

Chapter 6

St. Joseph School

A Place of Memories

St. Joseph's School was established in 1869 by Rev. Anselm Mueller, O.F.M., a Franciscan priest, who was the regular pastor. (The Franciscan fathers came from Quincy to celebrate Mass and other services for the parish). The students were instructed by lay teachers: Mrs. Andrew (Katie) Gebhardt, Mrs. Flettner, Mrs. Simon Hirner (Josephine West), and Mrs. August Weyand. In 1873 the Franciscan order again assumed charge of the parish after a five year period of other priests. In 1877 the Franciscan nuns from Dubuque, Iowa took charge of the school. Their names were Ottilia, Veronica, Pacifica, Angeline, Agnes, and Teresa.

In 1887 Sr. Pacifica chose not to renew her vows in the Franciscan Order of Sisters in Dubuque. She returned to Palmyra as a lay teacher after obtaining permission from Archbishop Richard Kenrick of St. Louis, as a Secular Third Order Franciscan. Margaret Forrestal, the former Sr. Pacifica, along with two of her birth sisters, Mary and Elizabeth Forrestal, and a friend, Ella Well, taught in the school for several years. In 1890, Sister Pacifica was requested by Archbishop J. L. Spalding of Peoria, Illinois, to staff the diocesan orphanage of Metamora, Illinois. The archbishop delegated Rev. Rufinus Moehl, of the Quincy Franciscan Monastery to organize the small group into a religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, under the loving tutelage of Mother Pacifica. Maria Hirner, a parishioner, was an early member of the order.

In 1879 a two-story brick school containing a basement and two stories was erected by Rev. Theo Kussman, O.F.M. as recorded in a 1910 Franciscan book marking the Golden Jubilee of Franciscans in Quincy and vicinity. The sisters occupied the second floor with two classrooms on the first floor. The "big" room (upper grades) was on the east side of the building. There was a pot bellied stove in the northeast corner of the building. A cistern was just outside the back door, and the outhouses were back where the garage now stands. The "little" room (grades 1-4) was across the front of the building facing Lane Street. There was a storage room separated by sliding doors, and when the doors were opened, a stage could be revealed. The stairs to the second floor were at the front of the building.

On the southeast corner of Church and Lane was the playground. There was a board fence separating the Catholic students from the public school students across the alley. "The Washington Public School was across the alley, and we weren't supposed to associate with them," recalled Louise Barber Gash, former St. Joseph School student (Gash). Louise Bockhold Barber Gash was one of fifteen children. She started school about 1914 at the age of six.



1904 Old St. Joseph's School/Present day rectory
William Meyers, Estella Meyers Thomas' father, was a student at that time

From 1891-1906, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity from Monitowac, Wisconsin, taught in the school. These nuns were Sisters Petronella, Simplicita, Christiana, and LaSalle. There were 40 student enrolled in 1893, 36 students in school in 1895, 42 pupils in 1901, 50 students in 1904, 52 students in 1905, and 42 pupils in 1906 (Little 83).

From 1906-1912 the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception from Peoria, Illinois, came to teach. The Rev. Ernestur Kaufold, O.F.M. was responsible for bringing this order to the parish. Sisters Catherine, Patricia, and Alphonse served from 1906-1907; Sisters Leonard and Hermann, 1907-1908; Sisters Rose and Hermann, 1908-1909; Sisters Brendan, Martina, and James, 1910-1911. The students numbered between 30 and 40. After the sisters from Peoria left, lay teachers, Marie Lesch and Mary Donohue taught. Marie Lesch also taught piano and boarded in the parochial building. The Theodore Kuhn family lived there at that time also. Palmyra was a strong German immigrant settlement and many of the pupils were of German descent.

On August 4, 1916, Rev. Herbert J. Farischon was appointed the first resident pastor of the parish. He lived on the second floor of the school building. At that time there were about 30 pupils. The parochial building was torn down in 1917 to make room for a new school building. Before the building, the house on the southwest corner of Church and Lane Streets, formerly the parochial residence, was occupied by Theodore Kuhn. (Mrs. Kuhn was formerly Anna Kroeger). Marie Lesch, a teacher in the school, boarded and gave piano lessons there. Louise Gash recalls that a Green family lived there before that. The building sat back on the lot farther than the new school did. She remembers a nice front lawn surrounded by a white picket fence with a front gate on the north side. Kids were not allowed to play there. Louise's sister, Florence, took piano lessons from Miss Lesch, but Louise never remembered being in the building (Gash).

In 1919 a new concrete block school building was built on the southwest corner of Church and Lane Streets. L.I Juette and L.W. Wellman did the foundation and walls for the sum of \$1,442.00. The sturdy main foundation was one foot thick and eight feet high. Partition walls were eight inches thick, and the walls of the building were built of concrete blocks eight inches thick and 20 feet, eight inches high. All of the carpentry work, plastering, painting, tin work, and materials were furnished by E.F. Schneider, contractor and builder of Palmyra, for \$3,374.30



St. Joseph's Catholic School—Completed in 1919

As always, the parishioners pitched in to support the new parish effort. Mary Rothweiler Kroeger recalled the Drescher girls, Bertha and Edna, and herself having an ice cream cone social with a free will offering to buy a new flag for the school. Ice cream cones, introduced at the popular 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, were a novel approach to the traditional ice cream social fund raiser. Florence Schaller remembered Mrs. Lawrence Juette and Mr. Ed Hess going to the Catholic church in Bloomfield, IL (near Fowler, an Irish settlement) to get benches for the new school chapel.

A chapel was constructed in the building, as well as dormitories for boarding students on the northwest corner of the second floor. There were two large rooms on the south side of the first floor used for classrooms: the "little" room (grades 1-4) on the front of the building and the "big" room (grades 5-8) on the west side or back. The sister's quarters were on the north side of the first floor. They consisted of a living room, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor with sleeping quarters upstairs on the northeast side. The basement was used for meetings, a cafeteria, and other parish activities

Amidst all the progress going on in the parish, a fire gutted the church on March 3, 1919, Ash Wednesday. But the parishioners made do the best they could. Services were held in the old school building until July 18 while repairs were being made to the church. In addition, one Mass

on Sunday was celebrated in the chapel of the new school across the street. In August 1919, the old school was remodeled into a rectory and the brick walls stuccoed.

In 1919 on October 11, after the crops were harvested and the boys no longer needed in the fields, the new school opened with the Benedictine Sisters from Atchison, Kansas, as teachers. By 1923, there were 45 children attending the school. In 1937-1938, during the difficult depression years, the school opened with 43 pupils, 21 girls and 22 boys.



1923

Rev. Herbert J. Farischon holding Mildred Kroeger. Sisters Marcelline Sinnott, M. Ellen Wagner and Alphonsa Schurman with children in front of school

The school was a place of learning, a place of prayer, a social center, and a source of vivid memories for all those who studied or worked there. Even decades after attending St. Joseph's school, its students recall fondly the time and place that helped shape them so many years before. The schedule and rituals remain clear, etched by repetition during an impressionable time in their lives. This is what they remember.

School Day

Each school day started out with prayer. There were also prayers before recess and after recess and before going home. Religion was always the first lesson taught. Sometimes humorous events would occur. Mary K. Myers, a lay teacher in 1967, relates Sister Cynthia telling her she was having the students recite the rosary in unison. From one small child she was able to discern this peculiar version, "Hail Mary, full of grapes." The "little room" was taught catechism; the "big room"—Bible history. Every Friday afternoon, Father Farischon came over

and taught religion. He was scheduled to teach a half hour in each room, but often he ran over. This was not popular with the cooks who had to wait dinner. Also every Friday was choir.

School Room

The classrooms had desks that lifted from the top for the lower grades and book storage underneath the seats for the upper grades. Every room had a crucifix. The Palmer Method of Penmanship alphabet (upper and lower case) was displayed above the chalkboards. Pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were in every room. Each room had multiple grade levels. When Mary Kroeger Hirner went to school one room housed 1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades—all taught by one teacher!



Desks



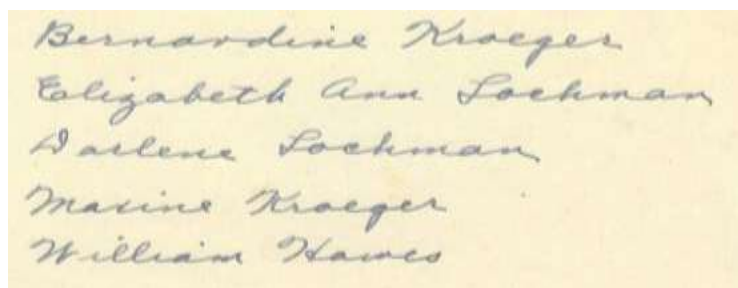
Blackboards



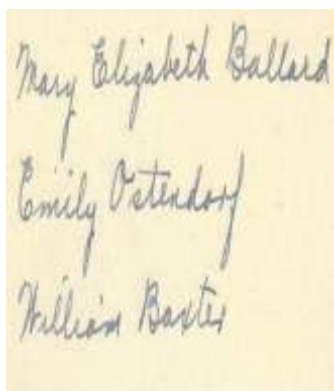
“Middle Room” (downstairs north classroom, formerly sisters’ parlor)

Character building and religion were part of education along with the three “R’s”—reading, ‘riting, ‘rithmetic. The children went to daily Mass. The boys sat on St. Joseph’s side; the girls on the Virgin Mary’s side. The sisters could thump a student if he were found misbehaving. The youngest ones sat up front followed by the older students. On the Thursdays before Good Friday, all children filed into church for confessions. On Good Fridays children could bring their breakfasts and eat at their desks. Before Vatican II fasting was required from midnight to receive Holy Communion. Ruth Lake Hastings remembers having to pay attention to Father Farischon’s long sermons, having to take notes and then report to class the next day. This was a daunting task for a small child as Father’s sermons were sometimes an hour in length and often complex.

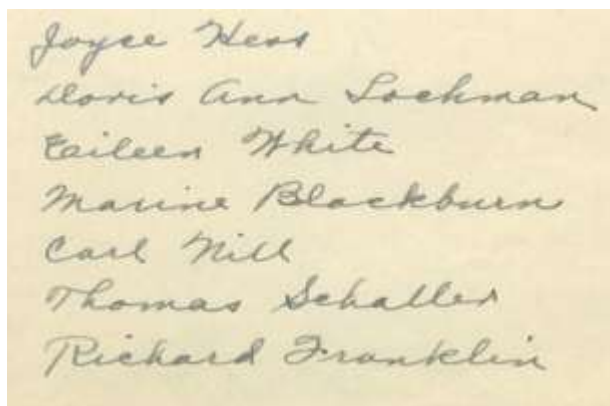
The sisters (during the 30’s and 40’s) taught their students such skills as embroidery work and knitting. Students made pillow cases etc. which they could give to their families as gifts. This was especially appreciated during the hard Depression years when money was scarce. John Buckman remembers in the 50’s Sister Longina teaching the boys to sew. He sewed a dish towel and stenciled it with a red bird (St. Louis Cardinal). John still has that dish towel, a memento of a significant time and place in his life. Students also had a rhythm band. Sr. Longina played the organ and the children sang.



1940 Fifth Grade



1940 Sixth Grade



1940 Seventh Grade

The sisters believed in exercises in memorization. All students would stand, Sr. Longina and Sr. Martha would give out a series of numbers, and the students would have to repeat them. Since there were several grade levels in each class, students learned not only their lesson, but the other levels as well.

Strict discipline was required from the teachers. Father Ernest Kaufhold, OFM. was the last pastor before Father Farischon came in 1916. Louise Gash discussed school discipline in an interview with Mary Jane Rothweiler.

He had a bed in the little room in the church which is the sacristy where he slept when he came for the week-end. He would stay until Monday when he would come to the school and teach us catechism. Some of the boys, Lawrence Bockhold and Lawrence Kroeger, are two that I can remember, would act up in school and Father Ernest would take them over to his room and whip them with a strap (Gash).

For infringements, David Hastings recalls punishment might entail kneeling ten minutes with hands out in the shape of a cross or standing in a corner and reading the Bible. John Buckman remembers walking across the hall into kitchen and having to call home and tell mom of the transgression as one of the punishments. In really serious cases, students would have to walk across the street and see Father. Father, however, often engaged the errant student about the stars or other topics so the punishment, in fact, was a reward. Sisters Longina and Martha, both of whom had long tenures at St. Joseph, were generally acknowledged as being very strict disciplinarians. Teachers demanded respect and were answered politely with, "Yes, sister."

Students were expected to help clean bathrooms, scoop snow off sidewalks, dust erasers, and sometimes scrape and wash dishes. Being chosen to do tasks was often seen as quite an honor, although sometimes was assigned as punishment. Parents also helped with work at school; there was a real spirit of volunteerism with parents painting, cleaning playgrounds, or helping out whenever needed. A Home and School Club was in place in the 1950's and until

after the school closed in 1979. This organization was responsible for recruiting help for chores around the school including regular janitorial work.

School Lunches

The hot lunch program was started in the 1940's by Marcella Wesley and Helen Pratt. Before that, the students brought their lunches in tin pails. Marcella and Jim Wesley and Mike and Martha Boudreau white-washed the old coal bin in the basement of the school to make a kitchen. There were overhead heating pipes for the building and the furnace to work around. Harvey Weyand gave them a stove from his restaurant. The cooks were Mrs. Harriet Buckwalter, Mrs. Pollitt (Marion's mother), and Mrs. L.I. (Kate Juetten). Florence Schaller was head cook from 1952 to 1966. She had different part-time helpers during that time. Mary Webb and Marie Nill worked from 1966 to 1969 when the school closed. Martha Scheveling Hudson recalls all the cooks being very Christian women, interested in each child. Some former students comparing their mom's cooking to Mrs. Schaller's, said, "It's good, but not as good as Mrs. Schaller's." Mrs. Schaller, in addition, to being known as a fine cook, was also known for not wasting anything. She would serve the left over juices from peas and beans in juice glasses to the children. Martha remembers the meals were very good, but whatever a student took, they were expected to eat it. The nuns were very strict about that. Marie Nill worked in the kitchen. One day during Lent the students were served spinach. David Hastings would not eat his so he could not leave the table. He said, "Aunt Marie, I gave up spinach for Lent." That won him a reprieve that time and a chuckle from the cooks.

The parochial school received government commodities from time to time. Many students remember being served olives frequently. Some like Pam Baxter Kiefaber hated them and hid them under the table ledge; others liked them. David Hastings remembers olive-eating contests. One time he ate 125 olives and was declared the winner and surprised his teacher by not even getting sick.

His mother, Ruth Hasting, was not so lucky. She remembers staring at two tiny pickled herrings on her plate. Sr. Longina told her she had to eat them. She did but promptly threw up afterwards. Peanut butter sandwiches and chili, homemade cinnamon rolls, Ernie's cookies, goulash, and chicken pot pie are some of the dishes fondly remembered. If a student was allergic to a food, the parents had to give permission for the students not to be served that item.

Transportation

Mary Kroeger Hirner who attended school 1923-1931 rode a horse drawn buggy to school. Mary Mangin Sternke who attended school in the 1940's recalls riding a horse to school with her brother Morris Mangin and tying the horse up at the observatory. In bad weather the horses would be put inside the observatory. Ruth Hastings 1940-41 and 1943-44 recalls a small bus run by Charlie Carroll ran down to the bottoms, but since her family could not afford to pay for the transportation, she stayed in town with her aunt and uncle so she could receive instructions for her First Communion. Students that lived in the country sometimes boarded at the school with the nuns to prepare for their First Communion. When Louise Gash was in the seventh grade, she boarded at the new school which Father Farischon had built. The years before, she had driven the horse to school and would put the horse in the horse barn on the back

of the lot. It was big enough to hold at least four horses. Fred Kroeger drove his horse to school and also George Hirner's kids (Gash). The boarders slept in the southwest room upstairs. Mary Mangin Sternke remembers staying over a few times when she couldn't get home. There were beds upstairs in dorm fashion with sheets hung between each bed. The boarders ate with the sisters.

Recess

Recess, as might be expected, was a favorite part of the school children's day. Father Farischon took a keen interest in the children of St. Joseph. He taught them their religion, but he also enjoyed providing them with playground equipment. Father designed a merry-go-round on the playground as well as a small gauge railroad on a track the width of the school ground. This trolley car ran from the observatory and had to be pushed. Father would get out the trolley, and the kids would pile on the flatbed. (In later years, Father got out the trolley with less frequency.) The track was dismantled in 1968. Father also had an observatory with a powerful telescope on the west side of the school which he shared with the children, organizations such as the Boy Scouts, and anyone in the community interested in astronomy. (It was completely destroyed by fire in 1964.)



St. Joseph School Playground



**Father Farischon's Observatory
Spring 1964 Fire**

Dodge ball and baseball were favorite games. Sister Cynthia, one of the last sisters to serve at St. Joseph's, would often pitch. She would roll up her skirt and run bases. Fox and Geese was a favorite snowy day game. Caroms, one of Father's favorites, was a popular indoor game. Father made sure each classroom had its own carom board.

For a St. Joseph boy, being chosen to be a patrol boy was, as John Buckman said, "A big deal." The patrol boys wore distinctive white sashes. There was a captain, usually an eighth

grade boy, and a sargeant whose job was to make the list of assigned patrol duties. These students were dismissed from school early to help with crossings by the school and on Main Street, which at the time was the highway going through town. On cold days, Lewis Brothers Funeral Home (then in the Savoy Building where Palmyra State Bank stands today) would leave the side door open for the patrol boys to get warm. At the end of each school year, the St. Joseph's Patrol Boys went with the public school patrol boys to a baseball game in St. Louis. It was also a treat attending assemblies at the public school, getting out of school, walking over to the high school (now the Middle School, receiving the nine point health pin, and having pictures taken for the paper.

Another honor only boys were given was being servers. Servers were responsible for helping with each day's Mass. When boys were plentiful only the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys were permitted this privilege (David Hastings only had two girls in his class). When there was a shortage of boys, even the first and second graders were recruited (John Buckman). The boys had more duties than today's servers including learning the Latin responses. The boys especially enjoyed serving a wedding or funeral where they would often be able to miss part of their classes and where a small stipend would be given the boys for their services. John Buckman remembers at weddings the servers would take the cord from Father's robe, entwine the wedding couple outside the church doors after the service, and the newlyweds would give money to the boys. Leo Rothweiler vividly remembers serving a funeral for Father Farischon. Father asked him and another boy if they would like to go to the cemetery for the burial rites. Of course, they wanted to go—more time away from school. What Father neglected to tell them was the cemetery was in Barry, Illinois! They didn't get home until 7:00 p.m.; their parents did not know where they were. And then there were other special times.



Servers Circa 1937 approximately

Top row: Carl Nill, Pee Wee Baxter, Father Farischon, Chas. Eusterbrock, Eugene Nill

Middle Row: Vincent Bowman, Wilfred Kroeger, Harold Crane, Ralph Eusterbrock

Front Row: Leo Powell, Arthur "Sonny" Kroeger"

First Communions

Ruth Lake Hastings recalls the First Communion breakfast held in the sister's dining room. It was a rare occasion children were even allowed to enter the sister's quarters, and to add to the ambiance were the elegant surroundings, the big dining table covered with a white tablecloth, and her long, white dress. "It was a day to remember; it really really, was!" Pauline Schwartz Jones was in third grade when the school closed; she remembers it as a hard time. She had eagerly anticipated her time to receive her First Holy Communion when she would go up to the altar railing. When she made her First Communion, Fr. Jelenic had initiated mandates of Vatican II and had the altar railing removed. Because the church was undergoing remodeling, the floor was bare plywood.



**Eighth Grade Graduation and First Communion
Circa 1924 or 1925**

First Row -----, Sadie Meyers, Olivia Lugering, ----
Second Row ----, Helen Kroeger, Margaret Powell
Third Row Ernest Wellman, Howard Juetter
Fourth Row Margaret Fleming, Fr. Farischon, Frances Lochman

Christmas

Very special at St. Joseph's were Fr. Farischon's visits to the classrooms on St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6. Someone dressed as St. Nicholas would hand out a sack of candy for each child. At Christmas each child would receive a gift such as a paint set or crayons. For children during the Depression days, this was a real treat. Later, gifts might include a plastic holy water font for each household or statues or medals—Mary for the girls; St. Joseph or St. Christopher for the boys, Martha Scheveling Hudson remembers.

Ruth Lake Hastings remembers magic happening when the sisters would take newspapers, paint them with watercolors to look like realistic rock formations, and surround the manger. The mural covered the whole side of the church and came down almost to the pews. As an eighth grader, Ruth was asked to help the sisters with this art work, and she felt so honored.

Martha Scheveling Hudson recalls going over to 6:30 a.m. Mass during Advent, the church in darkness, and the children filing up to the front of the manger. She said "It was one of the holiest times." There was a basket for coins at the manger. The money went toward "buying" a pagan baby. The Holy Childhood Stamps were used to raise money for the suffering children in foreign lands. Children vied to raise the most money and receive the honor of naming their pagan baby.

Forty Hours

Forty Hours was a special time in the liturgical year for the children. All the girls dressed in white and all the boys dressed in their cassocks and surplices. Some of the boys had sensors, some bells. All were in the procession. Four church trustees carried a decorated canopy over the gold monstrance containing the blessed sacrament. The church was always beautifully decorated with flowers, and the reserve altar added to the solemnity of the occasion. Martha Scheveling Hudson remembers it as a solemn, holy time when the children would go over in pairs for half hour prayer sessions. This was considered a privilege and she doesn't remember that anyone misbehaved.

School Picnics

A real highlight of the school year was the end-of-the-year picnic. The children in the earlier days would walk. Mary Kroeger Hirner remembers picnics being held at the Valentine and Emma Bernhardt Farm (site of today's Head Start). Many former students still recall the annual event always planned by Father Farischon. He would keep the destination a top secret. Father would get on the bus with his cigar and look forward to the day he had planned. At various times, picnics were held at Wilson Park, now Eldon Mette's land. Students played baseball, football, and enjoyed delicious food such as fried chicken. These picnics were sometimes held at other locales such as New Salem, Illinois, or out in the country at someone's farm. John Buckman always remembered riding a bus. Locations varied sometimes at Florida State Park, Buzzard's Roost, South Park, Quincy, Illinois, or Thousand State Park, Kirksville.

Martha Scheveling Hudson who attended school from 1942-1953 remembers falling into a creek and getting so wet she had to borrow someone's dress. Mary Jane Rothweiler said Father always took charge of the special day. One May when the trip was to Florida State Park, parents made it very clear that their children were not to go into the water as it was still too cold. They remembered the many times their children had come home with wet shoes and socks. The sisters even reminded Father they had strict instructions from the parents not to get in the water. Father announced he would have a treat later in the afternoon. The children assumed it was the usual "surprise" ice cream cups. That year the children had an unforgettable treat when Father opened up his trunk and handed out fifty water guns. Needless to say, the children did not go into the creek, but came home just as wet! One year Father got on the bus with a great sack of unshelled peanuts which he passed around. He told the kids they could just throw the shells on the floor resulting in the whole bus floor covered with peanut shells. Father said, "We are people of the cloth; we won't get in trouble. Although the sisters would worry about students getting hurt, father was always "happy as a lark. He just loved kids." said Martha Scheveling Hudson. Father Farischon created some unforgettable moments!

Pauline Schwartz Jones fondly recalls a school highlight in her day was the watermelon outing. Her dad would bring a long bed truck with side rails; the students would all pile in and head out to Mr. Madden's watermelon patch. Each child was allowed to pick a watermelon, and the feasting in the field continued until it was time to catch the bus for home.

At Easter each child received a blessed egg. The children under the direction of the sisters always had a program for Father Farischon's name day and also for his birthday in May. This tradition has been carried on by the Grant Hess Family who each Easter has a huge beribboned basket of colorfully dyed eggs at the altar for the children.

Sad Times

Along with wonderfully happy memories, there are sad events that are etched on many minds. In 1961, Simon Hirner, the eight year old son of Lee and Mary Kroeger Hirner died at communion time at a school Mass. Afterwards, Father had the children all gather together and pray for Simon. His mother recalled that Simon went to school the day before and asked his teacher, Will you please hear my Mass prayers? I want to serve tomorrow." His teacher replied that she was too busy. Later he went back and pleaded, "Sister, I've just got to have you listen to those Mass prayers." Sister did so and she said later she would never have forgiven herself had she not granted his request, for Simon died the very next day. He had earlier fallen on ice and his parents didn't know the severity of his injury. An autopsy revealed a massive hemorrhage. The sisters counseled the students for two days and handled the tragic situation admirably according to those who were there that sad day. The Home and School Club later dedicated shrubbery at the St. Joseph's Cemetery as well as a controlled reading machine in Simon's memory.



**Dedication of Controlled Reading Machine
In memory of Simon Hirner by Home and School Club
Leo Hirner, Sister Mary Benjamin, Sister Cynthia, Sister Placida, Mary Hirner
October 1962**

Changes

As enrollment increased, with 63 in 1955, 98 in 1960, and 99 in 1961, additional classroom space was needed. In 1961 the Laura Seeger residence was purchased and remodeled as a convent for the sisters. Some of the children remember having to be very quiet when they walked by the sisters' residence. They didn't want the sisters to come out and ask them to do chores or yell at them for being unruly. Also in that year, the school chapel was dismantled and the sister's living quarters in the second floor of the school building were converted into classrooms on the south side of the second floor. It housed the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The third and fourth grades occupied the entire north side of the first floor. This arrangement continued until the school was closed. In 1966 there were 106 pupils enrolled in the school. When the school closed, there was an enrollment of 104 students. Shirley Perry, Mary K. Myers, Margaret Disselhorst, Esther M. Bock, and Jane Wilson were hired as lay teachers to assist the nuns during the 1967-1968 school year. St. Joseph School was racially integrated before it was mandatory. Kenny and Ordell Johnson came to live their grandmother, Bernie Johnson and graduated from St. Joseph Grade School. With Vatican II the sisters modified their habits adapting a more modern look. In 1969 the Benedictine Sisters notified the new pastor, Reverend Krsto Jelanic, that they would no longer be able to supply sisters to teach in the parish school due to the shortage of nuns.



**Josh Bridgman presents Sister Mary Ernest and Sister Flora farewell gifts with
closing of St. Joseph School**

In 1970 at the end of the school year, St. Joseph Catholic School closed after 100 years of operation. The last enrollment was 104 pupils, grades 1-8. A farewell party was held honoring Sisters Mary Ernest and Flora. They were members of the Benedictine Sisters who had been teaching in the parish school since October 1919. The end of an era had come to St. Joseph's.



Top Row - David Baxter, Kathy Spalding, Gary Kroeger, Sue Lehenbauer,
Eddie Hess, James Spalding, Rita Marquart, Mark Bryan, Mary E. Webb

Second Row - Gilbert Hudson Jr., Liza Dooley

Third Row - Mike Rothweiler, Christine Fahy, Kenny Faulkner, Joyce Dodd,
Herbert Schwartz, Lenore Whiston, Steve Rupp, Pam Baxter, Eddie
Williams

Fourth Row - Ginny Kroeger, David Hastings, Paula Whiston, Mike Hastings,
Angela Lockman, David Kroeger, Ann Rothweiler

Fifth Row - Karen Taylor, Donna Buckman, Rita Whiston, Terry Hess

Grades Grades 6-8 1966-1967



Top Row - Teacher Mary K. Myers, Mark Bross, Brenda Webb, Kenny Rothweiler, Harla Kitch, Mike Hudson, Luanne Kroeger, Mike Hirner, Jeannia Kempf.

2nd Row - Drexel Rothweiler, Kathy Hudson, E. H. Dooley, Greg Foster, Jeannine Faulkner, Joe Webb.

3rd Row - Alice Rothweiler, Charles Lockman, Roxanne Dietrich, Greg Kroeger, Mary Kay Myers, Joey Taylor, Linda Thorington, John Hess, Cherie McLeod.

4th Row - Alex Mundy, Nancy Dietrich, Steve Hudson, Jean Lake, Billy Lake, Barbara Rupp, Rodney Bross, Janet Barnes, Sandy Maddox.

5th Row - Brent Lehenbauer, Cindy Foster, Carlene Lockman, Dottie Lake, Dottie Hudson, Veronica Whiston, Howard Kroeger.

The pupils from Philadelphia grades 1-8 moved to the parish school building after their school was destroyed by fire on November 1971. They leased the building for the 1971-1972 building until their new facilities were completed. The school building continued to be used for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes held once a week for school age children. It was also used for other parish activities until it was demolished in 1974 to make room for the new parish hall which was named in honor of Monsignor Farischon who was present for the dedication on October 27, 1974.

And what benefit was the parochial school? Doris Dodd Ravenscraft, who attended all eight grades at St. Joseph's in the 1950's is thankful she and her ten siblings had the opportunity to go to a Catholic school. She credits it for instilling moral values, a sense of responsibility, discipline, and humility. David Hasting said even though some of the teachers were very strict, he now looks back and thinks those were some of the best times in his life. St. Joseph Catholic School building now a part of history but the lessons learned and the experiences shared are still a living part of the parish and its legacy. Those who attended St. Joseph School view it as a special place and time in their lives.