there at Karlin Hall. The procession and parade proceeded from our Church to the Hall on that day with the Governor of Ohio and the Mayor of Cleveland joining Father Paul in the dedication and blessing of the new building. Named after this area called Karlin by the early settlers here, it had been a social and business meeting center for Czech organizations and celebrations. The new structure and resurfacing of surrounding land purchased by the stockholders helped to renew this area of Fleet Avenue. Karlin and the St. John's area were honored by a visit from the 38th president of the United States, Gerald Ford in 1976.

In recent years the Karlin Club has become cosmopolitan with a membership of Czech, Slovak,

Polish and Slovenian heritages and other nationalities neighboring communities from and Cleveland. This parallels the membership now of St. John's Parish where dedicated people of various cultures have come to worship and work together: and, have made their contributions to this community for Christ and His Church. At Karlin new refugees from other countries mingle with third and fourth generation Americans. Prominent in promoting and coordinating Czech life and culture is Joseph Kocab. teacher and assistant administrator at South High School and advisor on Ethnic Affairs to Cuyahoga Community College. A former student at St. John's. Mr. Kocab was elected to our first Parish Congress. He is a board member at Karlin and has been a leader in bringing about dialogue and cooperation among Czechs of various beliefs.

On September 30, 1973, St. John's was host to the Fiftieth Annual St. Wenceslaus Celebration, and the Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, Rt. Rev. William Cosgrove, who offered the Sacrifice of the Mass.

The active interest in youth taken by Father Hyclak here and throughout the diocese was noted by the Chancery, so that on June 27, 1974, Father "Wally" was made Assistant Director of the Diocesan CYO. He has continued to maintain this special interest in the youth, their renewal and activities which include summer camp programs. Rev. Arthur Snedeker, newly ordained, succeeded him as Associate Pastor.

The layman now begins a closer participation in the Celebration of the Mass and Liturgy. Four Ministers of the Eucharist were installed to serve St. John's in November, 1974. Those so honored were our school principal, Sister Rosemary, O.P. Sister Carol, O.P., Mr. Albert Geller and Mr. George Dlouhy. When Sister Carol left St. John's to work in the Diocesan Youth Ministry program, Sixes Mary Ann Schikowski, O.P. was accepted into the service. Mr. Geller has given many years of service to our parish as an active member of various organic zations. He was elected first Congress president appointed parish representative to the Dioces Pastoral Council. Mr. Dlouhy has been similar active; a member of the Parish Congress and from his family came a daughter, Sister Carmelyn, S.N.D., who received her element

education in school here.

Early in 1974 St. John's completed its expansion in the East 50th to Independence Road black The Parish Congress approved the purchase of the long and property on the northeast corner.

building adjacent to John Nepomucene Neumann Hall was appropriately named "Neumann Annex." It was remodeled to serve a need for meeting rooms brought about by an increase in organizations and group activities.

Mid-year 1975 witnessed the celebration of the Silver Anniversary of religious vows of Sister la Houdek, H.H.M. A student of St. John's school. Sister Marcella served as principal of the Mount Pleasant Cathlic Educational Center and is presently principal at St. Patrick's in Hubbard.Ohio.

with an arthritic condition for many years, was hospitalized. Father Paul left St. John's and the Diocese of Cleveland in October and was assigned to the Phoenix, Arizona Catholic Diocese - hopefully the change of climate will improve his health and allow him to continue actively in the priestly ministry. In the short interim that followed, Father Snedeker administer a transh affairs. Since his appointment here, Father Art, like his predecessor, has worked closely with the Youth groups. In addition, he initiated and conducted Bible study sessions and brought the "Movement for a Better World" here, as St. John's prepared to greet a new pastor.

In December 1975, Rev. William Tezie was installed as Pastor of St. John's. He had been associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Medina, Ohio since July 5, 1974. Father Tezie was ordained on May 19, 1956. His first appointment as associate pastor of St. Richard Parish in

North Olmsted on June 7, 1956; then as associate at St. John the Baptist Parish in Akron on June 8, 1961; then as associate at S.S. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Lakewood on July 7, 1963; and as associate at St. Mary of the Falls Parish in Olmsted Falls on September 30, 1969.

Our present pastor arrived at a time when income from our social parties had dropped for reasons of growing city-wide competition and legal debate in the legislature concerning the future of these fund raising affairs. Because of the denial of federal aid to Catholic schools, these socials have become a vital source of income for many parishes.

Father Tezie has since painstakingly coordinated the elements necessary to unite parishioners for the difficult task of budgeting and increasing the support from available means. He has patiently worked with minimal funds to keep the Church and school progressing in renewal, repair and painting of the church; and with the approval of the people at an open Parish Congress meeting, has begun renovation to meet current liturgical demands. The response from the parishioners in the current fund drive to support his work is encouraging.

With Vatican II, there also came a revival of the permanent diaconate in the Church. In January 1977, the ministry of acolyte was conferred on Dr. Joseph W. Skrha, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and former parishioner and student of St. John's. In June 1977, he was ordained a Deacon. Sine 1972, Dr. Skrha and his family have been active in renewal programs here. He has practiced medicine for many years in the southeast section of Cleveland and after his ordination was assigned to the ministry for the parishes in this area.

In expressing his gratitude to all who participated in making these events memorable, Dr. Skrha singled out the Youth Choir for their inspirational contribution. These young people have grown in their prayerful musical expression and have attracted youth from other communities to their organization.

With further awareness of the needs of the youth in this southeast area and their potential service to the Church and Christianity, Mr. Paul Meler was hired as Youth Minister. Mr. Meler is a former student of St. John's, a member of the Parish Congress and was recently graduated from Cleveland

State University. He is employed in this ministry by St. John's, St. Stanislaus and Immaculate Heart Parishes to work with the youth in these communities.

In this summer of 1977, a further challe to has been given to Father Tezie in his first pastoral assignment. Father Art Snedeker has been reassigned and no successor is scheduled to replace him. A recent diocesan ruling allows for only one priest to work among approximately one thousand families. This ruling is due to a drop in vocations to the priesthood.

Father Art has been named Chaplain and Director of the Newman (after John Cardinal Newman) Campus Ministry at Ashland College in Ashland, Ohio. He will be an associatge in residence at St. Mary's Parish in Wooster. Among the colleges that he will serve are Wooster College; Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute at Wooster; and Akron University Extension of Wayne General Community College in Orville.

The people of St. John's express their gratitude to Father Art and ask for the guidance of the

Holy Spirit for him as he begins work very important young adult members of the

Now, as Father Tezie leads Scatholic Christian Community in its real looks to the people and their representative tions for greater cooperation, support and de To this end, more Ministers of the Eucharist being sought and the layman's role is grow in importance here.

May the Faith of Our Founders contus and the renewal among our people bring crease in vocations to the priesthood and life. More of these dedicated people are no provide the leadership to bring about a turn world to the Spirit of Christ. May Mary, the More of God, whom we have enshrined among us conto be out intercessor and guide for a perfect life may the Saints, particularly John Nepomucen John Nepomucene Neumann, also interces the people of St. John's as we prepare to cele our 75th year and prepare too, to meet the challof the future as Witnesses for Christ.

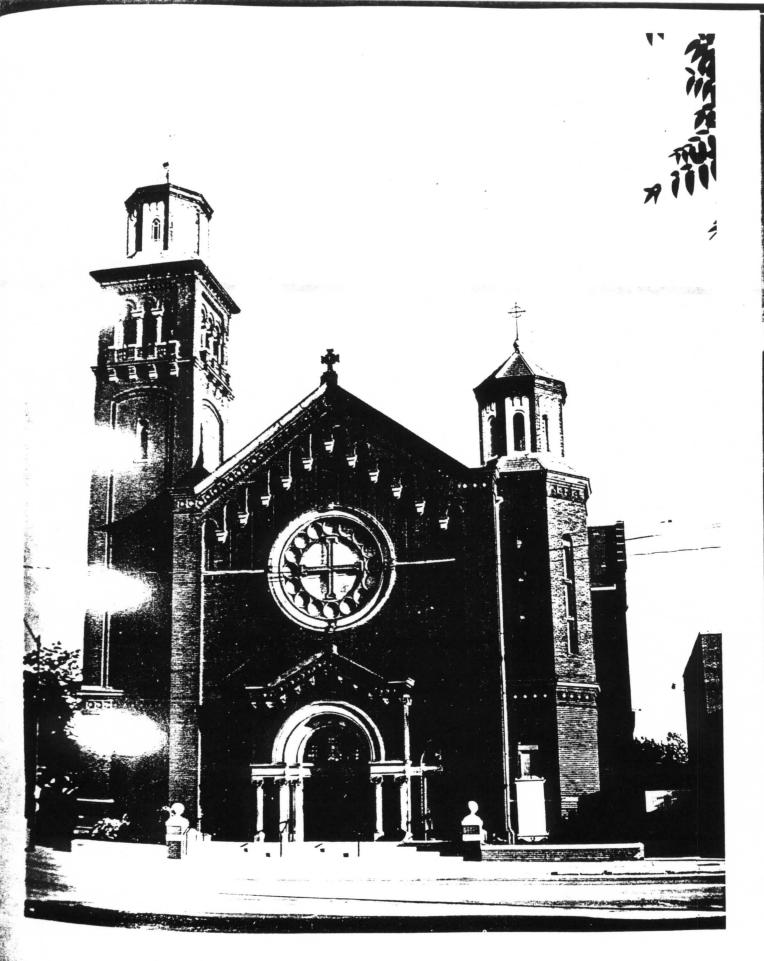




PARISH RECTORY



CONVENT



ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE CHURCH



Rev. Joseph Andel



Rev. James Maruna



Rev. William Benisek



Rev. Francis Maruna



Rev. Francis Masin



Rev. Adrian Klepac, 0.S.B.



Rev. Joseph Sinkula



Rev. John Andel



Rev. Joseph C. Step



Rev. Roman Galiardi, 0.S.B.



Rev. Adalbert Wolski,



Rev. Ronald Mahnke,



Rev. Alan Cipra



Rev. Kenneth Melaragno

	T.O.R.		O.S.B.		
NAME		ORDAINED	SE	RVED AT ST.JOHN	'S
Rev. Joseph Andel Rev. James Maruna Rev. William Benisek		May 3, 1926 May 29, 1926 June 2, 1928	March 25, 19		
Rev. Francis Maruna Rev. Francis Masin		May 21, 1932 May 21, 1932	October 4, 19 June 9, 1932		
Rev. Adrian Klepac, O.	S.B.	May 22, 1932	3, 1002	-	
Rev. Joseph Sinkula Rev. John Andel		April 15, 1933 May 1, 1936			
Rev. Joseph C. Step Rev. Roman Galiardi, (O.S.B.	March 20, 194 June 1, 1958	3 December 12,	1957 - September 13, 196	32
Rev. Adalbert Wolski, Rev. Ronald Mahnke, (June 7, 1958 May 19, 1962		:	
Rev. Alan Cipra		May 23, 1964			
Rev. Kenneth Melaragn	0	May 27, 1972			
			-26		

PRESENT STATUS

Deceased Deceased Retired, Arizona Deceased Deceased (Army Chaplain WWII) Chaplain, St. Jos. Hospital Mitchell, S. Dakota Deceased Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Pastor, St. Peter, Lorain Pres., Kansas-Newman College, Wichita, Kansas To Rome, 1977 Associate Pastor, Assumption **Broadview Heights** Chaplain, Southwest General Hosp. Middleburg Heights Associate, St. Margaret Mary, Wichita, Kansas



Bro. James Benisek



Bro. James Talarovic



Bro. Frank Malek



Bro. William Vondriska, C.S.C.



Bro. Jude Lesly, O.S.B. (Slovinski)



Seminarian Joseph Fortuna



Seminarian Joseph Herman



Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Skrha Ordained Permanent Deacon

NAME

Brother James Benisek
Brother James Talarovic
Brother Frank Malek, S.J.
Brother William Vondriska, C.S.C.
Brother Jude Lesly (Slovinski), O.S.B.
Seminarian Joseph Fortuna
Seminarian Joseph Herman
Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Skrha

PRESENT STATUS

Deceased
Headmaster, High School, Bangladesh
Colombiere Center, Clarkston, Michigan
Notre Dame University
Teacher, Benedictine High School
St. Mary's Seminary
St. Mary's Seminary
Ministry, Southeast Parishes (local) Physician



Sr. M. Lawrence Cerny



Sr. M. Adalbert Cerny



Sr. Grace Genevieve Zelezny



Sr. M. Scholastica Zelezny



Sr. Therese Marie Hejhal



Sr. M. Andrew Matousek



Sr. Ann Gertrude Mendlik



Sr. M. Charitina Bitzan



Sr. M. Liguori Bitzan



Sr. M. Justine Bitzan



Sr. M. Benigna Frakas



Sr. M. Huberta Lukac



Sr. Frances Catherine Chaloupka



Sr. Louise Marie Stepanek Sr. Frances Eleanor Masin





Sr. Rose Amata Rapsik



Sr. Grace Alexis Pasek



Sr. M. Christine Kral



Sr. Marie Antoinette Nezbeda



Sr. Beatrice Marie Kocour



Sr. Mildred Marie Simak



Sr. Georgiann Novak



Sr. Helen Ann Novak



Sr. M. Afra Kocab, O.S.U.



Sr. M. Roch Polak



Sr. M. Jude Studeny





Sr. Marcella Houdek, H.M. Sr. M. Christopher Vozobule



Sr. Bernadette Theresa Vozuble



Sr. Patricia Schade



Sr. M. Carmelyn Dlouhy



Sr. Jeanette Dufek, H.M.



Sr. Mary Ellen Leciejewski



Sr. Joyce Soukup

LAY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST



5- Rosemary, Asaro, O.P.



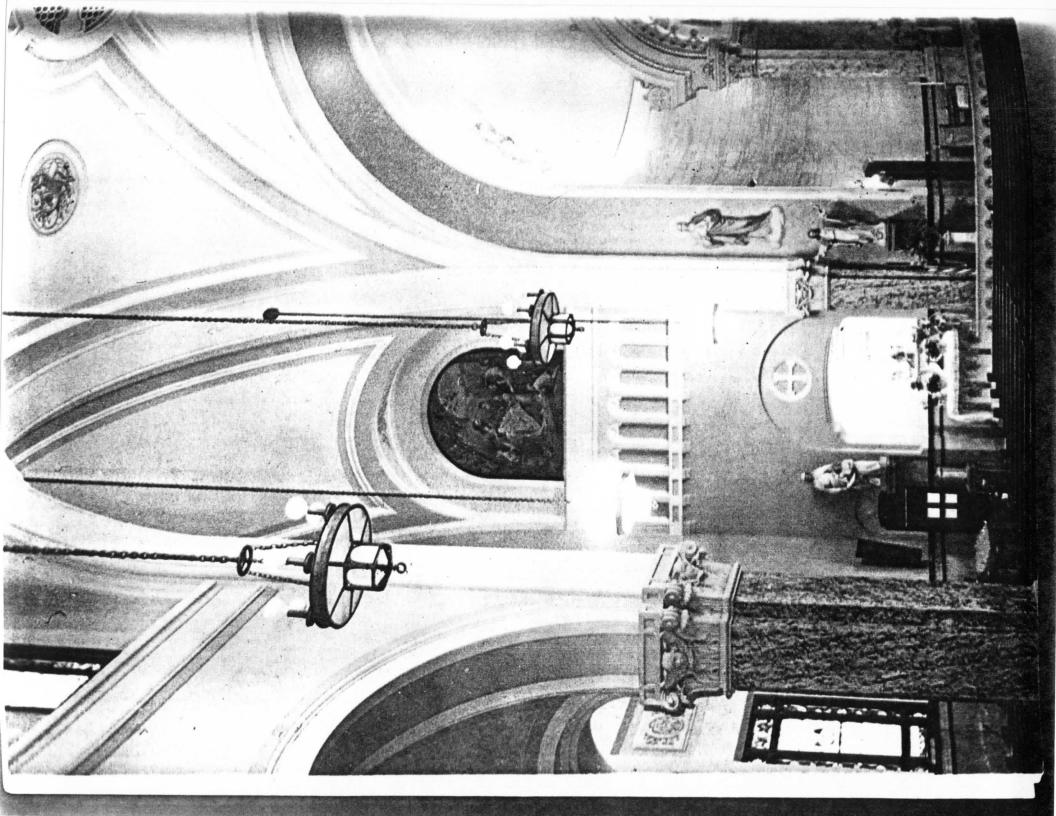
Sr. Mary Ann Schikowski, O.P.



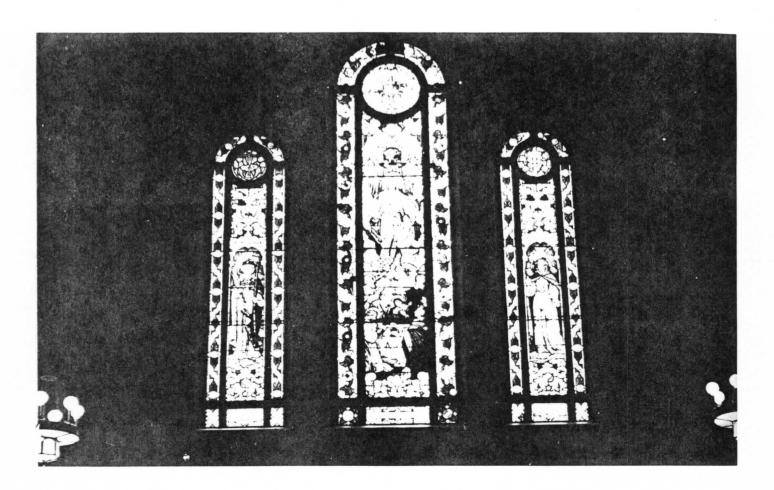
Mr. George Dlouhy

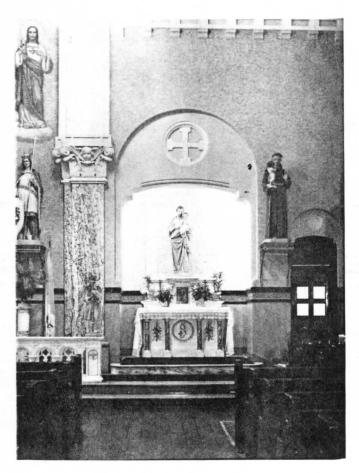


Mr. Albert Geller













PARISH CONGRESS



PARENT TEACHERS UNIT



PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION



ADULT CHOIR - Inset - Leonard Vavruska, Organist and Choir Director



YOUTH CHOIR



MASS COMMENTATORS AND READERS



SOCIAL COMMITTEE



SOCIAL COMMITTEE ASSISTANTS



ALTAR BOYS



SANCTUARY GUILD



LEGION OF MARY



GOLDEN AGERS



GOLDEN AGERS



GOLDEN AGERS



GOLDEN AGERS



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CLUB

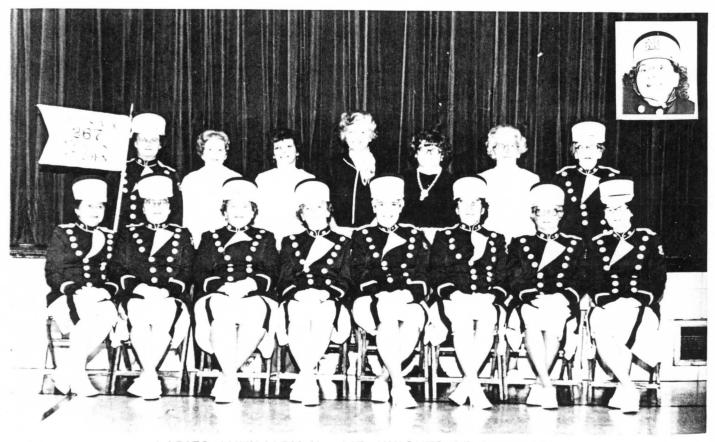


KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN COMMANDERY No. 44

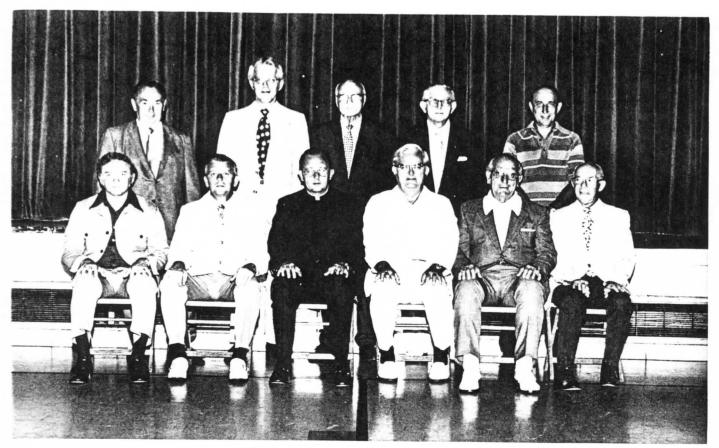




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LADIES AUXILIARY No. 267 - KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN



ST. VINCENT dePAUL SOCIETY



ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY



YOUTH RENEWAL BOARD



CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS



ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY



SACRED HEART OF MARY - SOCIETY No. 101

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St. John Nepomucene Usher's Club

St. Stephen Society No. 166 C.C.U.

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St. John Nepomucene

ST. JOHN was born, A.D. 1330 of poor parents, at Nepomuk in Bohemia. In gratitude they consecrated him to God; and his holy life as a priest led to his appointment as chaplain to the court of the Emperor Wencelaus, where he converted many by his preaching and example. Among those who sought his advice was the empress, who suffered much from her husband's unfounded jealousy. St. John taught her to bear her cross with joy; but her piety only incensed the emperor, and he tried to extort her confessions from the saint. He threw John into a dungeon, but gained nothing; then, inviting him to his palace, he promised him riches if he would yield, and threatened death if he refused. The Saint was silent. He was racked and burnt with torches; but no words, save Jesus and Mary, fell from his lips. At last free, he spent his time in preaching and preparing for the death he knew to be at hand. On Ascension Eve,

May 16, Wenceslaus, after a final and fruitless attempt to move his constancy, ordered him to be cast into the river, and that night the martyr's hands and feet were bound, and he was thrown from the bridge of Prague. As he died, a heavenly light shining on the water disclosed the body, which was buried with the honors due to a Saint. A few years later, Wenceslaus was deposed by his own subjects, and died a niserable death. In 1618 the Calvinist and Hussite soldiers of the Protestant Elector Fredrick tried repeatedly to demolish the shrine of St. John at Prague. Each attempt was miraculously In 1620 the imperial troops recovered the town by a victory which was ascribed to the Saint's intercession. When his shrine was opened, three hundred and thirty years after his death, the flesh had disappeared, and one member alone remained incorrupt, the tongue, thus still, in silence, giving Glory to God.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS, Benziger Bros., Inc.

St. John Nepomucene Neuman

The third child of Phillip and Agnes Neumann (the former Agnes Lepsi) was born March 28, 1811 in the illage of Prachatice, Bohemia. He was named for a patron saint of his homeland, John Nepomucene. From his mother he acquired the spirit of piety and through her encouragement entered the Seminary at Budweis. After two years he transfered to the Archdiocese at the University o Prague, Bohemia where he comleted his studies. During his seminary years, he yearned to be a foreign missionary in America. He left his native land and was ordained in June, 1836 by Bishop John Dubois in New York. He spent four years in Buffalo and the surrounding area building churches and establishing schools.

In 1840 he joined the Redemptorists, and later, for a time of two years served as superior of the U.S. Congregation. In 1852 he was consecrated fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. He was a pioneer promoter of the Parochial School System in America. To quote Pope Pius XII, "It was principally through the prodigious efforts of Bishop Neumann that a Catholic School System came into being and that parochial schools began to rise across the land."

Through his efforts the Forty Hours Devotion was introduced in the Philadelphia Diocese. He founded the first church in America for Italian-speaking people. He also founded the Glen Riddle group of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, and saved from dissolution the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

He had an exceptional skill in languages which helped him to administer to the various peoples, particularly immigrants, whom he served. In addition to German and Bohemian, he learned Italian, Spanish, Greek and Latin - English, French and Gaelic.

John Neumann ". . . was a priest of extraordinary spirituality, intense devotion to the Eucharist and self-less dedication to the service of humanity."

These were the outstanding virtues of the priest who was also confessor to his bishop. At 48 years of age, completely exhausted from all his apostolic endeavors, he collapsed in the street on January 5, 1860. He is buried beneath the high altar in the Neumann Shrine at St. Peter Church, Philadelphia. He was canonized on June 19, 1977.

Note: Refer to: St. John Neumann, 1811-1860 Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, by Robert H. Wilson (An excellent pamphlet with exceptional photographs)

75th JUBILEE COMMITTEE



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Parade Marshal	Clarence E. Bican, 2nd Lt. Comm. No. 44
Moderator	Rev. William F. Tezie, Pastor

We extend our sincere appreciation to all, who in any way contributed to the success of the 75th Jubilee Celebration.

God Bless You,

Rev. William F. Tezie, Pastor William J. Bican, General Chairman