

**SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

C E L E B R A T E
25/40
ST. PAUL
†

WHITEHAVEN

Peggy Nerren Grisamore

FACTS, MEMORIES AND STORIES
OF
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

*"Through the
Years"*

1989

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Peggy Nerren Grisamore July, 2020

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SALLIE WILLIS

All of the articles I've used from the Whitehaven Press were written by Sallie Willis. I never knew her...I wish I had. Sallie died in May of this year.

Mr. and Mrs. "Bob" Towery started the Whitehaven Press in January of 1952 in response to the needs of the growing community.

In 1960, Edgar and Sallie Willis, a charming couple joined their staff. They were devoted to each other and to their work.

Sallie was descended from a long line of educators and she was a gentle, creative woman whose special love was writing. She was an excellent writer and was loved by the staff and all who knew her.

Edgar gave me permission to reprint her articles as he felt Sallie would be honored and pleased.

Everyone I spoke to regarding Sallie sang her praises and though I never knew her I feel close to her ... through words. I am in her debt.

This one's for you...

SALLIE WILLIS

WIFE, MOTHER AND

WRITER

INTRODUCTION

February to October is not long enough to write a history of a Church. What began as a casual remark to John Prudhomme ended with my commitment to write a history of St. Paul's. The history evolved into a potpourri of facts, memories, and stories.

The story of a church is the story of humanity itself; a crossroads where the human and divine intersect; a well from which the community draws spiritual strength; a gathering place for friends and family and a mother who takes care of her children.

St. Paul's has been blessed from the beginning with people of tremendous spirit. It is painful to me that time didn't allow the telling of all their stories, the beginnings of all the organizations, all the remarkable people we have known and all the joyful occasions we've shared.

I wanted to state the names of the little band of believers that Father Lenzi gathered and present them to you to savor and remember. They should not be forgotten as they were the pioneers of the little mission that grew into St. Paul's Church.

I wanted to write about:

Jo Ann Wojak, a parishioner who came in Father Lenzi's time and continues to play the organ on many occasions.

Lorretta Smith, who was with us only five years, a brilliant and beautiful woman, a graduate of Philadelphia Academy of Music, a concert pianist who taught some of our children.

Al and Ann Stukenborg, whose contributions to St. Paul's are largely unknown; yet helped build the Church, the school and high school and their generosity to the priests and religious of this city is unsurpassed. For many years

there wasn't an event in our parish for which "Big Al" didn't supply the food. Al, Doctor Wilton Tilly and Jim Gerard started the St. Vincent de Paul Society and there were no parish boundaries in their giving. Al kept Doc Tilly busy as he rounded up people who needed dental care; it's a wonder he didn't put Doc out of business.

John and Camille Ginski and their dedicated work for years with the Boy and Girl Scouts.

Della Comella, whose beautiful voice has taught our children, brought tears to our eyes, and sent chills up our spines with her rendition of Ave Maria.

Catherine Sartain, who came to work as a part-time secretary in our school, spring, 1968, and was full-time by fall of 1968. She had been in our parish since 1958 when she moved from St. Thomas Parish. The mother of five children: Marie, Sally, Jenny, Sister Marian, O.P. and Father Peter Sartain. Catherine's patient manner and smiling face, plus her skill, has been invaluable to us.

John and Terry Heirigs, who was the builder of our church, and both have been active in many organizations through the years.

Joyce Guth, and her devoted service-she spent many years with our scout program before becoming Director of Religious Education. She and I share the same hometown and many memories of our school and parish church in Mobile, Alabama.

Hal and Mildred Brignole, Fred and Faye Harrison, Ozzie and Anita Coughlin, Jack and "Boots" Sullivan, Bob and Delores Peters, Bill and Marge Hayden. The Pesces and on and on and on.

There wasn't time.

Thanks are due Anne Nicholson, Archivist of the Nashville Diocese; Margaret Haaga, Archivist of the Memphis Diocese; Betty Nelson, Secretary of St. Paul's, the editors who wish to remain anonymous, and all those who shared their memories with me. A special thanks to Mary Shelly who saves old newspaper clippings and

sent them to me.

Special thanks are due “Cotton” Lloyd for The History of the Sports program; John Prudhomme for the history of the Knights of Columbus Council 5062; Provy Armstrong for the history of Cabrini Circle; Fred Osterloh for the history of Pastoral Council and Gloria Osterloh for the history of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 5062.

We’ve tried to be objective but are aware it’s not entirely possible. We’ve tried to be positive ... and present the good news, the good views of our Church and its people. Mistakes are unavoidable, and we trust in your charity and forbearance.

Peggy Nerren Grisamore

ST. PAUL'S NAMED FOR FATHER CLUNAN

James Barnett, the first organist at St. Paul's and now a teacher at Sacred Heart in Walls, Mississippi, remembered a meeting at St. Thomas Church with Bishop Adrian. The Bishop announced that the proposed Church in Whitehaven would be named St. Paul the Apostle Church in honor of Father Paul Clunan.

Mrs. Roy Gillia, whose home was located at the corner of Blanchard and Elvis Presley, where the first Masses were held, helped me reconstruct the events that led to this meeting. Her husband, Roy Gillia, who was in the lumber manufacturing business, Walter B, Hudson, one of the owners and Vice Presidents of the Memphis Steam and Laundry Cleaners on Jefferson, Dr. Leo Pierotti, and Dr. Joseph Stabnick were parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church. They were very supportive of building a new church in Whitehaven and had meetings to discuss it. The first meeting was held at the Gillia home, and other meetings were held at Mr. Gillia's office.

Since Father Clunan was saying Mass in the Mission and was very well liked, this group and perhaps others wanted him to be the first pastor. Mrs. Gillia remembers her husband making many trips to Nashville and once going with Father Clunan to Nashville to make final arrangements for the church to be built.

At the meeting at St. Thomas, Bishop Adrian announced that Father Angelo Lenzi would be pastor as he had seniority over Father Clunan. Father Clunan was a very young associate pastor at St. Thomas and it was his first assignment as a priest. Bishop Adrian then told the people assembled that the church would be for Father Paul Clunan.

Mrs. Gillia said that her husband's name is in the cornerstone that was buried containing historical documents to be taken out sometime later.

“It was a long time ago, but that's the way it happened to the best of my

memory,” she said.

Mrs. Margaret Haaga, Archivist of the Memphis Diocese, in answer to my inquiry about the name of the Church, offered to ask Father Clunan, and kindly did so.

His reply, dated September 5, 1989, on stationery of Saint Louis Church reads:

Dear Margaret,

It is my understanding that you called my office regarding information concerning St. Paul Parish.

When I was an associate pastor at St. Thomas Church, it was the wish of my pastor, Monsignor A. F. Maurath, that I serve the needs of the neighboring Mission, St. Paul Church. In that capacity, I did preach the first sermon at the first Mass for St. Paul Church which was held in the Roy Gillia home.

I further understand you are assisting this fine parish in preparing for an anniversary celebration. And yes, the Mission Church bears my name; I was so honored.

God bless you for all you do for God and His Church!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Paul W. Clunan, Pastor

PWC/mm

THE FIRST MASS

The first Mass in Memphis took place at the residence of Eugene Magevney, known nowadays as the Magevney Home. The year was 1839. The second Mass in a residence took place 105 years later, 1944, in Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gillia's home on highway 51.

James Barnett, first organist at St. Paul's, said, "This was a historic event in the state of Tennessee and in the Church, and required all kinds of special permission from the Bishop."

In the Catholic newspaper, The Register, on December 17, 1944, the following article appeared:

K. of C. MEMBER HONORED BY HAVING MASS SAID IN HOME. Memphis. A signal honor has been conferred upon Roy Gillia, faithful captain of the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, and his family in the selection of their home in Whitehaven for the celebration of Holy Mass each Sunday at nine o'clock. Until such time as a chapel can be built, the Gillia home will serve. With the exception of the Old Magevney home on Adams avenue, now a museum maintained by the Memphis Park Commission, no other private home has served as a chapel in the vicinity of Memphis. Above this article is a picture and the following:

ATTRACTIVE CHAPEL

which has been arranged in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gillia at Whitehaven. Mass is offered each Sunday at nine o'clock for the convenience of the Catholics of this area. The mission is cared for by the Rev. Paul Clunan and the Rev. Paul

Caldwell, assistants at St. Thomas Church, Memphis. Left to right in the picture are Roy Gillia Jr, Father Clunan, Gene Ament, and Hubert Crossnine.

James Barnett was an eighth grade student at St. Thomas when Monsignor Maurath obtained permission for the services and appointed Father Paul Clunan priest in charge.

Father Clunan had a portable organ that had little pedals, and it could be folded up so that it looked like a foot locker. Father said to James. "I'll just fold it up and put it in the car.. .and will you play it for us?"

"Of course, I'd be delighted." James went into St. Thomas and picked up about twenty of the little soft hymn books, which contained the words of songs, not the music. He carried them with him to pass out at the first Mass.

The altar was at the front end of the living room, and the dining room on the right served as the sacristy. The priest would enter the living room when Mass started. At the opposite end of the living room was a hall and a bedroom. James was in the bedroom with the organ. The people at Mass could hear the music and sing, they could not see him. He was behind them, just as in Church when everyone faced the altar.

The songs that day were: To Jesus's Heart All Buring, Mother Dear, O'Pray For Me, Holy God, We Praise Thy Name.

It was the custom then to sing at the Offertory a song to Mary.

James said he didn't know most of the people there that day, but did know Mr. & Mrs. Ronza, and their son John and daughter Rosemarie. He played the organ every Sunday thereafter at the mission, and later at St. Paul's until 1950 when he went into the service.

FATHER ANGELO LENZI

1945 - 1953

Sebastiano Lenzi and Rosa Buchinanani Lenzi came to Memphis from Lucca, Italy, and bought a grocery store/saloon on South Third Street. In those days it was the custom to live over your business and that's exactly what they did. Their family grew: John, Paul, Angelo, Joe and twins Nora and Norma. This was a very busy section of town near the railroads and the boys played "trains" all the time.

It was while attending St. Joseph School on St. Paul Street that Angelo decided to be a priest. He attended high school and college at St. Bernard's in Cullam, Alabama. He attended St. Gregory Seminary and St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was ordained on May 22, 1937 at Immaculate Conception Church here in Memphis, by Bishop William Adrian.

In 1937 Father Lenzi was the principal of Knoxville High School and an Assistant at Immaculate Conception; September, 1940, Assistant at Blessed Sacrament Church in Memphis, August 21, 1942, Assistant at St. Thomas Church, Memphis; February, 1943, Chaplain at St. Agnes Academy and then Assistant at St. Mary's Church in Nashville.

On March 4, 1945, the following announcement appeared in St. Mary's bulletin:

I regret to announce that Father Lenzi has been transferred from St. Mary's to become the pastor of the new Church at Whitehaven in Memphis. Father Charles Williams, recently ordained, will take Father Lenzi's place as assistant at St. Mary's. I take this occasion of expressing publicly my sincere appreciation of Father Lenzi's help and cooperation during the time he has been with us. I am sure that the best wishes of the many friends he has made in Nashville will go with him for the success of his new work.

Actually, there wasn't a church building yet; parishioners were still attending mass at the Gillia Home.

Father Lenzi wrote his Sunday bulletins in longhand. Unless one looked carefully at his notes, they may not have been recognized as "official" and they may have been discarded. Only a few were preserved:

April 15, 1945

Today is the 2nd Sunday after Easter

Prayers for President Roosevelt

Notice of NCCW Luncheon, etc.

All sing Hymns for Benediction

Special meeting after mass

Breaking ground tomorrow

Pray for good weather.

April 22, 1945

Third Sunday After Easter

Feast of Patronage of St. Joe. Wed. Feast of St. Mark Evangelist. The basement of the Church has been drying out during the past week, due to good weather, able to finish in such a short time. Pray hard for good weather. Very important. Flowers for the Altar this morning were furnished by Mrs. Lawrence. Thanks. Deeply grateful. The ladies of the parish are sponsoring a (illegible) supper. Need the help of everyone. Don't wait. Volunteer if not already contacted. Pray for good weather.

April 29, 1945.

Today is the 4th Sunday

after Easter. The flowers - Mrs. D.M.
Piano. Wed. May 30, Bridie and
(illegible) 2:00 p.m. Goldsmith's
Auditorium. Tickets now available see
Mr. Ronza after mass. Friday is the First
Friday of the month of May. This week
month of May - Blessed Mother
(illegible) Month of the Rosary. A fine
habit. Offer up that everything will go
well with construction of the Church.

The next three remaining records are very difficult to read, only selected portions are reprinted here:

July 29, 1945, 10th Sunday after Pentecost.
Next Sunday we will have mass in the basement
of the new Church. Just one mass at 9:00 on
Sunday - until further notice. For the beautiful
flowers on the altar this morning, we are
indebted to the Coughlin and Gillia families. The
Banns of marriage are announced for the third
and final time between Ruth Gillispie of this
parish and Corp. James Durand of Notre Dame
parish, New York.

August 5, 1945, 11th Sunday After Pentecost.
Mass - Frank B. Browre. Flowers by Mrs.
Coughlin and Mrs. Sanford.

August 12, 1945, 12th Sunday after Pentecost.
Tuesday Feast of the Assumption - Holy Day of
Obligation. Mass here at 7:00.

On September 29, 1947, The Commercial Appeal had a picture and article under the heading; Catholics Dedicate Whitehaven Church. The picture shows Bishop Adrian celebrating a Pontifical High Mass and the Church filled with people. The article stated:

Man's soul is united with God in Holy Communion in the Church, the most Rev. William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville, said as he dedicated and blessed St. Paul's Catholic Church at Whitehaven.

Your priest, the Rev. Angelo Lenzi and every one of you parishioners who have given so much of your time and means to complete this church are certainly congratulated.

The article then names some of the priests who were present for the mass: The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis J. Kempfue;, pastor of Sacred Heart Church; Rev. William E. Barclay of Memphis, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; Rev. William B. Nelson of Gallatin, Tennessee; Rev. Wilfred Cool, pastor of St. Mary's Church; and Rev. John Elliott, principal of Catholic High School; Father Edgar Kelly of Nashville, master of ceremonies; Rev. Paul Clunan, assistant at St. Thomas, second master of ceremonies; and Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. F. Kearney, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church.

The article noted that St. Paul's was founded as a mission by St. Thomas Catholic Church under its pastor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. A.F. Maurath in 1944 and Father Clunan was priest in charge. It says that the first services were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gillia on Highway 51, that ground was broken for the

new building in April of that year and that the structure was finally completed in 1946, a brick building with stone trim and a seating capacity of 320. It is stated that an apartment for the pastor was a part of the building at the rear and there is also an auditorium and kitchen in the sub-story of the church.

The article says that the church is located one-half mile east of Highway 51 on the Whitehaven-Capleville Road, and that it serves that area south of Brooks Avenue to the Tennessee-Mississippi line, east to Capleville and west to the Mississippi River. Father Lenzi is quoted as saying that the parish was organized with 68 families and now has 72 families in its fold.

Father Lenzi was to remain pastor until October 29, 1953, when he was killed in an automobile accident in Mississippi.

On November 3, 1953, a Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Paul's by Rt. Rev. Merlin F. Kearney, Rev. Leo Baldinger, and Rev. William R. Nelson. A funeral Mass followed: Celebrant, Bishop William L. Adrian; Arch-Priest, Rt. Rev. Thomas P. Duffy; Deacons of Honor, Rev. Thomas F. Nenon and Rev. John A. Welsh; Deacons, Rev. Theron J. Walker; Sub-deacon, Rev. Luke Fazi, O.S.B., Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Edgar M. Kelly. The sermon was given by Rev. Francis P. Pack.

MEMORIES OF FATHER LENZI

Many people have shared their memories of Father Angelo Lenzi with me, and somewhere along the line he became more than a name. When I tried to decide where to begin, someone suggested talking to his brothers, John and Joe.

I've known John for at least twenty years and had to laugh at myself as it never occurred to me that Father Lenzi was his brother. As I sat in John's home and he brought out his family pictures, we talked about things we'd never discussed before. It may have been at that moment that Father Lenzi became a person to me.

The earliest picture showed a handsome young man, wearing a cap, white shirt, and knickers, squatting with his hands on his knees and staring straight ahead at the camera. Surrounding him are six classmates at St. Bernard's in Cullman, Alabama, and they're all standing.

The next picture was taken in Rome in 1933 after an audience with the Pope. Father is standing very straight and is wearing his black cassock and hat, and his hands are at his sides.

He is standing in very much the same way in another picture with taken outside at Blessed Sacrament Church. They are standing in the midst of a nativity scene, and neither is smiling but they have pleasant expressions on their faces.

A large 8 x 10 shows a relaxed and laughing Father Lenzi standing next to James Cagney, the actor, and sitting in front of them are Father Lenzi's mother, Rosa, his sister, Norma, and cousin, Madeline. Father had taken them to California and they were on a movie studio set. James Cagney invited them in when he heard a Catholic priest was there.

By the time I saw John, I'd heard many stories about Father's parrot, Pete. This parrot was very smart... and quite a character. John said Monsignor Kearney had given the parrot to Father. It seems that Monsignor and Father were going

somewhere in a car, and the parrot was sitting on Monsignor's shoulder. Father Lenzi asked, "Aren't you afraid your parrot will mess up your clothes?"

"No" said Monsignor. "He never has." The parrot promptly messed up his clothes.

When Father Lenzi got out of the car that day, Monsignor said, "Here, take him with you."

Father left "Pete" with the nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital, and then he picked him up and went back to St. Paul's. When he got out of his car, the nuns were walking across the yard and Pete cut loose with a "wolf whistle." The nurses had taught him! There was no stopping Pete. He startled many a woman when she went to the Church office and was greeted with the loud whistle.

The little alcove on the right of the church was Father's living quarters. It contained an office, a bedroom, and a bathroom, and was not air conditioned, and would get as hot a furnace. Some of the ladies in the parish helped with the housecleaning. Florence Ronza remembers that she and her daughter, Rosemarie Piano and her housekeeper, Elnora "No" Smith, cleaned many times.

James Barnett remembers that Father would have to shut the door between his "home" and the Church when Mass was going on, since "Pete" insisted on singing the Kyrie with him.

James Barnett remembers Father as reserved, not a "buddy, buddy" kind of priest, but very kind and considerate of the young people. He laughed as he told of the day the nickelodeon arrived. It seems that Father had planned a dance for the young people, and had ordered a nickelodeon to be delivered to St. Paul's. James and other teenagers were there when it arrived. Shelby Drive was much lower and very narrow then, and the driveway was not paved, but was rock and gravel. When the truck driver saw the driveway, he became very upset because he was afraid his truck would "mire up." He made the teenagers carry the nickelodeon up the hill,

and he fussed every step of the way about Father involving him in this. James speculated that Father had “conned” him into bringing the music machine.

Father used every fund raising event he could think of to raise money for St. Paul’s, and he worked hard himself. He was seen downtown during Cotton Carnival selling raffle tickets on a car at midnight, all alone.

Once he told Florence Ronza to purchase a war bond to raffle off, and when she asked him where she was supposed to get the money, he replied, “That’s your problem.” Once she had begged for the funds and purchased the bond, she was assigned the job of selling the tickets on it. She loved Father and liked helping him, and her daughter, Rosemarie, said, “He asked Mama because he knew she’d do it.”

Sister Leonilla remembers when the Sisters were teaching in the crypt and Father Lenzi was explaining to the children the difference between purgatory and hell. He used the following example:

“The teachers are now teaching temporarily in the crypt, and purgatory is temporary. If the teachers had to teach here permanently, that would be hell. Hell is permanent.”

She, too, remembers “Pete” very well. One day as the Sisters were marching the children down to Our Lady of the Highway statue, Pete was sitting on his stand outside Father’s door. He started calling out, “Get in that line, keep that line straight.” He said this over and over, which made the nuns laugh to hear how he sounded.

Once when Father was going out of town, he took “Pete” in his cage over to the I.C. convent for the nuns to keep. As Father turned to leave, the parrot began screaming, “Don’t go, Father, don’t go.” “Pete” managed to escape and flew out the door, perching high in a tall shrub. The nuns got a broomstick and pleaded for him to get on it. He looked down at them and said, “Look out, Look out.” It wasn’t easy, but they finally got him back into the convent. On the day Father came to get him,

he heard Father's voice and started laughing. A very happy bird... now that Father was back.

Some say that immediately after Father's death, the nuns could hear Pete calling for him, "Reverend, Reverend." John Jordan, parishioner, took Pete home with him, but the parrot would not eat and died shortly after.

Bob Hagerty remembers Father Lenzi as being a very kind and hard-working priest, who was given the task of building a church during the war. He said supplies were very hard to get, and Father got the steel from Fisher Lime and Steel for the crypt. The crypt was camped off, and roofing paper put on it, and Father had to wait until the war ended to get material to build the Church.

So many memories of Father surfaced that it was impossible to print them all, fulfilling words on the last picture that John Lenzi gave me. "We have loved him in life, let us not forget him in death."

THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Mother Catherine McAuley founded the Sister of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831. Her great ambition was to serve Christ in those she found around her. During the first 10 years, the foundation spread all over the world.

In 1866, six young sisters, led by Mother Clare McMahan, arrived in Nashville to start a convent. In those days each convent was autonomous, with its own superior and novitiate. But in 1929 the Mercys were divided into provinces. Tennessee was included with Kentucky and Ohio with their headquarters in Cincinnati.

Father Lenzi would have contacted the Cincinnati headquarters and requested teachers for his school. The St. Paul children were attending St. Thomas school.

In 1949 three Mercy Sisters arrived in Whitehaven: Sister Mary Leonilla Morris, R.S.M. and Sister Mary Bernadelle Nolan, R.S.M., and Sister Mary Agnita Kerrigan, R.S.M. There was not a convent so the Sisters lived at Immaculate Conception Convent and commuted until 1950. That year the Foster home was bought and remodeled into a convent and the nuns moved in.

They taught in the crypt of the Church in four classrooms divided by partial partitions, and there were 106 students. Each sister had a class, and a lay teacher, Mrs. Mary Tripeer, taught the fourth class.

According to Sister Leonilla, Sister Agnita was principal from 1949 to 1950. From 1950 to 1951, Sister Mary Borgia, R.S.M. was principal. Sister Leonilla was principal from 1951 to 1960. The last Mercy principal was Sister Maris Stella, R.S.M., from 1961 to 1964.

Sister Leonilla was at St. Paul eleven years, nine of which she was both teacher and principal. She saw the school to 650 students by 1961, and that year, she was teaching the 8th grade in the hall.

St. Paul's parish was divided when St. Joseph's Church was built, and in 1965

the Mercys were transferred to St. Joseph to staff their school.

THE IRISH TRAVELERS

The Irish Travelers have been members of our parish from the very beginning. They did not attend Mass at the Gillia home, but their children did attend school in the crypt, according to Sister Leonilla, R.S.M.

Before St. Paul's was built they attended St. Thomas Church and some of their children attended St. Thomas School. The shrine to the Blessed Virgin that was Monsignor Maurath's pride and joy was a gift from the Travelers.

The Travelers are a unique group of people with their own culture, a culture they treasure and protect as the Amish people treasure and protect theirs.

Their love for the Catholic faith and their generosity to St. Paul's Church, its priests and nuns, and other religious in the city, is quite remarkable.

After listening to many stories from sources within the parish about the statue, and not finding any written facts on Our Lady of the Highway, it is my conclusion that she was a gift from the Travelers. On the base of the statue is written:

Our Lady of the Highway
Be with us on our journey
For all thy ways are beautiful
And all thy paths are peace.

In our Church bulletin on September 24, 1989, there was a small paragraph, and while it was in reference to something else, I think it applies here:

The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth. It is obvious that we are travelers; that the purpose of this world is not to "have and to hold" but to "give and to serve." There can be no other meaning.

As I read the words it occurred to me that the Irish Travelers have known the obvious and practiced it for a long time.

I feel deeply honored and blessed to know something of their culture, their joy and their service to God and man.

RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

Catholic Churches have traditionally included relics in their altar stone. At St. Paul's the relics are scattered throughout the altar, making it the altarstone. It is possible that St. Paul's has an additional relic, and though there are no "written facts" that I've been able to locate, three members of the Ronza family verify this.

In 1949, Florence Ronza, her daughter, Rosemarie Piano, and her granddaughter were going to Italy. Father Lenzi asked Florence to bring him a relic of the true cross. This concerned Florence but she told Father that she'd try.

When they reached Florence, Italy, she looked up Father Alberto Cortese, who had been a prisoner in Como, Mississippi, during the Second World War. John Ronza, Florence's husband had met him when he had accompanied another priest to Memphis, and they became friends.

Father Cortese was working with runaway boys, and the Ronzas said it was impressive being with him, as men would come up to him and thank him for previous care. Father Cortese listened as Florence told him what she wanted, and he replied, "Don't worry, Florence, I'll have it for you before you leave Italy."

He was as good as his word, and enlisted a Cardinal to help get the relic. Florence came back from Italy with the relic of the cross in a little round container, which she wore around her neck. She did not take it off until she placed it in Father Lenzi's hands.

She said Father Lenzi put this relic in the cross that is used for veneration on Good Friday.

THE EARLY ALTAR SOCIETY

Father Lenzi asked Florence Ronza to get all the ladies together to make altar linens for the new Church. “Where am I supposed to get the money for this?”

“You figure that out Florence,” Father answered.

Florence had worked for a long time at Gerber’s downtown before she married, and she was a good friend of Mr. Patrick Avila McPhillips. She went to him.

“Mr. McPhillips, Father Lenzi wants me to get all the ladies together to make altar linens for our new Church.”

“Well, Florence, what do you want me to do about it?” “Give me the material,” she replied, “Go on upstairs and get it.”

Mr. McPhillips was one of the owners of Gerber’s and was known as a kind and generous man who was close to many of the priests in Memphis.

The ladies gathered at her home each week to make the linens. This was the beginning of the Altar Society at St. Paul’s.

Some of the early members were Bessie Barnett, Mini Frutell, Betty Hagerty, Clara Tumbrella, Mary Renfro, Theresa Giordano, Angelina Dominiononi, Mary Massavelli, Elsie Geist, Mrs. Clement Santi, Alberto Prauser, and Louise Cleary.

Guistina Catalina made a lovely cutwork altar cloth that took two years to complete. The first Christmas Mass in the crypt this cloth was on the altar. Through the years the cloth has draped the altar for many a wedding and funeral as people request that it be used.

When Guistina Catalani died this year the cloth was taken from St. Paul’s to St. Joseph’s Church for her funeral. The St. Paul Funeral Schola sang in tribute to Guistina, who spent so much of her life using her talents for our Church and cooking for our children.

Mary Shelly of the present Altar Society tried to locate the early minutes, sadly

discovering they were missing. Early officers can't be listed, with the exception of Betty Hagerty. She was the first or second president of the Society.

ST. MARK'S GIFT SHOP

It is unknown why our gift shop is named St. Mark's, and it is unknown who named it. St. Mark was a traveling companion of St. Paul's; he is also the patron saint of Venice, Italy. Father Lenzi may have selected the name.

St. Mark's was first located in a small area off the vestibule of the "little red church."

The first parishioner who worked in the shop was Eugenia Grismore. Other early workers were Louise Cleary, Florence Ronza, Jeanne Zeugin, and Elsie Geist.

As the parish grew the gift shop grew along with it. When the "new" church was planned, the Bride's room was outfitted to be used as St. Mark's Gift Shop.

Today it is operated by the Ladies of the Altar Society. The most faithful worker is Mary Jane Best, who searches through catalogs and visits religious goods stores to find special articles for the customers. This is in addition to maintaining a sizeable inventory of regularly purchased religious articles, such as rosaries, prayer cards, statues, etc.

The gift shop makes a small profit ... but it serves a purpose above and beyond money. It reminds us to take religion into our homes, into our cars, and into the marketplace.

The articles identify us as Catholic Christians. I know it gives me a lift to see Our Lady of the Highway on a dashboard. I relate to the owner and trust him or her.

St. Mark's has survived since our parish began because of these dedicated workers. May we always have dedicated workers to keep it going strong.

THE PARISH CLUB

The P.T.A. named The Parish Club by Father Lenzi did things on a much smaller scale than they do now, according to Mrs. Mary Shelly. They were not so much of a money making organization.

Instead they worked more with the children, such as making favors for the lower grades for special holidays; Christmas, Easter, and Valentine's Day. They also furnished and prepared bouquets of flowers for the May Processions. The bouquets were carried by both boys and girls and were made of little pink roses that bloom in May ... home-grown, not the hot house variety.

They were also called on to ready the Sisters' convent (the Foster home) of their arrival in the fall. When the Sisters left for the summer, they would cover everything with newspaper. Charles and Mary Shelly, Jeanne Zeugin, Harry and Rita Brannon, would clean the convent, stock the pantry and pick up the Sisters of Mercy at the train station when they came in from Nashville.

Mary remembers that one fall they went to the train station and the Sisters had a huge box. The men went to pick it up groaning, thinking it was books. To their surprise and delight it wasn't heavy at all. The box contained a birdcage! One of the Sisters had carried the bird in a tiny box on her lap.

The first president of St. Paul's Parish Club was Mrs. Nick Emerson and the second president was Mrs. Mary Shelly.

On Friday, January 23, 1953, the following article appeared in a local newspaper:

(no other info provided in book.)

ST. LUKE CIRCLE

St. Luke Circle held its first meeting in April 1951. The primary objective of the circle was fund-raising to obtain playground equipment for the school grounds. Next was the landscaping of the church and school grounds, the asphalt for the drives and the parking area around the school.

The Circle hosts dinners for the Bishop, visiting priests, nuns, and parents of the clergy. One of our great projects was sponsoring and editing the dedication book for the new church and landscaping around the new church.

We hold birthday parties at St. Peter Villa once a month and entertain patients at Lamar Baptist Rehabilitation Unit once a month.

We have had a fashion show for the last fifteen years using the proceeds to sponsor four students through Nursing School.

We are proud to sponsor and host the reception for this anniversary of forty years for the school and twenty-five years for the new church.

FATHER EDWARD J. CLEARY

1954 - 1968

Father Edward J. Cleary fulfilled a dream when he came to St. Paul's in 1954... to be a parish priest. It was a dream he'd held since he was fourteen years old and entered St. Bernard's in Cullman, Alabama. He was following the footsteps of his own priest at St. Bridget's, Father Wilson Cunningham, now deceased.

He'd seen more of the world than most of us in those days, as his dream carried him from St. Bernard's to St. Gregory's Seminary at Cincinnati, and St. Mary's of the West at Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained at Immaculate Conception Church here in Memphis by Most Rev. William L. Adrian, then Bishop of the diocese. His first Solemn High Mass was offered at Sacred Heart Church in Midtown.

Briefly he was assistant pastor of I.C., then served for nine years at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. During that period his duties varied. In addition to those of assistant pastor, he was director of the Newman Club for Vanderbilt University, George Peabody and Ward-Belmont Colleges, and he taught for a year at Father Ryan High School.

He was editor of the official Catholic diocesan newspaper, The Tennessee Register, and later was administrator of Cleveland Missions at Cleveland, Tennessee.

From 1949 until 1954, he was a U.S. Air Force Chaplain and on active duty for three years in the combat zone of the Korean War. He rose from the rank of lieutenant to that of major before his service ended.

During those years of preparation, Father kept his eyes and ears open and observed people, places and things, while listening to the beat of the Ultimate Drummer.

On February 4, 1954, Bishop Adrian, in a hand written letter informed Father

Cleary that he was to be pastor of St. Paul's. He arrived at the parish on February 14, announcing with a big smile, "I'm your Valentine." The Chancery Office made it official in March 1954.

He shed his uniform and donned the cassock of parish priest, and never being one to sit on the sidelines, or straddle a fence, he rolled up his sleeves and got to work.

He challenged all, argued and preached at all, loved and forgave all. In the process, minds, souls and pocketbooks stretched more than was believed possible.

Father built the Church, the convent, expanded the school, and built the high school. They stand today as a visible reality of his dreams and courage, born of a visionary spirit that shook the city and diocese and made St. Paul's the largest parish in the state.

In 1954 St. Paul's became the first Church (of any denomination) in Memphis to allow Alcoholics Anonymous to hold meetings on its property. When Father Cleary was approached about this, AA members say he replied, "Not only will I let you meet here... I am tickled to death to have you."

In 1958 Father Cleary held a Cana meeting for the whole parish in the basement of the Church. He gave a talk on marriage, the responsibilities and relationship of the couple to God, to each other and to their children. At the end of the meeting, he asked, "If anyone here would like to form small groups, with no more than six couples to meet twice a month, let me know." Several couples responded and met regularly for sixteen years.

Other organizations followed:

1959 - St. Vincent de Paul Society

1960 - Perpetual Adoration

1961 - Knights of Columbus

1962 - Legion of Mary

1963 - The Children's House

1966 - St. Theresa, The Little Flower Novena

In 1968 Father Cleary, priest, innovator and builder, retired after a heart attack. He left with a hurting heart, "softly before the dawn," to paraphrase an old song.

During his years as our pastor, Father told us we were on a journey to God, and talked to us of silence, spirit, and a holistic approach to life that few understood at the time. After his retirement, it took a while for us to realize that he'd left us with love, strength and spiritual tools for the challenging years ahead. The fruits of his spirit have spread throughout the city and diocese.

Next year, 1990, will be his 50th Anniversary as a priest. Happy Anniversary, Father, God Bless you, and our love to you.

THE NASHVILLE DOMINICANS

On August 15, 1860, Sisters Columba Dittoe, Lucy Harper, and Philomena McDonough left St. Mary's Somersset in Ohio, at the request of Rt. Rev. James Whelan, O.P., second bishop of Nashville. Bishop Whelan wanted Dominican Sisters to "conduct an academy for higher education of girls and young ladies."

They were joined by Sister Francis Walsh from St. Columba's. These Sisters elected Sister Columba Dittoe as Mother to lead the mission to Nashville, and the four Sisters became the foundresses of St. Cecilia Congregation. Their community, an order of preachers: their ideals: study, academic achievement, and furtherance of the Gospel through sacred teaching.

Father Cleary went to Nashville to see Mother Marie William MacGregor to request Sisters for St. Paul's. In August of 1965, the Sisters came to Memphis and lived at Holy Child Kindergarten as the new convent wasn't ready yet. They traveled to and from St. Paul's on a yellow school bus, saying their rosary.

There were 900 students and a faculty of twenty-five that year.

Sister Hildegarde was principal, and the other Dominicans were Sister Mary Ellen, Sister Michele, Sister Eugenia, Sister Charlotte Marie, Sister Adrian Marie, Sister Elaine, Sister Marie Vianney and Sister Jerome.

Sister Hildegarde was principal for two years, Sister Joan Marie for seven years, Sister Robert Ann for two years, and Sister Jerome, our present principal, has been with us two years.

THE NEW CHURCH

On June 25, 1964, The Whitehaven Press, printed the following story by Sallie Willis:

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH ADDS SPLENDOR TO COMMUNITY

St. Paul Catholic Church has been more than a year in the building.

Set as it is on high ground a distance from the street, it has commanded attention from passers-by since the first steel girders were hoisted into place. Residents here have watched it rise, stone by stone, and now it is virtually finished.

Not many nights ago, it came alive with light. An expanse of stained glass showed rich religious symbolism expressed in vivid color. It was a sight to swell the pride of any man, whatever be his faith.

In daylight, the interior view is no less moving. Jewel-like tones of red, blue, green, purple, white and grey cast a hundred hues upon the congregation. The sun's rays send diffused color dancing upon terrazzo in the broad center aisle.

The panoramic sweep enwraps three sides of the structure and sets a spiritual mood for those who enter. A major panel is set above the entrance wherein the artist tells how Grace descends from God to mankind upon the earth.

All of the stained glass was created by Franz Pauli of Botz-Miesen Studios, Cologne, Germany, specifically for this church. The artist took his themes from an outline sent to him by Rev. Father Edward Cleary, pastor of St. Paul's. The priest spent many prayerful hours in its preparation.

"Basic Catholic doctrine is built into this church," Father Cleary said this week. Side panels tell of Faith and Works. Fourteen narrow segments repeat words of the Apostles' Creed - they state what we believe. Wide expanses on the upper levels describe Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy with a like number on the west side symbolic of the Seven Virtues.

“It is all here, spread before you,” he added.

Asked to describe the artistic effect, Father Cleary replied, “The words, ‘frozen music’ come into my mind.

For all of its majesty, this sweep of color only heightens the drama of a marble altar, heartbeat of every church. It stands free in the center of a raised marble communion rail.

Eventually, holy relics of religious martyrs will be sealed into the stone. At present, borrowed ones from the old church are being used, for the Mass cannot be said without their presence.

Two side altars are set beneath transvert windows, or strips of colored glass. Just above them are the church’s only interior statuary; likenesses of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, earthly parents of the Christ.

Sheltering the whole is a haldachinun, or canopy, placed at near ceiling height suggesting soaring space.

Colors of the Italian marble used are russo (red) and perlato (pearl) and it looks warm as the willow strips that form the altar’s backdrop. The ceiling, too, is willow-blending well in tones of tan with side wall of birch and pews of white oak.

“Expanse, warmth and light, these were the basic ideas we followed,” Father Cleary said.

Space is inherent in the structure’s vast dimensions and compounded by a decor of simple elegance. Artificial lighting is mostly indirect with every fixture virtually concealed.

Not yet installed is a cathedral organ whose multiple pipes form a camelback design. It is to be placed in a balcony over the entrance which also seats a 150-voice choir.

The church vestibule is centered with a marble Baptismal font, set in a stained glass alcove. A circular effect is attained by folding wrought iron gate.

Special drainage is provided for the font. Water that has been blessed is not allowed to drain in the usual manner.

Instead it pours over rocks and into the ground beneath the church. A similar system is present in the sacristy, or room where sacred utensils are kept. A double sink has one side open with ordinary plumbing; the other is kept covered and locked. It is only used for disposal of holy liquids.

Twin soundproof rooms with picture windows are provided for mothers with weeping babies. There is also a priest's office, bride's room, utility and storage rooms, and a room for use by the altar boys.

A picturesque innovation is the sun porch at the rear of the building. It overlooks rolling tree-lined acreage, all part of the church property. One day there will be a rock garden just outside beneath a large shade tree.

The church will seat 1000 persons and 100 tons of air conditioning will keep them comfortable. Parking space for 350 cars has been set aside.

Theron Wright was architect; John Heirigs was contractor and Ozzie Linus Coughlin will create the landscape design. All are Whitehaveners and all are communicants of the church they have erected.

Formal dedication will take place in September. Before that happens, though, one other thing must be accomplished. A statue of St. Paul, long a fixture on the grounds, must be moved to stand before the edifice. Thus, the old and the new will be joined together.

Father Cleary was asked his thoughts as he stood in such splendor to say Mass for the first time.

"They were thoughts of thanksgiving," he replied.

The Italian marble statue of St. Paul was donated in memory of Father Angelo Lenzi, by his mother, Mrs. Rosa Lenzi. The sculptor was Ferdinando Pallo from Piestransanta, Italy.

On November 22, 1964, from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m., there was Open House and guided tours for and by the parishioners of St. Paul's. It was an exciting and memorable occasion and many prayers of thanksgiving were offered that day. Afterwards, refreshments were served in our new gymnasium, compliments of the Parish Club.

THE CHURCH WINDOWS

The highlight of my grammar school days in public school was a yearly play, “Living Pictures.” Students clothed in elaborate costumes posed motionless within a huge antique-looking frame and recreated masterpieces. The auditorium was dark and silent and the spotlight centered on the picture itself.

It was a fund raiser for the school, and, equally as important, in a subtle way taught students art appreciation, and, in my case, left me with a feeling that the past lives.

The Church windows at St. Paul’s affect me in exactly the same way. My fascination with them and the artist who created them long before the history of the Church was proposed.

I asked Father Cleary about the entrance windows and the directions he had given to Botz-Meisen Studios, the firm that made them. His reply to my question made me laugh. He answered, “Show the Holy Spirit dive-bombing.”

At a much later date, Father Oglesby told me that in 1986 the family of Franz Pauli, the renowned European artist who designed the windows, visited St. Paul’s. Franz Pauli had died and they were visiting Churches in the United States to see his work. This intrigued me further and prompted a search for information on Franz Pauli.

The rectory provided me with the family address in Germany, and I wrote letters and received no reply.

I tried to contact Ecclesiastical Art Company in Dallas, which had been the agent for Botz-Meisen; it was no longer in business. Botz-Meisen is no longer in business. Many other avenues were followed and none led to success.

Father Oglesby told me he knew that St. Dominic’s Church in New Orleans had windows designed by Pauli. There are many churches in New Orleans and yet

St. Dominic is the one that I knew very well. The most beautiful Midnight Mass I'd ever attended was in that very church, and my husband's uncle lives in the parish.

St. Dominic's office staff were kind but did not know where to begin, and so busy it would take a long time. I called my husband's uncle, a very efficient eighty-year-old, who knew exactly where to look in their files, and in a few days a booklet on St. Dominic's arrived. All of their windows were described in detail, but their knowledge of Franz Pauli was no more than mine.

I hope someday to learn about Franz Pauli who created such beautiful windows for our Church, as I believe artists who make church windows are like iconographers; attuned to the supernatural; as well as having a complete knowledge of their craft. I know that an artist's vision and an artist's sure hand await only a commissioning intelligence to produce images and symbols of God. I know that Father Cleary, with Bishop Adrian's approval, was the commissioning intelligence at St. Paul's.

Franz Pauli, artist, was attempting to raise our spiritual concepts, as was our pastor and bishop. Our windows contain images of Christian symbols, and suggest the whole continuity of Christianity, of the Church, as an enduring thing ... from people of yesterday to people of today.

It's no wonder the windows remind me of masterpieces in Living Pictures, and give me a feeling that the past lives. Our windows ARE masterpieces and the past does live vividly now in our minds and hearts.

NOTE: In 1964 Father Cleary prepared a booklet for parishioners in honor of the dedication of St. Paul's, and describes the Church and windows. This same booklet was re-issued in 1979 with a few changes. The information is repeated here for the purpose of having everything in one booklet.

On the front of the booklet was sketched a cross with St. Paul underneath and grapes and wheat directed below St. Paul. This inscription:

In honor of the dedication of
St. Paul the Apostle ...Catholic Church.

November 20, 1964

“I give thanks to my God in all my remembrances of you always in my prayers..

.making supplications for you all with joy...

and I have the right to feel so about you all, because

I have all of you in my heart...

as sharers in my joy - for God

is my witness how I long for you.”

Page 1:

SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH

Whitehaven, Tennessee

Dedicated to

Saint Paul the Apostle

In the Pontificate of Paul, VI William A. Adrian, Bishop

Edward J. Cleary, Pastor

1963 - 1964

Cornerstone Laid June 27, 1964

+++

Page 2: The Italian Marble Statue of Saint Paul erected on the church grounds was
donated in memory of

REVEREND ANGELO A. LENZI

The First Pastor

of

Saint Paul Church

by

His Mother, Mrs. Rosa Lenzi

The Sculptor was Ferdinando Pallo

Pietrasanta, Italy

THE RAVIOLI MAKERS

It was in the mid-sixties when I saw them, and the sight remains vivid in my mind. They stood elbow-to-elbow, around a large wooden rectangular table covered with mountains of flour. Mostly Italians. They talked, laughed and gestured as they worked, flinging flour in all directions, scooping out valleys for oil and eggs. Making pasta for ravioli ... and making money for the Church they loved.

Being a “Johnny-come-lately,” so to speak, I recently visited with Florence Ronza, one of the first parishioners and ravioli makers, to ask how it started. As she talked, I made a promise to myself, remember, remember this, this is the way it was.

There was a lot of beautiful land and farms in Whitehaven in 1944, and the area was sparsely populated. Bob Hagerty, son of first parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hagerty, delivered newspapers then. He drove an old car, when it would start, and rode a mule when it wouldn't, to deliver the 880 daily papers and 1100 Sunday papers on his route.

Many of Whitehaven's Catholic families were Italian truck farmers, and were attending Mass at the Gillia home. The ladies wanted to raise money for the planned church and decided to have spaghetti picnics. Not an easy task. There wasn't any home or building large enough for the women to cook together. So Josephine Piano, driving an early model Ford, would pick up Florence. Florence had a humongous pot sitting on the floorboard between her legs, and they would go to all the Italian ladies in Whitehaven and some in Memphis to beg gravy.

Florence would take their pots, dump gravy in hers, stir it up, and give them back their pot. They never knew what the recipe was, because it was never made the same way twice!

The picnic was held under the trees in a pasture at the corner of Brooks and Graves Road. They put boards over sawhorses, and placed their food on these

“tables.” Each family would buy the spaghetti, the same families who had made it. It was at one of these picnics that the idea for making ravioli was born.

Maria Gallini, Pusalina Vacaro, Petranilla Annaratone, Palmira Pesce, Angelina Facelli, Rosie Omedeo, Christina Garavelli, Josephine Piano, Florence Ronza, Mary Massavelli, Mary Garavelli, Guistina Catalani... the “Italian Ladies” originators of the spaghetti picnics and the ravioli that would become famous for miles in and around Memphis.

They started making ravioli in the crypt or basement of the Church. It was an assembly-line production, and they enlisted anyone who would work to help. They begged for most ingredients, but never for the rosemary; the Ronza’s had their own bush. Sometimes their husbands helped, and almost all of the first parishioners helped or donated. On the assembly-line as “helpers” were Dena Pacino and Rosemarie Ronza.

The ravioli and pasta were made the old way, using flour, eggs, crackers, olive oil, chicken, pork and beef roasts, red wine, tomatoes, spinach, bay leaf, onions, garlic, parsley, mushrooms, rosemary, and block cheese. The cheese was grated by hand. It took three days to make, and there were not many people on the first day. But on the third day, when it could be “sampled”...plenty of volunteers showed up.

By 1947 Mr. Joe Gallina would arrive on Monday to begin the process of cooking the meat. On Tuesdays the meat would be ground and the dough made. Wednesdays the dough was pinched into small pieces and cooked, transformed into delicious little pies.

These pies sold for about 50 cents a dozen then. They started with approximately 50 pounds each of meat, and 50 pounds of cabbage for slaw. Later, it took 150 pounds of cabbage and a similar increase in meat to satisfy the demand.

In October of 1966, Whitehaven Press, “smelling” a story, printed the following article, complete with a picture of Mr. Joseph E. Gallina manning the kettles.

LOVERS OF RAVIOLI A-HANKERIN' AGAIN

When the goldenrod begins blooming and the trees begin changing their frocks of green for robes of gold and brown, friends of St. Paul Catholic Church begin to experience a taste bud revolution.

They know it is almost time for another of the Church's ravioli and chicken dinners and almost without exception they begin watching the calendar. Some grow so impatient they begin calling the Church office to determine the time and date of the affair.

This is exactly what has happened this week. And to answer those who are eagerly awaiting the delicious meal the Church has issued the following information:

St. Paul's ravioli and chicken dinner will be held in the school gymnasium next Wednesday with service of the meal scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., for those who wish to dine at the Church.

Take-out orders will also be available any time after 1 p.m., and those desiring such service are asked to bring a container for the food. A ravioli and chicken dinner will cost only \$1.25 with a special child's plate costing only fifty cents.

The genuine Italian dish is prepared under the direction of Mrs. Louis Catalani, St. Paul cafeteria manager. But the management of the huge kettles where the food is actually created has been placed in the hands of Joseph C. Gollina of 1471 Farrow Road.

Serving and preparation of the side dishes will be handled by members of St. Paul Parish Club under the direction of Mrs. Edward G. Mullin of 5219 Loch Lomond, club president. Homemade pies and cakes will be furnished by room mothers of St. Paul School.

All Whitehaven residents are invited to attend the event. In April thousands of orders were sold with many purchased uncooked for freezing and use at a later date.

An idea born in a pasture by a handful grew and grew and grew, and made money through the years for St. Paul's. As the idea grew, the handful grew into so many, impossible to name them all now. It's not entirely true that St. Paul's is the Church that ravioli built ... but it's true enough.

NOTE:

After the article on ravioli was completed, Mary Shelly found a newspaper article dated March 18, 1975, and at that time, St. Paul ravioli makers were preparing over 10,000 dozen ravioli by hand. That's more than 120,000. They were using 450 pounds of flour and over a thousand pounds of meat.

Garland Best helped Mr. Joe Gallina with the direction of the event, and after Mr. Gallina's death, Garland continued to work on the ravioli. Louise Cleary was in her nineties in 1975 but was still in charge of the cakes and pies as she had been for many years.

THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion was established in St. Paul's Parish in 1962 when Father Cleary was pastor. The officers were Mrs. Clarence H. Tesson, Mrs. Clifford Corkins, and Mrs. Milton E. Walker.

Records have been misplaced through the years which makes it impossible for all officers to be named here.

The Legion was the first organization I joined in the parish in the early sixties. Martha Frazier was president and Mary Ann Stukenborg was past president. Our meetings were held in the back of the Church in the room that is now the Reconciliation Room. Some of the members were Terry Heirigs, Betty Thron, Margaret Olds, Jessie Risley and Audry Sax. There were others but these are the ones that come to mind.

The Legion was then and is now an active and viable group in our parish. Their first devotion is to Our Lady and they pray the rosary daily. They believe in service and practice it by:

Making census calls when people move into the parish

Visiting parents whose child has been baptized recently and giving them a medal and a rosary

Picking up the elderly and shut-ins and bringing them to Mass on week-ends

Helping the rectory with office work when needed Attending wakes and funerals; paying a call

later and giving the family a booklet,

“Confidence in God”

Telephoning for the Bishop's Appeal

Working in the school cafeteria once a month

Supplying all the motels in Whitehaven with

a postcard showing St. Paul's Church on one side and a map illustrating the route to St. Paul's from each motel Supply the KOA in Hernando with postcards and also the office at the Elvis Presley estate
Visiting people who are in the hospital and also again after they return home.

This year they will begin assisting Sister Inez in the school library.

The officers are Ruby Granger, President; Terry Heirigs, Vice President; Evelyn Harrington, Vice President; Margaret Olds, Treasurer. They meet in the rectory every Wednesday at 9:00 with their spiritual director, Father Howard Doyle. Father Doyle is also the spiritual director for the Legion of Mary in the city. The Legion currently has eight members.

THE HOUSEKEEPERS

The position of housekeeping for a Catholic rectory must be an interesting job. It is definitely an important one. Our parish has had only three; Louise Denegri Cleary, Essie M. Hill and presently Katherine Brown.

Louise Cleary was very well known as she lived in the rectory and then in the parish until she died at ninety-eight on February 4, 1982.

Louise came to St. Paul's when the first rectory was completed and she came loaded with experience. When her son, Father Edward Cleary, was an assistant at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville she moved there to cook for Monsignor Albert Seiner and his assistants.

She particularly enjoyed Sunday mornings when Bishop William Adrian had breakfast at the Cathedral. Her open secret was whispered, "I don't tell my age but the Bishop and I are the same age."

When Father Cleary returned from Korea she moved to Las Vegas where he was stationed; then she moved to San Antonio when he was re-assigned to Lackland Air Force Base.

In 1954 when Father Cleary was named pastor of St. Paul's, he invited her to come as soon as the rectory was built. She came and stayed until he retired.

When the parish was small, Mom Cleary was involved in many activities. She was the housekeeper, cook, receptionist, sacristan and secretary. She loved it all-the people of the parish, the good Sisters, the priests who visited, the shopping, and cooking. Nothing was too much trouble if she could make friends or a few dollars for the Church.

Her special interests were the Altar Society and St. Mark's Gift Shop.

FATHER THOMAS FRANCIS CASHIN

Father Thomas Cashin was not a pastor or assistant at St. Paul's Church. He is listed as being "in residence" from June, 1965, until June, 1968. My first reaction to those dates is astonishment. How could a priest leave such a vivid impression in three years?

Father Cleary requested of Bishop William Adrian that Father Cashin be assigned to St. Paul's to be principal of Bishop Byrne High School. His request was granted.

Those were exciting days in our parish and Father Cashin added to the excitement. He was a tall, slim priest who was usually wearing a cassock, walking briskly around the property reading his office.

We soon learned that he was never too busy for us; that he was compassionate, always ready to listen and talk and help us with our problems; that he was a brilliant, witty orator who left us hungering for more. He appeared to be filled with wisdom and happy to share it.

He was an educator, a strict but fair disciplinarian with a wide streak of humor. I learned of his humor quite by accident. I answered the phone in the school office and a gentleman asked to speak to "Old Ironsides." "Sir," I said, "You have the wrong number. This is St. Paul's Catholic School and there is no one named Ironsides here." Sister Mary Carmel overheard my end of the conversation and started laughing. The call was for her.

On August 13, 1965, Whitehaven Press ran this article by Sallie Willis:

A long, low whistle, executed with profound sincerity, usually is the first reaction of those entering Bishop Byrne High School for the first time.

The exclamation does not necessarily stem from the magnitude of Whitehaven's brand new Diocesan high school, although size is certainly evident. It

is the stunning sight of wall-to-wall carpeting in almost every nook and cranny in the huge, multi-level building.

“Such luxury!” the visitor breathes.

“Not so!” says the principal, Rev. Thomas F. Cashin.

“Highly practical and a proven economy.”

The priest supports this with a sheaf of reports from U.S. testing laboratories which subjected carpet samples to pressures of 50,000 pounds and an abrasive wheel. Torture tests equivalent to fifteen years of ordinary school traffic were administered and results were highly favorable, he said.

Installed directly over concrete, the carpeting is stain resistant requires much less time and money investment in maintenance and cleaning, although “every inch will be vacuumed every day,” the principal added.

Other benefits of quiet and beauty are incidental, but they are there.

The lobby entrance to the structure at 1475 Shelby Drive is characterized by glass expanses, ceramic tile walls, extensive interior plantings and a sunken pool. An enormous commons room adjoins leading ultimately to a gymnasium - auditorium seating 2,100, plus spacious athletic accommodations. Special facilities have been provided for visiting teams as well.

The building’s upper level houses forty-nine teaching stations for an initial faculty of seventeen, a 25,000 volume library, a drama theater seating more than four hundred and spacious administrative offices. The entire structure is completely air conditioned.

With Theron Wright as architect, the 138,000 square foot educational institution may be described as contemporary modern. It is the first co-educational Catholic high school in the Memphis area in many years. Its student capacity is estimated at 1,200.

Planned immediately, Father Cashin said, are a school newspaper and annual.

A school band is a year or two in the future, but band facilities are present now. There will be no school bus service offered, the principal said.

Official school colors red, white, and black have been chosen, but a nickname for athletic teams will be up to the student body, Father Cashin added.

A full County League will be played this year and football practice with Jim Vincent as coach is underway already.

“New or not,” the principal said, “we’ll be out to win!”

Father Cashin was the son Patrick O’Brien Cashin and Marie M. Stark and he was born on August 11, 1921 in Augusta, Georgia. He moved to Memphis as a young boy and attended Sacred Heart Elementary and High schools, and was graduated from Christian Brothers College. He attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa, Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, and he was ordained a priest on December 21, 1946, in Nashville by Bishop William Adrian. He served as associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Memphis, taught at Sacred Heart and Catholic High in Memphis, and was Assistant Chancellor of St. Mary’s in Nashville. He attended St. John Lateran University in Rome to study for Canon Law. He was the Notary of the Tribunal and later Defenso Vinculi of the Tribunal in Nashville. He was also the Chaplain of Nashville Serra Club. He was Chaplain in residence at St. Cecilia Convent and Professor of Aquinas Junior College in Nashville, Chaplain of District 18 of Serra International ... all before he came to St. Paul’s and Bishop Byrnes.

While serving as Principal, he was appointed to the Commission for Ecumenical Affairs and Chaplain of Madonna Circle in Memphis. In June of 1968, he was named Pastor of Holy Rosary Church.

Father Cashin talked to me of his love for the Dominican Sisters, and how he believed they had saved his life. He said, “I was very ill, and was in intensive care after surgery. They thought I was going to die. I woke up and my bed was surrounded

by what I believed were angels in heaven. It was the Dominican Sisters ... same as angels ... they had prayed me back to life.”

Father Cashin became ill while on a Caribbean cruise and was taken to St. Elizabeth Hospital in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. He died on April 10, 1970. His funeral was at Holy Rosary Church in Memphis and he is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Memphis.

FATHER EDGAR MICHAEL KELLY

Father Kelly came to St. Paul's in June 1971 as an Assistant Pastor, and was with us until January of 1977. He was a very devout and serious priest who was seen often kneeling at the Church altar before the Blessed Sacrament. His lips were not moving, but it was apparent there was a silent communication going on between him and our Lord.

His sermons were beautiful and could be described as instructions in the faith and history of the Catholic Church.

One of my fondest memories of Father Kelly is of an evening when he was in my home for dinner. It seems I always served fish as my husband would catch them... and cook them. We were sitting around and talking after dinner and I said, "Father, I'm sorry for always serving fish."

He laughed and said, "I'm just glad your husband doesn't play golf." Then we all laughed at the vision of golf balls on our plates.

I remember, too, how he enjoyed Garland Best's friendship. Garland would cook breakfast for the two of them, and then they would head for the golf course. Mary Jane, Garland's wife, used to say that they would even play with snow on the ground.

Father Kelly attended grammar school at St. Brigit's School in Memphis. After graduation, he attended St. Bernard's High School in Cullam, Alabama, St. Ambrose in Davenport, Iowa, Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained a priest on May 29, 1943, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, by Bishop William L. Adrian. In June, 1943, he served as Chaplain of St. Bernard Convent in Nashville and also in the missions in Lebanon, Tennessee; August, 1943, he was Assistant at the Cathedral of the Incarnation for twelve years, and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies; 1948, Diocesan Director of Confraternity of Christian

Doctrine; 1949, Chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission; June 13, 1955, Pastor, St. Anne Parish, Nashville; Chaplain Veterans Hospital; March 4, 1960 Synodal Examiner; November 27, 1959, Diocesan Committee on Liturgy; March 10, 1967, Pastor of St. Francis Cabrini Parish, Lebanon, Tennessee until 1971.

JESSIE DEVINE RISLEY

Jessie was not an officer in any of the organizations at St. Paul's to my knowledge. Nor did she attend the masses at the Gillia Home, although she was an early member in the Church. Her children didn't attend the school as she had none.

She is remembered simply because she made impact on many parishioners of St. Paul's. Myself included. I loved her.

It must have been around 1967 when I first met her at Legion of Mary meeting. She was about forty-five years older than I; her back was bent with age and she walked with a cane. Her hair was silvery white and the thin pale skin of her face was grooved with wrinkles; her long thin fingers knotted at the joints; yet, her blueish-grey eyes were bright with merriment and intelligence. She invited me to come see her.

She was a widow and lived in a small house on Millbranch Road that her husband, Roy, had built for her. It was easy to find her house in the spring as her back and side yards were aglow in yellow and white fields of flowers. Her special love: daffodils. She was an authority on daffodils and corresponded with daffodil growers around the world.

An interesting woman with a picturesque manner of speaking; an avid storyteller. She was born Jessie Anita Devine on November 4, 1893, in the middle of a snow storm in a little log cabin in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Her father was an architectural engineer and a pipe organist. Born in Liverpool, England, he came to the United States as a young man. Employed by the Shaw Majestral Firm, he had an integral part in the designing and constructing of many of the major bridges in this country.

It was while on a business trip to Hot Springs that he met his wife to be. She was a beautiful young girl of forty. Jessie's grandmother, pleased that her daughter

would be marrying well, allowed her to do so sooner than she had originally planned. This union did not last, and soon after Jessie's birth, they were divorced.

Jessie's mother soon remarried and another child, Helen, was born in 1896. With the arrival of Helen into the world Jessie's mother took her aside and said, "This is your little sister, take care of her always."

Jessie's early education was supplied mostly by her mother. Shakespeare, the Bible, Burns, poetry, prose.. .and her mind absorbed them all to the degree that she would rather read than eat. Somehow she managed to get through grade school, and although she did not have a grammar school certificate, she was able to talk the principal of St. Mary's High School in Little Rock into accepting her as a student. A move to Hot Springs ended her brief sojourn in high school, but her thirst for knowledge was still not satisfied. She went to St. Bridget's Convent and took more work in grammar school courses.

It was while at St. Bridget's that a miracle occurred in her life. Upon walking into St. Bridget's one day, she felt the presence of someone else around her; therefore, she went in search of a priest. She found one and told him of her feeling; he questioned her carefully and went with her back into the church. When she told him that when wanted to become a Catholic, he blessed her and replied that she already was, as she had the will to be Catholic. All that remained, he said was to take some instruction in dogma. She left the church with a feeling of joy, and a hope of conquering the world. A life of success, however, is not without its failures...she lost her first job, that of working for the telephone company in Hot Springs, because she could not type. This did not get in her way. She came to Memphis, which at that time was also in its formative years. She found it a horrible place, a river town, filled with yellow fever, crime, filth - rather intimidating to a young girl. After attending business school, she obtained a job at the Cotton Belt Railroad and worked there twenty-five years.

Jessie loved telling the story of how she met her husband. It was an ordinary day at work, disrupted by the entrance of Roy Thorpe Risley, a young reporter for the Press Scimitar. He stood, looking up at Jess, who was perched atop a ladder getting some books. “What’s your name?” “Jessie,” she replied. “Jessie,” he said, “I’m going to marry you.” She would not speak to him after that as she felt he was a silver-tongued devil spouting a line. It took a long time for him to convince her otherwise and they married a little over three years after that day. Roy and Jessie, both serious-minded were kindred spirits; yet Jessie maintained that real love only occurs after years of marriage.

Hard times followed; the Depression came and life was pitiful, men lost everything, wages were reduced, no one had any money. Out of the sense of hopelessness, the power of the human spirit prevailed and major churches around town had soup lines for people to obtain food. People took the homeless into their own homes; three people moved in with Roy and Jessie. Finally, after what seemed forever, it was over.

Jessie survived the Depression only to fall into a long period of depression of her own, when she learned she would never have any children. At the thought of never being able to have children, never to be able to witness the wonder of a new life, she lost her faith.

It was her husband, Roy, perceptive and astute who took her to the country. They bought a farm and a dog in Walls, Mississippi and he showed her another way of creating life.. .through plants. What began with the planting of a small onion plant and watching it grow ended with a life-long love of flowers, and caring for the little Scottie gave her life new meaning.

While living in Walls, she became a friend of Father Vincent McDonald and spent many a happy hour conversing with him.

They moved back to Memphis and Jessie’s flowers began decorating the altar

at St. Paul's. She loved the Dominican Sisters and spoke often of Sister Mary Carmel. One Easter to keep from disappointing the Sisters, she went out and bought flowers for their chapel. Spring had been slow in coming and her flowers had not yet bloomed.

Besides working for the railroad, Jessie had worked for many years as a court reporter. She traveled some with Roy to cover stories for the Scimitar and met Clarence Darrow, and William Jennings Bryan, Billy Sunday and Boss Crump. She was very well versed in Memphis history and world history.

She introduced me and many other to "her" Memphis, which by this time was home. When her bones became so fragile that she was afraid to leave her home, she would treat us to a Lenten lunch at Calvary, a birthday lunch at the Four Flames. When the Metropolitan Opera came to town she urged us to go.

She had owned a gift shop once and knew all about fine crystal and china and beautiful wood; and she shared this knowledge. She shopped from catalogs before it became fashionable and she loaned them to us.

Jessie owned more Bibles than anyone I'd met before or since. They were not for looks. She read them from cover to cover; discussed them with priests, rabbis and Protestant ministers. She took a Bible correspondence course from The Liturgical Press and when she talked about Moses or David it sounded as if she were talking about her next door neighbors. Her bookshelves drooped from the weight of philosophy, law, Latin, Italian, religion, botany, history, psychology and literature books.

She introduced me to icons and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and we shared a love for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

It was at Jessie's house that I met Mary Ann Stukenborg, Audry Sax, Mary Jane Best, Mary Babich, Audry Visor, Ann Colbrunn and other parishioners of St. Paul's. These people took care of her in various ways, by taking her to the doctor,

buying her groceries, doing her errands, setting her hair, listening to her fears, helping her solve her problems.

The priests of St. Paul's visited—Father Cleary, Father Kelly, Father Graham, and Father Callis.

Her life was not easy; she had her sorrows and pain. She took care of her mother until she died; and she remembered the promise she'd given her mother to take care of her sister when she was just a child and she fulfilled this promise. Her husband died from a heart attack. Hers was a full life though, and she realized it and was grateful for it.

She had character defects like all of us and was far from perfect,. .like all of us. But she was a delightful person doing the best she could.

Jessie spent most of her life as she would say, laughing, "Separating the sheep from the goats." She died on May 22, 1983, Pentecost Sunday, and her funeral was at St. Paul's. I'll never forget it. Father Oglesby was the celebrant and was standing near the altar. There weren't a lot of people there as Jessie had outlived most of her relatives. But those of us who attended grouped behind the coffin at the rear of the Church. Father Oglesby said, "Only the family behind the coffin." Someone replied, "We are her family!"

THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE **by Peggy Grisamore**

In late 1961 or early 1962, Father Cleary was sitting in an airport in Illinois when he picked up a book on Maria Montessori and read it. Bingo! This is what he wanted to offer the children in Memphis.

Doris Kathleen Kehoe, registered nurse, and long-time friend of Father Cleary's family, was thinking of making a career change. Father called her and said, "Are you serious about wanting to teach and do you want to be poor?" Doris replied, "Yes, I'm serious about wanting to teach and I'm willing to be poor though I'd rather not."

In 1963, an article in the daily newspaper caught my eye. The first Montessori program in a five-state area of the mid-south was established at St. Paul's Catholic School in Whitehaven. Father Cleary explained the system this way:

The child actually teaches himself. There is little instruction as such, only brief explanations from the teacher. Work is the secret and work habits are set at the earliest possible age. Toys are not used. With practical materials, children teach themselves in a controlled pattern toward desired goals. There is hidden discipline in this approach. It is the antithesis of what is commonly labeled progressive education, a proven failure. In the Montessori system, useless activity is channeled into useful activity and is energetically promoted. Destructive actions are stopped.

Religion would have a special place at this school. The Directress, Doris Kehoe, said, "We believe that the individual is composed of body and soul, intellect and emotions, and everything we are doing in filling the intellect and emotions is

going to be of religious value in the future.”

It clicked. This is for my children! I called St. Paul’s rectory, and spoke with Mrs. Mary Ann Ryan, Father’s sister, and secretary. She gave me information about tuition and told me that children could start at an early age. I don’t remember what else we discussed, but I remember being very excited about Montessori.

On the first day of school in 1964, my son walked through the doors of The Children’s House. I thought he would cry. He didn’t. I did. I stood with other parents outside the see-through windows and observed. It was amazing. He didn’t look back as he walked over to a brightly colored table and sat down ... as if he belonged there. He was not an exception, most of the other children did the same.

The see-through windows were one-way windows; we parents could observe without the children seeing us. They were windows on our side and a mirror on their side. Common today, but not then. I spent many hours that year at THE window. All the furniture was miniature, scaled down to child-size. There were shelves filled with materials, frames for lacing, buttoning, and typing bows, sandpaper letters, numerical rods, musical bells, counting boxes ... the didactic materials fascinated me. I watched as children walked the line, putting one foot in front of the other like tight-rope walkers, and watched them marching with musical instruments on the same line. The children swept the floor, dusted and washed the furniture, polished silver, copper, and poured juice all by themselves. It was truly a children’s house. I watched Miss Kehoe, and her assistants, Mary Hale, a former St. Paul instructor, and Erika Eickhoff, a music teacher, and Mary Frady, aide, be non-teachers in the conventionally accepted sense. Most of all, I watched my child change and learn and grow.

And like most mothers, I saved every scrap of paper Charles brought home that year, papers with geometric shapes and letters. By the end of the year, he was reading first grade books and writing in script. I felt I’d witnessed a miracle.

I read everything I could find on Montessori, and each of my children entered The Children's House, one after the other. Thus began my friendship with Doris Kathleen Kehoe and the parishioners of St. Paul's.

Doris was a tall woman, 6'1", and if she looked tall to me, she looked like an Amazon to the children. She frequently laughed about their reactions and comments on her height. It was fascinating to see her seated at a miniature table in a miniature chair with the children. This she did often.

Her hair was dark brown and gray, her eyes brown, and her frame large, but slim. She ordered her clothes from Dallas because no one in Memphis sold the classic clothes she preferred; not in her size, anyway.

Doris was a Memphian, attended Snowden Elementary School and Sacred Heart High School. At Sacred Heart she was the star of the basketball team. She attended the University of Tennessee School of Nursing, and also obtained a degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

She went to work at Kennedy Hospital and was a nurse dedicated to the good of the patient and to insuring the very best nursing care that could be provided. She demanded the best from herself and the personnel under her supervision. She passed on to her supervisors recommendations for improvements, and many times they followed her recommendations. She was admired and liked at Kennedy.

When she was in nursing, she wanted to be a floor nurse, not an administrator. Her desire was to be the person giving bedside care, but whatever work she undertook, she learned it from the ground up and improved her expertise. Unfortunately for her, she had leadership skills and it always showed.

In 1950 Doris transferred to the VA Hospital in Dallas where she was to live for two years. She was having "back" problems then, though few people knew it. She wore a heavy padded brace to work and drove thirty miles to and from the hospital in Dallas heat. This was a very special kind of torture, but she didn't

complain, she just did it.

Doris was a very private person and not many people knew of her “fun” side. She loved to travel and meet new people, and while in Texas she visited a new place each weekend. She accumulated books on Texas and its history, and when she visited the Alamo she knew more about it than the guide.

She loved horses and horse racing. When she went to the track, she would go back and “talk” to the horses before deciding which one to bet on. And though I never saw her do this, I can imagine it, having seen the Irish people talk to their horses in a gentle voice and the horse’s response.

In Texas Doris was happy and relaxed with no demands on her. She enjoyed her apartment, cooking, keeping house, and saved part of each day for prayer and meditation.

She returned to Memphis in 1952, and went back to Kennedy Hospital. She was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Nursing Staff.. .and she still did not want to be an administrator.

When Father Cleary offered her the Montessori course at Washington Montessori Institute, she didn’t hesitate, she just did it. She bought all the books on the subject, and decided that was the way to make the world a better place, teach the little ones and develop them into first class people. She felt about teaching the same as she had about nursing. She wanted to be in the classroom with the children, not an administrator.

By 1966 The Children’s House had grown from two classes to four, and had a total of 100 students, and a waiting list. There were also three new members on the faculty, Jennifer DeSilva and Celia DeSoyza, both graduates of Montessori training at St. Bridgitte’s Convent in Ceylon, and Sister Mary Fredrick, O.P. The presence of Miss DeSilva and Miss DeSoyza added excitement to the children and the parish as they wore the traditional dress of their country, the very colorful and beautiful

sari.

In the early 70's The Children's House moved away from St. Paul's, first to Christ the King Church on Stateline Road, then to a house on Winchester, and next to its present position on Hale Road. During those years Doris had tremendous stress and strain, but she didn't give up. I worked for her for a short time and observed her determination and the constant pain she suffered with her back.

My friendship with Doris continued until August, 1986. As destiny would have it, my mother was in the hospital at the same time, and their rooms were close to each other. Doris's "back trouble" was cancer and she treated it in the same way she did everything else...in a determined way. She prayed to Padre Pio and for a while believed she would be cured. When she knew that she would not get well, and some believe she had a visit from the Padre, she refused chemotherapy, and everything else that she thought might prolong her pain. The news traveled quickly all over the hospital, and doctors and nurses filed in just to see this person. Her suffering was great and her complaints few; her face took on a glow and it seemed that she had psychic abilities. Her last words to me were "Be happy." She died on August 28, 1986.

After her funeral I stood outside St. Paul's and the sun beaming on the roof gave me peace and a sure knowledge of how our lives are entwined with others.

Doris Kehoe planted the Montessori tree in this area, and trained Montessori teachers, and many of these teachers now have their own Montessori schools. But there is only one other International Montessori school in Memphis, and it is located at St. Michael's Catholic Church. The Directress, Maria Schuermann Cole, a St. Paul's girl, began her Montessori training with Doris.

Father Cleary introduced the idea, Doris Kehoe, Children House Board Members, Children House teachers, and countless families of St. Paul's made it a reality. In my opinion, Mary Ann Ryan, Doris's best friend and secretary, provided

the most help, with work, a listening ear, and with love and dedication to Montessori and Doris.

FIRST CHILDREN'S HOUSE CLASS – 1963 - 1964

CHILD

Barber, Beverly Ann

“ Ted

Brannon, Deborah

Bray, Phillip

“ Timothy

Breymaier, Mary Ann

Costello, Catherine Mary

Dahler, David Mark

Eckles, Jamie

“ Liz

Foster, Jeffery

Garay, Alejandro

“ Barry

Guinle, Dana Bess

Hargrave, Robert Scott

Harris, Mark Edward

“ Thomas Hiram

Haslett, Adrian

Hayden, Julia

Heirigs, James Edward

Jack, Michael

Jallette, Henry L.

PARENTS

Mr. Mrs. Ted Barber

“ “

Mr. Mrs. Thomas Brannon

Mr. Mrs. James J. Bray

“ “

Mr. Mrs. Robert Breymaier

Mr. Mrs. John T. Costello

Mr. Mrs. Leroy Dahler

Mr. Mrs. E. J. Eckles

“ “

Mr. Mrs. Robert Foster

Mr. Mrs. Manuel Garay

“ “

Mr. Mrs. David Guinle

Mr. Mrs. W. H. Hargrave

Mr. Mrs. H. H. Harris

“ “

Mr. Mrs. Thomas Haslett

Mr. Mrs. Edgar Hayden

Mr. Mrs. John Heirigs

Mr. Mrs. Thomas L. Jack

Mr. Mrs. Henry L. Jallette

Johnson, Donna Marie	Mr. Mrs. Uis Johnson
Johnson, Regina Louise	Mr. Mrs. Pat Johnson, Jr.
Lane, Lisa	Mr. Mrs. Russell Lane
Lawrence, David Lynn	Mr. Mrs. Don Lawrence
Lawrence, Donald	Mr. Mrs. Don Lawrence
Loeffel, Karen Ann	Mr. Mrs. Frank Loeffel, Jr.
Maguire, John Preston	Mr. Mrs. Thomas O. Maguire
Marable, III, Cecil L.	Mr. Mrs. Cecil Marable, Jr.
“ David	“ “
Monoghan, Tim	Mr. Mrs. Thomas Monoghan
Peyton, Eddie	Mrs. Angela Peyton
“ Linda Sue	“ “
Stark, Paul	Mr. Mrs. Don F. Stark
“ Susan	“ “
Stewart, Thomas A.	Mr. Mrs. J. N. Stewart
Stukenborg, Mary Susan	Mr. Mrs. A. J. Stukenborg, Sr.
Swatzyna, Roger	Mr. Mrs. Ronald Swatzyna
Vescovo, Barry Allen	Mr. Mrs. Louis J. Vescovo
Wilder, Donna	Mr. Mrs. Frank Wilder
Wilhite, Wendy Lou	Mr. Mrs. F. E. Wilhite
Wright, Joni Marie	Mr. Mrs. Theron Wright

There were several families, that had four or five children attend The Children's House. These were:

Mr. Mrs. John T. Costello	five children
Mr. Mrs. Pat Jansen	five children
Mr. Mrs. Leroy Dahler	four children

Mrs. Jane Franklin	four children
Mrs. H. H. Harris	four children
Mr. Mrs. Cecil Marable, Jr.	four children
Mr. Mrs. Terrance O'Malley	four children
Mr. Mrs. Don F. Stark	four children
Mr. Mrs. Frank Grisamore	five children

If I've left someone out, it was unintentional. These names have been mentioned, for record-keeping and genealogy purposes.

Other teachers at Children's House:

Mrs. Jane Franklin	Mrs. Eleanor Lloyd
Priyan This Morden	Karla Moffette
Cathy Davis	James Bradfield
Anne Tilly	Ruth Stevenson

SPORTS

Sports never appealed to me and I would have missed the experience of winning teams and the excitement felt when “Cotton” Lloyd and St. Paul teams walked on the field, but for my husband. He would “drag” me to practices and games beginning in 1965, when our son was in the second grade.

I didn't know anything about the game rules then or now, but did learn the “we” of being a team. In time, my son played, my husband coached, and my daughters chanted in unison the latest cheer (with appropriate gestures, of course).

In 1968 approximately fifty boys tried out for the Pee Wee teams. After a short period all of the fourth grade and most of the fifth grade boys were eliminated. The fathers of these boys formed an intermural football team.

Barney Sellers, photographer for The Commercial Appeal, showed up at practice one day. A few days later, this article and a large photograph appeared on the sports page:

WATCH THAT NO. 43 - HE'S THE WHOLE TEAM

Number 43 scored every touchdown, made very major yardage gain, picked up every key block and tackle, and threw - and in fact caught - every pass during the season which began in September and ended last week.

It wasn't really outstanding athletic prowess - just a fairly common problem of supply and demand that

set the stage for number 43's achievements.

“We didn't have any money to buy jerseys,” explained R. L. Peters, one of four fathers who coaches the team that “really has no schedule as such.”

“So we went down to the dollar store and bought all the jerseys they had and they were all number 43.”

Mrs. Joe Talarico, Jr., wife of one of the other coaches, thought she could better pick her number 43 from the flock if she let him wear blue socks. “But there were too many blue socks that day. It didn't work. You just have to watch and follow closely.”

The photograph showed Coach Peters and all the players with the caption: “OK, 43, GET IN THERE.”

In those days, all the playing fields were crowded with families, spectators and players, winning and losing ... and all the drama of the game.

“Cotton” was the coach who caught my eye, and he agreed to share his knowledge and memories of the sports program.

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL ATHLETICS

by “Cotton” Lloyd

In the middle fifties, children from Whitehaven attending St. Paul’s School would venture off to St. Thomas to be on a parochial football team. A few years later the YMCA League had teams and our young people played football there and baseball for the Whitehaven Baseball Association. Basketball was rather limited due to no gymnasium.

In the later fifties, a group of men from St. Paul’s formed the St. Paul Booster Club. This was a support organization without any by-laws or more formal procedures; just the purpose of supporting St. Paul athletics.

These men started athletics at St. Paul’s in a direction that has made it well recognized throughout the city of Memphis among parochial schools and other athletic associations.

St. Paul’s first football coach, Bob Woodard, a professional businessman, gave his time to coach not one, but both St. Paul football teams when the program first began.

With people like Fred Osterloh, Al Stukenborg, Sr., Jim Boyle, Emmet Gallagher, John Gunn, and Bill Thron and several others, donations were obtained to begin St. Paul’s venture into parochial athletics.

Under Bob Woodard, St. Paul football began to flourish as his teams won Parochial Championships on several occasions from the late 1950’s through 1967. Bob, the pioneer, laid the foundation to follow. His players are numerous and one can’t describe all those who were successful and good students while at St. Paul’s. A couple who come to mind are High School All Americans Steve Leech and Mark Prudhomme.

Following football was the basketball program and the building of a gym-

cafeteria combination that was used for all athletics. George Rhodes, FAA Air Traffic Controller, took over basketball and gave his time religiously to this sport. George was a dual coach and in the first year of the late fifties coached both the Pee Wee and Junior basketball teams. George brought success to the program by winning some parochial championships.

In baseball, such people as Tommy Leech, Dudie Massa, John Gunn, and Bill Thron all gave their time and efforts to promote Pee Wee and Junior teams that were top competitors among parochial teams.

In 1964, Cotton moved to Whitehaven from the south Memphis area. Jim Boyle, Al Stukenborg, Sr., Emmett Gallagher and Fred Osterloh, knowing of Cotton's South Memphis athletic success quickly got him and his new young family involved with St. Paul's. Bob Woodard lured him to the football field and George Rhodes encouraged him to help with basketball on nights he couldn't cover practice.

Jim Boyle, Emmett Gallagher, Fred Osterloh and others had Cotton coach St. Paul's first Senior Baseball Team for fourteen - and fifteen-year old boys.

From 1964 to 1978, Cotton coached football, basketball, and baseball at St. Paul's in some form or fashion, non-stop, until he took a rest by skipping a sport to officiate. He returned to coach with friends in 1980, 81, 82, but was involved in National American Legion Baseball Championship Tournaments so much that he backed off some of the hours spent at St. Paul's. Cotton was Memphis's first Connie Mack Baseball chairman and in 1985 was inducted into the Tennessee Park Commission "Hall of Fame" as the first youth team manager to be selected in this category. His baseball teams won 1,046 games; basketball, 369; and football, 144, during his years coaching from South Memphis, St. Paul's, and American Legion baseball.

In 1964, The James H. Boyle Memorial Sportsmanship Award was established upon the death of Jim Boyle.

In 1975, The Lorrie Boyd Memorial Sportsmanship Award was established upon the death of a thirteen-year-old child who meant so much to so many.

In 1977, Athletic Award guidelines were created to regulate and enhance participation and to strengthen spiritually and physically the athletic environment.

In 1978, Cotton encouraged a new man to coach at St. Paul's, Steve Jourdan.

Steve was impressed with St. Paul children and their parents' involvement with sports, and he moved into coaching the Junior football team. This team went on to win the Parochial Championship.

Steve, a Vice President of City Finance Company at the time, gave and is still giving of himself to our teams in 1989. Steve's teams have been football and basketball champions, and he coaches Junior baseball teams in the summer months to titles also.

Steve Jourdan has encouraged Intramural sports at St. Paul's, where the youngest children can participate, without the stress and strain of parents traveling around the city.

Athletic Directors:

Bill Key - In the early 70's Bill Key enrolled his children at St. Paul's school. Bill coached football, basketball, and baseball, along with being Athletic Director. Bill was formerly a high school coach and Director of Tall Trees Half-Way Center for Wayward Boys. He presently is Chief Administrator with Memphis Shelby County Juvenile Court. Under Bill's leadership, St. Paul won three Triple Crown Championships. He won titles in football, basketball,

and baseball in the same year on three occasions.

Emmett Gallagher - President of Gallagher Lumber Company. Emmett was Athletic Director at St. Paul's from the 60's through the early 70's. Emmett was a tireless worker for the children of St. Paul's. He would coach Intramural sports or girl's softball, if needed. He was president of the Parochial Athletic Association and a member of the Athletic Committee during his years of service.

Jim Boyle - Our James H. Boyle Sportsmanship Award is in memory of this man, who inspired us all. Jim was a convert to Catholicism and the father of ten children. He was the leader of our Booster Club, and at the time, he was Parts Manager of Union Chevrolet. Every businessman who went into Union Chevrolet knew something about St. Paul's sports, and they usually gave something to help our athletes. Jim was always willing to give, asking nothing in return. He died in 1968 of cancer. The award is given to a young man that has the qualities of Jim.

Pat Patrick - Booster Club President, 1964 - 1968. Pat is the most remembered person in this position due to his ability to organize and manage people to work together for a common goal of helping St. Paul children. No one could gather around Pat without picking up a shovel, or picking up a paint brush to take care of St. Paul school grounds. He revitalized the football field with grass as thick as a carpet, and obtained donations from every person he met for the athletic program. His wife, Betty, and sons, Dennis, Greg, and Wyatt were a strong family in the parish.

There were other people that deserve recognition, such as:

Jim Locastro - Memphis Police Inspector, coached football and baseball.
John Kilpatrick - Coached Pee Wee baseball for several years, and prior to that, he coached at St. Thomas.

Jimmy DiSalvo - Coached Pee Wee football in 1969.

Carlo Pirani - Coached Pee Wee football in 1969.

Pat DeNomie - First Female Athletic Director at St. Paul's. Maggie

Bruno - Second Female Athletic Director at St. Paul's. Ted Reilly - Coached Basketball in 1960's.

Tom Mitchell - Football and Pee Wee baseball in 1960's.

"Luck" Starnes - In 1960 coached football in the absence of Bob Woodard for a year. He had been a legendary coach in every sport at old Holy Names School during early years of parochial athletics. Also member of Park Commission "Hall of Fame" in Baseball.

Charlie Wright - Coached football and baseball at Pee Wee level in 1970's.

Bennie Pierotti - Coached baseball in the 60's.

Tommy Hayslett - Helped coach baseball in the 60's.

If there was an award for Special Persons, it would read like this:

Al Stukenborg, Sr. - Al was never the head Athletic Director, coach, or Booster Club President. He was the everyday volunteer referee in any sport where a need existed. He was the man that obtained the funds so that a team was able to play in a given year. Few people knew how the teams obtained their uniforms. Al Stukenborg, Sr. is the greatest man behind the scenes in doing Christ's work on earth for his fellowman, adults and children alike, that I've ever met.

Jack Beshears - "Uncle Jack," many a boy would say, was the silent assistant. Jack would be Head Coach on a few occasions from 1968 through 1980, if there was no one else to take the job. He was at all St. Paul's events even when not coaching. He had a favorite saying when he was about to comment on a given situation, "I don't know nothing but if I were

going to play against them and that defense, I would consider, etc.” By his opening remarks, I knew to

listen and would find the key to winning a big game. Jack would ease into practice and train his lineman on the football field, and before conversation started at the end of the day, he would be gone.

He was “my other self,” in thought and interest. What he did for me, and for the young people in developing their character and talents, cannot be paid for except with prayer and thanks.

Lorrie Boyd - She wasn't a star athlete; she merely played volleyball and was on the Pep Squad, and gave her best with her God-given talents. The Lorrie Boyd Award is in her memory. She was a thirteen-year-old student and had gone to school with a headache one day, went home, passed out and was rushed to the hospital where she later died. Her classmates and friends talked of her kindness and sincerity and the love she spread by her mere presence. The young lady who receives this award has the qualities of Lorrie.

Knights of Columbus #5062

The men of this organization knew that if the athletic program grew, it would require a lot of devoted time and energy. They helped by providing undying support when funds were low. The members were always there when needed and deserve credit for their part in building the foundation for St. Paul's success.

Reflections:

I've reached the age of reflection and writing this has awakened memories of individuals and families. It seems to me that there is not a short story or newspaper column that can describe the people who helped build St. Paul's athletics.

A novel with all its cast would be necessary to render proper respect

and acknowledgement to these people. If I've left or leave anyone out, it's simply a case of bad memory. Even as I write that, other names come to mind, such as:

Mike Manus, in the 60's, Pee Wee Football. He had a tremendous love for all his teams.

John Gunn and his family. John hitting ground balls and jumping for joy in a close game as the final out was made.

The DeNomie Family in the 70's. Tom coaching the girls' softball team, Pat, Athletic Director.

Canizaro Family, in the 60's and 70's. Jack and his ever tireless effort to build the St. Paul locker room. Toni, his wife, doing everything possible for the kids and making sure the cafeteria was ready for a dance or banquet.

The Peels, Bob and Bonnie's efforts to give St. Paul's their very best. Bob, the builder of locker rooms, ballfield, and support for coaches. Bonnie, a loving mother who outdid the "Big Ten" by raising the finest ten in town, each chasing a ball down a field or dribbling across the court, or making the winning touchdown.

The Jansens, Pat and Pattie, another tireless "Big Ten," Children in football, basketball, baseball and cheering everywhere St. Paul played. Pat was on the building committee and funding for special projects. Behind the scenes, Pattie was carrying them by the carloads to every event. Catholic action plus rendered at all times.

Jim Broughton, Booster Club President. Quietest man to ever hold the job. Efficient, well-mannered and accurate in detail in all things. Today, 1989, he is "City of Memphis Chief Administrative Officer." He always had the program and children first in his heart.

John Hellen - Devoted Lassie Girls coach. Became a permanent fixture at

St. Paul's with Lassie Girls in the 70's and represents an excellent role model for our children. His wife, Rita, his greatest supporter for John's success with the girls.

Pat Beshears, Ed Lyons and Pat Riley. These young men were products of parochial athletics who returned to their past remembering what others had done for them. They now coach young people at St. Paul's in their respective sports, each man a genuine person and a guiding light for the children on their teams.

Unsung Hero of Athletic and School Success

Father Cleary was the only pastor known to St. Paul's for two decades, the 50's and 60's. He supported youth activity from the first Montessori program under Doris Kehoe to competition on the athletic field. He believed in balanced activities, (body, mind and soul) to bring up children to adult responsibilities. Development of boys and girls into adults keeping all things in proper perspective was his desire for St. Paul's youth.

St. Paul's athletics goes back a long way with numerous championship teams and players that have succeeded beyond the doors of St. Paul's. The greatest asset of all, the involvement on the part of so many, is the contributions made toward the development of boys and girls into young men and women.

So many young people now in adulthood look back on those days at St. Paul's and remember the people for whom they played and the training received and reflect that a step toward manhood or womanhood was taken that played a big role in their lives while they were a St. Paul athlete.

People who give their time or bend over to help a child in some form or fashion stand a little taller today because of their efforts with children at St. Paul's. Athletics are but one part of the balance in the educational

process that helps develop the child to adult status. Numerous youngsters who have now reached the adult level have walked the halls of St. Paul's. If and when any one of them proves to be successful in moral integrity and good values, whatever their vocation, all should applaud this accomplishment and feel proud that Our Lord let them be a part of our lives while student athletes at St. Paul's.

JAMES H. BOYLE AWARD

Tim Ryan	68	69
Jeff Perurelli	69	70
Skip Gallagher	70	71
John Peel	71	72
Pat Beshears	72	73
Tim DiSalvo	72	73
Henry Fuerst	73	74
T. Lafferty	74	75
T. George	74	75
E. Guth	75	76
M. Lloyd	76	77
P. Lafferty	77	78
K. Jensen	77	78
A. Franklin	78	79
Kevin Locastro	79	80
M. Broughton	80	81
M. Jordan	81	-82
Kevin Weik	82	- 83
T. O'Brien	83	- 84
Chris Lloyd	84	- 85
Sterling Pittman	85	- 86
Tim Samples	86	- 87
Mike Huddleston	87	- 88

LORRIE BOYD AWARD

M. Carney	197
L. Massa	197
B. Dickens	197
C. Vannucci	197
K. Lloyd	197
K. Jansen	197
L. Peel	197
P. Sipes	198
L. Bray	198
J. Huber	198
B. Peel	198
Mary Ann	198
Lori Dixon	198
Rhonda Tharps	198
Shelly Knight	198
Katie Ashly	198
Gina Alfonso	198
D. D.	198

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 5062

by John L. Prudhomme

In the year of Our Lord 1960, during the month of November, a small group of men gathered in the basement of St. Paul Church. Under the guidance of District Deputy, Charles Poole, and New Council Development Chairman, Fred Simi, plans unfolded for the formation of Shelby County's third K of C Council. With the blessings of our Pastor and first chaplain, Father Edward Cleary, this handful of men set about the task of finding at least forty Catholic men, twenty associate and twenty insurance members, in order to obtain our Charter from the Supreme Council.

Most of these men came from the mother council of Memphis, Cardinal Stritch Council 616, whose leaders, along with the leaders of East Memphis Council 4312, were of valuable assistance in nurturing what Bishop Adrian referred to as "Cleary's Bandits."

Several members, however, came from Missouri, Nebraska, New York, and other distant points. Brother Shoemaker, who had been a Financial Secretary in Texas, readily agreed to serve in that capacity until we were fully operational. Brother Dick Bausom, a former district Deputy from Wisconsin, gave freely of his time and experience in seeing that our efforts were not in vain. Nor were we without representation from the Bayou Country!! Dr. Wilton P. Tilly, Roman Fontenot, and yours truly were proclaimed resident "Cajuns" and invited to share in the task at hand.

District Deputy Poole appointed me as chairman of the group, which later resulted in election to the office of Grand Knight. Many hours were expended on the telephone and by visitation, encouraging transfers,

inviting prospective members to join, and processing paperwork. Two months later on January 6, 1961, we had our quota of twenty insurance and twenty associate members and on that date, twenty-six years ago, Council 5062 was officially Chartered by Supreme.

Several “gimmicks” were employed in our infancy to attract attention. I recall one that caused quite a stir. We paraded around the exterior of the Little Red Church carrying placards encouraging membership. Though easily readable by parishioners going to and from Mass, the lettering was unreadable from Shelby Drive, a two-lane country road at the time. As a result, several of our Protestant friends called Father Cleary to apologize for the behavior of whomever in their midst saw fit to picket the Catholic Church!! Ecumenism was already at work!

We began as a parish KC Council and directed most of our efforts to Church projects. Rosary groups were formed with five or six members meeting in homes during Lent. The Novena to St. Theresa became a reality, quarterly communion services were held, pancake breakfasts were inaugurated, and assistance rendered to the Pastor in many areas.

We reported to Nashville for the State Convention in May 1961, unaware that written reports of our activities were necessary. When we adlibbed our accomplishments, the delegates were amazed and gave us a standing ovation. Many agreed that we were the outstanding Council in Tennessee, but because we had not documented our accomplishments, we came in number two. The following year Grand Knight Dick Bausom went to Clarksville for the State Convention with full documentation and brought home the outstanding Council trophy, the first of many that have followed.

Soon after organizing we began searching for a place to conduct meetings since

the Church basement served as cafeteria, Parish Hall, scout quarters, etc. We tried classrooms in St. Paul School, but discovered that grown men just didn't fit the desks. Then Brothers Carl Webb and Bill Wolfe found space at the old Italian Society facilities on Neely Road, where we met until the property was sold and Bella Vista became the Italian Club. When our beautiful new St. Paul church was completed, Brother Lloyd A. "Dusty" Rhodes prevailed upon Father Cleary to give us the old church choir loft.

This became our home for many years until Grand Knight Tony Kolarik, obtained permission from Father Oglesby to move back into the old church basement where it had all begun. This area served us well, but was still busy with other activities much of the time.

Every administration since 1961 had dreamed of someday having our new home, and budgeted funds for it. Finally, in 1975 at the suggestion of Grand Knight Herb Berner we engaged attorney Lee Piovarcy to obtain a corporation charter with 501C3 exemption. Approximately 40 members of Council 5062 loaned the Corporation funds to purchase 4.2 acres of land on Shelby Drive, 4.2 miles east of the Church. When the five-year loan matured, we paid off the lender's and had clear title to our land. How did we do this? Well, some refer to that property and this lovely building as the house that BINGO built!!! And in part that is true, because we engaged in BINGO operations at St. Anne on Highland, Bevico, Admiral Benbow on Winchester, and finally at Bishop Byrne High School. During our nearly four years at Bishop Byrne, almost \$100,000 has been presented to Bishop Byrne High School and various projects at St. Paul.

During the same period, enough revenue was set aside so that these excellent quarters could be enjoyed.

Why did we build here rather than on our Shelby Drive property? First of

all, we have always been parish-oriented ...4.2 miles away is too far from parish facilities. Second, security of our property became a concern, and, finally, resources became a factor. So, past Grand Knights Herb Berner, Fred Osterloh, John Heirigs, and I met with Fathers Oglesby and Umphries, and explained to them the Council's desire to be located on Diocesan property near St. Paul and Bishop Byrne. Several sites were mentioned, but we wisely refrained from even suggesting this beautiful lot until they brought it up. Like "Brer Rabbit" we pleaded not to be thrown in that briar patch!! But after months of talking, planning, writing, drawing, redrawing, hammering and nailing, with guidance from the eighteen Past Grand Knights residing at that time in St. Paul Parish, we have this truly functional building to use for fifty years with option to renew.

It would be impossible to recognize the many Council members who contributed time, talents, and resources to our cause. But among them such Brothers as Tony Kolarik for attic stairs; Bill Maier for kitchen design and equipment procurement; Leo Sieben, Bob Raiteri, and Anthony Dalton, who installed communications equipment; Phil Pierini, who donated the door hardware; Ladies Auxiliary for office furniture; Lucille Cohan for the crucifix of Our Risen Savior in memory of Brother George Cohan; Peggy Jordan for the public address system in memory of Past Grand Knight, Billy Jordan; John Heirigs for the beautiful walnut office door with the inlaid K & C emblem; our Project Coordinator, Fred Osterloh and his committee, Bill Maier, Sam Barber, Bill Thron, Art Sax, and Gerry Smith; Heirigs Construction Company and their employees who took such pride in workmanship and cost consciousness. Certainly our friends from the clergy and Chancery Office, Father Oglesby, Father Umphries, Monsignor Morris and Jim McWillie, who worked with us diligently in seeing the project to completion.

Special thanks go to the Blue Hurricanes and Golden Tornados, our Crack BINGO teams who labor in the smoke-filled caverns every Monday evening, and without whom we would still be only dreaming about a council home.

To Bob Frazier and Art Sax for their excellent set of records that have earned praise from state BINGO inspectors as well as other K of C Councils. To all you ladies who gave your husbands time to perform the many details of such an undertaking ... many of you also worked tirelessly in the concession stand, so important to successful BINGO operation.

Thank you for being a part of our dream and God Bless!

**LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL
5062
By Gloria Osterloh**

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 5062 was organized February 15, 1982.

The purposes of the Auxiliary is to further the relationship in Family - Church - Community; to provide fellowship among its members and to assist the K.C. Council in its endeavors.

The auxiliary formerly ran the concession booth at the council's bingo games to raise revenue. The monies raised were used to sponsor a Bible School, contribute to the St. Paul Scholarship Fund, St. Paul School, Madonna Day School, the C.Y.O. and miscellaneous needs of the parish, school and the Knights of Columbus home.

The auxiliary meets the first Wednesday of each month and is open to every lady who has ever had a relative enrolled in the Knights of Columbus.

The officers are Helen Prudhomme; President, Lucille Cohan; First Vice President, Amy Patterson; Second Vice President, Ruby Granger; Secretary, Gloria Osterloh; Treasurer.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

by Fred Osterloh

The Pastoral Council replaced the former Parish Council established in February, 1984. It is a consultative body as distinguished from legislative or administrative bodies. Its ministry is to assist and advise the Pastor in the following areas of parish community life: Pastoral planning and goal setting; developing and implementing pastoral programs; improving pastoral service; and evaluating pastoral effectiveness.

The Pastoral Council is composed of the following members: The Pastor, one deacon, twelve lay persons elected by the parishioners, four lay persons appointed by the pastor, the school principal, and the president of the PTO. The elected lay persons serve a term of three years. The appointed lay persons serve a term of one year. The officers are elected by the membership for one year and are eligible for re-election but cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

The council meets bi-monthly and other times as deemed necessary by the Pastor. The current officers are Fred Osterloh; President, Timm Stubbs; Vice President, and Pat Reilly; Secretary.

REVEREND WALTER BUSH

1968 - 1970

Reverend Walter Bush was pastor of St. Paul's for only two years. During his short tenure as our pastor, he installed the large crucifix above the main altar. He also instituted the practice of distributing communion before the 8:00 Mass for working mothers.

THE CABRINI CIRCLE

By Provy Armstrong

In 1972, Bishop Dozier felt there was a need for a “mini” Catholic Charity within each parish. At the same time there was a need for an organization in St. Paul Parish that would be available for ladies...other than a school affiliated organization.

With permission from our pastor, the late Monsignor Theron Walker, who was quite pleased with the idea, letters were sent to twelve ladies requesting their presence at the initial meeting of our proposed social service club. We would have our own clothes closet and our own food pantry. The idea was enthusiastically received by most of the group. Monsignor agreed that St. Francis Xavier Cabrini should be our patron ... in honor of the tiny saint whose life was dedicated to helping God’s needy.

So began Cabrini Circle. We started storing goods and clothing in members’ garages, next in a small room in the basement of the old church. In 1984, our former pastor, Father Oglesby, generously gave us “Cabrini House” located on the southwest corner of Bishop Byrne campus.

Our present membership fluctuates between twenty and twenty-five official members. However, all of St. Paul’s parishioners are actually members. It is the outstanding generosity of parishioners who supply food, clothing, home furnishings, and monetary donations that enables Cabrini circle official members to exist as hands doing the work.

St. Paul school children, a few outside benefactors, and our annual rummage sale supplement parishioners’ donations.

Of the original members, Nora McKenny, Jean Valadie, and Provy Armstrong are still active members. We meet the first Tuesday of each month,

beginning with Mass at 9:00 a.m. This is followed by our meeting in the Cabrini House.

Membership is extended to all ladies of the parish - the only requirements are working hands, a willing heart, and a sharing of joyous fellowship. Father Davis is our present moderator.

The following services are available in the community through the generosity of the parishioners of St. Paul Catholic Church and special patrons, and dispensed by the women of Cabrini Circle:

Food and Clothing
Help with Utilities and Rent Traveler's Aid (Motel, Food, Gas)
Home Furnishings
Attending to Needs of Sick & Elderly Refugee Services
Infant Clothing, Furnishings and Maternity
Wear to Birthright
Donation of Clothing to Catholic Charities Donation of Clothing
to Dogwood Village Christmas Food Baskets, Clothing and Toys
Thanksgiving Food Baskets Easter Baskets
Support to Prison Ministry

Support through Donations of Food/Clothing and/or Financial aid to the following:

Dismas House

Genesis House

St. Patrick and St. Mary's Soup Kitchens

Father Farino's Orphanage

Mother Theresa's Home for Abused Women and Children

Holy Names Community Project Harbor House

MI FA

Whitehaven Food Pantry

Participation in "Meals on Wheels" Program

All clients are referred to Cabrini Circle through the rectory of St. Paul Catholic Church.

MONSIGNOR THERON J. WALKER

1970 - 1981

Monsignor Theron J. Walker was one of four sons and a daughter of an Irish retail egg dealer, John Green Walker, and his wife, Mary Jeanette Bonelli.

He attended Sacred Heart School in Memphis and at the age of thirteen entered St. Bernard College in Cullman, Alabama, and completed his junior college studies there in 1932. He graduated two years later from St. Gregory Seminary and completed his theological and other studies at Mt. St. Mary Seminary, Norwood, Ohio, in 1938. He was ordained in June of that year by Bishop William L. Adrian at the Cathedral in Nashville.

He came to Memphis in 1942 after serving in Eastern Tennessee where he was named associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and then was given a similar assignment in 1945 at Sacred Heart Parish. He was also a professor at Catholic High School for boys.

A year later he was appointed the first pastor of St. John Catholic Church, which began as a parish with five acres of land and no buildings.

During his twenty-four years there, he built the school, a rectory, a gymnasium, the church and established a convent.

In 1958, he witnessed the white smoke above Vatican City signaling the election of Pope John XXIII. He was among those who received the first blessing of the new Pontiff. His trip had been made possible by parishioners who donated \$2,100 to the pastor when they learned of his desire to observe the 100th anniversary of the shrine at Lourdes, France.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI conferred the honorary title of Monsignor upon Father Walker and a year later he became the pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church.

For two years Monsignor Walker served as the first president of the newly

organized Priests' Senate of the Diocese of Nashville and conducted its first priests' conference. He also was the first chairman of the Priests' Association of the Diocese of Memphis in 1971.

Monsignor was president of the Parochial Athletic Association and a life member of Whitehaven Rotary International.

He started using a hemodialysis machine three times a week for six years before he died in April of 1981. He helped the Knights of Columbus raise several thousand dollars for the Kidney Foundation.

He was the first priest to die on active duty since the Diocese of Memphis was established. Bishop Carrol T. Dozier was the main concelebrant and was assisted by Bishop Joseph A. Durick, formerly Bishop of Nashville, and fifty-four priests from throughout Tennessee and other areas. Father St. Charles was the homilist as he was very close to Monsignor.

Mrs. Louise Carrico, who served as his secretary for twenty-six years, said the Monsignor had many causes to which he was very devoted. She felt the most important was the cause of providing for seminary training for young men.

He established the Msgr. Walker Vocation Fund and a vocation club in St. Paul Parish. He built the shrine to St. Theresa that sits between the rectory and Church. He reestablished the practice of tithing that Father Cleary had begun during his pastorate.

FATHER J. LEONARD OGLESBY

1981 - 1987

Father J. Leonard Oglesby became pastor of St. Paul's in 1981 after the death of Monsignor Theron Walker. Father Oglesby came to us, not as a stranger, but as a well-known and well-loved priest in the Memphis vicinity.

In 1980, Common Sense interviewed Father Oglesby and selected portions are reprinted here:

At the end of July Rev. J. L. Oglesby will conclude twenty-six years as pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church, 6529 Stage Road. In a letter to his parishioners, Father Oglesby wrote, "This coming August, 1980 I will have been at St. Ann Bartlett for twenty-six years. Thus most of my thirty years in the priesthood have been spent in this parish."

"During these years the parish has grown from fifty to five hundred families; I have experienced a great deal of satisfaction and happiness from having shared with you in its growth and development. I could never thank you adequately for your most generous cooperation and for all that you have done for me personally. I love this parish and you the people. You have made these the happiest years of my life."

In a recent interview Father Oglesby expanded on his reasons for requesting a six-month sabbatical leave from the ministry and then a new assignment.

“It was not that I wanted to leave,” he stated, “but I became convinced that after twenty-six years in one place, it would be good for me, the parish and the community to make a new beginning. The weight of administrative responsibility was growing heavy. Church administration is different today from what it was twenty-five years ago. Administration of a church resembles administration of a small corporation.”

His six-month sabbatical he expects to spend in relaxation and travel. He loves to fish and plans to spend time at a favorite fishing spot at Lake Enid, Mississippi. He plans to spend some time visiting with his mother, Louise Oglesby, who owns a florist business in Memphis. He’s contemplating a trip to the Holy Land, and studying and reading.

And, what after sabbatical? “I really don’t know where I will be assigned,” he said, “I’m quite sure it will be in the Memphis area. I doubt if it will be in some far off place. That’s usually where they send the younger men,” he laughed.

The Memphis area is home base to Father Oglesby. His great grandparents were from Bartlett, his father was raised in Millington. He graduated from Christian Brothers High School in Memphis.

He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a degree in chemical engineering. He taught at U.T. for a time and during World War II worked on the Manhattan project at Oak Ridge.

After the war, he left Oak Ridge and enrolled at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland for a five-year program in theology. "I had been considering the ministry before the war," he related, "but I postponed making a change until after the war. But by then, I knew that it was what I wanted to do. The ministry is a service vocation. I have always been very close to the church, and wanted to serve people and to serve God in this way."

In 1950 he was ordained by Bishop William Adrian at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. He spent four years between Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Frayser and developing St. William's parish in Millington.

While he was beginning St. William's the St. Ann parish was getting underway. In 1950 the parish known then as St. Edward, began in a white storefront on the corner of Court St. and Stage Road. In 1952 the small brick church renamed St. Ann Catholic Church was built on the corner of Stage and Charles Bryan.

“When I came in 1954 there were fifty families in the parish, no school or rectory, and cotton and soybean fields surrounded the church. The community had two subdivisions (Bartlett Park and Elmore Park), but much of what we call Bartlett today was farmland. Twenty-six years has made a great difference in the community.”

When asked what were the greatest personal difficulties he had faced in the priesthood, “I have only one regret,” he replied thoughtfully. “As my parish grew I realized I was not able to reach out to all people on a personal basis. It bothered me to see people at church who I couldn't relate to by name, to see faces I didn't know, and to realize that because we are such a mobile society, they will be gone before I get to meet them.”

One of the most significant factors he has appreciated in his ministry

in Bartlett has been the “coming together of the ministers of different faiths.” Since the 1960’s he has seen a cooperative spirit. I have the longest tenure of any minister in Bartlett except Irvin Hays, who has been in his church about six months longer than I’ve been here,” he smiled. “And I have the longest tenure in my diocese.”

“I’m not afraid of the future,” he said directly. “I have confidence in the future for myself and for the parish as well. I want to see someone come here who will love and care for these people as I have.”

After thirty years in the priesthood, Father Oglesby was given his own chalice and paten at a liturgy marking the end of his pastorate at St. Ann Church. There were more than nine hundred people in attendance at the liturgy and at its close he was given four sets of vestments and a lifetime ticket to the parish ravioli dinners.

Father Oglesby’s Sabbatical lasted ten months, from August 1980 until June 1981, and during that time he assisted at parishes when needed. In February of 1981, Monsignor Theron Walker, being very ill, asked Father Oglesby to come to St. Paul’s. Father came and handled the Lenten program and said Mass on Sundays. When Monsignor Walker died in April, Bishop Dozier appointed Father Oglesby Pastor of St. Paul’s. Father Oglesby gladly accepted, as he knew and liked the people at St. Paul’s. He agreed to stay six years even though he would have been eligible for retirement in four years.

Father Oglesby was an objective, fair minded, and innovative priest. He requested that the Altar Society make and give Baptismal garments to the parents of infants being baptized, and they kindly consented.

He requested of the choir that a Funeral Schola be organized. The traditional meaning of Schola is a small select group within the large choir and the first adult Schola Choir in the city started at St. Paul's. They provide the beautiful music at St. Paul funerals and are invited to sing for funerals at other Catholic Churches in the city. Our choir consists of thirteen women and two men:

Kaythryn Fox, Trudy May, Cathy Weirich, Mary Jo Mitchell, Jo Ann Wojak, Dorothy Coletta, Jack Sams, Gail Vigil, Flora Pretti, Alma Smith, Mary Belobradic, John Belobradic, Ruby Granger, Marcella Baneck, and Mary Shelly.

He instigated with the Altar Society the Carillon bells which ring the Angelus, announce Mass, and play hymns. During Christmas they play carols, and during funerals they ring - a most thought-provoking sound.

Father Oglesby highly encouraged the teachers in the Master's program for Religious Education.

He renovated the sanctuary, renovated the little church, moved the cafeteria into the little church, had the canopies installed to protect teachers and students from rain. He had the glass vestibules installed at the Church.

Father Oglesby spent a busy six years as our pastor, and in July, 1987, retired with a total of thirty-seven years of active priestly ministry. Looking

back over the years and into the future, Father Oglesby said,

“I would do it all over again precisely the way I did it if I had the chance. People is what it’s all about - that’s what ministry is. You minister to people of all ages, physical and mental conditions and stations in life. I loved that because I like people. I’ll be doing a good deal of hiking and fishing, but I’ll be celebrating Mass whenever I can and I’ll always be available to fill in at any parish that needs me.”

FATHER JOHN BURNS McARTHUR

1987 -

Father John McArthur became pastor of St. Paul's on July 8, 1987. He caused eyebrows to lift when he announced, "Sally and I have moved into the rectory and we hope you'll make us welcome."

It took a few minutes to register that he also said, "I have a daughter, she has four legs and she's a showdog." In this way he introduced himself, his sense of humor, and his dog, Sally Decker, to the parishioners.

Father John is a native Memphian and grew up in a neighborhood close to the landmark corner of Poplar and Highland, which Memphis old-timers refer to as the "meeting place."

He is one of four children of Arthur J. McArthur and Dolores Burns. He has one sister, Katherine, and two brothers, Arthur, Jr., and James. He attended St. Anne's Grammar School on Highland and Christian Brothers College in Memphis; St. Bernard's College in Cullman, Alabama; and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

He was ordained a priest on May 25, 1974, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral by the Most Rev. Bishop Carroll T. Dozier. He served as an Associate Pastor at St. Anne's, June 1974 until January 1975, Associate Pastor at Holy Rosary, January 1975 until March 1977, and Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception Cathedral from July 1977 until May 1981.

In May of 1981 he was named Pastor of Holy Cross Church in Paris, Tennessee, becoming one of the youngest pastors in the Memphis diocese.

Father John loved Holy Cross Church and the people of Paris. The people were neighborly, the kind of people that mirror southern hospitality in a small

city. Apparently, animals were friendly too, as Sally Decker showed up at the rectory one day ... and stayed. Father quickly dubbed her his showdog.

Sally became his constant companion. Dogs sense things about people and maybe she sensed that Father knew, understood, and loved dogs. His family had collies when he was growing up.

The rectory wasn't right next to the Church but a comfortable walk. Father John would ask, "Want to go to Church, Sally?" She was always ready and would make every step with him.

It's always difficult for priests or religious to leave where they are and go to their next assignment. They have to leave the familiar that they've grown to love and begin again. It's not an easy task.

So it was with Father John. It was with both happy and sad feelings that he came to St. Paul's to be our pastor. He brought himself, his showdog, and the kindness and caring of the parishioners of Holy Cross.

With his many talents, Father John has supplied a vital spark *of* energy to our parish in the short time he's been here. He's not been a "lone ranger" type, but has gathered and coordinated the gifts of people in our parish. In doing so, he has brought us together, and given our big city parish the welcoming "feel" of family.

Several months after Father's arrival at St. Paul's, I was going into Church and he came out of the rectory and spoke, and blessed two wood carvings of Our Lady for me. I had planned to go to the rectory after leaving the Church, but took advantage of the parking lot visit instead. It impressed me that he'd taken time to approach and chit-chat.

He's very friendly to everyone and calls us by name if he's close enough and waves if he's not. He's easy to talk with and he makes us laugh, and not take ourselves so seriously. The ability to make people laugh is a great

ability. Bishop Sheen used to say that Our Lord would show his gratitude to those who made his people laugh, that he would smile upon them. Laughing makes us forget the unpleasantness in our lives and reminds us to enjoy the moment, and it's good for our health.

Sally Decker has won our hearts as she accompanies Father around the school property. They visit Sister Jerome and all the classes of school children who love to pat and play with Sally. Sally loves it too!

When Father goes over to the Church to say Mass, Sally waits at the front door of the rectory for him. She puts her head down and wears her saddest look. Each time the door opens she looks up as if to say, "Is that him?"

Father John sent our minds and hearts whirling the day he told us that his father had been a riverboat captain on the Mississippi. Especially mine. The Mississippi River has been the only place in Memphis that reminds me of my hometown where boats of every kind and description are a daily sight.

The Mississippi has always attracted explorers and those young at heart. Mr. McArthur had retired from the Corps Of Engineers and apparently followed his heart to the river.

The Mississippi named by the Indians "misi" meaning great and "sipi" meaning river ... the same river that attracted DeSoto in 1541 and Father Marquette in 1673. Father Marquette promptly named it La Concepcion meaning The Immaculate Conception. Arthur J. McArthur, our pastor's father, was the Captain-Master Pilot of the Delta Queen/Mississippi Queen Steamboat Company. the two Queens of the river!

Father John and all his family are enthusiastic promoters of Memphis and anything to do with Memphis, an example set for them by his father. He loves sports and Memphis State and the Washington Redskins.

He's also an Elvis Presley fan, a fact which endears him to many tourists

from all over the world who attend Mass at St. Paul's when they are visiting the late entertainer's estate.

Father's cousin, Sister Philip Joseph, O.P., remembers Father as being a very sweet natured boy. She lived in Nashville, and, as a child, visited his home. She and Father's sister, Katherine, were the same age. Sister laughed and said they spent most of their time trying to get rid of John and his brother James. They were older and like most big sisters didn't want the kids around. Sister said James would throw rocks but John would just stand and look at them. He had to be of a sweet and sensitive nature to put up with this.

Today when so much emphasis is placed on intellect and grim determination to be a success at all costs, it's a pleasure to have a pastor who's not afraid to let us know he has a heart. This small poem found in a church bulletin with no author listed expresses the type of person that Father John appears to be.

Risks

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement. To express
your feelings is to risk exposing your
true self.
To place your ideas, your dreams,
before the crowd is to risk their loss.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying.
But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life
is to risk nothing.
He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot
learn, feel, change, grow, love, live;
And chained by his attitude, he has forfeited freedom.
Only a person who risks is free.
Only a person who trusts God can risk.

FATHER WILLIAM FLOYD DAVIS

Father William Floyd Davis came to St. Paul's in August, 1988. Most of us knew him or knew about him. In fact, some of us used to drive to Immaculate Conception to attend his Masses. He's known as a gentle, patient, and kindly priest who takes care of his priestly business. He's greatly loved by the sick and elderly whom he visits in the hospital and in their homes.

Father Davis was impressed with the examples of priests at Immaculate Conception Church when he was a boy, and one of the priests extended an invitation to him to become a priest. Someone else had offered to pay his way through Medical School, giving him a choice between being a doctor or a priest. He decided to give the priesthood a try.

Father Davis is the son of Henry M. Davis and Edith Tribble. He attended Rozelle Grammar and Bellevue Junior High, Memphis Technical High, St. Ambrose College in Davenport, and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1956, at the Cathedral in Nashville by Bishop William Adrian.

He's served as Assistant Pastor of Christ the King Parish in Nashville, Middle Tennessee Deanery Area Scout Chaplain; Administrator Assumption Parish; Diocesan Director C.Y.O.; Director Kentucky/Tennessee Region of N.C.C.Y.; Pastor of Assumption Church in Nashville; Administrator of St. William's in Millington; Assistant Pastor of St. Louis Church; Pastor, Notre Dame Church in Greenville and Rogersville; Pastor of St. Patrick Parish and of St. Christopher in Dickson; Associate Pastor of Immaculate Conception Cathedral; Pastor, St. John's Church; Chaplain at St. Peter's Home for Children; Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church; and Administrator at Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

Father Davis appears to have an attitude of gratitude; he always thanks everyone who participates in the Mass.

FATHER HOWARD DOYLE

Father Howard Doyle arrived at St. Paul's in February of 1988. He quickly caught our attention with his sermons, his story telling abilities, and his references and quotes of Bishop Fulton Sheen. This has been a treat for those of us who remember Bishop Sheen's TV shows from the fifties, and enlightening for the younger parishioners.

Father Doyle is the son of William H. Doyle, Sr., and Eleanor Marie Doyle, and he has one sister. He attended Memphis Catholic High, St. Meinard College in Indiana, and Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas, Texas. He was ordained May 15, 1982 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Bishop Carroll T. Dozier. He is a convert. The roots of his conversion go back to childhood when an aunt started taking him to Mass. He later looked at other religions but was attracted to Catholicism by the example of a young priest and by the Eucharist. He began taking instruction in high school and later entered the priesthood. He was associate pastor at St. Ann's Church in Bartlett in 1982 and in 1983 he became the Chaplain of the Legion of Mary. He was associate pastor at St. Louis Church from October, 1985 until October, 1987. He served as Associate Director of the Cursillo.

Father Doyle is a serious and devoted priest and it's apparent from his sermons that he spends time in preparing them. He is a kind young priest with an almost regal bearing, who emanates hope when he walks up the aisle to begin Mass.

FATHER CARL J. HOOD

Father Carl Hood, in residence at St. Paul's since the summer of 1989 is the son of Carl Odom Hood, Jr., and Emma Rena McLean. By the standards of our age, he's from a large family, three brothers and one sister. He's enthusiastic, conscientious, and a popular teacher and Chaplain at Bishop Byrne High School. He attended St. Joseph Grammar School and Bishop Byrne High School. He received his B.A. in English and Philosophy from the University of Mississippi and attended St. Meinrad's Seminary, M.Div.

He was ordained at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Most Rev. James Niedergeses, Bishop of Nashville for the Diocese of Memphis. He served as Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Church and as Master of Ceremonies to the Bishop. He presently serves as Chaplain to the Air National Guard and St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Father Hood, according to his mother, has always seemed very mature for his age, a trait that gives him a special rapport with older people. When he was attending St. Joseph's, Father Kleiser put his hand on him and said, "You're going to be a priest." This statement startled him.

It was true that he liked to play Mass, he'd be the priest and his brothers and sisters the congregation. After high school, Father Stewart took him to St. Bernard's in Cullman, Alabama. He came home from Cullman with the feeling that it was too austere, and that he was not ready to make a commitment.

Yet in college at the University of Mississippi, he consciously or unconsciously took subjects to prepare for the priesthood...even taking two years of Latin.

He is attracted to art and is an artist himself. His paintings have won various awards. He is sensitive and

gentle and appears to be attuned to today while retaining
“old fashioned” values.

THE OLD OAK TREE

Across the street from St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Fancy Farm, Kentucky, there is a famous tree ... the Lying Tree. This 125-year-old Catholic community has an annual picnic and all the Kentucky politicians attend to stand under the tree and do you know what.

At St. Paul's we don't have a lying tree, but we do have an old oak nicknamed by some parishioners in earlier years, "The Sanctuary." One of the meanings of sanctuary is a place of refuge and protection.

I hadn't thought about this tree in years until Good Friday of this year. I was watching Father John place small wooden crosses on the trees near the Church, and wishing I'd brought my camera to photograph the rustic Stations of the Cross.

As I followed him from tree to tree, my mind was filled with all kinds of thoughts. Catherine de Hueck Doherty mentioned in one of her books that it brings us closer to Christ to see the little crosses on the trees. I remembered that Christ's cross was fashioned from a tree. It then occurred to me how like trees we are, filled with tension yet able to weather life's inevitable squalls, bending until the storm has passed.

The fourteenth station was nailed to the large old oak tree on the southwest corner of the Church. That's the tree Father Cleary saved from the utility company. He looked out and saw them ready to cut it down and out the rectory door he flew. They explained that it was in the way of power lines and would have to come down. He said, "Over my dead body."

The parking lot on weekdays in the past was jammed with cars, and mothers with children at St. Paul's and Bishop Byrne would have their children meet at a central location to be picked up. The old oak was the spot, the

Sanctuary sheltering the children from rain and traffic and protecting their mothers from the hassle of the parking lot.

It seemed fitting to me that the fourteenth station was placed on this tree...as it represented Jesus being placed in the tomb. The tomb served as a sanctuary to shelter and protect his body. Our tree was well named!

THE REUNION **June 24, 1989**

I learned of the reunion shortly before it was to begin and hurried to the gym. The Sisters of Mercy were seated just inside the door and they were talking to the Dominicans. Some of the Mercy sisters had class pictures and were searching for familiar faces of former students.

The door opened and in walked Father Cleary with a big smile on his face, and he was immediately surrounded by friends and religious. There were hugs and stories all around. Do you remember when? It's so good to see you! Where do you live now? What's going on in your life?

There were many people that I didn't know and only a few that I recognized. Carl and Pat Webb, Roy and Mary Gaia, Phyllis Gaia, the Gallaghers, Mrs. Wojak, Betty Thron, Tina Santi Flaherty and her husband, Lebra Davidson, Peggy Farrell Adkins, Mr. Raiteri, Sparky Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Speltz, and Father McArthur were there.

A table was covered with all kinds of finger foods and drinks and everyone helped himself and herself.

Due to a prior commitment my time at the reunion was brief, and I missed Father McArthur's talk. I did talk to some of the Sisters and heard stories of the "good old days."

Sister Mary Damien, O.P., then stationed at Holy Child Kindergarten, described a day in 1964 when the Sisters of Mercy and the Dominicans had a cook-out on the school property. Sister Frances, R.S.M., was the Superior and Sister Maris Stella, R.S.M., was principal. Sister Mary Ernestine, R.S.M., was the cook, and used a brick grill that one of the sisters had built herself.

The sisters had looked forward to the cook-out, but as Sister Mary Ernestine

started to cook, it proceeded to rain. A Sister held an umbrella over her and she kept cooking until each Sister had steak and roasting ears (corn) on her plate. They hurried inside to eat. “Oh, that was a great and glorious time for us!” added Sister Mary Ernestine.

Sister Giovanni, R.S.M., remembers teaching the first grade at St. Paul’s in n 1961 and 1968 and the fourth grade in 1970. “I loved the children here so much.” Sister Giovanni is now “so called retired” and is living at St. Bernard’s in Nashville.

Sister Jerome, O.P., who first came to St. Paul’s in 1965, remembers that the enrollment then was up around a thousand students. She taught eighth grade and Mrs. Hutchins and Eleanor Lloyd taught the other two classes of eighth graders. There were about 35 students in each section. Sister Jerome, O.P., remembers having a lot of fun teaching and said the children didn’t have as many pressures as they do today.

Sister Jerome said that in 1966 Mrs. Donna Fair taught one section of the eighth grade.

Sister Hildegarde, O.P., was principal then and she hung prints of masterpieces down the halls of the school. She had chimes put on the P.A. system to ring the Angelus each day. Those were peak years and we had a wonderful enrollment and Sisters in every grade, and must have had fifteen or twenty Sisters living in the convent then.

Sister Malachy, R.S.M., remembers teaching fifth grade when she was at St. Paul’s. Sister Malachy in her eighties speaks with the thick beautiful brogue of her native Ireland.

“Tis the land of scholars and saints, you know,”
and she chuckled. “I remember a man who used to bring
his small son to school and the lad was crippled, his

father carried him. His name was George Deets. Not two summers ago, this same lad came to St. Bernard's in Nashville. I didn't know him as he was tall and handsome."

He said, "Can you guess who I am?"

"I had no idea in the world. Well, it was this young fellow, cured of all paralysis; a miracle. He had prayed to some Italian saint and was cured. He is now a professor at a university and he spent the day with us at our convent. It seems that he had not been able to get us out of his mind and he wanted us to see him; those of us who had taught him. I had hoped that his father would be here tonight ... but they probably don't live here anymore."

Sister Malachy said of Father Cleary..."You see that priest and sure if I wouldn't take a million for him. He has a way about him ... he does. In Nashville many years ago there was a very hardened lady in a nursing home. I used to visit her after school and I tried every which way to get her to the sacraments but she had turned against the Church, priests, nuns, and even God. She had been a very good Catholic lady and had been in a convent for a while. She had left the convent to go home and take care of her sick mother. While taking care of her mother she became paralyzed and decided that God had cursed her for leaving the convent. She became very bitter. Many of

the priests went to see her but to no avail. Father Cleary was at the Cathedral at the time and he went to see her.

I don't know what kind of charm he had but he said to her, 'I'm here visiting the sick people and I thought I would come in here and say hello to you.'

She said, 'You are the nicest one that's been in here. Some of the priests come and try to make me go back to the Church. You haven't said one word about it.'

'No,' he said, I wouldn't do that but I'd like to sit here and talk to you.'

Father Cleary visited her often and she started receiving Holy Communion and she did this till the day she died. I went to this lady's funeral and I tell you this is the truth and not a story out of a fairy book."

It was a joyful evening and a celebration of when our parish was younger ... and we were too.

The reunion sent our minds back to the past and within days stories about Father Cleary abounded. Only a few are stated here. Joan Haslett remembers one of the first parish club meetings in 1954. Father addressed the parents as "You fellows." She said he came to visit her and a member of her family wasn't Catholic. This person was often at her home when Father came over. She asked him, "Why don't you give him instructions?"

He replied, "I've been giving him instructions for months in our conversations here."

Provy Armstrong remembers, "Soon after I moved into the parish, September, 1965, I went to the rectory to meet my pastor. I was told by the secretary that he was in the church yard. I had passed a gentleman in khaki

pants down on his hands and knees digging around a tree. Surely that wasn't our pastor! Surely it was'“

Provy said shortly after this her eighth grade son received a bone injury and needed surgery which required him to be in the hospital in a hip to toe cast for two weeks, and to recuperate at home for four more weeks. Father

Cleary was most kind and most concerned. At his suggestion my three-year old Montessori student was allowed to attend school for full-day sessions instead of the usual half-day session. “He even found a lady to help me at home until I

could get our family life back to normal. I shall always be grateful for his kindness.”

The reunion set the stage for our anniversary in November. It's an anniversary of our Church and school but, more important, an anniversary of a particular group of people, priests, nuns and parishioners who came from everywhere yet met here and touched each other's lives.

PASTORS

REV. ANGELO LENZI	1945 - 1953
REV. EDWARD J. CLEARY	1954 - 1968
REV. WALTER BUSH	1968 - 1970
REV. MSGR. THERON J. WALKER	1970 - 1981
REV. J. LEONARD OGLESBY	1981 - 1987
REV. JOHN B. McARTHUR	1987 -

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Rev. George Vehr	1957
Rev. Daniel A. Clements	1959
Rev. William M. Boltman	1963
Rev. William R. Fennell	1963
Rev. Vincent P. King	1965
Rev. Thomas F. Cashin	1965 (in residence)
Rev. Albert Kirk	1968
Rev. John V. Atkinson	1969
Rev. Edgar M. Kelly	1971
Rev. James L. Pugh	1973
Rev. Valentine Handwerker	1975
Rev. Alfred F. Graham	1977
Rev. Elbert R. Callis	1977
Rev. Charles A. Bauer	1979
Rev. William Kantner	1981
Rev. Robert D. Ponticello	1982
Rev. Gary E. Lamb	1983
Rev. Dan F. Moore	1985
Rev. Michael A. Morgera	1985
Rev. William F. Davis	1988
Rev. W. Howard Doyle	1988

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH

- 1939 Property purchased
- 12/19/1951 From a letter from Angelo Lenzi, Pastor 9/28/1947 -
Dedication of Parish facilities. Feast Day of Parish - June
29
- 6/15/1953 Plans approved for rectory
- 10/29/53 Fr. Lenzi killed in automobile
accident
- 11/1953 Rev. J. Harold Shea, Administrator
- 3/1954 Rev. Edward J. Cleary, Pastor
- 1954 Four classrooms added
- 10/1957 Fund drive started to clear debt and
expand school.
- 6/14/1958 Debt paid in full
- 8/19/1958 Permission given to engage
architect for school expansion.
- 3/14/1959 Plans for school approved by Bishop
- 4/29/1959 Plans for addition to Rectory
approved
- 4/1/1961 Gym - Cafeteria completed
- 4/21/1961 15 acres of adjoining property purchased for future
church and possible future high school
- 2/13/1962 Plans for Church approved
- 3/20/1962 Contracts for Architect and Contractor approved

4/12/1962	Bishop delays plans for construction for financial reasons
8/31/1962	Permission for ground breaking on September fourth but no permission to build
12/31/1962	Permission given to start construction on 3/1/1963
5/22/1963	Permission given to add classrooms
10/5/1964	Date of dedication
9/1965	High School to open

THE FIRST SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

August 28, 1945

June 27, 1964

LITTLE CHURCH

Russell Pellittere

"NEW" CHURCH

Peggy Sue Maquire

WEDDING

August 24, 1945

June 11, 1964

Samuel Minichino

Margaret Wagner

Owen Dale Geist

Mary E. Jordan

THE FIRST FUNERAL

March 24, 1953

June 26, 1964

Fred Hauhee

Louise T. McCall

Bishop Buechlein in April of this year visited our parish to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and said, "I consider St. Paul's an anchor in the community, as there have been many vocations from this parish."

An anchor. In Christian art and religious symbolism, the anchor is a sign of hope and steadfastness; dependence on God.

The 3,869 Baptisms, 1,021 weddings, 3,045 First Communions, 3,143 Confirmations, 677 funerals and the vocations of 3 priests, 2 brothers, and 3 sisters verify the hope and dependence on God.

Our parish started with 68 families, climbed to 1,044

families in 1955, and at present has 1,002.

St. Paul's ... an anchor ... in the community and in the
endless seas of eternity.

On the articles I reprinted from The Commercial Appeal, Tennessee Register, and Common Sense, I have stated date and writer of article if known.

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