

Decatur, Indiana, Saturday, October 17, 1925.

TO DEDICATE SCHOOL BUILDING SUNDAY

LOCAL CATHOLIC CONGREGATION FORMED IN 1838

St. Marys Congregation Organized By Twelve Men; Has Large Growth

CHURCH NOW HAS ABOUT 1,500 MEMBERS

The St. Marys Catholic church congregation, organized in this city in 1837 and 1838, is one of the oldest religious organizations in the county. Twelve men organized the congregation which now numbers about 1,500 souls, and owns property estimated at nearly one-half million dollars, including the new school which is paid for by members of the parish.

The town of Decatur in 1836 boasted of five houses. In 1837, Henry Derkes, Henry Minter, Joseph Smith, Anthony Kohne and Bernard Holt-house arrived in Decatur. In 1838, George Fettich, John Mueller, George Spuller, Timothy Coffee, Daniel Coffee, John Closs and Henry Will came as a welcome band of settlers and these twelve formed the nucleus of the present St. Mary's Parish.

The First Mass.

In the spring of 1838, Rev. Louis Mueller, residing at Fort Wayne, offered the first mass on record in Decatur, at the home of George Fettich. The second priest of St. Mary's Congregation was Rev. Joseph de Mutzig Hamilton. The first Catholics baptized at Decatur were Minnie (Mrs. R. J.) Holthouse and Mary Closs. The first marriage was that of Timothy Coffee and Mary Mueller, January 10, 1841.

First Frame Church.

The successor of Father Hamilton was the Rev. J. Rudolph who, assisted by Timothy Coffee, John Closs and Anthony Kohne, began to collect for a new church. Together they succeeded in raising \$275. In 1842, Fr. Rudolph purchased a cemetery in the south part of town. He did not see the completion of the church, which he was ambitious to erect. The beginning of the church was made by the Spullers, who brought with oxen through the then deep mud, the heavy timber for the first church, which was completed in 1846.

Church Bell Purchased.

In the meantime, the charge of the (Continued on Page Twelve)

ENTIRE COST OF BUILDING PLEDGED

St. Marys Congregation Has Able Men On Finance and Building Committees

The congregation of St. Marys Catholic church has been fortunate in having able and sincere men as members of the finance committee and on the board of trustees, whose duty it was to look after the financing of the new school building and letting contracts. These men have served with untiring efforts in bringing about the success of the building and have given much of their time in disposing of the many details connected with such a large building undertaking.

The building, modern in every respect, and large enough to accommodate the needs of the congregation for many years, represents an expenditure of approximately \$300,000. This huge sum has been paid or pledged by members of the congregation.

The members of the building committee are: C. S. Niblick, general chairman, Jesse G. Niblick, Henry Eiting, Joseph Heiman, Fred Steigmyer, Ben J. Smith, Nicholas Miller, J. H. Bremerkamp, C. N. Christen, John Fisher and Fred Schurger. J. C. Moran, Michael Miller and John T. Schurger, deceased, were members of the board at the time of its organization.

The trustees of the church are: the Rev. J. A. Seimetz, pastor and chairman; C. S. Niblick, B. J. Smith, J. H. Bremerkamp, Nicholas Miller and John Fisher. The general contract for the new school building was awarded March 31, 1924, and the corner stone was laid on July 6, 1924.

To Preside At Dedication



RT. REV. JOHN F. NOLL

Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of the Catholic diocese of Fort Wayne, will have charge of the ceremonies at the dedication of the new Catholic school building here Sunday.

"THE TATTLER" GROWS RAPIDLY

Catholic High Annual Makes Great Improvement During Last Five Years

From a very humble beginning "The Tattler" has improved and progressed until today this school organ is one of the main and most successful enterprises of the school and one of the best publications of its class. Just as the high school attendance has advanced from ten students to more than sixty, just so has "The Tattler" improved from a twenty-eight page publication to a seventy-page book.

Looking back five years to the beginning of "The Tattler," one sees a small group of students working hard and endeavoring to publish a first class book. The result was a unique, hand bound, typewritten copy, containing no advertisements, a few jokes, several cartoons individually drawn, a short but interesting article by the Rev. J. A. Seimetz, and little else. The stepping stone to today's magazine is indeed, an interesting booklet that does credit to its makers.

Today's result of the combined efforts of the entire student body is a peppy up-to-date book, containing the advertisements of all the important business houses of Decatur, complete write-ups of all school activities, appropriate cartoons, cuts of all the different classes, a faculty department, an editorial department, a section devoted to boys' and girls' athletics, an exchange department, an alumni and a society section, a literary department, and many other matters of interest, both to the students and to the general public. The difference between the first and the last book is amazing, but is merely the result of the friendly co-operative spirit that exists in the school, and of a generous increase in attendance.

During this interval, different editors have taken up the reins and have continually improved "The Tattler" until today it is rapidly approaching the limit of improvement.

A publication only five years old, the size of "The Tattler," and having as much real worth is unusual in a school of sixty students, and speaks well of the school spirit of such a small group of students. The Christmas edition this year will have a blue and gold cover with an appropriate cover design and will contain the usual matters of interest together with an ad from every progressive merchant of Decatur. It will go to press some time in November.

FATHER SEIMETZ ZEALOUS WORKER

Pastor Of St. Marys Church Works Untiringly To Advance School

The Rev. J. A. Seimetz, untiring and beloved pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church, was assigned to the pastorate on January 9, 1914. Since his appointment, he has worked zealously for the advancement of the Catholic school and soon after his appointment here started to create sentiment in favor of building a modern high school and grade building, realizing his ambitions in the dedication of the beautiful new building which will take place Sunday afternoon.

During the time intervening between the death of the Rev. Father Wilken and the appointment of Rev. Seimetz as irremovable pastor, the Rev. Edward Freiburger ministered to the needs of the congregation. He had been assistant to Rev. Wilken since July 6, 1912, and remained until January 7, 1914.

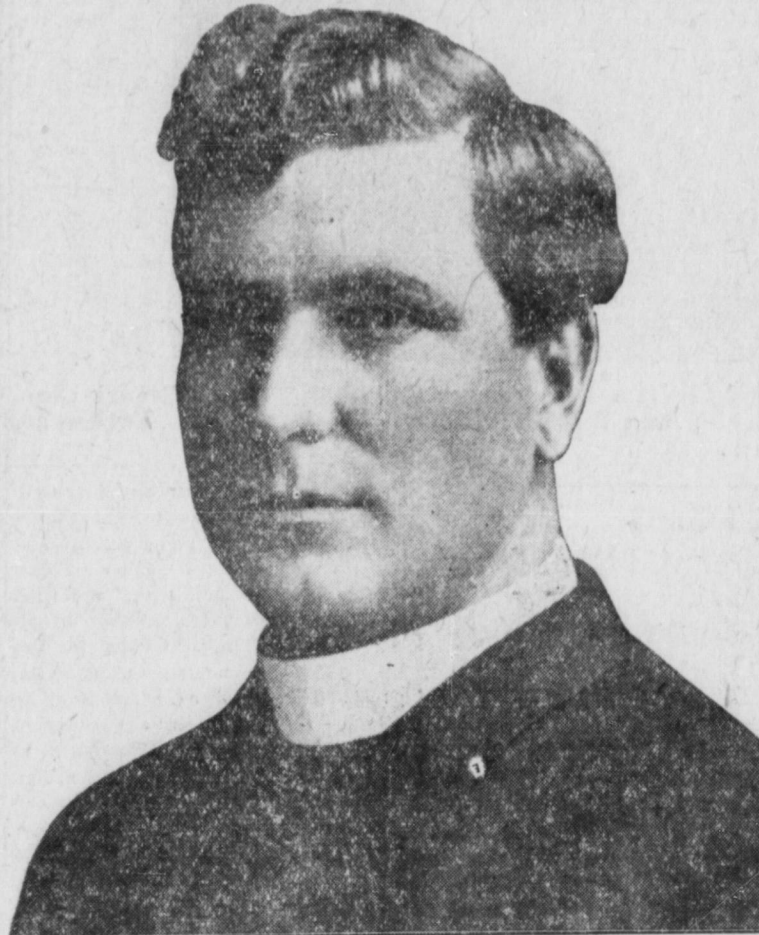
Rev. Seimetz was born April 17, 1871 at Michigan City, Indiana. He attended the parochial school, and later St. Ambrose Academy in the place of his birth. In September, 1889, he entered St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, from which institution he was graduated in 1894. He then taught for a year at St. Joseph's College, after which he entered St. Charles' Seminary, Carthage, Ohio, which he attended for two years. He completed his studies for the priesthood at the Provincial Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; at which place he received the orders of sub-deacon and deacon at the hands of the late Archbishop Katzer in 1901. On June 27 of the same year, he was ordained priest by Bishop Alerding, and for the first time offered up the holy sacrifice of the Mass on June 30 at Michigan City.

His first appointment was as assistant to the Rev. Henry Meisner, Peru, Indiana, which position he filled from July, 1901, to July, 1903. He was then appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Reynolds, Indiana. After a pastorate of two years and seven months, he was transferred to St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, March, 1908, of which institution he was director for almost six years.

Here Eleven Years

On Jan. 9, 1914, Rev. Seimetz came to Decatur to bless St. Mary's parish with his truly apostolic zeal. From that date to this, his endeavors to make the parish under his charge an ideal one in every respect, have never ceased. Pervent prayer and unremitting labor have been the weapons by which he has accomplished an incalculable amount of good advance the temporal and spiritual interest of the congregation.

Beloved Pastor of Congregation



REV. J. A. SEIMETZ

Fire-Proof Construction Of Building Is Tested

The resistance of the fire-proof construction of the new Catholic school building was tested on August 4, when fire broke out in a toilet room on the third floor at about 5:30 o'clock in the evening. Although the fire gained headway, the flames were confined to the room where it started.

Although the origin of the fire was not definitely determined, it is thought that the blaze started when workmen threw a lighted cigarette in the straw packing around plumbing fixtures stored in the room. Approximately \$1,000 worth of plumbing fixtures, belonging to the P. J. Hyland Plumbing company, were ruined by the fire. The window sash in the west window was burned and the walls of the room were blackened by the smoke, causing a loss to the contractor.

The city firemen extinguished the blaze with the aid of chemicals and although the flames caused an intense heat, no other damage was suffered from the fire and the fact was proven that the building was as near fire-proof as possible.

A heavy surf along oceanic shores causes vibrations in the earth that are Egyptian mummies shows that decay of the teeth, pyorrhea and other forms of dental disease occurred 5,000 years ago as much as they do today.

GIRLS HAVE A GLEE CLUB

D. C. H. S. Proud Of Her Musical Talent; Fine Progress Made By Club

In looking back over the first years of D.C.H.S., her students can be seen engaged not only in acquiring the essentials of an education, but embellishing their education with the knowledge of the fine arts. D.C.H.S. has a right to feel proud of its musical talent. There are few schools of its size in Indiana that can boast of a Girls' Glee Club as accomplished as that of D.C.H.S.

In 1920, when the high school was little more than a year old, the Girls' Glee Club was organized. Under the splendid supervision of Sr. M. Odella it advanced with rapid strides. Its members made their first public appearance at the K. of C. hall on St. Patrick's day, in 1921. Later, they gave an operetta, "The College Girl and the Milkmaid," for the benefit of St. Agnes' Society. Both of these entertainments proved to be successful and were a great encouragement to the Glee Club.

Fired with zeal and enthusiasm, the Glee Club advanced rapidly. By the end of the third year of its existence a musical entertainment was given which was a success from every point of view and realized a sum of \$130.20. This entertainment was followed by a musical number of high note, "Peer Gynt Suite," by Grieg. It was a proof to the public of the musical ability of the Girls' Glee Club.

At this time, Sr. M. Odella was forced to leave Decatur because of illness and her work was nobly continued by Sr. M. Esther. Under her supervision, the Glee Club continued to advance and grow and several successful appearances were made.

In 1924, the Girls' Glee Club began work under the direction of Sr. M. Claude, who proved herself a capable teacher. Besides its other accomplishments, the Glee Club helped to cheer the debaters in their hard-fought battle against Fort Wayne, and succeeded admirably. It also contributed its share to the Commencement exercises in the new auditorium, last June.

The Glee Club of this year has organized under the supervision of Sr. John Berchmanns, and is now working diligently to gain recognition. They will give a lively musical entertainment on Dedication day.

FITTING PROGRAM IS ARRANGED BY CATHOLIC PARISH

New Building Represents Realized Dream Of Local Congregation

MODERN STRUCTURE COSTS \$300,000

The beautiful new Catholic school building located at the corner of Fourth and Monroe streets, which will be dedicated at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon with fitting ceremony by the Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne, is a building that the entire community can well be proud of. The big fireproof structure is the realized dream of the congregation.

The construction of such a building has been made possible by the contributions of the Decatur Catholic congregation, and the cost, complete, is more than \$300,000. After strenuous efforts on the part of the Rev. J. A. Seimetz, pastor, and the congregation, the first chapter of the long awaited dream came true and on July 19, 1923, the first ground was broken for the construction of the school.

Construction Started June, 1924

On January 28, 1924, a campaign was launched for voluntary subscriptions for the school and a total of more than \$80,000 was raised in short order. C. N. Christen, of Decatur, was given the general contract for the building on March 31, 1924. The plumbing contract was awarded to the P. J. Hyland Plumbing company, of this city, May 1, 1924.

On June 17, 1924, actual construction began, and on July 6, 1924, the cornerstone for the school was laid with appropriate services. The building is now completed and furnished and, at present, more than 300 pupils are receiving education from the fine instructors in the new building.

Building Strictly Modern

Those who have studied school buildings say that the local Catholic school is one of the finest and most modern in the state and a visit to the local building will substantiate this assertion. In constructing the building, more than 1,100,000 bricks were used, together with thousands of tons of steel and concrete. The walls of the (Continued on Page Eleven)

REV. PETERS IS SCHOOL BOOSTER

Assistant Pastor Of Parish Is Popular Among Boys And Girls

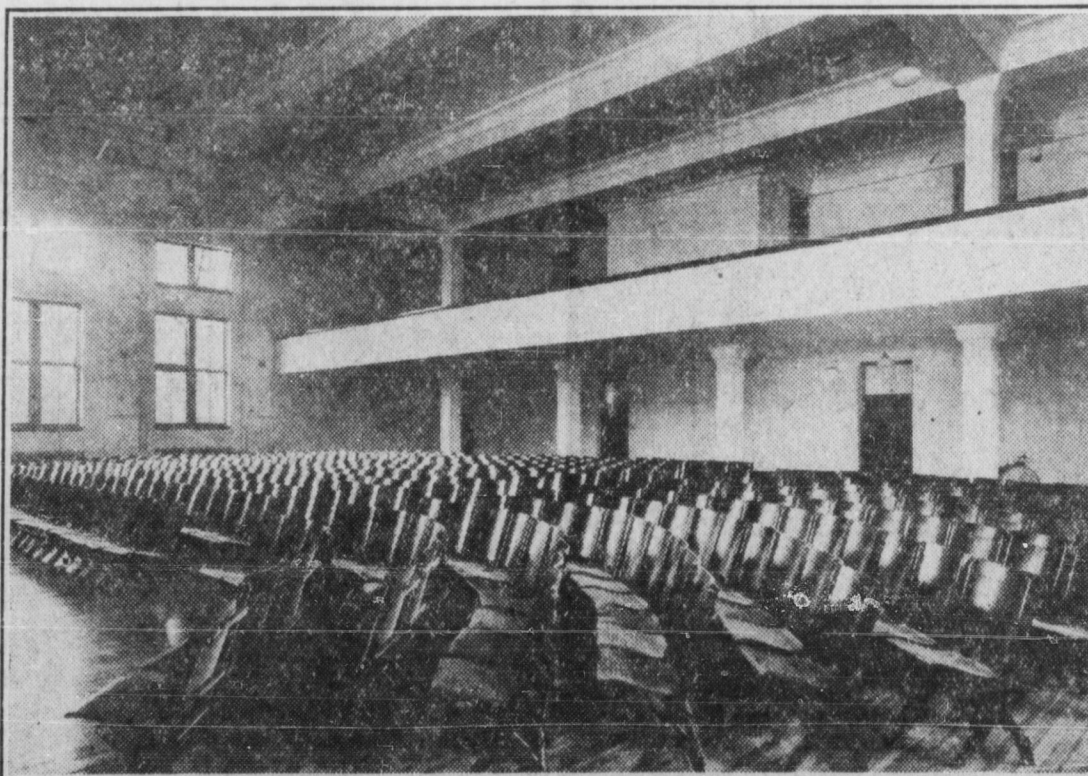
Preceding the Rev. Otto A. Peters, as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Parish, the Rev. Anthony Kroeger served in that capacity from July, 1914, until February, 1920. Ill health caused Rev. Kroeger to ask for a leave of absence and Rev. Peters was appointed.

The present assistant, Rev. Peters, was born Sept. 28, 1888, at Brookville, Indiana. In 1899, his parents moved to Tipton, Indiana, where he attended the parochial school and Catholic high school, graduating in 1905. In 1907, he began his Classical Course at St. Joseph's College, Collegeville, Indiana, completing his work there in 1911. He then entered St. Meinard's Seminary, St. Meinard, Indiana, from which he was ordained on the 16th of June, 1916.

His first appointment was as assistant at St. Peters and Paul, Huntington, Indiana, where he remained from July 5 to September 6, 1916. He was then transferred to the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he labored until 1920. On June 17, 1920, he was appointed assistant at St. Mary's, Decatur, which parish he has blessed with his presence to the present date.

He is an enthusiastic supporter of every move made for the benefit of the parish, and has especially earned the grateful regard of the boys and girls of the school by his wholehearted efforts to improve the records of the school in the athletic field.

Auditorium In New Building Has Large Stage



A beautiful auditorium with a large stage is included in the new Catholic school building. The auditorium, pictured above, will seat several hundred persons and the stage is one of the largest in this part of the state, outside of theatres. The stage is 70 feet wide and 24 feet deep. It has an opening 42 feet wide and 18 feet high. The stage was not completed and the curtains had not been hung when the above picture was taken so the photographer took a view of the auditorium proper, showing the balcony in the rear.