

CHAPTER 3

TIME FOR CHANGE

The First Vatican Council II had its solemn opening October 1962. Many changes in the church occurred as a result of this historic meeting which lasted from 1962-65. This 21st ecumenical council of the Roman Catholic Church was convened by Pope John XXIII and continued under Paul VI. Out of the council came decrees promoting ecumenism. One of the aims of the conference was to reform the liturgy bringing the layman into closer participation in the church services. One of the most important ways this was done was using the vernacular of the people instead of the traditional Latin. The priests began saying Mass facing the congregation requiring major revamping of sanctuaries. Even before the close of the council, Pope Paul began to establish commissions to implement the decisions of the council (Vatican). St. Joseph's Church faced major changes in its organizational structure and liturgical practice. For many parishioners it was a time of challenges, testing ones faith, accepting change, and moving on. For others, Vatican II was a breath of fresh air, badly needed after centuries of living in hermetically sealed chambers. For all, it was a dynamic time in the history of the Church and the parish.

In 1965 the parish celebrated its 100th anniversary, and Msgr. Farischon celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest in a joint celebration. A Pontifical High Mass was celebrated followed by a banquet in the dining room of the Episcopal Church Hall for the clergy. A public reception was held in the all-purpose room of the Palmyra High School at 8 o'clock for approximately 600 guests. In 1968 Msgr. Farischon retired as pastor ending an era of 52 years of service (Observe).



Rev. Krsto Jelenic

On July 2, 1968, Rev. Krsto Jelenic, a native of Yugoslavia, who knew first-hand the cruelties of atheistic Communism before his escape to the free world, was appointed as pastor of the parish by Bishop Joseph M. Marling, only the second pastor to serve the parish. Father Jelenic tended to the spiritual duties as well as spear-headed the renovation of both the church and the rectory. The remodeling of the church was in accordance with the suggested changes in

the liturgy as prescribed by the documents of the Second Vatican Council including moving the altar so that the priest faced the congregation. He oversaw the restoration and painting of the interior in soft colors. The brick exterior of the church was tuck-pointed first, followed by work on the interior of the church. The Church was painted, a new floor was built and covered with linoleum, and a cry room was constructed in the old baptistry area. The sanctuary was carpeted, new pews installed, and the aisles carpeted. Many parishioners donated their time to this great effort.



Sanctuary as it was redecorated after Vatican II 1968

On July 10, 1968, the parishioners started the remodeling of the rectory donating time and labor. This was a daunting task as the previous pastor had lived in the rectory so many decades with very little redecorating or refurbishing done. There was also a sale of unused items from the rectory and church after its refurbishing. It was time for change, but many felt great sadness at the loss of the old.

In 1969 Rev. Michael F. McAuliffe was appointed as the second bishop of the Jefferson City Diocese upon the retirement of Bishop Marling. He was consecrated bishop in August. Also that year the city of Palmyra observed its sesquicentennial.



Bishop Michael McAuliffe 1969-1996
Second Bishop
Diocese of Jefferson City

In 1970 the school closed after 100 years in operation. It was a casualty of the times. The Benedictine Sisters notified the pastor that they would no longer be able to supply sisters to teach in the parish school due to a shortage of sisters. In addition, many families were opting to send their children to the public schools. Economic factors relating to upkeep also were significant in the school's closing.

On September 1, 1971, Rev. Krsto Jelenic moved from St. Joseph's Parish to St. James, Missouri. Rev. Edward J. Donohue was appointed pastor, only the third priest to serve Palmyra since it was designated for a resident pastor. "Father brought to Palmyra his sincerity, and good humor." He was a popular figure in the community and a skilled competitor on the local golf course as well as at state competitions. His practical planning brought into reality the building of a new hall dedicated in 1974 in honor of Monsignor Farischon. Father Donahue also saw other improvements on the parish properties, with the construction of the garage and utility structure behind the rectory. He also oversaw the repainting of the exterior with the renewal of the soft colors chosen by Father Jelenic ten years earlier. Father Ed was also responsible for initiating handicapped accessible improvements. He initiated a church bulletin, Saturday evening Mass, and the growth of the membership by 60 families (Yates).



Rev. Edward J. Donohue, Third Resident Pastor
1971-1986

In the fall of 1971 Sister Bonita Raine, SSND, as an extension of the Diocesan Religious Education Office, began serving the parish on a part-time basis. In 1973 Sister Carole Frances Miller, SSND served in that capacity. This arrangement continued until 1975, when a Northeast Regional Catechetical Center was established in Edina. In 1974 the school building built in 1918 was demolished to make room for the parish hall on that site.

In 1973 the levee holding back the Mississippi River broke along the Fabius River allowing the swollen Mississippi River to inundate some 14,000 acres of rich farm land and closing traffic on U.S. 24 from going into Quincy. The Palmyra community including St. Joseph's members rallied with its prayers and support. Valuable crops and farmers' livelihoods disappeared. Families were displaced and trailer parks quickly appeared in Palmyra and surrounding areas to accommodate the people who had to flee their homes and the ravages of the

river. Parishioners employed in Quincy were forced to travel to either Hannibal or Keokuk, IA, to cross the river (Keck 67). It was a difficult time economically and emotionally for the community. But the people of Palmyra endured the hardships as they had other difficulties so many times before in its history.



**Old School demolished/new hall being constructed.
1974**

The school built in 1918 was razed in 1974 to make room for the new parish hall on that site. It was a difficult goodbye to a well-loved place for many who had studied under its roof. But progress prevailed and a new multipurpose building went up suitable for CCD classes, large and small parish functions, and community events as well

On October 27, 1974, the Monsignor Farischon Hall was dedicated with a Mass at 10:00 A.M. Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe celebrated, with Rev. Edward J. Donohue, pastor of St. Joseph's Church as concelebrant. Following the dedication Mass, a carry-in dinner for the parish was held. Mr. and Mrs. Josh Bridgman and their son, Steve, presented Msgr. Farischon with a portrait of himself to hang in the new all-purpose building named in his honor. The hall was truly a multi-purpose building. The air conditioned steel structure was 70 x 120 ft. with four rooms including a large hall at the south end. The main hall held approximately 300 people comfortably. There were two meeting rooms with portable dividers to serve as religious education classrooms, and a kitchen located in the center of the building was easily accessible from any of the rooms. There were two large restrooms and a janitorial closet. Bleigh Construction Company was the contractor.

The hall quickly became heavily used not only by the parish, but also by the community at large. The building was the largest gathering place at that time in Palmyra except for the Middle School auditorium and better suited to many non-sporting events. Bookings for wedding receptions, fund raisers, private parties, dances, and civic events soon filled the parish calendar. Renting out the hall helped pay for the building, while filling a void in the town for a large meeting place.



Msgr. Farischon Hall

The following year February 1975, the building's namesake, Msgr. Herbert J. Farischon, moved to the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home in St. Louis due to infirmities of old age.

From 1975-1985, Palmyra was one of the parishes in Northeast Missouri served by two School Sisters of Notre Dame from the Northeast Regional Catechetical Center, Sister Jane Wand and Sister Ethel Marie Biri were followed by Sister Mary Kay Schmitte. 1976 saw the Bicentennial celebration of the nation. Monsignor H.J. Farischon received special recognition from Lt. Governor Bill Phelps in recognition for his long service to the Palmyra community (Keck 61).

Time brought loss for St. Joseph Church in the deaths of two former pastors. In 1978 on January 16, Rev. Krsto Jelenic died in his sleep with a funeral Mass held in Kahoka, the parish where he was serving. A memorial Mass was held at St. Joseph's Church. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery, Long Beach, California. In 1979 both Bishop Marling and Msgr. Farischon died. On October 2, Bishop Joseph M. Marling, first bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City died after a lengthy illness. The next day, on October 3, Right Rev. Msgr. Herbert J. Farischon died in Alexian Brothers Hospital in St. Louis at the age of 91 years. His death came twenty years to the day he was named a monsignor. On October 8, a concelebrated Mass for Msgr. Farischon was held with the Most Rev. Michael F. McAuliffe, Bishop of Jefferson City Diocese, as celebrant, assisted by Rev. Edward J. Donohue and many other priests and deacons of the diocese. Bishop McAuliffe conducted the blessing of the grave in the St. Joseph's Cemetery, Palmyra, where Msgr. Farischon was laid to rest. On Tuesday, October 9, a memorial Mass was celebrated at the Precious Blood Motherhouse in Carthagen, Ohio, (his hometown).

An event of significance to our parish and the Midwest was a Papal visit to the region. On October 4, 1979, Pope John Paul II visited Des Moines, Iowa, at the Living History Farm. Many from this area journeyed north to attend Mass on this historic occasion.

In 1983 the church building became handicapped accessible with the addition of a wheelchair ramp and new sidewalks around the church property. Interior improvements included the installation of red carpeting. The Altar Society and the Church General Fund shared the expenses.



**New Concrete Ramp
Nick Thomas and Fr. Donohue demonstrating**

In 1984 the house on the northwest corner of Lane and Hamilton, formerly owned by Freeman White, was purchased by the parish and torn down to make room for much needed additional parking. A new lighted announcement sign was built in front of the church building. A liturgical change included the addition of a guitar group which provided a different, updated sound at many of the Eucharistic celebrations.

In 1985 Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe asked Sister Carol Grawe, SSND, to serve full time as Pastoral Minister at St. Joseph's Parish. She resided for a period of time in the convent in Hannibal, Missouri, and later moved to Palmyra to better serve the growing needs of the parish. Sr. Carol did much administrative work, was involved with educational programs and instruction, helped prepare the liturgy, and worked with ministering to members of the parish during her tenure. It is through Sister Carol's initiative that CCD classes were organized, liturgical ministries defined and promoted, and summer Vacation Bible School classes initiated. Sister Carol celebrated her thirty five years as a School Sister of Notre Dame on July 31, 1993.

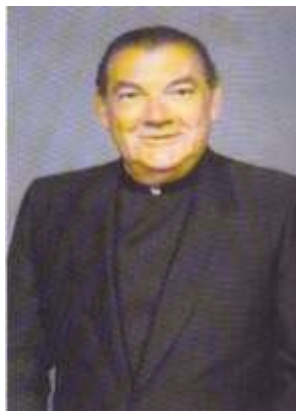


Sr. Carol Grawe SSND



**Rev. Edward J. Donohue 50th Jubilee
1986**

On June 1, 1986, Father Edward J. Donohue celebrated his 50th Jubilee with Bishop McAuliffe and many priests concelebrating Mass followed by a dinner for the clergy, family, and friends. On June 8, the parish and community celebrated Father Donohue's anniversary at 10:00 Mass with a reception for the public in the Msgr. Farischon Hall. In September, a farewell reception was held for Father Donohue marking his retirement. He was presented with a golf cart and a monetary gift from the parish. The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce gave him a humorous golf shirt and a cap. In October, 1986, Father retired and moved with his sister, Helen Reilly, to High Ridge, Missouri.



**Rev. Leonard Misey
1986-1992**

On October 15, 1986, Father Leonard Misey became pastor. At this time the priest from Palmyra also served as sacramental minister for Queen of Peace Parish, Ewing. Father Misey served the parish almost six years. The property at 210 East Hamilton, the old Washington Public School Building, was purchased by the parish as a site for future construction, a parking lot, or other needs that might develop. In 1987 room dividers and audio equipment for the CCD classes were purchased, a pastoral minister's office was built and furnished, and new ceiling tile and re-painting was completed at Farischon Hall. In 1988 Father Leonard Misey celebrated his Silver Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a reception and dinner at the Msgr. Farischon Hall. The next day, a covered dish dinner was held honoring Fr. Misey by the St. Joseph and Queen of Peace parishioners. In June, 1988, several improvements were made on the rectory with painting, new roof, and carpeting. In addition a grotto was added.

In 1988, when St. Elizabeth Hospital was closing, Catherine Bowen Juetter arranged for the grotto and statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be moved from the hospital and placed in front of Msgr. Farischon Hall. The statue had originally been donated by her mother to the hospital.



**Grotto
Donated by Catherine Juetter**

In 1988, the death of a former Palmyran, reminded parishioners of two Palmyra girls who became sisters. One of St. Joseph's former parishioners, Sister Mary Louise, formerly Frances Gertrude Jacobi, daughter of the late George and Louise Jacobi, died February 22, 1988. She attended elementary school in Palmyra until her family moved to St. Louis. She graduated from Rosati-Kain High School before entering the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She taught elementary and high school subjects as well as music. Her specialty, however, was the teaching of commercial subjects. Amazingly, when she was 69 years old, she went to West Africa as a foreign missionary.

She worked with the Legion of Mary in nearby villages and taught students to play the recorder for school and church. One of her fellow missionaries in Sierra Leone said of her, "she showed all the missionary zeal, and enthusiasm of a newly baptized missionary ready to help in any capacity needed." (Obituaries). Sr. Mary Louise maintained lifelong friendships with

Palmyra parishioners including Bessie Scheveling. Sr. Mary Louise also had a younger sister, Sr. Mary Lorette, who was also a SSND according to Martha Scheveling Hudson. She formerly taught at St. Boniface School, Quincy, IL. Although St. Joseph's does not have a history many religious vocations, it is proud of the contributions made by these two who once worshipped in this church.

Another historic event for the parish occurred on June 1991 when The Sisters of St. Francis from Peoria, Illinois, held a prayer service in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of their community. Their foundress, Sister Pacifica, taught at the old school before she founded their order in Peoria. The sisters renewed their vows and placed a commemorative plaque in the church vestibule. Additional improvement included the purchase that year of the old Washington School. In 1992, the ceiling and walls of the church were repainted over a three month period. On July 10, 1992, Father Leonard Misey was assigned to St. Boniface Parish in Brunswick. A farewell reception and carry-in supper was held honoring Fr. Misey.

On August 1, 1992, Rev. Frank Westhoff became pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Palmyra, and sacramental minister at Queen of Peace Church, Ewing. During Lent 1993, Father Westhoff held instructional masses which were educational and well-attended. In 1993 the Old Washington School Building was torn down to make room for future uses.

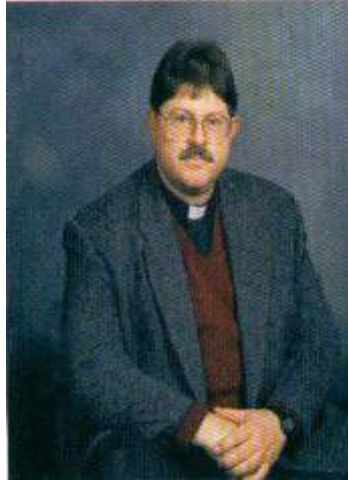


**Rev. Frank Westhoff
1992-1993**

On July 1, 1993, Father Westhoff announced his retirement. He had found serving two parishes to be physically challenging and elected to retire from full-time ministry. On June 13, a retirement reception for Father Frank Westhoff was held followed by a carry-in supper as part of the annual parish picnic.

On July 1, 1993, Rev. Daniel Lueckenotte was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church, and sacramental minister for Queen of Peace Parish, Ewing. This was Father Dan's first pastorate. He was welcomed into the parish with a reception and carry-in dinner with meat, drink, and bread provided by the parish. This proved to be a fitting welcome as Fr. Dan soon became known for his organizing of parish get-togethers often featuring carry-ins with "meat, drink, and bread provided by the parish." Much physical improvement to the parish plant was

started and completed during Father Dan's tenure. Father orchestrated long range planning and fund raising for a new educational building and installed a new Bose sound system in the church for \$7500. Fr. Dan initiated the practice of placing a remembrance book during November at the front of the church for deceased family and friends of parishioners to record the names of their loved ones.



Rev. Daniel Lueckenotte
1993-

In 1993 flood waters once again raged as the Mississippi River inundated West Quincy and the surrounding river areas. The church held a flood relief collection to help locally and in other affected areas. Flood waters from a break in levees along the Mississippi River left a trail of destruction from Iowa to the Gulf (Palmyra 67). Members of St. Joseph's along with other Palmyra citizens joined in sand bag brigades and relief efforts in the attempt to hold back the river. Travel across the river from Quincy and Hannibal was halted causing hardships for many people. It was a time no one who lived here would ever forget.

In July, Hannibal Regional Hospital gave two stained glass windows to the parish from the old St. Elizabeth's Hospital Chapel. Fr. Farischon was chaplain there for one year before coming to Palmyra as pastor. The beautiful works of art were estimated to be worth approximately \$10,000 each. Made by Emil Frei Studios in St. Louis in 1941, one window depicts Christ the King and the other a guardian angel with child. Frames were made and plans formulated to use these art works in a new educational building or addition.

Additional educational facilities became a parish priority. November 1993, long-range planning reports were presented regarding the need for more educational space. Crowded conditions and the noisiness of several classes in one room divided only by portable panels made it difficult for CCD teachers and students as well. Educational needs were causing Farischon Hall to be vastly overcrowded and inadequate. In 1994 CCD classes were held in the Msgr. Farischon Hall, the rectory, sister's house, and the Episcopal Parish House. Logistics including safety issues were problematic. There were 30 in high school, 150 in grades 1-8, and 30 in preschool and kindergarten. Additional facilities were seen as an urgent need.

On June 26, 1994, an open house and farewell was held for Sister Carol Grawe followed with a carry-in supper. On August 1, 1994, Sister Marlene Buese, SSND began to serve as the new Pastoral Minister. An informal gathering was held to welcome her. Sr. Marlene soon endeared herself to the community with her sense of humor, common sense approach, hard work, strong organizational skills, and sincere concern for the welfare of others. Her talents in many areas: singing, preaching, teaching, organizing, and even crafting, made her a valuable leader in the parish.



Sr. Marlene Buese SSND
Pastoral Minister
1994-

In October 1994, Bishop McAulliffe celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest and Silver Jubilee as a bishop. On November 22, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe celebrated his 75th birthday, at which time he submitted his formal letter of resignation to Pope John Paul II as required by Church law. In April Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe held Confirmation at St. Joseph's.

While altar society members were doing an annual cleaning that year, the veneer on the base of the old altar caught on a dust cloth and pulled loose. That altar had been donated in memory of Nick and Stella Thomas' parents when the church was renovated in 1968. This was the impetus for the Altar Society's project of refurbishing the sanctuary in 1994. The project of incorporating Gothic furnishings inspired many parishioners to return objects obtained or purchased at auction after the 1968 Vatican renovations. Some old liturgical pieces were returned to the church and restored. The baptismal font that had been in the home of Leo and Mary Jane Rothweiler since the 1968-1970 church renovation was returned to the church, this time placed not in the old baptistery area, now a cry room, but underneath St. Joseph's statue. Old candle stands that had been made by Wilbur Wellman years before were returned to the church by Grant and Joyce Hess and stripped and refinished by Bob Serbin. Originally they had been painted black and had been used for funerals. They were refinished in a wood grain and proudly placed in a prominent place next to the altar.

New liturgical furniture was also made. Ed Bourne of Center built a new altar, lecterns, presider's chair, and two server's chairs. He used some of the detailed scroll work from one of the old side altars and stripped and refinished it to embellish the new altar and lecterns.



New Altar

In addition to refurbishing efforts, repair work continued on the church with waterproofing and repairs done to the exterior at a cost of \$19, 516.45, much more than the original cost of the building of the church in 1899. In 1996 extensive changes and painting were done in the sanctuary area. The chair-rail and wainscoting were removed. Diligent efforts were continuing to be made to keep the beautiful church in top condition. Some of the parish members removed the cracked and broken plaster along the sidewalls of the church the height of the wainscoting. It was then replastered and painted. In long-standing tradition, parishioners volunteered their talents and time. Parishioners working on this project included Bill and Sarah Baxter, Bob Serbin, Linda Reeves, Helen Huber, and Rick Jones, Sonny Foster, and Leo Foster.

The statue background was painted to look like the recessed alcove area with the main arch being painted blue to match the sanctuary. Max Autenrieb Church Interior Decorating, Inc. was in charge of the redecoration. The sister of the contractor painted a picture of the church above the door leading to the vestibule. It has symbols for St. Joseph, patron of the church; a hammer, and square and lilies.



Picture above Vestibule Door

In 1997 a new ambry for holy oils was donated by the Wolfmeyer family in honor of their parents, Bill and Betty Wolfmeyer, and made by Dale Gervais. An area around the tabernacle was faced with wood, part of which was made from the remaining carved and Gothic arch from the old side altar. This work was done by Ed Bourne. Heimer Construction Company removed damaged shingles from the roof of the church and repaired and replaced them. No one who attended Mass during the famous “bats in the belfry” siege can easily forget the sight of Father Dan saying Mass when the light bulbs shattered, spraying glass on his head amidst great claps of noise. Another unforgettable dramatic moment came when Mr. Albert Juette and Sr. Marlene attacked bats in the center aisle with a broom before 5:00 p.m. Saturday night Mass.

Two special events occurred in 1997 for the parish as well as the diocese. A special event occurred for the parish when Sister Janet Crane, daughter of Robert and Virginia Rothweiler Crane made her final vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the motherhouse chapel in St. Louis on May 18, 1997. As a daughter of a military family, Sr. Janet lived elsewhere, but her family always considered St. Joseph's their parish.



Sr. Janet Crane SSND

A special occasion for the whole diocese occurred on August 27, 1997, when Monsignor John Raymond Gaydos of the St. Louis Archdiocese was ordained and installed as the third Bishop of the Jefferson City Diocese in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.



Bishop John Gaydos
Third Bishop of the Jefferson City Diocese
1997

By 1998 it was evident that some changes were going to have to occur at St. Joseph's in the religious education program. Because of the large numbers of students and limited classroom space, CCD classes were operating in double shifts (an early shift and a late shift) to accommodate all the students. The Parish Council voted in favor of an addition to the present building. The parish recognized need, and the parish took action. The K.C.'s voted to donate \$5,000 to a new building project and to match dollar for dollar up to \$5000 the money raised by youth groups. Fundraising plans were put in motion as they had been almost 100 years before with the building of the new church in 1899 when the ladies sold chicken dinners, and men volunteered their labor and materials. Just as in those days long before, the whole parish was involved. Breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, and September Fests were held in 1998 and 1999 to fund new construction and furnishings. Carmel apples, craft items, and raffle tickets were sold to put money in the building fund. The CCD helped out with the sales of pizza and cookie dough. By January 19, 1999, the St. Joseph parish Building Fund collected \$60,000 with \$40,000 pledged. Pledges were obtained and parish organizations undertook different projects to help raise money for the project. The building addition was on its way, a fitting beginning for the centennial year and the new millennium.