

CHAPTER 7

ORGANIZATIONS

A Century of Service

No story of St. Joseph Parish would be complete without an acknowledgment of the organizations which comprise dedicated parishioners who offer willingly of their time, talent, and treasure to support the work of the Lord. These organizations have a long history of service. According to the records of St. Francis Solanus Parish, Quincy, IL, the following societies existed in the parish in the early years: St. Joseph's Men Society, the Altar Society, the Children of Mary Sodality, The Confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Mary for the Conversion of Sinners, 120 members; St. Joseph Literary Society; St. Joseph's Choir directed by Mrs. Hy. Bernhardt, Jeanette Tatlow, Rose Rothweiler, organists; Misses Mary Rothweiler, Barbara Best, Mary Kroeger, Helen Kroeger, Stella Kroeger, Mr. N. Hirner, Mary Daume, sopranos; Mrs. Drescher, Mrs. Happel, altos; Arthur Jacobi, tenor; Chas. Jacobi, Ernest Gebhardt, bass. While not all of these organizations are still in existence, there are a number of viable societies that provide valuable services to the parish and its people.

Parish Council

The Parish Council was formed in 1986 under a Diocesan Pastoral Council directive provided by the Diocese of Jefferson City. The functions of the parish council include organizing, promoting, and coordinating apostolic activity within the parish, surveying the spiritual and temporal needs of the individual, family, parish, and community, setting priorities, establishing goals, objectives, and policies to meet those needs, serve as a forum for constructive dialogue among priests, religious, and laity of the parish, and be an advisory body to the parish. The guidelines were in accordance with the Second Vatican Council. All members of the parish share in the parish decision-making processes through a broadly based and representative council. The parish priest and pastoral minister are also members of the council. Four main commissions operate within the council including Worship-Spiritual Development, Social Concerns, Education, and Administration. The council and commissions meet once each month under the leadership of a president with a secretary recording the minutes. Members are nominated and elected by the parish members at large.



Parish Council 1999

Left to Right: Jim Browning, Linda Reeves, Myron Witt, Tammy Foster, Larry Huber, Mary Lee Krekemeyer, Bob Leake, Susan Chambers, David Hastings, Tony Lenzini, John Buckman, Father Dan

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council Number 1935 was chartered April 6, 1919, with 36 charter members. The first Grand Knight was Sidney Wieseman, and Rev. Herbert J. Farischo served as the first chaplain. This organization from the beginning dedicated itself to serve the church with unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Following the fire of 1919, the knights donated two stained glass windows in the church sanctuary, one with a representation of St. Vincent DePaul and the Good Samaritan. The other window has angels holding scrolls with the names of parish veterans of World War I. This organization continues to do good works for the church and community including the annual Tootsie Roll Drive supporting mental retardation causes in Marion County and the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament with partial proceeds going to fund local youth services. The organization raises funds through fish fries during Lent and chicken barbecues during the Fall Festival, and its annual smorgasbord helps with such worthy causes as Adopt-a-Family, senior scholarships, Project Graduation, After Prom Party, prison ministries, Right to Life/Vitae Society and other community services. When there are social concerns within the parish family, the organization also provides aid. Members also serve at Mass in various ministries several times a year.



The Knights of Columbus 1999

First Row: Jim Drebenstedt, Bob Ravenscraft, Maurice Buckman, Albert Juette, Nick Thomas, Clint Reeves,-----

Second Row: Leo Buckman, Charlie Kroeger, Myron Witte, Joe Thomas, Fr. Dan Lueckenotte, Chuck Wigle, Bill Bryan,-----,John Scholl

Third Row: John Thomas, Bob Wolfmeyer, Joe Hayden, Jim Viet, Tom Meade, Tony Lenzini, Leo Rothweiler, Herb Schwartz, Joe Rothweiler, Franklin Tuley

Fourth Row: Larry Huber, Rick Jones, L.A. Wellman, Bob Leake, David Hastings, Ernie Boulware, Roger Foster, Steve Conoyer, David Lewis, Terry Maas, Dale Gervais

The Altar Society

St. Joseph's Altar Society is comprised of women in the parish who maintain the altar including decorating the sanctuary, providing and laundering altar linens, and purchasing hosts and wine for Eucharist. In 1996 the group financed a new altar, ambo, and three chairs using ornamentation from the old white side altars with additional carved pieces to match the existing baptismal font. Members of the society also provide and distribute cookies for the nursing home, organize the Altar Society Smorgasbord, and host the annual Soup Day with a country store and a raffle as a fund raiser. The society contributes to the annual senior scholarships and supports the CCD programs by purchasing Christmas presents for the students. The organization traditionally presents a baptismal gown and candle to each newly baptized, and a rosary and scapular to each First Communicant. The ladies also sponsor the annual mother/daughter banquet.



Altar Society 1999

Front Row: Ruth Hastings, Carolyn Owsley, Joyce Hess, Mary Jane Rothweiler, Marie Disselhorst, Leola Wellman Back Row: Mary Lou Hawthorne, Sarah Baxter, Lou Stauffer, Harla Friez, Norma Obert, Mary Kempf, Kathy Bent, Sr. Marlene Buese, Pam Hess

St. Joseph Choir

The St. Joseph Choir was organized as a guitar group in 1984. Since that time the group has had a steady, popular growth providing a variety of music and special selections for Sunday worship as well as funerals and weddings. The group also participates in community singing engagements as PraYzHYm including presentations as the PraYzHYm sisters and brothers in liturgical costume.



St. Joseph Choir Anita Witt, organist, Pauline Jones, Beth Jones, Sally Moutray, guitarists, Judy Martin, Tammy Wolfmeyer, Susan Chambers, Ellen Goodwin, Mary Scholl



PraYzHYm Ellen Goodwin, Mary Scholl, Judy Martin, Pauline Jones, Susan Chambers, Tammy Wolfmeyer



Anita Witt Organist

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group began in 1980 as the CYO Catholic Youth Organization. The group was organized under the leadership of Ellen Goodwin. The youth group was renewed with the visit of Pope John Paul II to St. Louis in January 1999 under the leadership of Helen Huber and Pauline Jones. Service projects consisting of helping with the community recycling trailer, helping with senior citizen yard clean-up, assisting at all parish functions and preparing breakfasts keep the group busy. Representatives attend the National Catholic Youth Conventions which are held bi-annually. Goals of the organization are to build fellowship and provide service opportunities. Social activities include canoeing, trips to such places as Branson, pizza parties, lock-ins, skating parties, and bowling.



Teri Devlin, Jennie Hirner, Luke Mahsman, Aaron Hudson



High School Youth Group Enjoys Fellowship

Middle School Youth Group

This group began as the CYF Catholic Youth Fellowship in 1983. Helen Huber, Marie Baker, and Cammie Foster have been active as youth leaders. The group meets twice monthly for fellowship and service activities. Major fund raisers include selling cake pans and hosting a Mystery Dinner. The group participates in Youth Day at Belleville, IL. Outings are also taken during the summer to Six Flags and a St. Louis Cardinal's baseball game.



Middle School Youth Group

Carolyn Foster, Connie Foster, Sara Foster, Courtney Foster, Garrett Foster, Alice and Herb Schwartz

CCD

Since the closing of the parochial school, the formal religious education of the students has taken place with volunteer teachers providing the leadership. Educational and training opportunities as well as diocesan and local resources are used. Members of the parish provide assistance from preparing materials to assisting with safety of students as they come and go to classes. Leola Wellman was the first religious school coordinator. The classes take place in Monsignor Farischon Hall where the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten meet on Sunday mornings, Students Grades 1-8 meet on Wednesday nights, and the high school students on Sunday mornings. Special programs at Halloween and Christmas are held with the students participating. Students also help plan and participate in liturgies. A May Crowning concludes each school year for the non-high school students.



Gabe Lewis and CCD Class



Betty Ray and CCD Class



Helping with Liturgy
Father Dan with Anne Akright, Katie Dames, Brooke Happekotte