

The following history “tidbits” were published in the St. Anne church bulletins throughout the Centennial Celebration project. (Listed by bulletin date)

March 19, 2017

Guess who’s turning 100 years old in May, 2019. It is St. Anne Parish! The school, whether you refer to it as St. Anne or Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy is a bit younger in 2019-only 95. The bulletin will celebrate this upcoming event with tidbits of history of the parish and some trivia questions. In May 1919, donations were solicited for a new Catholic church. A group of men secured options on a house and 2 properties at 6th St. and 18th Ave. but where was the community to celebrate mass? A building was located between 15th and 16th Ave. on 7th St. This is the trivia part-What was the name of that building and what was its purpose? The answer will be in next week’s bulletin.

March 26, 2017

The answer to last week’s question of where was mass celebrated in 1919 is: The Lyric Movie Theater. The Reverend P.J. Barry, then pastor of St. John the Baptist parish, Rapids City, IL undertook the initial survey and solicitation of funds for Holy Name Parish. Yes, that is what our parish was to be called. In May of 1919, Bishop Dunn of Peoria appointed Reverend W.J. Cleary as pastor of the new parish for East Moline, Silvis, and Carbon Cliff. The change of pastors was not received with much enthusiasm, but Fr. Cleary won over the congregation. So, how did the name change to St. Anne Parish? That is your trivia question of the week. Please note that the information for this history comes mostly from a booklet Joe Roels, a history buff and deceased parishioner, wrote in the 1990’s.

April 2, 2017

The answer to last week’s question— The parish was organized as Holy Name Parish, but shortly thereafter, the name of the parish became St. Anne. In news releases, Patrick Cleary, Father’s nephew stated that the name of the parish could have been the personal choice of Father Cleary. At St. Anne, IL a few miles south of Momence was the church and shrine of St. Anne to which were attributed several miracles. Fr. Cleary’s parents were deeply devoted to the shrine. This week’s trivia question: Where is the statue of St. Anne at our church?

April 9, 2017

The answer to last week’s question— The statue of St. Anne and her child, Mary is over the front entrance of the church. The first person in the parish to be baptized was John Francis Boyle, the son of Peter & Catherine Boyle on April 20, 1919 by Fr. Barry. The first marriage was between Lucy Cant of East Moline and Oscar Lindberg of Minneapolis. Fr. Cleary performed the ceremony on May 17, 1919. The first person baptized by Fr. Cleary was Dorothy Ada Doty, the daughter of John & Matilda Doty. She was baptized May 25, 1919. Just for fun, are any of these persons related to you? If so, drop us a note in the collection basket!

April 16, 2017

The Parish proposed to construct a building that included a church, school, rectory and convent. The building was to be of brick, depending upon the generosity of the parishioners. Prior to Fr. Barry’s departure, a lot was purchased for the church site at the corner of 6th St. and 17th Ave. The property was purchased from H.F. Crowley and J.C. Gamer for \$2,000.00. Ground was broke on May 28, 1919. What was the estimated cost of the building? Note: The building still stands on the same corner.

April 23, 2017

Newspaper and other sources differ on estimates for the church/ school building. The cost was estimated between \$50,000 and \$75,000. The project was taken on a week to week payment basis by the Gumber Brothers. Since money was hard to secure post war times, the Sun- day offerings were used to support construction during the week. The banks would not finance any loans. Finally loans were secured from friends of Fr. Cleary, the priests of the Diocese and friends from nearby towns who contributed Liberty bonds. At the end of 1919, a total of \$22,061 had been borrowed. The church was under construction but how many families did the census show were likely parishioners?

April 30, 2017

After interest from St. Mary parishioners who could not understand the Flemish sermons, it was the opinion of certain higher church authorities that the time had come when East Moline and Silvis could be divided between the Belgian speaking and the American speaking Catholics and that each parish would be self-supporting. A home-to-home census revealed that there were approximately 500 Catholic families in the two communities. Of that number, about 200 were American speaking. How many registered parishioners are there today at St. Anne Parish?

May 7, 2017

There are 557 St. Anne parishioners registered in 2017. Fr. Cleary announced that a house and a lot at 606 17th Ave. was purchased for \$4,037.95 to be used as a rectory. At the same time, a lot was purchased at 722 17th Ave. for \$1,050.00 and the house at 606 17th Ave. was moved to the lot at 722 17th Ave. on June 12, 1919. The cost of moving and repairs to the house totaled \$1,207.71. The house served as a rectory until 1922. Within a nine month period, Fr. Barry, Fr. Cleary, and the parishioners had purchased multiple properties, broken ground for the church/school building, fund raised nearly \$30,000.00, borrowed \$20,000.00 and founded the Altar Society and Choir. But who would teach in the school?

May 14, 2017

During the Spring of 1919, Fr. Cleary made a formal application by letter to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary to staff the school which he expected to open by September, 1920. Not having received a reply to his earlier letter to the B.V.M. Sisters, Fr. Cleary wrote again in December, 1919. Mother Superior replied that it was impossible to give a definite promise. The trivia question is: What year did the Sisters come?

May 21, 2017

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary came in 1925. There is also much more to learn about Fr. Cleary who served St. Anne Parish from 1919 to 1972. Both the B.V.M. Sisters and Fr. Cleary's stories which will be expanded upon later. Moving forward, the history of St. Anne's present church will be reviewed. On February 20, 1951, Fr. Cleary announced that St. Anne Parish would build a new church, together with a rectory on a site located at the northwest corner of 18th Ave. & 6th St. The project was estimated to cost \$350,000.00. The design of the church was unique. The church is a polygon with how many sides?

May 28, 2017

St. Anne Church was designed as a 12 sided polygon with two projecting cry rooms in the front and two projecting sacristies for the altar servers and priests in the rear of the church. The nave of the church would be about 100 feet in diameter and the side walls, 20 feet high. The entire nave would be free from columns with the roof supported with structural steel arranged as a ring dome. Fr. Cleary wanted the main altar in the center of the church which was similar to the way it was done in Europe. Diocesan authorities however, turned down his request. Do you know, is there a basement in the church?

June 4, 2017

There is no basement in the church. A tunnel beneath the building follows the exterior wall and contains service piping and wiring. The boiler for heating the church is in the Rectory basement. The architects conceived the idea for St. Anne Church of a modern Byzantine edifice of Indiana limestone exterior with brick and concrete block interior. This embodied the true Byzantine structural manner of building without wood. The windows of antiques glass would be made in Italy, Czechoslovakia, Germany and England. Is there a symbolism for each window? Have you looked closely at them lately? What do they represent?

June 18, 2017

Each window has a different symbol representing the season of the church year. Beginning with the first window on the Gospel side nearest to the altar and ending with the opposite window on the St. Joseph side of the altar, the symbols for the windows represent Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent Easter, Pentecost, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, and All Saints. What do you think the cost of the windows was?

June 25, 2017

The cost for all stain glass windows and installation was \$14,654. This included the 8 large seasons of the church year windows, door windows, the geometric circle windows in the rooms off the vestibule, the St. Anne window over the front door, the baptismal window, and several others in the sacristy. What was the cost individually when the 8 large windows were repaired between 2011 and 2016?

July 2, 2017

Each of the large church windows cost \$1400 to repair between 2011 and 2016. There are still 7 small windows that need to be checked. They are in the sacristy, the chapel and there is even one in the chapel furnace room. While this window does nothing artistically inside, it provides balance in design from the outside. Who was the architect for the church/rectory project?

July 9, 2017

The architect was Ed Lerch of Rock Island and T.W. Arnold of Davenport was the assistant architect. The general construction work was awarded to Tunncliff Construction of Rock Island, J.L. Brady was awarded the plumbing, heating and ventilation work and Farlow Electric Company was awarded the electric wiring contract. The first shovel of dirt was turned for the church/rectory by Fr. Cleary on Wednesday, March 28, 1951. When was the cornerstone of the church blessed?

July 16, 2017

The cornerstone of the church was blessed and laid by Archbishop J.H. Schlarman of Peoria on September 23, 1951. Archbishop Schlarman died of a heart attack on November 10, 1951 while he was preparing the 7:00 A.M. mass. The church was dedicated on October 5, 1952 at 11:00 A.M. mass with Bishop Williams E. Cousins presiding. More on the dedication next week.

July 23, 2017

While Bishop Cousins presided over the dedication mass, the celebrant was Fr. Carroll McGivern of Davenport with Monsignor Robert Peters, Master of Ceremonies. The Assistant Master of Ceremonies was Fr. Richard Powers while Fr. Raymond Lassuy and Fr. John O'Connor were chaplains to the Bishop. Music was furnished by the Confirmation class. There were 250 Confirmands in the class. How many sanctuary changes have there been since 1952?

July 30, 2017

Besides the altar moving from the back wall to front center, there have been 4 décor changes in the sanctuary. The first backdrop to the altar was a mural painting representing the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles. If you do not remember this painting, it is hanging in Cleary Hall. In the early 1970's a red cloth replaced the picture. Then side wings were added to the sanctuary with gold metallic paper and a gold cross of the risen Christ in 1976-77. The wooden backdrops were added in 1988. What was the next building needed by the parish?

August 6, 2017

The church/school built in 1919 housed Grades 1 through 8. The basement was still the parish hall. Kindergarten was not required by the state but many went to public schools. The school enrollment in 1925- 26 was 122. The school annex was built in 1959 and the enrollment had climbed to 402 students in 8 classrooms. The largest school enrollment of 509 was in 1961-62. The largest graduating class of 65 was in 1963-64. How was the parish to grow?

August 13, 2017

The hint to the answer this week was that St. Anne Parish was still using the school basement as its hall. In 1962, Cleary Hall was built. It was not so named until 1969 to honor Fr. Cleary's dedication to the parish for 50 years. Fr. Cleary did agree to a statue of himself and a child outside the gym. If one looks at the statue today, it does not look like Fr. Cleary at any stage of his life. The sculptor broke the original head area but it was decided to accept it anyway. More on Cleary Hall next week.

August 20, 2017

Construction of Cleary Hall was necessitated by the fire regulations which limited the facilities in the school basement to 200 people. Estimated cost of the building was \$140,000.00. Actual cost was \$164,695.00. The basketball court has maple flooring which upon completion, Fr. Cleary had a sign erected in the building which read "POSITIVELY NO STEEL HEELS IN HALL". Women adhered to this demand usually bringing an extra pair of shoes or walking in the stocking feet. When was Cleary Hall remodeled?

August 27, 2017

Cleary Hall was remodeled in 1999 with the addition of two meeting/ social rooms, a bathroom, storage, and centralized kitchen which could serve both gym and social areas. Backtracking, what other construction took place in 1964?

September 3, 2017

In 1964 it was deemed necessary to provide additional living space in the Rectory. Construction was started on an addition over the garage which was connected to the Rectory by a bridge. Construction was completed in 1965 at a cost of \$21,548.00. At this time there was Fr. Cleary, 2 associates and a housekeeper living in the Rectory. Today, this area is used for storage of seasonal worship decorations. The last building in the St. Anne Complex is the Convent. When was it built?

September 10, 2017

August 3, 1965 Fr. Cleary announced to the parish that a new convent would be on the site of the present convent and the bungalow next door. These two buildings would be torn down. But where would the nine Sisters stay?

September 17, 2017

Because the convent was to be dismantled, it was necessary to find other living quarters for the Sisters. The Sisters agreed that they preferred living temporarily in the school basement rather than renting two houses and commuting to school each day. The remodeling of the school basement into private rooms and living facilities for the Sisters began on November 26, 1965. How long did the Sisters live in the basement?

September 24, 2017

Saturday, February 19, 1966, the Men Foresters moved the Sisters' furnishings to the temporary "English Basement Apartments" in the school basement. The new convent was completed and the Sisters moved into their new quarters July 15, 1967. What rooms did the new convent have?

October 1, 2017

The new convent would have 10 bedrooms, a chapel, a community room, guest room, dining room, living rooms, kitchen, laundry room, courtyard and two-car garage. The convent would be a two story and half basement structure built on Indiana limestone which matched that of the church, rectory and parish hall. The convent is now used for what purpose?

October 8, 2017

In 2005, with the merger of St. Mary & St. Anne Schools, the convent was converted to classrooms. Even the garage became a classroom. This ended 80 years of service by the Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B.V.M.) to St. Anne Parish. Sister Mary O'Connor and Sister Lydia Buntmeyer moved to the Motherhouse Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa. This ends the review of the St. Anne complex for now. We will return to the 1920's next.

October 15, 2017

The archives have given us a good idea of how, when and why the pre- sent church and other buildings were constructed. Now for a quick review: Fr. Barry initiated the survey for the "Holy Name Parish" in East Moline. The Peoria Diocese assigned Fr. William Cleary to replace Fr. Barry even though parishioners and community leaders objected. The name was changed to St. Anne Parish. The first mass was on March 29, 1919 at the Lyric Theatre. In 1919, the Sisters of Charity were contacted to start a school. The first mass in the partly constructed church/school was on May 7, 1920. How did the church support itself?

October 22, 2017

The system of pew rental was started in the parish on May 15, 1920. The rent was \$1.00 per person per month. This source of income was discontinued in 1926 when the Sunday envelope system was adopted. Who were the parish members?

October 29, 2017

A list of original members has been compiled from a 1920 pew rental list by Corrine Briggs. Look for a copy of this list in an insert soon. The first Annual Diocesan Report (ending June 30, 1920) showed there were 125 families, 58 single person and 160 children for a total of 468 parishioners. Of these parishioners, 250 were German, 20 Irish, 10 Flemish, 10 Belgium and the rest American. "All understand English." What other activities were there in the parish?

November 5, 2017

On May 9 & 10, 1922, The Dramatic Club of the parish presented its first annual production "The Ulster" a one act comedy. This play was held at the Majestic Theater. The second production was "Miss Somebody Else" a four act comedy presented at the Majestic Theater on May 15 & 16, 1923. The proceeds were added to the school fund. The third and fourth plays were "Just Plain Mary" and "The Mummy". Both presented at the Strand Theater in downtown East Moline. Did you know there was a fire in 1924-25?

November 12, 2017

The ladies of the parish held bazaars, card parties, and dinners in the basement of the church/school. There was a fire in the basement of the church on March 17, 1925 which caused damage of several hundred dollars. The damage from the fire itself was estimated to be \$25.00, but smoke damage necessitated redecorating the entire basement. The blaze was believed to have started from spontaneous combustion. The carpenters were arranging the basement for classrooms for the new school. It was believed that the fire started in a pile of shavings or saw-dust. Note the date of the fire, St. Patrick's Day. When did the school open?

November 19, 2017

On August 25, 1925, five Sisters of Charity arrived in East Moline to staff the school. The parish school opened its doors on August 31, 1925 with 122 students enrolled. The nuns lived in the old Lutheran rectory with a chapel being built for their use. In 1926, the first graduating class of 9 students was honored. What other organizations were started?

November 26, 2017

The High "C" Club was organized for the young people of St. Anne Catholic Church, who were enrolled in various high schools in East Moline, Moline and Rock Island for the purpose of study and social recreation. Father also started the St. Vincent DePaul Society in the late 1920's to help parishioners in need. Meeting dues, sale of magazines & Our Sunday Visitor newspaper provided funds to help parishioners and also to help defray the expenses of seminarians. What were religious activities like in the 1920's?

December 3, 2017

There was a Mass said each morning at 5:00 am and again at 8:00 am. In the afternoon, there were special services for the children and evening services at 7:30 pm. There was a week's mission service in 1920 where a capacity attendance heard a powerful sermon on sin by Fr. Harden, a Paulist missionary. In 1928, there was a spiritual retreat for students. There was the annual observance of Forty Hours devotion. Next we will go to the 1930's.

December 10, 2017

St. Anne Parish was incorporated in 1930. Instead of the Diocese holding the properties of all parishes under a Fee Simple arrangement in the personal name of the bishop, the church assets would be vested in parish corporations. The first two lay trustees for St. Anne, under the new by-laws were Francis C. King and J.L. Brady. The parish was growing but were the facilities adequate? What was next?

December 17, 2017

St. Anne Parish School accommodated 1st to 8th graders. There was no Catholic High School. Early in the summer of 1931, Monsignor Durkin, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Rock Island, purchased a four block area in Rock Island as the future site of a Catholic Central High School. The purchase price was \$6,500.00. The property was part of the W.L. Velie Estate (Alleman High School was built on that property in 1949). St. Anne Parish paid \$502.07 on June 2, 1931 toward the purchase of the property. What other property was purchased closer to the parish?

December 24, 2017

In May 1932, the house at 609 18th Ave. next to the convent was purchased for \$3,400.00 to eventually serve as a classroom. The house was rented for \$18.00 a month until July 15, 1937 when it was then converted for classroom use. These were hard times for families with the Stock Market Crash and the resulting depression. How did the parish respond?

December 31, 2017

In the annual Diocesan Report in 1932, Fr. Cleary stated that all families and children of families out of work were provided, where necessary, with clothing and fuel to see them through the winter. Food was furnished by city relief to the unemployed. Over the years, the parish sent truckloads of provisions, several boxes of ready made clothing and a "fruit shower" to the Guardian Angel Orphanage in Peoria. What other opportunities were there for Catholic Education besides the parish school?

January 7, 2018

A vacation school for Catholic children enrolled in the public schools was held from July 14 to July 28, 1932. There was a program of Christian Doctrine, scripture study, and handicrafts. The vacation school was conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM). There were 100 children in attendance. In 1933 the BVM sisters had 140 children attending. Classes were held in the former Hldbof Market at 8th Ave. and 20th St. What devotional services were available?

January 14, 2018

Forty Hours' Devotion started Friday morning at the 8:00 am mass. The children's choir of 100 voices sang. In the evening, there was a Holy Hour starting at 7:30 pm with Fr. E.H. Barnes giving the sermon. There was also procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Lectures on the life of Christ held each Sunday afternoon during Lent, and more masses were added to the weekend. Music was provided by the boy's, children's and adult choirs. Were there clubs in the parish?

January 21, 2018

During 1931 a Quilter group was organized as part of the Altar Society. These ladies met monthly in the church basement to make quilts. The first quilt display was held in March, 1934. From this activity stemmed to Annual Quilt Display which was held on St. Patrick's Day. Other organizations will be listed next week.

January 28, 2018

A Young Ladies' Sodality was organized in the parish sometime during the 1930's. It was open to all girls of high school age. The Sodality promoted devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. During 1939, a Girl Scout Troop was organized at St. Anne under the leadership of Mrs. Teresa Franke and Mrs. Agnes Burns. It was a "lone Troop" since it did not become affiliated with the Official Girl Scout Organization until 1941. Camp Shabonee opened in Port Byron at that time. With many activities and organizations within the parish, a parish council was established. What year?

February 4, 2018

On November 21, 1939, officers of the various societies in the parish met in the church basement to organize a parish council. Three delegates were appointed by Fr. Cleary. The elected officers of the St. Anne Council were Mrs. F.E. Bollaert, President, Helen West, Secretary, and Julia Tolarico, Publicity. Fr. Cleary apparently understood women power and advice as necessary. How was the parish doing financially?

February 11, 2018

In the financial report in 1929, the parish owed \$14,200.00. In 1931 the parish owed \$6,500.00 and in 1932, the parish owed \$8,600.00 after purchasing the house next to the convent for \$3,400.00. During 1937 the parish debt was entirely liquidated. At certain times during the 1920's and 1930's the Sunday collection, pew rent and other parish income were insufficient to cover the expenses of the parish. Some- times Fr. Cleary paid the deficit, and sometimes the deficit was carried by Fr. when he left his own personal funds in the parish account. He had plans. What were they?

February 18, 2018

In a letter dated July 26, 1937 to the parishioners, Fr. Cleary announced the start of a building fund for a new church. The letter stated, "In the section of your Sunday envelope marked DEBT, you may now place your offering for our new building. If everyone will try to make this fifty cents, it will not be long before we have sufficient to start". Next week we start the 1940's!

February 25, 2018

St. Anne Credit Union was organized in 1940. Fr. Cleary envisioned a Credit Union as a means to promote and encourage thrift among parish members and also to enable them to borrow money at low interest rates. Fr. appointed Julia Schneider, Lloyd Humberstone, and Dr. William Franke as directors. Maurice Martens agreed to serve as Treasurer. The Credit Union did quite well for several years. It couldn't compete however, with the Credit Unions of the local factories and was dissolved sometime after 1968. Next, altar boys are honored.

March 4, 2018

On September 17, 1940, eight altar boys of St. Anne Parish, who had completed their service, were given a farewell dinner by Fr. Cleary in Rapid City. Each boy received a wristwatch. The boys were: Robert Knobloch, Joe Braet, Joe Mitchell, Dan Naert, James Knobloch, Cyriel DeCoster, William Bollaert, and Joe Roels (St. Anne Parish Historian). Do you know any of these "boys"? When we reported that in 1937 the parish had summer school, St. Anne Parish member, Bev Hawkins re-ported to us that she attended in 1937 and in 1938 was baptized.

March 11, 2018

During 1940 the men of the parish undertook a cash subscription drive of the parishioners for the Building Fund. In July, 1941, architects sent to Bishop Schlarman a number of drawings which indicated the pro- posed layout for the new church and rectory. Because of the start of World War II, the building project was delayed but the building fund had increased to \$41,944.00 as of December 31, 1943.

March 18, 2018

The first casualty of a parishioner in World War II was Michael James Giovenazzo, age 20, the son of Mr. & Mrs. George Giovenazzo. Michael was killed at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. He had been in the Navy for 3 1/2 years. Were there other parishioners who died for our country in WWII?

March 25, 2018

On May 3, 1942, Fr. Cleary accepted an American flag which was presented to St. Anne Church by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chakowitz in memory of their son Albert "Bud" Chakowitz. Albert was lost overboard November 3, 1941 while serving on a destroyer in the Pacific. Bud was one of the neighborhood youngsters who was around Fr. Cleary to play tennis, go swimming, etc. SGT Richard Van Bell, age 25, was killed April 11, 1944, while serving with the Air Force in Europe. He was a gunner on a bomber while on a mission over Germany. He was survived by his wife Barbara and son. More WWII casualties next week.

April 1, 2018

Memorial services for Tech Sgt. Herbert Lane were held at St. Anne on November 11, 1944. He was the husband of Bertha Bonte. He was an aerial gunner stationed in Italy. He had been in the Air Force since June 1943. Pvt. Robert DeDoncker, age 21, was a member of the 82nd Air-borne Division. Pvt. DeDoncker was killed in combat in Belgium on December 20, 1944. He was survived by his wife Barbara and an infant daughter. Pvt. Leonard P. Eechout, age 18, son of Mr. & Mrs. Julius Eechout, was killed in action in France on March 15, 1945. He was an infantryman with the 7th Army. What did the parish do for the war effort?

April 8, 2018

Correction for the March 25th bulletin history tidbit: SGT Richard VanBell was survived by his wife, Alice Elizabeth and infant son, Richard. Thanks for the correction and for reading the history notes.

April 15, 2018

On February 19, 1942 Fr. Cleary received permission to hold a special devotion on Sunday afternoons for the duration of the war. This was part of the Public Prayer Front. The parish collected 3 tons of food for European relief and participated in 6 paper drives for the war effort. What important organization was started in 1942?

April 22, 2018

The Men's Catholic Order of Foresters Court was organized in November 1942 under the supervision of Ralph DePorter of Moline, field representative for the Foresters. Fr. Cleary issued an invitation to all men of the parish between the ages of 16 and 60 to become charter members. In 1945, St. Anne Court 375, Women's Catholic Order of Foresters, was organized with 40 charter members. In 1944 St. Anne Parish celebrated 25 years of success. How was it celebrated?

April 29, 2018

On July 24, 1944, St. Anne celebrated its 25th Anniversary and Fr. Cleary's 25th year as pastor. The celebration commenced with a Solemn High Mass at 10:30 am. A dinner for more than 300 parishioners was served at 12:30 pm in the Moose Hall, Moline. The after dinner program included remarks by Rev. P.H. Durkin, pastor of St. Joseph's in Rock Island; Frank Almquist, President of the East Moline-Silvis Chamber of Commerce; and Elmer Gullberg, Deere & Co. executive. Fr. Cleary was presented with a gift of \$2000 by the parishioners but turned this gift over to the building fund for the new church despite the objections of the parishioners. Next, a high school vision?

May 6, 2018

In the summer of 1945, Bishop Schlarman, together with the pastors of Rock Island County, announced that a Central High School would be erected in the city of Rock Island. The various parishes were assessed a share in the cost of the new school building. St. Anne's share was \$93,000.00 which was paid in cash from a fund drive and the parish building fund drive. In 1946 St. Anne Parish experienced a first. What was it?

May 13, 2018

Church regulations limited a priest to the number of masses which he could say on Sunday mornings. Priests from St. Ambrose helped with the Sunday masses and with other liturgical celebrations. Such requests for assistance were generally filled by Fathers Meinberg, Kinnavey, Burke, Ruhl and McGovern. Then on January 27, 1946, Fr. Joseph Wolvers was appointed the first assistant pastor in the parish. How many masses were there on Sunday?

May 20, 2018

The mass schedule during this period was 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 on Sunday mornings and 8:00 am on weekdays. But in 1948 the Parish engaged a priest from St. Ambrose College so that there could be six masses on Sunday, 4 in the Church and 2 in the basement (the present 2 story school building). What activities were there in the parish?

May 27, 2018

The St. Anne Social Club was organized to offer social time for the young adults of the parish especially those returning from war. The Catholic Labor Board School was held Tuesday, April 30, 1946 in the church basement. There were 53 groups who participated in discussions under the direction of Fr. William O'Connor of St. Ambrose College. The Labor School continued for 5 weeks.

June 3, 2018

St. Anne Parish held its annual parish picnic at Riverside Park in Mo- line where food, games and contests were held throughout the after- noon. There were wastepaper drives, public card parties, retreats for high school students and a party to honor basketball players. In 1949, there was a disaster and a triumph. What were they?

June 10, 2018

During August 1949, a cloudburst caused a flood in the church-school building which damaged floors, walls and installations. Alleman High School was dedicated in August 1949 by Bishop J.H. Schlarman. St. Anne furnished the band for the dedication. There was a tremendous outpouring of people on a very hot day. Were there any vocations from St. Anne Parish in the 1940's?

June 17, 2018

In 1945, Marie Canfield entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa. She was a member of the class of 1941 of St. Anne School. Carl Schulte, a member of St. Anne School Class of 1934, was ordained a priest of the Vincentian order on May 31, 1948 in Perryville, Missouri. In August 1948, he sailed for Ynchaing, China as a missionary. Joanne Dilulio entered the Congregation of the Sister of Humility of Mary in Ottumwa, Iowa in 1949. She was a member of the class of 1940 of St. Anne School. In the fifties, there is land purchased and a building built.

June 24, 2018

The walls of the church/school building would not stretch any further. Fr. Cleary was faced with a decision of providing more classrooms and starting the construction of a new church building. Properties were purchased for \$12,098.20 to serve as the site for the new church and rectory. At the present time, the church/school building would be converted into an eight-room school building. Construction and remodeling costs were estimated at \$300,000. The night after graduation in June 1950, the men of the parish proceeded to strip and uproot the altars and pews from the church preparatory to converting the first floor into classrooms. But where would Mass be held?

July 1, 2018

Fr. Cleary revealed that since the church premises would be vacated, arrangements had been made to use the Strand Theater for weekend Masses during the time of construction. In August, 1950 four new classrooms and a library were ready for the start of school. Daily Mass was celebrated in the church/school basement with a series of 'musical chairs'. Mass seating in the morning, altar screened off during lunch, seats arranged for parish groups holding evening meetings, and chairs back for morning Mass. With all the conversions where was the Blessed Sacrament kept?

July 8, 2018

The walls of the church/school building would not stretch any further. Fr. Cleary was faced with a decision of providing more classrooms and starting the construction of a new church building. Properties were purchased for \$12,098.20 to serve as the site for the new church and rectory. At the present time, the church/school building would be converted into an eight-room school building. Construction and remodeling were estimated to cost \$300,000.00. The night after graduation in June 1950, the men of the parish proceeded to strip and uproot the altars and pews from the church preparatory to converting the first floor into classrooms. But where would Mass be held?

July 15, 2018

As you entered the church/school building from the main entrance on 17th Ave., the Blessed Sacrament was kept in a small room to the left. In 1984, when the school building was remodeled, a wall was taken down which showed the original arch from the chapel into the old church proper. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1950 was celebrated in the John Deere School gymnasium with 1100 people in attendance. How were plans for the new church unique?

July 22, 2018

The Byzantine designed building is a 12-sided polygon with two projecting cry rooms in the front and two projected sacristies for the altar servers and the priests in the rear of the church. The nave of the church is about 100 feet in diameter, the side walls 20 feet high and the church is free of columns. During the 80's renovation, the ceiling was lowered for air conditioning efficiency. Fr. Cleary wanted the main altar in the center of the church however, diocesan authorities turned him down. The antique glass windows were made in Italy, Czechoslovakia, Germany and England. Check the St. Anne website for spiritual meanings for each window. There is a tunnel around the church perimeter for piping and wiring. With the church under construction, did parish life diminish?

July 29, 2018

No! Fr. Wolvers revived the Young Ladies' Sodality, which was started in the 1930's but had become inactive. The new rectory was occupied for the first time on April 1, 1952. The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1952. The church was dedicated on October 5, 1952 with Bishop William E. Cousins presiding. Music was furnished by the confirmation class. There were 250 confirmands in the class. In 1953, Cana Sessions for married couples and the Rock Island Deanery of National Council of Catholic Women were both held at St. Anne Parish. Why was 1953 a big year for the Boy Scouts?

August 5, 2018

While Fr. Cleary had always endorsed the Boy Scouts, 1953 & 1954 were years of further Scout growth. The St. Anne Boy Scouts Mothers' Club was organized February 26, 1953 to assist the Boy Scout Troop in providing needed equipment and to assist at the Scouts' family dinners and breakfasts. The parish then filed an application for a Senior Scout Unit Charter which were designated Troops #115. Fr. Joseph Wolvers, who had come in 1946, was transferred from assistant pastor to St. Anne to pastor of a LaSalle parish on March 17, 1953. Who was the next priest assigned to help Fr. Cleary?

August 12, 2018

Fr. Cornelius Hollerich, newly ordained, was assigned to St. Anne to replace Fr. Wolvers on March 19, 1953. In August 1956, Fr. Stanley Malinowski came to St. Anne. He was not a regular assistant but was a teacher at Alleman High School and also helped with the Masses at St. Anne. When did St. Anne take charge of the State Hospital in Water town (now a prison) regarding sick calls and Mass on Sunday?

August 19, 2018

In June 1957, the Bishop changed the assistant priests who were serving at St. Anne. Fr. Hollerich and Fr. Malinowski were transferred. Fr. Robert Gilles, newly ordained, was assigned to St. Anne and Fr. Arthur Bray was assigned as chaplain at East Moline State Hospital and as regular assistant at St. Anne. With this assignment of Fr. Bray, St. Anne had charge of the State Hospital regarding sick calls and Mass on Sunday. The school enrollment is growing. When did Fr. Cleary buy a school bus?

August 26, 2018

Because of the expansion of the parish and the increased enrollment in the school, Fr. Cleary saw the pressing need for a school bus. In September, 1954, the first school bus was purchased. The bus made a total of four runs each day. St. Anne School enrollment in 1953 was 384 students; in 1954, 371; in 1955, 395; in 1956, 394; in 1957, 393; in 1958, 402; and in 1959, 424. St. Anne Parish records show between 111 to 131 baptisms done yearly. What event fueled Fr. Cleary's determination to build classrooms?

September 2, 2018

The tragic fire in December 1958 at Our Lady of Angels School in Chicago meant many changes and readjustments at St. Anne School, including fire doors, exit signs, wire glass windows, and extra fire escape handrails. The fire also increased Fr. Cleary's determination to start building his new school addition. What were his plans and could he get permission?

September 9, 2018

For some time, Fr. Cleary had been trying to get permission because the school classes were growing larger each year, and more room was a necessity. Fr. wanted to build eight classrooms, but because Bishop Cousins was leaving the diocese, he could only give permission for four new classrooms. In May 1959, ground was broken for the new school building. The contractor promised that barring any delays, the school would be ready in September 1959. Two classrooms were ready when school started in September, and the other two classrooms were ready two weeks later. Today, this building is known as the annex or Jr. High Building. How did the fear of fire change another beloved event?

September 16, 2018

Remembering the large crowd problems experienced at the Quilt Display in 1956, it was decided to have the event on two nights instead of one in 1957. This would divide the crowd into two groups. The programs of the younger and older school children were alternated so that each group performed one afternoon and one evening. This arrangement would also allow the fathers of the children to see them perform. Why was this plan not successful?

September 23, 2018

Remember the parish hall was the basement of the church/school combination. The plan to alternate performances was not successful because many people wanted to see the entertainment a second time. The hall was "packed" each evening. The event was a success financially, but it was not worth the worry and strain to Fr. Cleary. He was constantly concerned about what would happen if a fire broke out. He spent the entire time walking floor to floor in the building and around the outside of the building. After the Quilt Display was over, Father stated that the 1957 event was the last annual St. Patrick's Day Program until there was a larger place to hold it. When was Cleary Hall built?

September 30, 2018

The recreation center officially opened on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1963. Completion had been planned for September 1, 1962. The center included a combination basketball court and recreation room, kitchen, storage, showers, and dressing rooms. Parishioners wanted to name the new gym after Fr. Cleary but he objected. In 1969 the recreation center was formally named Cleary Hall in honor of Fr. Cleary's dedication to the parish for 50 years. Why was St. Patrick's Day celebrated in the parish?

October 7, 2018

There are a combination of reasons for the St. Patrick's Day celebration in St. Anne Parish. The quilters wanted a way to display their handiwork, the winters were long, the school happily had close ties to the parish, and most importantly, Fr. Cleary was Irish and proud of it. St. Patrick's Day was a way to celebrate all things St. Anne represented-Fr. Cleary, Church and School. It was a big deal. Dispensations from the Lenten meat rules had to be secured from Peoria.

November 4, 2018

There is a misconception that St. Anne Parish was an Irish Parish. St. Anne Parish was established as a church for anyone who understood English. Our Lady of Guadalupe was the Hispanic church in downtown Silvis and St. Mary on 13th St., East Moline was the Belgian Church. St. Anne Parish had Croatian, Serbian, Hispanic, Belgian, Irish, Polish, English, German, Italian-all nationalities-Americans. As the years passed the national churches relied less on languages. There even came a time when by Diocesan decree, your address dictated what church you could attend. For some families this meant their children could not attend St. Anne School or any Catholic school.

November 11, 2018

In 1959 Fr. Bray was transferred to Bushnell and Fr. Schramm was made an assistant at St. Anne. During the 50's vocations from the parish included Fr. Ralph Aldrich, St. Anne graduation class of 1938; Fr. John Neimeyer, St. Anne class of 1934; Sister Edna Mae Lerch, Sisters of Social Service in Los Angeles, class of 1944. What was the Mass schedule in 1959?

November 18, 2018

The Mass schedule in effect during 1959 was 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 on Sunday mornings. Weekday Masses were 6:30 AM in the convent and 7:30 AM on Saturdays and in the church 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM. In 1961 a Development Drive was started for what purpose?

November 25, 2018

Friday evenings during May 1961 were devoted to meetings with the men of the parish who worked on the Development Drive for the B.V.M. Sisters. Fr. Cleary attended every meeting at St. Anne; St. Joseph; Sacred Heart, Rock Island; and Alleman High School. It was the general opinion of everyone that Fr. Cleary was the "mainspring" of the drive in the area. St. Anne took the lead at the first meeting and remained there until the end. In 1961 it was already recognized that the Sisters had no monies for retirement or place for retirement. Did Fr. Cleary recognize the need for social clubs?

December 2, 2018

The first meeting of the newly-formed social club for bachelors, bachelor girls, widows and widowers was held in the school hall on January 19, 1963. The St. Anne Mr. and Mrs. Club was organized in January 1957 as a Benefit and Social Club of the Altar Society. Fr. Cleary saw the need for social activity among the young married couples of the parish and singles of the parish. Change is coming for First Communion!

December 9, 2018

The month of May had always been, traditionally, the time for the reception of First Holy Communion by the First graders in a formal group reception. However in 1964 there was no formal group reception. Each child approached the communion table with the child's parents and family on the day chosen by the parents. More construction is under- way in 1964. What is it?

December 16, 2018

It was deemed necessary to provide additional living space in the rectory. Construction was started on an addition over the garage which was connected to the rectory by a bridge. Construction was completed in 1965 at a total cost of \$21,548. Bleachers for the parish hall were purchased during this year also. When was the Parish Council organized at St. Anne Parish?

December 23, 2018

On November 21, 1939, officers of the various societies in the parish met in the church basement (church/school building) to organize a parish council. The elected officers appointed by Fr. Cleary were women. The Rock Island Deanery seems to have influenced the scope of this organization. Not much is said in the archives about the council after this notation in 1939. What year was a Parish Council organized?

December 30, 2018

The Parish Council was organized in 1965 by Fr. Cleary. The purpose of the Council was: (1) to serve as a coordination committee for all parish activities; (2) to assist the pastor in identifying the needs of the community and the people in the parish and (3) to serve as an advisory cabinet to the pastor. The Parish Council became inactive in 2011. When did the first lay associate start serving the parish?

January 6, 2019

During the week of July 30, 1965 Richard R. Guise, who was serving as lay associate at St. Joseph Parish in Rock Island, assumed the same duties at St. Anne. He maintained offices in each parish. Another building is planned, what is it?

January 13, 2019

August 3, 1965 Fr. Cleary announced that a new convent would be built on the site of the present convent and the bungalow next door. The two buildings would be torn down. Because the convent was to be dismantled, it was necessary to find other living quarters for the Sisters. The Sisters agreed that they preferred living temporarily in the school basement rather than renting two houses and commuting to school each day. The convent was completed and the Sisters moved into their new quarters July 15, 1967.

January 20, 2019

Because of failing eyesight and strength, in March 1967 Fr. Cleary requested the Bishop to appoint a vicar or administrator to oversee the administration of the parish. Fr. John O'Connor was named Vicar Adjutor and Fr. Cleary was named Titular Pastor. In May, 1967 Fr. Cleary requested permission from the Bishop and civil authorities to be buried in the church yard. Fr. Cleary was active in the parish until 1972 and died August 16, 1977 at St. Anthony's Care Center in Rock Island. His burial plot is next to St. Anne Church.

January 27, 2019

In 1967 Bishop Franz announced the establishment of a new Moline area parish to be known as Christ the King. As a result, it was necessary to adjust the existing parish boundaries which regulated what parish a parishioner could attend. Also affected were Moline parishes and Our Lady of Guadalupe. This resulted in a reduction of parish families for St. Anne from 1225 to 1079.

February 3, 2019

The B.V.M. Sisters adopted contemporary dress as of June 15, 1967. St. Anne's Parent-Teacher Association was organized at a meeting on September 12, 1967. This was the first time in the history of the school for such an organization. In February, 1968 a parish Board of Education was formed to evaluate and coordinate all of the educational programs of the parish. Next week other happenings for 1968!

February 10, 2019

In November, 1968, Fr. O'Connor reminded parishioners that the priests of the parish would accept invitations to offer Mass in their homes for their families or neighborhood groups. A program of religious information classes for educationally challenged children was held every Saturday at 9:00 am in the kitchen of Cleary Hall. Because of an adjustment in the B.V.M. community, St. Anne School will lose 2 Sisters.

February 17, 2019

In 1969 the B.V.M. Sisters announced St. Anne School would lose 2 sisters. There were several ways to mediate the loss. Conferences were held with St. Mary School on 13th Street to propose a merger. Also one grade could be eliminated. Neither happened. The school continued to serve Grades 1-8. When did St. Anne Parish celebrate 50 years?

February 24, 2019

On September 21, 1969 the parish celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its establishment and Fr. Cleary's 50 years as Pastor. It was also the celebration of Fr. John O'Connor's 25 years as a priest. There was a concelebrated Mass, a choir directed by Don Wooten, and a dinner for 60 Priests and Sisters. Benediction and a reception followed. What do you know about Fr. William Cleary, or for that matter, any of the Priests who have served St. Anne Parish?

March 3, 2019

When Joe Roels wrote his biography of Right Reverend Monsignor William J. Cleary, he subtitled it 'Pastor, Teacher, Humanitarian, Community Leader, Scout Leader, Athlete, and Athletic Coach'. The Monsignor title is the correct one to address Fr. Cleary but if one did address him as Monsignor, he was in for a rebuke. Fr. Cleary was 'Fr. Cleary' to all. There will be several weeks of history on Fr. Cleary but the whole booklet is available on the St. Anne Website.

March 10, 2019

Fr. William J. Cleary was the first pastor of St. Anne Parish. He was born November 1, 1880 in Momence, IL. The second of five sons of Elizabeth Kirby and Patrick J. Cleary. He was baptized November 7, 1880 in St. Anne Parish, Kankakee County, IL. Since his ancestry was Irish, Fr. Cleary was asked if Gaelic was ever spoken in the home. He replied, "Oh, you mean the Irish!" But the answer was "No" since his father wanted the family to concentrate on being American and to speak English. Next week, there will be an emphasis on Fr. Cleary's education.

March 17, 2019

Fr. Cleary graduated from Momence High School in 1898. That year, at the age of 18, he was encouraged by his parish priest to enter the priesthood. William entered St. Viator's College in Bourbonnais, near Kankakee, where his father had also attended. From 1898-1901, William Cleary was in the "Collegiate Department". From 1901-1903 he was in the "Philosophy Department" and in the "Theology Department" from 1903 until he graduated in June, 1906. Was William Cleary active in college life?

March 24, 2019

William Cleary was a member of the literary and debating team, the drama club, the football and baseball teams, and the choir. He was one of the editors of the college magazine and a "Military Training" officer. All of this was accomplished while often being on the honor roll and receiving academic awards. On the lighter side, it is said Father recalled that some of the students secured a cow in the apartment of the President of the College. It is not known if Father was a part of that group of students. How did a Chicago Diocese priest candidate end up in the Peoria Diocese?

March 31, 2019

William Cleary's home parish was in the Chicago Diocese. The Arch-bishop was the person responsible for determining which candidates for the priesthood the Archdiocese would support. According to a statement by Fr. Cleary in an interview, it seems that he was not given that support. However, his parish priest, Fr. Labrie, wrote a letter to Archbishop Spalding recommending William Cleary for the Diocese of Peoria. When was William Cleary ordained?

April 7, 2019

On June 6, 1906 William J. Cleary was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Peoria. Fr. Cleary was assigned as assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Rock Island. While serving at St. Joseph's, Fr. Cleary went to Silvis occasionally to say Mass at Crowder Hall on 10th Street. He later was pastor of St. Patrick's in Elmwood. He was Chaplain to the National Soldiers' Home in Danville which served 2400-2500 soldiers who had served in the Civil War and Spanish-American War. He served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Mendota and Sacred Heart Church in Dimmick. In order to serve both parishes, Fr. Cleary traveled by train. When did Fr. Cleary come to East Moline?

April 14, 2019

In 1919, Bishop Dunne asked Fr. Cleary to begin a new parish in East Moline. A letter to the Bishop stated that the people of East Moline, both Catholics and Protestants, did not want him in East Moline but opposition ended after meeting Fr. Cleary. Father said his first Mass as pastor of Holy Name Parish on Sunday, May 18, 1919. It is unknown when the name of the parish changed to St. Anne Parish, as it is now known. Oh, there are some stories. Next week, some remembrances of Fr. Cleary!

April 21, 2019

During his days as pastor, Fr. Cleary was easily recognized for the Ford convertible which he drove. One day Fr. "inadvertently" drove away in the wrong car. He had stopped to see Margaret Dunsmore and her grandmother. He parked his car on the Southside of 17th Avenue. Shortly thereafter, Charles Dhooge, who lived across the street from Margaret, parked his Ford. When Fr. Cleary left Margaret's house, his key fit the ignition of Charles Dhooge's car. Seeing his car was gone, Charles recognized Fr.'s car and went to the rectory. Fr. Cleary was positive his car was in the rectory garage. As it turned out, he was mistaken and the switch of cars was made.

May 5, 2019

In the archives there are 14 pages of remembrances about Fr. William Cleary. He was a multi-faceted man. He was good hearted and purchased food, "one special pair of red shoes", and necessities for those in need. He taught religion weekly and handed out report cards with encouragement and praise. He swam the Mississippi River and canoed around Campbell's Island, played tennis and basketball, and had a punching bag in the rectory garage which he rapped often. Father demanded respect and got it. There is much more, which can be checked out on the St. Anne website. Next week, 1970's at St. Anne!

May 12, 2019

Following the Second Vatican Council directives, there were a lot of firsts in 1970 with Fr. John O'Connor as pastor. The altar against the back wall was removed. This left one altar in the sanctuary. Parishioners were allowed to attend a Mass after 4:00 pm on Saturday to fulfill their Sunday obligation. At St. Anne 1927 graduate, Sister Mary Ann Elizabeth Phelps became the first Religious Education Director. Sr. Phelps and Sister Mary Ellenine Goldthwaite, B.V.M. school principal, were commissioned to distribute Holy Communion during Masses. St. Anne was the first parish in the Quad Cities and the second parish in the Peoria Diocese to grant this authorization. When did Fr. Cleary retire?

May 19, 2019

Continuing news from the 70's, the first Mass in the St. Anne chapel behind the main altar was December 28, 1970. Boy Scout Troop #315 celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1970. In June, 1972, Fr. Edward Bawiec replaced Fr. John O'Connor as pastor. A major remodeling of the sanctuary is undertaken for \$60,000. In July 1972, at the age of 92, Fr. Cleary retired. He received permission to live on the first floor of the home of Anne Tilton. He entered eternal life on August 16, 1977. Over 60 priests attended his funeral. During the service, Fr. Van Raes, pastor, told the congregation, "there would be no sermon in accordance with Fr. Cleary's wishes. As long as there is a St. Anne, Fr. Cleary will be a part of it". Next week, the 1980's begin.

May 26, 2019

There are a lot of changes in organizations in St. Anne Parish. In 1981, Pastor, Fr. Fagan appointed some Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to shut-ins and to the nursing homes. The Altar Society, created in 1919, ceased to exist in 1982 but the first meeting of 50 Plus and Minus Club was held in May, 1983 with 160 persons in attendance. Fr. Hallin replaces Fr. Fagan as pastor. In 1983 the Youth Ministry is established, Sister Mary O'Connor is appointed Director of Religious Education, the first Spaghetti Supper is held (700 spaghetti dinners & 100 hot dogs were served), the first Basement to Attic Sale is held, and the Holiday food baskets and a food pantry were instituted to help the needy. There are more changes coming.

June 2, 2019

In 1984, the first fish fry was cooked, the first style show was held at Short Hills Country Club, the present day chapel was constructed with the altar in the center and seating on both sides, the first annual golf outing was played, Donut Sunday after Masses was sponsored by the school, and fund drive was launched for Project '84 with a goal of \$225,000 to renovate heating controls, boilers, new roofs, lighting, and signage for the school and church buildings. What religious opportunities were there?

June 9, 2019

Communion under both species was implemented in January, 1985. A Grief Support Group, later known as the St. Monica Group, also started in 1985. There were study sessions on "A Survey of Church History", "The Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians", review of the books of Genesis and Exodus, "The Catholic Faith-Catechumenate Program" and Youth Leader sessions. Fr. Hallin granted a request of the Hispanic parishioners for a Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Reconciliation Room. In 1986 a beautification program called "Memorial Trees" was announced to plant trees along 6th Street and landscape the parish grounds. In 1987, the school instituted a Parent Organization and the Fr. Cleary Endowment Fund is established. Project '90 is announced. What is it?

June 16, 2019

Project '90 was a complete renovation of the interior of the church started in 1988, with the interior completely gutted. The redesign of the sanctuary was prepared by Valere Verstraete. He crafted a new baptismal font, a tabernacle holder, a pulpit, and kneelers for the sanctuary. He became ill soon after the project was completed and his funeral was March 21, 1988. Change included new ceiling and skylight, new crucifix, new electrical wiring and lights, new sound system, air conditioning, painting, orange carpeting, new pews, Stations of the Cross framed, etc. In 1988, Fr. Robert O'Connor is made pastor and after Fr. John Dunne, pastor of St. Mary in East Moline, retires. Fr. O'Connor asks him to reside at St. Anne Rectory. On to the 1990's!

June 23, 2019

In 1990, a musical bible school was held. For ages 1-4 year olds, a nursery/bible program began during the 10:00 am Mass. St. Anne preschool classes began in 1992 in the convent basement. Fr. Robert O'Connor celebrated Mass each week for peace and safety of relatives and friends in the Persian Gulf War. Sister Mary O'Connor, BVM, Religious Coordinator for the parish, was honored by the Peoria Diocese for her outstanding contributions to religious education and for her many diverse activities in the parish. Fr. Richard Soseman, St. Anne School class of 1977, is ordained and Fr. Duane Jack celebrates 25 years as a priest.

June 30, 2019

Fr. John Dunne, who lived in the St. Anne Rectory, dies in 1993. In September, the parish held its First Annual Father Dunne Memorial Golf Outing. The Diocese of Peoria announced on September 15, 1994, female altar servers were permitted. September 18, 1994, St. Anne Parish celebrated its 75th Anniversary. In 1997, Sylvia Standaert receives a special award from the National Catholic Educational Association commemorating her 30 years of service to St. Anne School. More on the 1990's next week!

July 7, 2019

In 1999, construction is started after a large donation and fund raising provide monies to enlarge Cleary Hall at a cost of \$675,000. The Elizabeth Ministry is started for support of women's pregnancy issues. Jim Briggs starts the Permanent Deacons class in 1999. Eighteen members of St. Anne Youth Group and four chaperones attend the Pope's visit to St. Louis. Sister Mary O'Connor retires as Religious Education Director. Barb Liska is hired for this position. On to the year 2000!

July 14, 2019

Bishop John J. Meyers offers Mass which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of St. Anne School on June 4, 2000. This was followed by the dedication of the 5000 square foot addition to Cleary Hall at a cost of \$785,874. September 11, 2001 the terrorist attack on New York happened. There were 3 Pastors from 2000-2010. They were Fr. Robert O'Connor, Msgr. James Ramer, and Fr. Keith Walder.

July 21, 2019

St. Anne and St. Mary, East Moline, Schools merged in 2005 to form Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy situated on the St. Anne Campus. The B.V.M. Sisters, who had been here since 1925 (80 years), were thanked for their many years of service. The convent was renovated into classrooms. The Principals from 2000 to 2010 were: Jerry Sanderson, Alan Gorgal, Todd Morris, acting principal Connie Ertel, Joe Flaherty, and Linda VanderVennet.

July 28, 2019

Bix Music was introduced to Masses in 2004. The Seder Meal was started also in 2004. Prayer Shawls were first distributed in 2007. The Firecracker Grill, Elizabeth Ministry, Garden Club, Parish Council, Bingo, etc. were all going strong. Mass attendance on the weekend was approximately 750 persons. In 2010, the church debt was \$0 with a positive balance of \$26,078. Next week, a final note!

The following article was published in the final edition of the St. Anne “Centennial Scoop” newsletter in October of 2019.

St. Anne Centennial – A Final Note

As our 100-Year Anniversary in 2019 comes to a close, it seems an appropriate time to **REFLECT** on our Centennial journey.

- We took time to **REMEMBER** our parish history with “tidbits” of information published in the weekly bulletins, inclusion of historical information on our website, printing of a St. Anne Centennial History booklet, and a large display of St. Anne historical artifacts.
- Over a sixteen-month period, we were able to **REJOICE** at many special parish events including the bookends of a “kick-off” Mass and a “finale” Mass which included many guests with special connections to St. Anne’s. We celebrated with sales of Centennial commemorative items, a Centennial Quilt raffle, and 100 Days of Prayers, Quotes, and Proverbs.
- We also completed a successful fundraising campaign that enabled us to **RENEW** our church in an exciting transformation to a more beautiful worship space.

All of this was accomplished by working together as a parish family and, as a result, St. Anne’s “came alive” with increased spirit, energy, enthusiasm, engagement, and pride. God has truly blessed us with His grace!

Now it is time to look forward. How will we carry the strength and power of this Centennial initiative into the future? Our Centennial Celebration has been a wonderful time of stewardship for our parish and we are hopeful that this positive Centennial experience will inspire the continued higher-level sharing of time, talent, and treasure going forward.

Please prayerfully consider how you will contribute to our parish family and help “keep alive” the spirit, energy, enthusiasm, engagement, and pride for St. Anne Parish in 2020 and beyond.

We would like to recognize: Father Fredi Gomez-Torres who had the foresight and vision in planning for the commemoration of this important milestone; Father Antonio Dittmer for being instrumental in the execution of the Centennial fundraising and parish renovations; and Father James Pallardy for his support of previous efforts and acceptance of the charge of ushering in the next 100 years of St. Anne Parish.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to all who participated in any way in our St. Anne Centennial! It has been a great privilege to serve our parish and we sincerely appreciate all those who trusted us with this important historical project.

The St. Anne Centennial Committee