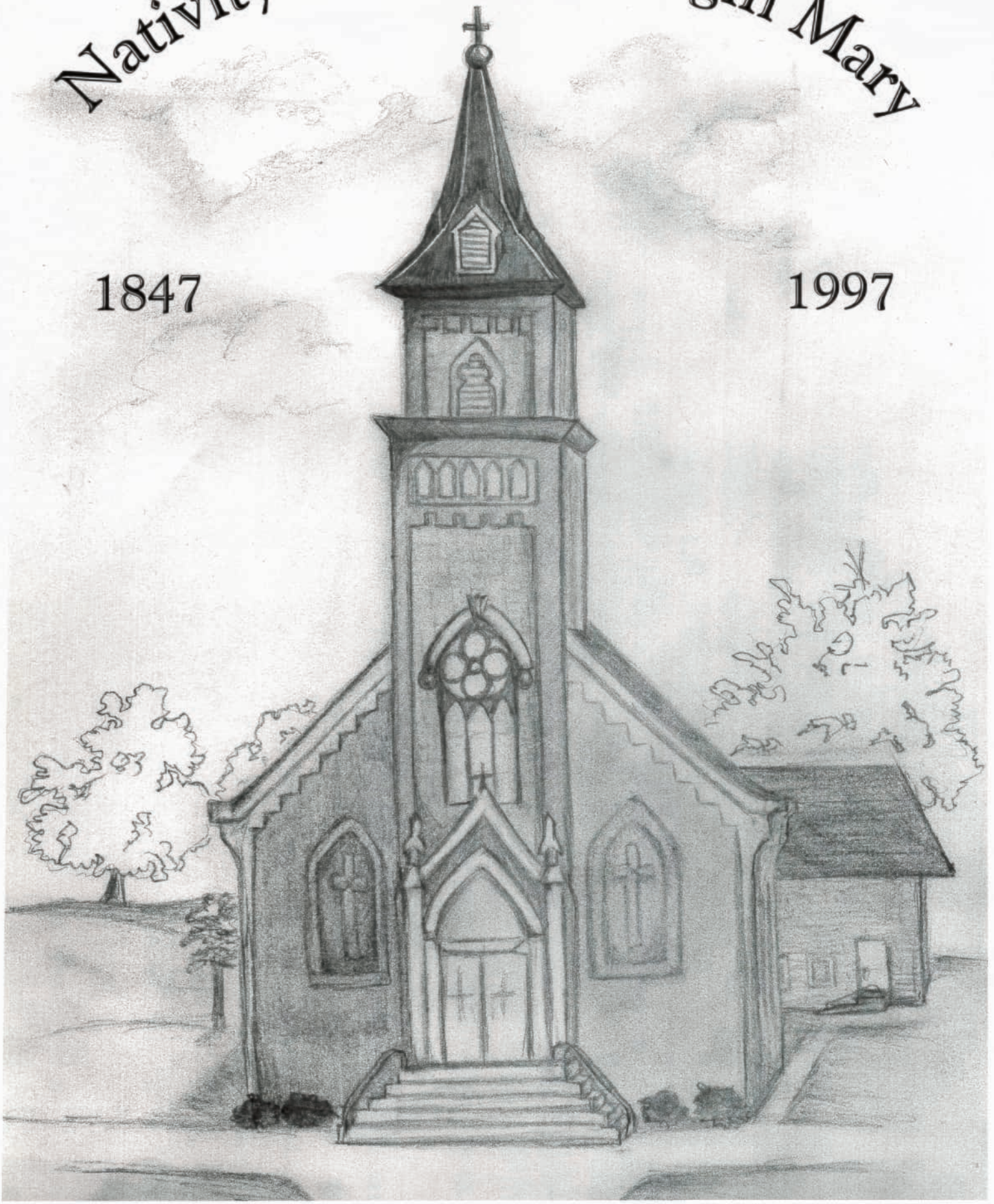
Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

1847 1997



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
CASSELLA, OHIO
1847-1997

In the year 1847 the Cassella parish was formed. The early settlers were German Immigrants and loyal Roman Catholics who had attended services at St. Rose Parish. As St. Rose parish grew, the settlers two miles west of St. Rose decided to form their own parish closer by so they wouldn't have so far to walk. They built a small log chapel they called ***Maria-Kapelle***, the German name for church, parish and town. ***Maria-Kapelle*** was built directly west of the present Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church and across what is now Cassella-Montezuma Road.

During the first 10 years many priests attended to the needs of the parishoners. Since there was no parsonage, these priests resided at the Gatehouse near the Convent in Maria Stein and after 1849 at the ***Gruenenwald*** Convent.

A story is told that during the late summer of 1849 when the cholera plague ravaged the villages of Minster, Maria Stein and St. Rose the people of ***Maria-Kapelle*** went to their log church and prayed to St. Sebastian, the parish patron of the sick, to protect them from the cholera and not one member of this parish died.

The mission church was soon too small to take care of the increasing population, so a new church had to be built. Another story is told that at this time the people of Cranberry Prairie had separated themselves from St. Henry Parish and wanted to form one parish with ***Maria-Kapelle***. They proposed to build a church on the August Stelzer farm at the corner of Stelzer Road and U.S. 127, midway between the two parishes. Those living east of Cassella objected to the plan since it would mean a long walk to attend services. The parishoners voted and in 1858 constructed a new brick church across the road from the log chapel, where it still stands today. Father Haberthuer, C.PP.S. was the first pastor of this new church. Cranberry then organized its own parish under the patronage of St. Francis.

By 1860 the town of Marysville was laid out in lots along the intersection of what is now Cassella-Montezuma Road and St. Rt. 119. Marysville included many mercantile buildings, the log chapel, and the post office. The name, Cassella, comes from this time. When applying for a post office, the German script ***K*** and ***P*** were transliterated into English as ***C*** and ***S***. Since this time ***Kapelle***, has been Cassella. Our parish seal, today, says St. Mary's, Cassella and also comes from this time.

The parish has been faced with many challenges. In June, 1888, a fire almost destroyed the church. Four brick walls were all that remained, the woodwork, pictures and altars were all destroyed. A story is told that everything in the interior burned, except miraculously, a hand painted picture by Fr. Paulinus Trost, C.PP.S. Reconstruction began immediately. The Madonna picture painted by Fr. Trost was kept at the home of Mr. H. Frenzer until it could be placed in the reconstructed church. On March 17, 1889 the reconstructed church was blessed by Archbishop Elder. The Archbishop was escorted from Carthagena by 36 knights, mostly youth from our parish decorated with sashes and riding horses with papal colors. They were met by others from nearby parishes so that the knights number increased to 77.

The parsonage, that still stands today was erected in 1902. In 1914, it was decided to enlarge the church by digging a basement to the south and to erect a sacristy above it. While digging, too much ground was removed from the foundation and suddenly early one morning the entire back part caved in. The beautiful Madonna picture done by Fr. Trost C.PP.S., that had survived the fire, was now destroyed and broken into many pieces. This catastrophe meant more work and more money for reconstruction, all accomplished in 1914. In 1915 the fire-scarred outside walls of the 1858 church were covered in stucco. This is what is seen today.

Our centennial was celebrated on August 3, 1947 with a *Pontifical High Mass* and a church picnic.

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In the 1960's Pope John XXIII called the second Vatican Council (Vatican II) and our way of worshipping was changed. Prior to this time all services were done in Latin and the priest said Mass with his back to the people, facing the Main Altar at the front of the church. Vatican II called for all services to be said in native langauges, in our case English, and a new altar to be installed facing the people so they could participate fully in worship. Needless to say for most parishes this meant out with the old and in with the new. We were very fortunate that a lot of the parishes in our area decided to keep most or all of our traditional altars. After much discussion Nativity was redesigned and kept the bottom of the two side altars and shortened the main altar, discarding the beautiful ornate upper parts of the altars. A new wood altar was placed in the center of the sanctuary. Vatican II also called for more laity involvement in the parishes.

On November 19, 1972 our 125th Jubilee was celebrated. A Mass of Celebration was concelebrated by Fr. Urban Siegrist C.PP.S., Fr. Aloys Boeke, Fr. George Grevenkamp C.PP.S., Fr. Anselm Boeke, Fr. Victor Ranly C.PP.S., and Fr. Ernest Ranly C.PP.S., all sons of the parish. Also present were Fr. Wolf C.PP.S., Fr. Gregory Moorman C.PP.S., Monsignor Clarence Leibold, and our pastor, Fr. Vincent Parr. A reception was held at the Carousel Ballroom. Oscar Eifert wrote the History of Cassella Parish to commemorate this event.

In 1990, due to a shortage of priests in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, it became necessary to combine with St. Rose parish and have one priest for two parishes. Fr. Raymond Bauer, C.PP.S. became pastor of these two parishes. Many changes had to be made. Instead of daily Masses at each parish we now have a shared Mass schedule. Nativity has Saturday 7:30 P.M. and Sunday 8:00 A.M. Mass from January - June and the 10:00 A.M. Sunday Mass from July-December. St. Rose Parish has the opposite schedule. Our weekday Masses are now 7:30 P.M. Monday nights, and 7:30 A.M. Wednesday and Friday. St. Rose has the alternate daily Masses, 7:30 A.M. Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday. There is also a schedule for Holy Day Masses. It was decided by the joint parish councils that the pastor should reside in St. Rose. The rectory at Nativity has been converted into a parish center and currently grades 1-4 have their CCD classes in the upstairs rooms on Wednesday evenings from September till May. Grades 5-12 are still held in the old one room school house which now has three rooms.

On May 11, 1992, Fr. Raymond Bauer, C.PP.S. died. Father Frederick W. Ryder, C.PP.S. became the pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Rose in October of 1992. He is our present pastor.

Once again the parishoners of Nativity were confronted with some difficult decisions. In 1996 our parish council decided we could no longer put off some very needed church repairs. The combining and closing of parishes in the Cincinnati Diocese had made the previous parish councils reluctant to take on any major improvements. We could no longer put these off. It was decided by the council to establish a fund drive. In the fall of 1996 the members explained the situation to Nativity's parishoners after each Sunday Mass. Letters of explanation and fund drive commitment papers were passed to each of Nativity's 104 families. When all were returned, we had more than enough money pledged to make the necessary improvements. A committment and a true desire to continue our heritage for future generations was demonstrated by the pledges.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's 150 year Parish Celebration will be held in August. A kickoff Barn Dance will be held on Friday night, August 15 at the farm of Mike & Kathy Broering. They currently own the ground where ***Gruenenwald*** once stood. A Mass of Celebration will be held at 10:00 A.M. Sunday August 17. This will be followed by a 12:00 noon meal at the Knights of St. Johns in Maria Stein. The CCD children will be performing various skits of our history. Several of the high school students have helped by making props and drawings. This book has also been written by the parishoners of Nativity.

Finally, it may be said that God has blessed and rewarded this parish with many religious vocations, 15 priests and 8 sisters.

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Fr. Gregory Boeckman
Fr. Leo Boehmer, C.PP.S.
Fr. Aloysius Boeke
Fr. Anselm Boeke
Fr. Clement Boeke
Fr. Leo Boeke
Fr. Victor Broering
Fr. George Grevenkamp, C.PP.S.
Fr. Mark Hamburger, C.PP.S.
Fr. Werner Hemmelgarn, C.PP.S.
Fr. Eugene Omlor, C.PP.S.
Fr. Donald Ranly, C.PP.S.
Fr. Ernest Ranly, C.PP.S.
Fr. Victor J. Ranly, C.PP.S.
Fr. Urban Seigrist, C.PP.S.

Sr. Euthalia Boeke, C.PP.S.
Sr. Thedosius Boeke
Sr. Dorothy Feltz, S.S.J.
Sr. Laurene Hemmelgarn, C.PP.S.
Sr. Grace Miriam Pleiman, S.F.P.
Sr. Therese Joseph Ranly, S.F.P.
Sr. Clementis Ridpath, C.PP.S.
Sr. Urban (Helen) Seigrist, S.P.

Candle holders pictured
are of those that were stolen



IN MEMORY CHURCH DONATIONS

CANDLE HOLDERS - JOHN REICHERT 1925-1926
Son of Frank and Elizabeth Reichert
Brother of Hilda Tumbusch and Ivo Reichert
(These candle holders are no longer in our church as they were stolen several years ago.)

CHALICE - JULIUS FRENZER

CIBORIUM - MARTIN FELTZ

HOLDER OF MASS BOOK - VERNON KRAMER

MONSTRANCE - MR. AND MRS. JOE BOECKE

TWO TALL FANS - MR. AND MRS. PETER RANLY

VCR VIDEO LIBRARY - FR. RAYMOND BAUER C.PP.S.

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Sons And Daughters Of The Parish. . .



Rev. Donald Ranly C.P.P.S.



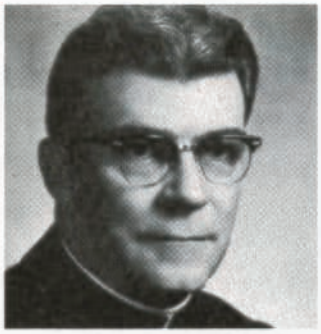
Rev. Victor Ranly C.P.P.S.



Rev. Ernest Ranly C.P.P.S.



Sister Teresa Joseph Ranly S.F.P.



Rev. Urban Siegrist C.P.P.S.



Sister Helen Marie Siegrist



Rev. Werner Hemmelgarn C.P.P.S.



Sister Laurene Hemmelgarn C.P.P.S.



Rev. Anselm Boeke



Rev. Aloysius Boeke



Sister Mary Euthalia Boeke C.P.P.S.



Sister Adele Boeke C.P.P.S.



Sister Dorothy Feltz



Sister Grace Mariam S.F.P.



Rev. Victor Broering



Rev. George Grevenkamp C.P.P.S.

Taken from the 1972 Parish Book

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CASSELLA, MERCER COUNTY,
ST. MARY, NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Founded 1847, Present church completed, 1862
FORMER PASTORS
Records are incomplete

1847-1851	Revs. Peter Capeder, C.PP.S.
	John Witmer, C.PP.S.
	Frederick Broenner, C.PP.S.
	Lawrence Feger, C.PP.S.
1851-1857	Andrew Herbstritt, C.PP.S.
1857-1862	Henry Drees, C.PP.S.
	Peter Haberthruer, C.PP.S.
	1858 - New larger church built.
	First pastor of new church
	Bernard Austermann, C.PP.S. (St. Rose 1857-1861)
	Matthias Kruesch, C.PP.S.
	Peter Wilhelmi, C.PP.S. (St. Rose 1861-1866)
	Cassella town and post office laid out.
	Official misread *Kapelle*, changing it to Cassella
1862-1864	Henry Drees, C.PP.S.
1864-1866	Anton Guggenberger, C.PP.S.
1870	Henry Drees, C.PP.S.
1870-1872	Jacob Marte, C.PP.S.
1872-1874	Franis Nigsch, C.PP.S.
1874-1875	Engelbert Ruf, C.PP.S.
	$ 100.00 organ installed
1875-1883	Sebastian Ganther, C.PP.S.
	Beautiful paintings and woodwork added to our Church.
	Fr. Leo Boehmer C.PP.S.was ordained as the first priest from Cassella and his First Mass was read in the parish church.
1883-1886	Theobald Schoch C.PP.S.
1887-1890	Casper Schedler, C.PP.S.
	Martin Dentinger, C.PP.S.
	1888 - Church fire - only the 4 brick walls remained, woodwork, pictures and altars were all destroyed.
	1889 - Restoration almost complete, parishes of St. Rose and St. John helped with funds.
	Interior of the church frescoed and furnished with new altars and windows
	New tower over 100 feet high with a gold ball and cross erected, it still stands today.
1890-1902	Charles Meyer, C.PP.S.
	Henry Drees, C.PP.S.
	June 21, 1893 - Fr. Mark Hamburger, C.PP.S., second priest from Cassella ordained. He died at St. Charles Seminary on February 22, 1943.
	Installation of the stained glass windows that tell the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.
	Installation of a new hand pumped organ.
	Philip Rist, C.PP.S.

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1902-1912 Charles Romer, C.PP.S.

Parsonage erected. Ttoday, it is our parish meeting center and CCD classes are held here.

Eugene Omlor enters seminary

1912-1922 Julius Hefner, C.PP.S.

Fr. Clement Boeke ordained as the third priest of this parish.

Considerable repairs were made to the roof, ceiling, and windows after a fierce storm. Most of the labor was donated.

1914 - During renovations to enlarge the church it was decided to place a basement below the church and erect a sacristy above it. Too much ground was removed from the foundation of the church and the entire back part of the church caved in. This meant more work and money for reconstruction. A new heating system was installed by the the late John Kramer of Maria Stein in the new basement. This heating system is still being used today. However, it has been replaced by an oil installation in the old furnace which works automatically.

1915 - Church stucco coated over the fire scarred brick. This is the coating that is seen today.

1921 - May 5th, Fr. Eugene Omlor, C.P.P.S. ordained - Cassella's fourth priest.

1922-1922 Ulrich Mueller, C.PP.S.

1922-1926 Francis Nigsch, C.PP.S

1922 - George Grevenkamp C.PP.S. ordained. Cassella's fifth priest.

Gregory Boeckman became a priest. He offered his First Mass in Coldwater, but is claimed as Cassella's sixth priest because he grew up here.

1926-1934 Vincent Muinch, C.PP.S.

1929 - Julius Frenzer died while preparing for the priesthood. He is buried in our cemetary. A beautiful chalice was given to the parish in his memory.

1930 - The Stations of the Cross, obtained by Fr. Muinch, finally arrived from Italy.

Shrubbery planted around church and parsonage, new floor installed in the sanctuary, inside frescoed, and other church improvements.

1934 - May 10, Fr. Urban Siegrist, C. PP.S. ordained. He offered his First Mass in the Cassella Parish a few days later. Cassella's seventh priest.

May 24, Fr. Leo Boeke was ordained a priest. His First Mass was also offered here. He was the first one of the Boeke boys to be ordained and Cassella's eighth priest. Fr. Boeke died in 1962 at the age of 56.

1934-1939 Liberat Schupp, C.PP.S. - January 1935 - September 1939

1939-1943 Ivo Weis, C.PP.S. - September 1939 - September 1943

Church was cleaned and redecorated, parsonage porch repaired.

1940 - On September 8, 1940 Fr. Victor J. Ranly was ordained at Carthagena, Ohio. Offered First Mass on September 15, Cassella's ninth priest.

Fr. Werner Hemmelgarn C.PP.S. also ordained on this same date. First Mass offered elsewhere, claimed as Cassella's tenth priest.

1941 - June 28, Fr. Aloysius Boeke ordained, offered First Mass on July 6. Cassella's eleventh priest.

1942 - May 30, Fr. Victor Broering ordained, offered First Mass on May 31, Cassella's twelfth priest.

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1943-1944 Rudolph Stoltz, C.PP.S. - arrived September 1943

1943 - December 18, Fr. Anselm Boeke ordained, offered his First Mass The thirteenth priest from our parish.

1944 - September 13, our pastor, Fr. Rudolph Stoltz died.

1944-1950 Benno C. Holler, C.PP.S. - arrived in September

1947 - August 3, the Centennial of our parish was celebrated with a Pontifical High Mass and a church picnic.

1950 - June 27, Fr. Holler suddenly taken ill, dies in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Dayton. He laid in state in our church and was buried at St. Charles Seminary.

1950-1950 Benedict D'Angelo, C.PP.S.

1950-1970 Edward J. Vonderhaar, C.PP.S. - September 1950 - April 28, 1970

1956 - June 2, Fr. Ernest Ranly, C.PP.S. ordained, celebrates First Mass on June 3, at Nativity Church. Cassella's fourteenth priest.

1962 - June 9, Fr. Donald Ranly, C.PP.S., ordained, celebrates First Mass on June 10th. Cassella's fifteenth priest.

1965 - May 23, Fr. Vonderhaar's 40th Ordination Anniversary celebrated. Also, during Fr. Vonderhaar's pastorate a new roof was put on our church, a $3,600 Kimball organ was purchased for the church, and the parish hall was obtained from the Catholic Knights of America (CKof A) for our CCD classes and parish events.

1970 - April 28, Fr. Vonderhaar retires to Charles Seminary after serving as Nativity's pastor for 19 1/2 years. A farewell reception was held at the CK of A hall.

1970-1972 Francis J. Uecker, C.PP.S. April 29, 1970 - February 12, 1972

1970 - January, inside of Church and the steeple repainted for $ 7,037.

1972 - February 12, after several months of illness, Fr. Uecker died at St. Charles Seminary. He was brought to our church to lie in state on Monday, and on Tuesday morning a Mass of the Resurrection was offered in our parish by Archbishop Leibold. About twenty priests concelebrated the Mass. He was buried at St. Charles Seminary on Ash Wednesday.

1972-1980 Vincent Parr, C.PP.S. (June 12, 1972 - 1980)

1972 - November 19, 125 years parish celebration.

1973 - July, rectory redecorated for $ 9,000.

1976 - July, garage was built for $ 13,747.

1980-1990 Herbert J. Eilerman, C.PP.S.

1980 - Ruth Otte hired as church secretary.

1981 - November, new Allen Organ was purchased for $ 6,795.

1982 - March, church painted for $ 5,496.
December, church insulated for $ 1,148.

1983 - July, church tower repainted and the gold leaf cross was refinished for $ 4,910.

1986 - September, church carpeted for $ 8,549.

1989 - Office modernized - duplicating machine replaced with a copy machine and a new electric typewriter purchased.

1989 - July, steps in front of church were replaced for $ 3,073.

1990 - April 21, parish celebrated Fr. Herb's 50th Ordination Anniversary.

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1990-1992 Raymond Bauer, C.PP.S. (St. Rose 1987-1992)

1990 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary combined with St. Rose parish, now share one pastor.

1991- Public auction held for items no longer needed for parsonage.

1991 - Parsonage remodelled to become parish center, and CCD class rooms for grades 1-4.

1992 - May 11, Fr. Bauer dies suddenly.
Fr. Frederick Ryder, C.PP.S., pastor *pro tem*.

1992- Frederick W. Ryder, C.PP.S.

1992 - October, Frederick W. Ryder, C.PP.S. appointed pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Rose.

1995 - Girls now permitted to serve Mass, before this time only boys could serve.

1996 - March, new furnace installed in the parish center for $ 2,400.

1996 - August, church tower repaired for $ 16,925.

1997 - April, new church roof installed, spoutings and gutters replaced for $ 52,000.



THE INTERIOR OF THE Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church, Cassella. The picture was found by Andy and Tom Hemmelgarn when tearing down the old Hierholzer house in Cassella. We don't know how old the picture is but it must have been taken before there was electricity in the area as no lights are hanging from the ceiling. The Cassella Parish was formed in 1847. its first church destroyed by fire, and the present church as it is today was erected in 1888. The new church was hit by a storm around 1914 and a lot of repair was needed. It was in 1914 when in the process of placing a basement below the sacristy that the entire area caved in. At this time when it was rebuilt the heating system was installed in the church. In 1915 the church was stucco-coated over the brick and it remains the same today. During the parishes 129 years of existence, religious vocations were many, 13 priests and seven sisters came from Cassella church. Rev. Vincent Parr CPPS is the pastor.

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A Tribute to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and The Land of the Cross Tipped Churches

I have found that a small parish has so much to give. There is a personal closeness to one another that one doesn't experience in a large parish.

Most of the children who attend Marion Local School are raised with the same basic ethics, and most with the same cultural background, which fosters the ethics and beliefs that I am trying to teach my children.

With the luxury of a small town, I have found that in a farming community there is respect for life and it's value, for family ties, and the knowledge of family unity that most children in the bigger cities are not able to learn or know.

Here I have seen almost a pioneer spirit. A feeling of having found something, a freedom, a being a part of the land, of fighting to keep something that belongs to you, that you, or your family before you, has founded, settled, and you don't want to give it up. So many become involved in order to keep it; I am referring to the lay people's involvement in the parish to keep it alive, and not see it closed. A common uniting, in order to save the church and to many of the people, the church is as much a part of who and what they are as the land and farm which has belonged to them, and maybe even their ancestors. It has become to them as much a home as their own houses, the church here is much more to its parishioners then just a place to go to mass on Sunday.

In order for us to move onward and to achieve a better future for the generations to come, we must first understand and appreciate the past. We must relish the present for all the hard work, perseverance, and faith that our forefathers, and their wives and families shared to allow us to enjoy all the freedoms, opportunities and security we have today. For without their pioneer spirit, and their love of God and His church - we would not be experiencing life in the manner we are today, and our church would not have stood tall and proud for these 150 years.

In order for those who will come after us to look back 200, 250, or 300 years, we must continue to live their love for God and His church, preserve the past and continue to go forward with love for each other and family, and for the community, and keep alive a fight to preserve what has shaped each one of us - Our Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

Long may she live!



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Joint St. Rose and Nativity Parish Council Meeting May 22, 1990

Present for this meeting were:
Father Ray Bauer and Father Herbert Eilerman,
St. Rose Parish Council: Gene Evers, Paul Bruns, Elaine Evers, Leroy Piekenbrock, Clete Griesdorn, Rita Griesdorn, Linda Broering, John Bruns;
Nativity Parish Council: Ernie Hartings, Charles Muhlenkamp, Eileen Schulze, Marlene Huelsman, John Reichert, Larry Broering, Ruth Otte, Dorothy Eifert.

Father Bauer opened the meeting with prayer.

Ernie Hartings asked Fr. Bauer if he had any comments on the merger of the two Parishes. Father said he would like to keep the two parishes as separate as possible. Any problem at either parish would be handled by their own Parish Council. He mentioned the main subjects to be discussed at this meeting was a mass schedule and salary. The new mass schedule would come in effect July 2, 1990, when the merger takes effect.

Father said he would be permitted to say three masses on weekends, one Sat. evening and two on Sunday. Ernie then mentioned the times of 7:30 p.m. Sat. evening and 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday that would alternate every six months between the two parishes. This was discussed and voted on.

It was decided by a toss of the coin by the two presidents of the Councils that St. Rose would have the 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. masses and that Nativity would have the 10:00 a.m. mass. This schedule would continue for six months and then rotate so that N.B.V. would have the two mass schedule and St. Rose the one mass.

The rotation will be as follows:
July 2, 1990 through December 31, 1990 - two masses at St. Rose, one at N.B.V.
January 1, 1991 through June 30, 1991 - two masses at N.B.V. one at St. Rose.

The weekday masses were then discussed. It was decided it would be best to alternate masses daily. The schedule decided upon was as follows:

Monday - Nativity 7:30 p.m.	Tuesday - St. Rose 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday - N.B.V. 7:30 a.m.	Thursday - St. Rose 7:30 a.m.
Friday - N.B.V. 7:30 a.m.	Saturday - St. Rose 7:30 a.m.

The weekday schedule will remain the same throughout the year and will NOT be rotated.

Holyday of Obligation will be as follows: The parish scheduled for the morning mass the day of obligation will also have an evening mass. The other parish will have the obligation mass on the eve of the Holyday.

The possibility of Eucharistic Services will be decided by each individual parish.

Confession will be done as in the past: N.B.V. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and on Thursdays before First Friday. St. Rose - after 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. masses on Saturday.
This schedule is not set in stone. Both Parish Councils will meet and make adjustments if necessary.

It was also agreed that the salary of the pastor and his housekeeper, along with insurance, phone and car expenses etc. would be shared equally by both parishes.

It was decided that each parish will have their own bulletin and that both parish bulletins will be available at either church.

Father Eilerman closed with prayer.

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STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



St. Dominic and the Rosary - First window on the east side of church

The first window on the East side of the church depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus presenting the rosary to St. Dominic. This represents the introduction of the Rosary. There is a story told that Our Lady appeared to St. Dominic and asked him to say the rosary every day and to teach the people to say the rosary. The rosary tells the stories of the most important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. The small round window at the top represents the sacrament of Baptism. Clement Evers and his son Frank donated this window.

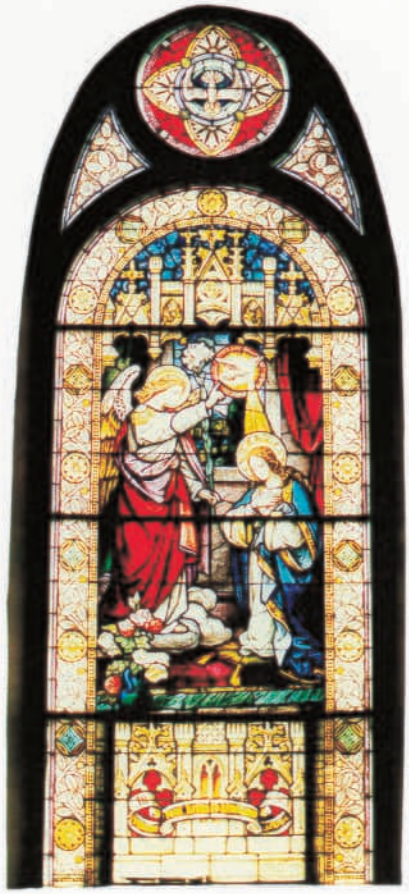
Clement married Anna Catherine Hoehne on February l, 1871. They had three children - Mary, Frank, and Henry. At this time they belonged to St. John Parish. Anna died January 16, 1882.

Clement bought the present Rick Evers' farm on Ft. Recovery - Minster Rd. in 1881. On June 13, 1883, Clement married a second time to Mary Westerheide. They had no children. In 1921 Clement and Mary bought a house along Route 119 in Cassella and lived there. (Currently the Bill and Janice Nagel home). Clement died July 24, 1929. In later years Mary moved back to the farm because of her health and died in August 1948.

Frank Evers married Anna Holdheide on August 26, 1901 and lived on the farm with his parents. They had five children - Mary, Matilda, Agnes, Regina and Anthony. Anna died on February 13, 1959 and Frank died February 17, 1967.

Descendants of the Evers family that belong to the parish at this time are Anthony Evers, Ernest Hartings, Evelyn Bertke, Margie Griesdorn and daughters Trina and Karla, Dave Bertke and children Damon, Laura, and Nicole, Rick Evers and daughter Kayla, Ann Springer and daughter Kelsey. At this time Joan (Griesdorn) Moorman is building a home and her family will be members of the parish.

The First Joyful Mystery - Second window on the east side of church



The Annunciation - In the picture the Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Joachin and Anne. He says to her "Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women." He also said that she would have a son by the power of the Holy Spirit and his name shall be Jesus. Mary consented to become the Mother of God. The Holy Spirit also appears in this picture in the form of a dove. The small round window at the top represents the Sacrament of Confirmation. This window was donated by the family of Bernard Lindhaus.

Bernard was the seventh of nine children born to Henry and Elizabeth (Bussellman) Lindhaus. Bernard's brothers and sisters were Mary, Rosanne, Henry, Catherine, Elizabeth, Carolina, Joseph, and Maria Magdelina. The Lindhaus farm was 1 1/4 miles north of Cassella on Cassella-Montaezuma Road, near Olding Road. The house still stands today and belongs to the Homan family. This farm stayed in the family for at least 125 years. The Lindhaus family first belonged to St. Rose Parish.

On November 22, 1881 Bernard married Mary Homan, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Wertmoeller) Homan. They had two daughters, Ida and Anna. Bernard and Mary both died in 1938.

When the window was donated, Bernard, his wife Mary, and children Ida and Anna, Bernard's mother Elizabeth, and his brother Joseph were all living at the farm on Cassella-Montezuma Road.

Ida (Lindhaus) and Jacob Cron were married August 4, 1904 and lived for several years in Cassellla before they moved back to the farm on Cassella-Montezuma Road. They had five children, Arnold, Odellia, Alfred, Florenz and Hilda. Jacob died in 1917 and Ida in 1970.

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Anna (Lindhaus) married Leo Bertke on June 10, 1914. They moved on a farm south of Cassella on Ft. Recovery-Minster Road (currently the Louis Bertke home). They had 10 children, Leander, Cyril Wilbur, Euleta, twins Marinus and Mary Ann (they died young), Louis, Ernest, Dennis (died young) and Norma.

Arnold Cron married Celia Buening on June 20, 1934 and they moved in with his mother, Ida. Arnold's grandparents, Bernard and Mary, and his great-uncle Joseph Lindhaus were also living in this same home at this time. Joseph lived there until he died in 1949. Arnold and Celia had five children, Maurice, Carl, Janet (died young), Mary, and Lester. At times, over the years, they lived with four generations in the house.

Descendants of the Lindhaus family that belong to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish today are Louis Bertke, David Bertke and his children Damon, Laura, and Nicole.



The Second Joyful Mystery - Third window on the east side of church

The Visitation - Mary traveled for four days to Judah to visit her cousin Elizabeth after the Angel Gabriel told her Elizabeth was also expecting a baby. When Elizabeth saw Mary, she was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. but who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby stirred in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her fulfilled." Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth for nearly three months, until the birth of Elizabeth's son, St. John the Baptist. The small round window at the top represents the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. This window was donated by the Joseph T. Reichert family.

Joseph Reichert was married to Elizabeth (Evers) Reichert. Reicherts living in the parish today are Ott Reichert, John Reichert and children, Lynn, Amy and Elizabeth. Also Ralph Reichert, Larry Reichert and children, Jason, Matt and Ross.

Ecco Hommo - **Fourth Window on the East side of church**

After Jesus had been scourged and crowned with thorns, Pilate brought him out to the people and told them, "Behold the man!" The small round window at the top represents the sacrament of Reconciliation. This window was donated by the Young Ladies' and Young Men's Sodalities.





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The Seven Dolores - Fourth window on the west side

The Sorrowful Mother - The seven great events of sorrow in Mary's life were: The Prophecy of Simeon, Flight into Egypt, Three Days' loss of Jesus, Meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary, Mary at the foot of the Cross, Jesus taken down from the Cross, and the Burial of Jesus. The small round window at the top represents the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This window was donated by Joe and Mary Link.

Joe was the son of Valentin and Katharina (Staugler) Link. Valentin Link has first married a Miss Fleck and their children were Magdalen, John, Anton, and Leopold. Four months after the birth of Leopold their mother died. Six months after her death Valentin married Katharina Staugler. Valentin and Katharina were the parent of Charles, Matthew, Phillip, Mike, Katherine, Anna, and Joseph. Joseph was the youngest and born in 1875 . Joe married Mary Braun from St. Peter, Ohio. They lived on the first place on the left side of Route 119 as you came from St. Rt. 127 (presently the home of Gary & Juanita Buening & family). Valentin died in 1906 and Katherine made her home with Joe until she died four years later in 1910. Joe and Mary had no children and they are both buried in our church cemetery.



The Third Joyful Mystery - Third window on the west side of church

The Birth of Jesus - Soon after Joseph and Mary were married in Nazareth, a command went forth from the Emperor, Caesar Augustus, that all people had to go to the cities and towns from which their families had come for a census. Since both Joseph and Mary had come from the family of King David, they went together to Bethlehem. All the inns were full so Mary and Joseph had to spend the night in a stable. In this stable, in Bethlehem, Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, where the cows and oxen were fed. The small round window at the top represents the sacrament of Holy Orders. This window was donated by the Clemen Homan family.

Clemen and Catherine Homan donated a window in Nativity church. They were the parents of Philomena Homan, who married Clarence Dirksen, parents of Dennis. Descendants living in the parish today are Dennis, Karen, Ted, Tim, and Karla Dirksen and Tony, Kathy, Renee and Laura Dirksen. The Tony Dirksen family is now living on the homeplace of his great-grandparents Clemen and Catherine Dirksen.

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The Fourth Joyful Mystery - Second window on the west side of church

The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple - Forty days after his birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem to present him to the Lord as the law of Moses prescribed. They carried with them the usual offering of the poor, a pair of turtledoves. In the Temple was an old man named Simeon who immediately recognized the infant Messiah. Simeon held the Child Jesus and thanked God for letting him see the Redeemer before his death. He gave the family a blessing in the name of the Lord, and said to Mary, "This little one shall cause many in Israel to fall and rise again. Many shall speak against Him; and sorrow shall pierce your heart like a sword." The small round window at the top represents the sacrament of Matrimony. This window was donated by the Herman Otte family.

Herman was born in Germany in 1835. He married Bernadine Bouvier in 1872 and in 1885 they sailed for America. They settled on the farm south of Cassella on Cassellla-Montezuma Road where the Leonard Otte family still lives today. Herman and Bernadine had four children, Wilhemina, Henry, August and Johanna.

Descendants of Herman and Bernadine still living in the parish today are Louis Otte, John Otte and his children Michael, Brad, Kenneth, Cindy and Angie (Otte) Francis; Charlie Otte and his children, Kevin, Randy, Karla, Chad, Jeff, Marc, and Jodi; Karen (Otte) Moeller and her family Ryan, Beth, Sarah, and Maria Moeller; Leonard & Rick Otte; and Don Otte and his family, Heather, Matt, Henry, Craig and Dan.



The Fifth Joyful Mystery - The first window on the west side of church

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple - When Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus traveled to Jerusalem with friends and family to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Passover. On their way back home they realized Jesus was not with their group. After searching frantically for three days they finally found him, back in Jerusalem. He was in the Temple teaching to the priests and elders about God. When Mary told Jesus they had been worried about him, Jesus replied, "Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house. I must be about My Father's business." He obediently went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. The small round window at the top shows a bible, the Alpha & Omega (beginning & end) and a light. Translated into English the two German words mean pray/work.

Henry Koesters donated this window. The approximate cost was $600. Other descendants living in the parish today are the Carl Koesters family, Marie Evers, the Rick Evers family, Mrs. Shirley (Andrew) Will and children Angela, John, & Amy; Ralph Reichert, Larry Reichert and sons Jason, Matt & Ross.

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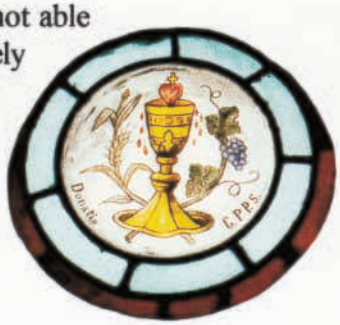


There are two smaller stained glass windows above the altar in the Sanctuary. The one on the east side was donated by Elizabeth (Borns) Siegrist. Elizabeth moved to Cassella with her son, John and his family in 1911. She was a widow at that time. They settled on the farm currently owned by Ron and Diane Siegrist on Cassella-Montezuma Road. Descendants of Elizabeth Siegrist still living in Nativity parish are Sylvan Siegrist and Ron Siegrist family. The window on the west side was donated by William Franzer. William's daughter Lorena Fortkamp, and his granddaughter, Sue Fortkamp, are still members of Nativity parish today.



There are two small stained glass windows in the bell tower of our church. One window was donated by the Precious Blood Society.

Window was not able to be completely photographed due to the ladder in the bell tower.







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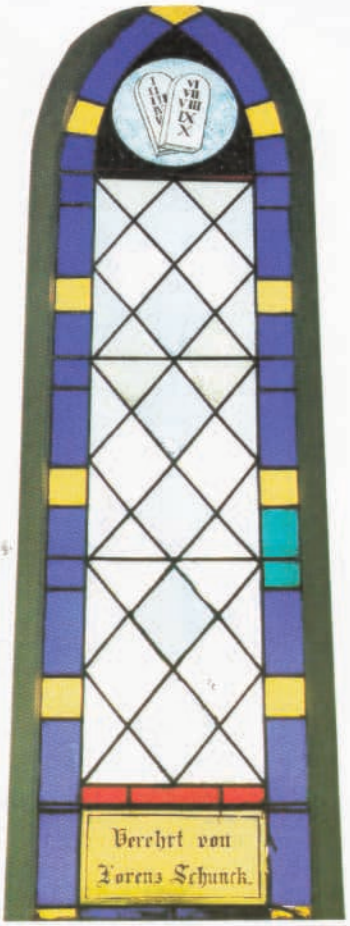
A stained glass window is over the door of the priest's sacristy.



A stained glass window is over the door of the servers' sacristy.



There are two small stained glass windows in the vestibule of our church.



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The Rock

Cyril Bertke, the son of Leo and brother of Louis, told this story about how the large rock that is now on the front lawn of the church got there.

About 1928 or 1929, when Father Vincent Muinch was our pastor, he heard about this big rock on the Leo Bertke farm. Cyril thought his dad may have been a church warden at the time and may have talked about this rock.

Since Fr. Muinch liked to see things nice outside, he had shrubbery and trees planted around the house and church and therefore asked Leo if he could have the rock. Getting this rock was not an easy job, since only about one third of the rock was above ground. Leo and Cyril dug out around the rock with shovels until they removed enough dirt so that they could fasten a chain around the rock.

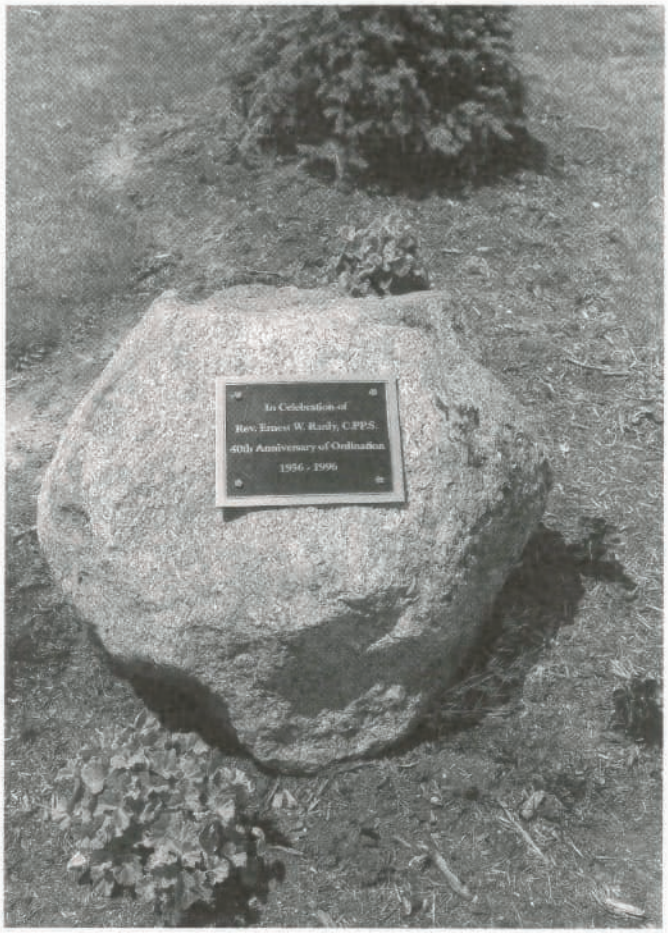
Once this was accomplished, they used an old Fordson tractor which had large cleats on the rear steel wheels to pull it into a wooden sled. After they got it on the sled, they pulled it up to the barn.

Since the roads were gravel at that time, they had Henry Hierholzer use his big Huber tractor, which he used for threshing, to pull the sled up to church. Till they got the rock to church, there wasn't much left of the sled.

The rock was placed at the corner of 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd. where Father Muinch has shrubs and trees planted around it.

It probably stayed there till they put in the parking lot and removed the hedges, then it was moved to the corner of the lawn.

In 1996 it was moved to the front lawn as part of an honor to Father Ernest Ranly on his 40th anniversary in the priesthood.



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NEWSCLIPPINGS FROM THE PAST

The following was taken from the History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties published in 1882.

"St. Marys Church is built at Capella, and has a history since 1840. Among its earliest members was John Hess. A small frame church was erected in 1842, and in 1862 the present edifice; is a brick church, 43 by 78 feet, costing $ 6,000; was dedicated by Bishop Rosecrantz. Messrs. Martin Hierholzer, Bernard Wehrkamp, John Cron, and B. Schaeffer were the building committee. The number of communicants, 180. Rev. Peter Haberthur being the pastor at the time when the church was erected. Present pastor, Rev. Sebastian Ganther, C.PP.S."

(**Note**: Notice the date of St. Marys Church is listed as 1842 in this history book published in 1882. There is a story told that the Cincinnati Diocese did not want to accept Cassella as another parish due to our closeness to St. Rose and the absence of priests. It was not until after the arrival of the Precious Blood priests, that we were officially accepted. This may account for the discrepancy in the dates - 1842 vs. 1847.)

* *

The Catholic Telegraph, June 21, 1888 under *City, Diocese and Privince*
The Catholic church at Cassella, a little town ten miles west of New Bremen, Ohio, burned to the ground last Tuesday. Loss about $ 10,000.00. Caused by sparks for piles of burning bush.

* *

The following are newsclippings taken from the Mercer County Bote. The Mercer County Bote was a newspaper written in German that is similar to the Mercer County Chronicle today. It was published weekly. The newsclippings have been translated into English. Most of the entries appear to have been written during the restoration of Nativity Church after the fire.

The Mercer County Bote, Nov. 1, 1888 under *Und Lokal Zeilttabelle*
The Catholic church in the congragation at Cassella will be under roof in several weeks.

The Mercer County Bote, Nov. 15, 1889, under *Aus Cassella*
The work on the church goes forward swiftly. If the weather stays favorable then we will soon be able to hold divine worship in it again. On Monday the two new bells arrived; so far they give good satisfaction. Their weight is 1400 and 850 pounds, respectively.

The Mercer County Bote, Jan. 24, 1889 under *Aus Cassella*
At last the new windows for our church have come and are already put in.

The Mercer County Bote, Feb. 7, 1889 under *Aus Cassella*
The painters are nearly done with the painting in the church. Mr. F.X. Hefele is an adroit painter. The work loves the master. He also deserves recognition for his liberality in that he donated $100 to the congregation.

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The Mercer County Bote, Feb. 28, 1889 under *Aus Cassella*

Through Mr. Schroeder from Cincinnati a beautiful new altar is to be set in our church...On March 10 the valuable and beautiful Mother of God picture will be removed from Mr. H. Frenzer's dwelling and installed in church. Afterwards there will be a raffle in the schoolhouse to which all are kindly invited. On March 17 our church should be blessed.

The Mercer County Bote, March 14, 1889 under *Aus Cassella*

(Summary of article for blessing of restored church) Archbishop Elder to come from seminary . . . priests of neighboring parishes to be present . . . Hochw. J. Wittmer to preach in German . . . Archbishop Elder to preach in English . . . Mr. Herman Heinfel of New Bremen put the benches in church this week . . . gave $30.00 to the congregation . . . Fr. Caspar Schadler preached last Sunday at placing of picture.

The Mercer County Bote, March 21, 1889 under *Was mir bemerkten*

The fire damaged church wholly renovated on the inside grants an attractive, delightful sight. The benches are from pure oak wood with walnut trim; the altar is not pompous but beautiful and tastefully constructed, decorated with a magnificent picture of the Mother of God from the art gallery of Paul von Deschwanden. And the painting is splendid and expresses the purpose of a house of God.

The Mercer County Bote, March 21, 1889 under *Die Kirchwilhe in Cassella*

The previous Sunday was a gala day for the brave congregation at Cassella. The weather was splendid, wherefore numerous early visitors from the whole area around were present. Thirty-six knights, mostly youth decorated with becoming sashes, on horses with papal colors went all the way to Carthagena to meet the Bishop, where a delegation of twenty-three knights from there and from further were added from St. Rose until the number increased to seventy-seven.

The Mercer County Bote Thursday May 14, 1914

Yesterday morning about 5:00 A.M. the south wall of the Catholic church at Cassella, Ohio, collapsed. Already this means a greater loss for the congregation than we would know, the altars were nearly smashed; nevertheless there was good luck the collapse occurred so early in the morning. One hour later the workers would have been at work and who knows if all would have come away without harm. A cellar was dug out on the south side of the church for an addition to the church. Through the heavy rain, the ground weakened and brought the wall to fall in.

The Mercer County Bote, Thursday July 2, 1914

No little damage was done by a storm on Saturday afternoon in southern part of the county. The Catholic church at Cassella was completely unroofed and the roof was flung over the priest house. The priest house was not harmed, only the cross which adorned the gable of the house was torn off.

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Notice the small cedar tree on the southwest corner of church. When WW1 began it was forbidden to speak German, so a cedar tree was planted in memory of our German Heritage.





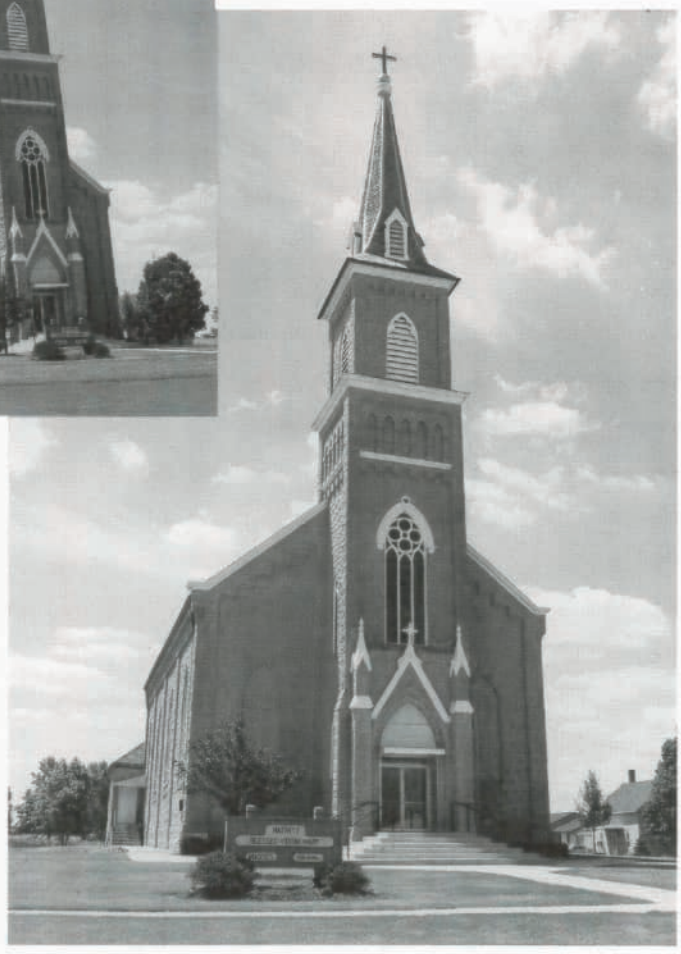
Notice the hedge and grass which were planted while Fr. Muinch was pastor. Our parking lot is now located in that grassy area.

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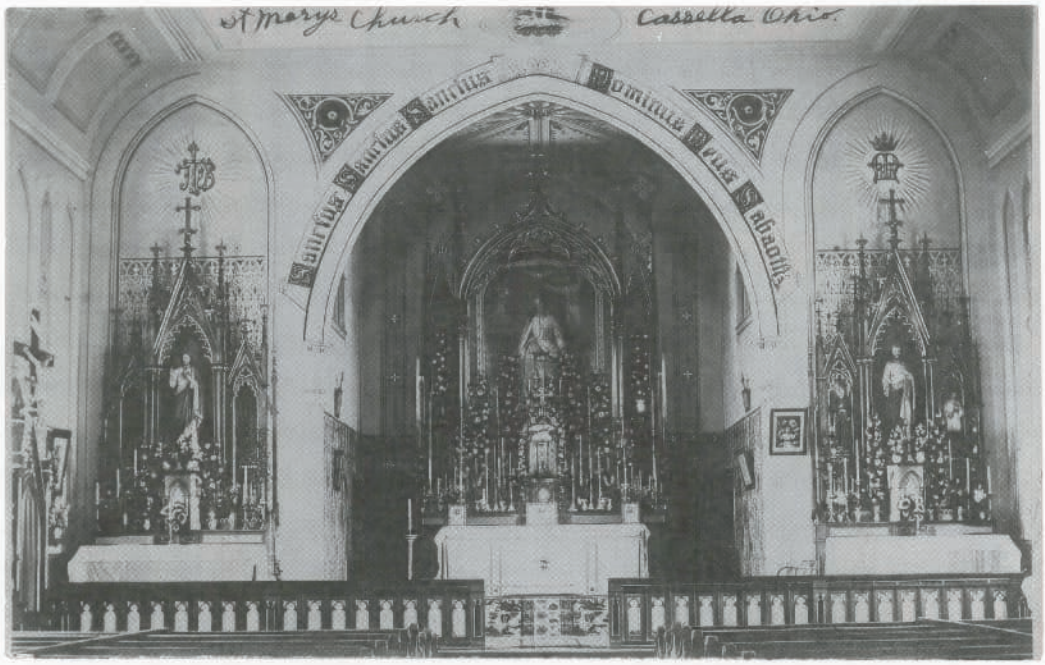
NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH - Cassella R.R. 1 - ST. HENRY, OHIO

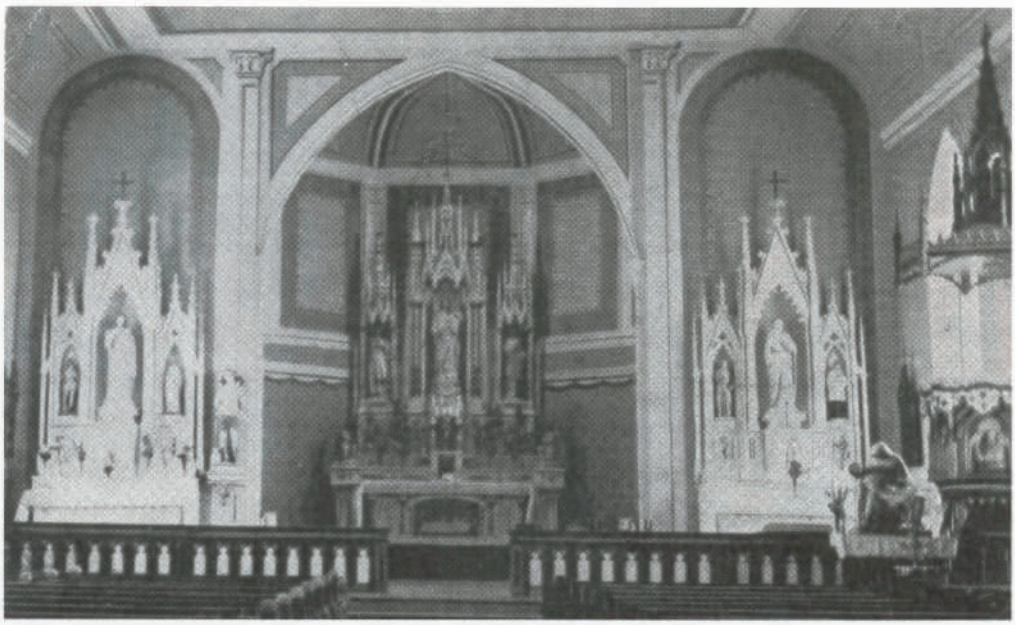




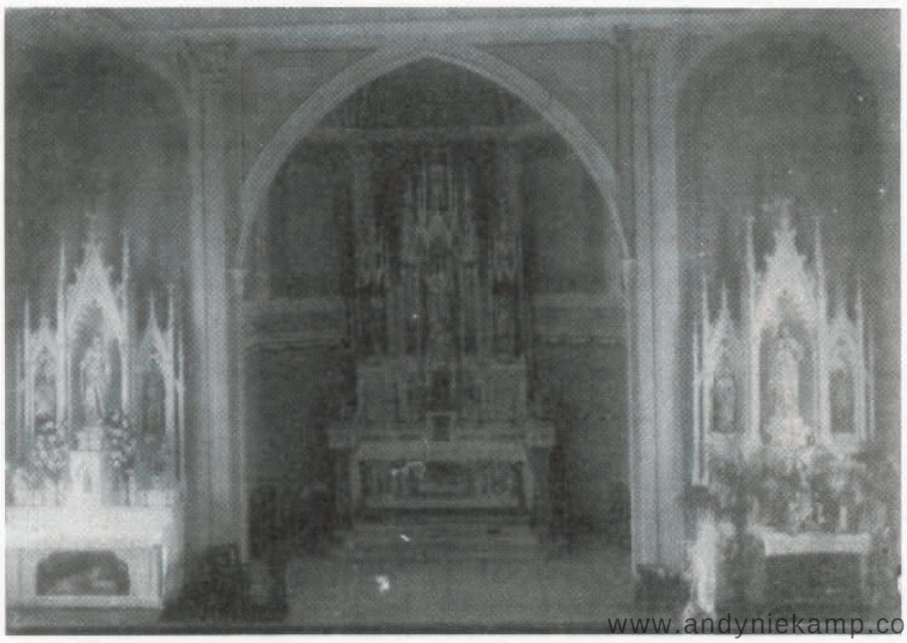
1997

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Interior of St. Mary's Church, Cassella, Ohio.



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Variuos Interior Views



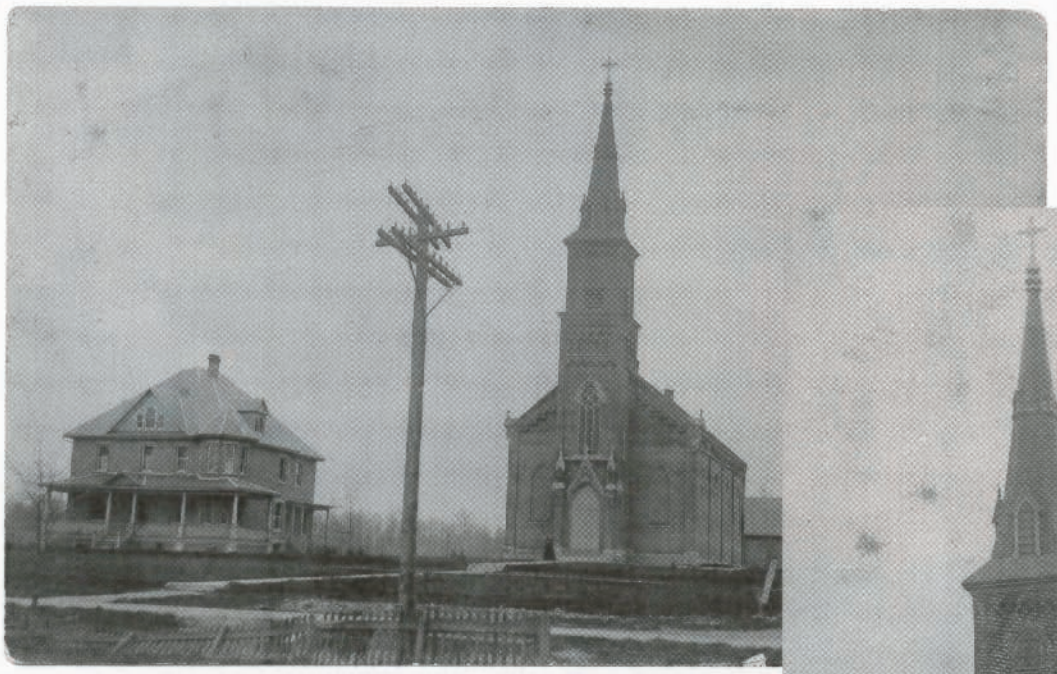
(no dates available)



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After the fire in June 1888.





Between 1902 & 1914

Priest pictured is either Fr. Romer or Fr. Hefner.

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While digging the basement under the sacristy, part of the existing structure collapsed. It is believed that the combination of a soaking rain, and the vibration of the morning bells aided in the collapse. Thankfully no one was injured.

May 13, 1914

Views from exterior.





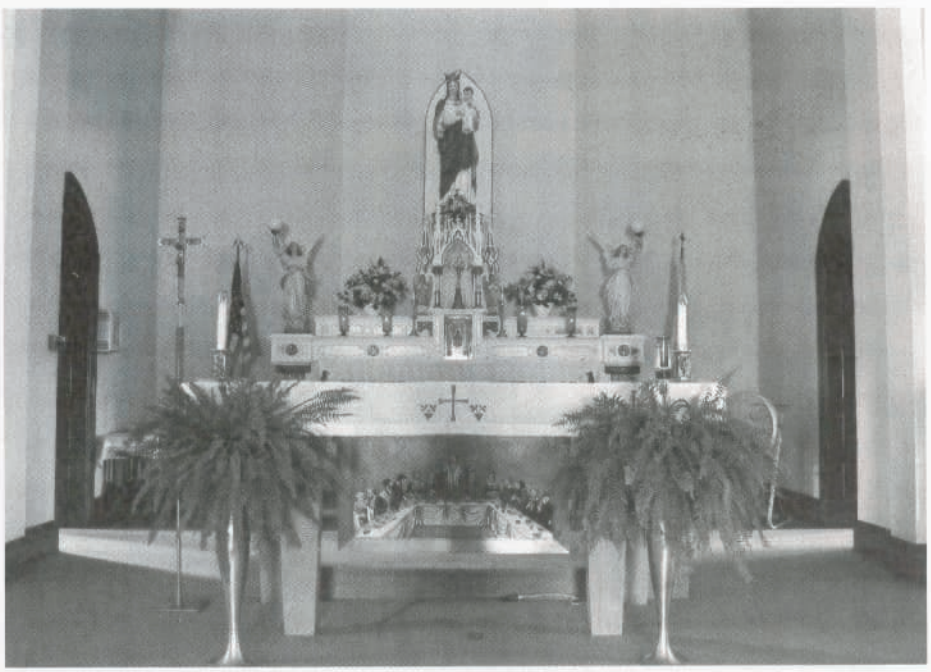
View from interior looking south.

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Interior Views







Above: notice the donated book stand.

1997





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This painting on the ceiling of Nativity's Church was painted by Fr. Paulinus Trost in 1911.

Last Supper Painting on Nativity's Main Alter



View of Nativity and the cedar tree in memory of our German Heritage



late 1950's early 1960's



1997

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NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY C.C.D.

The religious education of Nativity's young people has changed quite a lot over the years. When public school was held in the Cassella school house, instruction was given during the school day and some Sunday afternoons. When the Cassella school closed and our students went to the Chickasaw, Osgood, St. John, and Maria Stein buildings, instruction changed. The follow information came from C.C.D. minutes and parishioners' recollections.

The first official meeting of the Nativity C.C.D. was June 10, 1966 with our pastor, Fr. Vonderhaar. The first collection on C.C.D. Sunday in the summer netted $1447.00 and was deposited in the Nativity of B.V.M. C.C.D. checking account. Paper drives also supplemented the funds.

Classes for the various grade levels were held on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings beginning in September of 1966. Locations were the rectory, boys' sacristy, the choir loft and the C.C.D. Hall. The high school classes lasted one hour and twenty minutes and discussed Sex Education and dating along with religious topics. The first guitar mass was held Oct. 3, 1966. On May 22, 1967 the graduating seniors were honored at a guitar mass.

The first of many parish-sponsored teen dances at the Carousel on April 18, 1971 profited $296.00. The first adult dance was held at the Knights' Hall on Jan. 19, 1980 and netted $1334.00. An adult dance continues to be the only C.C.D. fund-raiser.

In 1984, it was decided to hold all classes in three shifts on Monday evenings in the C.C.D. Hall. A permanent wall divided the east room into two classrooms. Beginning in 1985, parents were asked to pay the costs for their children's textbooks.

Oscar Eifert retired as the Director for Religious Education in 1987 after thirty-one years as director of the program and many more years as a teacher. Carolyn Stucke succeeded him and she is still our director today. That year high school students went to the Retreat House for a cluster-program of two classes per grade per year along with the regular classes. Classes were also moved to Wednesday evenings in conjunction with the school's "dark night" or no school activites permitted after 6:00 p.m.

In 1989 we began to hold two kindergarten classes at the end of the. year. Tuition was asked of non-parish students attending our program. The unused west door of the hall was closed and new outside doors were installed. In 1991, a Sunday program of seven classes was initiated for four-year-olds through second grade.

Because we no longer had a resident pastor, the second floor of the rectory was converted into classrooms for Grades 1-4 in 1992. It was now possible to have only two shifts of classes. In order to save money and paper, we started re-using the texts in Grades 5-8. Vacation Bible School was begun in 1994.

Today's religious education classes are interesting, challenging, and varied. They require student hands-on involvement and parent participation. The second grade year begins with a parent meeting. First Reconciliation is held at a Parent-Child Service on a Thursday evening in February. First Communion is at 1:00 p.m. on the second Sunday after Easter. The children receive their scapulars and have religious gifts blessed at the following Monday evening mass.

Confirmation is received by our seventh and eighth graders every other year. We used to be combined with three other parishes, but due to the increasing number of students we now alternate with St. Rose. Events include a parent and student Meeting, Mass of Commitment in which students pledge to work hard to prepare and parents pledge to support them, and an Evening of Renewal Retreat. Students learn to serve others through a class service project helping at the Briarwood Nursing Home Ice Cream Parties for eight times and individual service projects of their own choosing. Students also make personal Confirmation banners depicting what Confirmation and their faith mean to them. These are displayed in church at the cermony.

Giving to those in need is taught to all students through the Annual Lenten Raffle sponsored by Grades 5-8 to benefit Fr. Ernie Ranly's mssions in Peru. In 1997 Grades 1-4 helped a local family during

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Lent. The high school students have provided Christmas gifts for a fimily in need for many years. Donations have also been made to the Holy Childhood Association.

Classes at all levels include many interesting and hands on projects including: field trips to the Relic Chapel and St. Charles Seminary, evening mini-retreats for Junior High and High School students, Vocation Poster and Essay contests, role-playing and skits, art work, student presentations of reports and prayers, music, videos and filmstrips, group work, journaling and hands-on prayer services.

Lenten Activities include: "Holy Week in an Hour" presented by the Juniors and Seniors for grades 1-4. The children progress through the Passover Room, Holy Thursday Room, Good Friday Room, and Easter Room to learn about these days. Grades 5 & 6 share a Passover Meal to help them understand the Old Testament.

Many priests, brothers, nuns, deacons, and seminarians have spoken on reiligous vocations. Besides the ususal religious topics, speakers and teachers have conducted classes on alcholism and drug abuse, teen pregnancy and sexuality, Right-To-Life, handicaps, other faiths, Satanism, Peace Corp, hunger, funerals, moral decisions and relationships. Fr. Ryder helps in the Sophomore class on sin, guilt and reconciliation.

Our Sunday Program provides seven classes for ages four-second grade during the 10:00 A..M. mass. Students watch a video then enjoy games or crafts, songs and stories based on the film. Junior High helpers perform skits and help the two teachers. Two kindergarten classes in the spring orient the new students to our program.

The last elementary class of the year includes a prayer service or mass in church, certificates of promotion and recognition of student helpers and mission projects. The last high school class, at the home of a teacher, begins with a prayer service or mass (some have been outdoors) and concludes with a hot dog roast, games, and socializing. Eighth grade and senior graduations are celebrated at a Saturday evening mass.

Since 1993, about 65 students in grades K-6 have enjoyed our three morning Vacation Bible School held each summer. The CKof A Hall, Parish Center, C.C.D. Hall and grounds are the locations for songs and prayers, Bible skits and study, crafts, food and fun. This is made possible by the help of about 65 volunteers aged 13-70+!

Do you remember these past teachers? Oscar Eifert, Mary Ann Schmiesing, Fr. Vonderharr, Seminarians Tim Dillon, Richard Andelson, Richard Colbert, and Mike Norton; Andy Hemmelgarn, Mrs. Brinksneider, Fr. Eucher, Hilda Wuebker, Sr. Rosarita, Marge Reichert, Rita Flaute, Donna Siefring, Mary Alice Ahrns, Sharon Ahrns, Theresa Gerlach, Mrs. Muhlenkamp, Helen Krantz, Fr. Eilerman, Fr. Weist, Kathy Broering, Betty Heitkamp, Paul Boeke, Sue Fortkamp, Karen Moeller, Joan Alexander, Marie Lochtefeld, Peg Albers, and Mary Jo Schwieterman.

Today's teachers are constantly continuing their religious education through reading, classes, and the annual Religious Education Congress. Following is a list of our current teachers, their years of teaching, level of certification, and the grade they are currently teaching:

Carol Hemmelgarn-18-Level II-2nd grade	Carolyn Stucke-11-Level III-7&8th, 10th grades-C.R.E.
Jan Ranly-10-Level 1, 11&12th grades	Kathy Otte-10-Level II, 3&4th grades
Linda Schoenlein-9-Level II-6th grade	Phyllis Thobe-3-5th grade
Katie Dippold-2-9th grade	Tess Mescher-2-1st grade
Aide - Lenore Albers-16	Substitutes - Rita Flaute and Kathy Broering

Tess and Linda are also our current Special Sunday Program teachers.

While religious education has changed dramatically since its begining, the success of our program continues to be based on the co-operation and faithfulness of parents, who see that their children attend classes, the dedication of teachers who make their classes interesting and challenging, and the financial and volunteer support of our parishoners. As Fr. Ryder said in the Winter 1997 issue of "Northern Lights," "Maybe the most amazing thing about this C.C.D. program is that absences are extemely unusual."

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CLASSES
NATIVITY OF B.V.M. C.C.D.
GRADES 1 - 12
1996 - 1997p

GRADE 1

1. Jacob Alexander
2. Lisa Bergman
3. Katherine Dirksen
4. Luke Homan
5. Jodi Huelsman
6. Justin Jones
7. Gregory Koesters
8. Kelsey Mescher
9. Lucas Moeller
10. Marie Moeller
11. Amanda Puthoff
12. Jordyn Sweigart
13. Emily Wuebker

GRADE 2

1. Damon Bertke
2. Kayla Evers
3. Jordan Diller
4. Daniel Moeller
5. Marcus Otte
6. Dustin Schwieterman
7. Jena Schwieterman
8. Matthew Wuebker
9. Angela Will

GRADE 3

1. Corey Albers
2. Mindi Bergman
3. Richard Broering
4. Zachary Homan
5. Katelyn Mescher
6. Maria Moeller
7. Michael Moeller
8. Amy Reichert
9. Justin Siegrist
10. Mellani Sweigart
11. Travis Thobe
12. Craig Tuente

GRADE 4

1. John Alexander
2. Brian Huelsman
3. Adam Koesters
4. Jacob Moeller
5. Kyle Moeller
6. Jeffrey Otte
7. Kelly Pleiman
8. Erika Steinbrunner

GRADE 5

1. Kimberly Boeke
2. Alan Broering
3. Lindsay Dippold
4. Terri Feltz
5. Megan Homan
6. Adam Kremer
7. Kevin Moeller
8. Russell Moeller
9. Sarah Moeller

GRADE 6

1. Jess Alexander
2. Karla Dirksen
3. Ashley Feltz
4. Daniel Feltz
5. Francis Moeller
6. Margo Moeller
7. Chad Otte
8. Jamee Ranly
9. Lynn Reichert
10. Tammy Schoenlein
11. Kristy Tuente

GRADE 7

1. Janell Broering
2. Matthew Koesters
3. Daniel Otte
4. Lindsey Siegrist
5. Ryan Thobe
6. Angela Wuebker

GRADE 8

1. Brian Bergman
2. Joshua Buening
3. Mark Dahlinghaus
4. Joshua Hemmelgarn
5. Elizabeth Moeller
6. Cynthia Otte
7. Karla Otte
8. Justin Ranly
9. Candice Schwieterman

GRADE 9

1. Amber Albers
2. Joshua Alexander
3. Amy Boeke
4. Mark Broering
5. Jenny Feltz
6. Kelli Feltz
7. Nick Moeller
8. Philip Moeller
9. Eric Muhlenkamp
10. Craig Otte
11. Trisha Tuente
12. Daniel Wuebker

GRADE 10

1. Bridget Alexander
2. Carla Bills
3. Melissa Buening
4. Linda Dahlinghaus
5. Timothy Dirksen
6. Carrie Giere
7. Dayna Kremer
8. Benjamin Moeller
9. Christa Moeller
10. Patrick Moeller
11. Ryan Moeller
12. Jordan Ranly
13. Jodi Schoenlein
14. Matt Schulze
15. Jamie Thobe

GRADE 11

1. Carla Bergman
2. Kelly Boeke
3. Jacqueline Broering
4. Christine Buening
5. Ryan Dippold
6. Henry Otte
7. Randy Otte
8. Jayne Pohlman
9. Matt Schoenlein
10. Russell Stucke
11. Chad Thobe
12. Corey Thobe

GRADE 12

1. Angela Albers
2. Julie Bills
3. Jennifer Dahlinghaus
4. Ted Dirksen
5. Craig Hemmelgarn
6. Cara Kremer
7. Nicholas Moeller
8. Mandy Muhlenkamp
9. Kenneth Otte
10. Gail Peiman
11. Jesse Ranly

TOTALS

Elementary	77
High School	50
Total	127

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CCD Glimpses



1993



Bethlehem Experience 1995
at Preble Co. Fairgrounds in Eaton, Ohio



Kindergarten Religion 1997
Two classes which prepare the kindergarten class for First Grade Religion in the fall.

Matthew Reichert, Elizabeth Reichert, Kensey Schwieterman,
Laura Bertke, Eric Siegrist, Abbie Berning

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5th & 6th grade
CCD Class
1984 - 1985



Preschool
Sunday Program
1993



End of the Year CCD Celebration
1993



The "Beatitudes" were part of what this 7th & 8th grade class learned during the year. Left to right are: Chad Thobe, Carla Bergman and Jayne Pohlman.

Gaduating
Class of 1995



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OFFICERS

1996

PARISH COUNCIL
President - Don Mescher
Secretary - Carol Meyer
Jerry Moeller
Linda Muhlenkamp
Ron Schoenlein
Jim Pleiman
Ruth Feltz
Karen Boeke

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS SODALITY
President - Margie Griesdorn
Vice President - Anita Homan
Secretary - Peg Albers
Treasurer - Janice Nagel

C.C.D. BOARD
President - Carl Koesters
Vice President - John Huelsman
Secretary - Sue Moeller
Treasurer - Mary Kremer

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE
Peg Albers
Kathy Otte
Donna Moeller
Mary Jo Schwieterman

HOLY NAME
President - John Reichert
Vice President - Tony Dirksen
Secretary - Dave Bertke
Treasurer - Mike Broering

C.Y.O. ADVISORS
Sue Moeller
Jan Ranly
Phyllis Thobe
Irene Bruns

C.Y.O. OFFICERS
President - Ryan Dippold
Vice President - Randy Otte
Secretary - Angie Albers
Treasurer - Corey Thobe
Freshman Representatives -
Joshua Alexander
Beth Meier

1997

PARISH COUNCIL
President - Ron Schoenlein
Secretary - Karen Boeke
Jim Pleiman
Ruth Feltz
Joe Pohlman
Marv Tuente
Brenda Evers
Karen Thobe

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS SODALITY
President - Linda Schoenlein
Vice President - Anita Homan
Secretary - Bernice Reichert
Treasurer - Janice Nagel

C. C. D. BOARD
President - Carl Koesters
Vice President - Paul Boeke
Secretary - Joan Alexander
Treasurer - Mary Kremer

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE
Donna Moeller
Mary Jo Schwieterman
June Heitbrink
Jane Wuebker

HOLY NAME
President - Tom Hemmelgarn
Vice President - Ivo Homan
Secretary - Dave Bertke
Treasurer - Mike Broering

C.Y.O. ADVISORS
Sue Moeller
Jan Ranly
Phyllis Thobe
Margie Meier

C. Y.O. ADVISORS
President - Ryan Dippold
Vice President - Corey Thobe
Secretary - Erin Dahlinghaus
Treasurer - Mindy Meier
Freshman Representatives -
Justin Ranly
Jared Hess

Parish Council
Then & Now

Minutes August 29, 1972

A meeting was called to order by committee chairman, Martin Feltz, on August 29, 1972 with 86 parishioners present.

Father Parr opened with prayer. Father discussed forming a Parish Council. He said he would read the guidelines, Sunday, Sept. 3rd. However, parishioners decided to nominate the following people:

*Andrew Hemmelgarn	Alfrieda Hartings	*Frank Feltz
*Mary Ann Hartings	Martin Feltz	Eileen Hess
*Harold Broering	*Carolyn Stucke	Othmar Reichert
*Ruth Brackman	*Ivo Reichert	Alfreida Siegrist
Art Ranly	*Marlene Huelsman	Dennis Dirksen
Julia Feltz		(*denotes those elected)

The parish's 125th Anniversary was discussed, nothing was decided.
Estimates were read for remodeling the parish house. Also, discussed was building a new house. It was the wish of the parish to make needed repairs to the rectory at moderate cost.
Martin Feltz dismissed the meeting. Father Parr closed with prayer.

Lloyd Kremer

Minutes September 1, 1972

The first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall Sept. 1. 1972. (Note: held without the knowledge or consent of the Pastor)

First matter on the agenda was to get organized. Election of officers was held by secret ballot with the results as follows:

President - Frank Feltz	two year trustee - Ivo Reichert
Vice President - Andy Hemmelgarn	two year trustee - Marlene Huelsman
Secretary - Mary Ann Hartings	one year trustee - Harold Broering
Treasurer - Carolyn Stucke	one year trustee - Ruth Brackman

To get started it was agreed that the president and treasurer would serve one year and also two of the trustees. The vice president steps into presidency. There-in-after everyone would serve a two year term.

A motion was made by Harold Broering and a second by Carolyn Stucke that the roof on the rectory was the number one project. Also, to be completed are new sacristy doors and putting the confessional back in its original place and hooking a light on it again. Also, any other project that was started in church.

Frank Feltz had obtained an estimate from Coldwater Maintenance Co. for the rectory roof which is as follows: $2,500.00 Labor - $610.00 Material - $28.45 Tax - $3,138.45 Total or labor at $4.50 an hour and volunteer help from the parish. It was agreed by council members to put the roof out on contract as a safety measure. to prevent any parishioner from getting hurt falling from the roof, etc.

Mr. Feltz volunteered to contact Bob Bruns Construction and Oliger Construction for bids on the rectory roof.

Meeting adjourned and next meeting set for Thursday, Sept. 7th at 8:00 p.m.

Mary Ann Harting, Secretary

Minutes September 6, 1972

Meeting of Parish Council was held in Parish Hall, Wed. Sept. 6, 1972 at 8:00 p.m.

Fr. Parr opened with prayer. Roll call found Carolyn Stucke absent. Minutes of last meeting were read by secretary. Father made two corrections, namely:

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First meeting was held without knowledge or consent of Pastor and Vice President does not step into Presidency.

Fr. Parr then read the guidelines of duties for executive secretary and chairman. He stated that the executive secretary, chairman and pastor meet previous to Parish Council meeting to work out an agenda and post it for all parishioners.

The chairman and a Lady (to be elected at a future date) will be our delegate to the deanery. They will serve one two year term.

Finances were discussed. Father is tabulating the envelopes from Sunday collections and agreed to send each contributor his report of contributions to the Church.

It was agreed to contact several local contractors for bids on sewage system, rectory roof and building a garage.

Marlene Huelsman made a motion to adjourn and Ivo Reichert seconded the motion.

Fr. Parr closed with prayer. Next meeting will be held after we have obtained some estimates.

MaryAnn Harting, Secretary

Minutes November 1, 1972

Parish Council meeting was held Nov. 1, 1972 after the Evening Mass. Father opened with prayer. All council members were present. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Officers of the Christian Mothers Sodality were present to discuss the 125th Anniversary. Mr. Feltz reported that the Carousel Hall on 127 was rented for $65.00 on Nov. 19th. Mrs. Siegrist (Carousel owner) will have the drinks available with the men of our parish to do the bartending. A motion was made by Harold Broering that the Christian Mothers Sodality officers take care of ordering the food. Ivo Reichert seconded the motion. The ladies of the parish will take care of preparing the food. Council ladies and wives will help serve the food. Relishes will be furnished by the Council & Sodality officers. Mass will be at 12:00 noon. Fr. Parr will invite the religious sons and daughters of the parish. Mr. Feltz will take care of placing a box at the Carousel for donations.

Next the garage was discussed. Original plans were for to drive into the garage from the East. However, there isn't ample room to make the turn and so the men of the council will check into placing the driveway between the rectory and church.

Roof of rectory estimates were received from Stachler for $4,100.00 and Coldwater Maintenance for $3,138.45. Fr. Parr noted a new chimney is needed from the roof line up.

Council agreed to check with Ralph Tumbusch to see if he could start repair work in house, namely: lowering ceilings in two offices, finish bathrooms and a new sacristy door on East side.

Father reported we have $100.00 in our church treasury as of Nov. 1st. Father ordered two candle holders for the alter; a sanctuary light and a Easter candle holder as a matching set. We have a donor for the Sanctuary Lamp.

Andy Hemmelgarn made a motion to set up a building fund in St. Henry Bank for remodeling. Contributions can be given in Sunday collections, so specified, or to our treasurer, Carolyn Stucke. She will make arrangements for checks to be printed as Building Fund, Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary. These checks will be co-signed by Fr. Parr and our treasurer at our regular council meetings. It was agreed to meet monthly on Thursday before First Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Outside lighting was discussed and will be checked into. One light will be placed north of the rectory and payment will be stopped on the one light in back of Lochtefeld store.

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An offer of $1,900.00 was offered our parish several years ago from the State for right of way. This will be checked into, to see if this money is still available and can be settled. This will be placed in the Building Fund.

Ivo Reichert made a motion to adjourn and Carolyn Stucke seconded the motion. Father closed with prayer.

Mary Ann Harting, Secretary

Parish Council
Now

Minutes June, 19, 1997

On Thursday evening, June 19, 1997, the Parish Council met with all members present except Jerry Moeller. Ernie Hartings was present as well as all the newly elected members. Father Ryder led with opening prayer. Minutes were read and approved.

Old Business:

1. An estimate was sent to the insurance company approximately one month ago concerning the chimney cap. No response has been received at the present time.
2. The statues inside of the church are being repainted.
3. Father Ryder informed the council on the progress of the 150th anniversary book.

New Business:

1. The ball diamond has undergone repair. The bleachers were torn apart. The frames were dipped, and new treated lumber replaced the old benches. A new home plate and pitcher's mound was also purchased. The Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO) Recreation fund donated $300 and the CK of A donated $50. These donations covered the expenses for the repairs.
2. The centerpiece in the cemetery has been landscaped. The old overgrown trees were cut down. New bushes were put in.
3. Tiles on the south west corner of church were repair. Marvin Heitkamp (Maria Stein Trenching) donated the use of his equipment and supplies for this project.
4. Thank You notes will be sent to Marvin Heitkamp, CK of A and MCDO.
5. Wellman Brothers will not be able to seal the outside of church this year. They are booked full for the summer. CR Hunt may be contacted to determine if they have any openings to seal the church before the winter months.
6. The St. Marys Deanery needs a list of names and addresses of those currently on the Parish Council.
7. Ernie Hartings will be checking on the price of fuel oil. The oil is usually purchased during the summer months before the price goes up.
8. A motion was made by Carol Meyer to destroy the ballots from the recent Parish Council, Liturgical Committee and C.C.D. Board election held in May. Linda Muhlenkamp seconded the motion.
9. Two chalices were found by parish secretary, Ruth Otte, recently. Father will use them for special occasions throughout the year.
10. Voting for the President and Secretary of the Parish Council took place. Ron Schoenlein was elected president and Karen Boeke was elected Secretary.

The meeting was then adjourned with Jim Pleiman motioning and Ruth Feltz seconding. Father Ryder closed with prayer.

Karen Boeke, Secretary

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Pledge Drive Remembered

The Parish Council was faced with a challenge as they entered their positions in July of 1996. Our almost 140 year old church was in need of several repairs. The most critical was the need of a new roof. The past president, Rick Evers; the new president, Don Mescher; along with Roger Wellman of Wellman Brothers and our custodian, Ernie Hartings; were made aware of this need as one rainy July afternoon they inspected the attic portion of our church. They found small holes and could see daylight from outside.

Knowing that improvements needed to be made now, or our church would eventually become unsafe for worship, the parish council met and discussed what should be done. Temporarily patching the disintegrating roof was a must. They decided to seek the opinions of the parish members as to "Do we invest in our parish's future and repair our place of worship and for what price or do we continue this way until the church is no longer a safe place for worship?"

With the lack of newly ordained priests into the Society of The Precious Blood many of our parishioners, were concerned about fixing up our church only to have it closed down by the Archbishop. The Parish Council discussed with fellow parishioners everyone's desire to go on or to close. Overwhelmingly Nativity's Parish Council found a desire among the parishioners to refurbish our place of worship.

The next mission was to decide on needs and their projected cost estimates. The council felt it only fair to give the parishioners an idea of all the large repairs that needed to be made in the next several years and their costs. The Parish Council wanted to avoid going back to the parishioners every few years requesting more and more money for the latest repair.

During this time three parish council representatives attended a fund raising meeting at the St. Mary's Deanery Training Center. Many of our neighboring parishes, with the same repair concerns, also attended. Presenters for this meeting were Jack Hartings, a Cassella native, with his current pastor of Holy Trinity (Coldwater) Fr. Ron Wilker. They spoke about how they ran a very successful fund raising drive a few years earlier.

Our parish council felt Holy Trinity's plan could work for our parish. They took the plan and customized it to fit our parish's needs and size. A three year pledge plan was adopted by the council and each family in the parish was to receive an envelope with the following pledge form enclosed.

.....

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Improvement Fund Pledge Form

PAYMENT PLAN... Total Amount Pledged
-----WEEKLY -----MONTHLY $_____
-----QUARTERLY -----ANNUAL ----- ONE TIME

_____ name

total gift	Payment	initial 156 weekly	36 monthly	12 quarterly	3 annual
$5,000.00	$500.00	$28.85	$125.00	$375.00	$1500.00
$2,000.00	$200.00	$11.54	$50.00	$150.00	$600.00
$1,500.00	$150.00	$8.65	$37.50	$112.50	$450.00
$1,000.00	$100.00	$5.77	$25.00	$75.00	$300.00
$750.00	$75.00	$4.33	$18.75	$56.25	$225.00
$600.00	$60.00	$3.46	$15.00	$45.00	$180.00
$500.00	$50.00	$2.89	$12.50	$37.50	$150.00
$400.00	$40.00	$2.31	$10.00	$30.00	$120.00

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Next the parish council attached a letter to the bulletin explaining the church needs

1. A new roof, not to exceed $40,000, to be done by Wellman Brothers who had the best bid.
2. The exterior of our church needed sealing and tuck pointing which was estimated between $5000 to $10,000.
3. The furnace of the church had exceeded it's life expectancy and would not be replaced until needed. But was still a consideration of future expenses of about $7,500.
4. Our exterior windows needed painting and caulking for approximately $4,750.
5. The surface of our parking lot is deteriorating and needs resurfacing to prolong its life with a cost of about $8,500.
6. Other considerations for the future would be re-plating the steeple cross and building a wheelchair ramp, which would depend on the financial picture at that time.

Total expected cost for repairs were about $75,000.

The next weekend the council presented a question and answer session after each of the Sunday masses. One week later the pledge envelopes were placed in back of church for pick up. After a few weeks the parish council president and the parish secretary confidentially took charge of tallying the returned pledges and seeing if the parish would support this $75,000 refurbishing. Incredibly the parishioners of Nativity came through and pledged a total of $108,000. No one member contributed more than $5,000.

Each parishioner was asked to give 10% of their pledge in November of 1996 and their first payment was due in December. The 10% down payments, first payments, pledge payments paid in full, and other donations gave the parish enough money to pay for the roof and copper gutters replaced in April 1997. Other repairs will occur as their need becomes more urgent and finances allow.

What an exciting feeling for the members of Nativity Parish to have come together with such generosity and commitment to the future of our parish. A true desire to continue our heritage for future generations.



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CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS
(TRANSLATION)

There was in this parish at Casella, Mercer County, Ohio, an Altar Sodality under the special chosen title: "The Visitation of Mary". This Sodality of women celebrated that feast every year on the second of July by assisting at holy Mass and receiving holy Communion.

On July second, 1908, the members of that Sodality were asked to join the large Sodality of Christian Mothers and to put away with the title "Altar Sodality". In the future they shall call themselves, "Christian Mothers Sodality" of Casella, Ohio. But they should keep the title of the "Visitation" as also the feast day on July second. They were also put under the protection of the "Sorrowful Mother" and shall celebrate that feast on the third Sunday in September in honor or the "Seven Dolors".

Rev. Charles Romer C.PP.S Pastor of the Parish, Casella, applied to the Directors of the Arch Confraternity of Christian Mothers at Pittsburgh, Penn. The Sodality also received the Approbation of Arch Bishop, Henry Moeller, D.D. of Cincinnati, Ohio on July 3, 1908, and shortly after July 8, 1908 the aggregation Diploma for the St. Mary's Parish and the ladies of it.

The diploma was sent from

St. Augustine Monastery,
#220 37th St.,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Then all the members whose names are written in this book made it their duty to obey the Statutes or Rules, as also to give their yearly gift of money to the Sodality.

GENERAL RULES

1. Any married woman or widow who has the ernest will to fulfill her duties as a Christian Mother and to obey the Rules of the Sodality can be admitted into it.
2. To be a member she must be received by the director or his legal assistant. Her baptismal and family name must be written in the book of the Sodality.
3. All the members shall with great care educate their chilren after the example of Jesus Christ and His teachings and daily say the prayer of the Sodality. They shall offer up a holy Communion every month for all the members of the Sodality and their special intentions. If they cannot do so, they shall attend a holy Mass instead and receive holy Communion spiritually. Finally they shall attend the meetings of the Sodality regular.
4. Those meetings will be if possible every month. The day and hour will be set by the director. He shall have a lecture fitting for women, as also proper devotions, where they shall pray for the intentions of the members.
5. On this day the holy Mass will be offered up for all the members of the Sodality and they shall receive holy Communion. If the holy Mass cannot be offered up for the members, then a Memento shall be offered up for them.
6. Twice a year is general Communion, on the feast of the "Visitation", and on the feast of the "Seven Dolores", usually celebrated on the third Sunday in September. The Vice President and Secretary must tell the spiritual director two weeks before so he can announce it in time to the members.
7. At the head of the Sodality shall be a priest as director and for the Sodality itself are appointed:
   - 1st. A President to whom the members can apply.
   - 2nd Vice President who receives the new members, keeps the Sodality book and writes the names in it. She also distributes the reception leaflets and the medals of the Sodality.
   - 3rd The Secretary keeps the book with the names of all the members and reads all the names aloud, when they have a meeting; she also must be very exact in writing down the income so as to avoid mistakes.

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4th The treasurer must be very conscientious in taking care of the money of the Sodality. She shall never spend money without the knowledge of the President and only for things for the Church. The main election is always the Sunday after the feast of the Visitation. They can change from time to time.

8. Larger Sodalities will be divided. The director will appoint for each of them a President and an assistant. They can be changed from time to time.
9. It is the duty of the President to watch over the members whether they attend the meetings, and give a good example. She has to visit the sick members, console them, and help them as much as possible, being especially solicitous about a happy death. All matters of greater importance are to be referred to the director.
10. When a member of the Sodality has departed this life, all the members shall offer up all prayers and good works as soon as possible a Requiem Mass shall be offered for her. All who are able to do so should be present at the funeral services.
11. Within the seven days following "All Soul's Day" a Requiem Mass should be sung for all the members departed.
12. The deceased members of the Sodality as also their children shall always be included in a special manner in all the prayers and good works of the Sodality.

Each member will find in the Reception Certificate what Indulgences can be gained by a member of the Sodality.



After Easter Sunday Mass
1966
Dolores Rindler, Monica Grevenkamp, Freda Hartings, Rita Flaute, Alma Goettemoeller, MaryAnn Hartings, Marlene Huelsman, Lorena Reichert, Hilda Wuebker.

TODAY

The Christian Mothers Sodality meets 3 times a year, April, October, and at Christmas. We have one major fund raiser, a bake stand at the C.K. of A. shooting match in October. These funds are used for the following donations and expenses: $ 50.00 for the C.K. of A raffle drawing, 1 or 2 Rosary Hours said on the radio at $ 30.00 per hour, Part of the Halloween party expenses, $50.00 to St. Vincent De Paul for traveling expenses for our fall clothing drive, Occassional donation to Fr. Ranly for his missionary work in Peru, Right to Life Donation, Christmas poinsettas to members over 75 years of age, Part of the Sodality Christmas Party Expenses, Part of the parish Christmas church decorations, Easter, First Communion, May Crowning, 40 Hours, & every several years Confirmation Flower Expenses, Occassional After Prom Donations & VCR library donations, Church & CCD cleaning supplies, yearly parish cleaning ladies lunch tab, white baptismal cloth expenses, purchasing material and curtains for CCD hall, as needed, & a $ 2.00 bill and religious message to each high school graduate.

Currently we are in the process of reviewing this list for ways of cutting expenses. Our expenses have been higher than the income we generate at the shooting match. We are also considering the possibility of an additional fund raiser. These items were presented at our April meeting and we will be making decisions at our October 1997 meeting.

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July 2, 1944 -Christian Mother's Sodality Minutes

This was the annual meeting and election of officers.

The reading of income and expenses for the year 1943 and 1944 was read and accepted.

Then it was brought up and sanctioned by our pastor Rev. Rudolph Stolz that this time and in the future, there was to be elected only two new officers and the two Junior members from the preceding year were to serve again to form the regular members.

Election of Officers followed.

President	Mrs. Adella Eifert	elected for 2 years
Vice Pres.	Mrs. Philomena Dirksen	elected for 1 year
Secretary	Mrs. Sophia Ranly	elected for 1 year
Treasurer	Mrs. Francis Huelsman	elected for 2 years

STATEMENT:

INCOME

Dues and balance	$ 82.47
Cart party	87.67
Donation by Young Ladies Sod.	25.00
Dues collected	3.00
Interest on Money	.89
Total	$ 199.03

EXPENSES

One set of dishes of 8 & one of 6, and 3 pair lace curtains	$ 13.00
Rug & pad for priest house	50.00
High mass for deceased members	5.00
Low mass for deceased memebers	1.00
Total	$ 69.00

Balance in bank June 29, 1945	$ 130.03

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Officers washed and repaired servers cassocks and made 17 finger towels and 3 amices.

Mrs. Elizabeth Reichert donated thread and made lace for four surplices.

Sept. 20, we met with Mrs. Christina Gress and bought those dishes and lace curtains for which she has our thanks.

We also wish to express our thanks to the Young Ladies Sodality for their donation of Twenty Five Dollars for the rug in the priest's bedroom.

President Adella Eifert
Secretary Sophia Ranly

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April 14, 1997 - Christian Mother's Sodality Minutes

New president Linda Schoenlein called the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with prayer. Linda Schoenlein welcomed three new members to our sodality. They are: Lori Homan, Melissa Hilgefort, and Elaine Bruns.

The speaker for the evening was Kathy Schwieterman, a Mammogram Technologist from Coldwater Hospital. She spoke on mammograms and the signs/symptoms of cancer. She had literature for all of us to review.

Next, the minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was then given. Treasurer Janice Nagel presented information on the chalk board showing our expenditures and income for the last several years. We were all informed that our funds were extremely low. The Ranly fund, as of this date stands at $ 4,112.69 but can be used only for improvement and beautification of the inside of the church. Discussion was held concerning lack of funds and how we might improve the situation. President Linda Schoenlein passed around a sheet of paper describing the various items we donate to during the year. Members were asked to come up with suggestions of ways to either increase our income or cut our expenses. These suggestions will be discussed in detail at the October meeting. Discussion was also held concerning the lack of new membership and what could be done to improve this situation.

We received a letter for a donation for the Marion Local After Prom. Due to lack of funds, Sharon Koesters made a motion not to donate any money at this time. Fritz Reichert seconded the motion.
Joan Alexander made a motion not to donate any money to the MCDO Tourism Committee due to the lack of funds. It was seconded by Marie Evers.

Discussion was held concerning lack of funds to purchase flowers for First Communion, May Crowning, and the $ 2.00 Bill for graduating Seniors. A motion was made by Joan Alexander that a donation box be put in the back of church for the Flower Fund. It was seconded by Ginny Boeckman.

Thank you notes were received from Lorena Vagedes for the Marion Rosary Hour and from Mildred Heitkamp. These were passed around for all members to review.

Father Ryder then spoke about the Parish's 150th Anniversary that will be held in August. He encouraged everyone to get involved with this celebration. He also made some comments concerning the history of our parish. Linda Schoenlein then spoke about the history book of stories the parish is going to print. She encouraged anyone with stories of their experiences to submit them as soon as possible.
Father Ryder also spoke briefly about the Ranly Fund.

The lunch committee for the October Meeting is: Charlene Heitkamp - Chairlady, Judy Dirksen, Carolyn Stucke, Peg Hemmelgarn, Diane Pohlman, and Lynne Reichert.

Freida Hartings made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Evelyn Bertke. The meeting was then closed with prayer.

Bernice Reichert
Secretary

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CHRISTIAN MOTHER'S SODALITY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 1997 - May 31, 1997

INCOME:

Dues	$ 32.00
Donations for the 1996 Christmas Poinsettias	157.00
Flower Donations - Collected in Spring	83.00
TOTAL INCOME	$ 272.00

EXPENSES:

B & D Greenhouse (1996 Christmas Flowers)	$ 253.00
Liturgical Committee - Silk Flowers for church	55.64
Floral Reflections - Live flowers for Easter ($ 187.20) Confirmation ($ 50.00)	237.20
Floral Reflecions Live flowers for May Crowning	22.50
High School Graduates - 10 Seniors $ 2.00 bill & Religious Message	20.00
Bank Service Fee	7.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 595.94

BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 1997

Checking Account Balance	$ 75.56
Savings Account	20.60
Cash on Hand	27.00

ED RANLY FUND (Savings Account) $ 4,273.45
To be used only for church improvements & beautification of the inside of the church

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Liturgical Committee
Then

The first Liturgical Committee was formed in 1978 by Father Vincent Parr. The committee consisted of Janice Nagel, Charlene Heitkamp, Anita Homan, and Ruth Otte. Guidelines for the committee were obtained from the Diocesan Worship Commission.

The living rosary was introduced into the May Crowning ceremony with the C.C.D. students participating

Various jobs the Committee became in charge of were - setting up the Nativity scene at Christmas time, helping with the preparation for Palm Sunday and selecting flowers for the church on Easter and other occasions.

Liturgical Committee
Now

The Liturgical Committee consists of four members with each holding a two year term. Two new members are elected each year. They are responsible for the Children's Masses and Prayer services that Nativity offers during the year. They are also responsible for decorating the church. The Committee meets with Father Ryder and the St. Rose Liturgical Committee during the summer to set the dates for both parishes Children's Masses. This is done to hopefully prevent any conflicts between our two parishes. The special events at Nativity that currently have a children's theme are Thanksgiving, Christmas, The Way of the Cross, and May Crowning. The committee decides which prayer services to use although they basically remain the same.

The two new members of the Committee get initiated with the start of the Thanksgiving Children's mass. The committee chooses children from the parish to be the readers and to dress as Indians and Pilgrims. Before mass there is a procession of Thanksgiving as the American & Papal flags, Bible, and basket of food are brought to the altar. Also in this procession is the mother and father with the youngest member of our parish representing new life. Each child in the parish may bring a canned food item to church and present their gift at offertory. The food items are then brought to a local organization to help the needy.

Soon after Thanksgiving the committee plans for Christmas with a Children's Mass in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve. The spirit of Christmas is in Cassella with a standing room only crowd to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children chosen to participate read, or dress as angels, shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph to put on a small presentation in the beautifully decorated church. The music is provided by the Youth Choir singing a collection of Christmas songs.

During Lent the children participate in the Children's Way of the Cross. This is on a Sunday afternoon and the children of the parish are chosen to do the readings for the stations. A simple wooden cross is placed in church to remind us of the purpose of this season. Members of the Liturgical Committee decorate the church by placing Easter Lillies and other spring flowers around the altars and cross for the Easter Season..

Other spring occasions the committee helps with are First Communion and May Crowning. For First Communion the committee decorates the church in celebration of the second graders receiving this sacrament. The Juniors, Seniors, and First Communicants present a flower to Mary our Mother during the May Crowning ceremony. One Senior girl is chosen to place a crown of roses on Mary. Mary is set in a place of honor and flowers are brought to decorate this area all month. A beautiful May altar for the Mother of God.

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Holy Name Sodality
Then

October 27, 1956 - minutes

Meeting held after 7:30 Mass. It was decided to have election of officers on the Men's Communion Sunday in September. It was also decided to elect the officers for two years continuous service such as President 2 years, Vice President 2 years, etc. instead of having election each year for 2 officers and then stepping up from secretary to president as in the past.

Ray Feltz, secretary

NOW

April 28, 1997 - minutes

President, John Reichert called the meeting to order and Father Ryder led in prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report was:
Cemetery balance $2,913.08 Sodality balance $1,615.54.

Under old business it was discussed whether we should spray the cemetery for weeds. Ray Koesters made a motion, 2nd by Ernie Hartings, motioned passed. Ernie said he could do it if we got the sprayer.

New Business: We walked out to the cemetery to look at the trees behind the large Crucifix. We discussed removing the old trees and replacing them with new ones. Motion to do this was made by Harold Broering, 2nd by Andy Hemmelgarn, motion passed. We discussed the repairs needed to the bleachers at the ball diamond. Will be fixed as part of parish council's fix-up day. John brought up having a plaque made translating the German inscription on the cemetery crucifix to English for the younger generation. An estimate will be gotten and re-discussed in the fall. It was decided not to donate to the Marion after-Prom this year. Next we held the election of the new officers. For president the nominees were Erwin Schulze and Tom Hemmelgarn and for Vice President were Joe Meyer and Ivo Homan. Art Ranly motioned to close the nominations. Frank Fortkamp 2nd. Tom Hemmelgarn and Ivo Homan were the winners. Parish Council president Don Mescher was present to discuss the progress of the church repairs and what is next on their plans.

Art Ranly made a motion to adjourn and Frank Fortkamp 2nd. Father Ryder then led us in prayer.

David Bertke, secretary



Fr. Eilerman with one of the young parishioners who he baptized and gave First Holy Communion to.

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Rules and By-Laws of Cassella Cemetery
Sept. 14, 1977

1. All members of the Cassella Congregation are to pay $12.50 per grave space and $6.50 for children up to age 8 for grave space. This fee also stands for the members of the parish who are working away from home and live away from home if they are not married. This also goes for members who have been forced to leave the parish for sickness or retirement.

2. Every family in the parish will be assessed $2.50 per year for perpetual upkeep of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary cemetery. Every single person over 20 years of age will be required to pay the same assessment.
This assessment must be paid during the month of October; payments will be for the following year. The first payment will be due on Oct. 1, 1977. Payment of dues to be made to the Pastor. Any parishioner who moves away from the parish but, who pays his or her annual assessment, will have the same privileges of burial as a parishioner.
Any family or any parishioner who does Not pay his or her annual care cemetery dues for 1 to 5 years will be charged $25.00 at the time of burial. Those due over 5 years and up to ten will be charged $50.00. Those over 10 years will be charged $200.00. Life time perpetual care is $75.00.

3. Non-parishioners will be charged $500.00.
Any non-resident married former parishioner may bury an infant, with the charge being $15.00.

4. A grave space may be reserved by a husband or wife who passed away, and has been buried on the Cassella Cemetery. The place, next to his or her spouse, must have a reserve fee paid (if they want to be buried next to their spouse) before the next grave space is taken. The cost of this grave is $12.50.

5. Fees are to be paid to the caretaker or pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Parish and placed in the cemetery fund. $2.50 of the fee is to go to the caretaker for marking the grave.

6. Opening and closing of the grave will be the responsibility of the relatives; they may get any help needed. Use of any heavy equipment must have permission of the caretaker.
NO grave may be opened until it has been marked at the exact spot by the caretaker, and no grave marker may be placed down until it is marked by the caretaker of the cemetery.

7. Lots previously sold will be honored.

8. Anyone who wished to reserve a double lot will be charged $40.00, which lot must be in rotation with the last grave purchased. A grave head-stone must be erected within 6 months of purchase.

9. After interment of a body, a head-stone must be erected within 6 months.

10. At a meeting held Sept. 14, 1977 it was decided by the Men's Sodality that the above rules and by-laws be adopted for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary cemetery.

The Men's Sodality officers welcome any suggestions any parishioners wish to make. If none are forthcoming these rules and by-laws become effective on October 1, 1977.

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1909 Expenses and Income
Cemetery

Expenses:	
John Steinbruner as Organist	$1.00
Father Romer for badges	$24.74
Sebastian Delzeit for Sexton work	$6.00
Grimes on gravel for Cemetery Improvement	$24.00
Mass for Anton Grote from Society	$1.00
Henry Kramer for Grass Seed	$2.25
Total Expenses for ine year begining March 19, 1909 to March 19, 1910	$58.99

Income:	
Recieved from Cemetery Lots from:	
Joseph Kramer	$10.25
Joseph Reichert	$10.50
John Link	$10.25
Anna Keller (1/2 lot)	$8.00
Clemence Homan	$10.50
John Cron	$10.25
Fred Bertke	$10.25
Henry Kramer	$10.25
Reinhard Hartings	$11.00
Christoph Ranly	$17.00
Henry Koesters	$10.50
Joseph Link	$10.25
John Link for grass grown on Cemetery	$1.60
Donation from Father Romer	$9.74
Total income for one year beginning March 19, 1909 and ending March 19, 1910	$190.34

Balance on hand March 19, 1910 $131.35



View of Nativity's Cemetary 1997

CYO Minutes
THEN

The last meeting of the C.Y.O. was held **October 31, 1966** after religion class. The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Dippold. After the minutes were read and approved, new business was discussed. First was the discussion on if to have dues and how much? Voting took place and we voted to have dues, and the amount, 50 cents. Next were discussed a money making project such as a dance or a bake sale. This matter was tabled for discussion until next meeting. Next the president told the C.Y.O. about the Youth Rally at Minster, and as many should attend as possible. The meeting was then adjourned.

C.Y.O. Officers were President: Bob Dippold Vice President: Ed Pleiman Secretary/Treasurer: Dianne Otte Reporter: Diana Rindler.

CYO Minutes
NOW

The **January 17, 1997** meeting was called to order by President, Ryan Dippold after 10:00 Sunday mass. Brian Evers led in prayer. Cara Kremer took over the role as secretary. Thirty-five members were present in roll call. Cara then read minutes of the last meeting. Corey Thobe gave the treasurers report. He paid $50.00 to North Valley, it was motioned to have the basketball players pay $2.50 each for the fee and he paid $27.74 to Brodbecks for donuts & juice. In savings we have $215.53, $84.48 in checking, $7.00 in cash for a total of $307.71

In old business, Sue Moeller, advisor, discussed Service Projects. Lisa Evers & Wendy Luebke are going on the Right to Life March in Washington DC. Other Service Projects include Bingo at the County Home and helping at the MCDO Community Address on Jan. 26th.

In New Business, Jan Ranly, advisor, talked about having members see a Musical Production on Feb. 2nd. Cost is $5.00, the CYO will pay $3.00. The play starts at 3:00 p.m. and will last 3 hrs. Thank You notes were received from Phyllis Thobe, Sue Moeller and Irene Bruns for the gift certificates to High Marks. Dana, Elaina, Bridget & Jenny talked about the "Dead Serious" play they saw. Chili dinner tickets were passed out. Tickets sales count is due back on Jan. 29th. Members signed up for jobs. It was decided that the CYO donate $50.00 to After Prom. It was motioned by Jordan and seconded by Dana. The meeting was adjourned by Ben Buening & seconded by Mandy Muhlenkamp.

Secretary, Angie Albers

1997 CYO Basketball Team
Went To State!!
front: Matt Schoenlein, Corey Thobe, Nick Moeller , Craig Hemmelgarn, Randy Otte, coach: Joe Thobe;
back: Frank Evers, Brian Evers, Matt Evers, Greg Bruns, Russell Stucke



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Caring Ministry

In the winter of 1988, Rita Flaute, Peg Hemmelgarn, Marie Lochtefeld and Ray Koesters attended a Caring Ministry Program at the Maria Stein Center conducted by Fr. Wyen and Kathy Schmitmeyer.

After completion of the program a Caring Ministry was formed at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cassella; the purpose of which is to visit the homebound and hospitalized.

Since its beginning five more members of the Parish joined the Caring Ministry. They are Thelma Koesters, Anita Homan, Hilda Wuebker, Ernie & Freda Hartings.

Pieces of our Past



After a snow in 1950.

Flood waters in the early 1920's.





Solem Communion 1942
Sylvia (Vondrell) Shepherd
Rita (Ranly) Flaute
Ralph Reichert
Ernest Bertke

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The Catholic Knights of America

The Catholic Knights of America was founded in April, 1877 at the suggestion of Most Rev. P.A. Feehan, Bishop of Nashville, Tennessee. It was organized under a special charter granted by the assembly of the State of Kentucky. It is the second oldest Catholic Fraternal in the United States. Its home office is now at 3525 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63139.

The Objects of this Society shall be to unite fraternally practical Catholics of all ages, male and female, of every profession, business, and occupation; to promote Catholic action recognizing the common dignity of all men united by faith, hope and charity; to encourage its members to participate in the Apostolate of the Laity according to the objectives set forth by the Ecumenical Council, Vatican II, in its decree on the constitution of the Church; to foster assistance in the Church's missions, to promote the Catholic school systems; to stress the need and pray for religious vocations; to aid the teaching of sound Christian principles through good literature and modern communications media; to give loyal and unwavering support to the Holy Father personally and to the teachings magisterium of the church; generally to do all such other acts and things as may be lawfully done by such Societies under the laws relating to fraternal associations. The Society shall have power to establish and maintain proper funds including the full amount of reserves to insure the integrity of insurance certificates issued; to provide for the payment of general operating expenses; to preserve funds of the Society by judicious investment and sound management; and to do and perform such other matters as may be deemed advisable or proper in carrying out the purposes of the Society.

Highlights of Branch 943 located in Cassella.

Cassella C.K. of A Branch No. 943 was charted on April 6, 1906 with ten members. They were Fred, Bertke, Sebastian Delzeit, Jacob Cron, Ben Schmit, Joseph Schwieterman, Henry Vondrell, Frank Feltz (charter president), Joe Hierholzer, August Koesters and Anton Koesters.

The first meetings of the Branch were held in an old school building, rent was $2.00. The building was later purchased from the Board of Education in April 1959. Many improvements were made to the building including an addition of a stage, rest rooms, oil fueled furnace, lowering of the ceiling and paneling the interior. The same building is used by the branch today. Branch meetings are held after mass on the third Monday of each month, this continues to be the organizations meeting day. The hall is used for parish activities for both adult and children. It is rented to groups for reunions, parties and wedding showers.

The branch makes donations to the Cassella church, CCD, the Right to Life Organization, St. Peter Nurological Center, St. Henry Life Squad, Chickasaw Fire Dept. and various school functions, along with other worthy causes.

Activities that leave the most memories are the plays that have been presented by its members. These plays were good fund raising projects and made possible the remodeling of the hall, and purchasing of new chairs etc. The shooting match first held in 1952 as a fund raiser has become an annual event which features trap and stationary shooting.

Past and Present Memories:

1912 holy water fonts were purchased for the church for $14.50 (still used today)

1926 Branch dues were set at 5 cents a member

1925 electric was installed in the hall

In Jan. 1982 the stage was removed and the restrooms were moved upstairs. the kitchen was moved to the east end of the hall. Total amount spent for this remodeling was $3,840.98. Community members very involved in this project were Andy Hemmelgarn, Ernest Hartings, Willie Tumbusch, Irwin Schulze, John Ranly and Earl Thieman.

Euchre parties and socials were held

During World War II all members who were in the service paid no branch dues and got the hall free for farewell parties. The local school used the hall for basketball and put on plays.

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Christmas parties were held for our youth members starting in 1949.

In 1952 Art Ranly became the insurance agent and still is today, although retiring. He has written up over 560 members.

In 1955 we stated our communion breakfast and this activity is still held today.

Purchased the old school house and grounds from Marion Local Board of Education for $700.00. Bleaches for the \ball field were purchased. The school was then sold to the church for $1.00. The school is currently our C.C.D. Hall.

The 100th anniversary party for the society was held with a parade on St. Rt. 119

In 1979 it was decided to start having mass said before the meetings, this is still in practice today.

According to the 1913 law book, a total of one Cardinal, two Archbishops, 15 Bishops, and 800 Priests were members of the C.K. of A.

In May 1972 the hall rent was raised from $7.50 to $10.00. Bishop Elko was the speaker for our 100th anniversary and a reception followed mass. Current rent is $50.00 for half day and $60 for a whole day.

August Droesch, age 96, outlived his policy so he was paid in full (membership includes a life insurance policy)

Tim Broering was 3rd in the national contest and won $50.00.

Jackets were ordered. (A nice jacket for $10.00) Women's Sodality got permission to have a bake sale at the shooting match, this still happens today. Art Ranly was named National Knight of the month. Mr. & Mrs. Louis Schemmel were named the C.K. of A. family of the year. The C.K. of A. usually chose one family from the entire United States for this award. The Schemmel's received a free trip to the 100th anniversary of the society celebration in St. Louis.

Other members receiving National recognition were Art Ranly in 1977 and Oscar Eifert in 1980 were Nation Knight of the month. Freda Hartings (1994) and Rita Flaute (1995) were Fraternalist of the year.

In June 1986 it was decided to give the CCD and the Mother's Sodality free use of the hall, this still applies today.

Mike Broering, for several years, would take a few of his cows to Farmer's Night at the Cincinnati Reds game for pre-game activities, area community members would also participate in the pregame activities. A bus load of members would also attend the baseball game.

Nine McCartyville members transferred to our branch in December.

A gold watch was presented to Fr. Eilerman on his 50th anniversary of the priesthood.

New playground equipment was added in May 1990 and is still in use today.

Kathy Homan painted an emblem on the sign in front of the building which is still there today.

James Broering won the C.K. of A. Scholarship for $250.00.

Each year since 1984 our local branch selected a fraternalism of the year.

1984 Ernest Hartings	1985 Mark Schwieterman	1986 Maurice Harting
1987 Diane Pohlman	1988 Raymond Koesters	1989 Cyril Broering
1990 Bob & Katie Dippold	1991 Jeffrey Mescher	1992 Arthur Ranly
1993 Andy Hemmelgarn	1994 Frieda Hartings	1995 Rita Flaute
1996 Oscar Eifert	1997 Tony Evers	

The society is a family fraternal, children from age zero can join. This is unusual, only a few organizations accept families and children as members.

Over the years the CKofA has also sponsored Euchre parties, socials, basketball and softball teams and skating parties.

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The Play: Petticoat Ranch 1947
Marie Evers; Theresa Hemmelgarn; Ivo Reichert; Julia Feltz; Mickey Feltz; Cy Bertke; Rita Siegrist; Art Ranly; Fita Flaute; Bob Hess; Orville Ranly

Shooting Match
Alfred Beockman; Tony Evers; Ray Flaute; Ivo Reichert



Parade in 1976



CK of A Fun 1993



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Census and Miscellaneous Data
January 1, 1903 to January 1, 1904

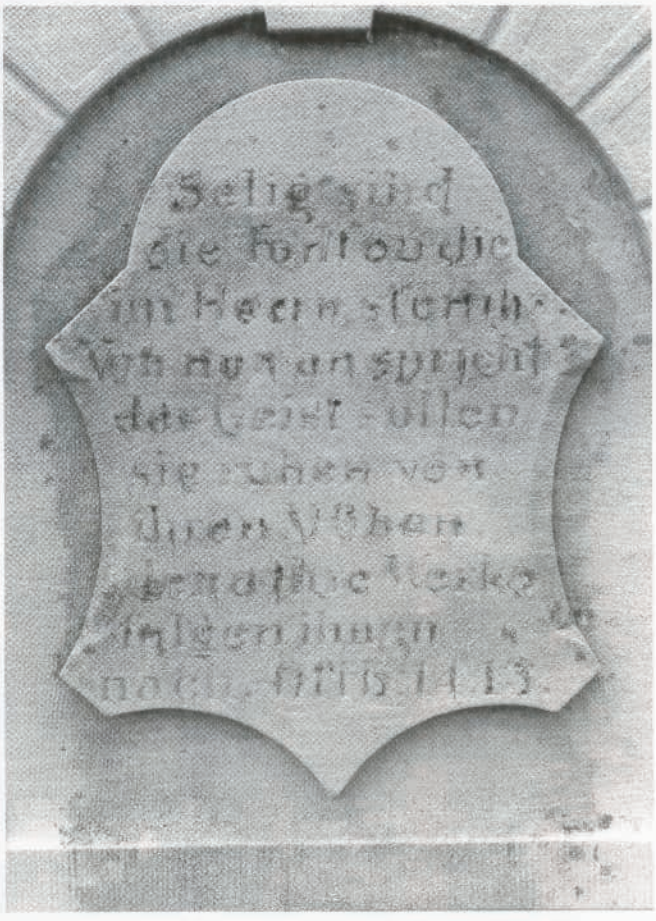
1. families = German = 50 families
2. 50 families rent seats
3. Our school is a Catholic district school
4. Teacher - is a good Catholic Lay teacher
5. Baptism - infants 13
6. Number of First Communion 9 boys 8 girls 17 total
7. Number of marriages 1
8. Number of Burial children 3 Adults 1 4 total

10. Catech. taught - 3 times - on Sunday at 2 p.m.
on Monday at 8:45 a.m. all by pastor and teacher
on Thursday at 8:45 a.m.
11. Masses are on Sundays and Holy days of obligation
12. Married Ladies Sodality - Young Ladies Sodality
13. Amount of Insurance = is $50.00
(the Insurance will run out this year, 1904 in August consequently watch the time to have it renewed)
14. Value of church property $16000

Treasurer: Christoph Ranly

Nativity Cemetery Centerpiece 1997





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Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Finances
Then & Now

Following report was found in a ledger and dated Jan. 11, 1904

Ordinary Receipts:	
1. Balance on hand last year	$ 110.56
2. Pew Rent	1030.10
3. Sunday & Feast days collection	30.70
4. Collection for Seminary	34.05
5. Collection for Holy Father	10.10
6. Collection for Orphans	10.85
7. Collection for Indian and Negro	10.73
8. Collection for Founding Asylum	7.14
9. Collection for Holy places in Palestine	9.21
10. Collection for Kansas Sufferers	21.15
11. Collection for C. Univ.	8.70
total amt. of ordinary Rec.	$ 1,273.29
Extraordinary Receipts:	
from other sources	
1. from social and thanksgiving supper	$114.07
Ordinary Expenses:	
1. Cadeorticum	34.00
2. Salary of Pastor	500.00
3. Salary of Organist	102.00
4. Informed Priest fund	19.26
5. Total amount of Diocese collection	114.13
6. Mass Wine and Alter Bread	10.00
7. Candles - Oil - Incense - charcoal - tapers	34.44
8. Washing and Mending	25.00
9. Fuel and wood for church	32.00
10. Repairs	14.00
Total Amt. of ordin. Exp.	$886.18
Extraordinary Expenses	
1. Interest	$ 9.00
2. Amount paid on principle	100.00
3. New furniture for church and repairs	32.00
4. Extraordinary Rep. for improvements	70.00
Amt. of extraordinary Exp.	$ 211.00
Summarized Statement	
Total Cash received	$1387.36
By total cash expended	$1097.18
Balance on Hand	$290.18

There is now no debt on the church.

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Pachtbuch für 1885

No. of Pew.		Price of Sitting Seat	Number of Seats	Amt.	Amount Received	Balance
	East side (of middle aisle					
2	Joseph Hasemann	4.15	x 4	16.00	16.00	
3	" "	4.10	x 1	4.10	4.10	
3	Heinrich Martin	4.50	x 2	9.00	9.00	
3	Anton Kemper	4.20	x 1	4.20	4.20	
4	August Stelzer	4.60	x 4	18.40	18.40	
5	Hermann Boeke	4.75	x 4	19.00	19.00	
6	Bernard Lindhaus	4.95	x 4	19.80	19.80	
7	Heinrich Asmann	5.05	x 3	15.15	15.15	
7	Johann Meier	5.10	x 1	5.10	5.10	
8	Bernard Ungruhe	5.30	x 1	5.30	5.30	
8	Friedrich Bertke	5.00	x 3	15.00	15.00	
9	Heinrich Vanderelle	5.15	x 2	10.30	10.30	
9	Gerhard Ortmann	5.05	x 2	10.10		10.10
10	Heinrich Entrup	5.10	x 3	15.30	15.30	
10	Bernard Grevoencamp	4.85	x 1	4.85	4.85	
11	Bernard Baekmann	4.85	x 1	4.85	4.85	
11	Heinrich Schalk	4.85	x 1	4.85		4.85
11	Heinrich Hasemann	4.85	x 1	4.85	4.85	
	East Side, side aisle			185.85	170.90	
12	Heinrich Entrup	5.00	x 1	5.00	5.00	
12	Philip Link one fourth of a year	1.25	x 1	1.25	1.25	
12	Bernard Greive	4.05	x 1	4.05	4.05	
12	Jacob Lauber	4.15	x 1	4.15	4.05	
13	Joseph Hurtz	4.25	x 1	4.25		4.25
13	Louis Eck	4.05	x 1	4.05	4.05	
13	George Schlosser	4.05	x 1	4.05		4.05
13	Joseph Hurtz	4.05	x 1	4.05		4.05
14	Heinrich Kortmann	4.10	x 1	4.10	4.10	
14	Peter Rinshaw	4.02	x 2	8.10	8.10	
14	Jacob Lauber	4.05	x 1	4.15	4.05	

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PEW RENT RECEIVED IN 1947

Albers, Clem	36.00
Ashman. Henry	50.00
Ashman, Joseph	39.00
Bergman, Albert	21.00
Bertke, Mrs. Fred	18.00
Bertke, Leo	160.00
Birkmeyer, Ed.	41.00
Boeke, Mrs. Joseph	105.00
Boekman, Frank	123.00
Bostick, Mrs. Art	18.00
Broerman, Ray	18.00
Broering, Mrs. Jos'phine	108.00
Bruns, Wilbert	11.50
Cron, Arnold	38.00
Cron, Mrs. Ida	38.00
Dahlinghaus, Joseph	104.00
Dippold, Albert	39.00
Dippold, Cyril	78.00
Dirksen, Clarence	180.00
Dwenger, Fred	36.00
Eifert, O.V.	44.00
Evers, Frank	160.00
Feltz, Albert	92.00
Feltz, Mrs. Frank	76.00
Feltz, Ray	50.00
Frenzer, Urban	36.00
Frenzer, Willaim	43.00
Goettemoeller, Frank	142.00
Grevenkamp. Gregor	9.00
Grevenkamp, Henry	69.00
Grevenkamp, John	44.00
Grilliot, J.B.	20.00
Hartings, William	160.00
Heitkamp, Alfred	36.00
Heitkamp, Roman	50.00
Hemmelgarn, Leo	40.00
Hemmelgarn, Teresa	18.00
Hess, Michael	117.00
Hierholzer, Henry	40.00
Homan, Adam	44.00
Homan, Bernard	76.00
Huelsman, Clement	72.00
Koesters, August	81.00
Kramer, Lawrence	42.00
Lindhaus, Joseph	43.00
Link, Augusat	135.00
Link, Philomina	26.00
Link, Joseph	123.00
Mescher, Leo	43.00
Obringer, Florus	35.00
Otte, August	164.00
Otte, Louis	31.00
Otte, Urban	36.00
Pleiman, Edward	24.60
Ranly, Peter	78.00
Ranly, Paul	27.00
Reichert, Mrs. Clara	86.00
Reichert, John	47.00
Reichert, Ivo	18.00
Reichert, Mrs. Frank	18.00
Reichert, Ray & Othmar	60.00
Schlosser, Sidonia	18.00
Schmiesing, Walter	44.00
Rosengarten, Florian	- - - -
Siegrist, Mrs. John	122.50
Strukamp, Louis	40.00
Stelzer, August	25.00
Stelzer, Edwin	25.00
Tumbusch, Adolph	84.00
Tumbusch, William	93.00
Vondrell. Mrs. Marg.	36.00
Vondrell, Henry	126.00

Pew Rent

On the first of the year each head of the household attended a pew "auction" at church. Each member stood by the seat or seats they wished to rent for the coming year. The Warden of the church acted as "auctioneer" and the parishioners would bid on their chosen seat. The last pews tended to go for highest bid. Bidders wouldn't bid against someone who had the same seat for a period of time. Pew rent was the amount bided and was to be paid though out the year. The money was used to pay the church expenses. Pew rent was discontinued in approximately 1950.

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Financial Statement
St. Mary's Church
Cassella, Ohio
January 1, 1947 to January 1, 1948

Ordinary Receipts

Pew Rent	$4,358.60	
Sunday Collection	469.59	
Votive Lights	240.03	
Insurance	247.54	
Total Ordinary Recipts		$5,315.76
Extraordinary Receipts		
Easter Collection	$172.85	
Christmas Collection	250.63	
Mission Collection	126.63	
Social	5,099.00	
Total Extraordinary Receipts		$ 5,649.11
Diocean Collections		
Good Friday	16.00	
Indian and Negro	15.00	
Seminary	100.00	
Bishops' Geberal Relief	340.00	
Orphans and Charity	16.00	
Missions	132.25	
Catholic University	29.00	
Holy Father	116.70	
Bishop Marling	40.00	
European Food Collection	75.00	
Teachers' College	23.00	
Mother Seton - Catech.	10.00	
Total Diocesan Collections		$912.95
Total Current Receipts		$11,877.82
Balance from Last Year		5,430.98
Grand Total		$17,308.80

Donations	500.00
Holy Childhood	10.00
Catholic-Telegraph Register	55.00

Lay Advisors

Henry Vondrell — William Tumbusch
Albert Dippold — Peter Ranly
John Grevenkamp, Treas.

Rev. B.V. Holler, C.PP.S., Pastor

Ordinary Expenses

Salary of Pastor	$1500.00	
Salary of Organist	300.00	
Choir	26.40	
Candles	108.05	
Church Cleaning	100.00	
Washing Church Linen	100.00	
Altar and Sanctuary	184.10	
Light, Gas, Telephone	103.92	
Fuel	510.58	
Taxes	42.42	
Printing of Statement	6.75	
Insurance	83.29	
Hardware	335.25	
Church Repairs	244.25	
Electrical Wiring	159.79	
Founded Masses	3.00	
Total Ordinary Expenses		$3807.80
Dioceasn Collection		812.95
Diocesan Assessments		174.00
Total Current Expenses		$4794.75
Balance, January 1, 1948		12,514.05
Grand Total		$17,308.80

OFFICERS OF CHURCH SOCIETIES

St. Joseph Men's Society (Holy Name)
Albert Feltz,President; Henry Ashman, Secretary
Cyril Dippold, Treasurer

St. John Society

Stanley Strukamp, President;
Stanly Goettemoeller, Secretary

Christian Mother's Sodality

Laurena Kramer, Pres.; Catherine Homan, Sec.;
Pauline Vondrell, Treasurer

Young Ladies' Sodality

Teresa Hemmelgarn, Pres.; Marie Vondrell, Sec.;
Mary Ann Homan, Treasurer

In your prayers remember the souls of
Joseph Boeke, Philomena Siegrist and Joseph
Ashman

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NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
FINANCIAL REPORT - - JULY 1, 1996 TO JUNE 30, 1997

REVENUES	
Sundays-Holydays	$41,926.00
Votive Lights	$953.46
Stipends & Stole Fees	$1,250.00
Donations	$100.00
DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS	
Bishops' Relief	$145.00
Good Friday	$65.00
Mission Sunday	$229.00
Human Development	$148.00
Holy Father	$208.00
Special Mission Appeal	$10.00
Archbishop's Fund Drive	$2,615.00
Other Collections	$581.00
Parish Fund Drives	$49,953.50
Interest	$409.70
Insurance Claims	$13,744.00
Withdrawal from Savings	$74,947.00
TOTAL	$187,284.66
Cash on hand 7-1-96	**$871.85**
Total Revenues	**$187,284.66**
Total Expenses	**$183,443.66**
Cash on hand 6-30-97	**$4,712.65**
Certificate On Deposit	**$5,000.00**
Improvement Fund	**$13,310.87**

EXPENDITURES	
DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS	
Bishops' Relief	$145.00
Good Friday	$65.00
Mission Sunday	$229.00
Human Development	$148.00
Holy Father	$208.00
Special Mission Appeal	$10.00
Archbishop's Fund Drive	$2,615.00
Other Special Collections	$581.00
Transfer to Imp. Fund	$85,716.50

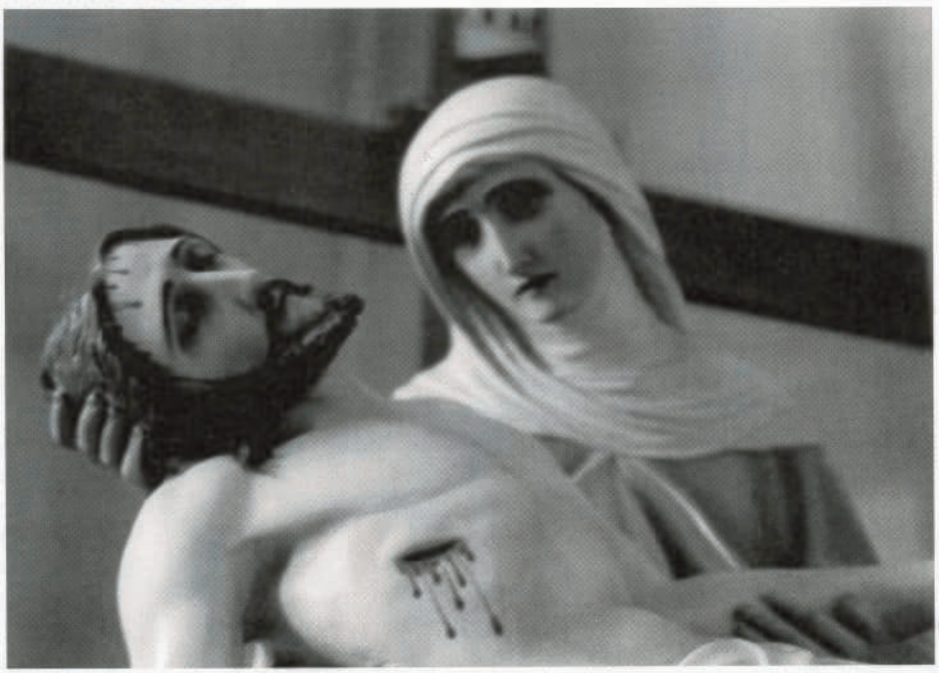
EXPENDITURES	
Pastor's Salary	$8,368.00
Extra Clergy Help	$180.00
Office Personnel	$3,127.50
Organist	$2,002.50
Choir Director	$250.00
Maintenance	$2,111.00
Ginny Ruskin-Housekeeper	$2,456.28
Board	$372.73
Laundry	$300.00
Rectory Supplies	$100.00
Telephone	$211.20
Postage & Printing	$108.33
Office Supplies	$676.65
Catholic Telegraph Ad	$50.00
Workers Comp. Ins.	$31.71
FICA	$739.77
Memberships	$102.00
Hospitalization Ins.	$1,389.36
Ohio Unemp. Comp.	$12.93
Ohio State Tax	$25.00
Socials	$301.07
Choir Festival	$29.79
Bulletins	$189.96
Servers Gifts & Picnic	$797.50
Altar, Sanctuary	$1,329.26
Votive Lights	
Church Furnishings	$53.35
C.C.D.	
D.R.E. Salary	$2,399.94
D.R.E. Workshops, Seminar	
Teachers Salaries	$4,132.00
Printing & Paper	$107.11
Workshops & Seminars	$165.00
Other C.C.D. Expenses	$282.54
ADULT EDUCATION	
C.Y.O.	$100.00
Adult Workshops	$60.00
Donation	
Church Bldg. Repairs	$50,947.00
Rectory Repairs	$91.91
Utilities	$4,596.75
Supplies	$79.96
Ordinary Repairs	$563.84
Contractual Services	$536.91
Insurance	$1,998.00
Cleaning Church	$732.50
General Assessment	$2,373.22
Special Assessment	$150.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$184,350.17
Exchange Account	($906.51)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$183,443.66

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Finances of the Past

The following items were found in a steno-pad with other church records (high lights were taken):

Sept. 7, 1948 Kneeling Pads - $530.00
Oct. 5, 1948 Copper cross & smoke pipe - $95.60
Dec. 9, 1948 Repairs in church Wm Wellman $1395.78
Dec. 30, 1948 Schoch Bros. Paint, Gold Leafing Cross $282.97
Mar. 4, 1949 Heckler Hardware, sump pump (rectory) $75.17
May 3, 1949 Schoch Bros. linoleum in church - $660.00
Sept. 6, 1949 repairs of Church windows - $383.14
Nov. 9, 1949 three Cinco Alum. storm windows $63.00
Dec. 13, 1949 three storm windows $73.00
Dec. 27, 1949 Insulation of Rectory $337.00
Feb. 27, 1950 three vestments $119.25
Sept. 8, 1950 Ed Franck water heater & installation $153.50
Nov. 6, 1950 Ed Franck church boiler $1845.00
Dec. 1950 Teacher House repair: Bathroom $238.54; plastering $53.35; carpentry $107.65; Gagel Hwd. $852.41
Mar. 15, 1951 Dining Room suit $220.00
Mar 30, 1951 Refrigerator $395.00
Apr. 2, 1951 insulation church attic $495.00
Sept. 12, 1951 Harold Thobe for crushed stone, when north of church parking lot was made
Dec. 31, 1952 Harold Thobe, crushed stone for cemetery drive $44.72;
Dec. 31, 1952 Hard top cemetery drive $338.00
Nov. 1, 1953 Wood Extension ladder $72.00
June 21, 1955 black top parking lot
July 5, 1955 four music stands $60.00
Aug. 9, 1955 deep well pump, priest house $324.96
June 16, 1958 alter linens $36.00



Pieta - rear of church 1997

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Letters to Cincinnati

Other items found in old records were several letters to Cincinnati requesting permission for purchases and improvements, example....

The Chancery
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
29 East Eighth St.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

May 3, 1969

Rt. Reverend and dear Monsignor:

We need a new heating system in our rectory, presently using stoker coal. The church also should be converted from coal to fuel oil and the CCD hall changed from gas to fuel oil. Our Parish Council decided and the parish agreed to the following improvements if permission can be obtained from Most Reverend Archbishop:

New heating system in rectory	$3,291.30
New oil burner in church	904.70
Exchange gas furnace to oil furnace in CCD hall	850.00
Oil tank, burying it, hookup to three buildings	2,638.27
Total	$7,684,27

We would be grateful if permission to expend not in excess of $8,000.00 be granted.
Part of this amount is on hand; the remainder will be donated by our parishioners.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
E.J. VonderHarr C.PP.S.

August 26, 1965

Rt. Reverend and dear Monsignor:

May we respectfully submit the following projects to His Grace, our Most Reverend Archbishop, for the necessary permission to undertake them:

Installation of NEW FRONT DOORS for our church and the necessary repairs on the arch in which the doors recessed.
Estimated cost of the project is $1,700.00
This money is on hand.

The second project:

The necessary INSIDE RENOVATION of the former Cassella SCHOOL BUILDING and equipping it for Catechetical Instruction classes.
Estimated cost is $2,200.00
Only $400.00 of this sum is on hand. The remainder is now being collected and will be on hand as it is needed.

We thank His Grace for giving these projects hi consideration.

Sincerely in Christ,
E.J. VonderHarr C.PP.S.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 19, 1956

1. Distribution of Blessed Ashes after the masses today and after Benediction.

2. Stations of the Cross and Benediction this afternoon at 1:30.
Meeting of the Christian Mothers after Benediction today.

3. SPRING EMBER DAYS — Wednesday, a day of fast and partial abstinence. Meat only once a day at the principal meal even though it is Washington's Birthday and is a Civil Holiday.
Friday, a day of fast and complete abstinence. No meat.
Saturday, a day of fast and partial abstinence. Meat only once and at the principal meal.

4. LENTEN EVENING DEVOTIONS — Wednesday evening 7:30, hymn, 7 Offerings, sermon, Benediction.
Friday evening, 7:30, Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

5. MASS SERVERS for weekday masses; Cyril Stelzer Marvin Kramer
For next Sunday 10:00 H.M. and the following Wed. & Friday evenings:
Dennis Dirksen Carl Cron
Walter Albers Lester Homan

6. Communion next Sunday for the St. Joseph Sodality and other Holy Name Men.

7. FORTY HOURS DEVOTIONS — for our parish will begin Friday, March 23.
It will close on Palm Sunday in the evening, March 25.

8. LAY PARISH ADVISERS — Ray Flaute and Stanley Goettemoeller. They will take office next Sunday, Feb. 26, for a period of two years, replacing two very good ones, Anthony Evers and Raymond Koesters, whose terms will expire on Feb. 26. T H A N K S! for your cooperativeness, Tony and Ray!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK — CONFESSIONS EVERY MORNING before MASS during Lent.

Mon. Feb. 20 - Req. High Mass for Henry Grevenkamp

Tues. " 21 - High Mass for a Special Intention

Wed. " 22 - Anniv. L.M. for Fred and Philomena Bertke
7:30 P.M., hymn, 7 Offerings, Sermon, and Benediction

Thurs. " 23 - Anniv. Req. High Mass for Frank Koesters

Fri. " 24 - Anniv. Req. High Mass for Joseph Boeke
7:30 P. M. Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

Sat. " 25 - High Mass for Members of this parish
(Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle)(In Leap Years it falls on March 25)

Masses said elsewhere:
Frank and Anna Goettemoeller; Adam Homan; August Stelzer; August Otte; Frank Koesters; Edward Reichert; John Schaeffer; Elizabeth Omlor; Elizabeth Stelzer.

CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH-REGISTER MONTH' — Rates are cheaper for you when you send in your subscription with the parish group. If you want the paper and do not have the money by Feb. 26, let me know and I can still arrange to include your name in the list.

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Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Cassella, Ohio
925-4630

St. Rose
St. Rose, Ohio
925-4775

July 13, 1997
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Frederick W. Ryder. C.PP.S

Masses

Mon. July 14, Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin
7:30 P.M. at Cassella for Parishioners

Tues. July 15, Bonaventure, bishop, religious, doctor
7:30 A.M. at St. Rose
for Special Int. (D.H.)

Wed. July 16, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
7:30 A.M. at Cassella
for Peter Ranly & Urban Link Family

Thurs. July 17, Weekday
7:30 A.M. at St. Rose
for Dorothy Nagel

Fri. July 25, James, apostle
7:30 A.M. at Cassella
for Special Intention (M.V.)

Sat. July 19, Weekday
7:30 A.M. at St. Rose
for Aloys & Regina Post
7:30 P.M. at St. Rose
for Thanksgiving (M.H.)

Sun. July 20, Sixteenth Sun. Ord. Time
8:00 A.M. at St. Rose
for People of Parish
9:45 A.M. at Cassella for Rosary
10:00 A.M. at Cassella
for Parishioners

Confessions

St. Rose: after Sat. 7:30 A.M. Mass
Sat. 4:00 P.M. after Sat. 7:30 P.M. Mass

CASSELLA NEWS

Catholic Knights of America :
ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC: Today, July 13th. Dinner at 12:00 noon.

CYO MEETING:
July 13th 10:00 A.M. after mass in the Cassella CCD Hall. Final plans for volleyball tournament and Quabache State Park trip. Be there!

Quabache State Park Trip:
July 20th. Meet at Ranly's at 10:30 A.M., return around 8:00 P.M. Pack your own lunch. CYO will provide hot dogs and pop for supper for everyone. The park has a beautiful pool, water slide, small lake for canoeing, basketball, volleyball, tennis and hiking. $5.00 spending money will be plenty. Bring swim suits, towels, tennis racquets, etc. Call Jan Ranly if you want to go. We will need parents to drive, your family is invited to come too. Maria Stein CYO is planning on joining us for this trip.

Volleyball Tournament:
CYO Volleyball tournament July 27th at St. Rose. Co-ed, eight members on a team. 1997 graduates may participate. Call Margie Meier to register at 925-4541.

Marriage Banns I:
Todd Patrick Pleiman, son of Ed & Linda (Moeller) Pleiman (NBVM) and Kelly Jo Fleck, dau. of Lester & Margie (Heuing) Fleck (St. Sebastian). Date of marriage August 2nd.

Nativity's CCD Program: will need a teacher for our second grade and third and forth grade classes in the Fall. Call Carolyn Stucke if you are interested in teaching. Teaching a CCD class is a great way to share the Catholic faith with our young people. Teachers have the help and support of good planning guides, resources, videos and other teachers.

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Vacation Bible School:

On July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, students from Nativity enjoyed The Great Adventure Fair Vacation Bible School on the church and CK of A grounds. Fifty-eight children in grades K - 6 enjoyed Bible stories, skits, songs, crafts, prizes and food. Thirty-three teens and adults volunteers led the children through such unusual activities as making Celebration Hats and Baggie Ice Cream, bobbing for apples and visiting Duck & Fish Ponds. On Wed. Denise Riehle entertained with Ossie. We had a great time. Thanks to all who helped! We couldn't do it without the volunteers. You are great! Carolyn Stucke, DRE

People Who Made Bible School Possible:

Teachers, Craft Teachers and Snack Preparation - Amber Albers, Lenore Albers, Joan Alexander, Shirely Bergman, Sharon Koesters, Tess Mescher, Kathy Otte, Lynn Reichert, Bernice Reichert, Linda Schoenlein, and Mary Jo Schwieterman.

Donations of Cookies, Materials, and Preparation Labor:

Shirely Bergman, Kathy Broering, Judy Dirksen, Freda Hartings, June Heitbrink, Carol Hemmelgarn, Melissa Hilgeford, Linda Huelsman, Lorena Kramer, Mary Meier, Tess Mescher, Carol Meyer, Dan Otte, Lynn Reichert, Lorena Reichert, Bernice Reichert, Ron Stucke, Russel Stucke, Phylis Thobe, Ryan Thobe, the CK of A and Knights of St. John.

Helpers & Actors:

Amber Albers, Brian Bruggeman, Carla Bills, Janell Broering, Rita Flaute, Josh Hemmelgarn, Cindy Otte, Candice Schwieterman, Angie Wuebker.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Servers

Mon. 7:30 P.M.	Wed. 7:30 A.M.	Fri. 7:30 A.M.	Sun. 10:00 A.M.
Randy & Jeff Otte	Chad & Ryan Thobe	Frank & Nick J. Moeller	Matt & Adam Koesters

Gift Bearers

Sunday 10:00 A.M.
Jerry Moeller Family

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Sun. 10:00 A.M.
Ron Stucke

Readers

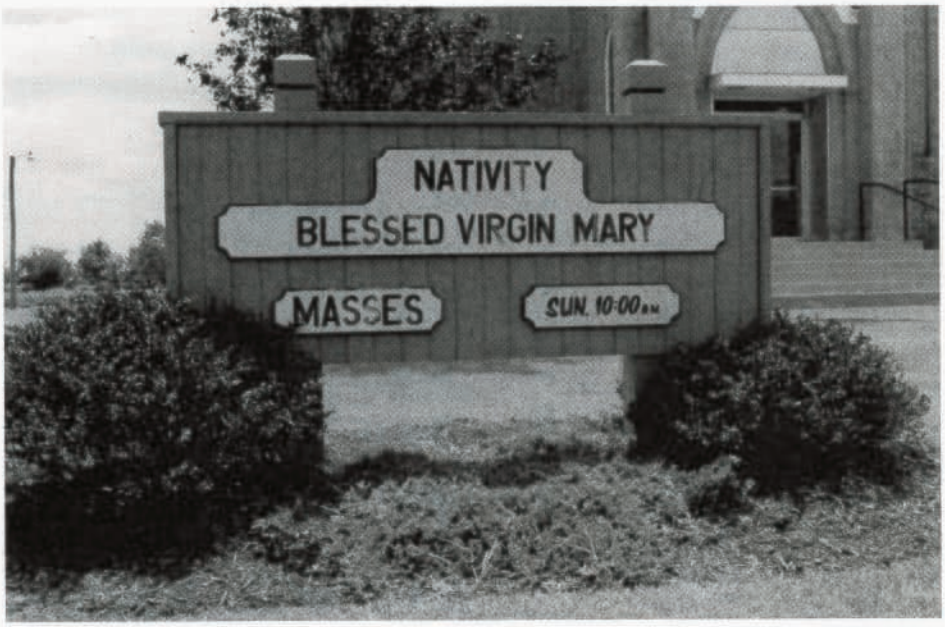
Sun. 10:00 A.M.
Ray Koesters

Ushers

Sun. 10:00 A.M.
Larry Feltz & Vernon Brackman

Sunday Offerings

July 7th Offertory: $850.00
Peter Pence: $52.00



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Marriage and Baptism Records

Following are some interesting statistics taken from the marriage and baptism records of Nativity's Parish. Records are complete as possible.

Marriage

1858 - 5
1859 - 6
1860 - 1
1874 - 5
1875 - 2
1876 - 1
1877 - 2
1894 - 2
1895 - 2
1896 - 2
1897 - 3
1898 - 8
1900 - 2
1901 - 3
1902 - 5
1903 - 1
1904 - 5
1905 - 3
1906 - 4
1907 - 3
1908 - 3
1909 - 3
1912 - 3
1913 - 2
1914 - 3
1916 - 1
1917 - 2
1918 - 1
1919 - 5
1921 - 6
1922 - 2
1923 - 3
1925 - 4
1926 - 6
1927 - 3
1929 - 2
1930 - 3
1931 - 2
1932 - 5
1933 - 2
1934 - 6
1935 - 2
1936 - 4
1937 - 1
1938 - 3
1939 - 1
1940 - 2
1941 - 4
1943 - 3
1944 - 3
1946 - 5
1947 - 6
1948 - 6
1949 - 3
1950 - 4
1951 - 2
1952 - 3
1953 - 3
1954 - 3
1955 - 6
1956 - 1
1957 - 5
1959 - 2
1960 - 2
1962 - 6
1963 - 1
1964 - 3
1966 - 3
1967 - 2
1968 - 2
1969 - 1
1970 - 1
1971 - 2
1972 - 3
1973 - 9
1974 - 4
1975 - 7
1976 - 6
1977 - 3
1978 - 3
1979 - 4
1980 - 3
1981 - 5
1982 - 4
1983 - 4
1984 - 2
1985 - 1
1986 - 3
1987 - 4
1988 - 3
1989 - 1
1990 - 3
1991 - 2
1992 - 1
1993 - 2
1994 - 2
1995 - 4
1996 - 4

Baptism

1846 - 1
1847 - 3
1848 - 6
1850 - 3
1851 - 16
1852 - 10
1853 - 14
1854 - 13
1855 - 13
1856 - 8
1857 - 21
1858 - 15
1859 - 18
1860 -12
1861 - 11
1862 - 12
1863 - 9
1864 - 12
1865 - 6
1866 - 9
1867 - 16
1868 - 14
1869 - 6
1870 - 18
1871 - 10
1872 - 12
1873 - 13
1874 - 11
1875 - 20
1876 - 10
1877 - 13
1878 - 10
1879 - 13
1891 - 2
1892 - 3
1893 - 4
1894 - 7
1895 - 9
1896 - 15
1897 - 6
1898 - 10
1899 - 14
1900 - 11
1901 - 15
1902 - 10
1903 - 13
1904 - 8
1905 - 8
1906 - 11
1907 - 11
1908 - 12
1909 - 13
1910 - 11
1911 - 15
1912 - 7
1913 - 13
1914 - 7
1915 - 11
1916 - 13
1917 - 13
1918 - 13
1919 - 12
1920 - 10
1921 - 8
1922 - 6
1923 - 10
1924 - 11
1925 - 12
1926 - 9
1927 - 8
1928 - 10
1929 - 9
1930 - 11
1931 - 8
1932 - 6
1933 - 8
1934 - 4
1935 - 8
1936 - 7
1937 - 7
1938 - 8
1939 - 6
1940 - 7
1941 - 5
1942 - 8
1943 - 4
1944 - 8
1945 - 3
1946 - 6
1947 - 6
1948 - 10
1949 - 9
1950 - 17
1951 - 13
1952 - 18
1953 - 17
1954 - 16
1955 - 16
1956 - 10
1957 - 16
1958 - 18
1959 - 13
1960 - 14
1961 - 13
1962 - 14
1963 - 16
1964 - 14
1965 - 8
1966 - 11
1967 - 11
1968 - 13
1969 - 10
1970 - 12
1971 - 8
1972 - 9
1973 - 14
1974 - 7
1975 - 7
1976 - 11
1977 - 10
1978 - 10
1979 - 12
1980 - 8
1981 - 8
1982 - 14
1983 - 5
1984 - 15
1985 - 7
1986 - 11
1987 - 9
1988 - 8
1989 - 7
1990 - 9
1991 - 7
1992 - 10
1993 - 3
1994 - 7
1995 - 4
1996 - 7
1997 - 2

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Memorial of Marriage

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that on the 7 day of February
A. D. 1923 in the church of St Mary's Cassella
I joined in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony,
Clarence Dickson and Philumena Roman
according to the rites of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

Witness: Francis Nigsch W. Pastor

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Henry & Elizabeth Kramer
1890



Angela & Todd Francis
October 7, 1995

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First Communion

The following are First Communion records from our parishes files, the early years were recorded in Latin/German and difficult to translate to English. These are shown only by the number of those receiving the Sacrament. The later years are listed by name of the children making their First Communion.

First Communion

1889
Henry Reichert
Hen. Otto
Sebast. Ranly
Henry Schurman
Fred. Scherer
Hen. Asmann
Phil. Cron
Elisab. Fels
Elis Stelzer
Anna Hartings

1891 - 15
1898 - 20
1899 - 8
1900 - 9
1901 - 15
1903 - 17
1904 - 9
1906 - 2
1907 - 13
1908 - 3
1909 - 8
1910 - 9
1911 - 8
1931 - 6
1932 - 8
1933 - 12
1934 - 10
1935 - 7
1936 - 13
1937 - 10
1939 - 7
1940 - 5
1941 - 10
1942 - 6
1943 - 6
1944 - 7

1945
Louis Dirksen
Rose Broerman
Rita Studer
Janet Heitkamp

1946
Eugene Tumbusch
Eugene Kramer
Jerome Feltz
Frederick Broerman
Mary Frenzer
Mary Stelzer

1947
Dennis Dirksen
Richard Mescher
Lester Homan
Gerald Dewenger
Thelma Strukamp
Patricia Eifert

1949
Cyril Stelzer
Carl Cron
David Frenzer
Maurice Albers
James Heitkamp
Doris Kramer
Elisabeth Tumbusch

1951
Kenneth Dippold
Katherine Feltz
Phyllis Frenzer
Marvin Kramer
Joseph Otte
Marlene Otte
Johanna Pleiman
Dianna Schmiesing

1953
Patricia Albers
Mary Cron
Barbara Dippold
Joan Frenzer
Lloyd Kramer
Louise Otte
Teresa Pleiman
Paul Stelzer

1954
Raymond Feltz
Ruth Frenzer
Elizabeth Livingston
Nicholas Puthoff

1955
Lester Cron
Dale Dippold
Margaret Grevenkamp
Carol Hemmelgarn
Urban Otte

1956
Ronald Feltz
Vernon Kramer
Virgil Kramer
Diane Linigston
Edward Pleiman
Donna Puthoff

1957
Dennis Albers
Mary Bergman
Robert Brotherwood
Robert Dippold
Charles Fortkamp
Diane Otte
Dorothy Reichert
Judith Reichert

1958
Mary Jane Eifert
Patrick Frenzer
Thomas Hemmelgarn
Rita Koesters
Donald Otte
Janet Puthoff
Mary Reichert
Elaine Siegrist
Kenneth Wuebker

1959
Mark Albers
Dennis Bergman
Susan Broering
Irene Dirksen
Janice Evers
Thomas Feltz
Trudy Feltz
Ruth Flaute
Constance Hartings
John Ranly
Kathryn Reichert
Virginia Wuebker

1960
Edgar Broerman
John Brotherwood
Kathleen Dirksen
Marjorie Flaute
Janice Grevenkamp
Constance Hamburg
Thomas Hess
Irene Kramer
Thomas Otte
Gary Puthoff
Kristina Ranly
Elizabeth Reichert
Madonna Reichert
Elaine Schmiesing
Ruth Wuebker

1961
Anthony Broering
John Broering
Connie Brotherwood
Margie Dippold
Charles Feltz
Charles Goettemoeller
Ronald Hartings
Victor Hemmelgarn
Thomas Koesters
Charles Otte
John Puthoff
Edward Reichert
Joseph Reichert
David Rindler

1962
Sharon Ahrns
Ronald Bergman
Daniel Bertke
Timothy Boeckman
Delores Brotherwood
Ann Dirksen
Gene Evers
David Feltz
Phyllis Feltz
William Flaute
Alan Goettemoeller
John Hartings

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Roberta Otte
Kathleen Ranly
Irene Reichert
Mark Rindler
Ronald Siegrist

1963

Kenneth Bertke
Jeanne Broering
Michael Broering
Gary Dippold
Jane Dirksen
Mary Grevenkamp
Nancy Hamburg
Daniel Hess
Gary Hess
June Koesters
Janice Kramer
August Otte
Ruth Otte
Anthony Puthoff
Jeffrey Ranly
Ernest Reichert
Marjorie Reichert
Lawrence Rindler
Melvin Wuebker

1964

Donald Ahrns
Ernest Bergman
Susan Fortkamp
Donald Goettemoeller
Dale Hess
Thomas Huelsman
Virginia Reichert
Cynthia Schroer
Sandra Siegrist
Silvia Siegrist
Lester Wuebker

1965

Joyce Ahrns
Elizabeth Bergman
Barbara Bertke
Larry Broering
Steven Broering
Margaret Dirksen
Teresa Flaute
June Hess
John Koesters
Peggy Ranly
Karen Reichert
Daniel Rindler
Debra Vondrell

1966

Joan Flaute
MaryAnn Goettmoeller
Gerald Grevenkamp
Frank Griesdorn
James Harting
Steven Hartings
Judith Huelsman
John Reichert
Thomas Rindler
Peggy Schmiesing
Irene Wuebker

1967

Patricia Ahrns
Kennth Broering
Timothy Broering
Joan Dirksen
Larry Feltz
Rebecca Feltz
Lora Hemmelgarn
Carl Hess
Carl Koesters
Karen Otte
Louise Puthoff
Lisa Ranly
Daniel Reichert
Janet Wuebker

1968

David Bertke
Bruce Brackman
Linda Dirksen
Allen Feltz
Lucy Feltz
Thomas Flaute
Steven Grevenkamp
Kevin Greisdorn
David Hamburg
Leonard Hess
John Huelsman
Kathleen Otte
Randy Schroer

1969

Gerard Ahrns
Roger Bertke
Steven Flaute
Joan Goettemoeller
James Hamberg
Gary Hartings
Joel Ranly
Evelyn Reichert
Kenneth Vondrell

1970

Ricky Ahrns
Mary Bertke
Linda Brackman
Elaine Broering
Gary Fortkamp
Bart Griesdorn
Gregg Homan
Teresa Huelsman
Robert Shepherd

1971

James Wuebker
Diane Dirksen
Rickey Evers
Ann Maria Flaute
Richard Grevenkamp
Trina Griesdorn
Alan Hess
Martin Ranly
Ralph Riechert Jr.
Karen Schulze

1972

Mary Jean Ahrns
Alan Brackman
Robert Dirksen
John Hamburg
Michael Heitkamp
Jay Homan
Richard Otte
Mary Ann Pleiman
Kathleen Quinter

1973

Jack Hummel
Tim Bertke
Matthew Dirksen
John Griesdorn
Craig Hess
Matthew Ranly
Larry Reichert
Jerry Schulze
Joan Griesdorn
Rebecca Wuebker

1974

James Ahrns
Frank Goettemoeller
Glen Griesdorn
Doreen Hemmelgarn
Susan Jones
Brenda Schroer

1975

Tony Dirksen
Dean Homan
James McDowell
Kevin McDowell
David Pleiman
Ronald Reichert
Mark Schulze
Charlene Otte
Lora Ranly

1976

Michael Bertke
Chris Hess
Kevin Nagel
Dale Schulze
Brenda Brackman
Tracy Griesdorn
Sharon Heitkamp
Julie Jones
Mona Voskuhl

1977

Carol Ahrns
Kay Dirksen
Thomas Eifert
Jill Homan
Tricia Kramer
John Quinter
Denise Stucke
Lisa Voskuhl

1978

Scott Bruns
Daniel Dirksen
Douglas Hartings
Theodore Nagel
Dean Pleiman
Brett Siefring
Nancy Ahrns
Ann Griesdorn
Elana McDowell
Denise Pohlman
Melissa Schroer
Lillian Schulze

1979

Nicholas Eifert
James Homan
Michael Otte
Clint Siefring
Charles Voskuhl
Kristina Kramer
Diane Pleiman

1980

Eric Kramer
Dave Pohlman
Charles Stucke
Diane Heitkamp
Aimee Kremer
Angela Otte
Brenda Voskuhl

1981

Scott Dippold
Kelly Dirksen
Cari Goettemoeller
Julie Homan
Tara Homan

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Eric Hemmelgarn
Teresa Nagel
Todd Pleiman
Jason Ranly
Randy Schulze
Chett Siefring
Randy Stucke

1982

Keith Albers
Stephanie Bruns
Renee Fullenkamp
Karla Griesdorn
Joy Hogan

1983

Cory Albers
Jodi Bills
Cory Dippold
Karen Dirksen
Michelle Hagens
Brian Hemmelgarn
Amy Moeller
Michelle Moeller

1984

Jennifer Albers
Brian Brackman
Matthew Eifert
Shelly Fullenkamp
Kimberly Griesdorn
Angela Homan
Richard Moeller
Amy Pleiman
Jennifer Pohlman
Jared Ranly

1985

Meredith Brunswick
Jessie Hagens
Jeff Heitkamp
Beth Kramer
Benjamin J. Moeller
Bradley Otte
Heather Otte
Sarah Schoenlein
Abbigail Stucke
Kelley Wenning

1986

Greg Albers
Mark Bills
James Broering
Alan Fullenkamp
Jason Hemmelgarn
Sara Kramer
James Moeller
Kevin Otte
Matthew Otte
Allison Stucke
Bethany Gray

1987

Angela Albers
Julie Bills
Theodore Dirksen
Craig Hemmelgarn
Cara Kremer
Nicholas Moeller
Amanda Muhlenkamp
Kenneth Otte
Gail Pleiman
Jesse Ranly

1988

Carla Bergman
Kelly Boeke
Jacqueline Broering
Christine Buening
Ryan Dippold
Henry Otte
Randy Otte
Jayne Pohlman
Matt Schoenlein
Russell Stucke
Chad Thobe

1989

Bridget Alexander
Carla Bills
Melissa Buening
Tim Dirksen
Dayna Kremer
Ben Moeller
Christa Moeller
Patrick Moeller Jr.
Craig Otte
Jordon Ranly
Jodi Schoenlein
Matt Schulze
Jamie Thobe

1990

Amber Albers
Joshua Alexander
Amy Boeke
Mark Broering
Jenny Feltz
Kelli Feltz
Nicholas Moeller
Phil Moeller
Eric Muhlenkamp
Trisha Tuente
Daniel Wuebker

1991

Brian Bergman
Joshua Buening
Phillip Heitkamp
Joshua Hemmelgarn
Beth Moeller
Cynthia Otte
Karla Otte
Justin Ranly
Candice Schwieterman

1992

Janell Broering
Mathew Koesters
Daniel Otte
Linsey Siegrist
Ryan Thobe
Angie Wuebker
Laura Feltz

1993

Jesse Alexander
Karla Dirksen
Ashley Feltz
Daniel Feltz
Rose Kinneth
Frank Moeller
Margo Moeller
Chad Otte
Jamee Ranly
Lynn Reichert
Tammy Schoenlien
Kristy Tuente

1994

Kimberly Boeke
Alan Broering
Lindsay Dippold
Terri Feltz
Megan Homan
Adam Kremer
Kevin Moeller
Russell Moeller
Sarah Moeller

1995

John Alexander
Brian Huelsman
Adam Koesters
Jacob Moeller
Kyle Moeller
Jeffrey Otte
Kelly Pleiman

1996

Corey Albers
Mindi Bergman
Richard Broering
Zachary Homan
Katelyn Mescher
Maria Moeller
Michael Moeller
Amy Reichert
Justin Siegrist
Mellani Sweigart
Travis Thobe
Craig Tuente

1997

Damon Bertke
Kayla Evers
Jordan Diller
Daniel Moeller
Marcus Otte
Dustin Schwieterman
Jena Schwieterman
Matthew Wuebker
Angela Will

First Holy Communion 1997



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Special Moments



Special Hug on a Special Day

Fr. Ryder talks with his first First Communion class at Nativity.



May Crowning



Kelley Dirksen, Aimee Kremer, Angie Otte, Teresa Nagel, Tara Homan, Diana Heitkamp

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Death Records

The following is a listing from Nativity's Death Records and a Map of the Cemetary. This listing is complete as possible.

9-22-1849 Anton Lechleiter

1-8-1852 Teresia Cron
9-11-1852 Michael Blattau

11-4-1853 Catherine Tohe
12-5-1853 Adam Tohe

5-12-1855 Margaretha Schunk
8-26-1855 Stelzer

11-15-1855 Johann Stachler

8-26-1856 Mathias Ortman
11-25-1856 Nicholas Obringer 3 yrs 8 mos

8-13-1857 Elisabeth Ranley
9-10-1857 Catherine Obringer
9-25-1857 Catherine Blathauer 10 yrs
9-29-1857 Maria Rosalia 44 yrs
10-14-1857 Jacob Grafing infant
10-14-1857 Maria Schlanger infant
10-31-1857 Henry Kriese 21 yrs

9-16-1858 Catharina Schunk

9-7-1859 Anthony Droxter
9-25-1859 Bernard Scheffer infant
11-8-1859 Catherine Renderle infant
11-22-1859 Maria Anna Link infant

1-18-1860 Jacob Rosengarten
8-23-1860 Maria Christina Lechleiter
8-24-1860 John Henry Schurman
9-27-1860 Mary Catherine Vogtnata Strotman 3 wks
9-14-1860 Elizabeth Schlaghecke 3 weeks
10-1-1860 Joseph Dropler infant
10-14-1860 Catherine Winter 10mos
10-15-1860 Elizabeth Strotmann Infant
11-3-1860 daughter Schmitt stillborn
11-7-1860 Margaret Meister
11-8-1860 infant Strotman

4-1-1861 Agada Sacher
8-21-1861 Joseph Sacher

2-23-1862 Katharena M. Deith
2-26-1862 John Bolsinger

8-1-1863 Gartrait Cron
12-11-1863 Joseph Wehrmann
12-24-1863 John Wiseler

4-6-1864 Anna Maria Reichert 6 mos
8-17-1864 Henry Graschoff 38 yrs

3-3-1865 Barbara Polien Foerli 64 yrs
3-16-1865 ?
8-4-1865 Maria Gertrude Cron 3 mos 3 days
8-19-1865 John Cron 48 yrs
1865 Henry Hess 4 yrs 5 mos

3-19-1866 Anthony Horst 9 mos
4-1-1866 William VandenBusch 2 yrs
4-18-1866 Maria Catherine Schlaghecke 4 yrs
6-1-1866 Maria Grevenkamp 41 yrs

12-29-1868 Bernard Krieg 8 yrs

3-11-1869 William Link 2 mos
7-1869 Maria Hardings
9-1-1869 Mary Kramer 1 yr 7 mos
9-7-1869 Josephina Lechleiter 64 yrs
9-30-1869 infant Wirtz 1 day

2-24-1870 Christina Scheffer
2-27-1870 Henry Kreusch
3-10-1870 Christina Droxler
4-15-1870 Henry Hallerman 79 yrs
8-11-1870 Maria 18 yrs
8-16-1870 John William Valentine Link 4 mos
9-13-1870 infant Stelzer
9-16-1870 Maria Link 3 yrs
9-22-1870 Valentine Emil Felz 11 mos
9-23-1870 Joseph Wirtz infant
11-19-1870 infant Hamburger 1 day

2-11-1871 Joseph Horst infant
3-10-1871 Christina Droxler 42 yrs.
4-4-1871 Henry Schrotz infant
6-28-1871 Catherine Hierholzer 84 yrs
7-5-1871 infant of Peter Rosengarten
7-15-1871 Maria Magdalena Stelzer 8 mos
8-3-1871 Barbara C. Hierholzer 1 mos
8-26-1871 Catherine Steigler 5 mos

1-24-1872 Anna Gessler 1 yr
4-4-1872 Heinrich Hallermann
8-22-1872 Elizabeth Link 6 days
9-23-1872 Adelheid Buschman

3-2-1873 Johann P. Heirholzer

1874 Johannes Lauber
1-4-1874 Theresia Franzer
4-14-1874 Magdalina Heirholzer
9-28-1874 Maria Geisler
11-20-1874 Charles Lorus Rosenbaum 8 days

1-15-1875 Theresia Fransler 5 yrs
4-27-1875 Carl Hamburger 28 yrs
8-5-1875 John George 1 mo 11 days
9-8-1875 Anthonius Nasemann 2 yrs
8-29-1875 infant Huber
9-24-1875 Agnes Subeck 47 yrs
11-12-1875 Michael Bolley about 80

1-23-1876 Bernard Scheffer 57 yrs
3-5-1876 Joseph Kramer 31 yrs
8-2-1876 Elisabetha Entrup 19 yrs
8-31-1876 Maria Vondrell 8 yrs 7 days
9-26-1876 John Bernard Druxler
12-20-1876 J. George Keller

3-14-1877 (Maria) Caroline Reichert 4 yrs
3-18-1877 AugustJoseph Reichert 1 1/2 yrs

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7-3-1877 George Kothman
9-4-1877 Franziska Vondrell infant
9-9-1877 Heinrich Koesters 2 yrs

3-18-1878 Henry Stromann 18 yrs
4-14-1878 Frederick Platte 73 Yrs
4-22-1878 Heinrich Schurmann 33 yrs
4-30-1878 William Link infant
9-27-1878 Bernard Hierholzer
10-13-1878 Katharina Boke 3 yrs

2-22-1879 infant William Steigler
7-10-1879 August Nasemann infant
8-21-1879 Rosalia Feltz
9-9-1879 Katharina Strukamp
9-10-1879 Christian Ranly
12-28-1879 Margaret Felz

2-19-1880 Heinrich Lindhaus 70
7-4-1880 John William Alois Reichert 1 mo
10-12-1880 Maria Kothmann 5 1/2 yrs
10-20-1880 Herman Johan Kothmann 84 yrs
11-1-1880 Caroline Stelzer 23 yrs
12-18-1880 Margaretha Feltz

1-3-1881 Johan Kramer
2-2-1881 John Longinus 3 yrs
2-15-1881 Peter Jacob
2-19-1881 Anton Cron
2-28-1881 Josephine Kramer
4-6-1881 Johannes Wehrman
8-4-1881 Heinrich Ashmann 8 yrs
10-12-1881 Anna Brackman 1 1/2 yrs
10-28-1881 Augustine Ganther Hamburger infant

2-14-1882 Peter Jacobs
5-11-1882 Henry Lochtefeld 66
7-25-1882 Antony Ashmann 16 days
8-2-1882 Lawrence Hess 5 mos
9-2-1882 M. Fiedal Hierholzer
9-10-1882 Magaretha Brackmann infant

8-29-1883 Rosa Hess 1 mo
9-8-1883 Maria Randly

2-1884 Maria Rosengarten
2-1884 Katharina Lauber 72 yrs
4-1-1884 Angelina Ungruhn
7-23-1884 Friederich Bockmann 2 yrs
11-14-1884 Johan Bockmann

5-2-1885 Joseph B. Franzer
7-15-1885 Heinrich Frenzer
12-4-1885 Magretha Jacobs

2-1-1886 Johann Cron
8-12-1886 Julidia Schurmann

3-13-1887 A. Josophina A. Ranlly
4-11-1887 Rosa Bertke
8-4-1887 Augustinus Schurmann infant
11-21-1887 Gerhard Buschman

7-19-1888 Elizabeth Schurmann infant

1-16-1889 Bernard Greivenkamp 81 yrs
3-7-1889 Florenz Felz
4-9-1889 Peter Hierholzer
5-1889 Cazilia Hierholzer
8-20-1889 Ferdinand Cron infant
10-2-1889 Maria Keller
10-4-1889 Angelika Shurmann
10-12-1889 Katharina Hierholzer

7-7-1890 John Ruschau son
10-1-1890 Elisabeth Worhman

2-9-1891 August Stelzer
2-27-1891 Frank Hierholzer
4-2-1891 Johannes Wiertz

1-14-1892 Heinrich Frenzer
2-7-1892 Elisabetha Bertke
7-17-1892 Maria Stelzer
9-15-1892 Philomena Vondrell
9-18-1892 August Reichert infant
9-23-1892 Heinrich Entrup
9-27-1892 Elisabeth Stelzer
10-6-1892 Margretha Boeckmann
10-25-1892 Gertrudis Schunk 66 yrs
10-31-1892 Anthony Francis Grievenkamp infant

1-19-1893 infant dau. of Michael Boehmer
3-25-1893 Elizabeth Stelzer 60 yrs
7-8-1893 Catharina Delseit 66 yrs

3-9-1894 August Cron 5 yrs
5-26-1894 Kathryn Boeckman
5-31-1894 Magdalena Meier
10-26-1894 John Reichert 58 consumption
12-11-1894 Adam Keller 49 Lung Fever

2-20-1895 Bernard Greivenkamp 10 lung disease
2-28-1895 infant of Sebastioan Delsiet 1 hr
5-25-1895 Anton Strukamp 38 inflamation of intestines

2-1-1896 M. Marg. Hamburger 76 Dropsy
3-11-1896 Agnes Kemper 1 Disentery
8-10-1896 John Delzeith 10 hours
12-25-1896 Christina Meier 2 Brain Fever

2-6-1897 Elisabeth Boeckmann 81 Old age
2-14-1897 Maria Elisabeth Homann 2 yrs 5 m
6-1-1897 Joames Reichert 35 Fall by accident
9-2-1897 Elisabeth Tangeman 14 nerve fever
10-7-1897 Albert H. Tumbusch 7
12-24-1897 Nicholaus Delzeith 39 cancer

3-28-1898 Maria Anna Reichert 9 months lung fever
4-1-1898 Alixander Droxler 80 old age
10-7-1898 Elisabeth Evermann 10 3\4 yrs colera/infant

3-17-1899 August Meier 10 weeks lung fever
9-28-1899 August B. Homan 3 yrs lung fever
10-18-1899 Regina Droesch 1 month lung fever

1900

3/10/00 Philomina Boecke 23 yrs fever at childbirth
4/7/00 Andreas Entrup 32 lung fever
11/21/00 Elizabeth Cron 52 fever
11/28/00 Elisabeth Entrup 69 old age
12/9/00 Alfred Tumbusch 1 yr lung fever

1/11/01 Heinrich Boeckmann 12 inflamation
2/22/01 Frank Schurmann 52 lung fever
3/21/01 Josephina Reichert 2 days lung fever
5/7/01 Elisabeth Rosengarten 50 heart deiease
6/27/01 Norbert Lechleiter 6 mos weakness
9/2/01 Mary Wehrmann 37 lung fever
9/22/01 John Henry Worhmann 36 inflamation

7/1/02 Hermann Otte 66 cancer of the stomach
12/6/02 Henricus Boeckmann Jr. 91 old age

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1/12/03 Arnold Frederick Forsthoefel 8 days cholera infantum
2/8/03 Henricus Pohn 56 heart desease
2/10/03 Maria Boeke
7/7/03 Irenaus Cron 1 lung fever

2/28/04 Stella Maria Hiroholzer 5 mos lung trouble
5/12/04 Albert Frenzer 7 mos skarms ?
6/6/04 Joseph Boeke
11/15/04 Eugene Grieshop

9/26/05 Angelika Wirtz 71 old age
12/12/05 Ferdinand Tumbusch 6 mos fever

1/10/06 Joseph Westerheide 44 lung fever
2/11/06 Anna Brockmann 54 lung fever
4/10/06 Marie Hierholzer
4/22/06 Herman Harter 81 asthma
8/27/06 Herman Boeke 60 cancer of the stomah
9/16/06 Valentin Link 90 old age
9/21/06 August Eilerman 51 lung trouble

3/19/07 Nicolaus Delzeith 83 old age
4/26/07 Elizabeth Lindhaus 88 old age

1/16/08 Bernard Strukamp 66 Dropsy
3/27/08 Christina Lauben 54 tumor on body

3/15/09 Bernard Strukamp 18 drowned in Berlin, Ohio
10/2/09 Margaretha Frenzer 76 heart desease

2/8/10 Anthony F. Grote 62 inflamation of bowel
5/3/10 Petronella Sonderman 78 Dropsy
7/5/10 Clara M. Kramer 21 peritonitis & heart failure
10/13/10 Bernard Reichert 14 accidentally shot
11/1/10 Katharina Link 75 inflamat. of bowls
11/4/10 Cyrillus Albert Feltz 1 castarr pneumonia
11/25/10 Joseph Wirtz 74 Dropsy
12/21/10 Heinrich Greivenkamp 64 cerebral hemmorhage

4/20/11 Gregore Dirksen 3 mos spasms
6/8/11 Bernard Boeke 41 Cerebral Apoplexy
9/16/11 Louisa M. Linneman 36 Tuberculosis

1/27/12 Maria Wirtz 81 rheumatism
4/24/12 Aloina Reichert 2 poisened
9/9/12 Hilma Hierholzer about 1 yr lung fever
10/10/12 John Rosengarten 73 Organic heart trouble
10/10/12 Bernard Grievenkamp 64 hemorrhage of lungs

4/21/13 Henry Bockmann 66
9/9/13 Helma Hierholzer

9/18/14 Reinhard Stelzer 81 pneumonia
11/30/14 Maria Schaeffer about 90 bronchial pneumonia
12/24/14 Lawrence Schunck 85 old age & skin disease

1915 Rosalia Boehmer
1/4/15 Katharina Bockmann
1/9/15 Anna Maria Ranly 49 Aeuphritis
5/30/15 Louisa Hartings 73 Liver Trouble
11/28/15 Henry Tangeman 71 chronic rheumatism

2/12/16 Heinrich Koesters 76 Cancer
3/21/16 Henry Ashman 72 met with accident
6/13/16 Frank Sonderman 93 senility
8/18/16 Norbert Boeke

1/2/17 Michael Boehmer 71 apoplexy
1/2/17 Jacob Cron 38 Apoplexy
6/12/17 Peter Hartings 72 Doopsey

1917 Henry Schwerman

2/8/18 Anna Tumbusch 84 Doopsey
9/30/18 August H. Link
10/5/18 Bernandina Otte 75 heart trouble
10/21/18 Catherine Schwietermann 51 Gall trouble

1919 Louisa Hamburger
1/23/19 Maria Koesters 72 heart trouble
3/22/19 Agatha Rosengarten 23 appendicitis
10/12/19 Bernard Reichert

3/7/20 Joseph Boeckmann 31 lobar pneumonia
4/9/20 John Cron 79 bronchial pneumonia
6/3/20 Herbert Koesters 4 bronchial pneumonia
11/15/20 Reinhart Hartings 77 cerebral hemmorrhage

1/31/21 Mary A. Boeckman
9/22/21 Elizabeth Vondrell 65 Myocordial insufficiency
10/11/21 Christopher Ranly 84 Cardiac Rupture

6/26/22 Leona Kramer 1 day

6/23/23 John F. Schuerman
8/24/23 Elizabeth Siegrist 79 Myo Cordial insufficiency
8/24/23 Jerome Tumbusch

3/11/24 Cathrine Wurtz heart failure
4/10/24 Walter Ranly heart trouble
4/16/24 Bernard Boeckman 67 cancer
5/15/24 Elmira Vondrell 9 lung trouble
5/27/24 Katharina Boeke 77 heart failure
6/26/24 Henry Vondrell 82 Saccoma of Knee
11/23/24 Terese Schuerman 69 heart
12/29/24 Rosena Evers 70 Apoplisory

2/8/25 Agnes Ashman 74
2/24/25 Mary A. Bertke 3 mos bronchitus
3/1/25 Marinus H. Bertke 3 mos pheumomia
3/9/25 Joseph Michael Wurtz 74
8/4/25 Alvin Kramer infant
8/15/25 Johannes Reichert 24 drowning

11/13/26 Othmar Feltz pneumonia

3/28/27 Catherine Homan 52 yrs Apoplexy

12/30/28 Anna Margaret Reichert 87 Influenza

3/9/29 Edgar Frank Taraile Lyrangial Diptheria
4/2/29 Virginia Hartings 1 yr Asthma Bronchial
7/24/29 Clemans Evers 81 Unaemia

1930 Anthony Lamm
10/23/30 Louis Feltz 89 old age
11/18/30 Alivna E. Grievenkamp 26

3/25/31 Mary Ellen Ranly 12 days
1931 Joseph Schwieterman Jr.

1/14/32 Bernard J. Reichert 4 days
6/1/32 Joseph E. Ranly 21 days
6/4/32 Clement L. Boeke 20
8/2/32 Dennis E. Bertke 11 mos Enteritis
11/23/32 Marita Schoenherr stillborn
12/3/32 Frank Reichert 62 acute myocarditis

4/2/33 Josephine Feltz 76 cancer
5/5/33 Frank J. Feltz 62 heart failure
7/30/33 Kathryn Hierholzer 61 cerebral hemmorage
11/3/33 Bernard Tumbusch 66 carcinoma of throat

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3/29/35 Elizabeth Kemper 76
5/11/35 Joseph H. Alhenz
5/12/35 Clemens Homan 66

2/19/36 Fred Anthony Bertke 79
10/18/36 Joseph Reichert 71

3/7/37 Anthony Broering 53 pneumonia
10/1/37 Elizabeth Boeckman 71 Cancer

5/7/38 Mary Lindhaus 80 pneumonia
6/22/38 Bernard Lindhaus 89 carcinoma of liver
7/17/38 John Link 88 arteria sclerosis
9/2/38 Gertrude Greivenkamp 83 cerrebral hemmorhage
9/5/38 Elizabeth Kramer 71 cerebral thrombosis
10/4/38 Henry Kramer 72 heart failure
10/25/38 Catherine Mary Alhers 52 cancer
12/15/38 Joseph Hartings 66 artial sclorosis

1/24/39 Mary Kath. Hess 50 carcinoma stomach

1940 Mildred Ann Reichert
5/7/40 Edward John Reichart 51 coronary thrombosis
7/8/40 Anna Philomina Link 47 strangulation
12/9/40 Clara J. Albers 32 Peritonitis post Hystirectomy

1/1/41 Mildred Ann Reichert 1 Diarrhea & Enteretis
12/31/41 William Evers 88 Senility

3/14/42 Veronica Gertude Eilermann 51 pulmonary thrombosis
3/23/42 Elizabeth Mary Reichert 66 Coronary Thrombosis
5/2/42 Ferdinand Steinke 58 pulmonary tuberculosis
8/9/42 Janet Elizabeth Cron 6 weeks hepatitis & enteritis
10/6/42 Margaret Mary Kemper 58 gastic ulcer hemmorrhage

9/15/43 John D. Dippold 77 fall
9/24/43 Rosa Homan 30 Dementia Pramcox
10/21/43 John Broerman 6 hrs. died soon after birth

1/5/44 Elizabeth Grote 88 herat trouble
4/29/44 Anton Kemper 82 coronary thrombosis
6/17/44 Christina Link 89 strangulation
11/1/44 Clara Eilerman 83 coronary embolism
12/28/44 Rosalia M. Link 64 fall from steps

2/11/45 Joseph Henry Heitkamp 2 hrs died soon after birth
5/25/45 August C. Vondrell 55 complication
6/30/45 Luetta C. Reichert 33 Ureamia

7/10/46 Elizabeth Tumbusch 74 cerebral hemmorhage
8/12/46 John Siegrist 68 peritonitis
12/12/46 Elizabeth Strukamp 94 heart failure

1947 Catherine T. Steinke
1947 Sebastian Ranley
2/24/47 Joseph F. Boeke 69 bronchial pneumonia
5/4/47 Philomena E. Siegrist 62 cerebral hemmorrhage
9/15/47 Joseph H. Ashman 71 coronary embolism

1/18/48 August Otte 69 hemorrhage of liver
3/6/48 Elizabeth Frenzer 69 streptococis cellulitis
8/9/48 Mary Evers 88 old age

7/25/49 Joseph H. Lindhaus 88 old age

10/1/50 Michael Bergman Jr. hours old

3/16/51 Pauline Vondrell 61 myocarditis
4/12/51 William Frenzer 83 coronary thrombosis
5/4/51 Ralph Mescher Jr. 2 hrs premature birth
5/30/51 Kenneth Charles Grevenkamp 20 days complications
6/21/51 Michael Hess 78 old age
9/29/51 Philomena Feltz 75 cancer
12/20/51 Phillip Link 86 heart trouble & old age
12/27/51 Philomena Bertke 85

4/21/52 Eugene R. Vondrell 31 car accident/burned to death

11/29/53 August Stelzer 89 coronary thrombosis

2/23/54 Frank Koester 70 heart trouble
3/10/54 Henry Hierholzer 81
7/4/54 Adam Homan 47 plane crash
9/24/54 Joseph Mescher few hours
12/12/54 Frank B. Goettemoeller 64 car accident
12/12/54 Anna Goettemoeler 62

2/4/55 Josephine Westerheide 86 complications/oldage
6/26/55 Elizabeth Stelzer 84 carcinoma of stomach
10/18/55 Henry Greivenkamp 74 heart attack

2/9/56 Jacob Eilerman 69
7/23/56 Richard D. Feltz 53 heart attack

4/11/57 Leonard Joseph Otte Jr. 1 hr anencephalous
6/10/57 Bernard Grote 75 heart attack
6/18/57 Veronica Boeckman 69 complications
7/5/57 Raymond Broerman 54 heart attack
8/28/57 Ivan John Hemmelgarn 10 days
10/26/57 Joseph Reichert premature

1958 Mary P. Grevenkamp
8/31/58 Sandra Kay Hess 4 sarcoma of the lung
11/21/58 August Link 68 heart attack
11/22/58 Henrietta Ashman 72 Strokel

1959 Anna M. Ranley
1/23/59 Mary Catherine Otte 1 hr
2/13/59 Anna Evers 75 pneumonia
5/26/59 Mary Boeke 81
5/27/59 Erma Bergman 34 pneumonia

4/12/60 Roman Reichert few minutes
10/5/60 Joseph Dahlinghaus 88 old age & complications
10/14/60 Peter N. Ranly 72 stroke
10/27/60 Anna J. Bertke 68 despondency

2/1/61 Leo F. Hemmelgarn 77 complications
9/16/61 Mary Ellen Gaier 80 asthma
9/29/61 Joseph B. Link 85 infirmities of age

3/15/62 Theresa Marie Otte 1 hr.
3/22/62 Mark Joseph Dirksen 17 days
9/17/62 Catherine Homan 57 cancer
12/6/62 Anna M. Link 71
12/20/62 Rev. Leo H. Boeke 56 cancer

6/3/63 Urban F. Otte 48
6/30/63 Joseph Meier 1/2 hr
9/2/63 August Koesters 85 cancer
10/9/63 Anna Hartings 72 cancer
12/11/63 Mary Dippold 88

3/13/64 Roman B. Heitkamp 65 heart attack
5/16/64 Elizabeth Reichert 88
5/19/64 Henry Vondrell 83 heart attack

2/26/65 Carol Ann Meier 4 days
7/19/65 Theresa Marie Heitkamp at birth
8/29/65 Philomena Link 70
9/13/65 Angelina Lamm 85

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10/27/65 Arnold Cron 59 Emphysema
12/16/65 Mary Dahlinghaus 73

3/24/66 Gabriel Flaute at birth
5/16/66 Adolph Tumbush 63
12/3/66 Harold G. Lamm 58

2/17/67 Frank Evers 93
3/29/67 James Paul Dirksen 5
9/17/67 Vernon D. Kramer 19
11/1/67 Mark K. Link 85

3/24/68 Clem Albers 90
6/7/68 Mary Dirksen at birth

11/10/69 Clara D. Reichert 78

1/3/70 Ida Cron 85
1/16/70 Kristina Ranly 17

1/27/71 Theresia Hemmelgarn 77
1/28/71 Clara Koesters 89
4/6/71 Dora Cron 80
4/14/71 Edna Koenig 66
7/15/71 Joseph Schulze
1971 John U. Greivenkamp
1971 Anna Eilerman

1/21/72 George B. Koenig
5/21/72 Veronica Otte 85
5/23/72 Henry F. Puthoff 52
9/5/72 Sophia M. Ranly

1/30/73 Henry A. Ashman 83
2/3/73 Ivo F. Reichert 59
7/30/73 Leo B. Bertke 84

1/14/74 Catherine Feltz 77
1/17/74 Douglas Homan 11 mos.
4/20/74 Louis A. Strukamp 77
6/27/74 Joseph H. Kuhlman
8/3/74 Lester S. Wuebker 17
8/3/74 Carl Wuebker 54
9/19/74 John Paul Eifert 20 minutes
10/12/74 Ernest A. Reichert 19
11/5/74 Paul Harting 54

2/27/75 Christine Brunswick 8 hrs.
3/13/75 Frank Boeckman 84

1/14/76 Olive V. Feltz 70
2/4/76 Alethea C. Strukamp
3/21/76 William H. Hartings 89
7/13/76 Daniel J. Bertke 22
9/19/76 Olivia Hierholzer 75
10/11/76 Elanora G. Heitkamp 76
10/16/76 Virgil D. Kramer 28
12/29/76 Margaret A. Pleiman 72

6/17/77 William Bertke 77

3/8/78 Casey Hess 20 hrs
5/20/78 Kenneth Alfres Fullenkamp 24
12/27/78 Katherine Grevenkamp 88

3/7/79 Matthew Paul Wenning 3
4/25/79 Verona M. Dippold 77
11/5/79 William Tumbusch 78

1/15/80 Lester D. Cron 32
7/21/80 Mary Greivenkamp

12/22/80 Clarence Dirksen 81

4/9/82 Joseph Schroer 51
9/7/82 Alma Broerman 75
10/27/82 Bernard Homan 83
12/21/82 Michael Bergman 62

4/3/83 Urban C. Frenzer 79
8/5/83 Josephine Broering 95

1/27/84 Philomina Ashman 92
2/11/84 Martin Feltz 73
11/14/84 Philomena Dirksen 83
12/27/84 Sarah Margaret Mescher 1 hr. birth defect

10/14/85 Albert Feltz 96
10/15/85 Cyril Dippold 68

1/24/86 Jodi Lynn Koesters 15 min.
4/19/86 Kevin Dwayne Cluckey 5 yrs
5/26/86 Leo Reichert 84
6/2/86 Lawernce Kramer 76

5/26/87 Rose Albers 72
9/20/87 Albert Dippold 81

4/17/88 Clint Siefring 17
10/10/88 Lora Eileen Ranly 21
11/3/88 Brian Albers 4

10/8/91 Rose M. Tumbusch 89

8/5/92 Raymond Reichert 86

5/22/93 Edmund Boeke 88
5/24/93 Janelle Hope Mescher 19 days complications/birth defect
10/14/93 Allen Feltz 33

8/5/94 Allison Lynn Mescher 20 minutes birth defect

3/9/95 Agatha F. Frenzer 83
9/22/95 Alma P. Ruschau 74

10/1/96 Robert Nelson Smith 79
11/14/96 Carla Bergman 16

Observations

As this section was being compiled it was apparent the positive effect modern medicine had on the longevity of Nativity's Parishioners. In the early years many young children died in infancy. One can only imagine that difficult births, low birth weight and infection were the cause of these young children's deaths. Without doctors to treat the common aliments such as appendicitis or the availability of antibiotics to treat common infections such as strep throat, bronchitis and pneumonia many children and adults perished with their families feeling helpless.

It was interesting to note in the 1870's Catherine Hierholzer lived well into her eighties. This must have been quite an accomplishment for our ancestors who had their days filled with hard work and the lack of modern medicine.

Also interesting is the way names changed throughout the years, for example many names carried an extra n on man; or possibly an e or I has been dropped from their German spelling.

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FRANCIS DE SALES BRUNNER, C.PP. S.

Francis was born on January 10, 1795 in Switzerland. He first became a Benedictine priest in 1819 and later, convinced that he must serve God in a stricter Order he became a Trappist. In June of 1838 he was received into the Society of the Precious Blood where he remained until his death in 1859. Upon his ordination he was sent back to Switzerland to establish the Society there. In 1843, at the request of Bishop Purcell, Fr. Brunner, 7 priests, and 7 students set sail for America aboard the ship Vesta. They were needed for the increasing German Catholics in Bishop Purcell's Diocese of Cincinnati in Ohio.

Fr. Brunner and his 14 companions arrived in Cincinnati on the last day of December in 1843. Here they sought to establish the Society of the Precious Blood and to advance the work of Jesus Christ! Bishop Purcell lodged them in his own house, fed and served them himself.

On New Year's Day the priests celebrated Mass at the 3 Catholic churches in Cincinnati. Bishop Purcell appointed Fr. Brunner superior and conferred upon him all the mission faculties within his power for the entire diocese for an unlimited period. Fr. Brunner was granted complete freedom to direct all things according to the rules and customs of the Precious Blood Society. He assigned them to the church of St. Alphonse in Norwalk, Huron County which is in the northern section of Ohio. On January 3, 1844 they started their journey to Norwalk. They sailed up the Ohio river and on January 6 arrived in Wellsville. They offered Mass in the home of an Irish Catholic widow, Mrs. Hays. From Wellsville they travelled by large farm wagons or on foot. The roads were primitive, winding their tortuous way through the hills and woodland. All along the way they administered to German Catholic settlers. They gave the settlers time to go to confession and receive Communion. Many of the settlers had no opportunity to hear the word of God or the receive the sacraments for a long time. They found many Catholics and said Mass either in church or a home, whatever was available. They spent most of the nights with Catholic families. They arrived, drenched and mud splattered, in Norwalk on Friday, January 12 at 8:00 P.M. They had walked the last 3 miles through a storm and had stumbled from rut to rut in the total darkness. The log cabin rectory became a religious house, a mission center from which many near and distant communities were served by these pioneer priests. It also served as a temporary C.PP.S. Seminary. Father Brunner spent the weekends taking care of one or the other mission station, and the rest of the week in training his men and directing the Province. On June 10, 1846, Matthias Kreusch was ordained to the priesthood, the first one of the Society to be ordained in the new world. A new seminary was built in Thompson, Ohio and in 1847 this became the central house of the Society for the next several years.

It was Fr. Brunner's intention to establish religious houses of the Society as centers of missionary activity, houses where the missionaries could be stationed to care for the surrounding country and still retain their community life. The Society of the Precious Blood consisted of three distinct groups - priests, Brothers, and Sisters - living apart, yet subject to the same immediate authority, possessing their goods in common, and dependent on each other. The Society depended on the settlers for survival. The settlers helped by clearing the land and with construction, by donating food and whenever possible gave money. From near poverty the Society eventually established a total of 10 mission centers. These centers were all self supporting farms, centrally located between the churches and people they served.

Five Houses or Mission Centers were established in Minster, Maria Stein, Gruenenwald near Cassella, Himmelgarten between St. Henry and St. Joe, and Egypt between 1845 and 1856. They were all within a radius of approximatey 100 miles and were to take care of the Catholics in Mercer and Auglaize counties. The convent at St. John was completed in 1846 and Fr. Brunner dedicated the chapel to Mary, Help of Christians and named the convent Maria Stein, because of the miraculous painting that was located there. Within a few years Maria Stein developed into the most important house of the Society in America, although it was not until his last year in this country (1857) that Father Brunner designated Maria Stein as the motherhouse of the sisters. It remained the motherhouse for the next 65

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years. All his life Fr. Brunner had a great veneration for relics. One of his principal hobbies was to collect as many relics as possible. Some were brought along on the first journey to America; others were acquired in the course of years. He was instrumental in bringing over from Europe the body of St. Victoria which today is at the Shrine of the Holy Relics in Maria Stein, Ohio and numerous other relics. All of these relics were distributed among the various houses of the Society in this country and eventually found a permanent home in the convent at Maria Stein.

Father Brunner insisted on uniformity in parish practices and services. Silence was kept, everything had its proper place, and everyone knew exactly what they had to do and when to do it. Everything was carried out in common, the time for rising, for retiring, for eating, for study, for work, for public and private prayer, for meditation, for the Office, and for the celebration of Mass. He spent much time travelling between the mission centers. Each center was expected to keep accurate records and account to him for every cent. No priest could use money to obtain things for the parish, to give to the poor, to hoard it, to send it away, or to do anything else with it. Father Brunner constantly shifted his subjects wherever their qualifications and talents could best serve the immediate interests of the Society. This constant shifting makes it almost impossible to determine a home for any of the missionaries.

With the establishment of the Diocese of Cleveland in 1847 Fr. Brunner began looking for a new seminary location in the Cincinnati Diocese. From 1857-1860 the seminarians spent time at the various convents. In 1861, they finally settled into their new motherhouse and seminary, St. Charles in Carthagena, Ohio.

Father Brunner made several trips back to Switzerland to recruit new missionaries, both Sisters and Priests. He left Father John of the Cross Wittmer in charge of the communities whenever he was gone. He continuously encouraged the priests and sisters in their work and expected them to follow the rules of the Precious Blood Society. He was a man of vision, courage, and trust in God. In 1857 Fr. Brunner sailed to Europe one last time. He never returned to America, he died on December 29, 1859. During the first sixteen years of its existence the American Province of the Society of the Precious Blood witnessed great blessings of God. The Society had dug its roots deeply into American Soil. From the starting group of 15 in 1843, it's membership in 1860 totalled nearly 500! This included 25 priests, 14 students, 70 brothers, and almost 400 sisters. The Society was now in possession of 10 convents, approximately 1,500 acres of land, several parishes, and numerous missions. A lot was accomplished in this short time considering when the Society arrived in America they were nearly broke and had to depend on the pioneers for help.

The success of the Society of the Precious Blood can be contributed to the leadership of Fr. Brunner. However, without the dedicated priests, brothers, and sisters who served under his direction most of this would not have been accomplished. Credit can also be given to our ancestors. Many had constructed churches or were holding services in their homes, anticipating the arrival of priests to serve them, anxiously awaiting their arrival, knowing it would bring sacramental administrations and the celebration of the Mass.

Today the only remaining convent is Maria Stein, the others have all gradually disappeared. The Precious Blood Society is still very active in Ohio and continues to serve Mercer and Auglaize Counties. St. Charles remains as the motherhouse of the Society.



Banner made for
Fr. Eilerman's 50th Anniversary
from the CCD students.

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CONVENTS FOUNDED BY FR. BRUNNER

When Father Brunner arrived at St Alphonse with the priests and seminarians that accompanied him, they offered a Mass of Thanksgiving for their safe voyage and their warm reception into their new home. They would begin their missionary labors under Mary's patronage, for it was up to her to protect her Son's interests in this faraway land. The 10 religious centers founded by Father Brunner were centers of missionary activity. The missionaries stationed at these centers cared for the surrounding country and still retained their community life. The priests, as they travelled the countryside ministering, could stay overnight or longer as necessary. The chapels all were dedicated to Mary under various titles.

1. Convent of Mary at the Crib, New Riegel or Wolfscreek, Ohio, 1844 - Fr. Brunner bought sixty acres of land using the last of the money he brought to America. Land sold in this vicinity for approximately $ 5.00 per acre, although no mention is made of Fr. Brunner's exact cost. It was his intention to build a residence and chapel for a permanent mission house. With the arrival of several Precious Blood Sisters, this became their convent and chapel. The chapel was dedicated to Mary at the Crib, for it was with Mary at the crib that the Sisters on Christmas Eve of 1844 took up their adoration of her Divine Child. New Riegel convent has been rightly called "The Cradel of the Congregation of the Precious Blood in America." Starting with 10 Sisters their number increased to 25 by June, 1845. In 1852, thirty three sisters, five students, six brothers and three priests resided here. They cared for the local parish and also other mission parishes.

2. Convent of Mary of the Angels, Thompson, Ohio, 1845 - An eighty acre farm was purchased and five Brothers were sent to build a new convent and chapel. In accordance with the custom he had begun of placng all the chapels of the community under the patronage of Our Lady, Father Brunner dedicated this one under the title of Mary of the Angels. Twenty-eight sisters, five brothers, and two priests live here. The priests care for this parish and also for outlying missions.

3. Convent of Mary, Help of Christians, Maria Stein, Ohio, 1846 - A sixty acre farm was purchased and a convent and chapel built. Father Brunner dedicated the chapel under the title of Mary, Help of Christians, and called the convent Maria Stein in memory of the Swiss Benedictine convent of that name. Above the altar in the chapel the picture of Maria Stein was placed. This was the picture that had protected them from the storm on their journey to America. On September 24, 1846, eight Sisters entered Maria Stein to begin that very night perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1852, twenty three sisters, six brothers, and two priests administered to the parish of St. John the Baptist from here.

4. Convent of Mary at the Holy Sepulcher, Glandorf, Ohio, 1849 - A convent and chapel was built near the church. On July 2, twenty Sisters began perpetual adoration in the chapel, newly dedicated to the Sorrowful Mother under the title of Mary at the Holy Sepulcher. In 1852, twenty three sisters, three priests, and two brothers are located here.

5. Convent of Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, Maria-Camp, Ohio, 1850 - Fr. Brunnner had purchased 120 acres three miles west of Glandorf. At first a log building was attached to the tiny chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel. The sisters lived there until 1852 when a brick convent was constructed. Fourteen sisters, ten brothers and a retired priest reside here. The retired priest continues to offer Mass.

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6. Convent of Mary, Mother of God, Greenwood, Ohio, 1850 - The lovely grove of green trees rising gently on a grassy knoll, close to the log church called Mary's Chapel (Cassella), reminded Father Brunner of Alsace. Gruenenwald in Alsace had been sanctified by the presence of the holy priest and martyr, John Baptist Bochele, who had been killed during the French Revolution. There at the shrine of the Mother of God Father Bochele had often said Mass, preached the word of God, and heard confessions. Father Brunner had offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at that same altar and had become interested in the life of this saintly priest. Eighty acres of woodland was purchased on which to build a convent and chapel. The new chapel was completed in the fall of 1850 and dedicated to the Mother of God. In 1852, fifteen sisters, ten brothers, and two priests resided here. Maria Kapelle (Cassella) and St. Rose are cared for from this convent.

7. Convent of the Visitation of Mary, Minster, Ohio, 1852 - It was around this time the cholera plague swept the country, schools were closed and the Sisters at Minster temporarily returned to thh motherhouse at Maria Stein. After the plague was over, Father Brunner bought several acres of land at Minster, where a convent, under the title of the Visitation of Mary was begun in 1851 and completed in 1852. Father Andrew Kunkler became pastor and immediately began to collect funds for the building of an orphanage and academy for girls to be combined with the Sisters' convent. Many children had been made orphans by the cholera epidemic. A total of three priests, four sisters, and two brothers were stationed here in 1852. They also cared for the large parish of Minster and of Berlin (Ft. Loramie).

8. Convent of Mary, Mother of Mercy, Himmelgarten, Ohio, 1852 - Himmelgarten (Heavengarden) was the name Father Brunner gave to another convent which he founded in 1952. Himmelgarten was on a lovely stretch of land with gardens and orchards. The 520 acre farm, midway between St. Henry an dSt Joseph, was purchased from a Mr. Himmelgarn for a low price because he thought the place was haunted. Ten sisters took up residence here and began adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the little chapel of Mary, Mother of Mercy. In 1852, twelve sisters, six bothers, and one priest resided here. The parishes of St. Henry and St. Joseph are cared for from this convent.

9. Mary's Home, Jay County, Indiana, 1854 - The first convent in America outside of Ohio was build in Jay County, Indiana, in 1854. A log house standing on the 240 acres was converted into a chapel and a small residence was annexed to the chapel for the Sisters. Mary's Home was just within the borders of Indiana, about fifteen miles from Himmelgarten.

10. Convent of Mary's Flight into Egypt, Egypt, Ohio 1856 - The last convent in the 1846-1857 decade to be erected was the convent of Mary of Egypt. A school for girls was opened in the convent in 1859. It was closed after fifteen years when all the children of the vicinity attended the district schools.

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GRUENENWALD

On September 13, 1849, forty acres of woodland were bought from Mr. John Henry and Margeretha Schurman and another forty acres from Mr. George A. Miller. Father John Wittmer under the direction of Father Francis Brunner purchased these eighty acres to build a new convent to be called ***Gruenenwald***. ***Gruenenwald*** would be another house of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and would serve the people of ***Maria-Kapelle***. Fr. Wittmer assumed charge of the parishes of St. Rose and ***Maria-Kapelle***. In the spring of 1850 a few rough, log houses were erected by the Brothers of Maria Stein and the neighbors to serve as a chapel and living quarters.

Gruenenwald was the sixth convent to be constructed. Father Brunner's devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary prompted him to place every convent under her patronage. This new chapel was dedicated as ***Mary, the Mother of God***. This dedication took place on ***All Souls' Day***, 1850. Early in the morning ten sisters came in a Procession from Maria Stein. They were escorted by two children carrying a beautiful picture of the Mother of God, and bringing up the rear were Father Brunner and Father Wittmer on horseback. Father Wittmer celebrated the first *Requiem High Mass* in the chapel with Father Brunner and the sisters forming the choir. The chapel was packed with the curious people from Cassella and neighboring parishes who had followed this unusual parade. During his short sermon Father Brunner encouraged these people to help the Sisters in their poverty. The morning ceremonies concluded with the religious profession of two sisters and that night the Sisters began Perpetual Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Martha Hoepf was the first superioress of ***Gruenenwald***. The sisters led a semi-cloistral life and were self supporting, making their own clothes, shoes, hats, knickknacks, cooking, cleaning, working the gardens, milking cows, harvesting grain and doing other chores. By 1852, there were fifteen sisters, ten brothers, and two priests at ***Gruenenwald***. The priests were probably Father John Wittmer & Father Joseph Butz. They cared for the parishes of St. Rose and ***Maria-Kapelle***. More land was also added so that the total acreage of ***Gruenenwald*** was now 240 acres.

The main convent building was built on a small hill a half mile south of St. Rt. 119 on the east side of Cassella-Montezuma Rd. It was a plain, rectangular building, two stories high, with the high steeple pointing its bronzed cross to heaven. It stood some fifty feet off the road with a gravel driveway in front. Soon smaller buildings grew up around the side and back. There was a smokehouse, an icehouse with a fruit cellar below, a woodshed, and another underground cellar. Rain barrels caught the water from the roofs. Cisterns were dug. There was a wooden pump on the front lawn. Fruit trees were planted to the north and west of the main building. In back there were large garden plots and another large orchard. The small cemetery lay between the orchard and gardens. Surrounding all these premises of the sisters was a high board fence to keep intact the strict separation of the sisters from the people. Some distance from the main building, near the road, stood the quarters for the priests and brothers. It too was a solid, brick building, two stories high, with a back porch and balcony. It had four rooms upstairs and downstairs. Stately evergreens stood guard in front. This house still stands today.

On December 29, 1859, Father Brunner died. In 1861, Father Kunkler was appointed General Director in America by an election held at ***Gruenenwald***. Father Henry Drees became Provincial in 1880 and in 1887 a decree came from Rome calling for a separation of male and female communities in all religious congregations consisting of priests, brothers, and sisters with common property. In May of 1887 the sisters were legally incorporated as the ***Female Society of the Precious Blood***. A committee of sisters and priests was chosen to insure the just division of the property between them. On February 3, 1888, the commitee agreed that all the buildings and 315 acres be deeded to the sisters. In 1889, 160 acres across the road were bought, which included several lots and buildings in the town of Cassella. Within three years all the town lots were sold and the convent retained 120 acres of this farm land. It was not until October 25, 1889 that the legal transfer took place for $500.00. The priests kept 45 acres but that too was sold to the sisters in 1893 for $ 1800.00 . ***Gruenenwald*** was now completely owned by the sisters.

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In 1883, ***Gruenenwald*** became a school to train the young sisters for a teaching profession. There were thirteen sisters in the school in 1883 and twenty in 1884. The young sisters at ***Gruenenwald*** published a paper called the ***Backwoods*** to maintain friendships at the Motherhouse in Maria Stein and to keep in contact with the graduates of the school. Two copies are still preserved, the Christmas editions of 1889 & 1890. The paper tells of the convent getting the use of the nearby natural gas lines in 1890. Before this wood and coal had to be used.

Gruenenwald remained a teaching school until 1892 when the new building was completed at the Motherhouse at Maria Stein. It then returned to its old quiet self again. After 1892 it became more or less a rest home for the aged sisters. In 1898 an annex was added to the building for bigger, better quarters. The average number of sisters through these years was about sixty. The number of brothers, less than a dozen. The pastor of Cassella was also the convent chaplain.

The sisters at ***Gruenenwald*** were noted for their friendliness. Any vagabond could get a meal at ***Gruenenwald***. There was a collapsible *tramp's table* on the back porch with a bell to summon a sister. The children of Cassella loved the sisters. During the Christmas season the school children would tramp to the convent to see their beautiful crib. Sometimes the sisters would give the children a small gift. The servers form Cassella also served at the convent on special occasions, such as funerals.

In 1911, Sister Cecilia Lang was appointed Superior of ***Gruenenwald***. Over the winter of 1916 the deadly infuenza epidemic struck the convent. Within fifteen days six of the elderly sisters had died. On January 23, Sister Cecilia also died, but she was the last. It was the belief of the remaining sisters that when Sister Cecilia arrived in heaven, she asked God to spare her dear ones at ***Gruenenwald,*** and God spared them.

Gradually, the Society of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood changed with the needs and times. The sisters became more involved with teaching, caring for the sick and aged, and cooking for various Catholic institutions. Archbishop Moeller of Cincinnati suggested the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament be abandoned at the convents. With hesitation and regret the community broke with their traditional life of honoring the Precious Blood in as many places as possible with Perpetual Adoration.

One by one the old convents were abandoned & sold. ***Himmelgarten*** was sold in 1901, Egypt, Ohio; Glandorf, Ohio; and Jay County, Indiana were also sold. A new Motherhouse was built near Dayton, Ohio. New Riegel and Maria Stein were retained. In 1923, the convent of Mary, Mother of God, at ***Gruenenwald*** was also abandoned. The choir from St. Charles Seminary sang at the last solemn services in the small chapel. The farm lands were not sold but rented to Mr. Aloys Schoenherr. He moved his family into the priest house and added a kitchen to the building.

Soon the buildings and grounds began to deteriorate. For a small sum the neighbors could buy the usable parts of the vacant buildings. The floors were torn up for their own use. The brick walls were torn down and the good bricks saved and carted away. Mr. Henry Vondrell, the second renter of ***Gruenenwald*** cared for the cemetery. It became a sort of pilgrimage spot over the years, the only real thing of the old convent which remained unchanged. Beautiful flowers grew there each spring.

On January 13, 1951 the last 240 acres of ***Gruenenwald*** was sold to Mr. Sylvan Siegrist. He then sold it in different sized lots to several other neighbors. Mr. Ray Flaute purchased 100 acres of the original property as well as most of the buildings.

With the sale of the convent grounds, the cemetery had to be moved. In the early fall of 1951, the remains of 132 sisters and 9 brothers were unearthed by a bulldozer and a powerful dredge. The crude, rough boxes made of 2" walnut and pine planks were very well preserved. Crosses, chains, holy water bottles, and rosaries were found in many of the graves. The nine brothers were re-intered at St. Charles Seminary on November 15, 1951. Sisters Clara Meisen and Cecilia Lang were re-intered at Maria Stein in individual graves and the rest of the sisters were buried in a common grave with a large common monument at Maria Stein. The Large Cemetery Cross was loaded on a flat bed truck and taken to the Motherhouse, Salem Heights in Dayton, Ohio where it can be seen today in the cemetery.

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Gruenenwald 1850

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MARIA STEIN SHRINE HOUSES RELIGIOUS TREASURES

Relics help believers remember the lives of the Saints

MARIA STEIN - Glass medallions surrounded by gilt wink in the candlelight. Reverently housed in spired reliquaries, the medallions encase tiny fragments of bone, wood and fabric. These are the treasures of Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics. And they each have a story to tell.

Thousands of the devout from all over the world make pilgrimages to this shrine, the second largest in the country, to light a candle and say a prayer before the 500 relics on display. Another 600 relics are housed in the sacristy.

The relics themselves are not objects of worship; they remain as "the cloud of witnesses," (Hebrews 12:1) minute reminders of lives of holiness and sacrifices made for the faith by those who have gone on before. Lest one be overawed by the trappings, the gold sparkle is only paint on plastic or wood; the gemstones are only glass. The value is in remembering the lives led and sacrifices made by saints. The history of venerating relics predates Christianity by thousands of years.

The Israelites, led by Moses, took the bones of Joseph with them when they left Egypt on their trek to the Promised Land (Exodus 13:19). The bones of Elisha were on display in a cave when a dead man was unceremoniously pitched in on top of them. The Bible relates how the dead man sprang to life (II Kings 13:21).

In the centuries preceding Christ, the dead were laid out on limestone slabs in caves where the flesh was encouraged to rot off. The bones eventually were washed by loved ones and literally "gathered to their fathers" in a family bone repository. People could at any time touch and gaze upon the remains of departed family members, remember their lives and deeds - and see their own future.

So it is with pilgrims who visit Maria Stein. The saints were human; here are fragments of their bones. The medallions are reminders that the saints' faith in Christ and their deeds remain the true measure of their lives. All else was dross.

While the shrine is important to Catholic believers, it embodies historical value to Mercer County residents, too. The Sisters of the Precious Blood from Switzerland settled on 200 acres of Mercer County in 1849. That year, from locally dug and fired brick, they built the square gate house, reputed to be the oldest building in the county. Later, it housed the priests and brothers who served at the convent and shrine. Other buildings were constructed of native materials, but the site took on significance when in 1875, impressed by the piety of the sisters, Rev J.M. Gartner, entrusted to them his large collection of relics.

Over the next two decades, the Relic Chapel was planned and constructed. The three hand-carved altar pieces and railing were commissioned from the Cincinnati firm of Schroeder Bros. They were floated upstream on a canal packet. The four stained glass windows were imported from Munich, Germany. On November 22, 1892, the completed chapel was dedicated.

Rev. Frances de Sales Brunner added to the treasury of relics. The largest relic he donated is the body of St. Victoria. Martyred by decapitation sometime in the past, her bones were exhumed from a Roman cemetery in 1831. Encased in wax, she lays in a glass case beneath one of the altars.

Brunner also donated a copy of a painting of Maria Stein, which had an interesting journey to Mercer County. According to Brunner, terrific storms threatened to shatter the ship Vesta upon the coastal rocks. Brunner brought the painting from the hold up to the deck to give the sailors courage. As it was held up before the storm, the wind and waves immediately ceased. The painting hangs at the back of the Relic Chapel, and is one of only a few miraculous events associated directly with the shrine.

The miracle of Maria Stein herself, probably the most notable, is a tale that is least told. According to the story, long, long, ago, high in the Alpine mountains of Switzerland, a shepherd tended her flocks along the rocky slopes, while keeping a watchful eye on her small son. Full of high spirits and youthful curiosity the child peered over the brink of one of the dizzying ravines, and to his mother's

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horror, disappeared into the yawning chasm. Frantic with the certainty that her beloved child was broken upon the jagged rocks some 120 feet below, the mother searched the lowlands for a small, bleeding corpse. Instead, she found the child peacefully plainting a wreath of flowers, apparently uninjured. The smiling boy said that as he fell, a beautiful woman shining like the sun and accompanied by angels caught him. She introduced herself as the Mother of God, and requested that a shrine be built among the rocks in her honor. Thus was born Maria Stein, or Mary of the Rock.

From Switzerland to Mercer County, the name and story came to encourage the faithful along with the tiny medallions filled with bits of bone. At the Maria Stein Shrine, the walls speak to those who will listen.

Taken from The Daily Standard
March 20, 1997
Written by Rebekah Montgomery

RELIC SHRINE: REMEMBRANCES ENSHRINED FOREVER

In 1875 and late in 1892, knowing of the Sisters love and service to the Church, they were entrusted with a collection of Holy Relics that had been collected from around the world. Relics are the remains or remembrances of the Saints of the Roman Catholic Church and may include bone fragments, pieces of garments, or items that have touched either of these.

In 1892, a beautiful new chapel was built to house the Relics. Maria Stein had been selected as a logical site since construction there would preclude having to move the relics and the fact that the location would be ideal for religious pilgrimages. The new chapel and convent building was designed and built by Anton DeCurtins and decorated by his sons. Many visitors have stated that the hand-carved woodwork of the altar, the communion rail, and in the wall trim are well worth the trip.

Over the years the collection at Maria Stein grew into what is one of the largest collections of Holy Relics in the United States. The Shrine was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Because of its religious and cultural significance, the Shrine building was also home for individuals making religious retreats. Over the years, though, the number of retreatants outgrew the capacity of the Shrine building leading to the construciton of a Retreat and Conference Center on the grounds in 1962.

Further entrenching Maria Stein into history was the placement on the National Register of "The Land of the Cross-Tipped Churches Thematic Grouping." This grouping reflects a selection of religious buildings within a 22-mile radius of the convent at Maria Stein. DeCurtins had created the cross-tipped tower and spire design in 1877 and it became so popular that parishes throughout the region added towers and spires to their earlier plain structures. On the basis of the over 40 parishes that were established in this region prior to 1900, "The Land of the Cross-Tipped Churches" soon became synonymous with southern Auglaize and Mercer counties.

Taken from '97 Area Guide
Published by the Evening Leader
written by Tom Wehrhahn
Maria Stein Center

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IN AUGUST OF 1856 THIS OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE WAS SENT TO ARCHBISHOP PURCELL.

MINSTER — Pro-Superior: John Wittmer
Andrew Kunkler
Patrick Hennebery

St. Marys and Wapakoneta attended from Minster (before the assignments to Wapakoneta in1857).

BERLIN (Ft. Loramie) — Augustine Berger

MARIA STEIN — Engelbert Ruf & Stephen Falk
Egypt and Chickasaw attended from Maria Stein

GREENWOOD (Gruenenwald) — Andrew Herbstritt, Nicholas Gales & Joseph Butz
St. Rose attended from Greenwood

HIMMELGARTEN — Maximilian Homburger & Amadeus Dambach
St. Henry, St. Joseph, and Philothea attended from Himmelgarten.

St. Anthony attended by Sebastian Ganther from Mary's Home.

Upon the request of the archbishop for statistics regarding the Catholic population in the territory attended by the fathers of the Society, the following estimate was submitted by Father Hennebery:

	FAMILIES
Minster	310
St. Marys	55
Wapakoneta	105
Dublin township in vicinity of Shanesville (Rockford)	7
Egypt	40
St. John	70
St. Sebastian	30
St. Rose	60
Capella (Cassella)	60
Berlin (Ft. Loramie)	70
St. Henry	90
St. Joseph	50
St. Dorothea (Philothea)	25
St. Anthony	25
In Darke county (Wabash & Allen townships) - not known; Those erecting a church	12
TOTAL FAMILIES	1009

Approximate number of souls, estimating five per family 5045

Members of the Society of the Precious Blood in the archdiocese:

Priests	11
Brothers	50
Sisters & Novices	120
TOTAL	181
GRAND TOTAL	5226

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St. Charles Seminary

Today St. Charles Seminary is seen as an immense but picturesque structure owned by the Precious Blood Society . But there is a fascinating history behind this structure's birth.

By 1830 Mercer County numbered nearly 1000 scattered inhabitants. The next entrants to arrive were some Negro families, who settled in Marion, Franklin, and Granville townships in 1835. They were led by August Wattles, who wanted to free them from the ill will and violence that was breaking out against Negro freedmen in Cincinnati. He planned to find new homes for these families, and above all, to establish a manual training school for boys. This was first called Wattles Manual Labor School and was established in what is now known as Carthagena. In Dec. of 1840 a village for the Negroes was laid out in Marion township which was called Carthagena, after the famous Carthage in Africa. In 1843 the name of the school was changed to Emlen Institute to honor Samuel Emlen, a Philadelphia Quaker philanthropist whose bequest continued to support the school.

At the request of Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati, Father Francis Brunner left Switzerland with seven Precious Blood priests and seven students in the autumn of 1843. They arrived at Cincinnati on the last day of the year. In between 1845 and 1856, the Society had established five houses or mission centers, in Minster, Maria Stein, Gruenenwald, Himmelgarten (between St. Henry & St. Joseph) and Egypt to take care of the Catholics in Mercer and Auglaize Counties. Fr. Brunner wanted also to move the seminary currently located at Thompson or Marywood, into the diocese of Cincinnati. Northern Ohio (where Marywood is located) was created the diocese of Cleveland in 1847, until this time it had been part of the Cincinnati Diocese.

In 1857 Father Brunner sailed to Europe on business for the Society. He never returned to America but died at Schellenberg in Liechtenstein, on Dec. 29, 1859. Three months later, on March 14, 1860, Fr. Andrew Kunkler was chosen to succeed Fr. Brunner as Provincial. One of the first commissions given him was to establish a motherhouse which would be the seminary of the Province.

By this time the former Emlen Institute and its farm of about 200 acres was up for sale again. On March 14, 1861 Father Joseph Dwenger and Christopher Schunk, a Catholic Pioneer of Celina, succeeded in purchasing the property for the Society. Renovations began immediately, and the short west wing of the original structure was extended further south. In June of that year the students moved into their new motherhouse and the seminary was dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo. In November that year Henry Drees and Alphonse Laux were ordained in the cathedral of Cincinnati. They were the first priests ordained for the Society after the establishment of St. Charles Seminary.

As more and more young men were choosing the priesthood as their vocation in life the seminary had to grow to accommodate them. In 1876 a second seminary began being built. The present small lake furnished the clay for the bricks and the lumber came from the woods. The majority of the construction was done by those at the seminary. Fr. Henry Drees was the architect and supervisor of the construction, and, often enough a construction worker himself. Fr. Drees later became Provincial of the Society from 1880 1898.

In 1879 Precious Blood Sisters were introduced to the seminary to take over the cooking and laundry duties.

Up to the year 1900 members of the Society were usually buried in the cemetery attached to the house or mission center to which they were assigned. When some of these centers were closed, the bodies were transferred to the motherhouse cemetery. Today there are still seven priests, thirteen brothers and nine sisters buried in the parish cemetery of St. Aloyisius, Cathagena. This seems to have been considered the motherhouse cemetery until the present one at St. Charles was laid out in 1900. It

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is now customary in the Cincinnati Province for all its members to be buried here at the motherhouse cemetery, no matter in what part of the country they may die.

In 1906 a new chapel was blessed. A year later Fr. Paulinus Trost set his artistic hand to decorating it. Photos show a beautiful chapel with hardly a spot on the ceiling, walls or pillars of the sanctuary or nave that was not covered with some sacred representation.

As the student body continued to multiply a third seminary seemed inevitable. The year 1906 clearly showed a need to enlarge the seminary for the turn of the century need. The plan included adjoining the seminary with the chapel. April 12, 1919 was the day the ground broke to create the seminary we see in 1997. It took several years to complete this new structure

Students began laying out the road which now leads from US 127 to the seminary in 1924. The main entrance had led from Carthagena's General Store & Post Office building located on St. Rt. 274.

As the years passed, improvements were made to the 500 acres of farm buildings and in 1955 the older seminary was torn down to build a suitable home for the sisters and create adequate kitchen & dining facilities. At this time renovations were made to the library which had a humble beginning years earlier with 600 volumes and in 1961 boosted of 22,235. During it's growth it's location had moved several times. Undoubtedly there are pages in this library that were printed by the early Messenger Press. The Messenger Press began in approximately 1880 with some sort of early printing press. The presses were moved to the basement and later moved to their present location, in their own building behind the seminary, so as to make it quieter for the scholars. This building today is currently leased by Randy Heitkamp and Allan Kremer who own the Messenger Press, a privately owned printing company.

In the late 50's it was apparent that there was a need for a new infirmary and ground was broken. In January 1960 the sick and retired were transferred to their new home, this infirmary is in use today.

In 1960 the chapel was in serious need of repair and it was decided to utilize the shell of the 50 year old existing chapel and do major, thorough, and complete remodeling. The current chapel is the end result of that decision. A beautiful organ with 1,600 pipes ranging in size from a lead pencil to 16' high can be heard there.

As the years progressed the number of young men choosing the religious vocation declined. The school of theology was closed in 1969. Today St. Charles continues as the motherhouse of the Society and as a home for the retired members for the Society. It is also a site for special programs for the Society and for the local community. The St. Marys Deanery Training Center is located in the Seminary basement.

The Seminary is a peaceful, quiet home for those who have served the Society. A place to reflect on the contributions they have made to the many Catholic Parishioners served by the Society of the Precious Blood.

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

The German Catholic Immigrants primary interest upon settling was to build a church and a school. They wanted the order and discipline of parish life as they had known it in Germany. This was their first concern even though they had no priest.

Did you know St. Johns in Maria Stein is the Mother parish of St. Rose? St. Rose is the Mother Parish of Nativity and of St. Sebastian. St. Sebastian is the Mother Parish of Precious Blood in Chickasaw. A parish becomes a Mother parish when some of its members form their own parish, in most of these cases because of the difficulty in travelling (walking) too far. Just as a family has a family tree to trace their ancestors, so can each parish trace theirs.

In 1844, according to the Catholic Telegraph, there were:
261 families, 1288 souls at Minster which included: 69 baptisms, 17 marriages, 44 deaths in one year,
85 families, 465 souls at St. John, 19 families, 97 souls at St. Henry,
34 families, 101 souls at St. Joseph,
and the new St. Rose church & cemetery had recently been blessed and included 36 families. (Some of our ancestors would have been included in this count.)

In 1847 the settlers two miles west of St. Rose severed themselves from the St. Rose Parish and constructed their own log chapel called "Maria-Kapelle." Maria-Kapelle was the German name for church, parish, and town. For the first several years the parish had no resident pastor but periodically received its spiritual ministrations from the Precious Blood Fathers of Maria Stein or Minster. The Society of the Precious Blood had taken over the spiritual administration of this area in 1846 and Maria Stein, Minster & St. Rose were already well-established parishes by 1847.

The chapel of Maria-Kapelle was first opposed as a parish church because of its closeness to St. Henry and St. Rose. Some of the missionary priests also discouraged its inception because of the small number of parishoners. The few families in the vicinity of the small chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and usually referred to as Kapelle refused to combine with either of the parishes of St. Rose or St. Henry. When the Precious Blood assumed charge of the area, Bishop Purcell permitted "Kapelle to have its own services and officially committed both St. Rose and Kapelle to the Society.

During the late summer of 1849 a terrible cholera plague ravaged the villages of Minster and Maria Stein. The people of Maria-Kappelle went to their log church and prayed to St. Sebastian, the parish patron of the sick, to protect them. Not one member of this parish died.

There is a story that the picture of Mary carried by the children in the procession to Gruenenwald was the cause of a near miracle. This picture had been given as a gift to Fr. Brunner from his superior in Switzerland. Fr. Brunner brought the picture with him to America. While they were at sea, a storm came up and threatened to shatter the ship Vesta upon the coastal rocks. Fr. Brunner brought the painting from the hold up to the deck to give the sailors courage. The presence of the picture seemed to still the raging water and saved the ship, Fr. Brunner and his companions. This picture was reverently cared for and was passed on from house to house. This painting still hangs in back of the the Relic Chapel today.

In the early years when there was no pastor, three witnesses testified to the promises between the bridal couple. Later on, when the cleric visited the neighborhood again, he consecrated the two with God's blessings. (Liwwat Boeke 1807-1882 Pioneer, Glanz Printing)

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The Liturgical Committee was formed in 1978. The first committee was Janice Nagel, Anita Homan, Ruth Otte, and Charlene Heitkamp.

That when the old organ wasn't working very well, it was temporarily fixed with a large rubber band that had been around a bunch of Dole bananas!

Oscar Eifert was our D.R.E. for 31 years! Carolyn Stucke became D.R.E. when Oscar retired in 1987. She is still our Director of Religious Education today.

Fr. Herbert Eilerman C.PP.S. loved to travel and to play golf and that he took a golfing vacation to Hawaii while he was our pastor

That Ruth Otte was hired as our parish Secretary in August of 1980 by Fr. Eilerman. She is still our secratery today.

Fr. Bauer loved to work with wood. He carved Santa Claus's and Ginny Ruskin, his housekeeper, painted them. He also made the wooden cross we use during Lent and at Easter time.

Fr. Bauer was the first pastor of the combined parishes of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Rose.

Did you know the descendants of the families who donated our stained glass windows helped pay for the windows when they were puttied and repainted?

When Adam Homan owned the farm where Tony Dirksen lives today, he flew an airplane as a hobby. Around 1947 he would give area people rides for $ 1.00 on Sunday afternoons.

Did you know the Archbishop of Cincinnati has stated that the small parishes in this part of the archdiocese will continue as long as they are financially viable and ministerially complete?

That Kathy Broering and Katie Dippold stripped and painted the statue of Mary that is located on the back high altar. They also stripped and painted the statue of St. Sebastian. (1997)

The family of Bob and Katie Dippold made most of the banners we use in church today. A few were also made by the CYO.

Walter and Mary Ann Schmiesing have been married 60 years! They are the longest married couple to be wed in Nativity church!

There was once a statue of St. Victoria under the side altar. If you look close enough you can tell which one she was under because the two altars do not match.

Most of the land was orginially purchased by the early settlers from the United States Government. Their cost was $ 1.25 an acre.

Frank (Pat) Feltz built the Starlight Drive-In Theatre. Martin Feltz was security guard and Richard Feltz served as ticket taker. Pat owned and operated the Starlight for 19 years.

In our bell tower of the church there is a ladder on which are carved or written names. Some are nicknames, some have faded with time and two are very legible, Don Ranly and Tom Feltz.

The house across from the CCD hall, currently owned by Dave & Mona Berning, was once used as the teachers' residence.

Cassella's parish rectory was built in 1902.

Fr. Vonderharr and his houskeeper, Margaret Vondrell always raised the poinsettas for Christmas.

A tree was planted on the west side of church in Memory of Allen Feltz in 1993.

Ernie Hartings has been our parish caretaker since 1960.

Our CCD classes changed from Monday to Wednesday nights in 1986.

Fr. Herb grew up in Ft. Loramie and went to Marion (St. John) High School.

Fr. Herb's Housekeeper, Helen Krantz, was from Williamsport, PA.

Fr. Herb also helped to join Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Rose Parishes in 1990.

Fr. Ray Bauer, C.PP.S. loved to play golf, cook and to eat out.

The first P.A. system for our church was purchased by the C.K. of A.

Fr. Herb Eilerman was a darn good catcher for the Seminary ball team.

That Art Ranly was National Trustee in the C.K. of A for 17 years.

That the C. K. of A has over 500 members.

Fr. Parr donated the Last Supper Picture currently hanging under our altar.

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Sister Grace Miriam Pleiman S.F.P. attended High School at Hartwell in Cincinnati and studied nursing at St. Elizabeth Hospital. She took her Final Profession in 1964 to become a Franciscan Sister of the Poor. She continued her schooling and now has a Masters in Counselling. At this time Sr. Grace is the Executive Director of St. Joseph's House in New York. St. Joseph's is for men who have lost their jobs, are working through their problems and are now getting back into the work force. Sr. Grace counsels and supports them in this endeavor. Sr. Grace is the daughter of Ed & Margaret Pleiman.

Did you know Carolyn Stucke has taught a class at the CCD Congress in Piqua for the last several years? This Congress, held every September, is for teachers who would like to learn more about our faith or ways to make their classes more interesting. It is a reflection on our parish and a credit to Carolyn's teaching ability to be selected to instruct a class.

Did you know our Marching Band Students pray the rosary on their way to competition? They do this on the bus and pray "Help me to do my best." They have won many Grand Champion Awards and numberous other awards because of their . . . hard work . . . prayers . . . both?

Did you know the St. Mary Deanery (the northern part of the Cincinnati Diocese, including Mercer County) is made up of 27 parishes. There are 6 active Diocesan Priests serving the parishes of Holy Trinity, Coldwater; Holy Rosary, St. Marys; St. Sebastian; Precious Blood, Chickasaw; St. John, Fryburg; St. Patrick, Glynwood; and Holy Redeemer, New Bremen and 16 Missionaries of the Precious Blood serving the remaining 20 parishes. Fr. Ron Wilker, Holy Trinity Parish, Coldwater is the Dean. (May 1997- Northern Lights Newsletter)

The Cincinnati Diocese was started in 1821. Fr. Dominic Fenwick, O.P. was its first Bishop. The Catholic church in Ohio consisted of app. 6,000 Catholics and nearly 600,000 inhabitants.

John Baptist Purcell became Bishop of the Cincinnati Diocese in 1833. At that time there were only 16 churches, 14 priests and 7,000 Catholics. By the end of 1843 the diocese contained 55 churches, 15 others being constructed and 42 priests in missionary & other work. By the end of 1844 there were 65,000 Catholics in the Cincinnati diocese and 210,000 by 1860.

In 1843 Fr. Brunner left Switzerland to start his journey to America. He took with him seven priests and seven students. The seven students were Peter Homburger, Henry Buesser, Peter J. Kreusch, Matthias Kreusch, Fridolin Baumgartner, Aloysius Katrischer, and Stephen Gschwind. The seven priests were Fathers M. Anthony Meier, M. John Wittmer, John Van den Broeck, Anthony Capeder, Martin Bobst, Jacob Ringele, and John Baptist Jacomet. In 1846, Matthias Kreusch was the first to be ordained to the priesthood in America. Nativity records show our parish was served by Matthias Kreusch and John Witmer.

Father Brunner was bi-lingual but most of the other priests and students also had to learn German and English before they could serve the people.

In 1845, a French priest, Fr. Louis Navarron was serving Darke, Shelby, & Mercer county. He requested Bishop Purcell to appoint German speaking priests to Mercer County. Fr. Brunner informed Fr. Navarron and Bishop Purcell that one of his priests would be in Mercer County once every two months for eight to fourteen days. However, within a very short time one and sometimes two priests were residing in Minster to help serve this area.

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Did you know Leo & Theresia Hemmelgarn purchased the former Fountain Inn on State Route 127 and made it their permanent home. It was called the "Fountain Inn" because an artesian well spouted water (at one time said to "shoot as high as a man's head') in the front yard. The fountain was surrounded by a shelterhouse. Theresia would sell produce from her garden at this stand. Thirsty travelers would stop by for a fresh drink from the well. In 1949 this home was converted into a double residence and Peg and Andy Hemmelgarn also lived there. In 1950, St. Rt. 127 was constructed into US 127. It was necessary to remove the fountain shelter and because of the decreased water pressure, the water no longer flowed on its own.

Did you know the Precious Blood Sisters of Dayton, Ohio sold 256 acres of what was once Gruenenwald to Sylvan Siegriest in 1951. He in turn sold Adolph & Hilda Tumbusch 48 acres, Cyril & Flora Dippold 50 acres, Anthony & Marie Evers 42 acres., Ray & Rita Flaute 101 acres, which included the buildings, and Sylvan kept 15 acres. Ray & Rita Flaute later sold it back to Sylvan when they purchased Peter Ranly's farm, Rita's home place. Sylvan then sold Tony & Marie Evers another 20 acres, and sold to Cyril & Mildred Broering 70.38 acres. He sold the brick house that was once the priest house of Gruenenwald to Joseph Schroer, this still stands today. Sylvan kept 10 acres.

Six Cassella couples formed a Card Party 45 years ago and they are still playing cards today. They are Ernie & Frieda Hartings, Mickey & Julia Feltz, Art & Eileen Ranly, Tony & Marie Evers, Ray & Rita Flaute, and Bob and Eileen Hess.

The Parish Garage was built in the early 1970's. Tumbusch Construction was in charge. Tom Hemmelgarn, a parishoner employed by Tumbusch, was in charge but the parish council men and parishoners volunteered their help. Fr. Parr was the priest.

That some of the retired men meet at 9:00 A.M. during the week day and take turns going to the Tavern and Korner Kafe to socialize and on First Friday after 7:30 A.M. Mass several retired women go out for breakfast.

Did you know Henry Otte, Ryan Dippold and Matt Schoenlein were baptized on the same day, November 4, 1979 by Fr. Parr? An unusual event for a small parish who usually only has one baptism at a time. They have also received their First Communion and Confirmation together.

Did you know the red "I am Life" and "Lamb of God" banners used on the side walls of the church were made over from the the large red banners used for Fr. Eilerman's Anniversary? The parish council planned his celebration and made the banners.

Sister Helen Marie Siegrist (Sr. Mary Urban) is a member of the Sisters of Providence, the Mother House is at Terra Haute, Indiana. The all girl college of St. Mary of the Woods is located here. She entered the convent on October 2, 1930 and took her final vows in January of 1939. She taught school for 43 years and later was a receptionist at the Providence Retirement Home in New Albany, Ind. Now, although she is 86 years young, she is still on the payroll. After her days work, she still finds time to read to the foster children which her order now runs at the Daisy Lane Address in New Albany, Ind.

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According to our parish records, the first baby baptized was Joseph Houserer, son of Lawrence and Rosina (Rose) Link Houserer. Michael Blathau was the Godfather and Elisabeth Hagendorn was the Godmother. Joseph was baptized on April 22, 1846 by the Rev. Henry Herzog (not a C.PP.S. priest).

According to our parish records, the first marriage was performed on February 2, 1858 by Fr. Peter Haberthuer (C.PP.S). Valentine Link was the groom and Catherine Steigler was the bride. The wedding was witnessed by Jacob Steigler and Eva Kremer.

Cassella was once made up of 3 separate villages, "Dogtown", "Frogtown", and "Town".

"Town" was the name of the village on State Route 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd.

"Dogtown" was the name of the village a 1/4 mile west of "Town" on State Route 119. Clarence Feltz, Walter Schmiesing, Bill Nagel, and Bill Schwieterman (formerly Ray Feltz residence) now live in this area. Town & Dogtown eventually combined to form Cassella.

"Frogtown" was 1/2 mile west of "Town" on State Route 119 and Stelzer Rd. On the N.E. corner was a cane mill owned by John Grievenkamp. On the NW corner of the intersection was a sawmill owned by John Link. On the SE corner stood a saloon and on the SW corner was a big brick store owned by Herman Cron. There was a pond on the west side of the store and several houses west of the pond.

Fr. Henry Drees was our pastor from 1862-1864 and Rector of St. Charles Seminary from 1866-1880. During this time a new larger Seminary was being built at St. Charles. A story is told of one of the Carthagena parishioners coming to see Father Drees, who was busy nailing down the roof of the new building. The parishioner, spotting a workman on the roof, asked where he might find Father Henry. The workman replied, "Father Henry will be down shortly." When the workman came down, the parishioner recognized him as his pastor, Father Henry. The Rector of St. Charles was also the pastor of St. Aloysius parish, Carthagena. Finished in 1876, this building stood approximately where the present dining hall and auditorium of St. Charles stands today.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

Maria-Kappelle became Cassella when a state official misread the word "Kapelle" and spelled it "Cassella."

During the years when the town had its own post office its postmark was, Marysville, Ohio. Its only name now is Cassella.

In 1906, a hailstorm struck the countryside. (One story says the hailstones were as large as chicken eggs.) The wheel of the tall windmill at Gruenenwald blew off. The neighbors helped repair it.

On Labor Day in 1947 a tornado went through our community. Woods were stripped and many corn fields, homes, and barns were damaged. Ed Pleiman's home was destroyed.

Fr. Francis Uecker was a carpenter. He had Ernie Hartings and his sons help him tear a wall out in the dining room and move it over. He was also here when the top part of the alters came out.

Fr. Uecker died in 1973 while serving as our priest. The men of the parish stood guard, in one hour shifts around the clock, while his body laid in state.

Doug Hartings was the last baby baptized by Fr. Vonderharr. Fr. Vonderharr always sent Doug a Birthday card on his birthday. This stopped only after Father was moved to the infirmery at St. Charles.

The Christmas Crib that we still use today was made by Pat Feltz about 15 years ago. Before that, we had something that looked like a cave which was made by Raymond Feltz.

We bought new servers robes in 1995 when girls starting serving Mass. These are the white hooded robes we use today. Before that we had the black cassocks over which were worn white surplices.

Server's Day was discontinued at St. Charles Seminary in 1986. The Server's now are treated to a day a Americana Amusement Park.

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Andy Hemmelgarn taught CCD for 15 years!
Ray Feltz made the shovel for our St. Isadore statue.

One day, Tony Maertz, a hired man employed by Gruenenwald, was leading a steer to the slaughter house. When the steer suddenly bolted, Tony lost his footing and fell headlong against the corner beam of the granary. The force of the fall burst his head wide open and he died instantly. The sisters later put a wooden cross at the spot of his accident.

Did you know the nuns of Gruenenwald prayed the rosary as they milked cows, made garden, husked corn and did other work? They had to pray without using a rosary as their hands were busy. How did they know when they finished their ten Hail Marys? The Sister's would each take turns praying, and before every Hail Mary a number would be said. Example: 1- Hail Mary etc., 2-Hail Mary etc, 3-Hail Mary etc.

The former priest house is the only remaining building of what once was Gruenenwald. It is near the road, half way between St. Rt. 119 and Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. on Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Currently it is the residence of Carl and Julianne Rehmert.

The square brick houses in our area were all built about the same time and used local clay that was made into bricks. For example, the home currently owned by Jim & Jane Wuebker on SR. 119 used the clay from the small hills along Goettemoeller Rd. The clay was dug from the ground and made into bricks at the building site. The brick layer was a Forsthoff from Coldwater.

Did you know the Catholic Knights of America was chartered in 1906? The branch from Delphos, Ohio sponsored them. Frank Feltz, Sr. was the first president. The branch was called the St. Mary's Branch No. 943. It now has approximately 500 members. The hall is used for church functions rent free and is rented to members and area families for reunions, showers, etc. for a fee.

The painting of Mary, still seen on the ceiling of our church today, was painted in 1911 by Fr. Paulinus Trost. Fr. Paulinus was the rector of St. Charles Seminary from 1904-1917. He had studied painting in Munich and had painted beautiful pictures over all the walls, ceilings, pillars, and sanctuary of the chapel that had been constructed during this time at St. Charles. Fifty years later, this same chapel was remodelled to how it is seen today. The paintings of Fr. Trost long since gone, except for those remaining in our area churches. The painting of Mary that had survived Nativity's fire only to be destroyed when our sanctuary collapsed had also been painted by Fr. Trost. If you look close enough you can see the name P. Trost 1911 at the bottom of the picture on Nativity's ceiling. St. Rose church also has some of Fr. Trost paintings on its walls, one above the Blessed Virgin altar and another above the St. Joseph altar. Several of his framed paintings are also still hanging on the walls at St. Charles.

In 1917 or 1918, when World War I broke out all German was forbidden in the schools, churches, and everywhere. At that time the tall skinny cedar tree on the northwest corner of church was donated in memory of our German Heritage.

Frank Feltz Sr., (app. 1928) later bought the cane mill and moved it to "Town". An open copper pan with six compartments was used to make the molasses. The molasses was cooked step by step in the first four compartments. It was cooked at 232 plus degrees. The last two steps were for finishing.

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In 1846 when Maria Stein was being built Fr. Wittmer was stationed at Minster and in charge of St. John and St. Rose. He received a letter from Fr. Brunner in January of 1846 urging him to speed up the construction. He also added some remarks on pastoral care. On all Sundays and holy days one Mass was to be offered at Minster, never two. On the first and third Sunday, Mass was also to be celebrated at St. John, on the first Sunday at eleven o'clock, on the third at eight. The people of St. Rose (which at this time would also include the Cassella settlers) were to be satisfied with week-day Mass and should be grateful to God for that, lest even that be denied them. Confessions should never be allowed to intrude upon the time for Mass, which should always begin promptly at the appointed time. The divine office should be recited during the daytime, and the night devoted to rest, unless visiting the sick made this impossible. To Fr. Brunner it appeared justifiable to reserve the Blessed Sacrament at St. John without a sanctuary lamp, but the people of Minster, should be able to provide the necessary oil for the lamp in their own church.

Father Brunner wrote many letters to Bishop Purcell, the priests in Switzerland, and various other members of the Society. Much information was contained in these letters, many of which are kept in the Precious Blood Archives. He was also an author and wrote several books.

When most of our ancestors first settled here they came by way of Cincinnati. From Cincinnati they travelled, according to their circumstances, by foot or by horse and wagon. Some helped to build the Miami-Erie Canal and the later settlers traveled by barges pulled by horses along the canal. The canal connects Cincinnati with Toledo and goes through the Minster-New Bremen area. It is still in existance today although it is no longer in use. The canal was finished in 1845 and by 1850 a railroad connected these two cities.

Some of our ancestors had to depend on friends from the old country, who had settled here earlier for assistance because they had left all their family behind. For example the Herman Otte family lived with friends when they came here from Germany. The land was either forest or swamp and had to be cleared to make it usable. In the meantime a place to stay had to be found. On Sundays, after their land was cleared and their home built on Cassella-Montezuma Rd. (where Leonard lives today), they would travel to Gruenenwald for early Mass. After Mass they would continue on to visit with the family they had stayed with on their arrival here. At 3:00 they would head back home stopping at Gruenenwald for 4:00 vesper services. (Prayers and songs that usually lasted about an hour). They would then continue on their way home.



Fr. Vincent Parr viewing the Nativity during Christmas 1978

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I REMEMBER . . .

The Blizzard of 1978 -

The church tower had so much snow in it Ernie Hartings and his boys had to carry it out in buckets before it melted.

St. Rt. 119 was closed for 3 days! We walked up to the Tavern and played cards with neighbors.

Riding a snowmobile 2 miles to help with milking because the roads were closed.

A Parish Picnic or "Spring Chicken Supper" in 1939. All the women fried the chicken.
Enjoying our mixed choir years ago as some of the men had wonderful voices.
The plays they used to have at the C.K. of A Hall. They were very much enjoyed by all.
Leaving home at 7:30 A.M. and walking with the neighbors to Mass and school every morning.
At Easter all the women had new hats on in church.
Ed Ranly naming the Cassella Semi-Pro Baseball team the Cassella Owls.
Serving Mass when the entire Mass was in Latin.
Receiving Communion from the priest at the communion rail.
Ed Pleiman Sr. driving Fr. Vonderhaar around to bless homes.
Going over to St. Charles Seminary for the Server's picnic every summer.
A group of Cassella people taking a horse & sled Christmas Carolling on a Sunday afternoon.
Moving to Cassella and not knowing anyone, yet everyone seemed to know me!
The town kids taking our bikes to Mickey's garage to get our tires aired up during the summer.
Watching softball games on Sunday afternoons at the ball diamond. (1970's)
Being sent as a child to the Grocery for buns, eggs, or cold meat.
Having to be more organized because the Grocery closed.
Having our own priest before 1990 and sharing a pastor with St. Rose after 1990.
Starting our parish VCR tape library in memory of Fr. Bauer in 1992.
Oscar Eifert still playing the organ for Mass at 90 years old.
Thanksgiving clothing drives for the St. Vincent De Paul Homeless Shelter in Dayton, Ohio.
Making the Indian Dress for the Thanksgiving Children's Mass 15 years ago. It is still used today.
Fr. Ryder blessing our farms.
Wearing a chapel veil or mantilla to Mass. These were made of lace and covered our hair.
Fr. Eilerman loved chocolate candy.
Fr. Ryder's Motto, "Act like you know what you're doing."
Fr. Ryder sometimes asking questions during the homily and making the answers fit his sermon.

The Priest praying the Mass in Latin with his back to the parishoners. We said our own prayers or prayed the rosary during Mass, some of us had prayer books that we used to try to follow the Mass. We were not expected to participate.

I'll always remember what a small community like Cassella means when a tragedy happens; how people helped by donating food, driving me to the hospital, sending money for gas and food, and visiting to let you know that they are thinking about you and praying for you.

Having to become involved in a small parish by serving as Parish Council, Liturgical Committee, CCD Board, Holy Name or Ladies Sodality Officer. In a small parish you can't expect someone else to do it - there is no one else. We all take our turn.

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The members of the Ladies Sodality cleaning the church. Each year the members were split into 12 groups - a different group for each month of the year was responsible for cleaning the church that month. We vacuumed the floors and dusted the pews, statues, organ, and whatever else needed to be cleaned. Each year one major church cleaning was held. We still have this major church cleaning today but the routine cleaning is now taken care of by Evelyn Bertke.

I remember a time during Fr. Benno Holler's Pastorate in 1944 when he came down from the Altar during Mass and pulled me by my ear from my seat and made me kneel at the communion railing. He had caught me talking. It sure was embarressing for a nine year old.

Fr. Ed Vonderhaar blessing all the homes and the people in the house during the Octive of the Epiphany. August Koesters drove him to each house in the Parish and August carried the incense burner for Fr. Vonderhaar.

I remember back in the 1930's when Cassella still had the one room school and Fr. Minch was the pastor. He always had a garden. He also kept a squirrel in a cage in the garage. The school children looked through a window and enjoyed watching the squirrel.

I remember Thrashing Day in the 1930's - 1940's. Henry Hierholzer had a thrashing machine, neighbors would bring horses and wagons to haul in wheat and oat shucks from the field. The neighbor ladies would help make pies and the meal to serve twenty men, two meals plus a lunch. The thrashing normally took at least a day. When they finished, they would move on to the next neighbor.

I remember how people used to walk to church in rain and snow. I remember one April it snowed very hard and some families walked and others took a sled to church, which was rather interesting to see. But now it is hardly safe to walk on the road anymore. There is so much more traffic.

I REMEMBER THE HALLOWEEN PARTIES

The Ladies of the parish put on many Halloween Parties. It took time, but was fun for all.

My children remember marching around and stopping at the Halloween Parties.

They were sponsored by the Ladies Sodality with committee members being in charge. Preschool -6th grade join together in the C.K. of A. hall and CCD Hall. The parade of costumes & then playing games. The highlight of a youth's fall, when I was young and now for my children who greatly enjoy the evening!

The Haunted House and bobbing for apples. (submitted by our1996/1997 CCD students)

The games we played and of course the candy, hot dogs, pizza, and pop. (CCD students)

I REMEMBER THE C.K. of A. TURKEY SHOOT (submitted by our 1996/1997 CCD Students)

Playing the cake wheel hoping to win a cake, candy, or cookies.

Playing and visiting with neighbors and friends.

Watching the clay birds being shot at in the air.

The many times the choir sang, it was a very fulfilling time at Cassella Parish. I'm glad I was part of the choir.

Fr. Vonderhaar always remembered everyone by their given name. I remember he always liked the song "Good Night Irene".

A sad event in our parish. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goettemoeller were both killed on a Sunday morning enroute to church.

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I remember installing indoor plumbing to replace the hand water pump in our kitchen and making room in the house for a bathroom to replace the outhouse.

Mrs. Olivia Hierholzer walking to church every Sunday morning in her black clothes. She lived where the Tom Hemmelgarn family now live on 119. Her old house was torn down

Marion Local School starting Kindergarten Classes. The children from Cassella were car pooled to the school by their parents.

Praying the Rosary before Sunday Morning Mass, and praying the Prayer before the Crucifix after communion at Nativity Masses.

Playing in the flooded outfield of the ball diamond, wading and splashing in the water and years later bringing my children there to do the same.

Sliding and skating on the frozen flood waters of the outfield of the ball diamond in the 60's, 70's, 80's, & 90's.

The huge hedge in front of the priest house and church that we could play hide and seek in when I was a child.

Making my Confirmation and being so scared the bishop would ask me a question and I would not be able to answer correctly.

Being late for school on the morning Fr. Eucher was buried. We went to St. Charles to pay our last respects before his mass that day.

My dad picking corn. We would sit in the back of the flat bed wagon and the gentle? motion would rock us to sleep. (1960's)

Ernie Hartings putting the railings in church to help Fr. Herb. He had arthritis in his knees and had a hard time going up and down the stairs. (Sept. 1986)

The CYO getting my children involved in various activities - County Home visits, helping at Harbor House, Walk-a-thons, Seeing plays, etc.

The children presenting can goods at Offertory during the children's Thanksgiving Mass. These were taken to a Food Pantry in the County set up to help the needy.

Jim and Phyllis Thobe riding their golf cart with a trailer hooked to the back, picking up the neighbors at Christmas time and singing Christmas carols in the freezing cold!

After serving mass for Fr. Ed Vanderhaar he would give the servers each a quarter from the collection basket.

I remember the weddings of the 1950's. Mass was at 7:30 or 8:00 A.M. After Mass the wedding party went home to eat breakfast. The other members of the family went to the hall. The wedding party then went to Lietzel Studio in Celina to get a picture taken. Next they went to the hall for dinner with family and at 2:00 other invited neighbors, relatives, and friends came to dance and celebrate until 5:00 supper. After supper the farmers went home to do their chores. The music started back up around 7:00 and lasted until midnight. A break was taken around 10:00 p.m. for a night lunch. Everyone went home tired.

I remember Joe Dahlinghaus in this restaurant scraping the foam off of a glass of draft beer. The cost of the beer was five cents! If you wanted half jug of beer he would weigh the beer. He wanted to be sure you got your money's worth.

I remember trees lining the north side of the ball diamond (60's). One stormy summer night one of those trees was struck by lightening and fell across St. Rt. 119, close to where Mickey Feltz had his garage.

I remember Mrs. Schmiesing telling my first grade class about how Jesus took the few fishes and multiplied them enough for the whole group. Class was held on Saturday mornings and this was in 1968.

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Golden Jubilee



Pictured above is Vi Stammen, Fr. Ed VonderHarr, and George Lefeld standing south of church close to the entrance of the CK of A Hall where Father's anniversary reception was held May 18, 1975.

In Fr. Edward VonderHarr's youth he lived with his family at St. Anthony, Ohio. The Bernard and Antionette Lefeld family lived west of St. Peter Church and their son, George, and his eight siblings attended school and religion with Fr. Ed.

Father Ed was so surprised when Vi Stammen brought he father, George Lefeld, to his Golden Jubilee. George was just two months away from his 90th birthday at the time of Fr. Ed's Jubilee.



Nativity Scene in the 1940's



Church Wardens 1956

Alfred Boeckman; Cy Dippold;
Ed Pleiman Sr.; Ernie Hartings; Ray Flaute

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I remember being in eighth grade and asking Albert Feltz (Mr. Fix It) to make a hinged piece of wood that I could put a balloon on for a science demonstration about muscles. He was always so helpful, happy, and silly, too. I remember he would ride his bike backwards down 119 just to see you laugh.

I remember the specific pews that 1st-8th graders were suppose to sit in during Mass. Can you guess which side was boys and which side was girls? The girls and boys that grew up in this parish and still live here usually continue to sit on that designated girl/boy side.

I remember being Mary at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve when I was in Jr. High in the early '70's. My grandparents and a few aunts and uncles came over for breakfast after the Mass. My mom must have been tired on Christmas.

I remember going to church in the mornings before school and waiting for the bus to pick us up there. One morning it was cold and icy so several of us waited in the back of the church for the bus. The windows were iced up and we didn't notice the bus so we missed it! Fr. VonderHaar brought us all to school that morning. He loved kids and was really a nice and dedicated priest.

I remember sewing tunics for the summer bible school. Helping prepare supplies and learning a craft to teach the bible school children as a shop keeper. What a fun event for young and old.

I remember asking Fr. Parr when the children could start bringing up offertory. Shortly after we began to bring up offertory at Wednesday evening Mass & then later on weekends. This has now ended and whole families now bring up offertory on the weekend masses.

I remember going to CCD dances on cold January Saturday evenings. The main fund raiser for our CCD program. So many of the parishoners would support this dance by purchasing all their tickets and maybe not even attend the dance.

I remember receiving every one of my sacraments in this church as my mother has too. I am very thankful for the parish's current desire and support to continue on into the future. Our parish has a lot to be thankful for, generations have lived and grown here. New families have chosen this parish to raise their families and other families have only stayed for a short time, but will always in some way reflect the impact of a strong German Catholic family that Cassella started out as and still reflects.

Through the entire history of Gruenenwald Convent it was always on the friendliest terms with its neighbors. The convent was considered just another good neighbor when a small calamity would strike, as when John Siegrist returned home after being hospitalized. Out in the field, across from the convent, were a number of nuns dressed in their black habits husking John's corn. John, with his sense of humor, thought it was a group of crows!?!

Do you remember the Big Parade? The 1976 C.K. of A. Big Parade, and all its enteries, in downtown Cassella! It started at Stelzer Rd, traveled down 119 to Cassella-Montezuma Rd. and ended at the C. K. of A. hall. A family picnic was held there to celebrate their 70th Anniversary. Black Feltz was the oldest C.K. of A. member and Jared Ranly was the youngest - 6 weeks old.

We live close to church and the first thing I remember is watching my children run to Father Ed Vonderharr. They were so fond of him that anytime he was outside they would dash over to him as fast as their little legs would go! They loved him and he seemed to enjoy them too, because he was so good to them.

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One of my children remembers playing in the shrubs which were planted along the north side of the Rectory and Church. They held Club House meetings in them! How? I don't know!

Fr. Francis Uecker had a large dog. One day I was in my yard trying to catch a scrubby stray dog and I told Father, "I think I'm gonna call the dog catcher." He told me, "Tell him to pick mine up too." I hated to do that but he really meant it. I think Father was not feeling well at the time and the dog was too much for him to take care of. I called the dog catcher and both dogs went bye-bye.

I remember having a REAL Server's picnic at St. Charles Seminary. We would play ball, volleyball, softball, have races, straw tunnels, go fishing and always won the tug of war. We all went home very tired.

I remember Father Ryder motioning to Sarah.S. to come up to the altar before Communion at her Senior Graduation Mass. Hesitantly she approached the altar, to be asked to help distribute communion. What an honor on this special day.

I remember being involved in a family car accident in May of 1990. Fr. Herb Eilerman, parishoners, neighbors, and church organizations held a prayer service for our family. They offered their time to help with various jobs throughout the summer while we all were healing. Carol Hemmelgarn and the second grade CCD class, made a cassette tape of get well messages and jokes for our son to help with his healing process while he was still in the hospital. They were his classmates.

I remember several of the First Communion Parents getting together to make a poster of the children about to receive their first Communion. This had each child's picture and was set in the back of church on First Communion Day. This is still done today by the parents. One year we met at the home of K.H. Someone had gotten mud on her newly cleaned carpet and she taught us how to use a hair blow dryer to dry the mud. After that you could easily sweep it up with the vacuum cleaner!

I remember being impressed how special and beautiful May Crowning was made in this parish. A fitting end of the year for the Junior and Seniors who showed their love of Mary by dressing in prom dresses and suits and led the rosary for this special occasion. A tribute to their Mother as they go out into the world and try to follow her example of leading others to Jesus.

I remember all the small children scampering to the end of the benches in the center aisle of church. They did this at the end of Mass because they all wanted to be greeted by Fr. Ryder, sometimes with handshakes but most often with "Give me 5". This started when Fr. Ryder arrived in 1992 and still continues today. Sometimes the children even give him hugs after church.

I remember being amazed by not how things have changed, but rather how so many things have stayed the same. For most of my 38 odd years of life my parents neighborhood has remained the same. With the exception of "Black" Feltz and his wife, and Ray Feltz, all of the houses in that area of 119 have been owned by the same people. With Larry and his wife, Laurie, moving into his grandfather's house, it almost seems as though the neighbors haven't changed, just shifted. Sometimes it seems as though life is a big circle, the more things change the more they stay the same.

I remember lots of activity in the neighborhood and at the ball diamond. There wasn't a lot of organized teams like Little League, but a bunch of throw together teams to play anything from softball, sting base, or kick the can. We would play until we got called home, until or dark, or until someone got mad and broke up the game, whichever came first. Summer lasted forever back then and we enjoyed every minute of it.

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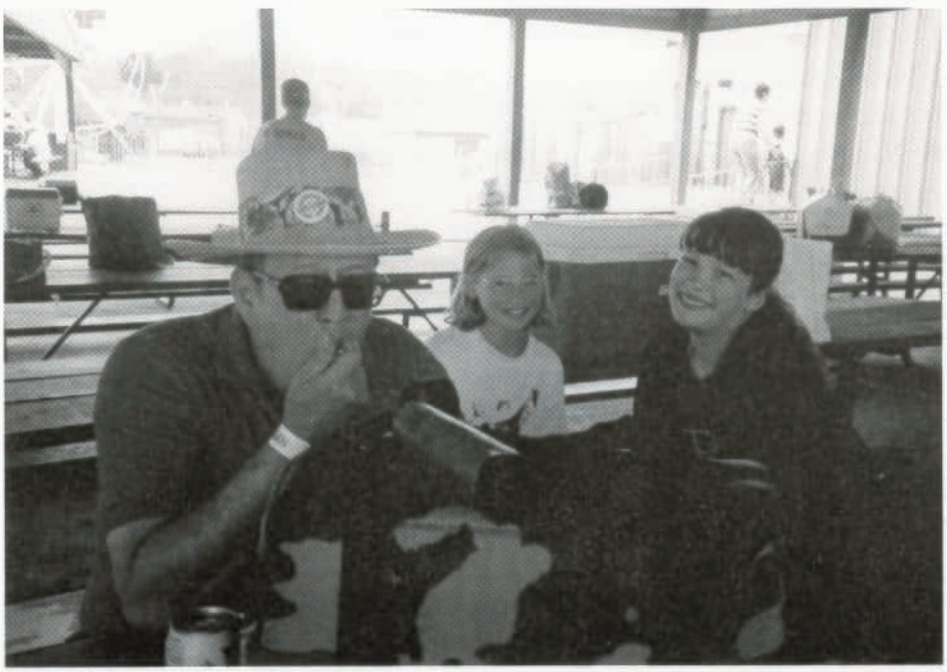
Servers Picnic
Then & Now



Softball runner-up on Server's Day at St. Charles Seminary

back: Ralph Reichert Jr., Larry Reichert, Tim Bertke, Alan Brackman, Richard Otte, Jay Homan, Rick Evers; front row: Chris Hess, Glenn Griesdorn, Craig Hess, John Griesdorn, Mike Heitkamp.

Servers Day 1997 at Americna Amusement Park



Lunch time. Fr. Ryder, Terri Feltz and Lindsay Dippold.

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I remember singing in the Children's Choir up in the choir loft on Sunday mornings. Oscar Eifert was the Children's choir director and he would watch the Mass through a mirror he had hanging above the organ because he was facing the choir and had his back to the altar. We would have our Children's Choir picnic at the Coldwater park.

I remember a couple of server boys back in the late 1950's who were getting ready to serve Midnight Mass. They got to church early, before Fr. Vonderhaar arrived. The boys decided to try some of the wine. After passing the bottle around, they realized Father would notice there was a lot of wine missing. One boy knew where Father kept the full bottles of wine, so he got out a new bottle and they drank that one down to where the first bottle had been. Of course, they finished off the first bottle, too. That was one long Mass for some very sleepy servers.

I remember my first encounter with Cassella people. It was at a 25th wedding anniversary party for Ray and Thelma Koesters. That was a fun night! Everyone was very friendly and made me feel right at home. I could tell they also liked to have fun. When the little skit for Ray and Thelma was going on it was so funny that Pete Siegrist fell off his chair from laughing so hard! I'll never forget that!

I remember a day when I was in the sixth grade. It was my turn to serve Mass and several boys were at school early to play. Somehow word went around that there was a skunk under the cemetery storage shed which stood near the west fence. Several of the boys and I excitedly ran out there to poke and try to scare the skunk out from under the shed. When it was time for Mass, two of us hurried to the sacristy and got ready. Father Muinch chased us out. He couldn't stand the perfume we were wearing!

Do you remember the beautiful altars some of the parishes used to have? Some said they were vanity. Some said it was the old way - not keeping up with the times. Some said it was taking away from the real mood and meaning of Mass. (Jesus did not have such surrounding on Holy Thursday.) **I THINK** they were built to give God the best we had. Building something that we would consider appropriate for a king. It's a shame they're gone - some of them - it's like taking some of the holiness and dignity away.

Do you remember the May Crownings we used to have? I think they were always held on an evening during the week. Fr. Parr said all the children had to dress in their best clothes. (It seemed as if everyone always had Sunday clothes. Special clothes that they would wear to go to church.) The First Communion class dressed in their First Communion clothes. The junior and senior girls wore long formal gowns and the junior and senior boys usually wore suits. Then the children had a living rosary in church. They would start in the front and go all the way down one side and then in back and up the other side. After that was the crowning of Mary. One lucky senior girl would crown Mary while everyone was singing, "O Mary We Crown Thee." It was very impressive and many times there were pictures taken afterwards.

Do you remember when we started having the Christmas Eve 4:00 P.M. Mass? It was back in 1980 when the Liturgical Committee started working on this. It was decided, with Father's permission we would have a children's mass at 4:00 P.M. The children would enact the Christmas Story. The following spring this same Liturgical committee wrote up the Stations of the Cross in a simpler form for children. On a Sunday afternoon during Lent some of the children would read the stations while others acted out all of the 14 stations.

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I REMEMBER WHEN . . .

I remember when the angelus bells tolled three times a day and the tolling of the bells when someone passed away. I liked the parish missions, 40 hours devotion, and the outdoor processions with the First communicants still wearing their white dresses. The school and the church seemed very intertwined as we went to Mass everyday and had religious instructions in church or Bible Study by Mr. Eifert. There was a strong religious orientation. I believe a lot of that is lost. The church and the Cassella Store were the center of all actitity.

I remember when we had pew rent. You were only allowed to sit in the seats you paid for. There was always a lot of hard feelings over pew rent because everyone always wanted the last seat in church.

I remember when Fr. Vonderharr served this parish. One day he came to visit the town blacksmith, Martin Feltz. In the conversation, he mentioned that he had lit a candle and prayed to St. Joseph for a "laborer" to help him with a project. Martin's brother, Frank (Pat) Feltz, volunteered. The project was to take out the communion railing, widen the lower step and set the railing back in. Frank and other volunteers completed this project. Several years later the railing was removed completely. Frank used this old railing to build the borders around the organ and baptismal font

I remember when semi-pro baseball was popular. The players would go to church for afternoon services in their uniforms and then go to the old Strukamp field and play their game. The field was located across the street north of the church, on the corner of 119 and Cassella -Montezuma Rd. Before TV and auto racing, baseball was very popular. The Cassella Owls team played good ball and later rented a field from Mrs. Gust Link, who deeded it to the church when she died. This is the same ball diamond by the cemetery still used for games today. The big game every year was with the Sharpsburg Speeds. These games drew large crowds.

A new restaurant was built in 1949 just south of the Hemmelgarn residence on 119. It was called the Fountain Inn and its owner and operators were Andy and Peg Hemmelgarn. Gas and food was served there. It has been remodelled into a rental home and today Todd and Angie Francis are making it their home.

The first power mower was purchased. Clem quit, Ken Dippold mowed for a year, and then Ernie Hartings & sons took over the cemetary mowing till 1995. Gregor Grevenkamp helped Ernie mow for one year after all the Hartings boys left home. The first riding mower was bought in 1971. Ernie started church maintenance and mowing the church lawn in 1970. He still does this today.

I remember when Betty Fullenkamp and her three children were married to Steven Heitkamp on July 18, 1981. It was a family commitment since Kenneth Fullenkamp passed away in May of 1978. Betty's three children were all in the wedding and it was a very happy day for all.

I remember a very windy day when my daughter was married. The wind caused the church doors to keep opening and shutting. The bride said to stop those doors, so her brother locked the doors. About 15 guests did not get in church, including the groom's brother and he had driven 60 miles!

I remember bringing home the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima statue. I was in the third grade. Our family watched the movie "The Day the Sun Danced" and prayed the rosary. I asked everyone in our family about a special thing they prayed for and shared it with the class. (1994)

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I REMEMBER WHEN

The Children's Choir had to sing for weekday Masses and in the summer months, when their was no school. As a reward, we would have a picnic at the lake. (1950's)

The fuel oil tank was buried behind the church. Overnight a big rain caused it to surface. It looked like a submarine coming out of the ground, ha!

The school closed in Cassella and the Ernie Hartings family bought the coal shed for $35.00. It still stands in their back yard today, slightly remodeled.

Clem Albers (Julia Feltz' dad) was in his 70's, going blind, and still mowing the cemetary with a push mower. He also made brooms at home.

The communion rail was still in church, although we lined up for communion and when the church was remodeled and all the beautiful ornate altars were taken out.

Father Nigsch was transferred from the parish. I was in the third grade and all the school children came out into the school yard to wave goodbye.

The priest house was remodeled when Fr. Parr was here. Many of the parish men and women volunteered their time and talents to do this project.

The parish house no longer was home for the priest we share with St. Rose and the upstairs was transformed to accommodate our growing CCD program.

Fr. Parr said we were having a good crop and it turns out he was talking about mothers who were having babies.

We had the 100th anniversary of our church. We had a picnic and it was a nice get together. We had all kinds of stand and food, it was all a good time.

I remember when a parishoner died the neighbor men of the family would dig their grave with shovels. Now the job is hired out and a back hoe is brought in.

Joe Dahlinghaus drove the grade school ball players (in his 1926 Chevy) to the area schools for their games.

Mom or Dad dropping us off at church so we could attend the weekday Mass before going to school and the school bus picking us up from church to take us to school.

I remember when a Cassella Lady got into a car that looked like hers and the St. Rose man, who took for granted it was his wife, started to drive away before either one realized their mistake! (1990's)

I remember when the wedding plans made for February of 1992 had to be changed because Fr. Uecker was hospitalized and would be unable to perform the ceremonies. He passed away later that month.

We cleaned the church and the choir loft was pretty messy because we had a bird in the steeple.

Ladies (and girls) wore hats to church.

The Ladie's Sodality made a meal for all the priests that came for the closing of 40 hours.

We had to kneel at the communion railing to receive Holy Communion.

The 4-H club and mothers canned peaches for me.

The people took me back and forth to the hospital for several years.

Girls started to serve Mass in 1995.

Helen Krantz, Fr. Eilerman's housekeeper, taught 1st grade CCD in the rectory kitchen.

There were no girl servers, only boys served Mass.

When the Archbishop came out to administer the sacrament of Confirmation.

I REMEMBER WHEN

The Cassella Tavern was half bar and half grocery store.

The townspeople who did not have a phone would use the Tavern's. (1950's)

School supplies were bought there and displayed right below a very large front window.

The Cassella Tavern sold material by the yard.

The grocery closed due to a more mobile society.

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The Cassella Tavern was a friendly area gathering place where teens could go and meet other people. A lot of friendships and probably marriages formed from relationships first beginning there.

I remember when my sister went to the grocery store with a list of several items. Our mother said she could have one piece of candy as a treat. Well that one piece of candy was not on her list so Mr. Dippold would not let her buy a piece of candy. (late 1960's)

The building located on the southwest corner of St. Rt. 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd. was once known as Cassella Store. It was also the residence of the owners and operators, Joe and Mary Dahlinghaus.

I remember when the Senior Graduation Commencement included a Mass for all the graduating Seniors of Marion's six parishes. A reminder that as they go out into the world their faith is to be lived and shared with others, in their workplace, at school, or wherever they may be. They take their faith with them, not to be separate, but a part of their lives.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN

Do you remember when the Wayne Filling Station was in the Northwest corner of St. Rt. 119 and 127? It was run by two brothers, Albert and Norbert Dippold, until Norb Dippold took a higher position with the Gas Compnay. Another brother, Cyril, went into partnership with Albert. They ran the station until 1949 or 1950 when it was torn down (it sat too close to the road) so the State could widen St. Rt. 127. Moeller Door Sales is now in the Northwest Corner of the road. Albert and Bertha Dippold, then, took over the Grocery Store and Tavern at the Corner of St. Rt. 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd and Cy went full time farming on the west end of Stelzer Rd. where his wife Flora and their son, Gary still live. Gary took over the farm.

Do your remember when we used the communion rail? How about the next step when we had the newer Communion Rail that held two people and was in the center in front of the main center aisle? How about the next step when we had almost like a podium we came up to - to receive communion? It was like the communion rail for two, but you didn't kneel, you stood, you on one side of th rail and the priest and server on the other. And then, it was taken completely away. Nothing separating the main part of the church with the altar area. But then we would genuflect before receiving Communion. Some say the changes were made so we feel there is nothing between you and the Lord, nothing to separate you from Him - to create a closeness. Others say it is to make it easier on the priests - saves a lot of running back and forth along the communion rail.

Do you remember when a drifter walked into 10:00 A.M. Sunday Mass and just stood in the middle of the center aisle for about fifteen minutes and then walked up the side aisle and stood up front for a while? Later he went up to the altar and talked with Fr. Bauer. Fr. Bauer convinced him to wait in the sacristy until the Mass was over. I think at this point someone snuck out the front door and called the sheriff. Apparently all he wanted was food but it was a very frightening hour for all those as Mass. (1990-1992)

The hi-wind twister went through Cassella and took down the trees along the North side of the parish ball diamond?

Gee, does anyone else remember when all the statues, crosses, and stations of the cross were covered in purple cloth during lent?

There was a car parked on the sidewalk next to the church steps? This was about 50 years ago.

Ladies became readers and lay distributors. 1991/1992

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125th Anniversary
of Nativity of
The Blessed Virgin Mary
November 19, 1972





Fr. Siegrist - celebrant; George Grevenkamp;
Anselm Boeke; Ernest Ranly;
Aloys Boeke; Victor Ranly;

Choir



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I thought it may be interesting to know how the schools and churches of the 1930's worked together.

Yes, we went to Mass every morning that we had school. We would walk to school, then go together to the 8:00 A.M. Mass. The priest said the Mass in Latin, so three days we would pray the rosary during Mass and two days we would sing during the Mass.

After Mass the children would have religious education, either in church with the Parish Priest, or in school with our teacher. The servers had instruction every Thursday. One day 5th to 8th grade had Bible History. We also had instructions on Sunday afternoon before we had Vespers and Benediction!

When we had Forty Hours, we really had Forty Hours! Forty Hours started with Mass on Friday morning. During the day on Friday, classes would take turns going to church to pray.

Every month on the Thursday before First Friday we went to Confession. We took class turns going over to church to receive this sacrament.

One of the eighth grade boys would have to go to church and ring the Angelus bells at noon every day. The rest of us in the classroom would pray the Angelus. After that we ate our packed lunches.

Baptism was given as soon as possible after the birth of the baby. My husband was baptized the same day he was born. It was a very cold January day and he was taken by a horse and sleigh to church. Confession and Communion was received in the second grade. Solemn Communion was received in the 8th grade. This was a very special day for the eighth grade class. Confirmation was anytime between the second and the eighth grade. There was not as much emphasis on this sacrament as there is now. The Bishop was the only one who could give this sacrament, so that made it special.

* * *

In the 1920's and early 1930's all Wedding Masses were held at 8:00 A.M., never in the afternoon. The wedding days were always Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday - never on Saturdays, like they are today.

CCD classes in the late 1920's and early 1930's consisted of <u>two classes a week</u> taught after Mass by the priest. We had Bible reading every day in school. Every Sunday afternoon we had instructions in church for all the classes.

A STORY MY DAD USED TO TELL - In the early 1900's the Bishop would come to this area to Confirm. In one day, he would have Confirmation in 6-8 parishes. When the Bishop was finished with Confirmation in the first parish, a group of young men (10-20) from the next parish would ride horses decorated in Church banners and American flags to greet the Bishop and escort him to their parish. The Bishop would ride in a decorated surrey behind two horses. After he was finished with Confimation in that parish, the next neighboring parish would come to escort him until all the Parishes were finished.

* * *

Although the church has changed very little in the 45 years that I've lived in this parish, some of the activities and customs in the church and the community have.

When I began School (app. 1957) it was a very common practice for most school children to attend mass before school. The bus made a regular stop at the Church just at the time mass was over, in order to pick up those children. There was such an accumulation of book bags and lunch boxes in the rear of church on those days, that my grandpa, John Grevenkamp, built shelves to line both walls of the vestibule for our school items. The very bottom section of those shelves are still in the vestibule where they now display church bulletins, missalets, etc. Since most of the school children who attended daily mass also received communion, and observed the three-hour fast which was in affect at that time we were given time before the start of classes, to eat the breakfasts that our mother's packed for us. We had no school cafeteria at that time, so we ate our cold egg or peanut butter sandwiches and milk (five cents per glass bottle) at our school desks.

We had several choirs under the direction of Oscar Eifert. My dad belonged to the men's choir, which always hosted a family picnic in the summer. I remember having all of the pop we wanted during

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that day, but the best part was the individual ice cream cups packed in dry ice that were served with our picnic suppers. We also had a children's choir that sang for various occasions, and although most of the mass was still in Latin, we sometimes sang Christmas carols in German. Thanks to Mr. Eifert, I still know the German version of "Silent Night".

Priests from area parishes came to Marion School to provide our religious instruction during my first six years of school, but during the next five years the seminarians from St. Charles Seminary came to the CCD hall in Cassella to conduct classes. Those young men provided a variety of religious activities and life-building skills, and because St. Charles was so nearby, we would often go bowling, ice skating or picnicking on the Seminary grounds. Many of Cassella's students built friendships with our teachers that lasted for many years.

Years ago there were no rest rooms available at the church, but Dippold's Store was always nearby. It also had the closest telephone to use when calling for a ride after religion class. Dippold's had everything a young person could ever want. There was a large selection of candy bars as well as "penny candy," all sorts of ice cream bars, cups and popcycles, cookies, pop, and school supplies.

Although by 1976 I was married and living in another community, I was proud to come back for the Cassella Bicentennial Parade. It was the first and last of its kind. My dad was running for office at that time, so he was in the parade. I also seem to remember Albert Feltz, as one of the oldest citizens, the president of the local C.K. of A., the parish priest and just a few other parade units. Those of us who were not in the parade, stood on the front lawns of the homes along State Route 119, the parade route, and took part in a piece of Cassella's history.

* * *

When I was a young girl growing up in Cassella, things were very simple. Sunday afternoon were ball games, our Cassella Owls played neighbor teams, guys were eighteen and older. The people parked their cars on Rt. 119 and sat in them to watch the game. There were also bleachers for the many people who attended. The Bertke family had several good players. Ivo Reichert was usually the umpire. When the games were played in other towns we would walk to Cron's Woods which was located on the corner of Olding Rd. and Cassella-Montezuma Rd. We played in the woods, walked the creek, picked wild flowers and maybe climbed a tree.

Eight grades went to school in Cassella. Every year during the last week of school we would each pack a picnic lunch and Oscar Eifert, our teacher, would take us all on the bus for an all day picnic and games in Cron's Woods.

Feltz's had a cane press and made molasses every summer. Farmers would bring in cane and each had a large pile. The cane was put through a large press, the juice was cooked and stirred for a long time, the cane stock was then put on a conveyor and dropped forming a large cane pile. It was so much fun to climb this high cane pile. The molasses was used in cookies and for cooking. It was very thick and sweet.

Joe and Mary Dahlinghaus owned the grocery store and bar on the corner of St. Rt. 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd. many years ago. People would buy the few groceries they needed and the bar side was mostly for an occasional beer by the older men in the parish who would play cards about every evening. Many young people had their first job there. I started working for the Dahlinghaus' when I was in the fifth grade. We would stock shelves, clean the floor, dust, and wash the dishes and the glasses used for beer. Mary came from Germany when she was in her 20's. She married Joe who was older and in poor health. Mary took care of all the business. She was very strict and taught us how to work, she was also very generous and religious. During the War years before 1945, she shipped many gift boxes to her relatives in Germany. They needed so many things and she had a large variety of items in the store. During those years she sold fabric for clothes and many rolls of plastic table cloth. Sunday morning, after Mass, everybody came in and purchased cold meat for the next week's box lunches. Christmas was a special time, she got boxes of candy! We had to sack the candy into brown paper bags and weigh it. She also sold many oranges during Christmas time as people didn't buy many during the year.

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Mary and Joe Dahlinghaus sold the business to Albert and Bertha Dippold while I was in High School. I worked for them until I graduated.

* * *

I have been a member of Cassella Parish nearly half as long as its' existence. I made my First Communion in 1929 and started serving Mass shortly afterward. I had to learn and answer all the Latin Prayers. The Pastor made us wear tennis shoes so we wouldn't leave black marks on the linoleum in the Sanctuary. Most of the other shoes had composition soles. On special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter, all the servers would serve the Mass. The small ones wore red cassocks, while the others wore the traditional black.

I walked to school everyday and on Saturday's I walked to Catechism Instructions. We also had Bible History and Catechism in school everyday after morning Mass and also on Sunday afternoons. Walking home from school we passed the Gruenenwald Convent. It was no longer active but some of the buildings remained. We helped ourselves to the fruit from the trees that were still there. When I started High School we rode a school bus, a Model A Ford.

At the age of sixteen I joined the Men's Choir and sang first bass with my dad. We were a four voice choir that sang Latin Masses every Sunday at 10:00 A.M. We also sang at other occasions such as Benediciton. The choir existed until the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II).

Back in the 1940's and earlier people didn't receive Communion every Sunday. One went to Confession on Saturday night and received Communion the next morning at the early Mass. To receive Communion, Church law required a fast from midnight till after Communion. For this reason no one went to Communion at the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

I survived the Great Depression and so did the Church, but it wasn't easy. I was told that on one Sunday the total collection amounted to thirty-five cents! As farmers we always had something to eat but very little money. Pastors, in those days, had their own gardens.

The Centennial Celebration in 1947 was a gala affair with a public church picnic. There were lots of stands. We could eat, drink, and gamble. We even had a dance floor on the northeast corner of the school grounds. The charge was a nickel a dance.

I was a farmer all my life. Back in the 1930's, '40's, & '50's the neighbors got together to help each other harvest wheat and oats. It took a lot of men to keep the big threshing machine busy. It was hard work but the good part was the food! The ladies would prepare a delicious chicken or roast beef dinner with all the extras, plus meringue pie! The neighbors also shared help with shredding corn and butchering but that didn't take as much help. When there was a wedding in the neighborhood, we pitched in again to help prepare the wedding feast and to clean up the barn for dancing. We also helped each other out for funerals, just as we still do today by bringing food to the family and helping with the meal after the burial.

Years ago pews were auctioned off. The back benches always brought the highest price.

* * *

Can you imagine living in the same house as your grandma & grandpa? My uncles and aunts were all born and raised in this house, as were all my brothers and sisters. We also raised our own family of five daughters and three sons in this same old partly log house we still live in.

Now how about Cassella Church? My grandpa & grandma, mom & dad, all my aunts, my sisters & I, and my five daughters were all married in this church. My uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, and children received most of their sacraments here also. This is why Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is so special to me.

We can go to the Cemetery and find six generations of my family. (My greatgrandpa and greatgrandma, my grandpa & grandma, my mom & dad, two brothers, one sister, our sons, and one grandson.) I am proud and happy to say I'm from Cassella!

* * *

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When I was a young boy my Dad farmed with horses. He bought his first tractor in 1925. His first car was a1913 model, a Maxwell Touring car. The roads made of either mud or gravel, they were not paved.. We received our education at the Hartings School. We walked to school, but in bad weather we went with horse and buggy. There were eight grades in one room with only one teacher. The school was heated by a coal burning stove. We had religion classes every Saturday morning. They were taught by our priest at Cassella. We were required to attend school until we were sixteen. Sometimes we had to repeat the eighth grade over until we reached the age of sixteen.

* * *

These were the years I lived in Cassella. My parents were Frank & Anna Holdheide Evers. I was baptized, made my First Communion, Solomn Communion, and my Confirmation all at Nativity. I remember all those days. I had three sisters and one brother. I went to school in the school where they have their CCD classes now. I think there were between 75 and 80 students and only one teacher. My first teacher was Louis Huelsman. Then I had a young teacher, Leo Schapes, and then Leo Hemmelgarn. Leo Hemmelgarn also taught some of my children later at Cranberry. I got married on January 31, 1931 to Edwin Rose. Fr. Minch was the celebrant. I don't know too much about Fr. Minch. In those days you didn't talk to the priest more than you just had to. It was a very cold day with so many inconveniences in those days. We danced in the barn, had no furnace, and woodstoves in the house. Ed and I moved to Sebastian and lived there two years. We moved to Cranberry on the Pete Mueller farm and have lived here 65 years. In 1984 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Back to the school days. We walked one and a half mile in all kinds of weather. When it was too bad they would get us with a horse and buggy. In those we butchered and thrashed with the neighbors. Those were special days. We had 9 children. Mary died, Bob & Eileen Hess, Don & Bev Rose, Lester & Doris Bohman, Kenneth & Monie Rose, Mark & Margie Griesdorn, Jim & Jane Rose, David & Sharon King, David & Therese Lefeld. We had 36 grandchildren and 53 great grandchildren.

Now my hobby is making blankets and rosaries. Every grandchild and great grandchild received a blanket when they were born. Every grandchild received a large blanket when they were married. I'll always treasure the parish where I was born and raised.

* * *

Mike Hess was born on September 29, 1872 in Carthegena, Ohio. As a young man he worked at the Gruenenwald Convent south of Cassella church. In 1906 he bought a farm west of Cassella in Granville Township. It was located on St. Rt. 119, a half mile west of US 127 on the North side of the road. Our son Dale and his family live their today.

On June 20, 1917 Mike married Mary Ronnebaum of Montezuma, Ohio. They were the parents of five children: Eleanora Zumwald, Maria Stein, Ohio; Alma Ruschau (deceased) and buried in Cassella cemetery, John, Montezuma, Ohio; Robert, Osgood, Ohio; and Ruth, Cassella, Ohio.

They all attended Cassella School. Bob started school the first year Mr. Oscar Eifert came to teach (1933). They would walk to school but many times to make it easier they would use roller skates on the paved road. Bob was a Mass server and talks about how early they would have to be there on Holy Saturdays.

On September 29, 1951 Bob married Eileen Rose at St. Francis Church in Cranberry Prairie, Ohio. I had connections to Cassella. My mother was Matilda (Evers) Rose of St. Francis Parish, Cranberry Prairie, Ohio. My uncle Tony Evers still lives in Cassella. In 1952 we purchased the Mike Hess farm. We were the parents of eight sons and one daughter.

Thomas born 7/10/52, wed to Karen Niekamp on 1/23/76, reside in Chickasaw
Sandra born 12/21/53, died 8/31/58 of lung cancer.
Daniel born 12/6/54, wed to Mary Jo Huber on 5/10/75, reside in St. Rose.
Dale born 5/14/56, wed to Lynn Stahl on 10/15/77, reside in St. Henry.
Carl born 11/17/58, wed to Doris Goecke on 3/31/84, reside in Maria Stein.
Leonard born 8/25/60, wed to Dawn Farley on 12/29/85, reside in Chickasaw.

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Alan born 2/5/63, wed to Sharon Will on 12/2/89, reside in Maria Stein.

Craig born 8/6/65, wed to Jennifer Thobe on 7/18/92, reside in Troy, Ohio.

Chris born 3/4/68, wed to Tana Albers on 3/19/94, died 1/13/96 of an aneurysm, resided in Osgood.

All of our children were baptized in Nativity church. Our daughter passed away in 1958. Our boys all received First Communion and Confirmation at Nativity and they all were Mass servers during their school years.

All of our children were baptized in the same baptismal gown worn by Bob and his brothers and sisters on their Baptismal day. Many of Mike's grandchildren were baptized in it too. Many of our twenty-one grandchilren were also baptized in it. We don't know who made it but is is approximately eighty years old.

In 1977 we built a new brick home on the farm and tore down the house which was built in 1884. In 1989 our son Dale purchased the farm and we bought a home in Osgood, Ohio. Dale transferred to St. Henry School District and are members of St. Henry Church.

* * *

The Jim Bruns home on Stelzer Road was built by my grandparents, John and Christine Link in the late 1800's. They had 10 children and lived there all their lives. Mary Link (my mother) married Louis Grieshop at Nativity in 1902.

I married Henry Puthoff at Chickasaw on September 1, 1945. After WWII we moved into the Link home and had eight children. They were all baptized, and made their First Communion and Confirmation at Cassella. In 1966 we bought the Tumbusch house.

Donna was married in Cassella to Mike Dorsten by Fr. Vonderhaar in April 1970.

Marcia was married in Cassella to Jeff Schwieterman by Fr. Parr in May 1975.

Henry died May 1972 at Van Wert Hospital and is buried in Cassella cemetery.

I had a sale in August of 1992 and moved back to Chickasaw in May of 1992.

* * *

I was but 2 1/2 years old when my family moved to Cassella. Although the four oldest and I were born in Carthagena, my memories begin in Cassella.

My dad, Leo Hemmelgarn, was my teacher for eight years. It was at Cassella that I made my First Communion on May 17, 1924 and was confirmed there one year later.

My brothers Cyril, Louis, and Robert, as well as my sister, Mary Catherine, were all born in Cassella. The youngest, Ruth, was born in St. Joe, Ohio. I became her Godmother since I was fifteen at the time. In the 5th grade I made my Solemn Communion, June 5, 1929.

My freshman year was at St. Henry, Ohio until we moved to St. Joe. Fr. Werner left to study for the priesthood after the eighth grade. In 1935, after my two years at Ft. Recovery High, I entered the convent.

My childhood at Cassella was a very happy one and I was glad to have Dad as my teacher.

* * *

In July, 1972, Ron and Carolyn Stucke decided to invite the "young couples" in the neighborhood to their home for a "sing along". The "young" couples at that time wre Lloyd and Sylvia Kramer (thne living on Stelzer Road); Bill and Janice Nagel; Ed and Linda Pleiman; Bob and Katie Dippold; Dan and Dorothy Eifert; Luke and Mary Ann Homan (then living at the Gary Buening residence on 119), and Paul and Mary Ellen Gagel (then living at the Mike Albers residence on Stelzer Rd.).

After a fun filled evening of songs, drinks and chili soup, it was decided that this group should get together on a regular basis. And so it was "The Neighborhood Card Club" was started.

In September, 1972, Dan and Dorothy Eifert hosted the first card club. It was decided to play pinochle with prizes given to the best and the worst. After 25 years of cards and fun, the group has remained rogether and have become close friends.

* * *

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Imelda Schoenherr Heckman we born at Gruenenwald in 1924. Her father, Aloys, was foreman for the sisters after they moved away from the convent in 1923. The Schoenherr's lived at Gruenenwald until they bought a farm in St. Joe around 1936. Imelda remembers when the bodies from Himmelgarten Convent were moved to Gruenenwald and the final time when all was moved to Maria Stein. Imelda was the oldest in her family and currently resides in St. Sebastian. She remembered that Fr. Muinch always had a large fruit basket at church during Christmas and after mass all the young children were to come up and get a piece of fruit.

* * *

We moved here in 1987 from a larger parish and are the parents of six children. Our five older children were all baptized there and our two oldest daughters also received their First Communion there. The next three children received their First Communion at Nativity. We feel the younger ones were able to experience a closeness to the other First Communicants since Nativity is a smaller parish. The children are able to feel more special with a smaller class, they do not get lost in the crowd, and the experience seems to become more meaningful. The four oldest girls were all confirmed while living here, in combination with our other cluster parishes. Our son's Confirmation at Nativity was combined with only St. Rose Parish. We feel he was the lucky one, this also became more personal and special with the smaller group. Our youngest daughter is now five years old and was baptized at Nativity.

Our home built in 1880 has four chimneys, two of which have been torn down until the top of the second story. These still can be seen from inside the attic. When remodeling we found th holes in the walls that had been closed up - where the heating stoves and old cook stoves fed into the chimneys, and where the pegboards hung in the bedrooms where they hung their clothes. The outline is still visible where the tin match boxes hung - holding matches at the entry to the room to be used to light the oil, kerosene, or gas lamps.

Our summer kitchen still has the old original fireplace that was used during the time when the home was built. It has a free swinging arm, that is still fully usable, one on which you could hang a soup pot and swing it over the fire. Today, those which are in good usable condition.are hard to find.

We have been told the bricks used to build this home, which has solid brick walls; inside and outside walls, were made on this farm.

Our home also has two sets of upstairs. We were told that the stairs leading from the kitchen to an upstairs quarters was probably used by a maid. The other stairs in the main hall is the access to our upstairs bedrooms. There is no way to get from the maid's quarters upstairs to the other bedrooms. Our home also has two sets of steps, one goes down to a cellar, the other to the basement. There is no way to go from the cellar to the basement.

* * *

Bernard Tumbusch	Elizabeth Tumbusch
Born: October 27, 1867	Born: March 1, 1872
Died: November 3, 1933	Died: July 10, 1946

Bernard and Elizabeth Tumbusch lived in Cassella.

William Tumbusch is the son of Bernard and Elizabeth. William was born on January 5, 1901. He married Rose Schemmel of Osgood, Ohio on October 25, 1922. William and Rose had eight children: Jerome (deceased), Mary Hess, Ralph, Rita Homan, Bertha Heitbrink, Willie, Eugene and Betty Hilgefort. Willliam and Rose are both deceased. William lived in Cassella his entire life. William followed in the footsteps of his father, Bernard, by being a carpenter. His three sons, Ralph, Willie, and Gene were also carpenters. The Tumbusch's are in the fourth generation of carpenters at the present time.

* * *

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I came here to this parish in 1933, after teaching two years at the Dahlinghaus School. Since I was still single but engaged to be married I had my aunt cook for me. I had a one room school with 48 students in grades 1-8. I had to fire the furnace, open the church at 6:00 A.M. and ring the church bells every morning, noon, and again at 6:00 P.M. During the summer I mowed the grass on the cemetery. My average size classes in the eight grades ran from 45 to 60 students. Every school morning I would line up the students and we would march to church. The children sang the requiem Mass when ever we had a High Mass. I played the organ and my students had to pump the organ by hand.

In 1934, I was married to Adella Bruns at St. Nicholas Church in Osgood. We were married on June 5, 1934 and I remember that I invited the Men's Choir to the wedding. We have two children, Don and Patricia.

When the Hartings School (located 1/2 mile south of Huwer Road on Cassella-Montezuma Road) closed, a room was built on to our one room school. A lady teacher then taught grades 1-3 and I taught the grades 4-8. The primary lady teacher would teach the girls sewing and embroidery while I had woodworking and other art for the boys. At recess the seventh and eighth grade boys practiced basketball in the other school building (C.K.of A Hall). We often had Spelling Bees and Ciphering Contests on Friday after recess.

We formed a movie club with the other nearby school houses. During the school year, a movie was chosen and shown on Monday at Cranberry Prairie, Tuesday at Carthagena, Wednesday at St. Sebastian, Thursday at St. Rose, and on Friday's at Cassella. I would then send it back to Columbus. During the autumn, these same schools would have baseball games whenever possible in place of the movies.

During the summer our 4-H Club, which I led for many years, would play baseball with adjoining parishes and follow a regular schedule. Several times we were champions and received a banner. I'll never forget the day when Mark Eilerman pitched a no-hitter.

About every two weeks, during the school year, I would go to the library in Celina on Saturday and get about 100 books so the boys and girls could read these books whenever they wished. When I went to the library, the rest of the family would either shop or go to a movie.

We lived in a home owned by the church and I received $200-$250 a year to play the organ, fire the furnace, ring the bells, fire the school stove in the winter and to keep the church and the C.K. of A hall clean. We used the current C.K.of A Hall, which at the time belonged to the Board of Education, for our Christmas and Springtime plays. Grades 1-8 participated as did the Chataquas during the summer.

On Friday evening I had choir rehearsal. Our men's choir sang quartet songs at the many plays that Art Ranly and I directed. During the winter, we would have about an hour or two of practice and then go to the Dahlinghaus Store (corner of Cassella-Montezuma Rd. and St. Rt. 119) to play cards and enjoy refreshments. We were often surprised by various get-togethers and of course we were invited to many of the parish functions; weddings, anniversaries, and First Mass celebrations. Adella and I also belonged to a Pinochle Club. Six months of the year we took turns going to each other's homes to play cards. We stayed together for 53 years.

The choir practiced and sang many new Masses for the First Masses. On May 10, 1934, our choir ang at the First Mass offered by Rev. Urban Siegrist. He was the seventh priest from our parish to be ordained. Two weeks later we sang for Rev. Leo Boeke's First Mass, followed by Fr. Victor Ranly in September of 1940 and Rev. Aloysius Boeke in June of 1941. Many more priests were ordained and said their First Mass in our church. The choir prepared, almost always singing a new Mass.

The 100th Anniversary of our Parish was held in August of 1947. Solemn Pontifical High Mass by the Most Rev. George Rehring, assisted by: Rev. George Grevenkamp, and Rev. Urban Siegrist. Rev. Clement Boeke gave the sermon. Our Men's Choir sang the "Gruber's Mass in Honor of St. Frederick" and Cantate Domino at the Offertory. There were 36 priests present. The ladies of the parish had a big dinner for them at the Rectory. In the afternoon and evening a picnic was held. A baseball game was played between the Cassella Owls and the Coldwater Merchants. There were 5,000 people at the picnic.

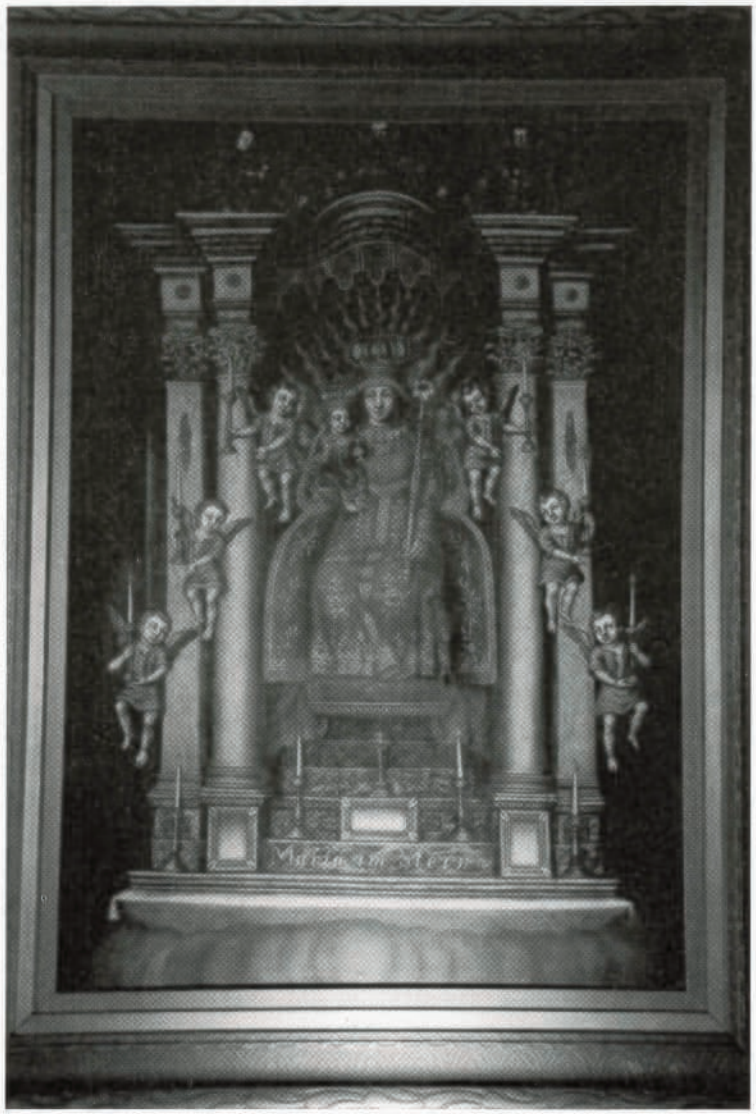
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On January 15th, 1955 we had a big snow and the parents brought their children to school on snow sleds. They were waiting for them after school to take them back home.

Forty Hours was held every year. The Pastor invited ten to twenty priests to the closing. The ladies of the parish prepared a big celebration for the all the priests. This was held in the rectory.

The two-room school was closed in September of 1965. All the students were to attend school at the St. John's Building in Maria Stein. I retired in 1971, after being involved in education for forty years.

I retired as full time organist in 1976. The other organists wanted me to play on some week day Masses, which I still do today. I was a CCD teacher from 1934-1987. For 53 years I fired the furnace, rang the bells, and played the organ. I directed the choir until Congregational singing was required during Fr. Vonderhaar's pastorate. The parish held a special day at the C. K. of A. hall upon my retirement. I received a plaque at that time.



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CCD MEMORIES

The following memories were submitted by our CCD students.

I REMEMBER GOING TO AMERICANA AMUSEMENT PARK

The parish treated all the Mass servers to a day at Americana. This tells us that our hard work should be noticed. Riding the rides was fun. I got sick on one ride. I went on the Screamin' Eagle. It rained, so there was hardly anyone there. It was fun!

I REMEMBER THE BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE (CHRISTMAS - 1995, 1996 - EATON, OHIO)

The long, long, long, wait in line.

Jamee R. taking a picture of Caesar and Caesar calling a Guard to throw her in jail because he thought Jamee was trying to kill him with "that light from her black box."

Experiencing Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Feeling like I was really in Bethlehem.

Seeing how Bethlehem really was in God's time.

Paying taxes, a lady playing the flute, and seeing prisoners in jail.

Talking to all the shopkeepers. The actors were great!

A shopkeeper dressing Lynn R. in the robes she was trying to sell.

A High Priest in front of the temple telling the children not to believe the stories the townspeople are telling about a Savior being born and the bright shiny star in the sky, there is no Savior. Jamee R.as she walked away telling him he was a false prophet, and that she believed in Jesus.

Chad, Frank & Jesse talking to the children selling fish and playing by the Sea of Galilee and almost having a guard called for "causing trouble".

Finding Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the Stable.

The 3 Kings asking if we travelled by caravan and Jesse A. replying "Yes, a Dodge Caravan!"

I had a very great time. The waiting in line was worth experiencing Bethlehem.

I REMEMBER BIBLE TIMES VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (SUMMER 1994-1997)

Dressing in Bible time clothes. We had to wear wierd outfits.

Making crafts - Abraham and Sarah's tent, a God's eye, jewelry, a woven basket, and a boat.

Learning about a Scribe, Boat Maker, an Apothocary (Herbs and Medicine), and a carpenter.

Singing Songs, helping the little children learn. Learning a dance.

It was fun to explore in the past - in Bible Times.

Doing things that Jesus would have done.

I loved this too because we learned how Jesus would have lived.

It was fun to see the hard work the people had to go through.

Going to the well for water and a poor blind lady asking for shekels.

We had to eat olives and drink goats milk! OOOOH! (Story of Abraham and Sarah)

Fr. Schmitmeyer bringing sheep to Vacation Bible School. (1995)

Helping and participating, being a teacher's aide. Eating cookies and drinking punch.

I remember using shekels and robbers stealing our shekels.

A beggar walking around begging for food & money.

The tax collectors walking to our shops or synagogue and making us pay taxes.

I enjoyed helping and being part in the Bible School I didn't only help teach little kids something I also learned something.

One year we saw a play and Carrie Giere was the main character. We all got to crawl through a time machine box into Bible times.

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Vacation Bible School

1994



Andy Hemmelgarn as the carpenter

1995



Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer as the shepherd

1996



Katie Dippold as Sarah

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I REMEMBER HOLY WEEK IN AN HOUR (1988-1997)

A play that the Junior and Seniors put on for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th grades.
It really let me know more about what happened around the Easter season. It was great!
I liked it! We went in the attic and had wine (grape juice) and bread. We watched a movie and got candy.
Celebrating Passover.
Drinking grape juice. Spilling my grape juice.
Eating Bread in the attic.

I REMEMBER CELEBRATING PASSOVER (1992-1997)

Eating, bitter herbs, celery with salt water, radishes, matza bread, wine (grape juice).
I learned the reason for Passover.
It was fun to learn about the bitter herbs and matza.
Jesus celebrating Passover at his Last Supper.
The 6th grade hosting this celebration for the 5th grade.
Eating the lamb cake which represented the sacrificial lamb.
Eating real matza, the unleavened bread.

I REMEMBER THE PLAYS

In 6th grade we did Noah's Ark and one with the Pharaoh. They were fun to do because they were not rehearsed.
The were fun and neat and helped me know more about religion.
They helped us learn more about the stories in the Bible.
We did a play in rap.
Playing my part in them and almost everyone having a part.
We did ours on David & Goliath, the 10 plagues, and Creation. It was very fun. (6th grade)
Acting in and watching the Special Sunday Program plays.

I REMEMBER PRAYING AND LEARNING PRAYERS

When I pray, I think I can really reach God.
Learning prayers brought me closer to him.
Learning prayers in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades and having to recite them to our teacher.
Some prayers were hard to learn.
Praying before and after classes. It was neat.
Using a paper hand and on every finger there was a different prayer we had to learn.
One Wednesday night my class lit candles and prayed in church for the dead people. It was neat.

I REMEMBER RECONCILLIATION

Receiving this sacrament for the first time in 2nd grade. We had a special service for our class and their parents. We had a song on while we were confessing.
I was scared!! I didn't know what to say. I felt good afterwards about leaving my sins go.
Reconcilliation is when God the almighty forgives us our bad doing.
Father Ryder speaking to our class about reconcilliation.
The story of the Good Shephard and making cotton ball sheep for the church banner.

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I REMEMBER CHRISTMAS CAROLLING (1992-1997)

Making people feel good makes me feel good.
The 5th and 6th graders going to the homes of the elderly to spread our Christmas cheer.
Christmas carolling around town.
It was cold and snowy. We sang songs and gave them cards.
Making Christmas to give to the people.
It was fun going to people's homes and making the elderly smile.

I REMEMBER FIRST COMMUNION

It was the first year Fr. Ryder was our priest. (1992)
I wore a white dress. I brought up a red rose. I walked up with my mom and dad.
Receiving Jesus's body for the first time.
On April 18 when I was in the 2nd grade. My godparents, family and grandparents shared the joyful event with me. We had a party.
Singing a song.
I think that God is really in me from eating the bread, his body.
Seeing the 2nd graders receive communion for the first time.
Going to and having First Communion Parties.
Father Ryder sitting at the top step with the Communicants, asking questions and talking with them.

I REMEMBER CONFIRMATION.

Getting oil on my head.
Going to Briarwood for a service project to help the ones who need it.
Serving ice cream to the people at Briarwood.
I liked the Confirmation Retreat.
Doing our service projects.
All the studying and preparation we had to do for Confirmation. (1995)
Going to and having Confirmation Parties.
I remember the Confirmation Retreat. I enjoyed all the singing and getting letters from our parents. Confirmation was also an awesome experience for me. I felt like a grown up after the wonderful celebration was over.
At Confirmation I remember that I had a great feeling inside me when I recieved the Holy Spirit all over again.
I remember going to Briarwood and being a waitress. It felt so good to see the look on all of the sad people's faces turn into a bright smile just because of me!
I remember my First Communion, it was really fun and enjoyable but the best day was my Confirmation. It was a day I'll never forget, because I became a full member of our church.

I REMEMBER FR. RANLY RAFFLE

This always happens during Lent and it made us think of how good we do have it.
We made a lot of $ which helps others around and away from us.
Too bad I didn't win but it was an awesome way to raise money for Fr. Ranly.
Helping people all the way in Peru made me think that we really can do good.
Winning a prize! Selling tickets.
Selling raffle tickets before and after 8:00 A.M. Mass.

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I REMEMBER SERVING MASS

It is neat to be closer to everything and touch them instead of being in the pews.
Sometimes making mistakes.
Learning the order of the Mass and it makes Mass seem quicker.
Lighting the candles and setting the things out used for the Mass.
Carrying the cross in the opening and closing procession.

I REMEMBER OUR SPECIAL SUNDAY PROGRAM.

Helping the children with their religious crafts, doing fun things, watching the VCR tapes,
Being a Sunday Program Helper - Grades 7 and 8. (1991-1997)
Learning the song "Who did swallow Jonah" and playing a bean bag game of throwing Jonah into the whale's mouth.
Watching movies and answering questions about what we saw and then doing a craft or playing a game about the story.
Watching the helpers perform plays about what we were learning.

I REMEMBER OUR VOCATION CLASSES.

Fr. Amburger, Coldwater's priest, came to talk about his vocation to the priesthood. (1997)
He talked about heaven, hell, how & why he became a priest, & about his life. He was young! His talk on how he became a priest was very interesting.
No matter how old or your you are you can still be a great priest!
I remember making vocation posters and our vocation prayer services.
It was fun to learn about different vocations and what you can be.
Having a variety of speakers - Ft. Recovery's Deacon, A nun, Linda Tieman (Haiti), Fr. Ryder, Fr. Mark Hoying and others.

I REMEMBER:

Mrs. Flaute's Angel Class.
Learning how to serve.
Our Confirmation and our First Communion were great days to be with God and our family.
Some of the great parties we've had during my 1st 8 years of religion, the neat things we've learned about God.
Listening to the gospels at mass and Father Ryder asking us questions.
Our Christmas Play and our Thanksgiving Mass. I was a shepherd and a pilgrim.
Singing "Awesome God!"
Reading in class, everyone got a turn. This helps us know we can teach others about Jesus.
Reading in church for our Children's Masses and The Way of the Cross. This taught me that I can do it.
Learning about the prophets and being a prophet by telling others about God, helping and correcting people. It's hard to help everyone around you. It was neat to learn about different prophets.
Putting on our own skits for the children and adults and the end of our CCD year.
Linda Schoenlein as my 6th grade teacher. (1992)
The Bishop coming to my house. (summer 1994)
Singing in the choir for the Children's Christmas Guitar Mass. (4:30 Mass-Xmas eve 1994-1995)
The last class Mass or Prayer Service meant Religion was over!
Making an Easter Card for Fr. Ernie Ranly and a Birthday card for Fr. Ryder
Dressing as St. Elizabeth for Kathy Otte's 3-4 grade class. The fun part was guessing the different saints!
The whole 3rd & 4th grade class having to dress as a saint for the CCD class held around All Saints Day.
Going to the cemetary and praying at the grave of someone we knew during one of our 3rd & 4th grade classes.

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I REMEMBER:

Our field trip to the Relic Chapel when we were in the 3rd and 4th grades

Fr. Eilerman's 50th Anniversary as a priest, we had a celebration.

Studying the various religions and having guest speakers.

I love it when we play games like hangman and others. It teaches God's teaching can be fun.

Playing games, especially hangman. They helped me learn & have fun at the same time.

Playing Jeopardy. My team about always won! It was fun playing different games.

We made a class proverb & psalm book in the 6th grade. (1992-1997) It was a fun way to learn about the Old Testament.

I remember in our third and fourth grade class learning about Mary and the rosary. The students took turns bringing home a small statue of our Lady of Fatima. I put her in a special place at home and that week our family prayed the rosary.

OTHER CCD MEMORIES

I remember two C.C.D. Masses that really moved me. About six years ago the high school students had an outdoor mass on the eve of Ascension in Jan & John Ranly's back yard. It was a beautiful, quiet spring evening. The altar decorations were two pink ballons tied together. After communion we re-read the Ascension story and cut the balloon free. Slowly they rose straight up through the trees and drifted out of sight. What we felt must have been what the apostles felt as Jesus ascended to heaven.

The next year the elementary students had a mass on the eve of Ascension. At the end of mass each student received a balloon. We went outdoors, re-read the Ascension story and then released seventy balloons.

Two elementary last class programs remain in mind. I remember the year each class told what they studied that year through a song or skit. The 7th and 8th graders wrote and presented a play on the beautitudes. I also remember the two time our pastors explained the mass vestments and vessels.

I remember each CCD student in grades 1-8 drawing or making a piece of a picture from the life of Mary. These cardboard squares were then tied together to make our Mary quilt and hung under the alter for the month of May. Each class then told the story of one of our stained glass windows which are based on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. We sometimes still hang this quilt under the alter today.

I remember discussing, in 1988, with Jan Ranly the possibility of her Junior and Senior Class presenting Holy Week in an Hour to the 1st-4th grades. A short time later she came with the script she had adapted from a script Linda Schoenlein had found. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we are aware of the guiding influence of the Holy Spirit! We still present Holy Week in an Hour each year during Holy Week using the hands on script she had written. It is a play that describes Passover, The Last Supper, Good Friday, and Easter. The Junior and Senior Class are the actors and the 1st-4th graders are the participants.

I remember each class in grades 1-7 making a sacrament banner for Fr. Eilerman's 50th Anniversary as a priest. These were hung on the side walls in church. We still use them today. The 8th grade made a banner of St. Gasper Del Buffalo, the founder of the Society of the Precious Blood. This was then presented to Fr. Eilerman from the CCD students.

I remember the Alexander family making most of the props and games used in our Special Sunday Program classes. These classes are held once a month from October - April, during the 10:00 A.M. mass and are for children ages 4-8. They include a lesson theme, a VCR movie, an activity and a take home sheet. Seventh and Eighth grade students volunteer to assist the two teachers by performing the skits or by helping with the craft activity or games. Themes include: Mary, Saints, Christmas, Easter, Old & New Testament Bible Stories. 1991-1997

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MEMORIES OF CYO

I REMEMBER GOING TO THE HOCKEY GAME (Feb. 1996)

Teasing the bird mascot and he punched at us.

I REMEMBER HORSEBACK RIDING

Lissa's horse trying to buck her off because it got frightened by the thunder.

It started to rain while one group was still out on the trails. They all got wet!

I REMEMBER GOING TO OUABACHE

Riding & tipping in canoes, canoe/grass/water fights.

Going down the water slide, swimming, playing tennis & volleyball.

Climbing the fire tower

Hoping the buffalo didn't get out of their fenced in area.

Our cookout.

Going to the House of Bread in Dayton to make, prepare and serve food to the homeless. We also ate with them.

Going to Harbor House, a home for pregnant teens, in Celina. The girls are given support, help and guidance by the staff. We helped paint.

Going to see the play "Grease" at the Victoria Theatre in Dayton. (1996)

World Youth Day. All the CYO members going to Mass to celebrate.

Being a senior and giving out communion for the first time.

Distributing wine for the first time.

Singing in the Youth Group Choir.

Our Chili Fund Raiser.

Our volleyball tournament in July when it usually rains!

Playing in the CYO State championship finals in Columbus. Joe Thobe was our coach. Members of our Cassella-St. Rose Team were Russell Stucke, Corey Thobe, Nick Moeller, Craig Hemmelgarn, Randy Otte, Matt Schoenlein all from Cassella. The St. Rose members were Frank & Brian Evers, Matt Hess and Greg Bruns. Our team was called Twinkle Toes. (1997)

I remember many of our CYO members taking part in a play called "Bill's Nightmare on 119". It was the story about drinking and driving, the people affected, and the consequences. There were various scenes including Bill's home, a party, a bar, a drug bust, an accident, the emergency room, funeral home, court room, and the jail. All the area CYO's took part as well as many adults. It was held for 2 years at St. Rose, using the school house and the church basement. Groups of approximately. 20 people were escorted through the various scenes. This was held for 1 weekend in October. An appreciation dance was held for all those involved several weeks later.

I remember Linda Thieman, St. Henry CYO Advisor, arranging a tour through the Lima Correctional Institution for our CYO. After the tour a question an answer session was held. The members had an opportunity to talk directly with some prisoners.

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Family Histories from current members of
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
as submitted.

1

Mr. & Mrs. Julius Ahrns
2750 Cassella-Montezuma Rd Maria Stein

Julius 7/1/27 wed Mary Alice Heitkamp (1/28/31) on July 12.
children: Sharon 10/23/53 wed Les Hess on 5/17/75 reside in Dayton
Donald 5/11/56 wed Kathy Ernst on 6/20/81 reside in Ft. Loramie
Joyce 6/24/57 wed Vernon Johnson on 6/3/78 reside in Coldwater
Patricia 10/23/58 wed Gary Heitkamp on 9/8/79 reside in Maria Stein
Gerard 12/30/60 wed Jill Grieshop on 10/21/89 reside in Celina
Rick 9/25/62 wed Elaine Albers on 9/5/87 reside in New Bremen
Mary Jean 3/15/64 wed Fred Siefring on 4/11/87 reside in St. Henry
Jim 5/11/66 resides in Kettering
Carol 10/22/68 wed Paul Keller on 8/6/88 reside in Maria Stein
Nancy 9/5/70 wed Dale Clune on 3/10/90 reside in Coldwater

The family of Julius and Mary Alice Ahrns moved to Cassella in April 1955 after purchasing the former Frank Boeckman house along Olding Rd. After much remodeling we made it our home.

While living there the majority of our children were born and baptized at Nativity. Our oldest was baptized prior to our moving to Cassella. All our children made their First Communion at Nativity and all four boys were mass servers. All of our children graduated from Marion Local high school and all six girls were married at Nativity.

In Dec. 1965 we bought a woods at the intersection of Olding and Cassella-Montezuma Rds known to most as Cron's woods. In 1974 we had the woods platted out and changed the name to the Ahrns - Sub-Division. We then began selling lots out of this woods.

We sold our home along Olding Rd. in Dec. 1992 and then built a home on one of the lots in the woods along Cassella-Montezuma Rd. where we currently live.

Julius is retired from New Idea and his hobbies are fishing and hunting. Mary Alice is a homemaker and her hobbies are walking, flower - gardening, and reading.

2

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Albers
306 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Dennis 12/28/49 wed Len Baumer (11/1/51) on 9/9/72 in Minster
children: Keith 9/26/73; Corey 9/21/74;
Greg 3/30/78; Amber 1/18/82
Dennis is a dairy farmer and Len is a homemaker.

3

Mr. Herbert J. Albers
300 Cassella-Montezuma Maria Stein

Herbert 10/8/12 wed Rose Stucke (4/26/15 - 5/26/87) on Oct. 1st.
children: Walter 7/25/39 wed Margie Bruns on 12/29/62 reside in Ames, Iowa
Morris 1/12/41 wed Marlene Mayo 10/12/63 reside in Osgood
Patricia 3/23/45 wed Stan Prenger on 8/2/69 reside in Anna
Dennis 12/28/49 wed Len Baumer on 9/9/72 reside on the home place
Mark 5/20/51 wed Karen Losche on 8/23/75 reside in Salem, Oregon
Herb is a retired farmer and his hobbies are fishing and hunting.

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4 **Mr. & Mrs. Mike Albers**

2466 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein

Michael Albers 12/21/56 wed Margaret (Peg) Schmiesing (9/30/58) on 8/20/76 in Cassella

children: Jennifer 4/22/76 Bowling Green University

Angela 2/12/79; Brian 10/28/84-11/3/88; Corey 9/23/87

Mike is employed at Crown Equipment as a maintenance worker and his hobby is farming. Peg is a dental assistant/receptionist.

5 **Mr. & Mrs. John Alexander**

2082 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

John L. Alexander 8/50 wed Joan Gaerke (5/17/52) on 12/1/79 in Coldwater.

children: Bridget 9/30/80 Joshua 10/1/81 Jesse 8/30/84

John 5/14/86 Jacob 2/12/89

Bob & Katie Dippold told us that a house located in between our places of employment was for sale in Cassella. Rindler Construction had built the home for his daughter, Maxine, who married Vernon Bruns. They had lived there until they chose to move back to town. The home was sold to Charles & Lucille Muhlenkamp who raised some animals in the back building. They then chose to move back to a smaller place in North Star.

Worth remembering...

At our home after Josh's First Communion our son Johnny (age 4 then) said "I see God coming" it was Fr. Eilerman. He also gave him a toad he had just found. Fr. never forgot Johnny doing this. A few days before Fr. died he & I still joked about bringing a statue of a toad for him to bring to God.

Working at St. Charles Seminary as a L.P.N. I had the honor of taking care of Fr. Eilerman in his last years in the infirmary and his last few days on earth. He was a man who was highly respected, always kind, and taught us much about accepting God's wish to leave this earth and to always be ready for God.

John is an elevator worker at Minster Farmer's Co-Op Osgood and his hobby is hunting. Joan is a L.P.N. and works at St. Charles Seminary, her hobby is watching their children participate in sports.

6 **Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Bergman**

7785 Overman Rd. Maria Stein

Ernie 11/7/55 wed Shirley Timmerman (6/19/59) on 2/23/79 in Sharpsburg

children: Carla 3/11/80 - 11/14/96, Brian 6/3/82, Mindi 1/8/88, Lisa 3/8/90

Aaron 9/30/93

Frank Bergman bought a farm located on Indian Trail Rd., his son, Michael, then purchased that farm when he married in 1947. Michael married Erma Knapke from Sharpsburg and they had seven children. Ernie is one of those seven children and he chose to continue farming the home place. In 1980 Ernie and Shirley bought the farm and operated it until 1991. They then built their present home on Overman Rd. The farm was sold to to Fred and Ed Bohman.

Ernie is a truck driver for Minster Farmers Co-Op and his hobby is watching sports. Shirely is a housewife.

7 **Catherine Bergman**

6656 Indian Trail Rd Maria Stein

Michael Bergman 12/10/20 - 12/21/82 wed Erma Knapke (9/21/24 - 5/27/59) on 9/6/47 in Burketsville.

children: Viginia 6/22/48 reside in Spencerville

Mary 10/13/49 wed James Davis on 11/12/77 reside in Vandalia

Michael Jr. b&d 10/1/50

Dennis 9/17/51 wed Connie Tatem reside in Bedford, Ind.

Ronald 8/19/54 resides in Portland, Oregon

Ernest 11/7/55 wed Shirley Timmerman on 2/23/79 reside in Maria Stein

Betty 11/16/56 wed Carl York on 7/5/80 reside in Russia, Ohio

Michael Bergman wed Catherine Homan (5/18/26) on 4/4/67 in Celina

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Michael was a farmer and his hobby was travel. Erma was a housewife. Catherine is a housewife and her hobbies are sewing, quilting and needlework.

8 **Mr. & Mrs. David Berning**

1965 Cassella-Montezuma Rd.

Dave 4/16/64 wed Mona Voskuhl (10/24/67) on 6/17/89 in St. Johns Church, Maria Stein

children: Abbie 6/21/90 Joshua 5/17/92 Molly 7/12/95

Dave works at Pax Machine Works and his hobbies are working on cars and motor cycle riding. Mona is a housewife and her hobbies are softball and cross stitch.

The home were the Bernings live was once owned by the parish as a home for the teacher and organist.

9 **Mr. & Mrs. Dave Bertke**

6356 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

David Bertke 10/17/59 wed Jane Will (2/19/65) in St. Sebastian on 2/21/87

children: Damon 6/17/88 Laura 11/16/90 Nicole 12/6/92

We are the fourth generation to live on the family farm. We are purchasing the farm from Louis & Evelyn Bertke. When we were married we built our home on the farm along Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Dave is a farmer and Jane works in the factory at Reynold & Reynolds and her hobby is crafts.

10 **Mr. & Mrs. Louie Bertke**

6332 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

Louis Bertke 1/14/26 wed Evelyn Hartings (7/3/28) on 6/20/53 in Cranberry Prairie.

children: Daniel 5/14/54 to 7/13/76

Kenneth 6/3/55 wed Angela Richard on 4/22/78 reside in Maria Stein

Barbara 7/18/57 wed Gerald Arling on 2/9/90 reside in Minster

David 10/17/59 wed Jane Will on 2/21/87 reside in Cassella

Roger 3/14/61 wed Teresa Homan 9/17/83 reside near St. Marys

Mary 9/28/62 wed Gregg Barhorst on 8/22/86 reside in Maria Stein

Timothy 3/27/65 wed Teresa Bergman on 7/16/88 reside in Minster

Michael 10/13/67 wed Renee Lange on 5/11/91 reside in Maria Stein

Louie is a retired farmer and Evelyn is a housewife.

Herman (Henry) Bertke came to America from Germany in 1843 and settled in St. John. He married Elizabeth Fullenkamp on 4-14-1847. They purchased a farm (our current home) in Cassella in 1878 but never lived there. His son, Frederick who married Elizabeth Everman on 11-12-1881 lived on the farm. He bought it from his father in 1886. They had four children, Mary, Cecelia, Leo and Anna. After the death of his first wife, Fred married Philomena Fiely and they had two children, William and Alma.

When his son Leo married Anna Lindhaus, daughter of Bernard and Mary Lindhaus on 6/10/14, Fred and his family moved to Cassella in the house west across from church. Fred sold the farm to Leo and Anna in 1915. Leo and Anna had ten children, Leander, Cyril, Wilbur, Euleta, Marinus and Maryann (twins), Louis, Ernest, Dennis and Norma. Three children died young, the twins, and Dennis.

When Louis married Evelyn Hartings, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Evers) Hartings, on 6/20/53, they lived with Leo and Anna. They purchased the farm in 1961. They had eight children.

All of Fred's, Leo's and Louis's children were baptized, received First Communion and were Confirmed in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin church.

All of Fred and Leo's children went to school in Cassella, but since they consolidated the schools into Marion Local District, Louis and Evelyn's children attended grade school in Chickasaw, Osgood, St. John and Marion elementary and all graduated from the high school.

In 1996 Louis and Evelyn sold the buildings and some of the land to David and Jane Bertke. Therefore they are the fourth generation to live on the farm.

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11 **Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bills**

1909 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein

Dan 6/25/49 wed Betty Stelzer (2/28/51) on 12/2/72

children: Jodi 4/13/75; Mark 9/14/77;
Julie 4/28/79; Carla 7/8/81

Dan & Betty settled in Cassella in Nov. 1974. After purchasing land from Dan's brother Alvin and building their home.

Dan is a concrete specialist and turkey farmer. Betty is an elementary teacher at Marion Local and her hobbies are tennis and family vacations.

12 **Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Boeckman**

6763 Olding Rd. Maria Stein

Alfred 2/21/25 wed Virginia Ahlers (5/4/29) on 10/11/52.

son: Tim 7/7/54 wed Denise Luebke on 6/4/77 and reside in St. Henry with their children Trent, Holly, Todd & Toby.

Alfred's hobby is farming, which he is retired from, and Virginia is a retired office worker. Alfred was born in Cassella where he farmed and drove milk truck. Alfred & Ginny are 3rd generation on their farm.

13 **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Boeke**

2596 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Paul 4/3/54 wed Karen Braun (6/15/55) on 6/7/75 in Coldwater.

children: Kelly 11/10/79 Amy 3/5/82 Kim 6/6/86

Paul works as a machinist at Crown and his hobby is woodworking. Karen is an office manager at Homan Equipment, her hobby is collecting Precious Moments.

14 **Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Brackman**

6586 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Vernon 7/29/36 wed Ruth Reinhart (1/1/36) on 7/18/59

children: Bruce 8/22/60 wed Brenda Wattercutter 5/86 reside in Ft. Loramie
Linda 1/22/62 wed Randy Bergman 9/26/86 reside in Maria Stein
Alan 11/24/63 wed Kathy Oldiges 9/12/90 reside in New Bremen
Brenda 11/24/67 resides in Miamisburg
Brian 2/3/76 resides at home

Vernon is an operating engineer at Barrett Paving and his hobbies are woodworking. Ruth is a homemaker and works part time at the Elks, her hobby is gardening. The couple also enjoys camping.

15 **Mr. & Mrs. Harold Broering**

6866 Indian Trail Rd Maria Stein

Harold 12/5/25 wed Rosella Will (10/7/27) on 10/11/50 in St. Peter's, in Ft. Recovery

children: Susan 8/15/51 wed Bob Wissman on 5/16/75 reside in New Bremen
John 1/30/53 wed Wilma Knapke on 8/23/75 reside in Greenville
Jeanne 5/13/55 wed John Weeman on 10/3/81 reside in Findlay
Larry 7/28/57 resides in Cassella
Tim 9/14/59 wed Pam Victor Cull on 6/24/89 reside in New Paris

Harold is a retired farmer and enjoys fishing. Rosella is retired and also enjoys fishing.

16 **Mr. & Mrs. Mike Broering**

1780 Cassella-Montezuma Rd Maria Stein

Mike 3/29/55 wed Kathy Dahlinghaus (3/7/56) on 5/7/77 at St. Joseph's Church in Egypt

children: James 6/2/78; Jackie 9/12/79; Mark 1/1/82;
Janell 11/30/83; Alan 3/5/86; Rick 2/29/88; Darrin 9/6/95

We are a third generation family living in Cassella. Mike has lived in Cassella all his life. We met at the Retreat House Picnic in 1973 and had our first date in Nov. 1973.

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We married on May 7, 1977 and moved to our present location which was part of the original Gruenwald convent. The original site of the barn is still there. In order to start milking, a milk house and milking parlor were built during the summer of 1977. We started milking in Nov. 1977 and added around 30 cows the first week of Dec. The cows were just settling in when the Dec. 8th blizzard came. (The first of several that season!). But with the help of neighbors and family everyone survived that season of snow, wind and electrical outages.

In 1983 we added a machine shed and in 1985 and 1986 we remodeled the big barn to accomadate some expansion in our herd. In 1988 a silo was added which turned out to be a blessing in that year of the drought (1988). In 1990 and 1991 saw additions of heifer and bull barns.

Things would probably be different had we the power to see the future. After much prayer and thought we decided to sell our milking cows. There were many factors which influenced us in making that difficult decision. On April 22, 1997 the last cow was milked here on the farm. It was hard to see something we had built up for 20 years come to an end, but life continues. Who knows what exciting things God has in store for us around the corner?

As far as our family, we are blessed with seven children. James is a student at the University of Dayton pursuing a chemical engineering degree and the next five children are students at Marion Local and Darrin will turn two in Sept. We are sure there will be many exciting events in the future involving our children.

Mike is a farmer and works at Homan Equipment, his hobbies are golf and reading. Kathy is a housewife and her hobbies include musical activities, crafts and gardening.

17 **Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bruns**
2037 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein
Jim wed Carolyn Brand
children: Scott and Stephanie

18 **Mr. & Mrs. Scott Bruns**
1899 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein
Scott wed Elaine
son: Kevin born 6/7/96

19 **Mr. & Mrs. Dave Brunswick**
6373 Olding Rd. Maria Stein
David 2/16/50 wed Elaine Schmiesing (1/1/52) on 8/13/73 at Nativity
children: Matthew b&d 5/20/76
Meredith 4/26/77

David and I came to Cassella because we wanted a home in the country. We were able to buy some of my Dad's (Walter Schmiesing) land along Olding Rd. We built our home in 1981. I believe that I am the fourth generation to live in Cassella. My grandfather, John Grevenkamp, was the second generation. Our daughter, Meredith, is fifth generation of Grevenkamp relation to attend church in Cassella.

David is a school administrator and his hobbies are hunting & fishing. Elaine is a school librarian and her hobbies are reading and shopping.

20 **Mr. & Mrs. Gary Buening**
6207 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein
Gary Lee 5/14/53 wed Juanita Mary Smith (8/1/50) on 11/22/73 in St. Henry.
children: Catherine Anne 8/31/74 wed Bob Kuess 5/11/96 reside in Chickasaw
Carolyn Marie 8/31/74 wed Todd Harting on 9/3/94 reside in St. Marys
Christine Suzanne 9/20/79 Melissa Sue 9/7/80
Joshua Lee 11/30/82 Patricia Anne 9/13/91

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Our home purchased in May 1987 seemed to have all the qualities we were looking for in a new location: in the country - but not isolated; in a strong Catholic community; good school system; and a home large enough for our family. Our property has 5 1/2 acres with a large home and located only 3/4 mile from church. Previous owner was Pat and Kathy Schmitmeyer. Kathy's parents Roman and Rita Schoenlein had been the owners prior to Pat. The remaining 90 plus acres is being farmed by Ivo and Linda (Schoenlein) Post - sister to Kathy.

This home was built in 1880 and the barn and summer kitchen in 1875. One of the earliest owners was Joseph Link & his wife. We understand that the home was built large with the intentions of filling it with children, but the couple was unable to have children.

Our barn was one of very few built in North West Ohio with a Greek Cross cut out of the gable end; facing east toward Cassella's Church; as though asking protection from the church.

The property had contained an orchard on the part where our garden lies and also where Joe & Karen Thobe live.

Our oldest two, Catherine & Carolyn, made their First Communion in Burketsville. Christine, Melissa & Joshua made theirs at Nativity. Patricia was baptized at Nativity and Carolyn & Cathy were married here. Joshua made his Confirmation at Nativity while the other girls made theirs in combination with other cluster parishes.

Our children have been able to experience a closeness to the other children making their First Communions and Confirmations that a person does not experience in a larger parish. It makes these sacraments seam more special and personal.

Dippold Family History

To the best of our understanding, John Dippold Sr., born in 1820, came to the United States from near Rhineland, Germany with two of his brothers in 1850. John settled in Sheffield, Ohio, near Cleveland. Around 1863, he moved to Mercer County and married Mary Beigel. They had two children; John Jr. and Katherine. John Sr. died in 1868, and is buried in St. Wendelin cemetary as Johann Diebold. (Diebold was considered the German spelling, even though the Dippold name exists in Germany today).

John Jr. born in 1866, married Mary Huelsman, daughter of John Joseph and Mary Josephine (Knapke) Huelsman from Cranberry Prairie in 1898. They later moved to the farm on Stelzer Road which Gary Dippold owns today. John Jr. and Mary had six children; Verona, Alvina, Albert, Rosena, Norbert, and Cyril. John Jr. died in 1943 and Mary died in 1963; both buried in Cassella cemetary.

Albert wed Bertha Hemmelgarn from St. Henry and made their home in Cassella.

Cyril wed Flora Hemmelgarn from St. Wendelin and also made thier home in Cassella.

Cy and Albert were co-owners of the Wayne Filling Staion, located at the corner of 119 & 127, which was razed when the intersection was reconstructed in 1950.

21 **Mrs. Bertha Dippold**

1938 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Albert 4/9/06 - 9/20/87 wed Bertha M. Hemmelgarn (7/21/13) on 6/15/38 in St. Henry.

son: Kenneth 9/12/42 wed Victoria K. Nowak on 9/10/66 reside in Scottsdale, AZ

Albert and his brother Cyril were operators of Wayne Filling Station. Bertha and Albert were owners and proprietors of Dippold's Store which they purchased from Joseph & Mary Dahlinghaus. Bertha's current home is built at the same location as a home previously owned by Joe & Mary Dahlinghaus after it was torn down.

Albert enjoyed fishing, gardening and playing cards. Bertha's hobbies are fishing, embroidery, puzzles and playing cards.

22 **Mrs. Flora Dippold**

1773 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein

Cy Dippold 12/31/16 - 10/15/85 wed Flora Hemmelgarn (11/3/21) on 6/5/43 in Wendelin.

children: Barb 1/4/45 wed John Moeller on 10/8/66 reside in St. Henry

Dale 12/6/46 wed Bonnie Ontrop on 10/21/72 reside in St. Sebastion

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Bob 9/3/49 wed Kathy (Katie) Heyne on 5/20/72 reside in Cassella
Margie 5/20/53 wed Jim Bruns on 2/4/84 reside in Coldwater
Gary 7/26/55

Gary owns and farms the home place which has been in the Dippold name for nearly 100 years. A Special Memory: Dad loved to go fishing when he had some spare time. So when he retired, and spring came he went fishing about everyday. When he would come home from fishing if he got out of the truck real quick he had something to show you, maybe a big fish he caught or that he caught a lot of them. If he would get out of the truck real slow, you didn't have to ask because it was probably a slow day and had nothing.

23 **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dippold**
6239 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Bob 9/3/49 wed Kathleen (Katie) Heyne (8/7/50) on 5/20/72 at Holy Trinity in Coldwater
children: Scott 2/27/73; Cory 6/17/75; Ryan 10/17/79; Lindsay 11/11/85

Bob and Katie lived in St. Henry for one year and then built their present house on land purchased from his father, Cy. That land was previously owned by William and Rose Tumbusch.

Bob is an Engineering Launch Manager and his hobbies are being a softball coach and following Marion Local Sports. Katie is a Registered Nurse and her hobbies are crafts and also following Marion Local Sports.

24 **Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dirksen**
591 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Dennis 4/13/39 wed Judy Sanders (2/19/44) on 7/2/66
children: Tony 7/11/67 wed Sharon Kaiser on 4/15/89; Kay 6/7/89 wed Terrance Knapke 3/17/90, Kelly 11/25/72 wed Tom Schmitmeyer 11/6/93; Karen 1/28/75; Ted 12/21/78; Tim 6/24/81; Karla 7/3/85

Dennis & Judy are both engaged in farming.

25 **Mr. & Mrs. Tony Dirksen**
6277 Cassella-Montezuma Maria Stein

Tony wed Sharon Kaiser on 4/15/89
children: Kathy, Renee and Laura

26 **Mr. & Mrs. Dan Eifert**
6277 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Daniel 4/30/45 wed Dorothy Homan (5/18/45) on 4/20/68 at St. Johns Church
children: Thomas 6/17/69 wed Jill Homan on 7/2/94 reside in Indianapolis
Nick 6/12/71 wed Cindy Moeller on 7/19/97 reside in Maria Stein
John (b&d 9/19/74)
Matthew 4/28/76 resides in Dayton

Dan & Dorothy purchased their home located on the north/east corner of Stelzer Rd. and St. Rt. 119 in August 1967 from Victor and Mary Hess. They then moved to the community after their marrieage in April 1968.

Dan is a Poultry Specialist for Cooper Farms, Inc. and his hobby is golf. Dorothy is an Office Manager at Post Printing Co. and her hobbies are golf and crocheting.

27 **Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Eifert**
1950 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Oscar wed Adella Bruns on June 5, 1934 at St. Nicholas
children: Donald 8/16/58 wed Joni Wittman reside in Dayton
Patricia 2/24/62 wed Tony Mastrangelo resides in Tucson, Az
Mary Jane 6/9/73 wed William Brinck reside in Centerville

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I (Oscar) grew up in Maria Stein, after high school graduation I studied music at St. Francis College, Wisconsin and College of Music Chicago. I then decided to become a teacher, studied at Bowling Green State University. I taught the first two years in Dahlinghaus School and then came to Cassella.

When Adella and I were married I remember that I invited the Men's Choir to the wedding. After two years we had Donald by Cesarean birth and in 1940 we had Patricia by regular birth.

On February 24, 1962 our daughter Patricia was married. A heavy snow the previous night made it impossible to get to church, but Martin Feltz shoveled from one side and our son, with the help from several of the bridal party, shoveled from our side. We did get to church in time for the 10:00 a.m. wedding mass and we also made it to the Knights of St. John Hall in Maria Stein that afternoon for the reception.

After having taught forty years in Mercer County and having been organist for forty five years I retired form teaching in 1971.

Our Golden wedding was held June 10, 1984 at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Fr. Eilerman & Fr. Vincent Parr were celebrants of the 11:30 a.m. mass. Carolyn Stucke directed the Children's Orchestra and the Ladies Choir sang. Lisa Mastrangelo sang "Wherever you Go" and Laura Eifert & Christine Mastrangelo (three granddaughters) were the readers. The reception was held at the Knights of St. John Hall.

We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on June 5, 1994. Fr. Fred Ryder was the celebrant. The reception and open house was held in the C.K. of A. Hall.

Oscar retired from education and has hobbies in gardening, music, golf, and bowling. Adella is a retired housewife and her hobbies are cooking, needlework, quilting, and art.

28 **Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Evers**

1929 Cassella-Montezuma Maria Stein

Anthony (Tony) 4/7/16 wed Marie Vondrell (5/21/26) on 9/4/50 at Nativity.

children: Janice 9/23/51 wed Wm. Rethman on 4/2/77 reside in Ft. Loramie

Gene 6/22/54 wed Sharon Knapke on 7/17/76 reside in St. Rose

Rick 10/24/62 wed Brenda Clune on 8/18/84 reside in Cassella

Tony and I were both born in Cassella. We both received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Solemn Communion and Marriage at Nativity. We both had our elementary education in the one room school house, now used as a C.C.D. hall.

After we were married by Fr. Victor Broering (Tony's cousin) in an 8:30 mass, we moved to and lived on Tony's farm for several years. Then we moved to his home place where he was born. There we had our three children. In 1984 we moved to a smaller home in town.

Tony's parents were Frank & Anna (Holdheide) Evers who were married Aug. 27, 1902. Frank brought his bride back to the farm his parents, Clement & Mary (Westerheide) Evers, had bought in 1881. Tony took over the farm in 1950 and Rick in 1984. Rick and his wife Brenda make the farm their home, keeping it in the Evers name for over 100 years.

My parents Henry & Pauline (Koester) Vondrell were married on June 12, 1912. My grandparents were Henry & Marie (Dahlinghaus) Koester & Henry & Elizabeth (Cron) Vondrell. All are laid to rest in Nativity's Cemetery.

Tony is a retired farmer and his hobbies include horse pulls, sporting events. Marie is a retired homemaker and enjoys crocheting & watching the children & grandchildren in their sporting events.

Worth remembering...

Tony remembers serving mass for Fr. Muinch when he was 12 or 13 years old. The servers wanted to get Fr. a Christmas gift and his housekeeper, Ms. Minnie VonderHarr, told them to get him a Canary. So Tony, Pat Feltz, Cy Bertke & Ralph Hemmelgarn took Tony's dad's Whippet to Celina to buy the Canary. Ms. VonderHarr gave them a dollar to buy some bird feed. They were given a bag of feed for the bird so they took the dollar and bought her a box of hankies for Christmas.

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We had a summer kitchen with a big brick oven and fireplace. The fire place & kettle were used at butchering time. The oven was used to bake bread, we had to use linn wood to heat it. I had to pack the split wood carefully, when it was burned down to hot coals they had to be pushed down in with the ashes. Then the loaves of bread were put into the hot brick oven. The bread was made into loaves twice the size of a loaf of bread now, and they sure tasted good.

29 **Mr. & Mrs. Rick Evers**

6795 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

Rick 10-24-62 wed Brenda Clune (7/1/62) on 8/18/84 in St. Henry.

daughter: Kayla 9/26/88

Brenda is the daughter of Lewis and Vivian (Bergman) Clune, St. Henry and Rick is the son of Tony & Marie (Vondrell) Evers.

Rick is a farmer and part-time truck driver, his hobby is softball. Brenda is in Graphic Arts and her hobby is bowling.

30 **Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Feltz**

6398 St.-Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Clarence "Mickey" Feltz 4/21/20 wed Julia M. Albers (11/27/22) on 6/26/48 at Nativity

children: Thomas E. 7/11/51 wed Jane Kessen on 10/26/79 reside in Maria Stein
Phyllis Ann 12/29/53 wed Charles Gerace on 6/7/80 reside in Dublin, Ohio
Larry Joseph 12/16/58 wed Laurie Bigelow on 1/23/82
Allen Gerard 1/16/60 to 10/14/93 wed Sherrie Rudolph on 11/30/85

Mickey was born in Cassella and has lived in Cassella all his life except for his time in the service during WWII. He was born, and received the sacraments of baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage at Nativity.

I was born, in St. Rose and received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation in St. Rose Church. Clem and Catherine Albers bought the Wm. Evers property and our family moved to Cassella in 1936 from St. Rose.

All four of our children were born in Cassella and received sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation at Nativity. Larry was married at Nativity and lives at Cassella with his family. He is the fourth generation descendent of Louis Feltz family. Larry & Laurie own the house his Grandpa (Albert Feltz) built at 69 years of age, after he retired from Mersmans in 1958. Their children, Kelli and Danny, are the fifth Feltz generation to live in Cassella. Allen, age 33, at the time of his death is buried in Nativity's Cemetery. He lived in Florida where his wife and son still reside.

Mickey is retired owner of Feltz Garage which used to operate by the old blacksmith shop. Julia is retired also.

31 **Mr. & Mrs. Dave Feltz**

2094 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Dave 12/23/53 wed Ruth Heitkamp (1/15/54) in St. Johns

children: Jenny Lynn 9/11/81 Ashley Marie 6/4/84 Terri Ann 4/7/86

Dave is a machinest and Ruth is involved in sales.

32 **Mr. & Mrs. Frank Feltz**

1937 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Frank H. (Pat) 3/17/17 wed Hulda Link (6/1/27) on 11/12/49 at Cranberry

children: Trudy 11/17/50 wed Larry Moeller 2/11/72 reside in Cassella
Charles 10/29/52 wed Jan Kramer on 12/6/74 reside in Coldwater
David 12/23/53 wed Ruth Heitkamp on 4/27/79 reside in Cassella
Allan 11/26/55 to 11/28/55
Rebecca 10/6/58 wed Nick Thobe 11/8/80 reside in Chickasaw
Lucy 9/15/60 resides in Beavercreek

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Frank was born and raised in Cassella. He is retired from New Idea and his hobbies are bird watching and woodworking. Hulda is retired from Marion Mutual Insurance Co. and her hobby is sewing.

33 **Mr. & Mrs. Larry Feltz**

6451 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Larry 12/16/58 wed Laurie Bigelow (9/17/59) on 1/23/82 at Nativity

children: Kelli 6/14/82 and Daniel 3/25/85

Larry and Laurie met in 1978 and were married in 1982 in Cassella. They moved to Cassella in 1986 to the home Larry's grandparents, Albert and Catherine Feltz, used to live. Albert built the house in 1958 after his retirement. Larry is the fourth generation of his family to live in Cassella. Their children the fifth.

On September 17, 1992 Laurie was Baptized into the Catholic Church by Father Ryder. She also recieved the sacrements of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and she and Larry repeated their wedding vows that day also. This was a very special day because it also was her 33rd birthday.

Larry is a mechanic at Huelsman Automotive, Inc. and Laurie is employed by Apria Healthcare as a A/R Rep.

Mr. Raymond J. Feltz

Briarwood Nursing Home, Coldwater

Ray 8/27/06 wed Olive Bensman (6/3/05 to 1/14/76) on 11/12/29 in Celina

They made their home at 6381 St. Rt. 119 (currently Bill Schwieterman residence).

children: John 2/11/31 wed Cynthia Hyre on 8/4/62 and reside in Fairborn
MaryAnn 9/29/32 wed Richard Gray on 4/18/59 and reside in Celina
Eileen 6/27/34 wed Peter Slivinski (deceased) and reside in Dayton
Paul 7/25/36 wed Mary Ann Bowden on 4/10/93 and reside in Waynesville
Pauline 7/25/36 wed Louis Schemmel on 8/24/57 (deceased) live in Osgood
Jerry 4/14/38 wed Patty Jo Zeno on 6/15/68 residing in Wake Forest N.C.
Kathleen 2/6/43 we Jerry Schmitmeyer on 5/30/64 reside in Minster
Raymond Jr. 8/28/46 wed Rita Murphy on 9/19/70 and reside in Celina
Ronald 5/18/48 wed Mary Volas in 8/21/71 and reside in Canton, Ohio

Born third generation and raised in Cassella Ray's family owned and operated The Cane Mill, where we made molasses. Ray worked at New Idea, Mersmans, Pax, Spiecher Bros. & S&K. Throughout the years Ray's hobbies were painting and building models. Models of: a large barn, manure spreader, steam engine, ditching machine - all are operating models and are at the Mercer Co. Museum in Celina. Olive was a domestic engineer with hobbies of quilting and crocheting.

35 **Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Flaute**

2127 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Raymond Flaute 1/18/20 wed Rita Ranly (6/3/28) in Cassella

Children: David b&d 4/18/50
Ruth 3/7/51 wed Wm. Kuhlan on 6/23/73 reside in Wapakoneta
Marjorie 5/12/52 wed Wm. Millennor on 10/12/74 reside in Sharonville
William 4/7/54 wed Jane Wirick 3/31/78 reside in Dayton
Teresa 12/17/56 wed Ken Gerlach 11/5/77 reside in Carthagena
Joan 2/15/58 wed Ken Prenger on 8/1/80 reside in Chickasaw
Thomas 3/31/60 wed Pat Tobe 4/25/92 reside in Minster
Steven 4/24/61 wed Carol Guggenbiller 5/21/83 reside in New Bremen
Ann 1/4/63 wed Mike Hemmelgarn 5/11/85 reside in Carthagena
Gabriel b&d 3/24/66

Ray & I met at the Lindhause Dance Hall. Ray was born & raised in McCartyville, and I was born in Cassella, and lived on the homeplace most of my life.

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In 1951 we purchased 100 acres of ground from the Sister's of the Precious Blood and lived south of Cassella. We lived in the Priest & Brother's house which was part of Gruenenwald. When my parents, Peter & Sophia Ranly needed help on the Ranly Homestead north of Cassella in 1956 we sold our property and moved in with them.

This was also when the church changes were made (Vatican II) and I can still hear Fr. VonderHarr say, "Gee, that's sort of neat, when you lived south the priest faced south when he said mass, you move north & now he faces north when he says mass."

We raised eight wonderful children: Ruth has three children and is a school teacher; Marjorie has three children and is a teacher's aide; Bill has five children and is a Right way Agent for DP&L and Deputy Mayor for the city of Riverside. Teresa has four daughters & is dept. manager at Big Bear grocery store. Joan has four children & is a Food Service Manager; Tom has four children and works at Crown in the Receiving Dept.; Steve has three children & is owner of Mechanical Inst. & Technology Corp. & grain farms; Ann has three children and is a registered Respiratory Therapist.

My grandparents, my parents, aunts, sisters and five daughters were all married in Nativity of B.V.M. Church.

Ray & I are both retired, enjoy some traveling and very much enjoy our 29 grandchildren.

I'm proud to say we have six generations on Cassella Cemetery.

Ray & I are happy & proud to say we belong to a wonderful parish, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cassella.

36 **Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fortkamp**
6660 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Frank Fortkamp 4/26/22 wed Lorena Frenzer (3/16/19) on 7/14/48 at Nativity
children: Charles E. 7/18/49 wed Sandy Geise on 11/7/75 reside in Maria Stein
Robert L. 8/3/54 wed Jane Osterholt on 4/26/75 reside in Columbus
Susan M. 6/22/56 resides in Cassella
Gary L. 5/29/62 wed Beth Thobe 4/5/86 reside in Maria Stein

Lorena was born in Cassella on 3/16/19 to William and Elizabeth (Greivenkamp) Frenzer. She was baptized a day later at Nativity by Rev. Julius Heffner, C.PP.S. Her sponsors were Catherine Wuebker and Clarence Greivenkamp.

Our home was purchased in 1933, from my Aunt Elizabeth Boeckman by my parents. We are the fourth generation family living in Cassella and daughter, Sue is the fifth.

Frank is retired from Bomholts and New Idea, Lorena is a housewife and they both enjoy their grandchildren and traveling.

37 **Mr. & Mrs. Todd Francis**
2260 U.S. 127 St. Henry

Todd 10/28/69 wed Angie Otte (1/18/72) on 10/7/95

Todd works at Precision Strip in Minster and his hobbies are playing golf & softball. Angie works at Apria Home Health Care.

38 **Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Goettemoeller**
1225 Cassella-Montezuma Maria Stein

Stanley G. Goettemoeller 11/9/24 wed Alma Siefring (1/23/30) on 9/29/54 in St. Wendelin.
children: Donald 3/5/56 wed Bev Lachey on 11/24/90 reside in Sidney
Mary Ann 12/31/57 wed Joe Bruggeman on 4/21/90 reside in West Palm Beach, FL.
Joan 2/22/61
Frank 2/10/66 wed Robin Bishop 9/25/92 reside in New Bremen

Stanley is a farmer and Alma is a housewife.

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39 **Mr. & Mrs. Gregor Grevenkamp**
6463 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Gregor Grevenkamp 7/1/18 wed Monica Hess (2/27/21) on 5/22/46 in Carthagena
children: Margie 1/27/48 wed John Bensman on 11/22/79 reside in Minster
Janice 6/13/52 wed Jack Hummel on 7/28/73 reside in New Weston
Kenneth 5/10/51 to 5/30/51
Mary 10/25/54 wed John Overman on 6/12/76 reside in Ft. Recovery
Gerald 12/2/57 wed MaryAnn Heitkamp on 10/22/83 reside in New Bremen
Steve 10/3/60 resides in Cassella
Richard 8/30/63 wed Jeanne Kerkhoff on 10/27/90 reside in Middletown

The Grevenkamp family first settled in Cassella three generations ago. Gregor's Grandfather came from Germany and settled on the farm north of Cassella (S/E corner Olding and Cassella-Montezuma Rds.) where Gregor lived until he got married in 1946. Then the couple lived east of Coldwater for about 1 1/2 years, then returned to Cassella and lived on Walter Schmiesing's farm (current home of Mike & Peg Albers) for 11 1/2 years. Then purchased the house where they presently live, from Albert and Catherine Feltz. This is where their family was raised. Gregor is retired from Avco New Idea where he worked for 42 years of which 4 1/2 were spent in the service. Monica was born & raised on a farm in Carthagena. She was the daughter of Henry and Margaret Hess. They were married in Carthagena by Rev. Henry Hess at 8:00 in the morning. The celebration lasted all day with breakfast, dinner and supper. A dance held in the barn in the afternoon and evening ended with night lunch before everyone went home. The farm remained in the Grevenkamp name until 1980 when it was sold.

Gregor is retired from Avco New Idea and his hobbies are gardening and playing cards. Monica is a housewife and her hobbies are playing cards and working in their yard.

40 **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Griesdorn**
6697 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

Mark 9/11/36 wed Margie Rose (1/6/38) on 5/8/57 in St. Francis at Cranberry Praire
children: Frank 3/3/58 wed Karen Vehorn on 6/4/83 reside in St. Henry
Kevin 12/27/59 wed Laura Schwieterman on 8/24/90 reside in Maria Stein
Bart 11/2/61 wed Beth Vehorn on 9/9/93 reside in Chickasaw
Trina 1/25/63 reside in Cassella
Joan 10/26/64 wed Dave Moorman on 2/9/91 reside in Cassella
John 10/26/64 resides in Montezuma
Glenn 6/1/66 wed Ann Goettemoeller on 5/7/88 reside in St. Rose
Tracy 6/2/68 wed Mark Mescher 5/12/90 reside in St. Rose
Ann 7/1/70 wed Scott Spring (died 2/5/96) on 4/17/93 reside in Cassella
Karla 2/23/74 reside in Cassella

The Griesdorn's moved into Margie's uncle's house and have stayed for three generations. Mark is a custodian at Marion Local Schools and Margie is a Cantee Hostess.

41 **Mr. & Mrs. Louis Hamberg**
5867 St. Rt. 119 St. Henry

Louis 4/17/28 wed Ruth Hess (7/15/29) on 10/14/50 in Nativity.
children: Connie 3/22/52 wed Roger Davenport on 8/21/72 reside in Montezuma
Nancy 6/1/55 wed Harold Muhlenkamp on 8/16/75 reside in Geneva
David 1/23/60 wed Patricia Hoying on 3/18/89 reside in Anna
James 9/28/61 wed Sherry Daniel on 6/11/88 reside in Columbus
John 9/10/64 resides in Huber Heights

We built our home on my dad's farm (Hess) after he died. We liked the country living. We have lived in our home for forty-five years.

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Louis is a retired electrician and his hobby is gardening. Ruth is a retired factory worker and her hobbies are reading and crocheting.

42 **Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Hartings**
6418 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Ernest Hartings 10/6/26 wed Alfrieda Wuebker (4/12/31) on 10/21/50 in Ft. Recovery
children: Connie 9/13/51 wed Robert Homan 2/5/72 reside in St. Henry
Ronald 2/24/53 wed Vivian Heitkamp on 9/13/75 reside in Maria Stein
John (Jack) 5/6/54 wed JoAnn Uhlenhake on 11/15/75 reside in Coldwater
Steven 11/11/57 wed Karen Lightner 10/28/89 reside in Dayton
Gary 11/17/60 wed Carol Huwer on 6/5/82 reside in St. Sebastian
Douglas 4/9/70 wed Michelle Bohman on 1/21/95 reside in St. Henry

Ernie is retired from New Idea and hobbies include golfing, sports, walking. Frieda is retired from Coldwater Hospital and hobbies are crafts, baking, sports, walking.

We were married in 1950 and lived in Philothea. Our first child, Connie, was born & baptized there in St. Marys parish church. We bought our first property from Ernie's grandpa, Frank Evers in June 1952. It was located along St. Rt. 119 west of church. Bill and Janice Nagel now own the place. There were about five acres of land so we had two cows, one was a wedding gift from Ernie's parents. We milked the cows by hand and cooled the milk in a tank so we could sell it in the summer. Had to make cottage cheese when it would come back sour. Our next four children Ron, Jack, Steve & Gary were born while we lived in that house.

In 1964 we sold that property to Jim VandenBosh (who years later sold it to the Nagels). At that time we bought a lot across the road from Martin Feltz and started building our present home in Nov. We moved in the last day of Feb. 1965 and have lived here since then. Our youngest son, Doug, was born in 1970 at this location. All five boys were baptized in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church.

43 **Mr. & Mrs. Don Heitbrink**
6536 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Don wed June Heitbrink
children: Jordan & Hannah

44 **Miss Mildred Heitkamp**
6441 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Mildred 8/19/23 is the daughter of Roman and Elenora (Schemmel) Heitkamp. They moved to Cassella in November 1952.

Our family, myself and seven siblings, with our parents sold our farm in Minster and moved to Cassella. Rose (my mother's sister) & William Tumbusch were selling their home to move to a farm on Stelzer Rd., so our family bought their home. Dad took a job at Mersmans in Celina where he worked there until he died at age 65. I worked for Joe & Mary Dahlinghaus at their store. We were very happy in Cassella, we were always busy gardening and were one big family with many good neighbors. Albert & Catherine Feltz and my parents always talked together whenever they could, they also spent a lot of time visiting Adolph & Hilda Tumbusch. It seemed like people spent more time together those years and it was nice to have good neighbors. It really means a lot in time of need.

Mildred is retired from Buckeye Overall and her hobby is helping the elderly and to sew and play cards.

45 **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Heitkamp**
6598 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Robert J. Heitkamp 6/19/34 wed Charlene Muhlenkamp (7/28/39) on 7/21/62 in St. Anthony.
children: Michael 8/28/64 resides in Dayton
Theresa Marie b&d 7/19/65
Diana 1/27/72 resides in Ashtabula, Ohio
Sharon 12/28/66
Jeffrey 1/7/77

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Robert is retired from Copeland and hobbies are fishing and golfing. Charlene is a Manager at Mercer County Elks and hobbies are shopping and mini trips.

Hemmelgarn History

In 1971, after more than 20 years of serving the public, Andy and Peg Hemmelgarn decided to close the Fountain Inn. The facility, which was a restaurant, bar and gas station, had been in operation by the family since 1949.

46 **Mr. & Mrs. Andy Hemmelgarn**
2270 U.S. 127 St. Henry

In 1911, when U.S. 127 was first paved, a well was drilled to supply water for pouring the concrete road. It was a six inch pipe, 200 feet deep. When they struck water, it gushed out 6 ft. high! It was reduced to a smaller pipe and flowed continuously for 40 years. The well was sheltered by as 10 x 20 roof supported by cement pillars connected with seat high railings. It stood until the highway widened in 1950. The well is still in use today, with the aid of a shallow well pump.

In the 1920's Mobile constructed the Fountain Inn. This was a 1 1/2 story home with a lunchroom extending to the front. Gas pumps were installed between the business and the shelter house. There were three proprietors, Wickleman, Wappelhorst, & Bernard, until it closed in 1941 because of the war. In 1942 it was purchased for a home by Leo Hemmelgarn. In 1949 it was converted into a double when Andy Hemmelgarn family moved from Dayton and built the new Fountain Inn. They operated the new Fountain Inn until 1971 when Andy was appointed postmaster at St. Henry .

Andrew Hemmelgarn 2/26/21 wed Margaret (Peg) Hart (5/16/24) on 6/30/45 in St. Wendeln.
children: Carol 6/28/47 wed Ron Muhlenkamp on 11/20/68 reside in Coldwater
Thomas 7/21/50 wed Carol Grieshop 6/17/72 reside in Cassella
Victor 9/7/53 wed Deb Fox on 6/7/74 reside in St. Henry
Ivan born 8/18/57 died 8/28/57
Lora 9/17/59 wed Roger Wilson on 4/17/82 reside in Kettering
Doreen 10/13/65 wed Dan Fullenkamp on 8/21/87 reside in Coldwater
Mary b&d 10/13/65

Andy is a retired Postmaster and his hobby is woodworking and carpentry. Peg is a homemaker and her hobbies are sewing and quilting.

47 **Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hemmelgarn**
6210 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Thomas L. 7/21/50 wed Carol A. Grieshop on (5/25/51) on 6/17/72 at Frenchtown
children: Eric 9/3/73 wed Rebecca Gehret on 5/10/97 reside in New Weston
Brian 11/12/74; Jason 10/9/77; Craig 8/19/79, Joshua 10/28/82

The closing of Fountain Inn coincided with Tom's release from the Army in Dec. 1971 and the forth coming marriage of Tom & Carol (June 72). So the building was designed and completely remodeled into a two story home by Tom & Andy, with lots of help from family and friends. This home was occupied by Tom, Carol and family until their purchase of the Hierholzer property from Alvin and Madonna Bills in 1976. The old house and barn were torn down and a new home was built using lots of lumber from the Hierholzer house in it's construction. The new home has held up well after 20 years and the raising of five boys.

Tom is a carpenter and his hobby is woodworking. Carol is a homemaker and a factory worker, her hobbies are reading, cross stitch and sewing.

48 **Mr. & Mrs. John Hilgeford**
1752 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

John 1/24/67 wed Melissa Schroer (7/28/69) on 6/20/92 in Cassella
(first couple in Cassella to be wed by Fr. Ryder)
children: Justin Lee 1/23/94 and Dillon John 12/4/95

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John is a machinist at Minster Machine and enjoys hunting, TV, cards & auctions while Melissa is a homemaker and enjoys playing with their boys, baking, animals, shopping, cards

We bought the home I lived as a young girl from my widowed mother. She chose to no longer have to worry about keeping it up. Cassella was also between our two work places, Coldwater Machine and Homedco in Ft. Loramie. Our children are the third generation decedents of the Schroer's.

49 **Mr. & Mrs. Dean Homan**

6633 Ashman Rd. Maria Stein

Dean 11/7/66 wed Lori Schwieterman (8/24/67) on 3/16/91 in St. Sebastian

children: Ashley 6/22/92 and Trevor 5/6/94

We built our home in 1991 when we were married. Dean has lived in Cassella on Ashman Rd. all his life.

Dean works for Maria Stein Trenching and farms. Lori is a nurse and her hobby is reading.

50 **Mr. & Mrs. Ivo Homan**

2525 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Ivo 1/19/45 wed Norma Gariety (2/21/45) in April 1969 in Osgood

children: James 3/21/71 resides in Ft. Loramie
Julia 11/9/72 wed Dale Leichliter on 5/3/97 reside in Maria Stein
Angela 11/13/75 resides in Cassella

We chose to live in Cassella because there was a house being built for sale and we wanted to live in the Marion School district and in the country.

Ivo is employed at Minster Machine and Norma is a homemaker.

51 **Mr. & Mrs. Jay Homan**

1880 U.S. 127 Maria Stein

Jay 10/20/63 wed Karen Arling (12/19/63) on 4/14/84 at St. Nicholas in Osgood.

children: Megan 12/31/85 Zachary 9/24/87
Luke 11/28/89 Zebulun 6/4/91

We setteled here after we were married due to Jay's occupation, family farmer, his family's farm was in this area.

Jay is a self employed farmer. Karen is a domestic engineer and her hobbies are driving children everywhere they need to be and reading.

52 **Mr. & Mrs. Lester Homan**

6671 Ashman Rd. Maria Stein

Lester Homan wed Anita Meier

children: Gregg & Jody reside on the lake in Montezuma
Jay & Karen (Arling) reside in Cassella
Dean & Lori (Schwieterman) reside in Cassella
Tom & Jill Eifert reside in Indianapolis
Doug & Tara Partington reside in Reynoldsburg

Lester and Anita have lived on the Homan home place since their marriage in 1961. They lived with Lester's parents Bernard & Catherine (Hoying) Homan. Bernard's mother, Mary Homan, bought the 100 acre farm from Anthony & Catherine (Cron) Beckman in 1924 on the dead end of Ashman Rd. Bernard and Catherine were married 9/7/27 and made their home there. They had one daughter, Dorothy, who married Norman Guggenbiller & now reside in Sharpsburg. They had three sons, Cletus who married Hilda (Unghrn) who lives on their farm in St. Henry, Cletus died in 1980. Clem married Wanda Reithman, they live on a farm in Rossburg. And Lester lives on the homeplace. Catherine died of cancer in 9/62 at age 57. Bernard died in Oct. 1982 at age 83. Both were buried in Cassella's graveyard.

Lester & Anita have five grown & married children, three of whom raise their families in the Cassella community. Lester & Anita's children were all baptized at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and all made their First Communions there also but with four different priests. Fr. VonderHarr,

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for Gregg; Fr. Wyick for Jay; Fr. Parr for Dean & Jill and Fr. Eilerman for Tara. Jay & Karen now farm the Homan homeplace.

53 **Mr. & Mrs. John Huelsman**

2480 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

John 10/4/60 wed Linda Schulze (12/5/63) on 10/5/85 in Maria Stein

children: Brian 1/7/87 Jodi 8/12/89 Jessica 3/13/92

In Nov. 1989 we purchased our current home, the house was available, we liked it and Brian was due in two months. We are parents of three, fifth generation Vondrell descendants living in Cassella.

We work at and are co-owners of Huelsman Automotive, Inc. in Chickasaw and enjoy boating/camping and NASCAR.

54 **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Huelsman**

6473 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Robert 3/18/32 married Malrene Vondrell (1/1/33) on 11/6/54 in Cassella.

children: Tom 7/12/56 wed Kathy Thobe (8/23/58) on 7/10/82 reside in Chickasaw

Judith 3/13/58 wed Dale Huelskamp (9/2/55 - 10/11/94) on 6/30/79

Judith wed Bill Broering (7/12/56) on 11/10/96 reside in Cranberry

John 10/4/60 wed Linda Schulze (12/5/63) on 10/5/85 reside in Cassella

Teresa 5/22/62 wed Don Mescher (12/26/60) on 9/10/83 reside in Cassella

Marlene was born in Cassella, the daughter of August & Margaret Vondrell. When we married my widowed mother became resident housekeeper for Fr. Ed VonderHarr. We made our home in my homeplace where we lived until Nov. 1971 when we built our present home and mom retired.

We are retired owners of Huelsman Automotive Inc. in Chickasaw. Our sons Tom & John and their wives now own and operate the 50 year old business. They are the third generation of Huelsmans to do so.

55 **Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jacobs**

2063 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein

Charles 5/20/66 wed Janine Lange (10/27/68) on 9/15/89 in St. Henry

children: Trevor 5/8/92; Trent 5/8/92; Ryan 6/7/94; Cadence 1/1/97

Charles is a welder at Minster Machine & Janine is a daycare provider & social worker.

56 **Mr. & Mrs. Keith Jones**

6457 Olding Rd. Maria Stein

Keith E. Jones 9/23/63 wed Carol A. Heitkamp (10/14/62) on 10/13/84 in St. Anthony

children: Justin 4/25/90; Jacqueline 8/1/91; Kristina 12/10/92; Christopher 2/18/96

We were married at St. Anthony and then moved to Houston, Texas for six months. Then to Michigan for eight years. On to Coldwater for three years and then to our new home in July of 1996. Keith and a few family members and friends built our home. It was two years in the making but well worth the effort. We are the first generation of our "Jones" family heritage to live the Cassella area.

Keith is a line tech. for Time Warner Cable and his hobby is golf. Carol is a waitress at CasaRodriguiz and her hobbies are crafts and reading.

57 **Mr. & Mrs. Carl Koesters**

6440 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

Carl 12/29/58 wed Sharon Hemmelgarn (9/8/61) on 9/4/82 in St. Henry.

children: Mathew 3/13/84 Jodi b&d 1/24/86 Adam 5/21/87

Greg 11/20/89 Kari 1/28/93

When we were married in 1982 we bought the house, farm buildings and corner field consisting of 18 1/2 acres. In 1994 we purchased the remaining 90 1/2 acres. There have been a lot of changes over the years. My parents used to milk cows, raise hogs and even had a few chickens back then. Sharon & I decided to concentrate on just raising hogs.

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All three generations of the Koesters Family have been members of the Nativity Parish and of the Cassella Community. Our children represent the fouth generation belonging to the Nativity Parish and Cassella Community.

Carl and Sharon are both engaged in farming and Carl is an office manager at Spring Creek Corp. in Sidney while Sharon is a homemaker. Carl's hobbies are snow skiing, volleyball and softball. Sharon's hobbies are snow skiing, cooking and cleaning

58 **Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Koesters**
6422 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

Raymond Koesters 5/22/22 wed Thelma Dahlinghaus (7/4/23) on 2/5/49 in Holy Family Church, Dayton.

Children: Rita wed Art Price on 8/23/75 reside in Greenville
Thomas wed Karen Fenlon on 7/22/78 reside in Indianapolis
June wed Mark Hoying on 1/22/83 reside in McCartyville
John wed Becky Milstead on 11/21/96 reside in Wilmington
Carl wed Sharon Hemmelgarn on 9/4/82 reside in Cassella

Ray is a retired school bus operator and semi-retired farmer, his hobbies are cards & crosswords. Thelma is a domestic engineer and a retired secretary, her hobbies are quilting, cards & crosswords.

Ray Koesters was reared on a farm 1 mile south of Cassella. This farm was purchased by his grandfather, Ray's father bought it from him and Ray bought it from his father. Son, Carl now owns the farm and resides there with his family, their children are fifth generation Koesters to live on the farm.

Thelma Dahlinghaus was reared in Dayton and lived there until the day she married Ray. This was when she gave up the comforts of the city to live on the farm with no indoor plumbing. Nine years later (1958) indoor plumbing was a reality. No electricity was on the farm until 1938. The first tractor was purchase in 1943. The first car on the farm was purchased in 1919.

59 **Mr. & Mrs. Albin Kramer**
1979 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

60 **Mrs. Laurena Kramer**
6998 Ft. Recovery-Minster Rd. Maria Stein

Lawrence Kramer (3/16/10 - 6/2/86) wed Laurena Bergman (9/13/12) on 6/19/35 in St. Johns Church, Maria Stein.

children:Lavern 7/27/36 wed Julie Pendergast 2/14/41 reside in LaGrange, Ill.
Eugene 10/28/37 wed Patricia Subler 6/7/58 reside in Versailles
DorisAnn 10/26/40 wed Wm. Goettemoeller on 6/18/60 reside in Versailles
Marvin 1/14/43 wed Ruth Benzinger on 10/5/44 reside in Westlake, Ohio
Lloyd 4/22/44 wed Sylvia Koverman on 7/20/60 reside in Cassella
Vernon 3/7/48 - 9/17/67
Virgil 3/7/48 - 10/16/76 wed Diane Dues on 8/19/72 resided in Cassella
Rene 10/12/52 wed Luke Klosterman on 8/27/73 reside in Coldwater
Janice 5/13/55 wed Charles Feltz on 12/6/74 reside in Coldwater

The Kramer farm started in 1850 by Joseph & Anna Kramer. They were followed by Henry & Elizabeth Kramer, who were Lawrence's parents, and passed away 28 days apart. We, Lawrence & Lorena, kept on farming and were blessed with 9 children. Two sons are deceased, Vernon lost his life in a car accident and Virgil died of cancer.

I loved farming and was always interested in helping. We lived in an old log house with no electric, we used kerosene lights, and had T.V., telephone, or radio. A few years later we needed to build a new

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house. A basement was dug using horses, and scoops & shovels. The carpenters and help did not carry lunch buckets, we furnished the meals. The homemade bread was very good.

In early spring the men started to plow with horses. Next the ground was worked and planted with wheat, oats, or corn. When the grain was harvested it was first cut with a binder drawn by horses. It was gathered into small shocks, then hauled to the barn where it was thrashed to get the grain out & put in the grainery. The thrashed straw was put into a pile close to the barn to be used for bedding. All the neighbors helped each other. The ladies prepared the meals and there were always plenty of pies. As corn was growing it was plowed with horses to keep the weeds out. In the fall the corn was cut with the binder, shredded, & the corn was put in the cribs. Corn fodder was blown into the barn & used for feeding and bedding.

We had sows. The pigs teeth and tails were clipped and then they were fattened to sell. We butchered several hogs to eat. We also raised beef to sell and to butcher for food. Calves and cows, which we milked by hand, were also raised. A cream separator, that was turned, separated the cream from the milk. The cream was sold and the milk was poured to the chickens and hogs. (This milk tasted better than the milk we now buy at the store!) We bought chicks to grow into laying hens. The eggs were cleaned with a brush & sometimes we dropped them! Then we really had a mess to clean up! Two hens were butchered for soup, which was very good. We also raised fryers to butcher, freeze & eat or to sell. We had noisy geese and the ducks made lots of dirt as they walked, enough of that mess! We sold them all!

We had fruit trees, grapes, and a garden. That meant a lot of canning. We also made our own sauerkraut and pear butter. The pear butter was lots of work and yummy good with homemade bread. We also made our own soap.

A terrible storm took our large well. It also destroyed our strong built barn, the tool shed, brooder house, chicken house, and tool shed. There was heavy damage to the house, fences, and posts. All 500 chickens and some livestock were also gone. It took several years to clean up.

Around 1940, the school bus started to pick up the children for school. Oscar V. Eifert, newly married in 1934, was our principle and organist. He had another teacher to assist teaching. On the day of our son's birthday someone gave him a sucker. The children were all outside playing at the time. Naturally, they all tried to tag him and he fell. The sucker cut his throat and it wouldn't stop bleeding. The teacher had to take him to the doctor, end of happy birthday.

At the Christmas Midnight Mass, all First Communicant girls wore their white dresses & veils. The First Communicant boys wore their dress clothes and a tie. The smallest girl would carry Baby Jesus to the Alter and place Baby Jesus in the crib.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and Parish was blessed with quite a few young men who became priests and several young ladies who became nuns. The Parish is very proud of them.

61

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Kramer
1455 Reichert Rd. Maria Stein

Lloyd Kramer(4/22/44) wed Sylvia Koverman(3/5/47) on 7/20/68 at McCartyville, Ohio
children: Tricia 4/27/69 wed Bryan Langerud on 11/19/94 reside in Scottsdale, Az.
Kristina 9/29/70 wed 10/11/97 to Roy Russel reside in Fairborn, Ohio
Eric 12/16/71 resides in Columbus
Beth 3/24/77, Sara 7/11/78 both are students at Wright State University, Dayton

After their marriage Lloyd & Sylvia Kramer made their home in Cassella on Lawrence & Laurena Kramer's farm 1 1/4 mile S/W of Cassella on Stelzer Rd. This farm was once owned by Clem Huelsman and was purchased by Kramer's in 1975. In 1980 Lloyd & Sylvia purchased and moved their family to Lawrence and Laurena Kramer's home place 1 1/2 mile S/E of Cassella. Their family is the fourth generation living there.

Lloyd is a Salesman with Lefeld Implement and a farmer, his hobby is fishing. Sylvia is a Medical Secretary and she enjoys attending craft shows with friends and baby-sitting their grandson.

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62 **Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kremer**

2068 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Fred 1/8/50 wed Mary Klenke (7/20/54) on 6/30/72 at St. Aloysious

children: Aimee 8/24/72 wed Neal Mescher on 5/20/95 reside in Coldwater

Brian 11/15/73 to 11/16/73 Brent & Brad b&d 7/2/75

Cara 5/22/79 Dayna 4/10/81 Adam 11/18/85

In August of 1972 we moved to Cassella. We rented a farmhouse on Stelzer Rd. from Lloyd Kramer and lived there for eleven years. We then moved to St. Sebastian and rented from Mike Niekamp for two years.

In May 1992 we returned to Cassella after we bought our present home on Cassella - Montezuma Rd. from Irwin & Marie Lochtefeld where we still happily reside.

We are also grandparents. Aimee & Neal have one child who was born September 1996.

Fred is Co-Owner of Haulette Manufacturing, Inc. and his hobbies are photography, golf, and watching NASCAR. Mary is a homemaker, her hobbies are decorating their home and working outside in their yard.

63 **Mr. & Mrs. Don Mescher**

2509 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Don 12/26/60 wed Teresa Huelsman on 9/10/83.

children: Sarah b&d 12/27/84 Katelyn 6/4/87 Kelsey 2/27/90 Andrea 10/2/91

Janelle 5/5-24/93 Allison b&d 8/5/94

In May 1994 we discovered that our sixth child also had a diaphragmatic hernia (this birth defect caused Janelle's death a year earlier) along with a serious brain formation defect. At the same time there was discovery of Fryns Syndrome, a gene mutation which could be responsible for our deceased daughter's birth defects. Our faith in God and the wonderful support of family and friends have helped us through the sadness we have experienced.

We chose to reside in Cassella when our home came up for sale several months before our marriage. Don was from Maria Stein the son of Dennis & Viola (Homan) Mescher and Tess is the daughter of Bob & Marlene (Vondrell) Huelsman and has lived in Cassella all her life. Our children are fifth generation Vondrell's living in Cassella.

Don is a machinist at Crown Equipment in New Bremen and has a landscaping business, his hobbies are sports. Teresa (Tess) is a homemaker and is self-employed as a domestic assistant, her hobbies are being involved with her children and the community.

64 **Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Mescher**

2170 U.S. 127 St. Henry

Kevin 4/8/66 wed Lona Rutschilling (9/9/69) on 5/4/91 in Maria Stein

daughter: Claudia Judith born 10/12/1996

Kevin & Lona moved to Cassella in March 1993 when they purchased their home in the country. Kevin is employed by Crown Equipment in New Bremen and Lona is an x-ray technician at Greenville.

65 **Mr. & Mrs. Joe Meyer**

6569 Ashman Rd. Maria Stein

Joseph Meyer 8/18/62 wed Carol Badgett (1/16/62) on Dec. 1, 1984 in Coldwater

children: Carmen 8/15/94 April 8/15/94 Dustin 1/15/96

Joe & Carol settled in Cassella on the Ashman farm, Joe's great-uncle was Henry Ashman and this farm has been in the Ashman family since the 1830's. Joe & Carol's children are the sixth generation of Ashman descendants to live in Cassella. John Henry Ashman and Maria Elizabeth Boeckmann were wed in 1830 and traveled from Germany to the United States in 1836. They traveled by river, canal, and horseback to the then heavily wooded area that would become Marysville. They were the second family to arrive in that section and spent the first winter sharing a log cabin with six other families. In 1837, they bought land and erected their first home of logs. They farmed and raised six children. A second home

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built in 1880 was brick and with help from family the brick was laid by John Henry at age 87. The property was inherited by their fourth child, Henry and his wife. Who's seventh child, Maria Agnes wed Frank Meyer and their son Hugo was Joe's father. Joe being the first of his parents boys to marry and with the farm located between both Joe and Carol's parent's homes the Ashman farm seemed like a good place to settle. It took a while for us to settle in with the community because everyone assumed we were "just another renter" in the Ashman Farm that had previously been rented for several years. But since we've been here for 13 years, people figure we are here to stay. We hope we can stay forever.

We had a difficult time starting a family. There were many tears and prayers along the way, until Aug. 15, 1994 (almost ten years after our marriage) our twin daughters, Carmen & April were born. That November the Liturgical Committee asked us to be part of the offertory procession during the Thanksgiving Day mass, our three month old daughters would represent new life. We were very touched by this gesture. We were extremely thankful for the arrival of our daughters and Thanksgiving Day was the perfect time to express our thanks to God. Our prayers had been answered, it was a **very very** special Thanksgiving for our new family.

Joe is a dairy farmer and Carol is a teacher. Their hobby is having fun raising their three children.

66 **Mr. & Mrs. Gary Moeller**
2640 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein
Gary 3/11/53 wed Donna Evers (7/23/54)
children: Michelle 5/18/75 resides in Cincinnati
Richard 3/26/76 resides in Cincinnati
Nicholas 3/7/79 Benjamin 4/29/81 Philip 7/24/82
Kevin 4/19/85 Kyle 9/3/86

We purchased our ground from Lester & Anita Homan in the spring of 1981. We then began building our home and in September of that year moved in. Before moving to Cassella we lived the first seven years of our marriage in St. Henry. We chose to move out into the country to raise our children and also move back into the Marion Local area where Gary was raised. He was originally from Chickasaw.

Gary is co-owner of Moeller Trucking, Inc., his hobbies include coaching Little League, watching their children's sports activities and golfing. Donna is a homemaker and works as a bookeeper, her hobbies are reading, walking, and watching their children's sports events.

67 **Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Moeller**
2028 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein
Jerry 10/23/58 wed Karen Otte (10/9/58) on 6/14/80 at Nativity
children: Ryan 4/21/81 Beth 12/27/82
Sarah 5/31/86 Maria 5/23/88

Jerry is employed in the factory of GTI and his hobbies are coaching and playing softball. Karen is employed in the factory of Honda. They both enjoy following their children's sporting activities such as: softball, track, volleyball, basketball, and football.

68 **Mr. & Mrs. Larry Moeller**
6422 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein
Larry H. Moeller 7/29/51 wed Trudy A. Feltz (11/17/50) on 2/11/72 in Cassella
children are James M. 3/18/78 and Christa A. 8/2/80

69 **Mr. & Mrs. Pat Moeller**
6530 Olding Rd. Maria Stein
Patrick (Pat) 7/16/50 wed Susan (Sue) Hausfeld on 9/1/73 in Maria Stein
children: Amy 12/17/74 Kettering College
Ben 7/9/79 resides in Maria Stein
Pat 5/16/80; Nick 9/14/81; Frank 10/4/84;
Mike 7/21/87; Marie 4/1/90; Beth 1/22/94

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Pat is owner of Moeller Door Sales and enjoys scuba diving. Sue is a housewife and her hobbies are reading and crafts.

70 **Mr. & Mrs. Terry Moeller**

2450 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Terry 8/27/55 wed Lisa Ranly (5/18/59)in Aug. 1983

children: Margo 11/12/84; Russell 12/11/85; Jacob 2/4/87;

Daniel 12/28/88; Lucas 7/28/90

Terry's occupation is Moeller Trucking and his hobbies are volleyball & golf. Lisa is a housewife and her hobbies are volleyball and gardening.

71 **Mr. & Mrs. Dave Moorman**

Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

David L. 3/2/65 wed Joan Griesdorn (10/26/64) on 2/9/91 at Nativity

children: Lindsay 4/20/92 Nicole 6/22/94 Kristi 10/2/95

In the summer of 1997 the Moorman's began building their home on Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Dave is Manufacturing Engineer at Agco Manufacturing and his hobbies are sports and bowling. Joan is RCA at Celina Post Office and her hobbies are crafts, walking, watching sporting events.

72 **Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Muhlenkamp**

2114 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Charles Muhlenkamp 3/18/52 wed Linda Moeller (4/21/54) on 2/21/73 in Chickasaw

children: Jason 7/18/73 resides in Cassella

Scott 6/16/75 wed Jill Siegel on 10/19/96 reside in New Bremen

Amanda 7/9/79 Eric 1/18/82

We moved to Cassella in late 1983 from Carthagena. We are a first generation family of Muhlenkamps living in Cassella.

We find that Cassella is a very nice town to live in, and enjoy the rural area and friendly neighbors.

Charlie is a driver for and part owner of Moeller Trucking and Linda works at Reynold & Reynolds in Celina. Her hobby is reading and their family enjoys camping.

73 **Mr. & Mrs. Bill Nagel**

6401 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

William 4/3/45 wed Janice Sutter (9/2/47) on 11/23/67 in Sharpsburg.

children: Kevin 8/29/68 wed Brenda Post on 7/9/94 reside in Maria Stein

Theodore 1/3/70 wed Jill Heitkamp on 3/22/97 reside in Maria Stein

Teresa 4/16/73 resides in Cassella

Bill is employed at Minster Machine as an inspector and his hobbies are sports and gardening. Janice is a parts-person employed at Huelsman Automotive, Inc. her hobby is reading.

Herman Otte descendants

Herman Otte was born Sept. 24, 1835 at Neunkirchen, Germany. He married Feb. 19, 1872 to Bernadine Bouvier born Sept. 14, 1843 at Vinte. They sailed to America with their family on April 29, 1885. Herman Otte died July 1, 1902 at Cassella.

Their children were: Wilhelmina (12-21-1873) Heinrich (Henry) (7-19-1876)

August (1-7-1879) Johanna (8-16-1882)

When they came to America, they settled down on a farm south of Cassella. Currently the Leonard Otte Farm, 195 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein.

Wilhelmina wed Frank Dirksen Henry wed Elizabeth Roettgerman

August wed Veronica Langenkamp Johanna wed Edward Dirksen

August Otte married Veronica (dau. of Frank & Dorothia (Timmerman) Langenkamp)

August & Veronica's children are:

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1 Hilda (wed Frank Stammen) 2 Lauretta (wed Lawrence Meyer)
3 Marie (wed Aloys Unrast) 4 Alvina (wed Richard Kunk)
5 Urban (single died 1963 age 48) 6 Louis (wed Irene Prenger 4/16/41)
7 Bernadine (wed Edward Stammen) 8 Alma (wed Jerome Fullenkamp)
9 Leonard (wed Lauretta Mescher) 10 Albert (wed Leanore Barhorst)
11 Dorothy Otte (wed Bernard Gaerke) 12 Irene (wed Jerome Reinhard)

74 **Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Otte**
6265 Dirksen Rd. Maria Stein

Charles 7/14/53 wed Kathleen Schulze (4/9/55) on 4/30/77 at Russia.
children: Kevin 3/14/78; Randall 11/21/79; Karla 7/17/82; Chad 5/19/84;
Jeffrey 8/7/86; Marcus 6/2/88; Jodi 7/19/92

Charlie has lived all his life in Cassella, born and raised on the home place. He and Kathy, who is originally from Russia, are raising their seven children on the home place.

Charlie is a farmer and his hobby is watching the kids activities. Kathy is an R.N. and her hobby is crafts.

75 **Mr. & Mrs. Don Otte**
203 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Don wed Sandy Brunswick
children: Heather, Matt, Henry, Craig and Dan

76 **Mr. & Mrs. John Otte**
220 U.S. 127 Maria Stein

John U. 3/5/47 wed Ruth A. Siefring (11/12/46) on 1/31/70 at St. Bernard, Burketsville
children: Michael J. 1/8/71
Angela M. 1/18/72 wed Todd Francis on 10/7/95 reside Cassella
Bradley M. 5/12/76 Kenneth L. 10/30/78 Cynthia 3/28/82

John is a farmer and chooses farming as his hobby also. Ruth is a housewife and Nativity's Parish secretary, her hobbies include crafts & crocheting.

77 **Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Otte**
195 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Leonard 11/20/23 wed Loretta Mescher (2/3/25)
children: Donald 5/19/50 wed Sandra Brunswick 6/28/75 reside in Cassella
Thomas 2/16/52 wed Christine Hoehne on 11/19/77 reside in Osgood
Roberta 11/30/53 resides in West Carolton
August 8/27/55 wed Denise DeMange reside in Russia
Leonard Jr. born in 1957
Mary Catherine born in 1959
Kathy 7/5/60 wed Tim Landess on 6/13/81 reside in Centerville
Richard 12/6/63 resides in Cassella
Charlene 8/23/67 wed Joe Barlage on 4/9/88 reside in Burketsville

Leonard is the son of August & Veronica (Langenkamp) Otte. Leonard went to the Hartings school which was located by the Maurice Harting farm on the south side of Cassella-Montezuma Rd.

Leonard and Loretta purchased the farm from his mother and now the farm is in partnership as Leonard Otte & Sons. Partners are Leonard, Donald, Thomas, & Richard.

Leonard is a farmer and his hobby is working on electronics. Loretta is a homemaker.

78 **Mr. & Mrs. Louis Otte**
6123 Dirksen Rd. Maria Stein

Louis married Irene Prenger on April 16, 1941 in Egypt, Ohio

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children: Marlene 10/31/42 wed James Dahlinghaus on 9/8/62 reside in Maria Stein
Joe 10/12/43 wed Judy Smith on 10/11/69 reside in North Star
Martha 12/4/44 wed Robert Pohlman on 4/15/67 reside in Maria Stein
John 3/5/47 wed Ruth Siefring on 1/31/70 reside in Cassella
Dianne 12/28/49 wed William Glaser on 11/25/71 reside in Celina
Charles 7/14/53 wed Kathy Schulze on 4/30/77 reside in Cassella
Ruth 7/4/55 wed Joe Kahlig on 9/20/75 reside in Celina
Karen 10/9/58 wed Jerry Moeller on 6/14/80 reside in Cassella

Louis and Irene rented a farm from his father on Dirksen Rd. a half mile from the home place. They were blessed with eight children, three of their children and their families are members of the Nativity Parish, John & Ruth; Charles and Kathy; and Karen & Jerry Moeller. When we started farming we had four horses for power, but we soon traded two horses for a small tractor and a one bottom plow. We had electric but no indoor plumbing or refrigeration. We heated the house and cooked on wood burning stoves. As the years went by we modernized and things got easier. We stayed on the farm till Charlie got married. Then we built a house about a half mile away on Dirksen Rd., where we still reside. We are the third generation of Otte's living in this parish.

Louis is a retired farmer and his hobby is helping the boys on the farm. Irene is a homemaker and enjoys reading and crossword puzzles.

79 **Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Quinter**
5939 St. Rt. 119 St. Henry

Herbert 8/30/29 wed Margaret Mertz (1/30/33)
children: Anna 10/30/54 wed John Garman on 6/5/76 reside in Celina
Pauline 1/30/56 wed Russell Kyburz on 5/6/78 reside in New Bremen
Virginia 11/25/58 we Leo Lefeld on 1/15/82 reside in St. Henry
Benedict 6/30/60 wed Kimberly Ahlers in 6/79 divorced in 1991 reside in St. Henry
Kathleen 7/15/64 wed Bruce Cyphers on 6/11/82 reside in St. Marys
John 8/24/91 wed Tracy Kittleman on 10.2.68 reside in St. Henry

What brought us to Cassella was a house for rent, the house we are living in now. Afterward we bought the home from Ott Evers. We are the only generation of Quinters residing in Nativity's parish.

Herbert is a retired truck driver, with hobbies of truck and tractor driving. Margaret is a retired homemaker.

80 **Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pleiman**
1773 Cassella - Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Jim 12/4/35 wed Joan Homan (6/25/39) on 8/4/62 Coldwater, Ohio
children: MaryAnn 7/21/63 wed Mark Stucke 8/8/87 reside in Frenchtown
David 5/13/67 wed Laura Dues 12/4/93 reside in Maria Stein
Dean 12/9/68 resides in Cassella
Diane 11/27/70 resides in Chapel Hill in Maria Stein

At the age of twelve Jim's family moved to Cassella, from Osgood. When Jim and Joan were married in 1962 they purchased one acre of land. They built a new home there and in 1974 they purchased 50 acres from Jim's parents Margaret & Ed. Joan's parents are Joe & Apollonia (Stammen) Homan from St. Anthony.

Jim is a welder at Agco in Coldwater and his hobbies are camping, riding bike, and gardening. Joan works at Heritage Manor and enjoys camping and going to craft shows

81 **Mr. & Mrs. Ed Pleiman Jr.**
1802 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein

Edward Pleiman Jr. 3/16/48 wed Linda Moeller (7/12/50) on 10/3/70 in St. John Church
children: Todd 12/8/72 resides in Dayton Amy 1/21/76 is a student in Dayton
Gail 8/28/79 Kelly 9/8/86

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Fr. Parr married Ed & Linda (Moeller) in 1970 at St. Johns Church in Maria Stein and then moved to Cassella where he baptized their first three children, Todd in 1972, Amy in 1976, Gail in 1979. Fr. Eilerman baptized Kelly in 1986.

They reside on the Pleiman home place, purchased by Ed's parents in September 1947. Ed & Linda have celebrated two anniversaries in their machine shed - 10th and 25th with family, friends and neighbors being invited.

Ed is a business manager at Serenity Music in Maria Stein, his hobby is boating on St. Marys Lake. Linda is an Insurance Agent at Leugers Insurance in Maria Stein and her hobby is watching movies.

82 **Mr. Ed Pleiman Sr.**

1921 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Ed & Margaret married and moved to Cassella in Sept. 1947. They lived there two days when a tornado went through and completely destroyed their barn and took the top of their house off. The new neighbors and friends helped to rebuild the barn and rebuild the top of the house.

Ed & Margaret's children are Jim, Nick, Jerry, Patricia (Sr. Grace), Johanna, Teresa and Ed Jr.

Ed & Margaret Pleiman Sr.'s daughters were married at Nativity by Fr. Ed VonderHarr, & Sr. Grace had a special Mass in becoming a nun.

After Margaret died Ed married Alice Mertz and moved to Celina. When Alice died in July of 1996 Ed returned to his home on Cassella-Montezuma Rd.

83 **Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pohlman**

6630 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Joe 7/2/47 wed Diane Bergman (5/4/48) on 5/10/69 in Rhine, Ohio

children: Denise 8/18/70 resides Piqua
David 7/16/72
Jennifer 4/27/76
Jayne 6/23/80

In the fall of 1968 we purchased our home and eleven acres from Leon & Rosie Vondrell. We moved in May of 1969. We are the first generation that moved into Cassella.

Millwright at Agco Corporation and farming. Secretary at Marion Mutual Insurance, her hobbies are flowers and doing crafts.

84 **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Puthoff**

2051 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Mark wed Beth Kronenberger

children: Amanda, Victoria and Madison

85 **Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ranly**

6442 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Arthur E. Ranly 12/24/24 wed Eileen Link (5/8/31) on 4/29/50 in Cranberry Prairie.

children: John 1/31/51 wed Jan Rosenbeck 12/18/71 reside in Cassella
Kristina 5/6/52 to 1/16/70
Kathleen 12/22/53 wed Leon Homan 7/26/74 reside in New Bremen
Jeffrey 9/21/55 wed Barbara Wehrmeyer on 11/15/80 reside in Dayton
Peggy Ann 3/3/57 wed Steven Hirsch on 10/8/83 reside in Canton
Lisa 5/18/59 wed Terry Moeller 8/6/83 reside in Cassella
Joel 7/14/61 wed Sheri Huber on 6/6/87 reside in St. Henry
Martin 9/4/63 wed Carol McIntyre on 10/14/89 reside in Ft. Wayne
Matthew 11/7/64 wed Beth Piening on 7/2/88 reside in New Bremen
Laura 6/24/67 to 10/10/88
Jason 12/6/72 will wed Becky Prenger on 9/6/97

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I was born in Cassella on 12/24/24 son of Peter and Sophia (Speck) Ranly. Eileen was born to Urban and Augusta (Muhlenkamp) Link in Cranberry Prairie.

I graduated from St. John High School in 1943. In high school I played on the baseball and basketball team for four years. I also played over 20 years with the Cassella Owls baseball team.

Served in the Navy during war time (World War II) and received five battle stars. I am a past post and district commander of the American Legion. Also the first life member of The Post 571 of Maria Stein. I am 50 year member of the Legion as well as the Catholic Knights of America Branch No. 943. I served many years as National Rep. of the C.K. of A. and served on the National Board of Trustees for 17 years. The C.K. of A. Home office is in St. Louis, Mo. I have been the C.K. of A. Insurance Agent since 1952 - 45 years. Have also been custodian of the Branch Hall since 1956.

Art is retired after 30 years of publishing the Mercer County Chronicle, his hobbies are fishing, watching ball games and playing cards. Eileen is a homemaker and her hobbies are knitting, crocheting and playing piano.

86 **Mr. Jason Ranly**
6493 St. Rt 119 Maria Stein

Jason Ranly 12/6/72 to wed Becky Prenger on 9/6/97

Jason works at Bergman Tool and Becky is a college student. They plan to make their home in Cassella.

87 **Mr. & Mrs. John Ranly**
6453 Olding Rd. Maria Stein

John 1/31/51 wed Jan Rosenbeck (9/20/51) on 12/18/71 in Chickasaw

children: Jared 6/9/76 Jesse 11/12/78 Jordan 12/20/80
Justin 12/29/82 Jamee 8/6/85

John & Jan built their home in 1974-75 on land purchased from Julius Ahrns. They are fifth generation Ranly's living in Cassella.

John is a project engineer at Dannon in Minster, his hobby is golf. Jan is a teacher and her hobby is reading.

88 **Mr. & Mrs. Carl D. Rehmert**
1760 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Carl 5/16/27 wed Julienne Schmidt (9/5/31) on 9/4/81 in Celina

children: Kathryn 2/17/53 wed Bill Gray reside in Manchester, Ohio
Robert McDowell 1/11/55 to 7/88
Gary McDowell 2/18/56 wed Linda Madison reside in West Union, Ohio
Judith Gore 9/4/58 reside in Celina
Barbara Wenning 10/24/59 wed Jerome Wenning reside in Celina
Daniel McDowell 4/4/61 resides in Celina
Steven McDowell 9/27/62 resides in Celina
Rita 3/11/64 wed Doug Bigelow reside in Celina
James C. McDowell 9/19/65 reside in Celina
Kevin McDowell 8/20/67 resides in New Weston
Elana 3/21/70 wed Mike Howard reside in Celina
Deb 5/5/57 wed Mark Emerick reside in Eaton
Kim 7/7/62 wed Tom Michael reside in New Paris, Ohio

We bought our home (the old Gruenwald Convent) from Joe & Loretta Schroer. We wanted to move back to Mercer County and Loretta (Julienne's cousin) knew we were looking for a place big enough for all of us.

Carl is retired from Price Brothers and Julienne is self employed.

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89 **Mr. & Mrs. John Reichert**
1227 Reichert Rd Maria Stein

John 3/18/58 wed Bernice Post (3/18/58) on 5/3/80 in St. Wendelin
children: Lynn 9/14/84 Amy 6/26/87 Elizabeth 10/28/90

We are self-employed dairy farmers, Bernice's hobbies are reading and crafting. At the time of our marriage we bought Othmar & Lorena Reichert's farm (John's parents) and reside there. Our children are the fifth generation of Reicherts in Cassella.

90 **Mr. & Mrs. Larry Reichert**
6492 Huwer Rd. Maria Stein

Larry 3/1/65 wed Lynne Heitbrink (7/1/65) on 10/3/87 at St. Joseph's in Egypt.
children: Matthew 4/9/91 Jason 3/15/93 Ross 7/21/95

Larry was born & raised here. He is the fifth generation to operate the Reichert dairy farm. Larry is a farmer and hobbies are sports. Lynne is a beautician and hobbies are crafts.

91 **Mr. & Mrs. Othmar Reichert**
1226 Reichert Rd Maria Stein

Othmar 2/23/17 wed Lorena Wynk (2/26/22) on 6/26/48 in Guadeloupe
Children: Dorothy 4/5/49 wed Jim Wiley on 5/4/73 reside in Celina
MaryLou 12/8/50 wed Jack Wenning 7/8/72 reside in Coldwater
Betty 4/2/52 wed Richard Brisch on 7/8/73 reside in Appletoon, Wisc.
Joe 9/27/53 wed Diane Geier on 5/23/81 reside in Ft. Loramie
Marge 9/22/55 wed John Buschur 10/16/76 reside in North Star
Virginia 9/18/56 wed Mike Bensman 10/21/78 reside in Minster
John 3/18/58 wed Bernice Post on 5/3/80 reside in Cassella

Othmar is a farmer and Lorena is a housewife.

I was born in Cassella in 1917, the third generation of the Reicherts. In our log house lived my grandma, my parents & eight children, three babies died when very young. Our home was heated with wood made by dad & the boys. In the summer we would use the summer kitchen which had a large brick oven used to bake bread, cookies & pies.

In the morning Dad would harness the horse for grandma to go to church and bring us to school. Sometimes we had to walk the two miles to school.

Work was done by hand, we milked the cows & then separated the milk from the cream. Cream was sold and the skim milk was given to the pigs. We had a large kettle close to the hog stable & in the winter time the so called "slop" was heated for the pigs. We also raised chickens for eggs and yes, chickens were quit often at our door. Work was done by horses, we had one riding plow and whoever was lucky enough to use it since the other plow had to be walked all day. We bought our first John Deere tractor in 1931.

We also raised our own horses, at one time we had eleven horses. During the spring time it was interesting to see the little colts, pigs, calves, and baby chicks.

Our first car was called an Overland, not too many were sold. Through the eighty years I like my Dodge.

92 **Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Reichert**
6494 Huwer Rd. Maria Stein

Ralph Reichert 5/14/27 wed Alfrieda Everman (9/9/28) on 5/29/48 In St. Johns Church in Marie Stein.
Children: Judith Ann 4/1/49 reside in Osgood
Kathryn 2/11/51 wed Wm. Howard on 3/22/86 reside in Wendelin
Madonna 4/9/52 wed Cy Brunswick on 5/4/74 reside in St. Peter
Ed 6/12/53 reside in Yorkshire
Irene 7/30/54 wed Ralph Roessner on 6/11/77 reside in Ft. Recovery
Ernest 9/12/55 - 10/13/74

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Karen 2/5/47 wed Ed Rauh on 8/21/81 reside in Sharpsburg
Daniel 1/20/59 resides in Celina
Evelyn 9/16/61 wed Herb Grillot 11/1/95 reside in St. Henry.
Ralph Jr. 6/2/63 reside in Muncie, Ind.
Larry 3/1/65 wed Lynne Heitbrink on 10/3/87 reside in Cassella
Ronald 4/4/67 wed Julie Bergman on 3/4/89 reside in Osgood.

Ralph is retired from farming and his hobby is woodworking. Alfrieda will never retire from homemaking but enjoys hobbies of making and quilting quilts.

On May 27, 1884 Philomena Ronnebaum & Henry Ronnebaum to John Reichert Sr. Southeast corner of Section 31, Town 7 South of Range 3 East beginning at the SE corner of said section 31 running west 60 rods thence north 32 rods thence east 60 thence south 32 rods to the place of the beginning 12 acres. Cost $412.50

Bernard Ungruhn & Elizabeth to John Reichert Sr. 68 acres $3900.

John Reichert Sr. died Oct. 26, 1894, he willed his farm to John Reichert Jr. John Reichert Jr. died June 1, 1897 leaving his wife Catherine Reichert, sons Edward age 9, Alois age 7, Willibald age 5 and Bernard age 1. Aug. 7, 1901 Catherine (Reichert) Schwieterman deeded the farm to Edward, Alois & Willibald. Bernard was deceased. She then leased the farm.

On Dec. 28, 1914 Alois Reichert & wife Anna Reichert & Willibald Reichert sold to Edward Reichert the farm for $5,866. Then on June 25, 1963 Ralph & Alfrieda Reichert bought the farm from Ralph's mother Clara Reichert. Now in 1997 the farm is in the process of being sold to Larry & Lynne Reichert.

93 **Mr. & Mrs. Walter Schmiesing**
6408 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Walter Schmiesing 6/27/16 wed MaryAnn Grevenkamp (5/5/18) on 10/24/36 at Nativity
children: Robert b&d 2/25/39
Dianne 12/5/42 wed Larry Dicke on 4/20/63 reside in St. Marys
Elaine 1/1/52 wed Dave Brunswick on 8/11/73 reside in Cassella
Margaret (Peg) 9/30/58 wed Mike Albers 8/20/76 reside in Cassella

I (Walter) was born in Egypt, Ohio and came to Cassella in 1936 when we were married. The home we live in was built in 1912 by my father-in-law, John Grevenkamp and his wife Katherine who lived here before we did. We own land north of Cassella which was purchased in July of 1937 from Henry & Pauline Vondrell.

We are the third generation living in Cassella, our children are the fourth and grandchildren the fifth generation living in Cassella.

Walter is a retired Mercer Co. Commissioner and his hobbies are wood working and lawn work. MaryAnn is a housewife and her hobbies are reading and flowers.

94 **Mr. & Mrs. Ron Schoenlein**
6693 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Ron 8/23/52 wed Linda Buening (10/6/54) wed 5/24/75 in Coldwater.
children: Sarah Ann 5/25/77 Matt Joseph 10/20/79
Jodi Elizabeth 4/22/81 Tammy Marie 11/15/84

Our farm has been in the Schoenlein family since the early 1960's when it was purchased from the Frenzer family by Ron's dad, Albert. The farm had been in the Frenzer name for many years. So long in fact that quite often, today yet, it is still called "the old Frenzer place."

Ron's brother, Paul bought the farm from their dad, Albert. Paul, Phyllis and their family lived here for nine years before selling the farm to Ron. It became Ron and Linda's home when they were married in 1975.

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Ron is the son of Albert and Victoria (Broerman) Schoenlein and Linda is the daughter of Albert and Jane (Ahlers) Buening.

Our home was built around 1875, so that makes it almost 125 years old. It was originally a square brick house, however aluminum siding was placed over the brick in the late 60's. The outside and inside main walls of the house are made out of rows of brick, 12" thick. They have all been covered with plaster. In the attic of our house and in our machine shed you can still see the hand chopped beams and large wooden spikes that were used in building all those years ago.

We both enjoy spending time with our families. We also like to try to attend our children's various activities, which at this time include cross country, football, band, CYO basketball, track and softball.

Ron is engaged in farming and also works at S&K Products as a pressroom supervisor and die setter. Linda is also employed at S & K Products as a secretary/receptionist, her hobbies are reading, baking, and teaching C.C.D.

95 **Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Schulze**
1924 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Erwin 4/9/39 wed Eileen Hartings (9/16/42) on 10/27/62 in St. Rose.
children: Karen 9/9/63 wed Jerry Tangeman 5/22/87 reside in Maria Stein
Jerry 12/7/64 wed Joan Wehrman on 10/26/91 reside in Osagood
Mark 2/19/67 wed Kristine Wattercutter on 5/27/88 reside in St. Henry
Dale 8/17/68 resides in Maria Stein
Lillian 1/24/70 wqed Bradley Bruns on 7/29/89 reside in Willowdell
Joseph born 7/14/71 died 7/15/71
Randy 8/15/73
Matt 10/24/80

Erwin was raised on a farm near Osgood, Ohio. Eileen grew up on the Hartings farm in St. Rose. The first year after we were married, we lived in Chickasaw where Karen was born. Shortly after Karen was born, we moved to St. Rose where we rented a house that was then owned by Rosemary Lochtefeld. Jerry and Mark were born during that time. After four years, we were ready for a home of our own. Cassella seemed like a good place to raise a family. We liked the area and the people. We were able to purchase a piece of land from Albert & Bertha Dippold. We built a new home and moved in around Thanksgiving 1967. Our children, Dale, Lil, Joseph, Randy and Matt were born here. We will soon be living in Cassella 30 years. We can honestly say "Cassella is a good place to raise a family, and there are a lot of nice people living here."

Erwin is a molder at Minster Machine and his hobbies are honeybees, woodworking and gardening. Eileen is a homemaker and her hobbies are sewing, embroidering and genealogy.

96 **Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Schwieterman**
6483 Olding Rd Maria Stein

Glenn 7/25/61 wed MaryJo Dues (7/23/62) 5/31/86 in St. Wendelin
children: Jena 1/30/89 Kensey 10/20/90 Nicole 10/4/92

Our three daughters were all baptized in Cassella but all three by different priests. Jena by Fr. Eilerman; Kensey by Fr. Bauer and Nicole by Fr. Ryder.

Glenn is a NC programmer at Stamco in New Bremen and Jo is a teacher at Ft. Recovery. Glenn's hobby is golf and Jo's are reading and walking.

97 **Mr. & Mrs. Bill Schwieterman**
6381 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Bill wed Dawn Wuebker
children: Candace, Dustin and Chelsey

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98 **Mr. & Mrs. Ron Siegrist**

1737 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Ron 3/2/54 wed Diane M. Gariety (6/2/58) on 8/26/78.

children: Lindsey 2/17/84 Justin 5/27/87 Eric 3/18/91

Ron & I moved to the homeplace right after we were married. Ron is the third generation Siegrist to farm the farm. Many changes have been made, but to date the summer kitchen still remain along with the butchering fire place in one of the out buildings. Mother Nature took care of blowing down the out-house (a four seater, two high and two low) some ten years ago.

Ron is involved in farming and poultry, his hobbies are snow skiing, ice skating, and rollerblading. Diane is employed by St. Henry bank and is a homemaker, her hobbies are snow skiing, reading, and flower gardening.

99 **Mr. & Mrs. Sylvan Siegrist**

1565 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Sylvan 10/14/21 wed Alfrieda Evers (3/30/20) on 1/13/48 at Nativity.

children: Elaine 6/12/50 wed Edward Limbert on 9/13/75 reside in Botkins

Janet 11/27/52 wed Timothy Beckman on 11/6/76 reside in Wapokoneta

Ronald 3/2/54 wed Diane Gariety on 8/26/77 reside in Cassella

Sandra 10/14/55 wed Thomas Wellman on 5/3/80 reside in Maria Stein

Silvia 10/14/55 wed Larry Henry on 4/8/77 reside in Versailles

I am the second generation living in Cassella of our family. My parents, John & Philomena (Braun) Siegrist, were both born and raised in St. Peter Parish, Mercer County, Ohio. They were married at St. Peter and Urban, Katherine and Helen were born before they moved to Cassella in 1911. They brought with them John's widowed mother, Elizabeth (Borns) Siegrist. John & Minnie had Cletus, Verena, Sylvan, Rita and John after living in Cassella.

I was born & raised on this farm which I purchased in Dec. 1947 from my mother's estate. My father had died nine moths earlier in Aug. 1946. In my youth we had a natural gas well, which supplied us with gas for cooking and lighting in the house. In winter we burned wood in a heating stove to heat a few rooms. In severe winter weather holy water froze upstairs in the front.

We used natural gas until 1927 when my father had electricity installed for light and power and purchased a propane gas stove for cooking. In 1952 I had a fuel oil furnace installed to replace the wood stove. The next year we had plumbing and an indoor toilet. No more trips in the cold weather to the little house and in the summer to fight the wasps who had taken up residence there.

In January of 1948 I married Alfrieda Evers of St. Wendelin Parish. In our first year we sold our horses, replacing them with a small tractor.

Our five children were all baptized, received their First Communion, Confirmed and our four girls were married in Cassella while Ron married Diane in her home parish of St. Remy, Russia, Ohio.

Sylvan is a retired farmer and his hobby is reading. Alfrieda is a retired (?) homemaker and her hobby is sewing.

20 **Mrs. Dorothy Smith**

6207 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Robert Nelson Smith 1/9/17 - 10/1/96 wed Dorothy Katherine Abels (10/27/15) on 8/13/49 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Dayton.

Robert's two children from his first marriage:

Dolores Ann 8/6/36 wed Kenneth Brewer reside in Madison, Wi.

Charlene Maude 11/27/39 wed Ed Aper and reside in Springfield, Ohio

children of Dorothy and Robert:

Juanita Mary 8/1/50 wed Gary Lee Buening and reside in Cassella.

Robert Joseph 3/8/57 wed Sharon Kravitz reside in Delaware, Ohio

Craig Howard 9/9/58 wed Valerie Stinson reside in Oakdale, Wi.

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Dorothy was sixth of eleven children and raised on the family farm in Philothea that had been in the family since 1850. She reicieved the sacrements of baptism, confession, First and Solemn Communions and Confirmation at St. Marys Church in Philothea. St. Marys Church has been the center of Dorothy's family for six generations. Juanita was also a member of St. Marys Parish when she stayed and took care of her Grandmother for two years.

Dorothy was the first in her family to attend high school.

Robert was an only child, born in Celina, and lived there for two years before moving to Dayton. Robert's uncle owned a farm on 127 between Cassella and North Star, the barn still stands where he used to help his uncle with chores. Robert's mother was from Montezuma.

Robert was a convert to the Catholic Church in 1947. He recieved the sacrements of Baptism, Confession, First Comunion, Confirmation and Marriage in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Dayton.

He found Catholicism to be an anchor in his life and a was a very devout Catholic. He found Nativity to be a very lovely small church and parish - he loved it. He became very fond of Father Ryder also.

Dorothy & Robert made their home with Juanita and Gary Buening's family in March 1995. Robert had a heart attack and stroke in March 1995 and the couple could no longer live by themselves. Robert's funeral mass was Oct. 4, 1996 (Feast of St. Francis of Assissi) and was at Nativity, he was buried at Philothea in St. Marys Cemetery. Dorothy loves being "back home" in a small German Catholic Community, she has grown very fond of Nativity. She often asks "Why don't they have Solemn Communion any more?". She used to enjoy the old Latin masses, and misses the use of the communion rail. She feels religion should still be allowed in schools, there would be less violence and more respect. She also feels the priest should visit the religion classes more often. It builds more respect for the priests by the children.

She really loves the Land of the Cross Tipped Churches.

100 **Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Stucke**
1988 Stelzer Rd. Maria Stein

Ronald L. Stucke 2/4/45 wed Carolyn Sudhoff (12/24/45) on 12/27/67 in St. Anthony
children: Denise 9/25/69 wed John Hoellerich Jr. on 5/27/95 reside in Columbus
Charles 11/27/71
Randolph 2/19/73 wed Lynn Homan 9/27/97
Abbigail 11/27/76 Allison 8/24/78 Russell 7/10/80

When we were ready to build a home we purchased the lot from Romie Schoenlein in 1970.

Ron is a Concrete Construction Foreman and his hobby is Beekeeping and gardening. Carolyn is church musician, teacher, D.R.E. and hobbies are sewing and reading.

101 **Mr. & Mrs. James Thobe**
6249 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Jim 1/12/55 wed Phyllis May (12/7/50) in November 1978
children: Chad 5/11/80 Jamie 9/11/81
Ryan 2/3/84 Travis 1/5/88

We moved to Cassella because we bought the family business (Jim's dad retired from the milk hauling business) in 1985.

Jim is a milk truck driver and his hobbies are camping and boating. Phyllis is a secretary and her hobbies are tennis and boating.

102 **Mr. & Mrs. Joe Thobe**
6225 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Joe 7/14/60 wed Karen Clune (8/14/56) on 9/2/85 in St. Henry Catholic Church.
son: Corey 4/14/80

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Joe is a factory worker at Crown Equipment in New Bremen and also coaches Jr. High track, his hobby is softball. Karen works at Phelan Insurance with insurance and marketing, her hobbies are walking and bowling.

103 **Linda Thobe**
5687 St. Rt. 119 St. Henry

104 **Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Tuente**
2744 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Marv 1/6/56 wed Carol Unrast (2/15/58) on 8/5/78 in St. Henry
children: Trisha 6/27/82 Kristy 6/6/84 Craig 2/24/88

Marv & Carol chose Cassella to live in because there was a lot available to purchase and build their home on. Marv is employed by Homan Equipment as General Manager and enjoys golf. Carol is a homemaker and helps with the family's Starter Turkey House, her hobbies are walking, reading, & crafts.

105 **Mrs. Hilda Tumbusch**
6452 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

Adolph Tumbusch 2/24/03 to 5/16/66 wed Hilda Reichert (5/24/03) on 10/16/29
daughter: Viginia wed Joe Baumer 10/22/55 reside in Minster

Hilda was born to Frank & Elizabeth (Koesters) Reichert and Adolph was born to Bernard & Elizabeth (Knoth) Tumbusch. Hilda now resides in Minster at Heritage Manor Nursing Home.

106 **Mrs. Margaret Vondrell**
6471 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

August C. Vondrell 3/14/1890 to 5/25/45 wed Margaret Grilliot (7/18/06) on 9/3/27 at North Star.
children: Sylvia 10/19/28 wed Robert Shepherd (6/2/22) on 8/26/66 reside in Elyria, Ohio
Dale 2/15/31 wed Betty Gremling (4/19/31) on 6/21/52 in Lima; reside in Lima,
Marlene 1/1/33 wed Robert Huelsman (3/18/32) on 11/6/54 reside in Cassella
John 8/16/36 wed Carol Coufalik (8/8/38) on 6/11/60 reside in Milwaukee

After our marriage I moved into my husband's home where I still live today. This home was owned by Frank Feltz Sr. and was moved from the NE corner of 119 & Cass-Mont Rd. after his family out grew it. When August was a child his family owned the farm where the Mike Albers family lives today. August was the second generation of the Vondrell's.

107 **Mr. & Mrs. Andy Will**
2384 Cassella-Montezuma Rd. Maria Stein

Andrew J. Will 7/3/65 wed Shirley Meyer (7/27/59) on 6/4/88 in St. Anthony.
children: Angela 7/14/89 John 6/14/91 Amy 1/16/96

Andy is an Operation Manager at S&K products and his hobby is woodworking. Shirley is a homemaker and her hobbies are gardening and flowers.

108 **Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wuebker**
6926 St. Rt. 119 Maria Stein

James 3/3/63 wed Jane Poeppelman (12/8/65) on 4/29/89
children: Emily Anne 6/14/90 Carl James 8/9/91
Mark Richard 3/1/94 Elizabeth Jane 3/3/96 expecting in Sept.

We are the second and third generation of Wuebkers living in this home, which was built in 1882. Jim's parents, Carl & Hilda, bought the farm in 1969 from Ernest & Elizabeth Puthoff. When we were married in April 1989 when Jim's mother built a new home across the road from the farm.

Jim is a farmer and his hobby is fishing. Jane is a registered nurse and her hobby is crafts.

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109 **Mrs. Hilda Wuebker**
6915 St. Rt. 1189 Maria Stein

Carl A . 6/21/20 - 8/3/74 wed Hilda M. Siefring (5/6/24) on 4/30/49 in St. Wendelin
children: Kenneth 2/11/50 wed Kay (Marshal) Thobe 12/27/85 reside in Maria Stein
Viginia 3/21/51 wed Nick Dicke on 2/3/73 reside in New Bremen
Ruth 4/4/52 wed Mark McCullagon on 3/26/88 reside Kenton
Marilyn 8/15/53 wed Roger Albers on 12/14/73 reside in Ft. Loramie
Melvin 11/18/54 wed Julie Marchal on 3/1/80 reside in Cassella
Lester 8/8/56 - 8/3/74
Irene 1/1/58 wed Mike Lamm 4/23/82 reside in Coldwater
Janet 9/18/59 wed Doug Barhorst on 3/17/79 reside in Ft. Loramie
James (Jim) 3/3/63 wed Jane Poeppelman on 4/29/89
Rebecca (Becky) 12/17/64 wed John Fortman 12/14/91 reside in St. Rose

We bought the "Old Feltz Place" in 1948 when we got married from Fred Ungruhn. From there we moved to the Ernest Puthoff place. Jim lives there now. Mel lives up Wuebker Rd. (Old Feltz Place). When Carl & Lester were killed I stayed on the farm with the children till the boys were all married. Then I built a home across the road with my youngest daughter, Becky. She married and now I am by myself.

110 **Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Wuebker**
2129 Wuebker Rd. Maria Stein

Melvin 11/18/54 wed Julia Marchal (9/29/57) on 3/1/80 at St. Denis in Versailles
children: Daniel 8/4/81 Angela 3/24/84 Matthew 12/29/88

Mel is self employed and Julia is involved in clerical work.



Henry Otte, Matt Schoenlein and Ryan Dippold on their First Communion Day. They were baptized on the same day by Fr. Parr 11/4/79.

Fr. Raymond Bauer baptizing
Jessica Lynn Huelsman
Spring 1992



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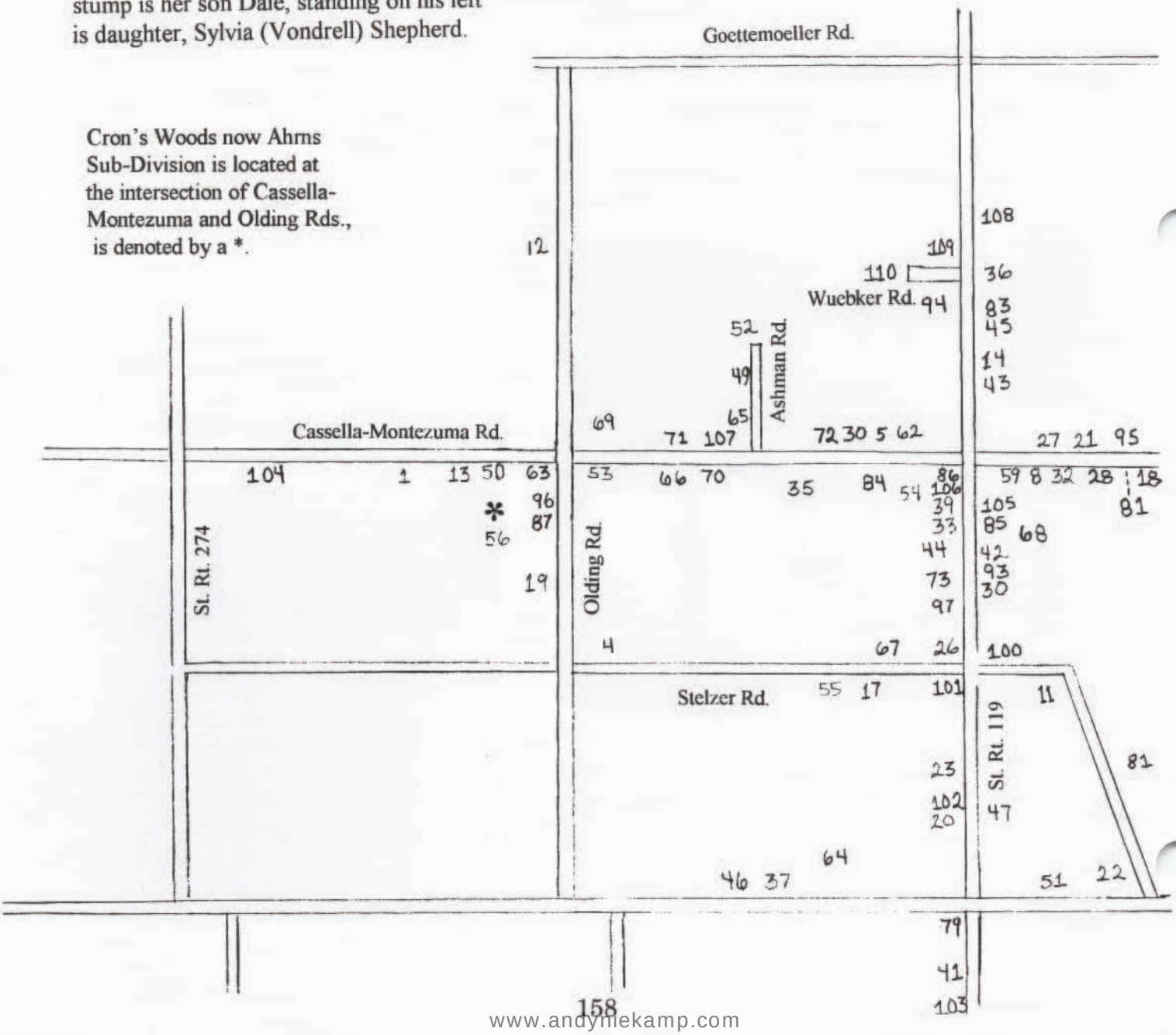
One of several gatherings at Cron's Woods





Margaret Vondrell is pictured in the center holding Marlene Huelsman, sitting on the stump is her son Dale, standing on his left is daughter, Sylvia (Vondrell) Shepherd.

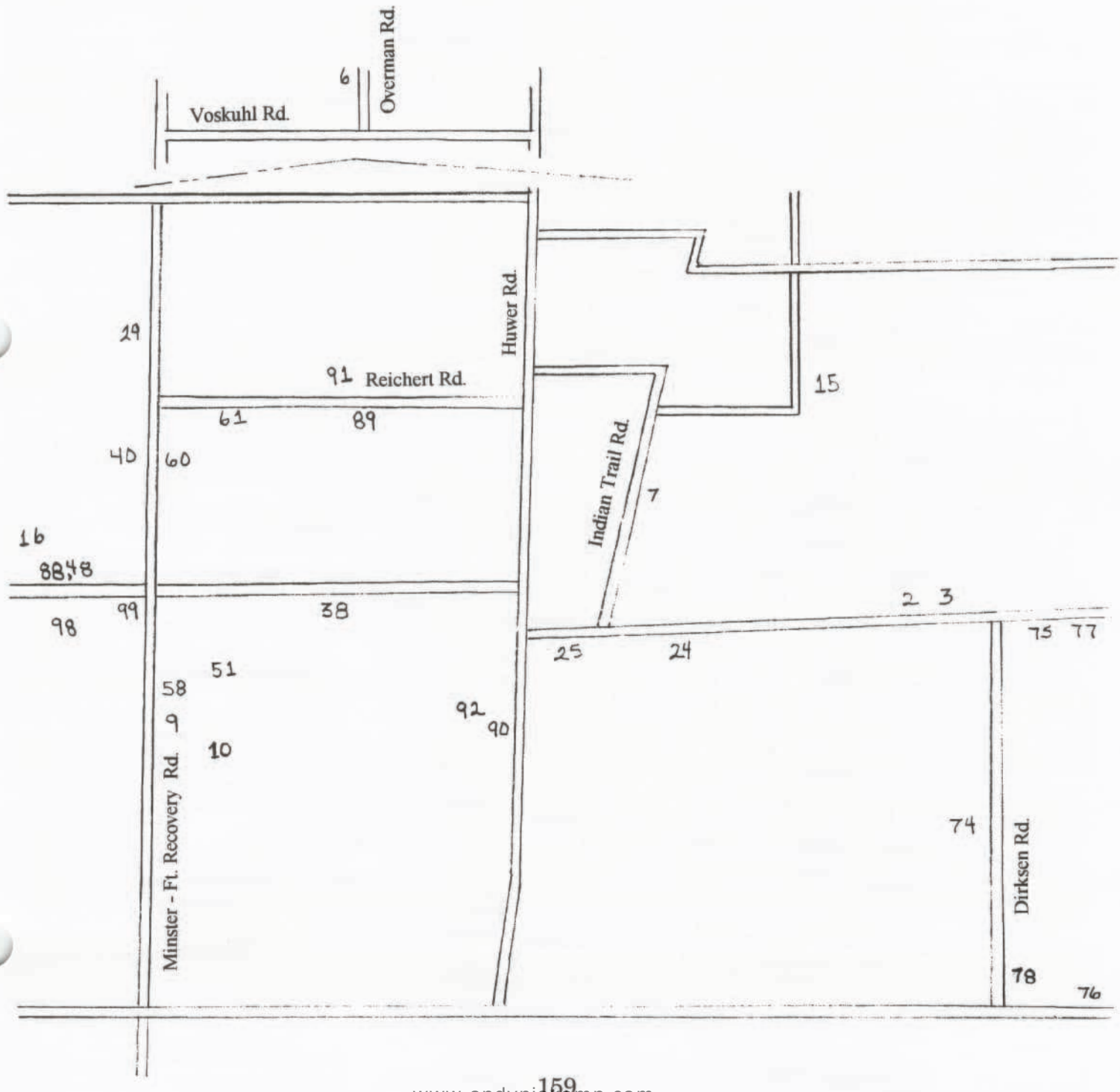
Cron's Woods now Ahrns Sub-Division is located at the intersection of Cassella-Montezuma and Olding Rds., is denoted by a *.



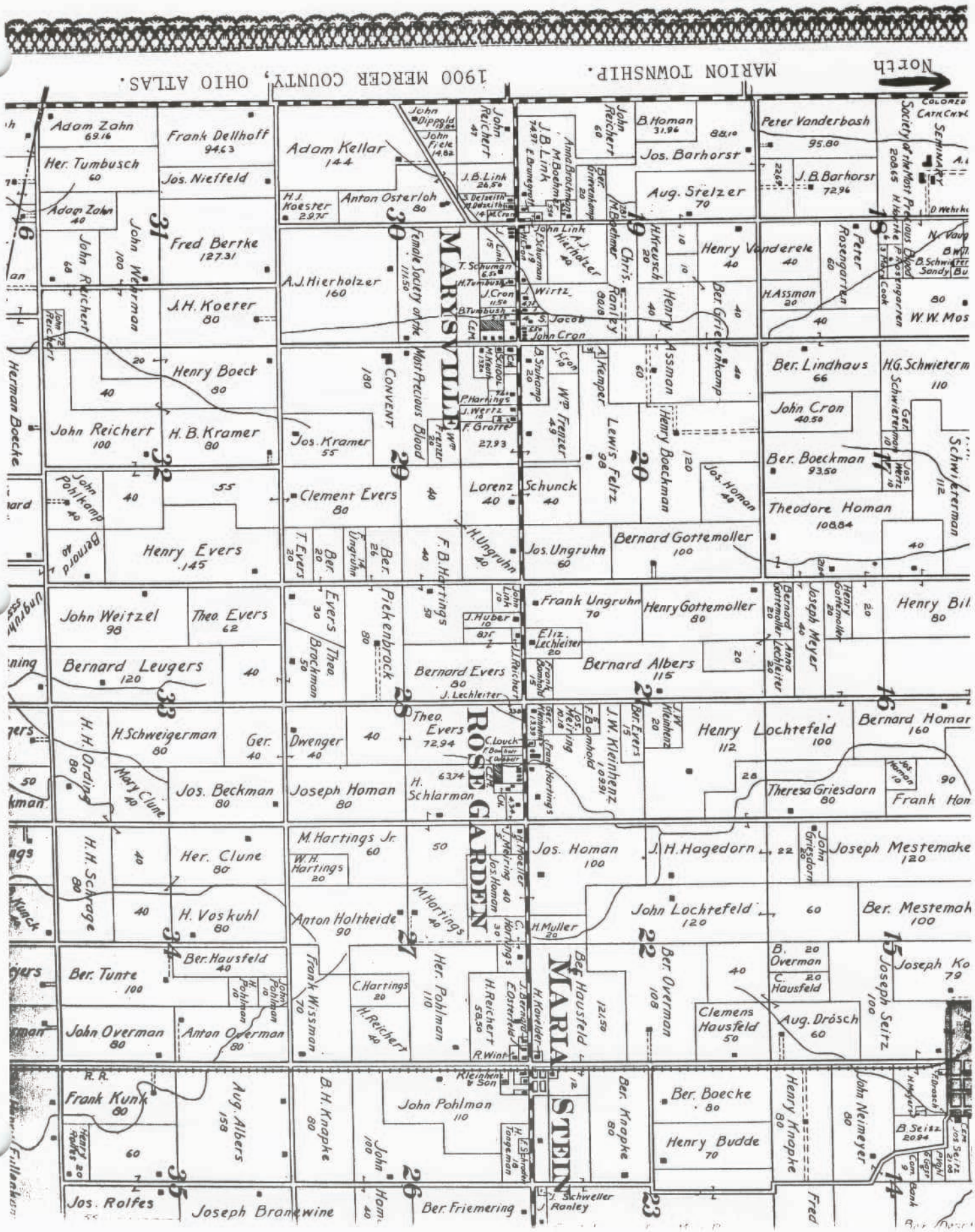
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Location of Nativity Parishioners

Numbers at left of family's names in
Family Histories coincide with the
numbers places on the map locating their homes.



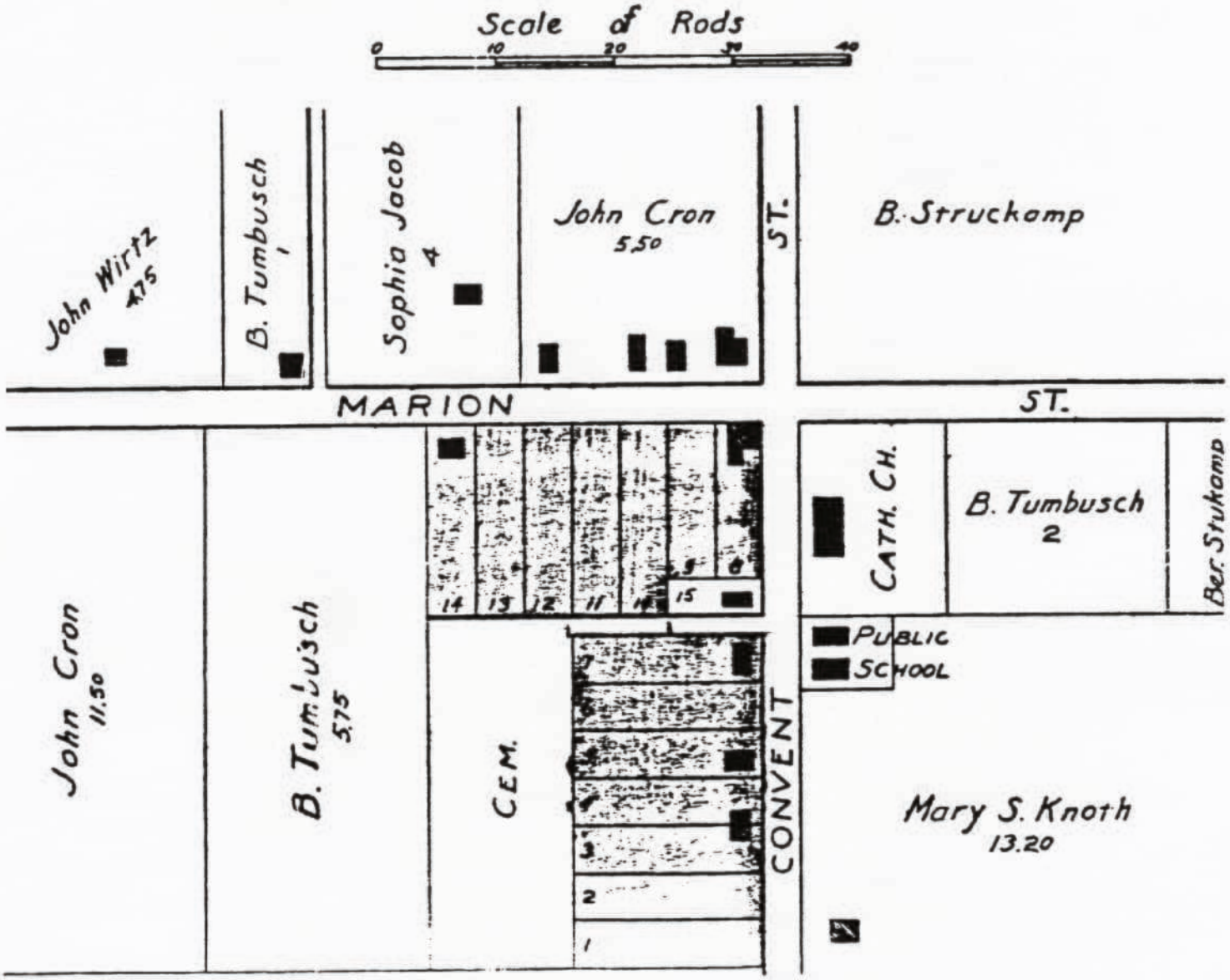
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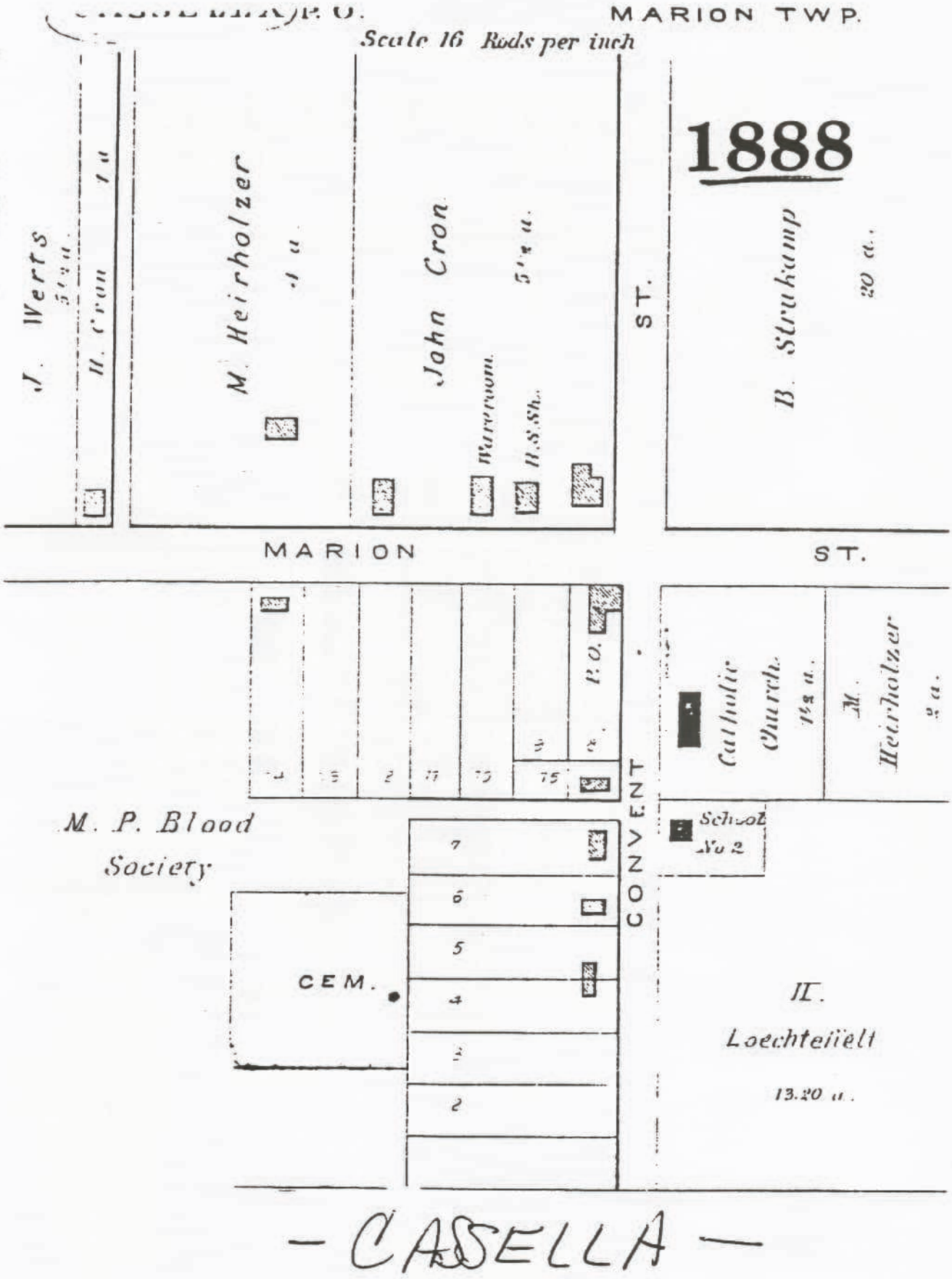
MARYSVILLE

CASSELLA P.O. MARION TWP.



1900

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— CASELLA —

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CASSELLA

Cassella actually has had many different names. Some of the older people remember Town, Dogtown, and Frogtown. It has also been called Marysville and Cassella which came from the log chapel that was constructed in 1847 on the present corner of 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd. The chapel was called ***Maria-Kapelle***, the German name for church, parish, and town. Kapelle became Cassella in 1860 when the town of Marysville was laid out. A Government Official mistook the German ***P*** for an English ***S***, when Marysville applied for a post office. The post office then became known as Cassella. Although the post office has long since been gone, the name remains.

Frogtown was on the corner of SR 119 and Stelzer Rd. It consisted of a brick store, a saloon, a post office, a general merchandise store, a saw mill, a cane mill, several homes, and a large pond inhabited by many frogs. There was an ice house near the pond. In the winter when the pond froze over to several inches, you would see the citizens cutting the ice into blocks about four to six feet in length and about two to three feet wide and several inches thick. It was quite a job to get the ice out of the pond and store it between straw in the ice house. When ice was needed in the summer they would uncover the straw and get another block of ice out ot the ice house. The brick store was torn down after the beginning of Marysville. John Link owned and operated the sawmill. It was a busy place since virgin forests were found surrounding the town. Many large trees were cut down and brought by large wagons or bob-sleds to the sawmill where John and his helpers made them into lumber for barns and homes in the wilderness. The saloon, ran by Henry Cron, was a busy place. There were many fights between the Collins Boys from Carthagena and those living near Frogtown. It was reported that many times Henry Cron found many of his customers owing huge amounts of charge accounts for whiskey. When Henry asked them to pay up, they would fell several trees, bring them to the saw mill and have John Link pay their whiskey bill. John gladly did this for the lumber from the trees. People from many miles around brought their sugarcane to the sugar cane mill operated by John Grevenkamp. John, who operated the mill for more than ten years, placed the cane in piles for each customer. Then it was shredded and the juice pressed out of it, cooked and made into sorghum molasses. Other prominent citizens of Frogtown were Joe Hierholzer, John Vondrell, and Louis Grieshop.

Town, the corner of 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd, and Dogtown, 1/4 mile west of town, joined to become Dogtown. Dogtown also had a saloon, a blacksmith shop run by John Cron, a wagon repair shop, Herman Harter who made baskets, a little log school house, a wooden mission church, named Maria-Kapelle, a teacher's house, a shoe-repair shop and a barber shop operated by Joe Woods. Joe charged ten cents for a haircut and five cents for a shave. Prominent citizens of Dogtown were Louis Kothman, Ben Boeke, Fred Boeke, J. Kleinhenz, Charles Hamburger, Michael Lechleiter, Joe Heirholzer, and Ben Greiwe.

In 1860 Dogtown was laid out into a town and named Marysville. Marion Street (now ST. RT. 119) ran east and west, Convent Road (now Cassella-Montezuma Rd.) ran through town north and south. School Street was the road that today leads back to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery. The post office was moved to Marysville and called Cassella.

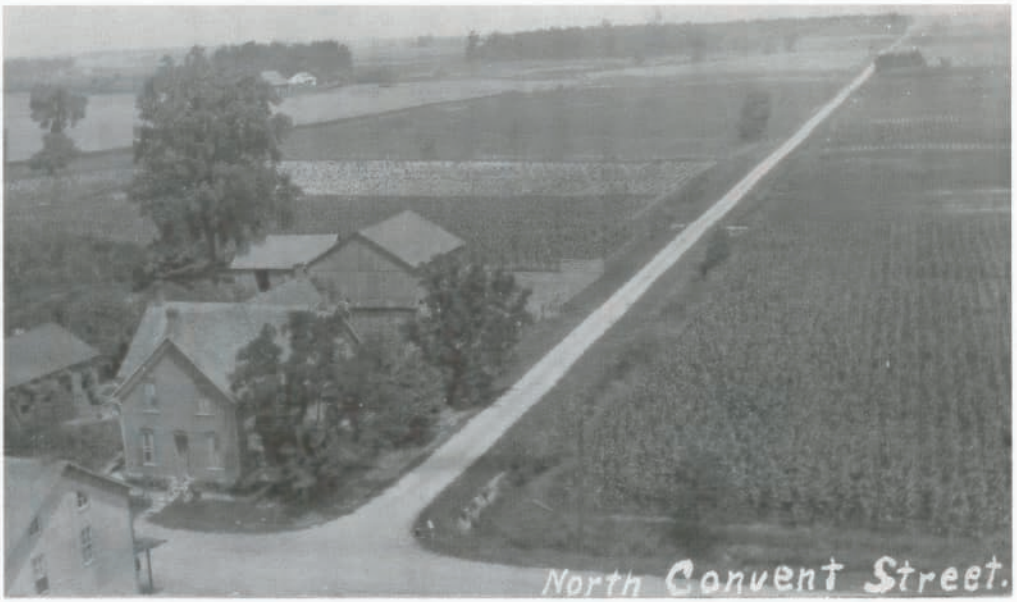
Today, 1997, the mission church has been replaced by a larger church across the road from its original site, the present site of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church. The cane mill was moved from Frogtown to Dogtown and still stands along Cassella-Montezuma Rd., close to the 119 intersection, although no longer in operation. The old school house and C. K. of A. Hall are still in use today and the blacksmith shop has been converted into a Machine Shop. The tavern, no longer operating, still stands on the corner of St. Rt. 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd., a joining of memories, the past to the present, and crossing a life span of 150 years.

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Joe & Ray Reichert wait for their horses to get new shoes at the Blacksmith Shop. (present location of Bergman Tool)

Intersection of Cassella-Montezuma Rd and St. Rt. 119 taken from church bell tower.





Richard Feltz, Martin Feltz, Clete Woeste and Bob Feltz in front of the Blacksmith Shop.

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Working Together



Neighbors possibly gathering to prepare for a wedding celebration. Maybe at the Ashman home.



August (Margaret's husband) Vondrell on right is in front of their home. This house and many others in the Cassella area are well over 100 years old.

Butchering
February 9, 1914



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FLASHBACKS . . .

THE DAHLINGHAUS STORE IN 1942

Remember when you took your eggs to the Dahlinghaus Store in Cassella and got groceries in exchange? This was all happening during the time Joe & Mary Dahlinghaus operated the store.

The combination restaurant and general store also sold beer for five and ten cents a glass and had specials on candy bars, two for six cents.

The above photo of Joe and Mary in front of their store was submitted to the Chronicle by Maurice Feltz, and must have been taken in the winter, as you can see icicles on the beer on tap sign and the gas pumps.

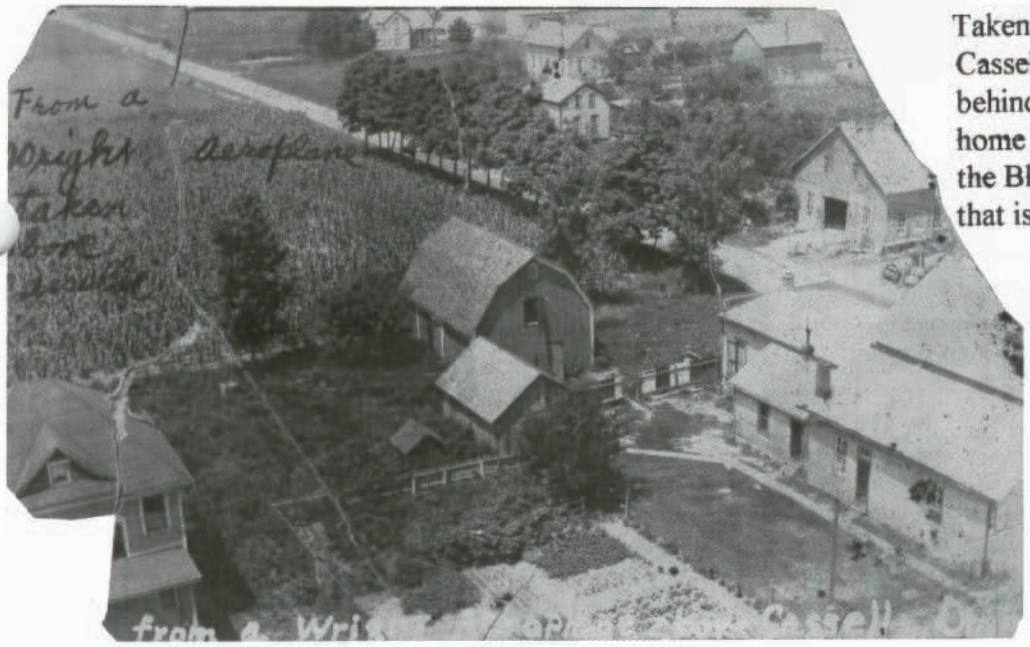
By the way, the gas pumps were still gravity operated, the old scale on the right was used to weigh hides and many other items brought to the store, The old loafing bench on the left was a busy place as the "old timers" spent many hours there talking about old times.

Joe Dahlinghaus was an avid baseball fan, and always took care of maintaining the Cassella Owls baseball field. After the games ball players from both teams and also the fans would converge in the tavern and rehatch the game. The store or tavern has been around a long time and is believed to be in operation during the Civil War, Mary and Joe took the place over in 1930 and operated it until 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dippold took over then and ran it until 1969 when Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Lochtefeld purchased it. Lochtefeld sold the store to Lari Robinson in 1976 and then on April 25, 1984 Gary Barlage purchased the business.

No groceries are sold in the building anymore, as it is exclusively a tavern, but a lot of memories of the Cassella Store-Tavern will be with many people for a long time.

Reference: Mercer County Chronicle
Thursday, May 10, 1984

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Taken from a Wright Aeroplane above Cassella prior to 1914. View of behind Cassella Tavern on right and home by Beeman's on left. Notice the Blacksmith Shop and the corn field that is now the ball diamond.

Cassella Tavern & Grocery

Eugene Vondrell by the car and Sylvan "Pete" Siegrist sitting by the post.





View from inside.



Exterior view in 1977

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CASSELLA,

which was laid out under the name of Marysville in 1860. Cassella later became the name of the post office and the town is now generally known by the latter name. It has a population of about 100. St. Mary's Catholic Church is located here. There are two general stores situated at Cassella, conducted by Mrs. Magdalena Cron and Joseph Hierholzer; a blacksmith shop and wagon repairing establishment conducted by Frank Feltz; and an agricultural implement depot, conducted by Hierholzer and Feltz.

1997 CASSELLA BUSINESS

Bergman Tool & Machine Co.
6485 St. Rt. 119
owned by Ted & John Bergman

Maria Stein Trenching
St. Rt. 119 & Cassella-Montezuma Rd.
owned by Marvin Heitkamp

Marion Mutual Insurance
6420 St. Rt. 119
Run by Randy Dammeyer

Moeller Door Sales
2015 US 127
owned by Pat Moeller

Moeller Trucking, Inc.
2460 Cassella-Montezuma Rd.
owned by Moeller Brothers

PBS Livestock Health
2029 US 127

Starlight Drive-In Theatre
1189 US 127
owned by Joan Myers
founded by Frank Feltz

Jim Thobe Trucking
6249 St. Rt. 119
owned by Jim Thobe

CASSELLA TAVERN

According to records at the Mercer County Courthouse a date does not appear on the Cassella Tavern's records as to its date of origin, owner or type of trade. The first recorded sale was in 1860. The building was believed to have been originally used as a grocery. The owner probably delivered groceries around the neighborhood from his wagon. The building has very large wooden beams and thick brick walls. The back bar in the tavern is very old and is seen on many old photos. In 1914 Fred Bertke sold the Bertke farm to his son Leo and moved into Cassella where he and Mr. Grevenkamp operated this grocery store. Other proprietors were Joe & Mary Dahlinghaus, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Dippold, Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Lochtefeld, Lari Robinson, Gary Barlage, and Chuck Hoelscher. Chuck Hoelscher is the present owner of the Tavern. The Tavern is still standing on the corner of SR. 119 and Cassella-Montezuma Rd. although it has not been in operation for the past few years.

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Photos of our Past

Fountain Inn
located on Andy Hemmelgarn property
U.S. 127 current residence of
Todd & Angela Francis





Early photo of home west of church once owned by Fred Bertke and most recently owned by Pat Moeller.



Wayne Filling Station
once located at
U.S. 127 and St. Rt. 119

Winter Time Fun
House on left is Gregor Grevenkamp's.
Children are: Don Eifert, John Vondrell,
Dorothy Feltz, Eifert girl, Viginia
(Tumbusch) Baumer, & Marlene
(Vondrell) Huelsman



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One Room Schoolhouse
Cassella mid 1930's



front sitting: Alfred Kramer; Maurice Feltz; Othmar Boeckman; Robert Hess; Joe Schoenherr; Art Ranly
front standing to the right of Art: Rita Tumbusch; John Siegrist; Ruth Hess; Alvera Kramer;
first row standing on the left: Sylvia Vondrell; Victoria Link; MaryAnn Homan; Ernest Bertke; Eugene Vondrell; Rita Ranly; Delma Vondrell; Ralph Tumbusch; Anna Marie Schoenherr; Dale Vondrell; Esther Stucke; Mary Catherine Tumbusch; Marie Vondrell; Marilyn Struckamp; George Link; teacher, Oscar Eifert; third row: Stanly Struckamp; Orville Ranly; Roman Stucke; (inside doorway left: Eulita Bertke; Alfred Boeckman; Urban Kramer; Louis Bertke) Lillian Feltz; Rita Seigrist; Rita Boeckman; Ray Koesters; (inside doorway right: Sylvan Seigrist; Mary Ann Link; John Hess; Lucille Ranly; Urban Grevenkamp)

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Schooling

The first education in Marion Township of the early settlers took place within the home. The first public schools were log cabins. In 1825 the Ohio General Assembly required the districting of each township for school purposes. There were seven district schools in 1872, they were one or two room brick buildings that were within walking distance (2 - 3 miles). In this time period were the Hartings, Dwenger, Puthoff, (named after neighboring farmers) Cassella, St. Rose, St. Sebastian, Chickasaw, and St. Johns schools. The earliest educators were not professional teachers but were chosen because of their talents and training from their professions. Teachers were usually not married and were required to follow strict moral codes. The children of the district schools were well drilled in the basic 3 R's and by 1903 were using the McGuffey Readers and Spellers.

School was almost never canceled because of snow. Students walked through the snow or were piled on horse drawn snow sleds. Schools however were canceled due to epidemics such as diphtheria in 1909 and in May 1915. Scarlet fever and the flu also closed schools for one or two weeks.

The first high school in the township was at St. John. It was a two year course of study and began about 1925. Chickasaw also had a two year high school from 1930 to 1935. If a student chose to continue their high school education to four years they needed to attend high school in either St. Henry or Minster.

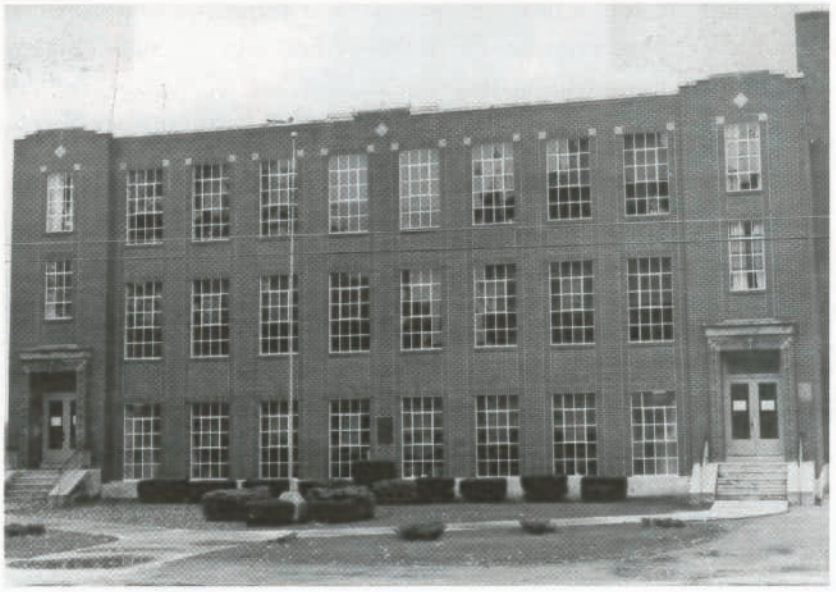
St. John high school's first class to graduate was in 1937. The school's mascot was "Aces" and then the "Blue Jays", the school song was sung to the theme of "Anchors Away".

Consolidation took place on September 23, 1955, the new district included Cassella, St. Rose, St. John, St. Sebastian, Chickasaw, and Osgood. The schools at St. Sebastian, Cassella and St. Rose were closed. These students were then sent to either Chickasaw or St. Johns. In 1956 the first "Marion" senior class graduated.

A new high school was completed by September 4, 1958, and "Flyers" was now the chosen mascot for the school district. An elementary was built in 1964 to relieve the overcrowding of the district's three elementary buildings of St. John, Osgood and Chickasaw. In 1978 the new elementary addition was opened and the three smaller schools were then closed. In the fall of 1997 another addition will be opened at the elementary to relieve yet another overcrowding within Marion Local.

The community has taken great pride in its school district, supporting operating and bond issue levies. Marion has an excellent course of study and has enjoyed success within it's athletic programs.

Each students success is believed due to the excellent family, faculty, community and faith that supports and encourages their individual and combined efforts.



St. Johns School 1930 - 1977
was located across from St. Johns Church

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SON OF A BLACKSMITH

"My father, Frank J. Feltz, was a blacksmith in Cassella, Ohio around the turn of the 19th century." Back in those days, the blacksmith was supposed to be able to fix anything from a watch to a railroad locomotive. Ray was this man's son. Ray learned many tricks of the trade from his dad.

The blacksmith shop was one of the centers of the community. "Old farmers would come in and sit around the old box stove and talk about everything happening in the area." This is where Ray grew up, learning to shoe horses at the age of 16 years, sharpening plow shears, and many other chores connected with blacksmithing.

Ray was born August 27, 1906, in Cassella, Ohio. Ray's experience in the blacksmith shop is still a vivid memory and like his father before him, there isn't hardly anything he can't fix or make operational again. He remembers those good old days as a small boy growing up, when he went to school through the eighth grade. There wasn't enough money to go to high school at Minster for four years or to St. Henry for two years. Students had to pay transportation and tuition expenses back in those days and there were no school busses.

Political decisions made in Columbus sometimes meant strange local rules in educational requirements. Normally students finished the eight grades when they were 14 years old. But the law said they had to go to school until they were 16 years old. Since there was little chance to go to high school, they just went through the eighth grade two or three times.

The infamous "One room schoolhouse" was indeed that. "One teacher taught as many as 72 students through eight grades in one room." Ray, who has an excellent memory, recalls his teachers in Cassella. They were John Steinbrunner, Louis Huelsman, Leo Shaeffer, and Leo Hemmelgarn.

The blacksmith shop made Ray a real jack of all trades and master of none. In his life time, Ray had many jobs and learned many things from each job. After he was 17 years old, he worked one winter at Mersmans Tables in Celina, Ohio. He worked on highway construction on Route 119 west of St. Henry. Then he went back to Mersmans and stayed for 13 years. He then went to the New Idea in Coldwater ,Ohio. He worked on production and as a supervisor for 10 years. During ten years at Pax Steel Products, Coldwater ,Ohio, in addition to production supervisor, he worked on new improvements to existing products, development of new products, and constriction of new buildings. Ray worked for Speicher Tandem Trenchers (Ditching Machines), Celina, Ohio for a short time before beginning his final occupational association. Ray worked for S & K Metal Products until his retirement, February 15, 1971. While at S & K, Ray was a working manager, maintenance foreman, tool and die maker and developer of new products.

Ray keeps busy building models of old time machines and does reverse three dimensional painting on glass and plexiglass. He also keeps up with the family background, starting with his Great, Great, Grandfather, Count John Fels d Olerstahl. The Count was an officer in Napoleon Bonapart's Imperial Guard, Saverne, France. The Great Grandfather Florentz Fels came to America in 1840. The name was changed to Feltz when the passport, dated March 7, 1840, was prepared. Ray's Grandfather, Louis Feltz, was born in Thompson, Ohio. Louis Feltz later moved to Seneca County, near Sandusky, Ohio. The Louis Feltz's later moved to Mercer County and settled in Marion Township in 1950.

Ray designed a family tree with a branch for each brother and sister. Each branch, easily removed from the tree, contains a scroll in the hollow stem. This scroll contains family history about the brother or sister.

Ray built a semi-operational one-eighth scale Speichers Tandem Trencher. It took about 2200 hours to build this model. Each part is made from whatever scrap material was in the scrap box (Ray never throws anything away). Some parts are made from coffee cans and pieces of copper tubing. This ditcher was scheduled to go on tour in Europe and be displayed at various shows. The tour suffered a last minute cancellation because of the increase in airplane hi-jacks and bombings.

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Ray also built a one-eighth scale model threshing rig. The thresher has plexiglass sides and top so all working parts can be seen in operation. The steam engine to drive the thresher, also built by Ray, uses an electric motor for propulsion. These threshers were typically used by threshing rings, groups of neighbors who bought the rig and went from farm to farm during the harvest season. Those days are long gone.

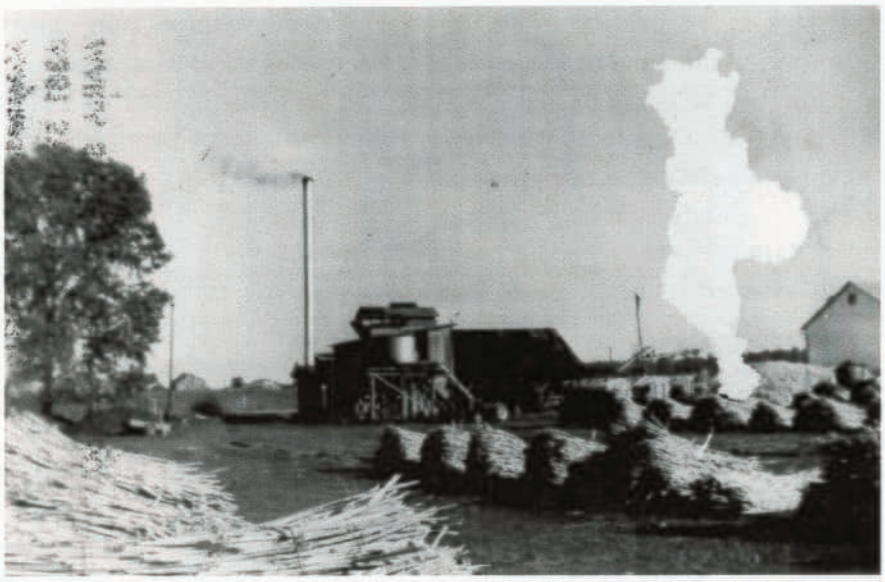
Ray grew up in a large family with 8 brothers and 6 sisters. His mother's maiden name was Philomena Cron. Ray and Olive, his wife of 47 years, were the parents of five boys and four girls. They are John, Mary Ann (Gray), Eileen (Slivinski), Pauline (Schemmel), and her twin brother Paul, Jerome, Kathleen (Schmitmeyer), Raymond, and Ronald.

Before Olive died in1976, Ray spent many years taking care of her. She was injured in an automobile accident, December 1955, and was soon confined to a wheelchair for 18 years. Because Ray is now retired and because he spent so much time tending for Olive, time no longer has much meaning. If he wants to get up in the middle of the night to do some tinkering, there is nothing to stop him. He just gets up and does it. If he wants to nap he just curls up in his recliner and sleeps awhile. Ray says, "Sleeping is a bad habit anyway. If you don't have a good dream, you are just wasting your time."

In regards to retirement, Ray advises others to "Get a hobby before you retire. I built models before I went to school." To those who lost a spouse, "Get something to do right away. You can remember them in your daily prayers. Your help for them is past, so it is better to get along with your life, get started right away."

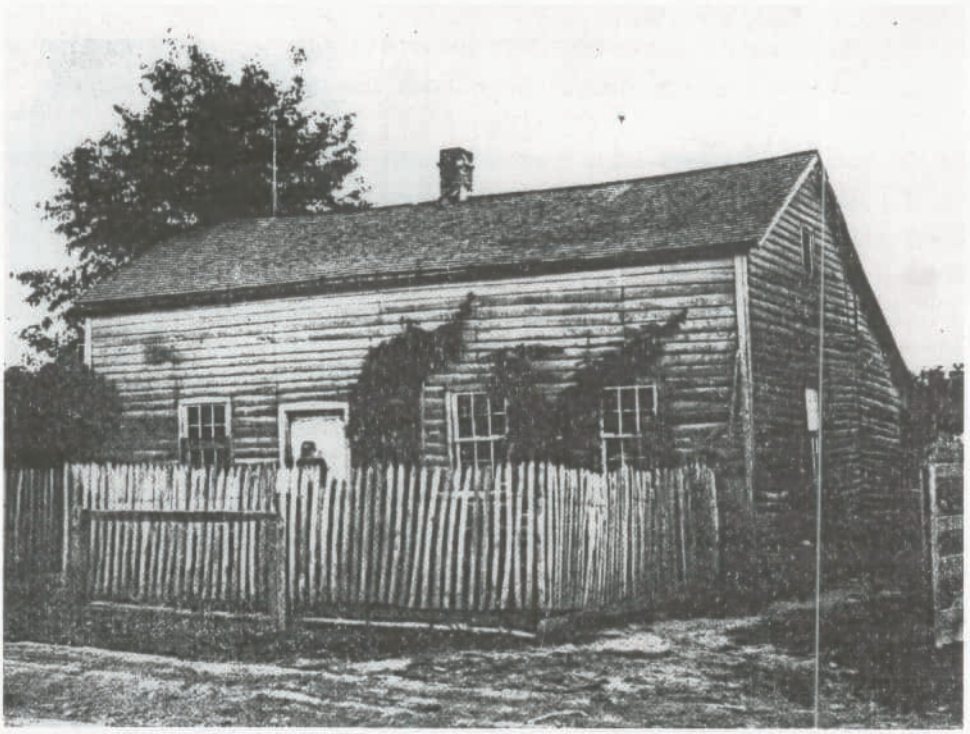
The latest of Ray's project is an old fashioned framed barn. He displayed it at the Mercer County Fair Grounds. That's where I met the man. This barn is built to 1/16 scale. All joints are mortised and tendoned and pinned like the full size barns that used to be built. Ray states longingly, "They don't build them that way anymore." Ray helped rebuild many barns in the neighborhood. The old barns wre razed by fire and wind. The model he displayed at the Mercer County Historical Society, Celina, Ohio which held a series of programs on Those Magnificent German Barns of Southwest Mercer County, Ohio. They held a series of programs on these old barns. Ray serves on the board of directors for this organization.

The above story was written by Ivan Knapp.



Cane Mill 1927

www.andyniemp.com



HOME OF HERMAN HARDER, CASSELLA, OHIO.

HERMAN HARTER

There lives at Cassella an aged man who has had a wonderful experience in his 75 years of life. Today he is known to every man, woman, and child in that section of the county and his little home presents the scene of an aged toiler eking out a living making baskets, at which he has become very proficient. Whenever sickness visits his neighbors, Mr. Harter can be found at the bedside, a patient and vigilant nurse. He was born February 25, 1825, at Allersbach, Baden, Germany. He attended the schools in his native country, receiving a fair education, until he was fourteen years of age, when he served as an apprentice in a rope factory. At the end of three years' service he was given charge of the hemp roll. This machine revolved over the bed of hemp to make it finer, and was constructed of a large stone, weighing nearly two thousand pounds, attached to a large shaft. While turning the hemp Mr. Harter's clothes were caught by the shaft and he was thrown under the roll, which passed over him three times. The last time he was pressed against the border of the bed which stopped the machinery, driven by a forty-horse power water wheel. When Mr. Harter was rescued from his perilous position and medical aid summoned. He was found to be literally crushed into a pulp. Miraculous as it may seem he recovered from his injuries, which were broken limbs, arm, and ribs. He returned to the factory and finished his apprenticeship. In 1864 he came to America and located at Cassella, where he now resides. He assisted in farming and learned to make baskets, which trade he now successfully follows. In politics Mr. Harter is a Democrat and a member of the Catholic Church.

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RESOURCES

This book was made possible by the combined efforts of Nativitys parishoners. It took our ancestors and our current parish members, together, as a family, to build Nativity to what it is today. All of us helped to get to 150 years and it will take all of us for it to continue. By our faith, dedication and commitment our parish has survived many obstacles and challenges. Our memories show our Catholic faith has been continuous, steady, and a faith of action. May our faith and parish continue to grow and flourish long after we are gone.

The following publications were used:

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* * *

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Salem Heights, Dayton, Ohio
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* * *

AMERICAN PROVINCE C.PP.S.
Volume II, Early years in America1844-1859
Paul J. Knapke, C.PP.S.
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* * *

CENTENARY CELEBRATION
SAINT CHARLES SEMINARY
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* * *

NUNTIUS AULAE
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St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio
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ATLAS OF MERCER COUNTY
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* * *

From the Geneology Room at the Celina Library:
various Ohio History, Mercer County History, and other reference books with different publishing dates and publishing companies.

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