

# St. Boniface Church

*A Pictorial History*

1856 - 2006



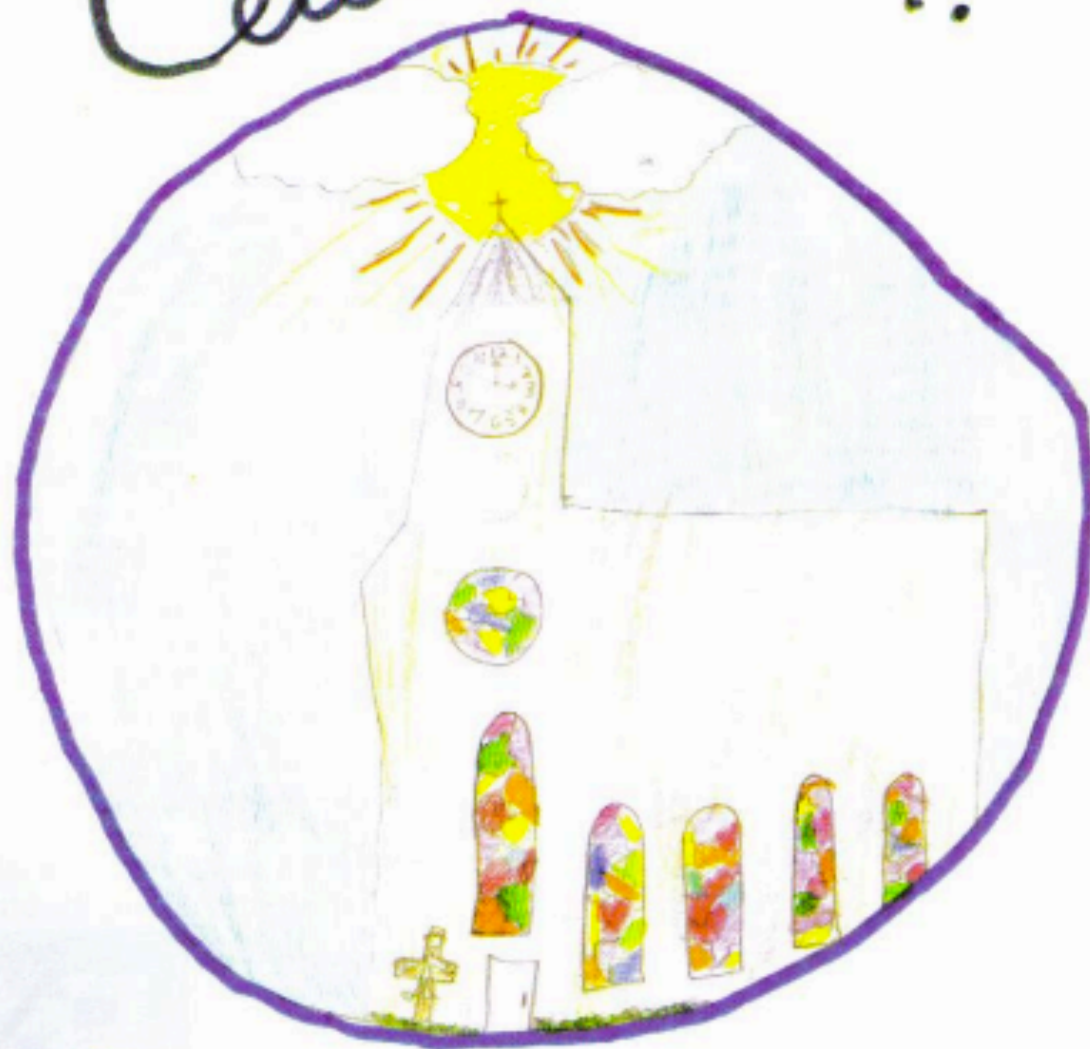
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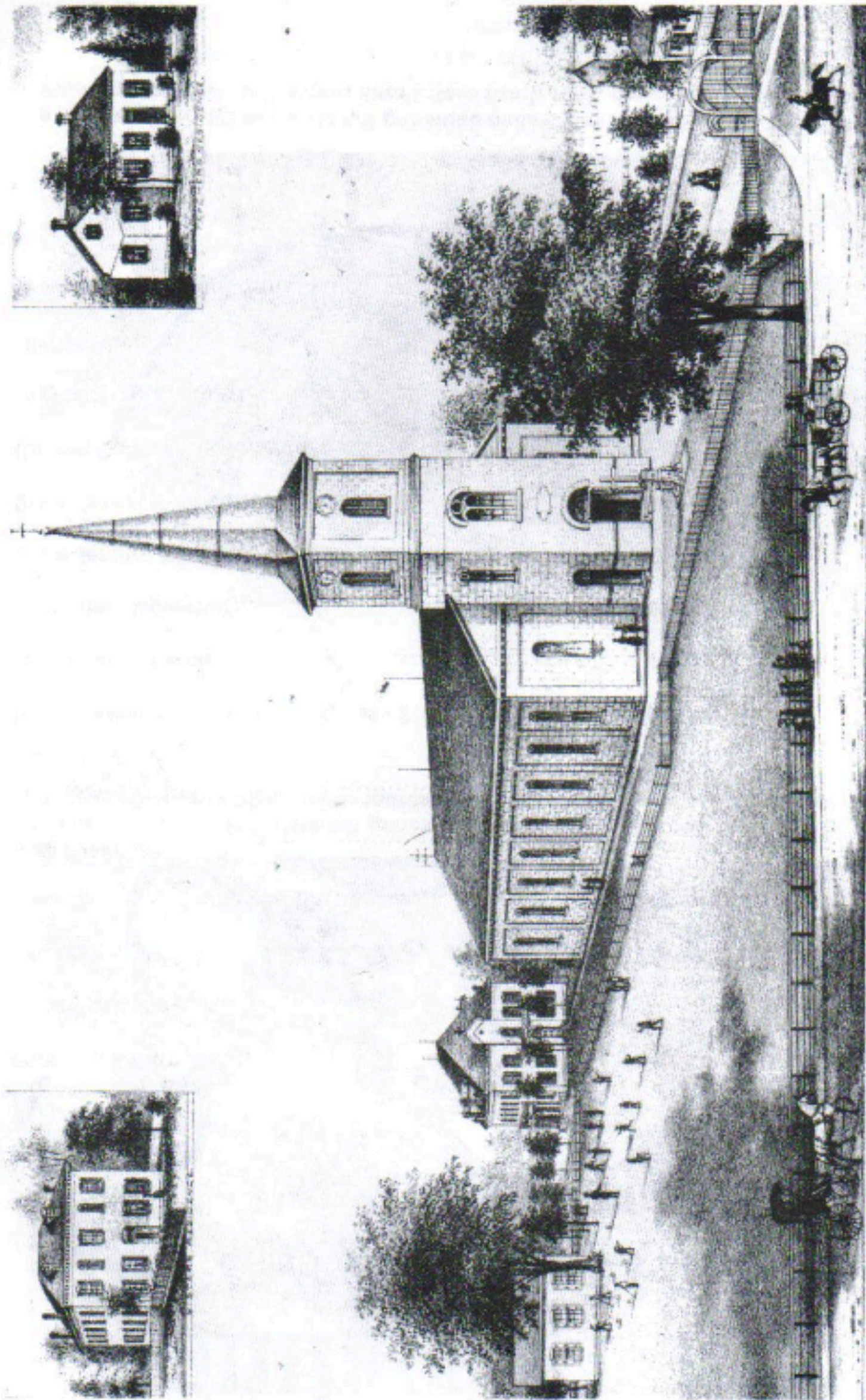
150

Celebration !!



St. Boniface Parish

Logo for 150th Anniversary of St. Boniface Church  
created by Lexi Kohnen  
Fourth-grader Germantown Elementary



A drawing showing St. Boniface Church, the rectory, the old brick school and inserts of the convent and the teachers' residence.

# Introduction

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**How do you tell the story of the Mother Church of Clinton County?** How do you truly capture 150 years? The answer is simply that you rely on the many stories you have. You rely on past historical books, newspaper clippings and other historic writings. Occasionally, you find contrasting information, but you sort through and organize. We found that one appealing way to tell the rich history of our church would be through photographs. Thanks to many local citizens who searched through boxes and closet shelves, we came up with many priceless black-and-whites from the early years of the church. And, thanks to the creative eye of Patrick Lampe, nephew of our church organist Tom Lampe, we also have some beautiful recent images which capture the artistry and architectural detail of the church.

It would be impossible to write about the history of the present church without offering a somewhat lengthy explanation of the town's beginning which goes hand-in-hand with the start of St. Boniface Parish.

So we begin by taking you back to the original settlement of Germantown (formerly Hanover) and we tell you a little about the early churches which preceded the existing structure. Along the way we look at a few relevant people, groups, buildings and incidents which play a large role in the 150-year-old St. Boniface Church which we celebrate today.

*Enjoy!*

The St. Boniface Church 150th Anniversary Committee:

*Father Stephen Humphrey, Dave Jansen, Tom Lampe  
Bob Beckmann, Molly Book, Rhuann Heimann  
Evelyn Kuhn, Melinda Knobloch, Vicky Albers*

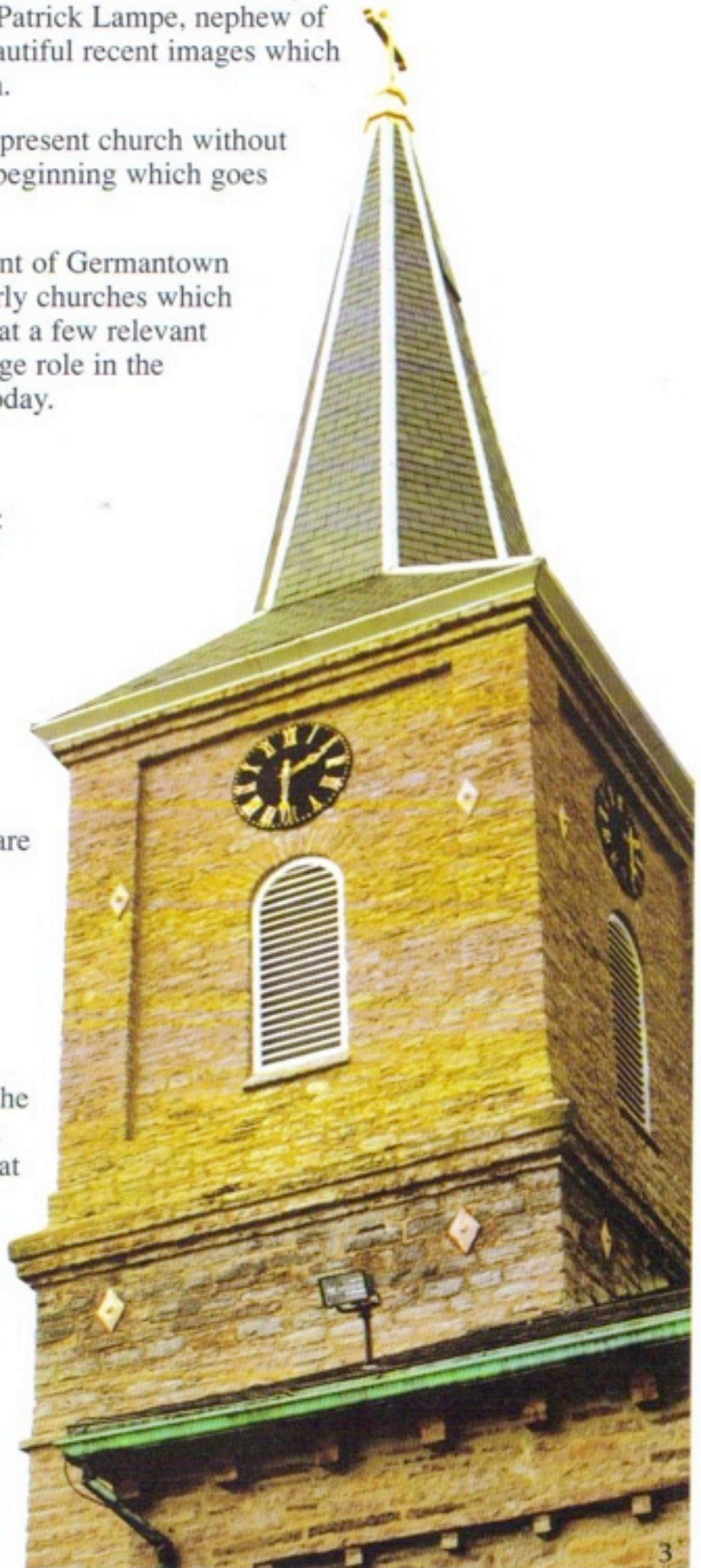
## A message from Father Stephen Humphrey

One-hundred-and-fifty years ago this "House for the Church" was dedicated and is the gift we celebrate and are thankful for this day and every day we gather in it to praise our God. This book of history is the story of faith-filled people who gave generously and their generosity is our inheritance. We have been given a treasure and through us it is to become the treasure we pass on from generation to generation.

This history should stir our imagination of what was in the past. This history should stir our commitment to see that what was given to us is passed on through us. Their great gift was the people of faith we now are part of. This "House for the Church" is where we continue to celebrate who we are, "The Church."

Our thanks goes out to all the people who served on the committee to create this celebration and to all who stepped up to help them. A special thanks to Vicky Albers who spent hours of her great talent in putting together the book you hold in your hand.

For another 150 years of being "The Church,"  
*Lord in you mercy, hear our prayer.*



# Hanover is established

## 1833

Many of the German immigrants who came to the area bypassed fertile grounds such as Lookingglass Prairie and settled in the bottoms near the Kaskaskia River and Shoal Creek in Clinton County.



As part of the 100-year anniversary of the Catholic Settlement of Clinton County, which was held in Germantown on Oct. 8, 1933, residents rode through the streets in spring wagons to depict the arrival of the early settlers.

One such settlement was Germantown (formerly Hanover). Said to be the first true German settlement in Illinois, immigrants migrated there as early as 1834.

It has been said that the prairie grass was so high where Germantown now stands that horses running through it could barely be seen. The settlers subsided on cornbread, potatoes and game meat. Deer could be counted in droves of 60-70.

*The names of Hooper and Simpson settling on the east side of Shoal Creek in 1816; Hill and Petty settling on the other side of the timber. The widow Carrigan at whose house on Bankston Hill (on Shoal Creek, one mile northeast of Hanover) Methodist services were held – all these appear in the “History of Marion and Clinton Counties” as settlers in the Germantown area as early as 1816.*

But it is with the following entry in the records of St. Boniface Parish that Hanover became a settlement that was destined to stay:

“There arrived here:

- 1834 – Michael Ferdinand Boehne, born in the year 1807, on the 25th of July; his wife Anna Margaret Huchtanewinkel, 1804, 27th of May.

- 1834 – John Ferdinand Hehemann, born in the year 1803, on the 6th of November; his wife is Mary Elizabeth Klein-Siebenburgen, born in the year 1814, on the 17th of May.”

These entries herald both the Low German and the Catholic character of Hanover (Germantown). It was from this settlement that the

towns of Breese, Aviston, St. Rose, Damiansville, Albers and Bartelso later developed.

These Low Germans (closely linked with the early settlers of St. Libory in St. Clair County and with the early settlers of Teutopolis in Effingham County) chose the flat swampy land of Clinton County because it resembled their native hometowns of Westphalia, Hanover and Oldenburg in Germany.

It was in 1837 that a request was made to Bishop Rosati of St. Louis for the services of a priest. He agreed to send Father Meyer, who came from near Centerville for a three-day mission each month. Services were held in the homes of the settlers.

In the summer of 1837 the settlers bought church land for \$700 consisting of three 40-acre tracts. It was purchased from an American named Lawson White. The settlers gave no money for the land since they had none. Instead they paid the 12 percent interest on its purchase.

Trustees were elected and the title of the land deeded to them. Two of the 40-acre tracts were subdivided into one-acre lots and sold to the highest bidder. This enabled the settlers to raise money to help pay for the land that they had purchased. After a year the entire \$700 was paid.

It was also at this time that, after some discussion, they chose the name of Hanover for their settlement. The first person to build on the town site was a peddler and store-keeper named Chanton. The second was Lambert Ficker, and the third was Frank Haukap.



Bishop Rosati

### The Settlers' Petition for a Priest

Before the arrival of Father Fortman, the Catholic Settlers at Germantown (then known as Shoal Creek) sent a petition for a priest to Bishop Rosati, reading as follows:

*„Bittschrift Vonseiten der Neuen Deutschen Ansiedler Im Clinton County an die hochw. St. in dem Staat Illinois Anseiner hochw. Bischöflichen Gnaden In sante Luis.*

Da wir uns unterm 17 dieses einen zum Anfang einer Christ Katholischen Gemeinde Vergleich geschlossen haben und die Zahl der Familigen aus 21 besteht und hoffen das sich bald noch 10 bis 15 Familigen Anschließen werden welche ungefehr 120 bis 30 seelen Ausmagen mit unter 15 bis 20 schulfähige Kinder sind.

Darum Ersagen wir unterthanigst seiner hochw. Bischöflichen Gnaden das sie uns den deutschen Geistlichen Namens Ostlangenberg zu unsern künftigen Pastor gnädigst geweren wollen.

Namen der mitglieder welche den Vergleich vom 17 dieses unterschrieben haben:

Friederich Ottens	Franz hin Kemme
Bernard Johan Wellen	Heinrich Schöning
Johan Arnold Wellen	Franz Josef Hein Kamp
Bernard Dewis	Hermann Ahlers
Hermann Westermann	Bernard Köbbe
Friederich Hanewinkel	Bernard Woppen
Georg Meyrinke	Hermann Knipmann
Nikolaus Freder	Christofel Schwake
Bernard Heimann	Herman Kölker
Eberhard Tede	Joseph Bogelsang

Friederich Aus dem Mohr."

(Reprinted from the May, 1918, number of "Central-Blatt & Social Justice")

Platt of The Town of Hanover laid — on the S. E. 1/4  
of the S. E. 1/4 T. 1 N. R. 4 W. of the third Principal meridian on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
day of April & the first & 2<sup>nd</sup> days of May A. D. 1840



Note. The Variation of the magnetic needle  
is 9° E. from the North & South lines And  
6° E. from the East & West lines. The lines of the lots  
Conform to those of the Original survey of station  
A. T. 1 N. R. 4 W.

Lots numbered 31. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 40. 21. 23. 28. & 30 like lots numbered 11. 13. 18 & 20  
Are 105.5 feet wide by 297 feet deep and have each an Area 3 Roods & 6 Poles  
While lots numbered 32. 39. 22. & 29 like lots numbered 12 & 19 are 132 feet wide  
by 297 feet deep and have each an Area of 3 Roods & 28 Poles.  
The letters A. B. C & D. Designate the exterior corners of the town at the intersection of  
the exterior lines of the Streets.  
The letters E. F. G. H. Designate the exterior corners of the corner lots  
The letters I. K. L. M. Designate the corners of 8 lots (as pointed out in the Platt) owned  
in a body by the Roman Catholic church through which there are no streets  
passing. At each of those letters there are stones planted as follows, to wit:

The plat of the town of Germantown, dated April 30, May 1 and 2, 1840. The document states: "The letters J.K.L.M. designate the corners of 8 lots (as pointed out in the plat) owned in a body by the Roman Catholic Church through which there are no streets passing."

# The First Churches

## 1838-1855

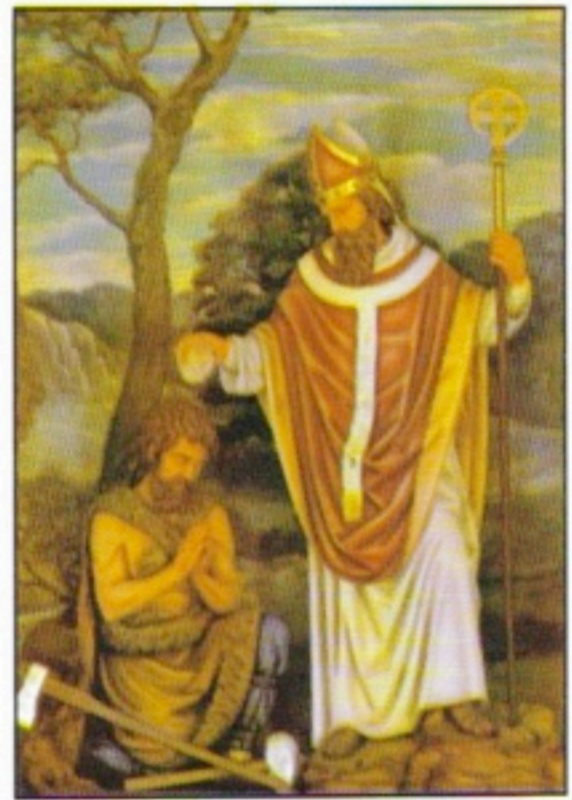
On one tract of land stood a square block house. It was agreed that this structure would serve as Germantown's first church. The settlers refurbished its floor and roof and constructed a crude altar. There were neither chairs nor benches. However, one bench split of oak wood and supported by four props served as a communion rail. It is believed that it stood near the former Jansen Garage.

With the church land purchased, many new settlers arrived in 1838. In 1839, in response to a request made by the people of Hanover, Bishop Rosati sent Father Gaspar Ostlangenberg to serve as pastor alternating two weeks at a time with Mud Creek (St. Libory). A small house was built for the priest's dwelling. This log cabin, 10 x 12 feet, had only one room.

The community began to grow and the need for a larger church arose. In 1839 Father J.H. Fortmann became the pastor and immediately began to plan for a new church, school and priest's residence all in one building. Construction began in the spring of 1840. The dimensions of the building were 60 x 30 feet with the church being 40 feet long and a school, to the rear of the structure, being 20 feet in length. Above the sacristy and school were the priest's quarters. The cost of this building when completed was \$1,300. The entire church, except for the floor, was completed by Easter 1840.

Dedication of the church and the first mass were celebrated in the church on Whit Sunday after the deed had been transferred to the bishop at the insistence of Father Fortmann. For a time, the church was dedicated to St. Henry but later placed under the patronage of St. Boniface.

The cholera scourge struck the parish in 1849 and 1850. Many people were victims of the disease. The cross that stands on the west side of the Breese-Germantown Road about 1-1/2 miles south of Breese was erected by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Altepeter to thank God that their family was spared from the disease. Sanitary precautions caused the cemetery to be moved from north of the present church to its location on the south edge of town after a pair, dead of cholera, had been buried at the old location.



### Saint Boniface was German Missionary

*When the first settlers of Germantown chose Saint Boniface as their patron saint, they chose one of the earliest missionaries to the German people.*

*Saint Boniface was born in Devonshire, England in 680. His first attempt to convert the pagans in Holland failed. He then went to Rome to obtain the Pope's blessing on his mission and returned with authority to preach to the German tribe.*

*On one occasion he cut down an immense oak which was consecrated to Jupiter and used the tree in building a church.*

*While St. Boniface was waiting to administer confirmation to a group of newly baptized Christians, a troop of pagans arrived and with swords and spears they slew him and all his 52 attendants.*

*In 1839, in response to a request made by the people of Hanover, Bishop Rosati sent Father Gaspar Ostlangenberg to serve as pastor alternating two weeks at a time with Mud Creek (St. Libory). On one of his trips from Mud Creek it happened that the Okaw river had risen to high to ford it at the Milton Ferry. Father Ostlangenberg, having tied his clothes to the saddle of his white horse, well known in two*

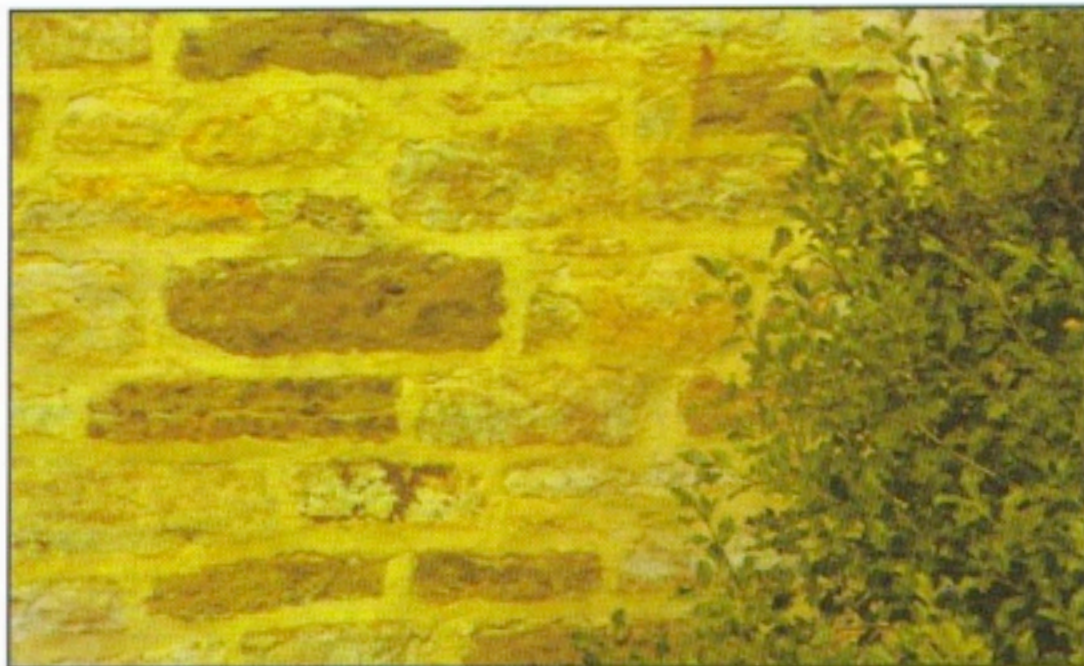
*counties, attempted to swim the creek, lost horse and clothes, and landed naked on the shore. He ran to within hailing distance of the house of Frederic Peke, not far away, and at the top of his voice shouted from behind the concealment of the fence. The wife of the home came, but he called to her to bring her husband's clothes, which she did. The riderless horse had returned home.*



# A New Church

## 1856

In 1851 Father Marogna built the southern part of the priest's quarters. This was later converted into the convent and hospital.



Limestone for the church was hauled a distance of eight miles from Shoal Creek, north of Breese. The walls are over 20 inches thick and the hardwood floors are original.

In 1852 Father J.H. Fortmann again returned to the congregation. It was he who laid the groundwork for the building of the present stone church. The church was designed by the architect Robert Mitchel of St. Louis, who lost his life at sea on the burning of the Austria. Preparation for the construction took two years. The final structure was six feet lower than originally planned because Father Fortmann dreaded the cost. The limestone for the church was hauled a distance of eight miles from north of Breese.

A building committee of seven men was elected, Nicholas Frerker, William Molitor, Henry Altepeter, Theodore Huelsmann, Henry Lampen, and the aged Henry Becker and Henry Lensing, from the present Damiansville, who however took no active part.



The interior of the church roof reveals massive timber construction and the use of pegging to join structural members. In some cases, the wooden pegs have not been cut and smoothed over and some of the logs still have bark on them, unfinished perhaps because the work was not intended to be viewed by the public.

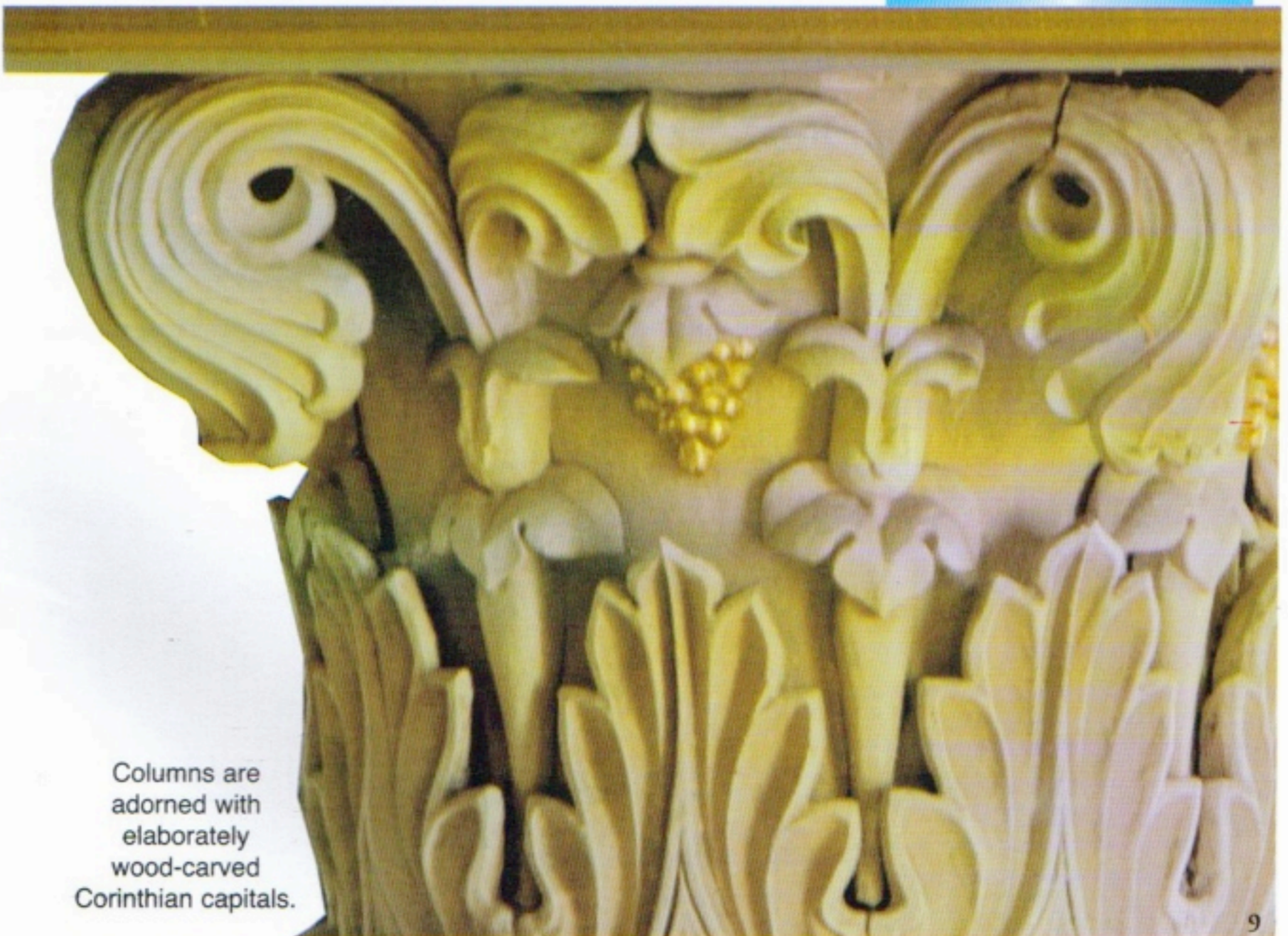
Because of the anticipated building of the church in Breese, some parishioners wanted the Germantown church to be smaller, but Bishop Van de Velde of Chicago, who laid the cornerstone, encouraged the people to build the church as planned. He donated \$100 himself and remarked that the church would then be the largest in the state of Illinois. The church with its tower is 148 feet long and 65 feet wide

with the original steeple elevated to 44 feet.

The contract was awarded to Grafstock of St. Louis. He was hired to do the masonry, carpentry and plastering and to build the tower to the height of 44 feet for the price of \$24,000. The parish furnished sand, lime and stone. Sand and lime were hauled gratis, but the hauling of the stone was paid. The contractor died soon after construction had begun and the contract was assumed by Kuehne and Heckwolf, who until then had worked for Grafstock.

The cornerstone of the church was placed on July 8, 1853 by Bishop de Velde. The church was dedicated in the spring of 1856 by Rev. Patschowski, S.J., of St. Joseph's Church in St. Louis. It proved very difficult for the settlers to pay the promised contributions to the church. Debt still rested on the parish in 1863 when the Most Reverend Bishop Junker of Alton came to Germantown with Father Matthias Hiltermann, O.S.F. The impressive appeal of Father Hiltermann to the parishioners to clear the debt so stirred their hearts that the last \$6,000 was promised immediately after mass and paid soon thereafter. The debt for the church was cleared in 1863.

*Because of the anticipated building of the church in Breese, some parishioners wanted the Germantown church to be smaller, but Bishop Van de Velde of Chicago, who laid the cornerstone, encouraged the people to build the church as planned. He donated \$100 himself and remarked that the church would then be the largest in the state of Illinois. The church with its tower is 148 feet long and 65 feet wide with the original steeple elevated to 44 feet.*



Columns are adorned with elaborately wood-carved Corinthian capitals.

## Sing to God Forever ...

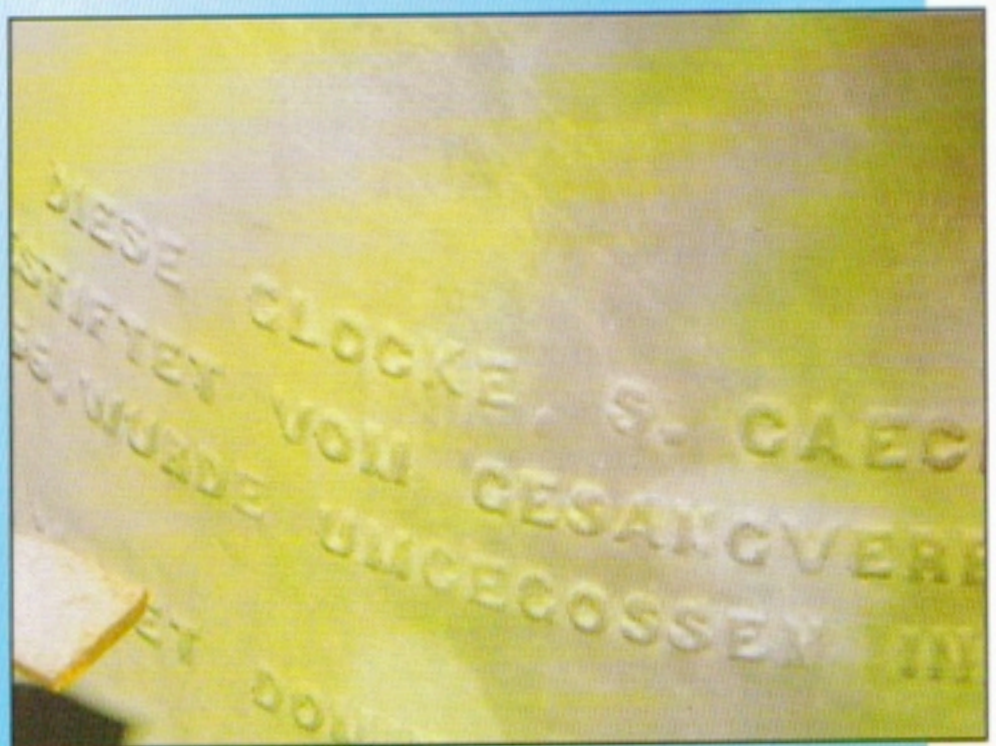


The four bells in the church tower that have been calling parishioners to church for over 100 years bear names, and on one an inscription testifies to the faith of our ancestors. The largest of these, the Caecilia bell bears the following inscription: Diese Glocke, S. Caecilia gestiftet vom Gesangverein in 1866 wurde umgegossen 1920. Cantet Domino in aeternum. (This bell, St. Caecilia, donated by the Glee Club in 1866 was recast in 1920, Sing to God Forever). It was made by Henry Stuckstede & Bro., St. Louis, Mo. The bell next to it is named Joseph, cast by May, St. Louis, 1856. On the second level are two bells, St. Maria, cast by J.G. Stuckstede & Bro., St. Louis, 1879; the other bell on the second level is St. Henricus, cast by J.G. Stuckstede, 1883.

*An interesting story related by Ann Frerker who had been told the story by Anna Wildehaber involved the installation of the bells in the church tower. The large bell had been rigged so that the ropes attached to the pulleys stretched down Church Street to the corner of Prairie where horses were readied to pull the bell into the tower. The man in charge gave orders that anyone making a noise that might disturb the horses would be shot, since upsetting the horses might mean the dropping of the bells.*

*As the horses proceeded to tug away, the dry rope stretched and the bell did not move. An older man in the crowd had the courage to suggest that water be poured on the ropes to prevent the stretching. This was done. The ropes held, and the bell rose to the tower.*

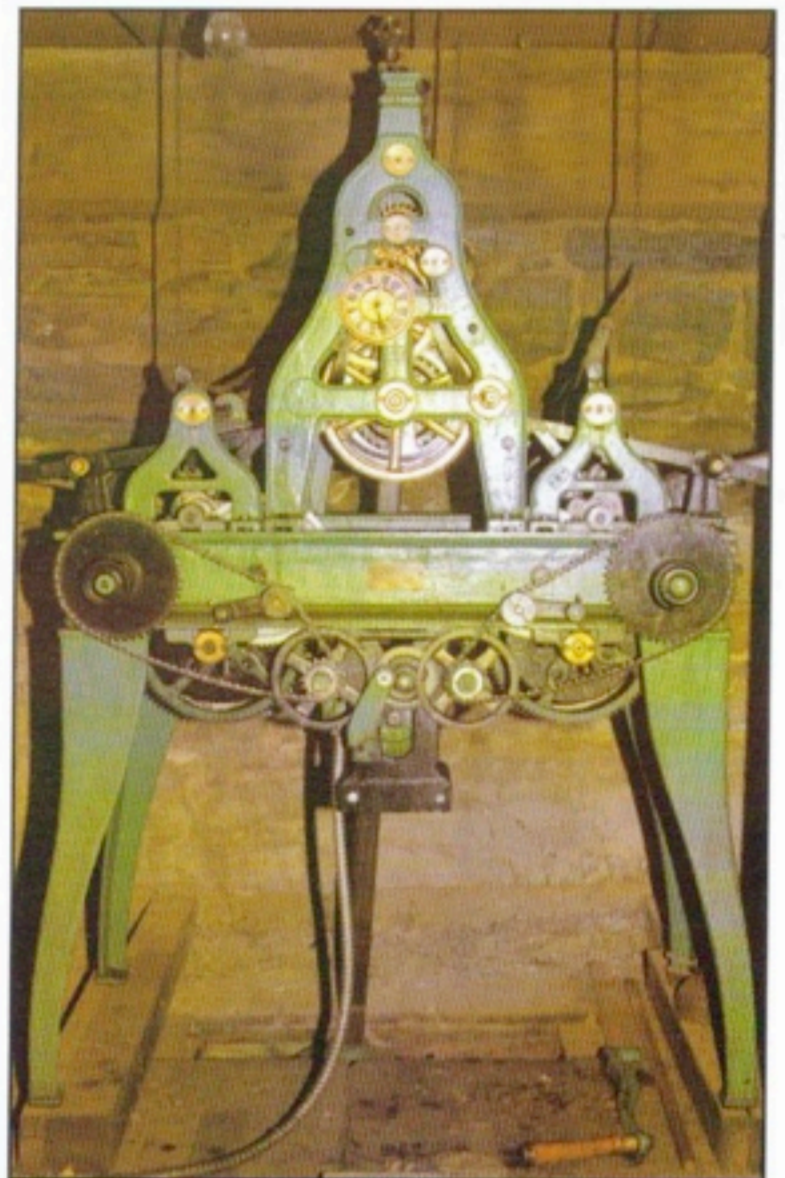
*The man was not shot.*



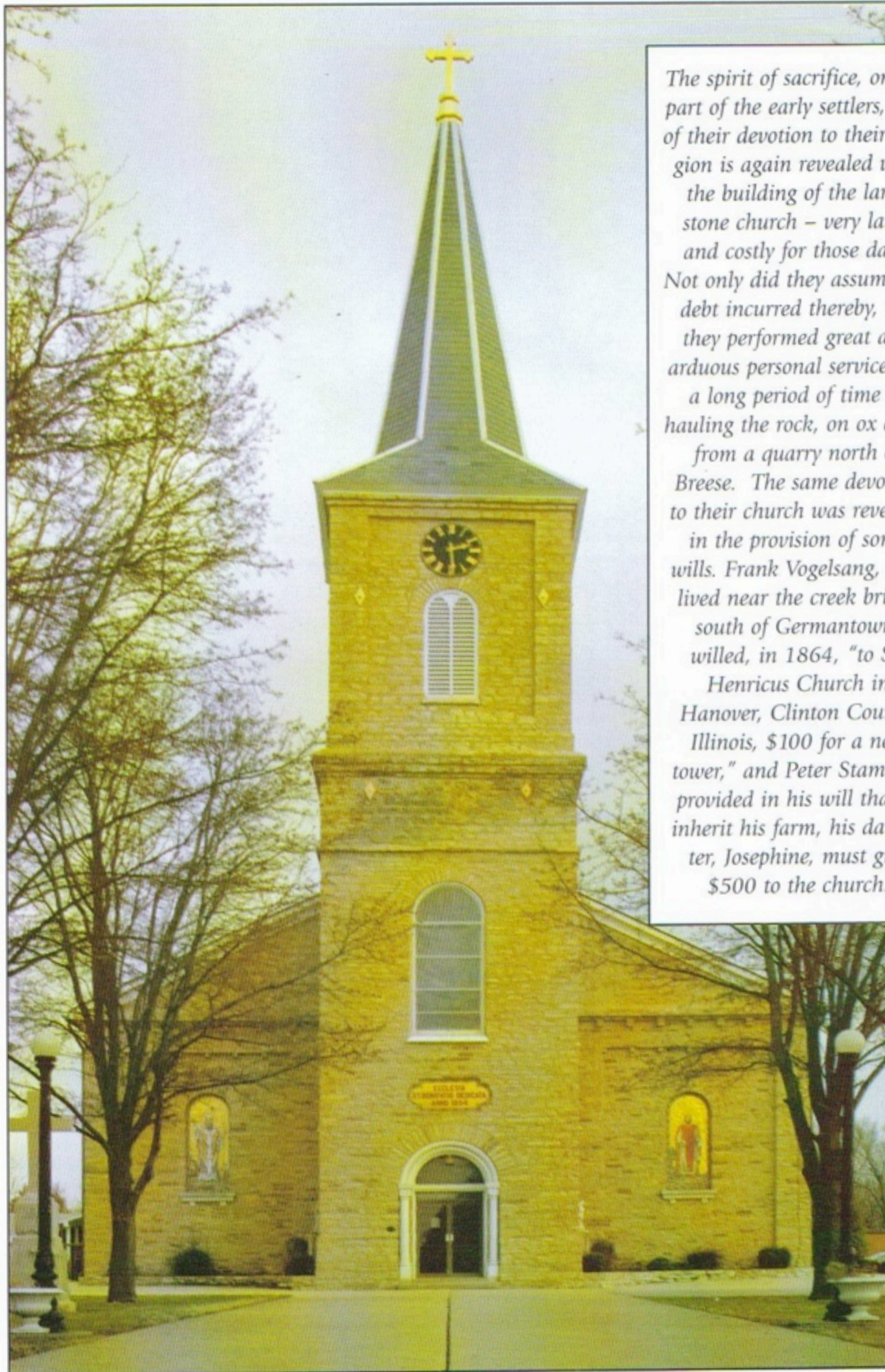


This window is located above the south door leading into the sacristy. The symbolism of the mother pelican feeding her little baby pelicans is rooted in an ancient legend which preceded Christianity. The legend was that the mother fed her dying young with her blood to revive them from death, but in turn lost her own life. The pelican symbolizes Jesus our Redeemer who gave His life for our redemption and the atonement He made through His passion and death. We were dead to sin and have found new life through the Blood of Christ. Moreover, Jesus continues to feed us with His body and blood in the holy Eucharist.

*The church was completed in 1856. It proved difficult for settlers to pay their pledges to the church. After his fall work was finished, one man, Lambert Jansen, sold his team of oxen to pay his debt. Much was sacrificed by a lot of people who did not want their names mentioned. Money had to be repeatedly borrowed, and it required great effort to secure it. There were still debts on the church when the Most Reverend Bishop Juncker of Alton, along with Father Matthias Hiltermann came in 1863. Father Hiltermann made an appeal for the people to pay this debt. It stirred their hearts so that immediately after Mass, the last \$6,000 was pledged and paid a short time later. The church was consecrated in 1867 and the named was changed to St. Boniface.*



The clockworks located in the church steeple.



*The spirit of sacrifice, on the part of the early settlers, and of their devotion to their religion is again revealed with the building of the large stone church – very large and costly for those days. Not only did they assume the debt incurred thereby, but they performed great and arduous personal services for a long period of time in hauling the rock, on ox carts, from a quarry north of Breese. The same devotion to their church was revealed in the provision of some wills. Frank Vogelsang, who lived near the creek bridge south of Germantown, willed, in 1864, "to St. Henricus Church in Hanover, Clinton County, Illinois, \$100 for a new tower," and Peter Stammen provided in his will that to inherit his farm, his daughter, Josephine, must give \$500 to the church.*

An excerpt from a letter dated Saturday, April 16, 1859:

*Hanover. We visited this place last week ... But that which attracts the eye of the visitor, and enlists his attention more than anything else, upon entering Hanover, is the Catholic Church. This is a magnificent structure, the dimensions of which are, sixty-seven feet in breath, by one hundred and sixty-two feet deep, and forty feet in height. The walls are built of dingy, lead-colored stone, which gives the building an air of striking solemnity, and imposes upon the beholder a feeling of awe and veneration ... We entered the building from the rear ... fine oil paintings, representing the more noted epochs in the life of our Savior, ornamented the finely-polished white walls of the congregational chamber, and heavy gilt mouldings of almost every device, beautifully painted, relieved the nakedness of the woodwork of the gallery, staircase, doors and windows. Near the center of the hall but running from the abrusure of the of the altar to the vestibule, are two rows of columns (ten in number), each adorned with elaborately-carved Corinthian capitals, upon which rest the large, gilded entablatures that support the massive dome ... The altar is not yet built, but will be commenced as soon as the funds of the church will justify the undertaking ... This church is decidedly the finest in Southern Illinois.*



For many years, parishioners entered the church through massive oak doors.



The ornate wood-carved bench that sits to the left of the altar.



The stained glass windows were installed sometime in the 1890s.

They are:

- St. Cecilia (shown here) - given in memory of William Molitor who died April 30, 1868 and Gertrude Molitor, who died May 1, 1872 by their grateful children.
- St. George - in memory of Bernard Joseph and Philliminnia Kaiser Schlarman.
- St. Catherine - in thanksgiving by the couple of Frank and Catherine Beckmann Schroeder.
- St. Bernard - in memory of Bernard Henry Ripperda, born July 30, 1805.
- St. Elizabeth - in memory of Gerhard and Mary Elizabeth Sholte Gessenhaus.
- St. Barbara - given by Anton and Christine Busche Dietz.
- St Anthony - in memory of Peter and Elizabeth Harting Stamann.
- St. Margaret - in thanksgiving of Theodore and Margaret Kreke Hagen.
- St. Charles Borromeo - given by Deidrick Hoerchler.
- St. Agnes - in thanksgiving of Theodore and Maria Othe Huelsmann.

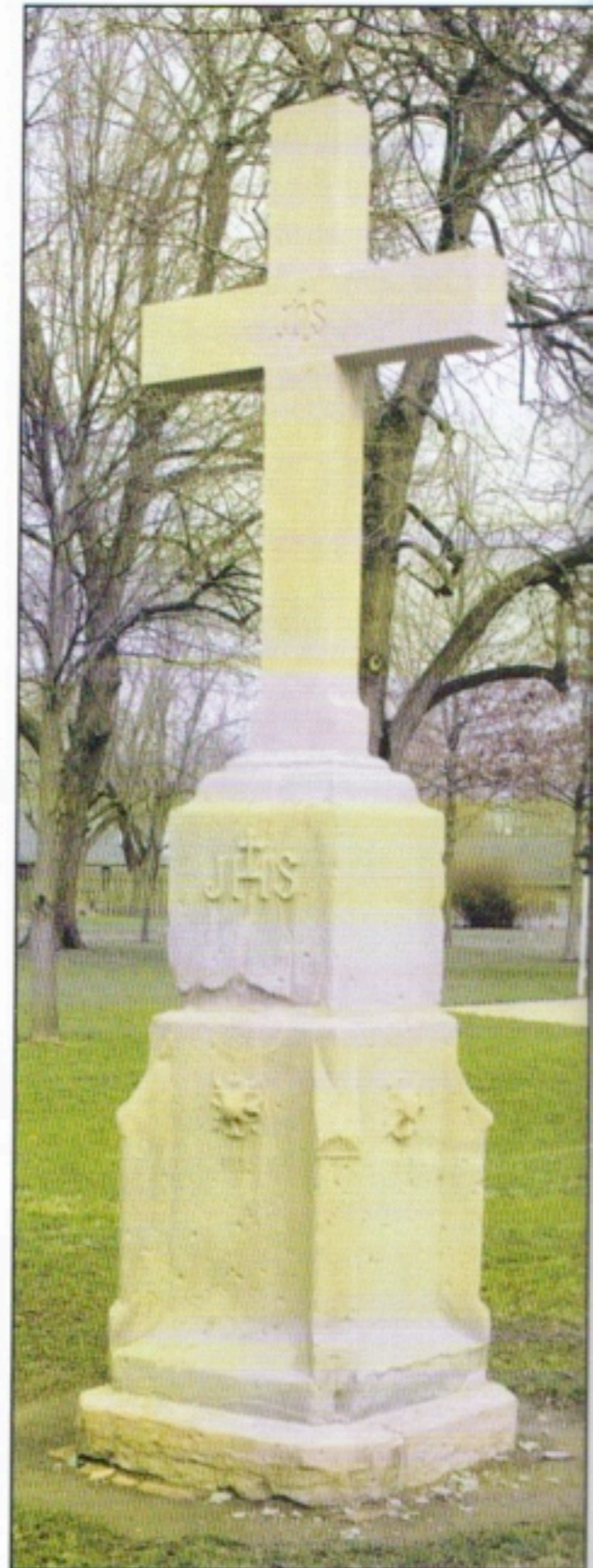
In 1857, Bishop Juncker visited Germantown, found the parish in great disunion and left the people for a time without a resident priest.

In September of 1857, Father Kraemer was assigned as pastor. During his pastorate the northern addition to the priest's residence was built.

In 1865, Father Batholomew Bartels became pastor of the parish. During his administration, on June 25, 1866, the tower, which was begun by Father Berger, was completed to its present height for \$5,677. The interior of the church was decorated by Arnold Hahne of Dayton, Ohio. A new high altar, two confessionals and Stations of the Cross were installed by Schroeder Brothers of Cincinatti, Ohio and a quarter-hour-strike clock was made by Phillip Polhaus of St. Louis.

The brick rectory just north-east of the church was built by Father Bartels in 1870, and a two-year high school for boys was established under Rev. Edward Essing. It was discontinued after the death of Rev. Essing because a suitable successor could not be found. For a time, sisters of the Ursuline Order taught in Germantown. They left because parishioners wanted nuns who would also nurse the sick.

This stone cross, dated 1852, greets parishioners when they enter the churchgrounds.





Father Bartholomew Bartels pastor of St. Boniface from 1865-1881

Father Bartholomew Bartels was described by one writer as a "knotty, blunt and rugged character." In our days we would call him a "go-getter."

Father Frederic Beuckman called him "that Homeric priest who, with a vision into the future, gave that unsurpassed odyssey of the coming and settling of the pioneers of Clinton County."

The story of the settlement of Clinton County was obtained from settlers themselves by Father Bartels. During the latter part of 1866 he held a series of meetings to which he invited these pioneers.

Their stories were carefully taken and thus became part of a series of articles, written in the year 1881 by Father Bartels for the St. Louis "Die Amerika", a German Catholic daily newspaper.

A more elaborate story of the settlement of Clinton County was published in 1906 and was written by Henry Gramann, born of pioneer parents in Clinton County May 15, 1857. This history is based on the notes of Father Bartels, but it also contains additional material of value.

Born in 1823 at Cleve on the Rhine, Germany, Father Bartels arrived in the United States in 1858. He died on May 4, 1894. He lies at rest in the parish cemetery of Bartelso, the town named in his honor.

An excerpt about the "stone church" and life for the early settlers as written by Father Bartels (translated by Rev. Frederic Beuckman). It was published originally in the St. Louis "Die Amerika" in 1881, under the title: "Notizen ueber die ersten Ansiedlungen der plattdeutschen Katholiken in Clinton County, Illinois." (Notes on the first settlements of Catholic Low Germans in Clinton County, Illinois).

### Stone Church

*At the beginning of February, 1852, Rev. Wenniger conducted the first holy mission here and in the Autumn of the same year Rev. Marogna left the parish. In his place came again Rev. Henry Fortmann. Serious thought was now given to the erection of the new and present church. The former frame church still stands today as a barn on the aged Ferdinand Becker's place, on the other side of Shoal Creek.*

*The plans for the present church were made by architect Robert Mitchel of St. Louis, who lost his life at sea on the burning of the Austria. The church lacks six feet of the wall height planned, as Father Fortmann dreaded the cost. Preparation for the work of construction required two years. The first year five hundred and fifty perch of stone for the foundation were hauled a distance of eight miles from north of Breese. At first the intention was to erect the church of brick, but it was now decided to build it entirely of the same limestone. The same stone was also used to burn lime, which, gray as it looks, had proved itself better than any other limes of the country.*

### Food - Clothing

*It is evident that our pioneers faced serious hardships at the start. Most of them did not suffer hunger, although at times they lacked the most necessary means of livelihood. Yet simple, very simple was their food. Cornbread with bran, hog meat, deer meat and other game, and sometimes a few potatoes, was their food from day to day. Corn was about all that was planted. This was ground in a coffeemill or otherwise stumped or beaten. But this required much time, and therefore a contrivance was sought to enable them to stump or beat corn in greater quantities.*

*Frederic Hahnwinkel called to his aid Nicholas Frerker to help him to stump corn. He had taken a section of a hollow tree and affixed thereto a solid bottom, into which the corn was thrown and pounded by means of a Nether-German whippel-well-hoist. This was constructed of an upright end forked limb, about fifteen feet high across the fork of which was fastened not quite on the center length a tree pole of lesser thickness. From the end of the pole overhanging the hollow tree mortar, was*

*suspended another pole with a pounding mortar block attached, while to the handle of the balanced whippel-pole was fastened a balancing log weight which eased the labor of the operator in raising and lowering the corn pounder and enabled him to secure a greater quantity of meal-corn. This was the first primitive mill of our first settlers.*

*There was plenty of hog meat and game. Deer could be counted in droves of sixty to seventy. The aged Bernard Wobbe, who lives a mile and one-half from Germantown, still sound and well, made a count at one time of seventy.*

*At St. Louis could be purchased all necessary implements, but money was too rare. Most of the time, the settlers in general had none. However, the more did contentment reign, and mutual kindness and helpfulness, and greater was the joy when occasionally these settlers met each other. All clothes brought from Germany were economically worn to the last patch. For summer use white cotton clothes were purchased in St. Louis.*





Right Rev. Msgr.  
William Cluse  
pastor of St. Boniface  
from 1881-1902

*Msgr Cluse was born at Heiden, Westphalia, Germany on March , 1845. When he died on June 30, 1933, he was the oldest clergyman in the Diocese of Belleville. In fact, it was during his pastorate at Germantown that the Diocese of Belleville was established. On Jan. 2, 1890, Bishop Janssen, first Bishop of Belleville, appointed him as Vicar General, which position the late Monsignor held for 31 years.*



Father J.N. Enzelberger  
pastor of St. Boniface  
from 1902-1907

The poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ arrived on May 1, 1875 to teach and to provide nursing services. These sisters came from Ft. Wayne, Indiana and became a vital force in the religious, educational and nursing life not only of Germantown but also of a large part of Clinton County.

After Father Bartels was transferred to Bartelso, Right Rev. Msgr. William Cluse became pastor. He devoted great care to the cemetery, beautifying it with the Stations of the Cross and the Crucifixion carved in marble. These were donated by Anna Hanewinkel. It was during Msgr. Cluse's pastorate that the large school south and a little west of the church was built in 1893.

In 1902 Father J.N. Enzelberger became pastor after Father Cluse was assigned to St. Henry's in East St. Louis. Father Enzelberger had the church redecorated with the work done by Herm. Holbracht. In 1905 he had a large and beautiful pipe organ installed by the organ builder B. Schaefer of Milwaukee, Wis. The organ was later upgraded in 1959 by a donation of the Schurmann family. It was enlarged through a donation by Joanne Bauer. A new heating apparatus was installed by Elliott and Barry.

Since there was still a debt on the parish incurred by the new brick school building, Father Enzelberger sold a number of one-acre town lots and raised about \$6,000 which was used to pay the debts of the parish.

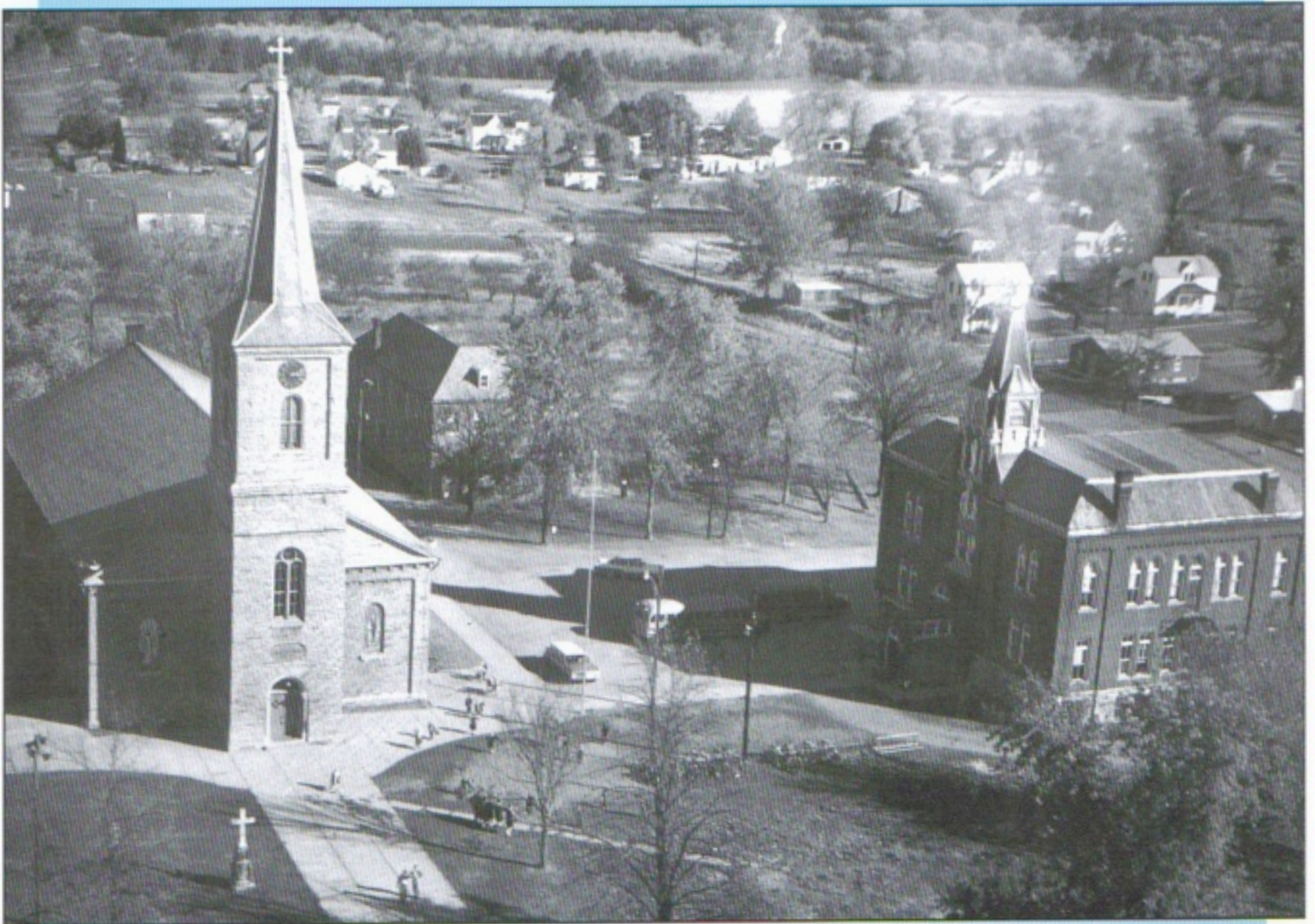
In 1914, under the administration of Father Roth, a beautiful communion rail and a new pulpit, both real pieces of art, were installed by Koletta Brothers of St. Louis. An addition to the sacristy, serving as an ambulatory from the altar boys' to the priest's sacristy was erected.

In January 1929 the altars and statues were redecorated by J. Terski at a cost of \$280. A new jointless composition wood floor was installed in the sanctuary in the same year by Duraflor Products Co. of St. Louis for \$1180.

The old clock in the steeple was replaced with a new one in July 1930. The clock was built by George J. Hoffmann of St. Louis. The cost of the improvement was \$1250.

Original wooden statues of St. Henry (shown) and St. Boniface still stand behind the altar.





An aerial view of the churchgrounds with the school which was built in 1893.



An antique Relicuary used as a display case for a relic.

*This one is engraved with the name of Rev. Msgr. William Cluse, 1888.*



First Communion Class - 1929



Interior of St. Boniface April 24, 1909  
The Funeral of the Rev. Wegmann



The existing tabernacle.

This stained glass window, found on the north entrance to the sacristy — the priest's entrance.





Interior of St. Boniface before the removal of the high altar and the pulpit.



This stained glass window, found on the south entrance to the sacristy — the servers' entrance.



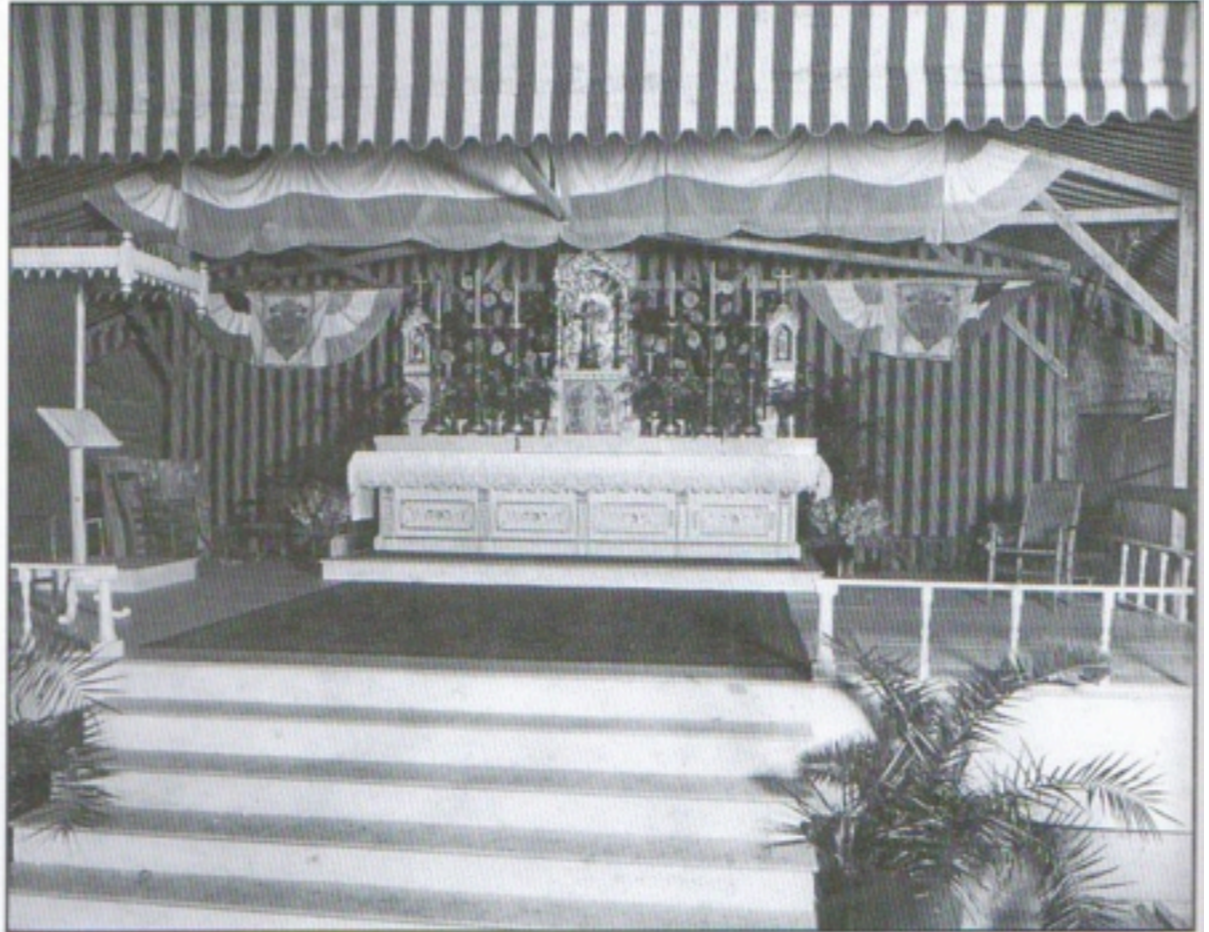
This wooden lectern eventually replaced the original pulpit.



Father R.H. Eppmann  
pastor of St. Boniface  
from 1922-1947

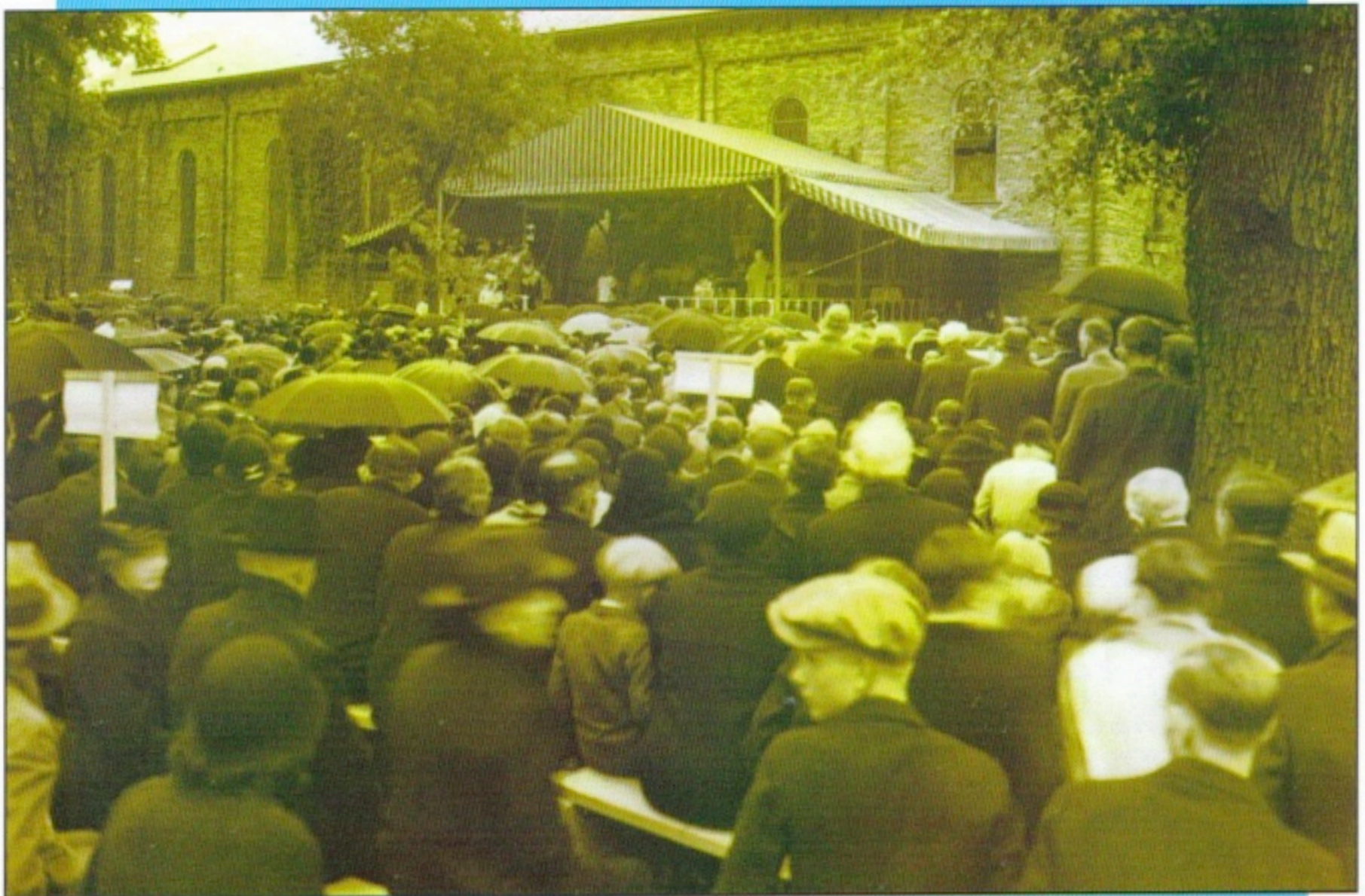
*As a native of Germany, Father R.H. Eppmann was especially able to counsel with the descendants of early day Germans who settled in Germantown. Aside from parish duties, Father Eppmann supervised instruction work in the parochial school system in Germantown. Father Eppmann was ordained for the priesthood at Milwaukee and was stationed at Cobden and Belleville prior to coming to Germantown.*

The parish celebrated its centennial in 1933 while Father Eppmann was the pastor.



A Field Mass was celebrated on the north side of the St. Boniface Church grounds by Bishop Althoff in observance of the centennial of the first Catholic settlement in Clinton County. The outdoor altar is shown above. The celebration was attended by 47 priests, 60 sisters of various orders and about 5,000 lay people.





## Centennial of the Catholic settlement of Clinton County

On Oct. 8, 1933 the centennial of the Catholic settlement of Clinton County was celebrated with an appropriate program in the mother parish – St. Boniface of Germantown.

The morning celebration consisted of a Pontifical Field Mass by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Henry Althoff, D.D., Bishop of Belleville, and a festive sermon by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Jos. H. Schlarman, D.D., Bishop of Peoria.

The afternoon program included an opening address by the Rev. B. Hilgenberg; an address to welcome by Mr. Ed. Schurmann, Mayor of Germantown; an address “Why a Centenary,” by Mr. August Brockland of St. Louis; “The Faith of Our Ancestors,” a prologue and sketch written by Sisters of the Order of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and presented by members of St. Boniface parish; and an address “Contributions to Progress,” by the Catholic Settlers of Clinton County, Illinois,” by the Rev. Frederic Beuckmann of Belleville.

The celebration was attended by 47 priests, 60 sisters of various orders and about 5,000 lay people.



Two scenes from the Centennial Celebration of the Catholic Settlement of Clinton County which was held in Germantown on Oct. 8, 1933.



In 1934 the two outside mosaics of St. Henry and St. Boniface in front of the church plus the mosaic above the main door were installed. The mosaics were imported from Italy and are held in place by two Bedford Stone brackets which were built to fit each niche. The total cost was \$1,100, of which \$500 was donated by the last will of a deceased parishioner.

The same year a strip of land south of the cemetery, about five acres, was sold to the State of Illinois for the purpose of building a road to be

known as State Route 161. Another strip of land, about 1-1/2 acres, directly east of the cemetery was sold to the state for the purpose of building a spur through the town connecting with State Route 161.

In 1935 an addition was put on the large brick school and some changes were made in the arrangements. An auditorium with stage and gymnasium facilities was included on the second floor. Two new classrooms were added downstairs. The stage facilities were later remodeled to provide two more classrooms upstairs.



The mosaics of St. Henry (left) and St. Boniface (above) plus the mosaic above the main door were imported from Italy and installed in 1934. The mosaics are held in place by two Bedford Stone brackets which were built to fit each niche.



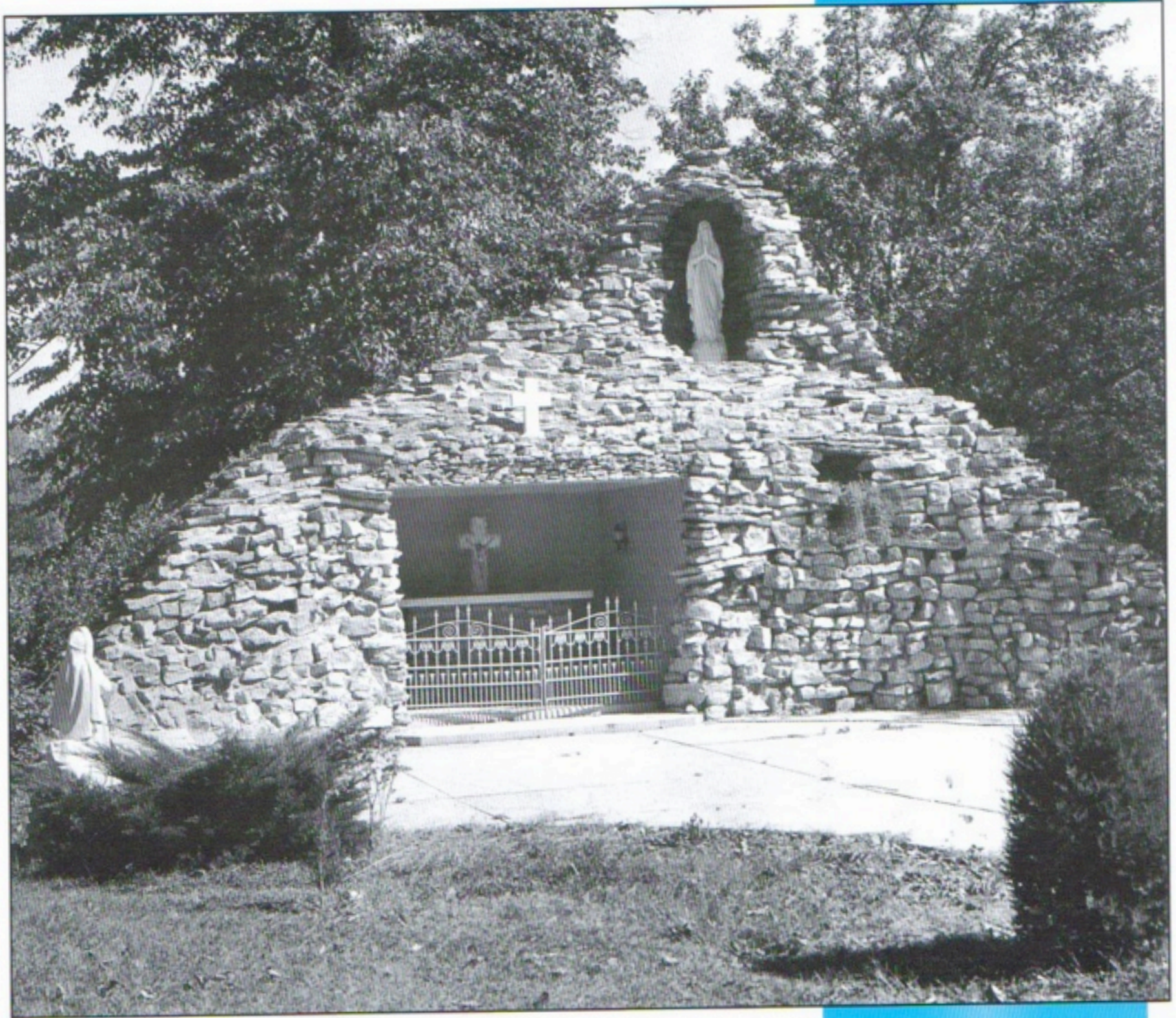


Graduation 1942 with Father Eppmann — front row, left to right: Florence Frerker, Ruth Schoendienst, Lorinda Hemann, Ruth Pille, John Lakenburges, Father Eppmann, Dan Wallace, Alice Schoendienst, Florence Kohldehoff, Bernice Beckmann, Betty Robben; (second row) Bernard Haake, Clarence Netemeyer, Mary Ann Thoele, Romonia Deien, Mary Boevingloh, Shirley Mollet, Mary M. Haar, Virginia Winter, Erwin Thien; (third row) Clarence Hilmes, Tom Lampe, John Duncan, Roger Micheel, Ray Hilmes, George Hermeling, Virgil Albers, ? Haake, Ken Buenemeyer and Harold Netemeyer.



An aerial view of the church grounds with the new school which was dedicated by Bishop Zuroweste in 1967.

In 1952 the Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes was completed on the parish grounds north of the rectory. It was dedicated to the youth of the parish by Bishop Zuroweste on May 22, 1952 and reflected the concern of the pastor, Father John Boomkens, and the parents that the young people of the parish were being exposed to many spiritual dangers and needed the protection of the Blessed Mother.



Father Boomkens had served the parish since 1947. In the spring of 1956, under his direction, the church walls were tuck-pointed, the interior of the church was redecorated, the frescoes repainted, and the sanctuary and the altars remodeled. A new floor was placed in the sanctuary. New oak doors replaced the worn original doors, and new stained glass windows were placed above the main door and the two niches in the vestibule.

The Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes which was completed in 1952.



School children helped celebrate the 25th Jubilee of Father John Boomkens, circa 1953.



Graduation Class - 1960



Christmas  
Mass with  
Father  
Boomkens -  
1956





Father John Boomkens  
pastor of St. Boniface  
from 1947-1968

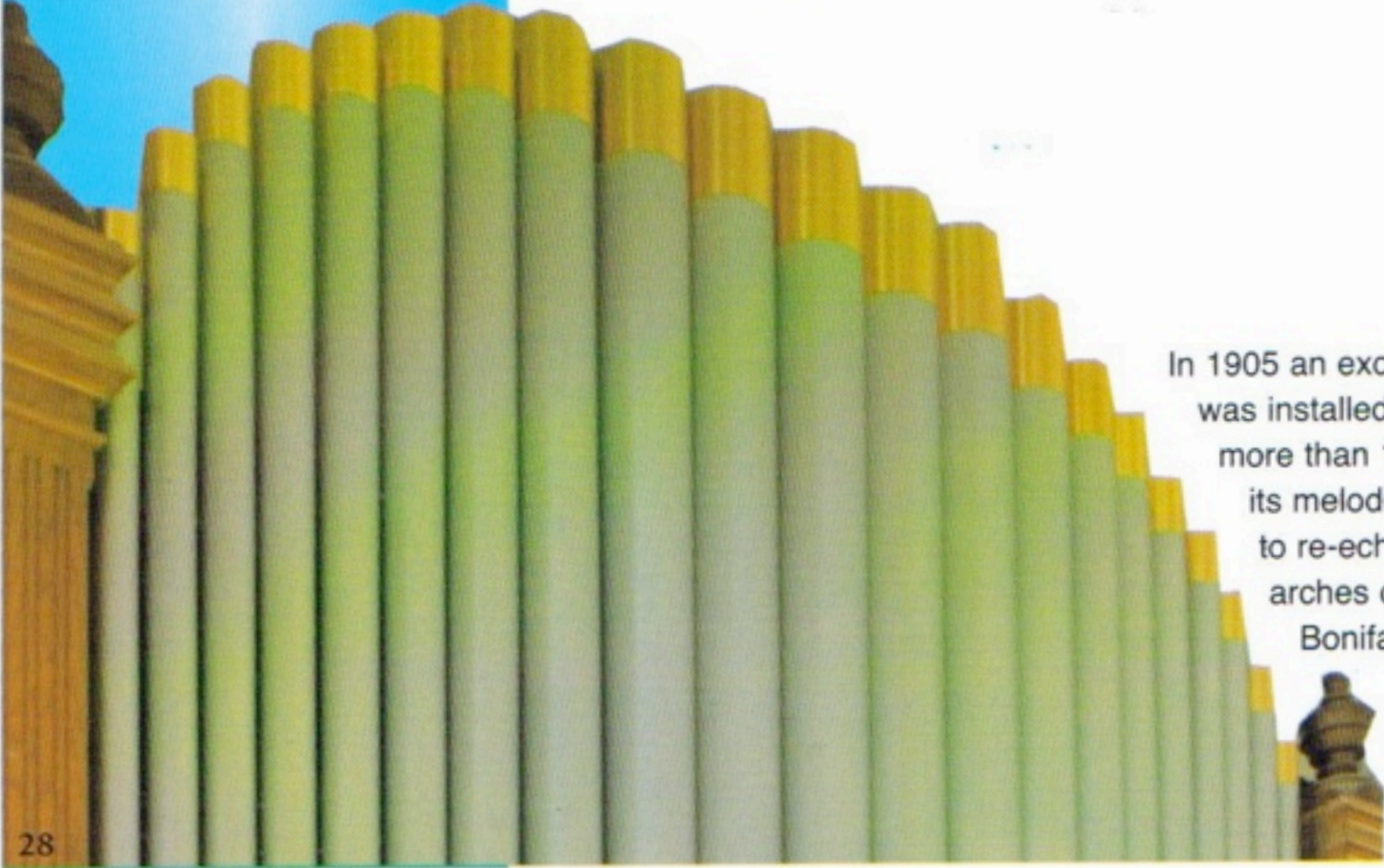
*Father John Boomkens came to Germantown in 1947 when Father Eppmann retired because of ill health. During his administration, the parish buildings were extensively repaired and remodeled to comply with the needs of the parish.*

The pulpit, which had its sentimental and historical value, but which was serving no practical purpose, was dismantled, and its parts used for other purposes. For instance, the wood-carved figures of Christ and the our Evangelists were placed on the front of the newly remodeled main altar.

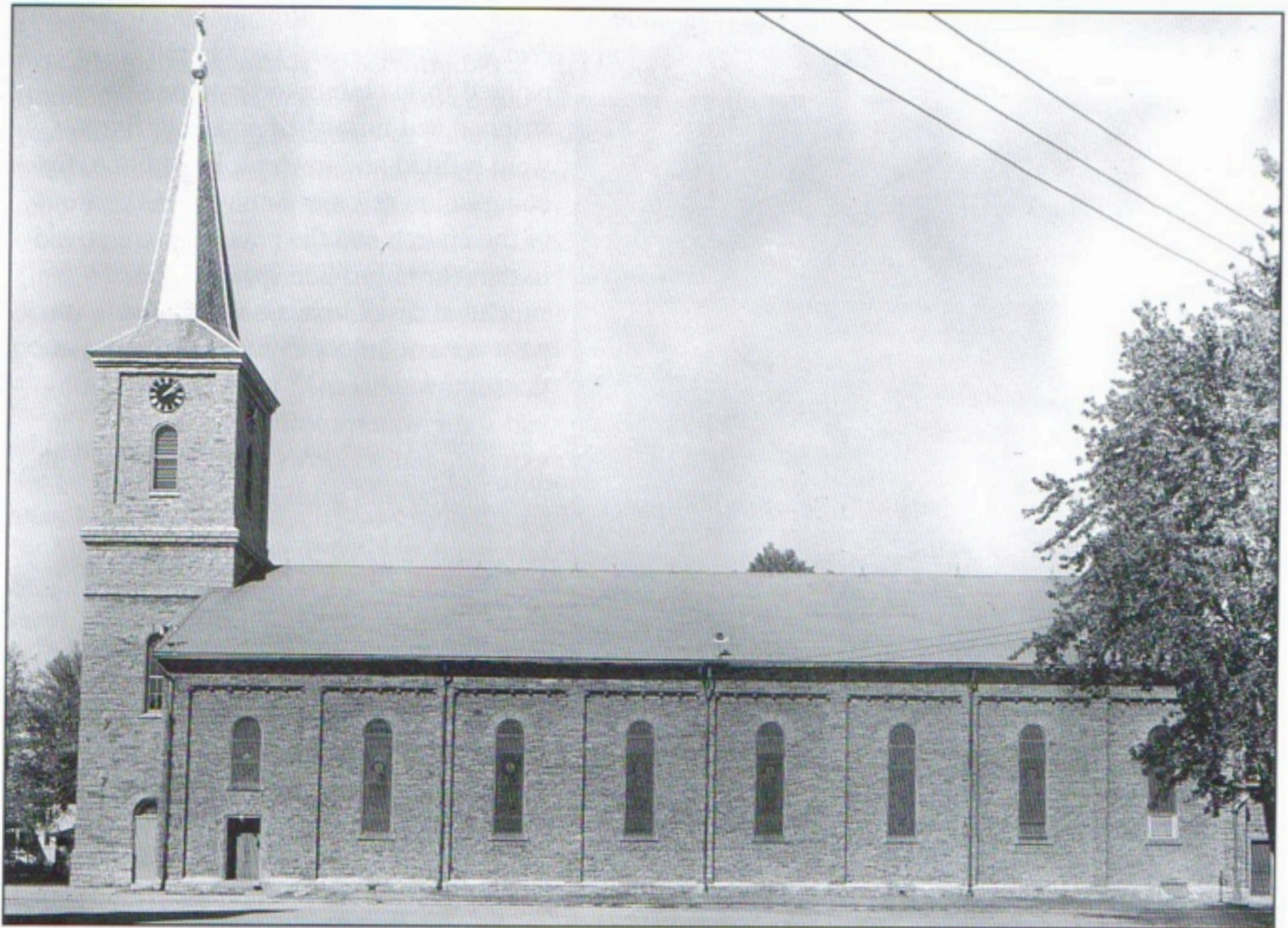
One of the final deeds of his tenure was the building of the new school and its dedication by Bishop Zuroweste in 1967. This building included 12 classrooms, a kitchen and lunchroom and a gymnasium. The old school was demolished on the completion of the new building. Two additional temporary classrooms were purchased in 1970 to accommodate a large increase in enrollment. The school buildings are leased to the public school district.

Father Seyer, the first American-born pastor to serve St. Boniface Parish, was assigned by Bishop Zuroweste in 1968. The church was remodeled in 1973 under his direction. A new rectory was constructed in 1975, replacing the old one built in 1870. The parish began the practice of having parish councils in 1971.

In 1975 due to a shortage of vocations, the Poor Handmaids Sisters removed the last of their teachers. The number had dwindled to two in the last year with the balance of the faculty being lay teachers. A farewell ceremony, marking the 100th anniversary of their arrival in Germantown was held under the direction of the pastor, Father Seyer. The final transfer to the parish of the rear portion of the old brick convent was made at that time. This part had been built and paid for by the nuns themselves.



In 1905 an excellent pipe organ was installed. It contains more than 1,400 pipes and its melodious sound is fit to re-echo from the arches of beautiful St. Boniface Church.



## Church of St. Boniface Parish 100 Years Old

*(taken from the Oct. 18, 1956 Breese Journal)*

St. Boniface Church of Germantown will observe the 100th anniversary of the building of its beautiful stone church on Sunday, Oct. 28, with a Pontifical High Mass.

The special service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Celebrant of the Mass will be Most Rev. Albert R. Zuroweste, D.D., Bishop of Belleville. The Presbyter's Assistant will be Rev. Jos. Pingsterhaus, pastor of St. Rose parish.

Rev. James Jansen, assistant pastor of St. Dominic's Church in Breese, will be Deacon of the Mass, and Rev. Floyd Boeckmann, O.M.I., of St. Henry's Seminary, Belleville, will be Sub-Deacon. St.

Boniface is the home parish of Rev. Pingsterhaus, Rev. Jansen and Rev. Boeckmann.

Throne assistants will be Rev. Bernard Kunkel, pastor of St. Cecilia's Church, Bartelso, and Rev. Julius Schoen, pastor St. Anthony's parish, Beckemeyer. Rev. John Boomkens, present pastor of St. Boniface Church, and Rev. Melvin Haas, of the Cathedral, Belleville, will be Masters of Ceremonies.

The mail choir will be under the direction of Thomas Lampe and the children's choir will be led by Sr. Aline, P.H.J.C.

St. Boniface parish celebrated its centennial in 1933. A number of immigrants from Germany had

settled there as early as 1833, or sooner, and with a desire for Catholic worship, a parish was formed.

A book containing a number of interesting facts relating to the founding and development of St. Boniface Church is being prepared and will be sold at a minimum charge. A number of pictures will be included, and advertisements of Germantown business places will represent the commercial part of the thriving community of Germantown.

In our next week's issue we hope to give you more details of the centennial observance and include a few pictures relating to the incident.

In early 2000, under the direction of Father Vincent Haselhorst, an extensive restoration project was completed. The church was

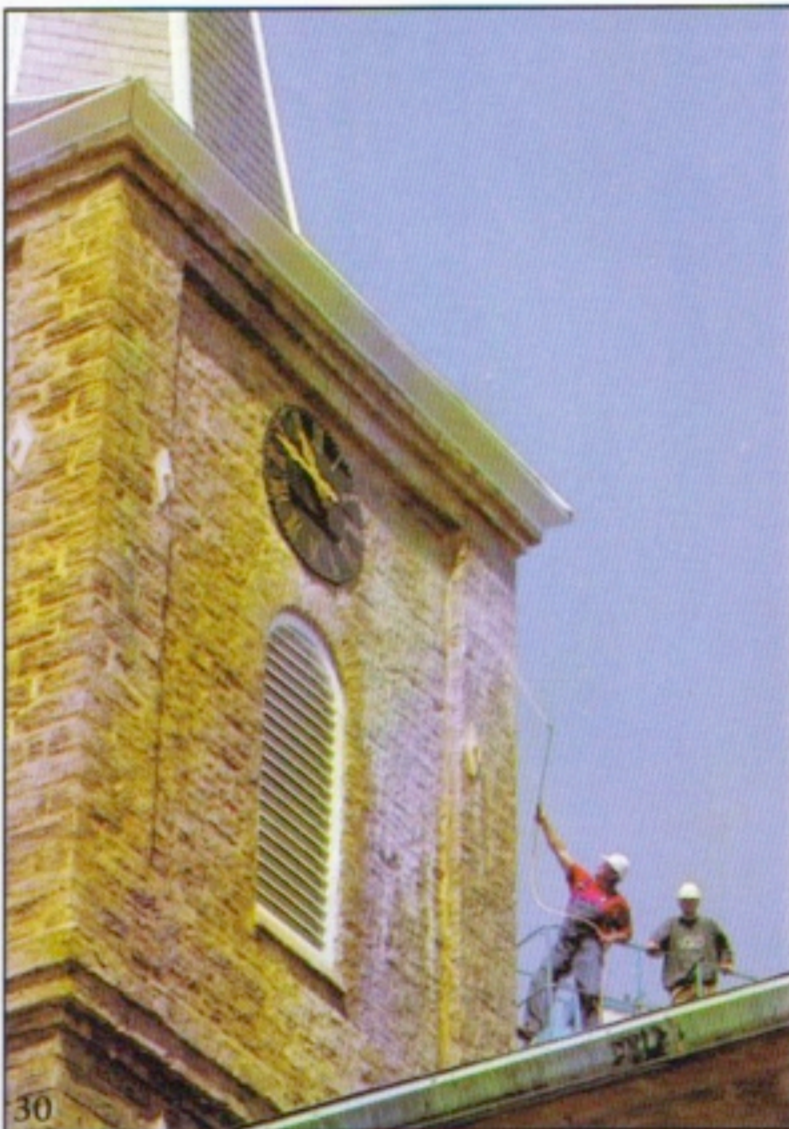


Max Autenreib Church Interior Decorating of Edwardsville completed in interior renovation in 2000.

Painted from ceiling to floor, pews were stripped and refinished and light fixtures were refitted and rewired. In addition, the communion rail was removed in the front of the church and the pews were removed in the rear to provide space for handicapped-accessible restrooms in the north-west corner and a reconciliation room in the southwest corner. Spot tuck-pointing and some waterproofing was done to the exterior, and windows were resealed with new mortar and caulking.

Cosmetic work, including some repainting of murals, stenciling and marbleizing of spindles, pillars and speakers covers, was completed by Max Autenreib Church Interior Decorating of Edwardsville.

Prayers were answered in Germantown on July 16, 2002 when the priceless 150-year-old stained glass window which was stolen from the church two weeks before was recovered. The window had been removed for repairs and placed in



Spot tuckpointing and some waterproofing was completed in 2000 by Warnecke Building Restoration.



In December 2003, strong winds broke the original king pin and damaged the base of the six-foot cross which graces the top of the steeple. It was repaired and returned in April 2004.

a 24-foot trailer when the trailer was stolen from the parish grounds. The windows at St. Boniface were built in Germany over 100 years ago. The main section was handpainted with an image of St. Bernard in a purple robe. It is believed that the suspects who stole the trailer were unaware that the stained glass window was located inside. Perhaps divine intervention was involved, but the suspects later crated the window for protection and left it in a park in St. Louis to be found.

In December 2003, strong winds damaged the six-foot cross which graces the top of the steeple. The cross, which was originally built by August P. Lampe in 1960, was repaired by Sudholt Sheet Metal and gold-leafing was reapplied. It was returned to its prominent spot on April 2, 2004.

It's obvious to see that the St. Boniface Church which we celebrate today was built with a great deal of care and foresight. The achievements and sacrifices that our forefathers made for their church should be an inspiration to present day members. This observation and celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Boniface church building should be carried out with thoughts of gratitude and recognition for those who made it all possible.



St. Bernard is painted on the window which was stolen and miraculously recovered in 2002.

### Parish Picnic

One of the more enjoyable remnants of the past that has been passed on since the early 1900s is the annual parish church picnic.

This event, held on the last Tuesday in July, features a home-cooked chicken supper, and bingo with handmade quilts as the prizes. The parish ladies work throughout the years preparing fine quilts that draw people to the picnic. Held annually, it serves as a major source of income for the parish.

### St. Boniface Cemetery

The Germantown cemetery is known throughout Southern Illinois because of the presence of the Stations of the Cross. The statuary figures are encased in cement pillars. The stations were a gift of the Stroot family (Catherine and Casper Stroot were the original donors). The cemetery also has a beautiful crucifixion group donated by Anna Hanewinkel. At one time, the crucifixion was damaged and was repaired by the John Winkler family.

The first Germantown cemetery was located directly north of the present church. The cemetery was moved during the cholera plague in about 1850. Sanitary precautions caused the cemetery to be moved. The first burial in the new cemetery was that of the wife of the cooper (a barrel maker), Henry Lammers.





# Pastors of St. Boniface Parish:

1837  
Rev. Meyer

1839  
Rev. G.H. Ostlangenberg

1839-1845  
Rev. J.H. Fortmann

1845-1846  
Rev. Andrew Tusch

1846-1847  
Rev. Joseph Kuenster

1846  
Rev. Geo A. Hamilton

1846, 1847, 1848  
Rev. G.H. Ostlangenberg

1847  
Rev. J. Jung

1847  
Rev. J.N. Arendsen

1847  
Rev. N. Jung

1847  
Rev. J.H. Schafer

1848-1852  
Rev. Chas. Marogna



A new rectory was constructed in 1975, replacing the old one built in 1870.



1852-1857  
Rev. J.H. Fortmann

1857-1859  
Rev. J.J. Kraemer

1859-1863  
Rev. H. Frohboese

1863-1865  
Rev. August Berger

1865-1881  
Rev. B. Bartels

1881-1902  
Rev. William Cluse

1902-1907  
Rev. J.N. Enzelberger

1908-1909  
Rev. A. Wegmann

1909-1914  
Rev. M. Roth

1914-1922  
Rev. John Van de Riet

1922-1947  
Rev. R.H. Eppmann

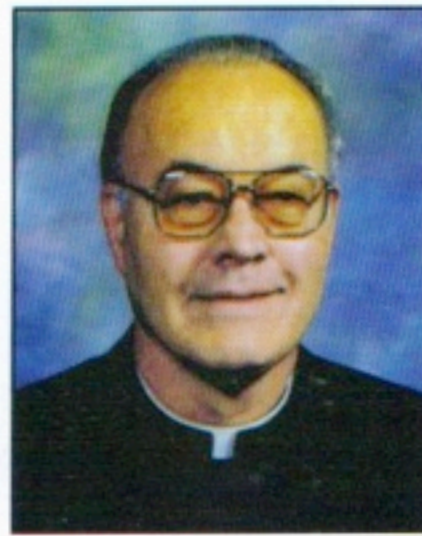
1947-1968  
Rev. John Boomkens



1968-1985  
Rev. Francis Seyer



1985-1993  
Rev. James Calhoun



1994-2000  
Rev. Vincent Haselhorst



2000-present  
Rev. Stephen Humphrey

# Members of parish ordained to the priesthood:

- Rev. John Molitor (deceased) Ordained 1874
- Rev. Herman Gesenhues (deceased) Ordained 1881
- Rev. Henry Hagen (deceased) Ordained 1883
- Rev. Gerhard Toennies (deceased) Ordained 1891
- Rev. John B. Henken (deceased) Ordained 1895
- Most Rev. Bishop Jos. H. Schlarmann  
Ordained 1904 Consecrated Bishop 1930 (deceased)
- Rev. Bernard Peters (deceased)
- Rev. Jos. Pingsterhaus (deceased) Ordained 1927



Most Rev. Bishop  
Jos. H. Schlarmann  
Ordained 1904  
Consecrated Bishop  
1930 (deceased)



Rev. James Jansen –  
Ordained 1955



Rev. Floyd Boeckmann  
O.M.I. –  
Ordained 1955



Rev. Dennis Voss –  
Ordained 1964



Rev. Bernard Voss –  
Ordained 1966



Bless, O Lord, my family and all those, living and dead, who have helped me to Thy Holy Altar.



*James H. Jansen  
Ordained  
Priest of God  
May 3, 1955  
First Solemn Mass  
May 8, 1955  
St. Boniface Church  
Germantown, Illinois*



PRAY FOR ME.

Prayer cards, like the one shown here, were distributed.

## Members of the parish who were sisters:

Note: this list is taken from a "List of Living Nuns of St. Boniface Parish" dated Oct. 28, 1956.

Florence Altgilbers, Sr. M. Peter (Poor Handmaid)  
Ruth Boeckman, Sr. M. Joachim (Precious Blood)  
Dolores Boeving, Sr. M. Wilma (Poor Handmaid)  
Agnes Bohnenkemper, Sr. M. Frances (Franciscan)  
Leona Bruns, Sr. M. Barbara (Poor Handmaid)  
Dolores Deerhake, Aspirant (Poor Handmaid)  
Rosemary Duncan, Mother Rosemary Duncan, Srs. Of Cenacle  
Emma Ficker, Sr. M. Emilia (Poor Handmaid)  
Catherine Hemker, Sr. M. Bernarda (Poor Handmaid)  
Bernardine Henken, Sr. M. Benna (Holy Ghost)  
Cecilia Henken, Sr. M. Jude (Poor Handmaid)  
Helen Henken, Sr. M. Bernardi (Poor Handmaid)  
Alice Hoff, Sr. M. Theodora (Sisters of St. Mary)  
Catherine Hoff, Sr. M. Regina (Sisters of St. Mary)  
Dolores Jansen, Sr. M. Dolores Marie (Maryknoll)  
Lucille Lager, Sr. M. Michael (Sisters of Providence)  
Catherine Lampe, Sr. M. Isabella (Poor Handmaid)  
Catherine Micheel, Sr. M. Benigna (Sisters of St. Mary)  
Alfrida Molitor, Sr. M. Laurretta (Poor Handmaid)  
Anna Pingsterhaus, Sr. M. Theofrieda (Poor Handmaid)  
Bernice Schlarmann, Sr. M. Genevieve (Notre Dame)  
Agnes Schlautman, Sr. M. Jeannine (Poor Handmaid)  
Marilyn Schlautman, Sr. M. Jacqueline (Poor Handmaid)  
Catherine Schniers, Sr. M. Theotista (Notre Dame)  
Cecilia Schoendienst, Sr. M. Salesia (Poor Handmaid)  
Leona Schurmann, Sr. M. Angela (Ursuline)  
Alice Weier, Sr. M. Lenore (Poor Handmaid)

Hosts were made by the sisters upstairs in the convent using host makers like the one shown here.



The convent.

## Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

*The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, a religious order of nuns with the motherhouse in Donaldson, Ind., played an important part in the history of Germantown. Not only did they serve as nurses in the early history of the parish, but they served as teachers in the schools for 100 years.*

*In their 100 years history in Germantown many young ladies entered their order from St. Boniface Parish.*

*The order was founded by Catherine Kasper in the Westerwald, Dernbach near Montabaur, West Germany in 1851. The nuns came to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, at the invitation of Bishop Luers in August 1868.*

*Their first mission in Clinton County was at Carlyle in 1874. But on May 1, 1875, four sisters, Sister Ermelinda, Superior, Sisters Athanasia and Joseph, both teachers, and Sister Wenefrieda, a nurse, came to Germantown. They occupied the old rectory, which was arranged to also care for the sick and for a time also provided classroom space for teaching the youngsters. Much of the nursing service was provided in the homes of the patients.*

*In 1914, the practice of nursing was discontinued because these services were provided by the hospital in Breese (which was run by the order from 1911-1918). The Poor Handmaids continued teaching in Germantown until 1975.*



# St. Boniface • Through Time

- **1833** - Hanover, said to be the first true German settlement in Illinois, is established.

- **1837** - request made to Bishop Rosati for a priest.

- **1837** - settlers bought church land — three 40-acre tracts for \$700.

- **1838** - settlers refurbished a small log house to serve as their first church.

- **1840** - community constructs new 60 x 30 feet church, school and priest's residence all in one building.

- **1849, 1850** - cholera scourge strikes parish.

- **1850** - cemetery, which had been located north of the present church, is moved to its current location.

- **1852** - Father J.H. Fortmann lays the groundwork for the building of the present church. The contract was awarded to Grafstock of St. Louis for the price of \$24,000. The parish furnished sand, lime and stone.

- **July 8, 1853** - cornerstone for the new church is placed by Bishop Van de Velde.

- **Spring 1856** - church dedicated.

- **1856, 1866, 1879, 1883** - four bells placed in church tower.

- **1863** - debt for the church is cleared.

- **1865** - tower completed to present height, church interior decorated, new high altar, two confessionals and Stations of the Cross installed, quarter-hour-strike clock made.

- **1870** - brick rectory constructed just northeast of the church.

- **1875** - Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Sisters arrived to teach and provide nursing services.

- **1890s** - ten stained glass windows installed.

- **1893** - large school constructed southwest of the church.

- **1902** - church renovated.



- **1905** - pipe organ installed.

- **1914** - communion rail and new pulpit installed, addition added to sacristy providing an ambulatory from the altar boys' to the priest's sacristies.

- **1920s** - hardwood floor constructed and installed, pews installed

- **January, 1929** - the altars and statues redecorated. Jointless composi-

tion wood floor installed.

- **1952** - Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes completed and dedicated

- **1956** - church walls tuck-pointed, interior redecorated, frescoes repainted, sanctuary and altars remodeled, new oak doors replaced original doors, new stained glass windows placed above the main door and the two niches in the vestibule, pulpit (which had sentimental and historical value, but which was serving no practical purpose) dismantled and its parts used for other purposes (for instance, the wood-carved figures of Christ and the four Evangelists were placed on the front of the newly-remodeled main altar).

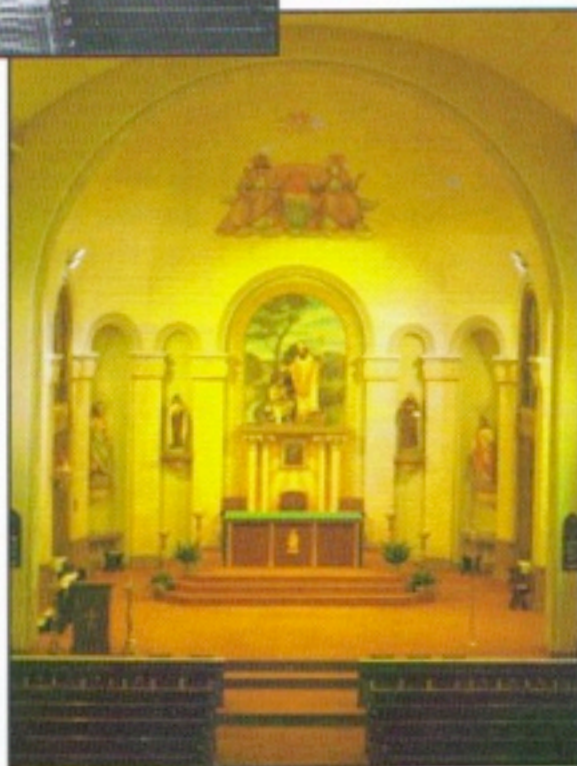
- **1959** - organ upgraded and later enlarged.

- **1967** - new school built and dedicated.

- **1973** - church remodeled.

- **1975** - new rectory constructed, Poor Handmaids Sisters remove the last of their teachers.

- **2000** - extensive church restoration project completed: church painted from ceiling to floor, pews stripped and refinished, light fixtures refitted and rewired, communion rail relocated, handicapped-accessible restrooms and reconciliation room added, Spot tuckpointing and waterproofing completed on exterior. Windows resealed with new mortar and caulking. Cosmetic work, including repainting of murals, stenciling and marbleizing of spindles, pillars and speaker covers completed.



tion wood floor installed in the sanctuary.

- **July 1930** - old clock in tower replaced with new quarter-hour-strike tower clock.

- **October, 1933** - community celebrates the centennial of the first Catholic settlement in Clinton County.

- **1934** - mosaics of St. Henry and St. Boniface in front of the church and mosaic above the



- **Approximately 2000 to present** - stained glass windows restored.

- **2002** - priceless stained glass window of St. Bernard stolen and miraculously recovered.

- **2004** - six-foot cross which graces the top of the steeple repaired and replaced after being damaged by heavy winds in December 2003.

- **2006** - St. Boniface Parish observes the 150th anniversary of its beautiful stone church.

## Essay Winner - What St. Boniface Church Means To Me ...

by *Germantown Elementary*  
eighth-grader *Andria Lampe*

I am a fourteen-year-old in the St. Boniface Parish Community, and I have been a part of this community all my life. I have been Baptized, gone to my First Confession, received my First Communion, and, just recently, had my Confirmation here. I think that St. Boniface is a very friendly community and it is welcoming. It also provides an educational Religion class that I am currently in and have been in since I began school. Another reason I like mass is because on Sundays, we have a wonderful adult choir who sings along with our wonderful organ player Tom Lampe.

The people of St. Boniface are so friendly. Even if you just moved here, I think you would find it inviting and feel very involved very quickly. No one here is about to treat you like nothing. Everyone will try to make you feel at

home and try to help you get over your butterflies. In mass, people are very polite also. Giving each other the sign of peace is the main action I think of. We will acknowledge everyone within seeing distance just to tell them, "Peace be with you." You never feel like a stranger when you're at mass.

St. Boniface also provides wonderful, educational religion classes for kids in first grade to eighth grade. The teachers are helpful and they are full of knowledge. I have learned so much from them and I'm sure the other kids have too. Without the Germantown P.S.R. program, I might not have been Baptized, had my First Communion, gone to First Confession, or even been Confirmed.

Like I said before, I am fourteen, and I'm not going to lie; mass isn't the most exciting thing in my life right now, and I'm sure some people would agree. But one thing that makes mass more excit-

ing is the awesome adult choir and our organ player, Tom Lampe. They are so good and they practice all the time. Plus, me being a musician makes it more enjoyable for me because I know the sounds and rhythms better than someone who is not a musician. I love when the choir sings in harmony and when they sound like a professional choir would in a Roman church. It sends chills up my spine! I enjoy listening to them and it's one thing that makes mass more lively.

I am so thankful for St. Boniface Parish and all that it provides for my community. The friendly surroundings, P.S.R. program, and church choir/organ player are only three wonderful reasons that make you love it even more. Without this parish, I feel my life would be very different. I am grateful for St. Boniface Parish Community and writing this paper makes it even more meaningful to me in 2006.





*"... it became apparent that a larger building was needed, and a new one was begun, to cost twenty-four thousand dollars. It was built in 1854, constructed of stone taken from Shoal Creek ... and is as yet the finest church building in the county, and one of the handsomest structures in southern Illinois."*

*(taken from the History of Marion and Clinton Counties, Illinois)*

