Souvenir
of the
Golden Jubilee
of the
Holy Trinity Congregation
Dedication

It is with much pleasure and esteem that the members of Holy Trinity Parish dedicate this souvenir history to the pioneer members of the parish, both living and dead, for their self-sacrificing spirit in which they founded and built this parish.

Holy Trinity Congregation
La Crosse, Wis., 1937
OUR HOLY FATHER, POPE PIUS XI
Now Gloriously Reigning
"The Pope of Catholic Action"
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REV. ALEXANDER J. McGAVICK, D. D.
Bishop of La Crosse
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REV. WM. R. GRIFFIN, D. D.
Auxiliary Bishop of La Crosse
His Excellency, The Most Reverend  
BISHOP KILLIAN C. FLASCH,  
Former Bishop of La Crosse
His Excellency, The Most Reverend
BISHOP JAMES J. SCHWEBACH
Former Bishop of La Crosse
RT. REV. MSGR. JOSEPH RIESTERER,
Former Pastor
THE VERY REV. C. W. GILLE, DEAN
Our Pastor
THE REV. ALOYSIUS F. BAUMANN,
Assistant Pastor
Exterior of Holy Trinity Church
Preface

A few words of explanation may be in order. This small book is an attempt to give a brief story of Holy Trinity Congregation from its beginning to the present time. The reader will readily understand that to give such a history is quite an undertaking. The writers have tried to be as accurate as possible. The material was gathered from various sources -- much of it was gathered from the older members of the parish as they remembered the events of many years ago. Naturally there are different versions of various events. The writers have tried to be accurate and fairly complete. No doubt some items that should have been included have been omitted. There have been errors committed and names omitted. The writers have tried their best. If names have been omitted or if there are inaccuracies, the writers are sorry that such is the case. With this thought in mind it is hoped that the readers will read with not too critical a mind.

This opportunity is taken to thank most sincerely all those who have helped to make this souvenir history possible.
Fifty Years History
of
Holy Trinity Church

As the writer of these historical notes concerned with the fifty year life span of Holy Trinity parish, meditated upon the problem of how to introduce his subject, he happened to glance out into the tree lined streets now surrounding the parish buildings and there under the beautiful trees frolicked happy children enjoying to the full the shade and beauty those trees provided for them. The picture was not the same fifty years ago. At that time the scene was quite different. Only a few homes interrupted the level area of the prairie extending from the shores of the Mississippi to the stone-faced yet picturesque bluffs east of that river. There was as yet no indication of the large and active parish that now inhabits its acres.
It was fifty years ago, due to the ever increasing Catholic population of La Crosse, that Rt. Rev. Bishop Flasch deemed it necessary to establish two new parishes, namely St. John's on the north side and what is now known as Holy Trinity on the south side of La Crosse.

On May 10, 1887, under the chairmanship of Father Joseph Wiedman, a meeting was held in the Nic Gilles grocery store, corner of 12th and Denton streets, to establish a new parish for the Catholics living in the southern part of La Crosse. The following were present: Jacob Arenz, Joseph Locher, Nicolaus Gilles, John Schneider, Peter Neurater, Adolph Kuhlman, John Gehlen, John Strasser, Nicolaus Hettinger, John Hensgen, John Gerard, Peter Federel, Henry Gilles and Peter Gilles. The last man mentioned is the only member of this committee still among the living. It was unanimously decided at this meeting to buy the six lots between North and South Park streets for parish use and to undertake immediately the construction of church building 24' by 64' with full basement and two stories, the first story serving for school purposes and the second as a church. St. Nicholas was chosen as the patron of the parish and consequently the parish became known as the St. Nicholas parish.

Joseph Leinfelder was asked to draw up the plans for the new building while F. Lang was awarded the contract for digging the basement. Peter Federel and William Klosheim were directed to furnish the stones for the masonry work which was done by John Martin whose wages for the work amounted to $178.00.
The next meeting was called at St. Joseph's rectory on June 22, 1887. The contract for the brick laying and plastering was given to August Heideman at $518.00. The carpenter work was awarded to Carl Bartz for $277.00. The lumber required for the building was ordered from John Paul for $284.00. Mr. Larson was given the contract to furnish the doors, windows, and interior finishing material for $318.00. Dominic and Taylor Mader obtained the contract to furnish the brick at $6.00 per thousand. The six lots had been purchased for $1,482.75. It was also reported at this meeting that the Rt. Rev. Bishop Flasch had enlarged the building fund with a donation of fifty dollars. The building fund was, however, found inadequate to meet the demands on hand and it was found necessary to cover all the church property by a mortgage of $2,500.00, which mortgage was given to William Zander. The work progressed nicely and the building was ready for use by fall.

The parishioners with a just pride in their hearts witnessed the dedication of their new church to St. Nicholas by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Flasch on Sunday, October 30, 1887. The first Holy Mass was sung on Tuesday, November 8. The school had opened the day after the dedication. The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration consented to supply the teachers for the school. Sister Rosina and Sister Leonina did the pioneer teaching at the school, beginning with seventy-two pupils in their charge. How the teachers and pupils struggled through the first years
of the school’s existence is realistically narrated in a short article written by one of the first teachers which article can be found a little further on in this book.

St. Nicholas Parish had now become a reality. A reality indeed

but a reality strong in its weakness. There was indeed a hard struggle ahead for this parish, since its parishioners were poor. They were poor in material things but blessed with richness of spirit and courage and with religion deeply imbedded in their hearts. They found true consolation and happiness where only such happiness can be found, in their Faith and its ministrations.

St. Nicholas parish was first served by the assistant pastor of St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Father F. X. Willms. His pastoral cares in the parish were of rather brief duration, however, for in January of 1888, Father Kaluza was given charge. Even during this short span of time grass was not permitted to grow under the feet of the activities of the parish, since we found recorded in the parish records an account of a parish bazaar which was held for the purpose of raising funds. As to whether or not this bazaar was a success, we will let our readers judge from the results. A total of $851.21 was made on the bazaar proper and an additional $528.56 was collected from benefactors and donors.
One thing about this parish at this early date that has not changed much during the course of time is the climate. There was snow and rain, cold and warm weather which demanded that the buildings be kept warm and dry and at times be dug out of the snow and at other times be subjected to strenuous purgation. The common means to meet with such conditions is to have a man about the grounds, commonly known as the janitor. The first man charged with these problems in this parish was known as “Grandpa” Gilles. On official documents he signed his name as Mr. Henry Gilles.

In January, 1888, Father Louis Kaluza became Father Willms' successor, dividing his time between St. Nicholas and Holy Cross congregations. Father Kaluza resided at the Bishop’s residence and served both parishes from there, offering Holy Mass on all Sundays at the local church. On the last Sunday of the month, he enhanced the occasion by singing a High Mass. During the week he offered Holy Mass here on Wednesdays and Fridays and also provided catechetical instructions for the children. Under his administration the congregation grew rapidly. Though the members were mostly poor, they contributed very generously, considering the limited means they had. However, there were some outstanding donations at this time. The Schwartz brothers gave a full set of stations of the cross, a monstrance and a vestment cabinet for the sacristy. Nic Birnbaum, Sr., did much valuable work without accepting any compensation. The character of those people was further revealed to us when we were reliably informed that Father
Kaluza in very generous terms praised the magnanimity and fervor of his parishioners.

At this time, due to the ever increasing number of parishioners, a request was made to the Right Reverend Bishop for a resident pastor. The request was granted. In July of the year 1888, Father Alfes was appointed as the first resident pastor of this parish. Father Alfes was born at Schoenau, Germany, on the 29th of June, 1849, and in August of 1884 came to America. Four years later he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin, where he had continued his studies upon his arrival in America. It was fortunate that Father Alfes was a newly ordained priest with the ambition and enthusiasm typical of the newly ordained, for he could well use those qualities in his work here since the parish was still poor and, what is more, deeply in debt. When conditions are such, and the future shows little promise of better conditions, it is a difficult task for those concerned to sustain their morale and zeal.

Father Alfes, upon his arrival, lived in a rented house until a house, which the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration had generously donated, was moved to the parish grounds from near St. Joseph's Church and converted into the parish rectory. At this time also, a collection was taken up at St. Joseph's Church, the mother parish, for the benefit of the new parish. Furthermore, John Haensgen, an admirer of St. Nicholas, donated a statue of that Saint to beautify the interior of the church. That statue can still be found in the church today.
The accommodations for divine services obviously were already fast becoming inadequate. The case for the school was the same. It was also realized that the building of a new church could not be put off for long. Such an undertaking, however, seemed almost forbidding in view of the financial difficulties that the parish was still struggling under. With this problem confronting the parish, Father Alfes was transferred to St. Boniface Parish at Waumandee, Wisconsin. Six years later, Father Alfes died an untimely death at Medford, Wisconsin. A memorial window in Holy Trinity church perpetuates the memory of Father Alfes among the people whom he so unselfishly served while among them as pastor.

As successor to Father Alfes the Right Reverend Bishop appointed Father A. J. Joerres. Father Joerres was born in Köln on the Rhine, Germany. Upon his arrival in America, he selected St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin, to continue and complete his studies toward the Holy Priesthood. It was also at this seminary that he received Sacred Orders. After his appointment to this parish, the building of a new church was fast becoming a dire necessity. On the first day of the following year a parish meeting was called for the purpose of deciding whether or not the new church should be built. The Right Reverend Bishop Schwebach, who had a short time previous been appointed to succeed Bishop Flasch as Bishop of La Crosse, presided at this meeting. After he had briefly impressed upon the people the necessity of building a new church in order to provide properly for the spiritual needs of the parishioners, the decision was arrived at to build the new church, and
an amount of $7,000 was voted toward the new structure. Architect Guido Beck of Dubuque, upon the merits of his previous work, was authorized to draw up the plans, and to the building committee were appointed: Joseph Roraff, chairman; Reinhard Schwartz, Frank Roraff, Nic Gilles, Nic Birnbaum, John Lenz and Adolph Kuhlmann. The actual building of the new church was delayed because of the indefiniteness of parish limits. Nevertheless, when the plans for the church arrived they were approved and, despite all difficulties, everything was put into readiness to begin construction. Then another temporary difficulty was encountered. Father Joerres received the notice that he had been transferred to St. Joseph's Parish, Menomonie, Wisconsin.

The members of the parish were determined to build and build they would. Immediately after the Very Reverend Father Paul Geyer, Vicar General at the time, took over the pastoral duties of St. Nicholas Parish, building activities began. By December 4, 1894, the building had been completed and was dedicated on that day to the Most Holy Trinity. The change of patrons had previously been discussed and with the Right Reverend Bishop's consent adopted. His Excellency, Bishop Schwebach, also set definite limits for the parish as follows: All German speaking Catholics living south of Ferry to Tenth Street, Mississippi to Eighth Street, Eighth Street to Johnson and from there the boundary extended west on Johnson to the Mississippi River, were to become members of Holy Trinity Parish. The two years that Father Geyer spent with the parish were hectic and eventful years. Father Geyer's next charge was a parish in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. He died six years later as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
The Rev. H. J. Untraut succeeded the Very Rev. Paul Geyer as pastor on the 20th of August, 1895. At that time a debt of $10,000 lay as a heavy burden upon the parish. Yet the growth and expansion of the parish during Father Untraut’s pastorate was rather dynamic. In the first year of Father Untraut’s presence here the present rectory was built at a cost of $2,800. The old residence was remodeled and used for school purposes until the new school was built in 1904 when it was sold to Mr. L. Engler. The building was divided into two sections and moved to Farnam Street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets where it was converted into two homes. At about this time Mrs. Mary Koller donated a set of stations of the cross in bas-relief to replace the old picture stations that had been donated during the early years of the parish’s existence. Also a very substantial donation was received from Father Reinhard, who because of ill health spent his days at the local hospital. He gave to the parish the sum of $2,400 to be spent in decorating the interior of the church and to acquire three new altars. Liebig and Co. were selected to do the interior decorating, while Hackner & Sons built the altars. Both of these improvements were completed by 1896. After the altars had been installed, the Right Reverend Bishop Schwebach blessed them and offered the first Pontifical High Mass in the church. It seems the young people of the parish were a somewhat critical set at this time for they insisted upon installing an
electric plant for the parish. The writer presumes them to have been of a critical nature because after their church had been beautified, so to say, they insisted on better lights. Was it to be able to examine more closely these improvements? We will give them the benefit of the doubt and say that it was love for their parish and their house of God that prompted the St. Aloysius Young Men's Society and the St. Rose Young Ladies' Society to shoulder the financial burden of this improvement. Still another noteworthy improvement was the installation of an organ in the church, made possible by free will offerings. And to further give glory to the Lord, a new monstrance was fittingly donated by Adelheid Keil.

Father Untraut realizing the necessity of societies in a parish and the spiritual and social good that a parish obtains from properly organized and prudently directed parish organizations, labored unrelentingly to reform where necessary and encourage their existence and growth. One example of this was the drawing up of a constitution for the St. Anne's Ladies' Society. He further encouraged this form of activity by giving his consent to and overseeing the building of Leo Hall in 1898. The Leo Casino Society, organized October 12, 1893, took charge of the financial end of the construction of Leo Hall and by 1911 had freed it entirely of debt.

In 1900, because of the difficulty encountered by the Sisters commuting daily to Holy Trinity from St. Rose Convent and because this also kept them from giving their full time to their work and consequently from doing their best for their pupils, it was found necessary to build Holy Trinity Convent. Here again this parish is indebted to St. Rose Convent and greatly indebted for Mother Ludovica knowing the poverty of the parish built this convent for the Sisters and the parish. By
September of that year the convent was completed. Sister Aloysia was the first superiors of the convent.

By now one hundred and ninety families were already members of the parish, 1904, and the attendance at school numbered one hundred and seventy children, which is more than twice the number of pupils that attended the first school term. These numbers were by no means stationary at this period but were rapidly increasing.

The necessity of building a new school was already putting itself into the forefront when Father Alphonse J. Joerres once more returned to the office of pastor at this parish after sixteen years' absence. When Father Joerres took charge of the parish, Father Untraut was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish of Eau Claire. Father Untraut is now retired and living in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Father Joerres' stay with the parish upon his return was for a short period of two years when he was forced to retire from the pastorate because of failing health. During his brief stay, however, he built the present Holy Trinity School.

The plans for the school were drawn up by the architects, Parkinson and Dockendorf. Those acting as the building committee were: George Dagendesch, M. Wittinger, Joseph Koller, F. Mader, Sr., Bernard Dockendorff, Sr., and Nic Hammes. John H. Arenz was selected as the contractor and the heating system was installed by Thill, Manning & Whalen. The latter company also had the contract for the plumbing work. With the completion of the school the building activity in the parish was drawn to a close and no major building project has been undertaken up to the present time.

Shortly after the school had been completed, Father Joerres resigned and the Very Rev. Father Joseph Riesterer was appointed to Holy Trinity. He served the parish in the office of pastor for twenty-six years before his death. Father Riesterer was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in St. Mary's church, Milwaukee, by Archbishop Katzer, D.D., on January 16, 1898, after completing his classical and theological courses at St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin. Thereupon he served as assistant at St. Joseph's Parish, Milwaukee, for a period of six years, and later held pastorates at Racine, Avoca, and Tilden, until November 10, 1910, when he was called by the Rt. Rev. Bishop James Schwebach to assume charge of Holy Trinity Parish.

At the time of Father Riesterer's arrival, the parish was approaching its silver jubilee year, the celebration of which took place in September, 1912. The members of the congregation at the time of the celebration at the Silver Jubilee could look back over an intense building program. At that time the parishioners could look back to the building of the original church and school, the new church, the new school, the Leo Hall, the new parsonage, and the convent. This represented quite a building program for a period of twenty-five years.

The Jubilee celebration lasted a full week. There were religious ceremonies. Then there was the celebration of the Jubilee ceremony. And accompanying all this was a large bazaar. Those who participated in the Jubilee can recall the success of the Silver Jubilee.
AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

Since the time of the Silver Jubilee there has been no building on a major scale. The only building activity has been that in the nature of repairs and improvements or alterations. The Leo Hall has been completely redecorated. The church has likewise been redecorated. The school has been partially remodelled from time to time in order to accommodate the ever increasing number of pupils. The chapel was removed from the school basement and that space has been converted into class rooms. A chapel has been built in the basement of the church to replace the old one under the school.

Most of the societies that exist in the parish had been founded prior to the Silver Jubilee. All of them have continued to exist. There have been some new societies formed, however, since that time. The Holy Name Society came into existence in the early nineteen twenties. The C. Y. O. Sodality was organized in 1936. Perhaps the best known of the organizations formed since the Silver Jubilee is the Holy Trinity Credit Union. All the societies have continued to grow and prosper.

One of the outstanding achievements since the celebration of the Silver Jubilee is the founding of Holy Trinity High School. The Trinity High School was founded in 1915. The High School continued to grow until it was finally replaced by Acquinas High School in 1928. At that time the Trinity High School closed and its pupils and equipment were transferred to the new Acquinas High School.

Acquinas High School was established during this second period, in 1928. Although Acquinas High School is not a Holy Trinity project, yet it is so closely connected with Holy Trinity School that mention of it must be made. It was Holy Trinity High School which gave birth to the idea of a Catholic High School in the City of La Crosse. The
members of Holy Trinity Congregation contributed their share by promptly paying their proportionate part of the cost of construction.

Almost the entire period of time from the celebration of the Silver Jubilee to the present time was under the pastorate of but one pastor, Father Joseph Riesterer, elevated to the Monsignorship in 1935. It is only fitting that more space be given to Monsignor Riesterer than this article will permit. The story of Monsignor Riesterer is told elsewhere in this book.

It was during the pastorate of Monsignor Riesterer that Holy Trinity Parish obtained its first assistant pastor. Father Haugh came to assist Father Riesterer during the year 1922. He stayed for about two years. Between the assistantship of Father Haugh and that of Father Plecity, there were a few assistants who were here for only a very short time.

The Rev. V. J. Plecity

Father Victor J. Plecity was appointed assistant pastor in 1925. Father Plecity was born at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, May 27, 1897. He attended Sacred Heart parochial school and then entered St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, where he undertook and completed his classical and theological studies. On June 1, 1924, he was ordained to the Priesthood. He served as assistant pastor at St. John's parish at Marshfield, Wisconsin, for one year, after which he came to Holy Trinity Congregation to serve as assistant. Father Plecity has been chancellor of the La Crosse diocese for several years. After the death of Monsignor Riesterer, Father Plecity served as acting pastor until the appointment of Father C. W. Gille as Pastor. At the present time, besides his duties as chancellor, Father Plecity is organizing a new parish in the eastern part of the south side of the city. With all this work on hand his duties became so heavy that he was unable to serve any longer as assistant at
Holy Trinity. The parishioners much regret his departure and wish him the best of success and God’s blessing in all his future undertakings.

The Very Reverend C. W. Gille was appointed as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish May 19, 1936. Father Gille was born at Shullsburg, Wisconsin, November 4, 1890. He entered Marquette Academy, Marquette University, at Milwaukee for his classical course. His theological studies were undertaken and completed at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. On June 1, 1919, he was ordained to the Priesthood at St. Paul Seminary by His Excellency, the Rt. Rev. Archbishop Dowling. In August of the same year he was appointed as pastor to Vesper, Wisconsin. Following this first appointment as pastor he held pastorates at Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and at Bloomington, Wisconsin. In addition to being pastor of Holy Trinity Congregation he is also dean of the La Crosse deanery.

The assistant pastor to follow Father Plecity is Father Aloysius F. Bauman. He attended St. Joseph’s Parochial and Junior High School at Marathon, Wisconsin; Senior High School education was received at St. Norbert College, West De Pere, Wisconsin. He pursued his classical and theological studies at St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota. He was ordained to the Priesthood at St. Joseph’s Cathedral, La Crosse, on May 22, 1937, and celebrated his First Solemn Holy Mass at Marathon, Wisconsin, May 23, 1937. He was appointed as assistant pastor to Holy Trinity Parish June 9, 1937.

Thus ends the story of Holy Trinity Parish from its beginning to the present time. The beginning was humble. Its first buildings were small. Now the parish has built for itself a group of very substantial buildings. The parish has grown from some two hundred families at the time of its Silver Jubilee to well over five hundred and fifty families at the present time. In the space of fifty years the enrollment at Holy Trinity School has increased from seventy-two pupils to three hundred and sixty-three. May Holy Trinity Parish and its members be blessed by God to prosper in the future as it has in the past.
The Right Rev. Monsignor Joseph J. Riesterer
Pastor from 1910 to 1936

Late in the afternoon of Sunday, January 19, 1936, sad news was spread among the members of Holy Trinity Parish. That news was the sudden death of our beloved pastor, Monsignor Joseph Riesterer. The morning Masses had been said as usual by him. And that afternoon the Lord saw fit to call him from our midst. Thus ended the work of Monsignor Riesterer among his fellow men and his parishioners. His death was mourned deeply by the parishioners and by everybody who knew him.

Monsignor Riesterer was born in Port Washington, Wisconsin, in 1875. He studied at St. Francis Seminary at St. Francis, Wisconsin, and was ordained to the Priesthood January 16, 1898. He served as assistant at the St. Joseph's Church, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for a period of six years and later held pastorates at Racine, Avoca, and Tilden. On November 10, 1910, he was placed in charge of Holy Trinity Congregation at La Crosse. This position he held until his death.

During the pastorate of Monsignor Riesterer, Holy Trinity Congregation prospered and grew. Its societies increased in membership. Its school increased in enrollment. It witnessed the formation of the Holy Trinity Credit Union. Monsignor Riesterer always showed a sincere interest in the various societies. Although hard pressed for time he attended many of the meetings. It was during the pastorate of Monsignor Riesterer that the Holy Trinity High School was established. In this field of education in the City of La Crosse, Monsignor Riesterer was a pioneer. Until the building of Aquinas Catholic High School, Holy Trinity High School was the only Catholic High School in the City. In connection with this interest in education, Monsignor Riesterer caused the formation of the parish branch of the Parent-Teachers Association. Monsignor Riesterer was a student of the social and economic problems of the day. He saw the financial difficulties of some of the members of his parish. After much study and investigation he concluded that a Credit Union would help solve the problem. As a result he undertook the formation of Holy Trinity Credit Union. The congregation at large can never realize the amount of work that was devoted to the Credit Union by Monsignor Riesterer. Only those who knew him well know what a study he had made of the subject.

In recognition of the devotion and dutiful service rendered by Reverend Riesterer the ecclesiastical authorities in April, 1935, elevated him to the dignity of a Monsignor.

Many people knew Monsignor Riesterer only for his more public works. To many people he appeared rather stern and unbending in manner. They did not realize that that outward manner somewhat masked the truly Christian attributes possessed by him. Under that outer cloak was a man of charity and kindness. Very few knew of the acts of charity and kindness performed by Monsignor Riesterer and which he modestly kept a secret. There are few, if any, who know the number of times that he paid rent for a family about to be evicted; that he furnished coal and food for some other needy family; that he furnished clothing for someone else. All these charitable acts must go unrewarded in so far as earthly praise is concerned. He sought no praise. He practiced Christianity and charity instead. He possessed those truly Christian qualities of trying to serve and help his fellow man.
THE SONS OF THE PARISH AMONG THE CLERGY

Father John Ott

Father Ott was born the 30th of March, 1883, in Bavern. His father and mother came to America when Father Ott was still a boy. At the age of thirteen, after he had finished his grade school education at the parish school, he entered Josephinum College, Columbus, Ohio, where he acquired his classical and theological education. In 1909, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hartley ordained him to the Holy Priesthood and on June 20th of the same year, he read his First Solemn Holy Mass here. He was the first son of Holy Trinity parish to be numbered among the clergy of the Church. Father Ott joined the diocese of Chicago. At present he is pastor of St. Isidore parish in Cloverdale, Illinois.

Father Nicholas E. Kreibich

Father Kreibich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kreibich, former members of this parish, is another son of the parish who received and followed his vocation to the Priesthood. He was born in La Crosse August 28th, 1898, and received his elementary education at Holy Trinity School. He completed his studies for the Priesthood at St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin. Father Kreibich was ordained February 2, 1929, and said his First Solemn Holy Mass here on February 10th. Father Kreibich is now stationed at Plum City, Wisconsin.
Father Paul Dockendorff

Father Dockendorff, born March 3, 1911, entered Holy Trinity parochial school in 1916 where he completed his elementary studies and two years of high school in 1925. The following September he began his studies for the Priesthood, entering St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1931 he entered St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, where he pursued his theological studies, obtaining from this school the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1932 and the Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree in 1934. He was ordained at the St. Mary's Church at Marathon City, Wisconsin, on June 16, 1935. Father Paul Dockendorff offered his First Solemn Holy Mass at Holy Trinity, June 23, 1935. He was then appointed as assistant to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Arcadia, Wisconsin, where he still resides at the present time.

Father Myron Schuh

The Rev. Myron Schuh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Schuh, members of this parish, was born July 29, 1909, at Rollingstone, Minnesota. After completing the 8th grade at Holy Trinity School, he began his preparatory studies for the Priesthood at St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, Wisconsin, where he graduated in June, 1921. Since then the Rev. Schuh has made his seminary studies at St. John's Seminary, Collegeville, Minnesota, and St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood September 29, 1937, and said his First Solemn Holy Mass on the following day.
RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS IN THE PARISH

Many of the sons and daughters of the parish during the fifty years of its existence have heeded the call to religious life, foregoing the pleasures and attractions of the world for the more perfect life of the religious. They left their families to be more closely united with their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Eight young men from the parish have joined the Brothers of Mary at Kirkwood, Missouri. They are: Brothers Ulrich Schuh, John Jensen, Harold Beck, Arnold Wurzel, Robert Wagner, Leo Wagner, Lambert Mader and Thomas Schelbe.

Fifteen young ladies have taken the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, to become members of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, whose Mother House is St. Rose Convent of this city. They are: Sister M. Borgia Schwartz, Sister M. Rose Kreibich, Sister M. Martina Albitz, Sister M. Candida Dummer, Sister M. Ludgardis Albrecht, Sister M. Rhoda Kreibich, Sister M. Teresina Horschak, Sister M. Magdella Poellinger, Sister M. Sibylla Kreibich, Sister M. Bertina Dummer, Sister M. Aurea Hegenbarth, Sister M. Aimée Sendelbach, Sister M. Amata Lukas, Sister M. Cecily Rudolph and Sister M. Rita Jeanne Abicht. Two other young ladies chose to become members of other Sisterhoods. Miss Emma Schelbe is now Sister Lorenza at the Notre Dame Convent, Milwaukee, and Miss Kurtenacker became Sister Marie Lillian of the Dominican Sisterhood at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

The history of Holy Trinity School and of Holy Trinity High School is a story of initiative, determination, and achievement. A strong pioneering spirit and a courage to lead have always been evident. From the very beginning, in spite of hardships and poverty, when the territory surrounding the present church and school was still largely prairie and the people aligning themselves with the new parish were very poor, the spirit to accomplish was present. That spirit has carried through and still continues today when Holy Trinity Parish has a school of which it can justly be proud.

It was way back in the spring of 1887 that the Catholics of the locality surrounding the present Holy Trinity Church were assembled by Father Wiedman in Nic Gilles’ store on Twelfth and Denton streets to discuss the advisability of purchasing six lots between North Park Avenue and South Park Avenue for the purpose of building a church and school. The story of the church and school must go hand in hand for a while, because both the church and the school occupied the same building for quite some time. As a result of that opening meeting the first step was taken—the land was purchased. The purchase price of the land was a tremendous burden on that small group of pioneers. But by means of strenuous effort the debt was soon cleared.

The erection of the new church and school was begun at once; and the building was ready for occupancy by the end of September, 1887. The building was dedicated on the last Sunday of October of that year.

Both the church and the school were under the same roof. The
church occupied the second floor and the school occupied the first floor. Sister M. Rosina and Sister M. Leonina were the first teachers. Mr. Gilles was the first sexton and janitor. At the opening of the school the classrooms were already crowded, the seating capacity being inadequate for the seventy-four pupils in attendance. The enrollment grew steadily. Most of the pupils came from St. Joseph’s School where most of them had attended since their entrance into school life. Thus opened the new school with pupils in each grade from the first to the eighth.

It was our good fortune to be able to persuade the first teachers of our school, who are still living, to give us in a few words some of their experiences of their pioneer work.

HARDSHIPS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

By Sister M. Rosina and Sister M. Leonina

It is often said that trials and hardships at the outset of an undertaking are sure indications of future prosperity. They were not wanting in the early of the St. Nicholas parish, nearly all of whose men belonged to the laboring class.

The second story of the school building served as a church, but it was devoid of all church furniture excepting a small altar. There were no pews. The people and children stood at the divine service or knelt on the bare floor. There were no altar-railing, vestry, credence table, stations of the cross, or statuary of any kind at the beginning. The necessary vestments, chalice, missal, and so forth, were borrowed from St. Joseph’s parish until they were gradually replaced by donations. Someone conceived the happy idea that an opening beneath the altar table might serve as a vestry for the limited number of altar supplies, and it answered that purpose for more than a year. The only picture in the church was that of St. Nicholas, which measured about twelve by sixteen inches. It hung above the little altar.

In the absence of a choir, there was no High Mass on Sundays; but a few of the musical parishioners banded together and sang the hymns for the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which was given after Mass.

Soon a children’s choir was organized, but there were no hymn books of any kind and church music was expensive. Manila wrapping paper was purchased, however, and made into large books. These were placed on home-made music stands so that four or five children could use one book. The necessary notes were written in five or six such books, and the older pupils who happened to be good penmen helped to write the stanzas of the various hymns. The Requiem was written on the blackboard in one of the schoolrooms and memorized by the children. It was hard work, but they were willing and docile. The children were ably assisted in this work by Effie Kuhlman and Emma Schelble.

As the Christmas of 1887 drew near, the acquisition of a Crib was of chief concern. There was a life-size image of the Christ Child at St. Rose Convent—it is in existence today—and this was borrowed. How the children under the direction of their teachers worked to make a representation of the cave of Bethlehem! Candelsticks and candles were
brought from the homes, and a home-made manger was filled with a little heap of straw. When it was all finished it failed not to bring tears to the cheeks of the devout faithful. Such an array of candles, large and tiny, placed all around the image of the Holy Child!

Late at night on Christmas eve it dawned on some of the thoughtful parishioners that the candles might produce enough heat to cause a fire, so a large tub of water with a big dipper was placed nearby to forestall the danger.

The mite-box was not forgotten, and to see fathers and mothers and children drop their hoarded pennies into the box was truly edifying. The sum grew to some six or seven dollars.

The winter of 1887 was severe, but the schoolrooms and church were comfortably heated by means of the little furnace donated by St. Rose Convent. This furnace had been in use for only a few years in the first chapel of the Perpetual Adoration, and was now replaced by a larger one needed in the new chapel. Good old Grandpa Gilles kept the furnace aglow for some time, but some reason or other he was no longer able to give his excellent service, and since there was no one to take his place, it was left to the older boys of the school to saw the cord wood and build the fire. As a consequence, the schoolrooms were often filled with dense smoke, and were so cold that the pupils had to wear their wraps and mittens in the classrooms.

It is hard to say who felt the privations more keenly, the little people or their teachers. There were for a long time no teachers' desks, no chairs for them to use, and no call bell. At the close of recess two books were clapped together as a signal to order. A little closet under the stairway served as a dining room for the teachers at noon, and they stood at the improvised table made of a nail keg and a board. But the closet was in the vestibule which was not heated. After some time a little oil stove was donated by Mr. Nick Gilles, but it required some practice to screw the wick high enough to produce heat without smoke. It frequently happened that all the contents of the little heater, including the children's coffee pails, were covered with black soot, which created more than a little merriment.

From the very beginning the schoolrooms were filled to their capacity, and the children, reflecting the grateful and submissive spirit of their elders, were not hard to manage.

By and by the necessaries in the church and school were supplied. Pews and even a small side altar were installed. A small organ loft was built over the stairway and a cabinet organ was purchased.

Another hardship in the early days was the absence of sidewalks in this section of the town. There was nothing of the kind between St. Rose Convent and the St. Nicholas School, and the snow was often very deep. On days when the road was actually impassable a kind old man, Mr. Valentine Helmar, drove up with his old wagonbox on a bobsled, and the teachers with some of the pupils were hauled to their respective homes.

Although circumstances were trying at times, the good will of the people and their appreciation of all that was done for the school and the
church were ample reward. St. Rose Convent has on record $67 as salary for two teachers for the year 1887-1888. This included sacristy work, laundry for the church, altar breads, and the organist's salary. Mother M. Ludovica, however, would not take the money from the poor, and promptly returned it in the form of a much-needed combination chart, and other necessary school supplies, including a Webster's unabridged dictionary, and linens and artificial flowers for the bare altar.

For the Feast of the Assumption, 1888, two beautiful bouquets of artificial dahlias had been made and carefully stored in an old cupboard in the organloft. But fancy the chagrin of the sacristans when, on the eve of the great feast, the beautiful flowers were found to be gnawed to bits by hungry mice that shared the poverty of the parish.

Poverty-stricken as the parish was, sanctuary oil was out of the question, and kerosene was substituted. William Kuhlman, who lived nearest the church, was given charge of the little sanctuary lamp on the days when the Sisters were not in the building.

For many years classes were conducted in this old combination church and school building. After the erection of the present church the old church quarters were converted into additional school space. Some time later, when the new parsonage was built, the old parsonage was also used for additional class space, making six rooms in all.

Many efforts were made in the direction of the construction of a new school with adequate accommodations for the ever increasing num-

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

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Many efforts were made in the direction of the construction of a new school with adequate accommodations for the ever increasing num-

36
number of pupils. The poverty of the members of the new parish was one of the retarding elements. There was also a rather constant change in the priests of the new congregation; so that about the time that a general movement had begun, it would be interrupted by the transfer of the priest to some other parish. Finally, under Father Joerres, the movement for a new school was so strong that it was carried to completion. The new school was built in 1909. There were six class rooms, a chapel, a library, and a spacious basement. The building was thought by many of the parishioners to be too large; however, a few years proved that the building was, if anything, too small. The attendance continued to grow at such a speed that it was only the transfer of a large number of students to Aquinas High School in 1928 that saved the congregation from the immediate necessity of an addition to the school building.

Almost immediately after the completion of the school, Father Joerres was transferred to another field and Father Riesterer came to assume the leadership of Holy Trinity Congregation. During his lifetime, Father Riesterer often stated that while still a young priest his ambition was to be transferred to a parish that had a school connected with it. That ambition was satisfied by his transfer to Holy Trinity Parish. He at once took a personal interest in the school and made every effort to make it the most outstanding one of the city. Father Riesterer was ably assisted by Sister M. Concordia who took charge of the school in 1911. Four years later a two year academic or Junior High School course was introduced. The first year the graduating class numbered five students. The enrollment grew steadily, so that in 1928 when Holy Trinity High School held its last commencement exercises the graduating class numbered thirty-four. For those twelve years Holy Trinity High School was the only Catholic Parochial High School in the city. At the
The determination and leadership of Father Riesterer and of the members of Holy Trinity Congregation was shown by the establishment and maintenance of this High School. Holy Trinity Congregation can look with pride to this High School in that it was the forerunner of Aquinas Catholic High School. We have the following words of praise from our Bishop, Right Reverend Alexander J. McGavick, when speaking of the High School in a letter addressed to the Faculty and Students of Holy Trinity High School: "I wish principally to express my deep appreciation not only for the excellent educational work accomplished in Holy Trinity, but also for the good example Holy Trinity has given in the early provision for Junior High School facilities for its children. So far as the City of La Crosse is concerned, Holy Trinity has been a pioneer in that respect. It has led all other parishes and has helped to make easier the establishment of a Catholic Central High School in this city. Holy Trinity High School will now be discontinued but the spirit which it created will live and be perpetuated in Aquinas High School."

In June of 1928, Holy Trinity High School held its last commencement exercises. In September of 1928, Aquinas Catholic High School opened. Holy Trinity High School closed. It closed, not with the marks of failure; but with the glorious marks of achievement. It closed, because it had given birth to the spirit of a Catholic High School. It closed, because its work had merged into something greater—the formation of a Catholic Central High School. It closed, because it had performed its great function—the showing that a Catholic High School could be conducted.
St. Rose’s Convent
St. Rose's Convent Chapel, "Maria Angelorium"
ST. ANNE’S ALTAR SOCIETY

St. Anne’s Ladies’ Society was organized on November 1st, 1887, by Father Willms as an Altar Society. The charter members were: Mrs. Mary Gerard, Mrs. Helen Gilles, Mrs. Margaret Eckart, Mrs. Barbara Gehlen, Mrs. Mary Neuranter, Mrs. Mary Imhoff, Mrs. Mary Hanifi, and Mrs. Catherine Oberst. The purpose of the Society is to assist in the upkeep and decoration of the church altars. All ladies of the parish are eligible to membership.

In the beginning the membership was small and the activity of the Society was limited. The second pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Father Peter Alles, succeeded in enlarging the membership considerably. In 1893, under the direction of Rev. H. J. Untraut, the constitution of the Society was drawn up and adopted. This constitution was revised in 1900.

The officers of the Society are as follows: Spiritual Director, President, Vice-president, Secretary-Treasurer, and a committee composed of ten ladies. The Pastor is ex-officio Spiritual Director and he must be consulted in all matters pertaining to the Society.

Meetings of the Society were formerly conducted on the first Sunday of each month. This has been changed to the first Wednesday of each month. Dues of 10c per month and 10c upon the death of each member were fixed when the Society was organized.

The chief privileges of the Society are: 1. All indulgences granted to the Sodality of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; 2. Monthly Holy Masses and a High Mass on the Feast of St. Anne; 3. A rosary from each member in case of death; 4. Two Requiem Masses and fourteen Masses after death.

The feast of the patron, St. Anne, is celebrated each year on July 26th. The members of the Society receive Holy Communion in a body on the first Sunday of each month. The present membership is approximately 270.
Officers of St. Anne's Altar Society

Back row: Reading left to right, Mrs. Ed Stroeh, Mrs. Arthur Wanner, Mrs. John Follinger, Mrs. Julius Servais, Mrs. Henry Athle.
Front row: Mrs. Al. Ender, Mrs. Frank Wanner, Mrs. Vincent Roth, Mrs. Donald Hurtgen, Mrs. Herbert Lucas, Mrs. Charles Smutney.
HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY

Holy Trinity Congregation has an outstanding organization in its Holy Trinity Society which has been in existence since November 11, 1889, about forty-eight years. Founded primarily to foster a feeling of mutual friendship and assistance in sickness and bereavement, the society through its four benefit paying classes (there is an associate class which pays no benefits) has been of inestimable assistance to its members. In the period from November, 1909, to July 1, 1937, $17,563.50 has been paid out in death and disability benefits.

The various classes pay different amounts of benefits in case of disability. For those who do not desire a death benefit class, there are classes without death benefits or assessments. The individual has the privilege of joining any class he desires to join. The society is on a sound financial basis. It has, at the present time, assets amounting to about $4,700. Although the society has continually paid a substantial death benefit, the death assessments per member per year for the past twenty years have averaged only about $1.60.

Among the first officers of the society, elected in 1889, were: John Hammes, president; Nic Birnbaum, vice-president; Carl Schierl, secretary; and Joseph Dangel, financial-secretary. Since that time the society has had a steady growth until at present when the membership is two hundred and four members. Of the original charter members, there are still two living: J. Joseph Hammes and J. Joseph Koller. The present officers are: Leonard F. Roraff, president; Sylvester Fuchssteiner, vice-president; Joseph Dockendorff, financial secretary; Charles Beranek, recording secretary; E. J. Klinkner, treasurer; W. Potaracke, marshall; Edwin Roraff, messenger; banner bearers: John Kahle and A. G. Stellflug; finance committee: Ralph Rudolph, Joseph Roraff, and Ed. Schams.
Back row: Reading left to right, A. G. Stelppflug, Edward Schams, William Potaracke, Joseph Dockendorff.


The Catholic Knights of Wisconsin were organized in 1885 to unite fraternally for spiritual, social, benevolent, and intellectual improvement of all practical Catholic men of sound health between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five.

Like other fraternal societies, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin established and maintained a benefit fund from which in case of death of any member a sum as specified in his benefit certificate was paid to the beneficiary. In 1922 the by-laws were amended to permit the admission of women into the society. It continued to flourish and make progress as is evidenced by the fact that nearly twelve million dollars have been paid to beneficiaries since its organization was undertaken.

To meet the demands for modern insurance, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin were reorganized in 1929 to enable them to write legal reserve life insurance. The forms of policies now available include Ordinary Life, Twenty Payment Life, Endowment at Age 65, Endowments for various terms of years, such as ten, fifteen, or twenty, and Mortgage Protection Insurance. Men and women from ages sixteen to sixty may now be admitted.

In 1930 a Juvenile department was organized to admit members from birth to age sixteen. Junior Term Endowment policies are available to juvenile members.
The Catholic Knights of Wisconsin are represented in the Holy Trinity Congregation by the St. George Branch No. 137 which was organized March 27, 1893. The charter members include Peter Hettinger, Bernard Birnbaum, John Reuter, John Kohler, Henry Mentes, John Martin, Wenzel Hoelzel, Andrew Engelhard, Julius Puff, Michael Lichteinger, Joseph Lorenz, Frank Pasig, Jacob Fuchs, and Joseph Stoll.

The first officers were Peter Hettinger, president; John Kohler, vice-president; Jacob Fuchs, secretary; John Reuter, second secretary; Henry Mentes, treasurer; Bernard Birnbaum, marshal; Joseph Stoll, banner-bearer; and Joseph Lorenz, sentinel. The officers at the present time are: Alphonse Fuchssteiner, president; Edward Gilles, vice-president; Catherine Oostreicher, secretary; John Wurzel, treasurer; Marie Poellinger, sentinel. John Wurzel has served ably as treasurer for the past twenty-five years.

Regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. The meetings are well attended; and those who attend are amply rewarded in a spiritual and social manner, not to forget the insurance benefit which automatically accompanies membership.

The St. George Branch No. 137 has grown rapidly in strength in the past years of its existence; and from all indications it will continue to be an active and flourishing organization to which its members and Holy Trinity Congregation can look with pride.
The Young Ladies' Sodality of Holy Trinity Parish is an organization of the young and unmarried ladies of the congregation. The original society for the young ladies obtained its name from the first canonized American Virgin Saint, Saint Rose of Lima. This society was organized by the Reverend Peter Alfes on August 12, 1888, and years later, in 1901, the official constitution was drawn up by the Reverend H. J. Untraut. The organization is affiliated with the Mother of Perpetual Help, and therefore has all the privileges connected with that organization.

In 1917 the former pastor, Monsignor Joseph Riesterer, changed the name of the society to "Sodality of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary," which is the name of the present group. He adopted the Constitution published by the "Queens Work", a St. Louis publication.

The privileges of the members of the Sodality are stated in the following quotation from its constitution: "A certified member of the Sodality is entitled to all indulgences, favors, graces and privileges which all Sodalists enjoy, and when departing from this life should receive from our Sodality all the suffrages which are of custom offered for Sodalists departed."

Those holding office for the year 1936-1937 are: Marie Rudolph, Prefect; Louise Gautsch, Vice-Prefect; Viola Young, Secretary; and Marie Schumacher, Treasurer.
HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The Holy Trinity Congregation branch of the Holy Name Society was formed during the early nineteen twenties. At that time the need for some form of organization for the young men and boys of the parish was seen. The Holy Name Society was brought into being under the leadership of Monsignor Riesterer. The purpose of the society is to provide a means for the co-ordinating of the activities of the young men and boys of the congregation with those of the older men of the congregation. The older men were to act as leaders for the younger group and sponsor group activities among them. Many activities were thus carried out among the younger group. The parish branch of the Holy Name Society has also shown splendid cooperation with activities undertaken by this society as a diocesan organ. As the name of this society implies, its primary purpose is to promote the proper respect and reverence of the name of the Lord and to eliminate the improper use of it.

The society has had an active existence since its organization. It has not forgotten that its most important aim is to give honor to the name of the Lord and thereby encourage and intensify the spiritual life of its members. It sponsors Holy Communion to be received in a body four times a year, followed by breakfast in the parish dining hall. The older members, also, generally sponsor a picnic for the younger members each summer.
Back row: Reading left to right, Robert Ludwig, Bernard Sauer, The Very Rev. C. W. Gille.
Front row: Ed. Abicht, S. Fuchsteiner, John Weigel, Joseph Derouin.
As the years of depression continued, Monsignor Riesterer became more and more conscious of the need to encourage thrift among the members of his parish. He knew that Holy Mother Church must and does have the welfare of both body and soul of her members at heart. Monsignor, always very much concerned about the joys and troubles of his parishioners, soon found what he realized would be a great impetus towards thrift and a strong movement against the unscrupulously usurious small loan financier. His find was the Credit Union movement with its principles of thrift and trust, which movement had gradually made its way into the minds of the people of this country after its origin in Germany under the leadership of Reifeissen.

Monsignor Riesterer considered conditions right to start a Credit Union unit in this parish; in fact, that the social condition of the parish warranted and demanded some action along this line. So after some propaganda had been broadcast, incorporators to form a unit were found, and a unit organized. The unit, under the capable and generous leadership of Monsignor Riesterer, developed into one of the most active and successful units in the country.

By April 24, 1931, definite action was taken to establish the Holy Trinity Credit Union unit. A special meeting of the incorporators was called for the purpose of electing officers and establishing the unit formally according to the state laws regulating its activities. To the board of directors were elected Father Riesterer, Chas. Beranek, A. N. Hammes, Jos. Dockendorff, and Joseph Rudolph. Joseph Roraff, Andrew Engelhard and L. J. Kaiser composed the credit committee. The following officers were elected for the year 1931: A. N. Hammes, president; Joseph Rudolph, vice-president; Joseph Dockendorff, treasurer; and Chas. Beranek, secretary. Father Riesterer was also appointed as a committee of one to take charge of all legal proceedings.

The membership and activity has increased and multiplied continually since that first meeting. The Holy Trinity Credit Union unit has been pointed to by many an enthusiastic organizer to show what can be done and what an aid the Credit Union can be to a community. An examination of the following financial report will verify the vitality and growth of the local unit.

**CREDIT UNION REPORT**

June 30, 1931 (in operation for 2 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash received</td>
<td>$238.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash payments</td>
<td>42.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shares</td>
<td>232.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry Fee</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$281.25</strong></td>
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# Statement of Condition June 30, 1937

## Resources

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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>10,743.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,593.44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shares</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guaranty Fund</td>
<td>419.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undivided Profit</td>
<td>1,045.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,593.44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership (76 Borrowers) ........................................ 216
Average Holding per member ........................................ 46.90
Total Cash Received .................................................. 54,455.70
Total Loaned .......................................................... 48,141.25
Cash Received and Paid Out ......................................... Over 108,000
Loans Made to Date ................................................... 345
Average Loan .......................................................... 141.36
Loans Charged Off .................................................... None
Total Dividends Paid Since Organization ......................... 1,185.38

The charter members, to whom must be attributed the beginning of this very beneficial addition to the social activities of the parish, are: The Very Rev. Jos. Riesterer, Jos. V. Rudolph, Jos. W. Rockendorff, Carl F. Balduzzi, Charles Beranek, Arthur J. Wanner, Jos. S. Hammes, Joseph J. Roraff, A. N. Hammes and F. J. Dockendorff.
Officers of Holy Trinity Credit Union

Back row: Reading left to right, Edward Schellble, Joseph Dockendorff, Edwin Schams.
The youngest of the numerous societies of Holy Trinity Parish is the C. Y. O. Sodality. Under the leadership of the Very Reverend C. W. Gille, this organization was formed to assist locally in carrying out the principles and ideals of the Catholic Youth Movement. These principles and ideals are clearly expressed by one learned writer on the subject in the following formula based on the letters designating the movement:

"C—stands for—
Catholicity—A way to life. Live it. You will be a better citizen and reach God, your true end.

Chivalry—Respect your fellowman’s rights and liberties. Defend the weak and respect womanhood.

Country—Defend it from all unjust attacks from without and from the enemy from within.

Y—stands for—
Youth—Build well in youth your bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. Build a sound mind in a sound body, especially a sound mind. Learn in your youth the words of Wisdom, treasure them and your Catholic Faith.

O—stands for—
Organization which also means order. In union there is strength. Order properly your lives in keeping with the teachings of your Faith. God has made order the wonder of the universe—learn well the natural law, which comes from Him, and keep it."
In Holy Trinity Parish this organization is indeed a new venture. It provides a means whereby the young men and young women of the Parish can develop spiritually and socially; and, under proper leadership, can profit by their associations with each other.

At the present time this society has not yet had time to develop into all the possible fields in which it is hoped it will expand. Spiritually, it has been active by having monthly Communion Masses and stressing a thorough Catholic life among its members. Socially, it has been active by having occasional social events for its members and by having breakfasts after the Monthly Communion Masses. Athletically, it has been active by sponsoring kittenball and basketball teams, which have so far finished near the top. Dramatically, the society has been active in putting on public performances.

The officers are as follows: Ernest Tremmel, president; John Oswellier, vice-president; Viola Young, secretary; and Helen Miller, treasurer.

PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Parent-Teachers Association of this parish is of rather recent origin. On the twelfth of October, 1934, the Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph Riesterer called a meeting of the parents and teachers concerned with the education of the children of the parish. At this meeting this association was definitely established in the parish and has been active ever since.

It has contributed considerably to the proper rearing and educating of the children by encouraging the proper relationship between parents and teachers, the venerable Sisters. A point of great importance is brought to the fore, through the activities of this association, that the school and the home are not two independent institutions but that there must be an harmonious cooperation between the two if the best spiritual and intellectual progress is to be obtained. Teachers become acquainted with the parents and learn the home environment of their pupils. Parents obtain a knowledge of the educational methods employed in the school and the work done by its teachers and pupils.

The future of this organization is very promising, judging from the well attended meetings, which are enhanced by bits of entertainment furnished by the pupils of the school under the capable direction of the Sisters. The exhibition of the work of the children is also very interesting and enlightening.

The present officers are: Mr. H. J. Marcotte, president; Mrs. Andrew Hoffmann, vice-president; Mrs. Albert Shedesky, secretary; and Mr. Bernard Muehr, treasurer.

HOLY TRINITY BOWLING ASSOCIATION

In 1929, under the supervision of Father Riesterer, the old nine-pin alleys in the basement of Leo Hall were removed and two new ten-pin alleys were installed. The appearance of these new alleys called for greater organized activity in Leo Hall, in the form of a bowling club. On October 12, 1929, members of the parish were called together for
the purpose of organizing this club under the name of the Holy Trinity Bowling Association. Forty-five men and eleven women were present. At the meeting, Mr. J. Dockendorff was appointed temporary chairman, Mr. Joseph J. Roraff was then elected president for the first bowling year; Mr. A. Ehrams was elected secretary, and Mr. J. Rudolph, treasurer.

Twelve men teams and four ladies' teams were then organized for the current year. Each team consisted of five regular members and one substitute. A small fee per game was charged to meet the financial difficulties incurred by way of the installation of the alleys; and, in three years, the difficulties were overcome. The association has always prided itself in the fact that the American Bowling Congress has always found the alleys in such good condition that it never hesitated to place its sanction upon them.

During the later years the activity has taken on even a more fraternal aspect. Cards and bowling were enjoyed and the added enjoyment of refreshments was provided.

The officers for the 1936-37 season are: Mr. A. C. Hammes, president; Mrs. R. Poehling, vice-president; Mr. George Yost, secretary; and Mr. R. Shelbe, treasurer. The alleys have been resurfaced and new pin setters installed during the summer, thus putting the alleys in first class condition for the coming season which promises to be one of the most successful of the association's history.
Back row: Reading left to right, Euthalia Hafner, Ella Meyers, Mary Balduzzi, Marion Stachowitz, Catherine Gantenbein, Dolores Gautsch.

Middle row: Cath. Hagenbarth, Marion Kreibach, Margaret Balduzzi, Marie Hafner, Dorothy Eckert.

Consultors and Officers of the Congregation

Back row: Reading left to right, Andrew Hoffman, William Potaracke, Robert Zahn.
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