

St. Ann Church

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

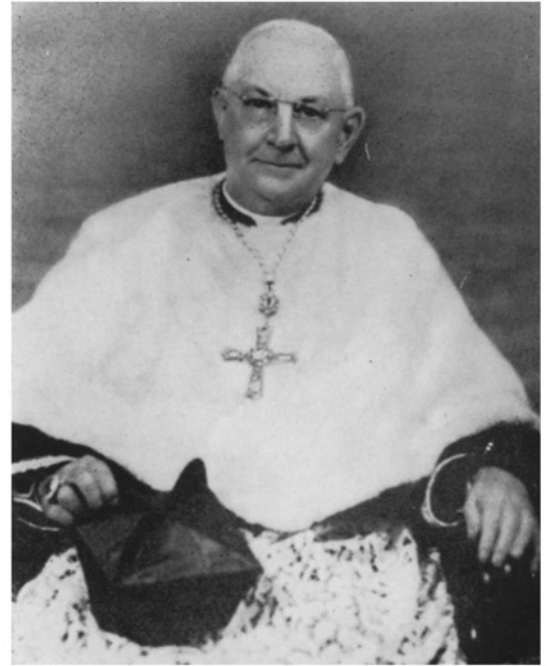
1907

1957





"To His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, Gloriously Reigning, and to our Beloved Archbishop, Samuel Cardinal Stritch, we obediently and humbly dedicate this Anniversary Booklet."



Fifty Years for Saint Ann's . . .

The foundation for Saint Ann's parish had been laid many years before the actual building plans were selected and approved on April 14, 1907. The arrival of German Catholic settlers in the early 1830's in the town of Bloom, Cook County, Illinois, would eventually determine the need of a new parish to care for the spiritual needs of the growing number of German speaking Catholics.

The early settlers had taken up the claims relinquished by the Indians in 1833 and in 1834 the town of Bloom was laid out and surveyed on the sites of Great Sauk Trail and Hubbards Trail. From the founding of the first permanent residence in 1833 the names of German Catholics appear early in the development of what was to be known as Chicago Heights: Fredrich Reichert in 1836, Mathias Reichert in 1837, Christian Reichert in 1839, Charles Sauter, and Vincent Sauter in 1839. During the next ten years families still represented in St. Ann's parish today came to settle in the township. In the year 1842 the names of John P. Klos and John Scheidt appear; in 1843, John and Michael Weishaar; from 1847 to 1850 new arrivals included Joseph Klein, Cyprian Koeble, Henry Kavelage and Fred Lustig. These names became part of a scattered and unorganized population. It was not until the year 1890 that the Chicago Heights



The old and the new.



Remember the altar of the Old Church?

Land Association was organized to plan for future developments. Industries were induced to come and growth began. The village of Chicago Heights was finally incorporated as a city in 1901.

During this period of development the first parish in Chicago Heights, St. Agnes was organized in 1896, with the local German families forming part of the parish. By 1906, a steady increase in population made it possible for the German families to consider the establishment of a separate congregation. They laid the matter before Archbishop Quigley who listened favorably to their pleas and appointed Rev. John Reuland to establish a new parish dedicated to St. Ann. Father Reuland said Mass for the new congregation for the first time at Bonath's Hall on Sunday, October 28, 1906.

On that same day the young congregation decided to buy property at the corner of Chicago Road and Main Streets. At the time of the purchase the property included a two story dwelling which served as a temporary rectory and church. A building committee for a new church was appointed consisting of the pastor, Louis J. Terre, Valentine Marthaler, Jacob Fuhrman, Peter Terre, and Conrad Linder. On November 28, 1907 the combination church and school was dedicated by Archbishop Quigley. Building costs, exclusive of

architects fees, amounted to \$17,249.90 which were covered by a loan taken out in the amount of \$27,950.00.

Three days before the dedication of the new building, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, opened the school. The sisters resided upstairs in the same building. Thus began the long and dedicated service of these good Sisters to the educational needs of generations of children of St. Ann's parish.

In December 1909, Rev. Otto C. Nabholz succeeded Fr. Reuland as pastor. Fr. Nabholz remained at St. Ann's for seven years. In April, 1917, Rev. Peter F. Gall was appointed pastor. Fr. Nabholz final report for the year 1916 shows 105 families in the parish, a total income of \$6,159.62, and a total debt of \$35,500.00, with a balance to 1917 of \$194.00.

Five years later the Franciscan Fathers, Friars Minor Conventual were given charge of St. Ann's parish. On January 11, 1922, Fr. Fridolin Stauble, O.F.M.Conv. became the first Franciscan pastor. Fr. Fridolin worked like a Trojan in his first pastoral charge, and with the prosperous times, he enlarged the property holdings to the extent of \$12,500 built

PASTORS OF ST. ANN'S

Rev. John Reuland	1906 - 1910
Rev. Otto Nabholz	1910 - 1917
Rev. Peter Gall	1917 - 1922
Rev. Fridolin Stauble, O.F.M.Conv.	1922 - 1928
Rev. Gabriel Eilers, O.F.M.Conv.	1928 - 1935
Rev. Aloys Fish, O.F.M.Conv.	1935 - 1939
Rev. Celestine Zeitler, O.F.M.Conv.	1939 - 1948
Rev. Anthony Hodapp, O.F.M.Conv.	1948 -

Assistants at St. Ann's

Rev. Casimir Cvercko, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Method Ulicny, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Louis Wren, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Oderic Auer, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Walter Steiner, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Aloysius Hansen, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Bernardine Singleton,
O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Matthew Ramstein,
O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Bruno Lindenmeier,
O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Frederick Schillhab,
O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Lawrence Martin,
O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Joseph Herp, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. David Hutt, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Hilary Gottbrath, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Eric Heiquit, O.F.M.Conv.
Rev. Leo Knopp, O.F.M.Conv.

a new hall at the cost of \$8,000 and began a building fund for a new church. Despite this expansion program, Fr. Fridolin reduced the parish debt to \$5,000. It was also during this time that it became evident that St. Ann's was no longer a strictly German Church. Time had made St. Ann's more cosmopolitan mixture of German, English, French, and Slavs. Although Fr. Fridolin had no resident assistant during his pastorate, Fr. Casimir Cvercko, O.F.M.Conv, and Fr. Method Ulicny, O.F.M. Conv. were with him periodically to take care of the needs of the Slavic people in the parish.

In September, 1928, Fr. Fridolin was transferred by his Provincial to the pastorate of St. Anthony's Church, Louisville, Ky. He was succeeded by Rev. Gabriel Eilers, O.F.M. Conv. The following years of Fr. Gabriel's were hard years financially for St. Ann's parish. Although the whole country was in the grip of the depression, Chicago Heights was especially hard hit. Industries in Chicago Heights closed down, banks closed, and people lost their savings and investments. Parish income slid to low levels during the depths of these depression years, but fortunately, St.

Ann's was free from debt. Fr. Gabriel had managed to liquidate the small debt left by Fr. Fridolin, and by the end of 1934 he had established a new invested fund of \$12,000 for the parish. It was also during Fr. Gabriel's administration that St. Ann's was given the care of St. James hospital. As Assistants for the parish and hospital work Fr. Gabriel had with him at various times Franciscan Fathers Louis Wren, Oderic Auer, Walter Steiner, and Aloysius Hansen.

At the Provincial Chapter of 1935 Fr. Gabriel was transferred to Waupun, Wisconsin, and Fr. Aloys M. Fish, O.F.M. Conv., became pastor and superior at St. Ann's. Soon after his arrival in August 1935, Fr. Aloys revamped and remodelled the rectory, which was the first of several parish improvement projects begun during Fr. Aloys stay at St. Ann's. The Sisters of St. Ann's School will long be grateful to Fr. Aloys for giving them a comfortable home. Fr. Bernardine Singleton, O.F.M.Conv. served as assistant at St. Ann's with Fr. Aloys. Death, after months of severe sickness, ended Fr. Aloys' pastorate in September, 1939.



**Father Anthony blesses the cornerstone,
September 1, 1949.**

Funeral services were held in St. Ann's Church for Fr. Aloys; afterwards he was buried with his Franciscan brethren at Mt. St. Francis Ind.

Rev. Celestine Zeitler came in September 1939 as Fr. Aloys successor. Fr. Celestine stayed at St. Ann's for nine years, during which time the parish grew and flourished both spiritually and financially. When it came time for Fr. Celestine to depart for his new pastoral assignment in New Mexico, he left St. Ann's parish solidly prepared for the new era of expansion which was to take place within the next two years. Serving with Fr. Celestine during his nine years at St. Ann's were Franciscans Fathers, Matthew Ramstein, Bruno Lindenmeier, Frederick Schillhab, and Lawrence Martin.

In September 1948 the Very Rev. Anthony Hodapp, O.F.M.Conv., the present pastor, came to St. Ann's. With Fr. Joseph Herp, O.F.M.Conv. Fr. Anthony continued the good work begun by their preceding confreres. The immediate problem facing Fr. Anthony was the increasing number of school children and limited school facilities. On Feb. 7, 1949 permission was requested from the chancery to build a separate church in honor of St. Ann, thus turning over the combination

**SISTERS WHO SERVED AS PRINCIPAL
OF ST. ANN'S SCHOOL**

Sr. Mary Gabriel, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Vincent, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Loyola, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Humiliana, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Adele, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Theodosia, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Irmine, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Ephrem, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Thaddea, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Raphael, O.S.F.

Sr. Mary Leonine, O.S.F.



school-church building entirely to the use of the school. On April 1st, Cardinal Stritch gave permission to go ahead with the building plans. A local architect, William Nicolai, drew up plans and specifications to conform as closely as possible with the combination Church and school. The new Church was to be erected on the site of the school playground. On June 30, 1949 ground was broken for the new colonial style church; by September 1st, Fr. Anthony blessed the corner stone for the new church. Solemn services were held in the new church for the first time on Passion Sunday, 1950, with Fathers David and Hilary assisting Fr. Anthony at the Mass.

On Sunday, July 2, 1950 Cardinal Stritch came for the solemn dedication of the new St. Ann's Church. Both the local clergy and visiting Franciscan Fathers were well represented to give thanks to God for the benefits He had bestowed on the once tiny congregation of St. Ann.

◀ **At the Dedication—Cardinal Stritch assisted by Fr. Celestine and Fr. Killian.**



With the passing years the parish has continued to prosper. To help him in his pastoral care, and to take care of the increased needs of the youth of the parish Fr. Anthony has been ably assisted during these years by his Franciscan confreres, Fathers David Hutt, Eric Heiquit, Leo Knopp, and Hilary Gottbrath.

From this brief history, there is more to be learned than just the numerical and financial growth of one congregation. Each new addition to any Catholic Church reminds us that the kingdom of God on earth is a visible Kingdom, and as we see more and more the progress of our church we are being confirmed in the truth of our Faith. The accomplishments at St. Ann's Church are not the separate efforts of an individual congregation, but rather part of the miracle of the church itself, spreading the Mystical Body of Christ throughout the World. Thank God for the blessing of the true Faith!

GOOD

ST.

ANN

PRAY

FOR

US



A view of the Dedication Ceremonies.

Jubilee Dinner

C. W. V. Hall

September 29, 1957

MENU

Punch

Hors D'œuvre

Prime Rib

Mashed potatoes—mushroom gravy

Potatoes au gratin

Tossed salad

Hawaiian relish trays

Rolls—coffee—tea—milk

Pastry trays—french pastry, cream puffs,
eclairs, cheese cake

Strudel

Ice Cream

*May we express our thanks to all those who helped
make this Jubilee Celebration possible.*

