

Pastors of St. Jude Parish

1934 - 2009

- ◆ Fr. Roman Hasenstab, OFM 1934 - 1943
- ◆ Fr. Reinhold Klaes, OFM 1943 - 1949
- ◆ Fr. Denis Hall, OFM 1949 - 1961
- ◆ Fr. Louis Diethelm, OFM 1961 - 1965
- ◆ Fr. Gerold Schubert, OFM 1965 - 1973
- ◆ Fr. Donard Paulus, OFM 1973 - 1982
- ◆ Fr. Michael Ewert, OFM 1982 - 1987
- ◆ Fr. Tom Shaughnessy, OFM 1987 - 1988
- ◆ Fr. Robert Behnen, OFM 1988 - 1993
- ◆ Fr. Richard Allen, OSA 1993 - 1999
- ◆ Fr. Michael Slattery, OSA 1999 - 2006
- ◆ Fr. Donald Lewandowski, OSA 2006 - Present



“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God...to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ...Living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into Him who is the head, Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13, 15

Franciscan Priests and Brothers

1934 - 1993

Fr. Roman Hasenstab	1934-1943	Fr. Harold Jochem	1977-1989
Fr. Reinhold Klaes	1943-1949	Fr. Michael Hill	1977-1978
Fr. Denis Hall	1949-1961; 1986-1993	Fr. Leonard Paskert	1978-1981
Fr. Faustin Klink	1958-1963	Fr. Michael Crosby	1978-1980
Fr. Louis Diethelm	1961-1965	Fr. Mario DiCicco	1980-1982
Fr. Gerold Schubert	1963-1973	Br. Ronald Witkewitz	1980-1982
Fr. Andre Schludecker	1969-1971	Fr. Michael Ewert	1982-1987
Fr. Glenn Phillips	1971-1972	Fr. Albert Haase	1982-1983
Br. Richard Kaiser	1971-1972	Fr. Edmund Mundwiller	1982-1984
Fr. Thomas Habig	1972-1976	Fr. Sylvano Pera	1983-1984
Fr. Jason Kommer	1972-1976	Fr. Tom Shaughnessy	1884-1987
Fr. William Barnickel	1972-1973	Br. Larry Nickels	1985-1986
Fr. Donard Paulus	1973-1982	Fr. Dan Reed	1987-1988
Br. Joseph Sandlin	1973-1973	Fr. Robert Behnen	1988-1993
Fr. Joachim Daleiden	1974-1975	Fr. Michael Haney	1988-1990
Fr. Vincent Zimmerman	1974-1977	Br. Bill Burton	1988-1988
Br. David Rodriguez	1974-1982	Fr. Charles Potocki	1990-1992
Fr. James Hermeling	1975-1978	Fr. John Dombrowski	1992-1993
Br. Jeffrey Salwach	1975-1979	Fr. Glenn Phillips	1993-1993

Augustinian Priests and Brothers

1993 - Present

Fr. Richard Allen	1993-1999	Fr. Michael Slattery	1999-2006
Fr. John Murphy	1993-2001	Fr. David Brecht	1999-2001
Fr. Raymond Ryan	1993-1998	Fr. John Merkelis, in residence	2000-2006
Br. Robert Fisher	1993-2001	Br. Angelo Sturn	2000-2004
Fr. Thomas McCarthy	1994-1994	Br. Mark Emken, in residence	2001-2006
Fr. Thomas Osborne, in residence	1995-1997	Fr. Michael Schweifler	2001-2009
Fr. John Szura, in residence	1995-2000	Fr. Donald Bates	2006-Present
Fr. R. William Sullivan, Prior	1998-Present	Fr. Donald Lewandowski	2006-Present
Fr. W. Timothy Cuny	1999-2000		

Permanent Deacons

1984 - Present

Deacon William (Caroline) VanDril	1984-1992
Deacon Robert (Joyce) Fitt	1990-Present
Deacon William (Carol) Ciston	1998-Present
Deacon Al (Marie) Schroetlin	2000-2000
Deacon Dennis (Mary Ann) Theriault	2003-Present



SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

EDUCATION:

St. Jude Parish remains committed to the faith formation of its young people. Through both the school and faith formation program, approximately 1600 students are being taught and guided in our Catholic faith by dedicated teachers and catechists.

BAPTISMS:

The first Baptism was performed on January 6, 1935, just 12 days after the first Mass was celebrated.

1935 through 1957: 435
1958 through 2008: 6438
Total Baptisms: 6873

COMMUNIONS:

The very first First Communion Class had 6 students - 3 boys and 3 girls. They received the Sacrament on June 21, 1936.

1935 through 1957: 366
1958 through 2008: 7728
Total Communion: 8094

CONFIRMATIONS:

1945 through 1954: 197
1955 through 2008: 6126
Total Confirmations: 6323

MARRIAGES:

The first Marriage was performed on September 1, 1938, between Raymond Walsh and Myrtle Robertson by Fr. Roman Hasenstab O.F.M.

1935 through 1949: 54
1950 through 2008: 1859
Total Marriages: 1913

FUNERALS:

1935 through 1957: 76
1958 through 2008: 1403
Total Funerals: 1479



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

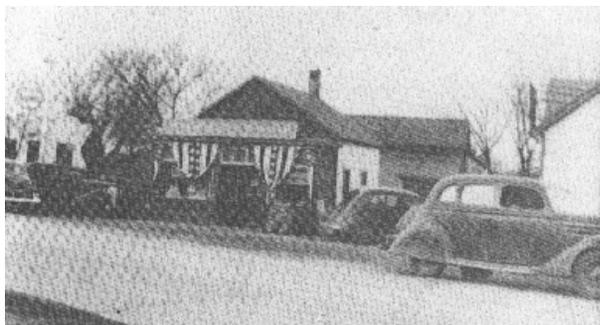
“We, the Faith Community of St. Jude in New Lenox, encounter Christ through the Augustinian principles of truth, unity, and charity. Through Lifelong Intergenerational Faith Formation and Evangelization, we provide a way for all to deepen their communion with Christ.”

The Catholic Community of St. Jude, New Lenox, IL

1934 – 2009

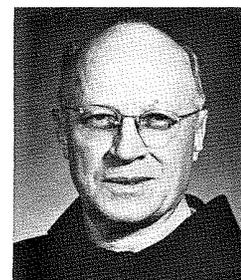
75th Anniversary

“There are no strangers here, only friends we haven’t met.”



New Lenox was an unincorporated village claiming a little over 400 inhabitants in 1934. About a dozen Catholic families lived in the village, four more in the nearby community of Spencer, and a few families were scattered on nearby farms within a radius of two miles.

At that time, Father Roman Hasenstab, OFM, was stationed with the Franciscan Community at St. John’s Catholic Church in Joliet while serving as Pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Mokena. Since 1932 he had been coming to New Lenox “gathering souls” and, after two years, requested and was granted permission from the Catholic Chancery to organize the founding of a mission Church. He mentions in an early report that *“the Kluxers (Ku Klux Klan) are a real thing”* and that *“Catholics refer to them continually in their conversation. Last summer, they burned a fiery cross on the property just adjoining the house in which I was giving Catechism instruction.”* Fr. Roman deserved many thanks for his fortitude and courage in pursuing this endeavor to establish a Catholic Church in New Lenox.



In 1934, a small group of Catholic families under the leadership of Fr. Roman, searching for an appropriate place to celebrate Mass, located property and buildings in the most centrally located subdivision in New Lenox. By an arrangement of a Catholic convert, Thomas Corwin Meyers, a real estate agent and representative of MacIntosh Realty Company, a one-story frame house with inside partitions removed was obtained rent free for Church purposes. It was located on the corner of Fourth Avenue and South Cedar Road. At the time, both were gravel roads, but the location was said to hold much promise for the future. (This later became the site of the former New Lenox Library).



The first Mass was celebrated in this building *“on a beautiful snowy Christmas morning”* in December, 1934. Post-cards were sent as invitations, and about 80 to 100 people attended. One of those first parishioners wrote the following: *“The Church was mighty cold that day. In fact, Fr. Roman told us to stand during the Mass as the wind really whipped through the floorboards. There were no benches or kneelers. The windows were covered with blue crepe paper to dress the place up a bit. In the beginning, there was no sacristy, so the priest and the servers put on vestments at the altar. The collection basket was a cigar box covered with wallpaper with a broomstick handle attached. I remember getting up on Sunday morning at 5 am, dragging along kindling, paper, and wood, and lighting a pot-bellied stove. By 8 am the stove was red hot, though often the Holy Water was still frozen in the back of Church. Another parishioner had to get up early and go to Joliet and get the priest each Sunday.”* One of the pioneer families in attendance that morning was Raymond & Mabel Reiter and their six children (*descendants of the Reiter family remain parishioners today*).



Mass was said every Sunday after that at 7 am. Afterward, Fr. Roman left immediately to celebrate a second Mass in Mokena at 9 am. Catechism instruction was given each Saturday morning by two young lady catechists from Joliet, both qualified public school teachers. The first baptism was performed on January 6, 1935 by Fr. Roman... there were three more baptisms later that year. A confessional was set up in a private little room of the Church (probably the house pantry) where a half hour before Sunday Mass adults and children presented themselves for the Sacrament of Penance. Adult confessions were also heard once a month on Saturday evenings.

Early in 1935, a Holding Company was formed by a group of men to secure and hold the Cedar Road property, guaranteeing its continuance as a place of worship and Catholic center. A number of families were contacted as to the amount of money they might be willing or able to pay monthly as members of such a company. These men, who called themselves the St. Jude Men's Club (later known as the Holy Name Society), were determined to raise money despite discouraging remarks of some people that New Lenox never had and never would have a Catholic Church. A dance was held in the Colonial Ballroom (then located on the southeast corner of Route 30 and Cedar Road) in New Lenox to raise immediate cash. The dance was perhaps the biggest affair ever held there, with an estimated attendance of 400!

Fr. Roman wrote, *“They have a wonderful pioneer spirit and they want to do things.”* In his report to the Catholic Chancery, February 5, 1935, Fr. Roman addressed how the Parish got its name. *“Will the infant parish receive a Patron Saint? I hope this will not be considered effrontery. Mr. Thomas C. Meyers, a convert, the one who has done most in getting a property and house for temporary Church purposes rent free for a year is pulling hard for the name ‘Saint Jude’.* He is an educated man, a lawyer and a big man in the MacIntosh Chicago setup, handling the main executive and legal business there. I told him that he and I had absolutely no right to suggest a name. But if I may voice a timid hope, I would say Saint Jude has done already and could do a lot more for this Protestant desert which is New Lenox. The name has already caught on especially since the men ran one of the biggest entertainments in the town’s history as a starter under the auspices of Saint Jude, calling themselves St. Jude Men’s Club.”

Apparently from then on, the Mission Church in New Lenox was called St. Jude after the Patron Saint of the Impossible. It was to retain mission status until 1948.



Remodeling of the house began in Spring 1935. Parishioners in adjacent homes volunteered their homes as work bases. Toddlers tagging close behind, the women loaded buckets full of hot water on coaster wagons and pulled them over to the building for cleaning chores. The men of the fledgling parish continued to revise the construction of the house until 1944. They even moved a

30-foot chicken house from the back of the property and attached it to the rear of the building. Thus, the frame house truly became a Church in appearance.

By May, 1936, the St. Jude Men’s Club had purchased the property. On June 8, 1939, the property and church buildings were turned over to the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Samuel Stritch, D.D. The Mission Church had grown to 45 families and 170 souls, with two Masses celebrated each Sunday.



In 1941, a basement was dug and the Church raised. A group of four men began this project by getting down on their hands and knees, scooping out the dirt first with small pans and then with shovels. One Sunday morning as they arrived for Mass, they found that a storm from the night before had carried most of the dirt back and they had to start all over again.



Jim Sherwood is pointing out the spot of the first picnic which was held in July, 1936. The first summer festival was very small and showed a net profit of \$42.52. The former Schmuhl property on Route 30 East of the Lincolnwood High School and North of the Highway is the location where several of the early picnics were held. Other locations were across from the present New Lenox Lumber Co., on the Batson property, and on the old St. Jude Church property on South Cedar. Summer festivals for the past six years have been held on the present school and church property on West Second Avenue.

Church picnics were held right from the beginning, the first one in July, 1936. In those early years, the picnics took place at the former Schmuhl property woods on Route 30, east of Lincoln-Way High School and north of the highway, or in the Batson Pasture on North Cedar Road across from the lumber yard. Once the basement was added, the famous fried chicken served at these picnics was cooked there by the women of the parish. The chicken often was obtained as donations that Fr. Roman solicited from local farmers or, when purchased, at a good discount through a parishioner.

On March 2, 1943, Fr. Roman wrote a report to the Archdiocese of Chicago as he was preparing to move to his new assignment. The

following are some comments from his original handwritten copy:

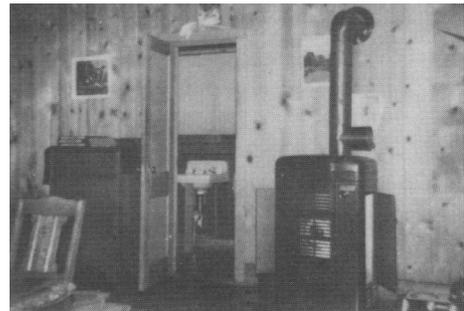
“The name of the parish is St. Jude (Thaddaeus, Apostle and Martyr). The parish boundaries still have not yet been defined. The buildings that make up the parish group are the Church with a basement containing a heating plant, kitchen, and coal bins; the Pastor’s office; a newly built outside toilet facility; an old style small out-house; and a storage shed. The parish bank account is listed under the Catholic Bishop of Chicago. The present debt is \$2,300.73 - \$250.00 has been liquidated over the past five previous years. So far the Pastor has not collected a salary. The Pastor resides in Joliet at St. John’s Church with the Franciscan Fathers. Further building still to be done at this time is a sacristy room, permanent front entrance steps and platform of reinforced concrete, and front basement entrance of reinforced concrete.”



“No weekday Masses are said. Sunday Masses are at 8 and 10 am—Holy Days at 6 and 8 am. Number of Catholic families is 86—number of practicing Catholics is 205. The Chalice and Ciborium are kept in one locked carrying case and Monstrance in another. Both are stored in a closet of a private home (the home belonged to Alice & Ed Knowles, who lived across the street, on the corner of 4th Avenue & Cedar Rd.; descendants of the Knowles family remain parishioners today). The seating capacity of the Church is 140, if two rows of chairs are set up in the main aisle. The parochial organizations are the Holy Name—25 active, and the Catholic Women’s Club—25 active. CCD instructions are given once a week by Sisters from St. Francis Academy. Nothing is done for public high school children. First Communion is permitted in third grade. Over 200 shrubs and trees grow where there was not a single shrub or tree when the Church was started. The exterior of the Church is covered with deep red stained wooden shingles. The gables above the church windows add much variety and beauty to the whole. The roof is of dark red composition shingles. The interior is furnished in dark oak-stained plywood. The altar is oak. Most church furnishings were assembled from the corners of the local world—begged, borrowed, and even bought. The Church windows, beautifully stained glass, formerly adorned a Lockport Protestant Church. Two church bells obtained are not yet hung. One is a Rock Island engine bell and the other is from a Protestant Church in a ghost mining town in



Cardif, Illinois. The reed organ is from St. Joseph’s Church, Rockdale. The pendant light fixtures are from the Louis Joliet Hotel; pews from Sister’s Hospital Chapel in Freeport, Illinois; and the vestment case is from Mayslake Retreat House near Hinsdale, Illinois. Above the Church



roof is a hollow copper cross outlined at night with a blue neon light. The Pastor’s office is a 20 x 20 building built originally as a garage. During the summer of 1942, the garage was made over into a parlor and office. The room is heated with a coal stove. The parish of St. Jude’s has just gotten started so recently that it is still beginning and not much is to be said just yet. New Lenox was building up slowly and solidly until the war was declared. About every family coming in was Catholic young couples with a child or two, and more expected. Too bad the war stopped this movement to New Lenox. They are from different parishes in Chicago and elsewhere and have to be helped to get acquainted and to work together in this parish. Everyone is working elsewhere, mostly in Chicago and building a home here. It is hard to get the children of grade school age to come to instructions. The Sisters and I are working hard for this. They like to quit after the 6th grade. A considerable number are not coming at all due to parental indifference and non-attendance at Church. With this in mind, it would seem almost next to impossible to get high school children to attend religious instruction classes.” Fr. Roman’s report was much more extensive, but this sample conveys the flavor of the times.



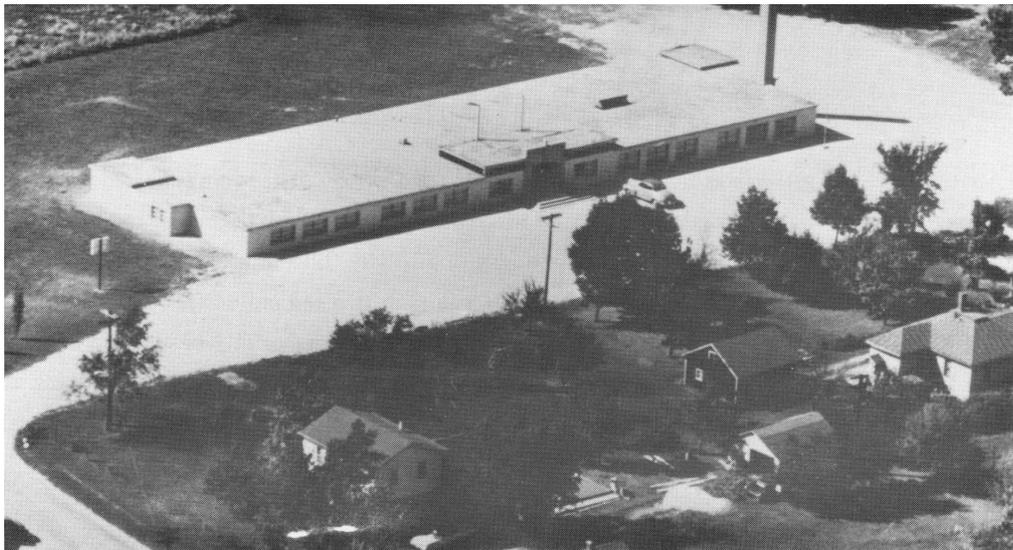
Father Reynold (Reinhold) Klaes, OFM, was assigned as Pastor in July, 1943. He spent his first night at the Pastor's office on December 10th. He stayed there only on Saturday nights, the rest of the week residing at St. John's Friary in Joliet. By the end of the year, the sacristy was built, the basement and Pastor's office were remodeled, and a parish car was purchased. In 1945, fifty-seven students were the first to be confirmed at St. Jude by Archbishop Samuel Stritch.



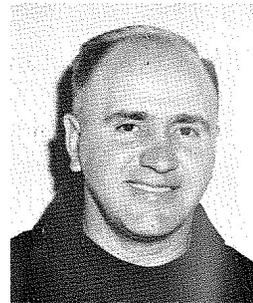
In January 1948, Fr. Reynold received a letter from the Secretary of the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart stating that the special document establishing St. Jude as an independent parish (*Beneplicatum*) had been obtained. After 18 years, St. Jude would no longer be called a Mission Church. It then claimed 150 families and 465 souls. (It would not be until April, 1968, that St. Jude Friary would be canonically erected, severing the tie to St. John's in Joliet).

About a year after St. Jude became a parish, following more than a century under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Chicago Archdiocese, His Holiness Pope Pius XII erected the Diocese of Joliet in December, 1948.

A building fund for a new Church and School combination was started soon after the appointment of Fr. Reynold. In March, 1947, plans were ready and a new site was chosen on Second Avenue, immediately west of the village limits. In 1948, the parish paid \$25,000 to the Bishop of Chicago toward the new school. Due to many difficulties, the building was not ready for occupancy until 1950. Lack of funds forced the parish to stop building, topping the first story with a temporary roof.



Fr. Reynold was transferred in December, 1949. Father Denis Hall, OFM, succeeded him as Pastor. His first Mass at St. Jude was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8. The school was nearing completion about this time, and the new basement building was almost ready for occupancy. On April 16, 1950, the school building was officially opened with a Mass of Thanksgiving. The total cost of the building, consisting of a large hall and five classrooms was \$89,000.



In August, 1950, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Tucson, Arizona, agreed to staff the new school. Mr. Patrick Warren provided and generously remodeled a home on Haven Avenue for the Sisters, requiring only maintenance and payment of taxes. Sister Mary Rose, CMF, Sister Eileen Frances, CMF, and Miss Suzanne Paar, of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, taught eight grades in three classrooms with an enrollment of 85 students. September 6, 1950,

was the opening day of school, a day which realized the hopes and prayers of many Catholic families to have a parochial school in their own town for their children. Religious instruction for the children of the public school took place in the new school on Saturdays.



On October 29, 1950, the Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Martin D. McNamara, D.D., blessed the new building and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 53 people. (Masses continued to be held in this building until 1958). In January, 1951,

the Pastor's office relocated to the new building. The Church buildings and property on South Cedar Road were sold to the New Lenox Lions Club in February, 1951, for \$8,000.



One more Sister from Tucson came to teach in the school in 1951 and a school bus was purchased. The first St. Jude School graduating class of 1951 had 3 graduates. That same year, a young people's club called the Christophers was formed for high school seniors and older youth, and a group called the Hi-Teens for high school students formed. This initiated Church activities for a vital segment of the community.

Bingo was played in the Hall beginning in 1950 and served as a fundraiser for many years. Also beginning in 1950, Fr. Denis obtained films which were shown in the school as a means of “at home” entertainment.



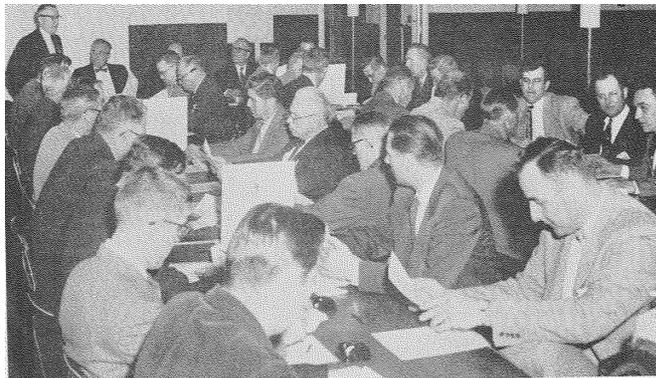
In January, 1952, a Hammond Electronic Organ was purchased for \$2,600. A children’s choir was organized under the direction of Mrs. Harry Griffin, the parish organist since 1945. (Mrs. Griffin retired her position in 1973). In 1952, a Catholic library available to parishioners opened and a fourth Sister arrived from Arizona to completely staff the school with nuns. Because of the continuing growth of St. Jude, a parish census was taken and revealed that in

January, 1953, the total had climbed to 255 families and 849 souls, a considerable increase since 1934! New pews arrived in time for the 19th Anniversary Christmas Mass through the efforts of the Altar and Rosary Society.

In August, 1956, two lots with a small house were purchased for \$13,000. The lots were adjacent to the parish property and the house was used as a Parish Office and Rectory.



On January 6, 1957, twelve men met to discuss a fundraising campaign to build a Church. About 100 men were eventually recruited to help in these efforts under the management of a professional fundraising company. A “Campaign Newspaper” was published every Sunday, and a Kick-Off Dinner on January 31, 1957 netted \$133,534.60 in pledges. Bishop McNamara granted permission to engage an architect to draw up plans. In June, Mr. Patrick Warren donated 2.9 acres of land to the parish, increasing the Church property to 6.75 acres. Groundbreaking took place on Sunday, June 16, 1957.



*TWENTY TEAM CHAIRMEN SELECTING SIXTY TEAM MEMBERS
The men of St. Jude Parish at work enlarging the campaign organization to its full strength of 100 for next Sunday’s solicitations.*



*THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF DINNER
can be attributed to the ladies pictured above*

Contracts for the building totaled \$115,500. The laminated wood arches arrived and were set in place with brick work following.

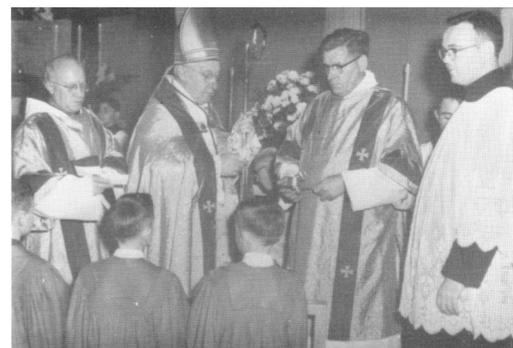


On October 20, 1957, the cornerstone was blessed by Vicar General and Chancellor, Msgr. Romeo R. Blanchette. Donations from parishioners for the new church furnishings gained momentum and a parchment book, as well as a plaque in the rear of the church, was kept as a record of donations. The church was built to seat 700 people. By the end of 1959, \$101,063.06 had been paid through pledges.

The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1958 by Fr. Denis Hall with Fr. Odo Reuter, con-celebrating. Father Odo had been helping out on Sundays for several years. In July, Fr. Faustin Klink, OFM, was assigned to the parish as the first Associate. There were then about 400 families and 1300 souls in St. Jude Parish. In five short years, St. Jude Parish had almost doubled in size.



On a rainy Sunday, October 26, 1958, the Bishop of Joliet, Martin McNamara, D.D., solemnly blessed and dedicated the Church and also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 186 children and adults. At that time, the Sacrament of Confirmation was only administered every 3-4 years. Fr. Roman traveled from Cleveland to con-celebrate along with Fr. Reynold.





With the church completed, the school building was remodeled and painted, changing the area formerly occupied by pews into three classrooms. The renovation into an eight-room school was completed by September, 1958, at a cost of \$10,000. The building also housed a sizeable parish hall and a kitchen. Seeing the need for a support organization, seven couples organized a Parent's Club. On November 20, 1958, they held their first meeting, and stated their mission plainly: *"To promote the general welfare of the school."* At that time, the school had an enrollment of 225 students.

Since 1950, the house supplied by Mr. Warren on Haven Avenue had served the Sisters well as their convent, but had become inadequate to house the number of Sisters in residence by then. The house and property adjoining the church, and across the street from the Rectory on



Second Avenue was purchased on December 22, 1958 for \$15,000. It consisted of two bedrooms, dining room and mimeograph office. Remodeling this property into a larger facility was postponed temporarily.

On January 4, 1959, Father Pius Barth, OFM, Provincial of the Franciscan Province of St. Louis, celebrated the 25th Anniversary Liturgy. The Franciscans of that Province had staffed St. Jude Parish since its mission beginning. The Parent's Club sponsored a Dinner-Dance on February 8th for some 200 parishioners at the Woodruff Hotel in Joliet, as part of the celebration.



The remodeling of the convent began early in 1960. Costing \$46,000, the project provided 6 bedrooms, 2 visitor's parlors, a small chapel, a community study and work room, and two bathrooms (this later became the Parish Rectory). Occupancy was gained on September 12, 1960, the first Mass was celebrated in the chapel on October 22nd, and an open house for parishioners was held on October 30th.

Six Sisters occupied the convent with two lay teachers also on the staff. If the Sisters were devoted to St. Jude, the people of St. Jude were equally devoted to the Sisters, and held "Pantry Showers" for them, usually on their return from a summer break in Arizona, and again during the winter.



Between 1950 and 1960, the Sisters delayed their trips home to Arizona to offer a 5-week Catholic Youth Organization Summer School. These vacation schools were for 6-12 year-olds, from 9:30am-noon. People of all faiths were welcomed, and no religion was taught. The morning included arts, crafts and recreation. A registration fee of 50 cents, and later \$1 was charged to cover the cost of the arts and crafts. The CYO School always ended in a picnic with the children riding buses to Nowell or Inwood Park in Joliet. These summer schools averaged attendance of 80-100 children per year. The parish of St. Jude somehow, even to the present, and through all the hustle and bustle of fundraising and building, has never forgotten to promote an outreach of Christ's love to little children.

At the direction of the Bishop, a small group of parishioners organized the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Their objectives *“were purely spiritual, namely the promotion of the faith in the parish.”* This small group of adults began meeting in 1957, choosing, as



one of their first undertakings, to call parents of public school children who did not send their children to Saturday religion instruction. Some members also helped the Sisters teach religion on Saturday. Three months later, they began forming Discussion Clubs for high school students. These clubs covered different topics of faith, and lasted 5-10 weeks. The groups met weekly on Sunday evenings in members’ homes. By the Fall of 1959, religion classes came to be called CCD. Teachers of CCD were offered college credit classes for courses they took at St. Francis College to prepare themselves to teach.

In June, 1959, Fr. Jude Prost, OFM, gave his personal relic of St. Jude to the Parish. This same precious relic currently rests beneath our present altar.

In June, 1961, after 11½ years as Pastor, Fr. Denis Hall was transferred to Cleveland, Ohio. Father Louis Diethelm, OFM, was named as Pastor. In October, Fr. Louis created a fundraiser called the “50/50 Club”, in conjunction with Our Lady of Angels Parish of Cleveland, Ohio. Raffle tickets were sold by both parishes. Monthly drawings were held, with prize money distributed and the remainder of the money being split between the two parishes. The “500 Club”, operating within St. Jude since 1975, still serves as a fundraiser.



In January, 1965, Fr. Louis was transferred and Father Gerold Schubert, OFM, was named as Pastor. Fr. Gerold had served St. Jude as an Associate for 1½ years prior to this appointment.

On March 15, 1966, the Altar and Rosary Society officially changed its name to the Council of Catholic Women. As one of the original organizations for women, dating back to 1949, it has remained tireless in raising funds and assisting the parish wherever needed, while also fostering the spiritual growth of its members.



Another one of our earlier organizations for women was the Medical Missions Club, organized at the beginning of January, 1967. About 30 women were involved in the monthly meetings of this worthwhile organization, which provided much-needed supplies for overseas Missions, local nursing homes, and others. These dedicated women served the needy for many years following the inception of this organization.



During the 1960's and 1970's, great changes took place in the global Roman Catholic Church following the Second Vatican Council. One area of change was an increased awareness of the need to promote and/or foster Christian unity with our Protestant brothers and sisters, called ecumenism. The first Ecumenical Service for the New Lenox faith community, called a "Christian Unity Service", was held on Trinity Sunday in May, 1967,

at the Francis 4-H Field. Ecumenism continued to grow as local churches hosted the "World Day of Prayer"; St. Jude's first opportunity to host this event was in May, 1971. An ecumenical endeavor called "Walk in the Footsteps of Christ" began on Good Friday, 1979. The Cross Walk allows participants to take time on this solemn day to reflect on the meaning of Christ's suffering and death in their lives. It begins at St. Jude, and proceeds on to the Methodist, Episcopal and Lutheran churches, with the reading of the Passion, hymns and short homilies at each stop. This event has been enthusiastically attended by large crowds each year since then, regardless of the weather. Several updated Liturgical changes took place in the Catholic Church as well, following Vatican II. Besides the most overt change from the Latin Mass to English, parishioners were now given the option of receiving the Eucharist in the hand, and lay people were commissioned to serve as Extraordinary Ministers to help the priests in the distribution of the Eucharist. They were also called to bring Communion to the sick and infirmed. This increased outreach to the laity seemed to initiate a surge in Catholics taking a more personal interest in pursuing their faith, and the early 1970's saw the formation and rapid growth of spiritual study/discussion groups. Another change brought the option of going face-to-face with the priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our confessionals were renovated in 1976 to allow ample space for this option.

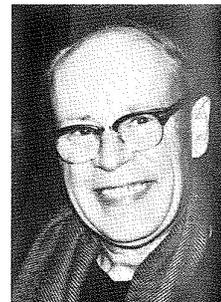
In keeping with the directives of the Diocese of Joliet, a St. Jude Parish/School Advisory Board was formulated in November, 1967. A constitution for this leadership organization, called the Parish Council, was published in the bulletin in 1969. Despite changes over the years, this Council, called the Pastoral Council at present, has played an active and vital role in the development of St. Jude.

On March 8, 1970, with great sadness, Mother Julian, CMF, was forced to withdraw the four Sisters from St. Jude School. To express the parish's gratitude for their 20 years of dedicated service, a departure ceremony was held on the parish grounds on June 7th. The school has continued to operate with dedicated lay teachers.

After 8½ years, Fr. Gerold was transferred, and Father Donard Paulus, OFM was named as Pastor. Shortly before Fr. Donard arrived, a monthly building



fund collection was started for a multi-purpose religious education center. By February, 1974, seven months after Fr. Donard arrived, a meeting was initiated with the Council Administration of the Diocese concerning the proposed new building. In March, Bishop Blanchette gave permission to begin fundraising, and to hire an architect for this undertaking. On October 22, 1974, bids were opened to contractors for construction of this new building, eventually to be called Franciscan Hall. By November 3, 1974, the first concrete was poured. Building construction continued into the winter and on January 10, 1975, a wind storm toppled a free-standing brick wall. By the end of February, the brick wall was replaced and work got underway again. By April, the brick-laying and concrete pouring were 85% complete. By November, 1975, heating units were installed.



The work done at the site was, in large part, done by volunteers as the call went out for various trade specialties. Men and women alike were responsible for the successful completion of the facility. The cost of the building was \$300,000, and was debt-free upon completion. The blessing and dedication came on September 12, 1976, with Bishop Blanchette officiating. Fr. Donard told the gathering that the building was developed wholly and earnestly for one purpose... namely, the personal and community growth of its people.





The Trojan Service Club came into existence with the completion of the Hall. As the organization handling all food services produced by the kitchen, the club's profits from these services were used to maintain and equip the Hall. Over the years, many events and banquets were held through the volunteer efforts of the Trojan Service Club.

In August, 1976, Father Jonathan Foster, OFM, met with a new committee to formulate ten-year goals for the parish. These long-range goals were presented to the parish in February, 1977. They included: 1) to develop quality religious education programs that attest to and hold the interest of all age groups; 2) to stimulate parish life in such a way that more parishioners are able to lead a more Christian life; and 3) to enable the clergy to dedicate themselves more completely to the spiritual needs of all members of the parish. In keeping with those goals, a full-time Director of Religious Education was hired in August, 1977. Father Harold Jochem, OFM, also joined St. Jude as an Associate that year.

The shrine of St. Jude that had been located southeast of the school was moved in April, 1977, to the woods between the church and the rectory. It was dedicated in October, 1978, on the Feast of St. Jude.



The west parking lot was extended in April, 1977, as well, and a proposal was presented to the Bishop's office for an addition to join the school with Franciscan Hall. On May 2nd, the Bishop approved the project at an estimated cost of \$47,000. The dedicated and talented St. Jude volunteers came through again for a most worthwhile project. Father Charles Faso, OFM, served St. Jude as a consultant in helping to update the physical appearance of the church, in accordance with recommendations that came out of Vatican II. Wood paneling was hung in the church sanctuary, hymnal racks were added to the backs of the pews to accommodate Worship II hymnals, one side altar was removed to provide a Baptismal font area with statues of Mary and Joseph, and handicapped parking spaces were installed in our parking lot.

On the first Friday of May, 1979, the students of St. Jude School invited the senior citizens to attend their school Mass, and be their guests for rolls and coffee in Franciscan Hall. The seniors responded enthusiastically, and were impressed not only by the children, but by the idea

behind the program. They continued to attend Mass as a group on the first Friday of each month. Following Mass, they met in Franciscan Hall for rolls and coffee and to discuss various topics. About 35-50 people attended each month, and they dubbed themselves the "Friendship Group." The Funeral Choir began as an offshoot of the Friendship Group.



FUNERAL CHOIR

In August, 1979, the Parish Council became involved in



the process of inquiry to sponsor a refugee Vietnamese family. No small task, sponsorship involved provision of housing, clothing, medical and dental care, employment for the head of the family, food, transportation, household furnishings and financial assistance. After months of planning and praying, St. Jude welcomed the Sundara family from Laos in January, 1980.

There were nine in their family, with the children ranging in age from 6 to 19. They spent a fruitful year in New Lenox, and in January, 1981, moved to Elgin to be closer to other family members. Their gratitude for the kindness and generosity they received was met with the parish's appreciation for having been able to reach out and help.

A program of weekend retreats for men and women began in 1980. Designed to deepen one's faith and sense of community, *Christ Renews His Parish* continued for several years. Also in 1980, Fr. Harold Jochem, OFM, who was a visible sign of God's love and action at St. Jude for several years, celebrated his 50th Golden Jubilee year as a priest.

In 1981, the RCIA (**R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults) program, which was formulated years earlier at the Second Vatican Council, was introduced at St. Jude. RCIA is for those adults who wish to join the Catholic Faith. It consists of several months of weekly catechesis and preparation, accompanied by team members and Catholic sponsors, and three stages of public liturgical ceremonies as the "Catechumen" journeys towards full reception into the Catholic Church. It is also a time of profound renewal for the entire Catholic community, culminating at the Easter Vigil.



Improvements continued to be made to the church and grounds throughout the 1980's. In 1981, pews were re-finished and acoustical tile above the old choir loft was replaced with wood to promote better sound. Aluminum siding was installed on the church eaves, and two new garages were built. In 1982, new church doors were installed and parking lot lights were replaced. Ceiling fans were installed in both the church and the hall, and the school and religious education offices were redesigned to provide additional privacy for the secretaries. In 1986, the Men's Club donated the sign that welcomes parishioners and heralds upcoming events. Today, this sign remains at the entrance to the back parking lot on Third Avenue. In May, 1987, Franciscan Hall was renovated, and the western wall was extended 20 feet. In 1989, a new heating and air-conditioning system was installed in the church, along with new vinyl flooring and carpet.

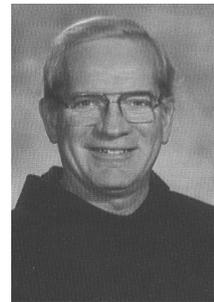
In 1984, Deacon William VanDril, and his wife Caroline joined St. Jude Parish, and ministered here until they moved to Michigan in 1992.



The 1980's brought administrative changes as well. In 1986, after nine years as Pastor of St. Jude, Fr. Donard was transferred to St. Anthony's in Parma, Ohio (Fr. Donard entered eternal life on May 10, 2008). Father Mike Ewert, OFM, was assigned to



St. Jude as Pastor, and was joined by Father Tom Shaughnessy, OFM, as Associate. Following Fr. Ewert's departure in 1987, Fr. Tom served as Pastor for a short time, prior to the arrival of Father Robert Behnen, OFM, who was Pastor at St. Jude from March, 1988 through August, 1993. Father Mike Haney, OFM, also joined us as an Associate in March, 1988, and stayed with us until June, 1990. Father



Charles Potocki, OFM, served as an Associate from June, 1990 through November, 1992, when he entered eternal life. Other beloved Franciscans served our Parish Community throughout the years, as well as Franciscans who lived in residence here, but served elsewhere. We will always be grateful for their service to St. Jude.



In June, 1991, we were blessed by the arrival of Deacon Bob Fitt, and his wife, Joyce. Deacon Bob was ordained on October 29, 1983, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

Our successful and service-oriented “Giving Tree” began during Advent, 1991, and continues today. This program, along with so many



others in our parish, provides a vivid example of gospel values lived out and put into action. Through the generosity and committed service of many, we are able to reach beyond the confines of our own four walls to touch the needs of those who are less fortunate.



In May, 1992, Fr. Denis Hall, OFM, celebrated his Golden Jubilee in the church where he was ordained on June 24, 1942. Fr. Denis chartered a bus which took a group of parishioners down to Teutopolis, IL, to celebrate with him.

Also at this time in 1992, a group of dedicated men got together to charter our own Knights of Columbus Council – 10926. Bob Evans, Steve Lebre and Hank Wingels were among the original organizers.



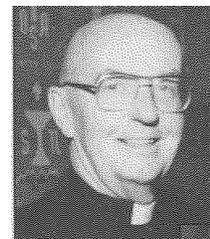
The Financial Development Committee was formed in 1992 to tackle “projects of anticipation.” Their first was called “Bucks for Blacktop”, for the repair and resurfacing of the school and church parking lots. A total of \$16,167 was collected, and the project was paid for in six months through weekly donations.

Our growing parish necessitated the addition of another Sunday Mass, and in January, 1993, Franciscan Hall rooms 3 & 4 were remodeled to serve as a suitable chapel for a 10:05am Sunday Mass. A handsome oak altar backdrop, was designed by Bob McKenna and executed by Ray O’Gorman.

In August, 1993, after serving St. Jude Parish for 59 years, we said a bitter-sweet farewell to the Franciscans, and warmly welcomed our new shepherds, the Augustinians. Father Richard Allen, OSA, became our new Pastor, along with Father John Murphy, OSA, and Father Ray Ryan, OSA, as Associates. Brother Bob Fisher, OSA, was also a member of their community, and

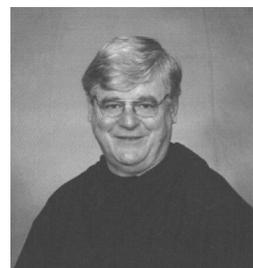


throughout the years, endeared himself to the St. Jude community, as well. Fr. Allen had served the Midwest Augustinian Province for several years as Treasurer, and one of the first things he did was to assemble a Parish Finance Council, and initiate a formal budgeting process for the school, and the parish and its many organizations. One of the Council’s first administrations was a decision to put a much-needed roof on the school. The cost was \$85,000, which was paid for in two years.



The 1990's saw rapid growth in New Lenox and surrounding communities. The St. Jude Faith Community was growing rapidly, as well. By 1995, we had over 2700 registered families. Both our church and parking lot were bursting at the seams. Although not a bad problem to have, this continued and consistent growth necessitated a serious look at finding the best solution to accommodate our increasing numbers (*in 1987, Fr. Tom Shaughnessy, OFM, had spear-headed a Building & Facilities Survey to explore various plans to expand, re-model or re-build our current church, but was unable to garner enough support for the project at that time*). An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to review several options. In 1997, this committee, along with the Parish Council, made the decision that building a new church was the best answer for our future. The *New Worship Space Campaign* was begun. A second campaign began a few years later in an attempt to re-invigorate the fundraising efforts.

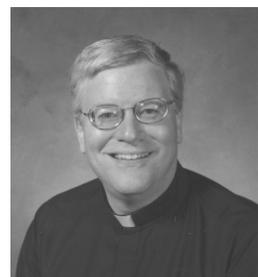
We said another bittersweet farewell to Fr. Ray Ryan, OSA in May, 1998, when he left for his new position in Racine, WI, as the Director of Novices for all English-speaking Augustinians. Father Bill Sullivan, OSA, arrived as our new Associate, and blesses us to this day with his generous warmth, insightful compassion, sense of humor and wisdom.

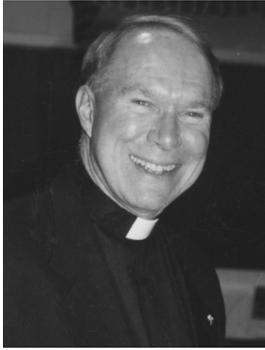


In July, 1998, Deacon Bill Ciston, and his wife, Carol, joined St. Jude. Deacon Bill was ordained to the permanent diaconate on April 27, 1991, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

March, 1999, brought great sadness to St. Jude Parish. Our beloved Pastor, Fr. Dick Allen, became ill following an overseas vacation, and passed away three weeks later on March 20th. Fr. Allen was a loving, caring and gentle man who will always be remembered with deep affection by those who were privileged to know him. He had a special love for our children, and always greeted them at the beginning of each Mass with a booming, "HI KIDS!" Fr. Allen had a large collection of "beanie babies", a very popular item at that time. His family generously donated them to be raffled off, with the proceeds of the raffle allocated to the New Worship Space Campaign in Fr. Allen's memory. Our Knights of Columbus Council also lovingly memorialized Fr. Allen by re-naming their chapter *The Fr. Dick Allen Council-10926*.

Fr. Bill Sullivan was named interim Pastor immediately following Fr. Allen's death. Father Tim Cuny, OSA, joined us temporarily until January, 2000, when he was transferred to Canada for his next assignment. In July, 1999, Father Mike Slattery, OSA, came to St. Jude Parish as our new Pastor. Fr. Mike's gentle and compassionate ways, yet strong leadership and strength of character, proved to be a great asset to our parish.





Fr. Allen had been a passionate supporter and leader of the Building Fund effort that was in full swing at the time of his death. We were blessed to have Father David Brecht, OSA, join us to assist Fr. Slattery and the Ad Hoc Committee in the architectural and financial planning of our new worship space. Fr. David had a great deal of experience and expertise, both pastorally and administratively, and was a tremendous leader in the time he was here at St. Jude (Fr. David stayed with us for 2 years, until the summer of 2001, when he accepted his new assignment as an educator at Cascia Hall Preparatory School in Tulsa, OK). With a vision firmly in place, Fr. Slattery met with Bishop Joseph Imesch to seek approval to move forward. Approval was granted, and under the guidance and direction of this great team of men and women, we moved into Phase 2 of our building campaign, now called *Creating a Faith Campus for the Third Millennium Campaign*. Between the two campaigns, spanning several years, over \$4 million dollars was pledged toward the beautiful and sacred space that we worship in today.

With everything in place for construction to begin, on June 24, 2001, the Groundbreaking Ceremony for our new church was held, with Augustinians, parishioners and village officials in attendance. We moved to the Lincoln-Way Central High



School field house for the Sunday morning Masses at 9 and 11 am beginning the following weekend. A few dedicated parishioners volunteered to ready the space for sacred worship

each week. We were blessed to have the ample space available to us, however anyone who attended Mass at Lincoln-Way over the next 2 years will never forget the dog days of summer or the noise level of the bleachers at Communion time!



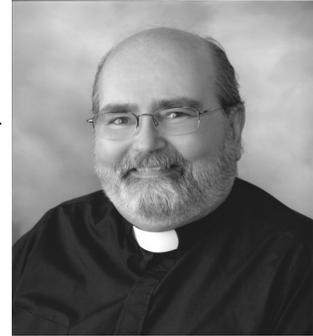
...AND WE'RE OFF!!
To Lincoln-Way High School, that is!

Beginning next Sunday, July 8th, 2001, our Sunday morning Masses at 8:30 am, 10:15 am, and noon, will be held at the Lincoln-Way Central Fieldhouse.

Please look inside for further details.....



Upon Fr. David's departure in July, 2001, we were joined by the inimitable Father Mike Schweifler, OSA. Upon arrival at St. Jude, Fr. Schweifler told the congregation that we should have no trouble differentiating between the two "Father Mikes"...we should be able to tell them apart because he was the "handsome Fr. Mike"! Fr. Mike Schweifler greatly impacted the community of St. Jude on many levels. He possessed an insightful spirituality and strong theology, coupled with a vibrant enthusiasm that was apparent through both his preaching at Mass and his sacramental teaching of the children. His memorable "ditties" will live in infamy (*who can forget "God is good, God is great...He gives us chocolate cake"?!?*) Unfortunately, Fr. Mike was also given the very heavy burden and task of teaching all who knew him what it truly means to "carry your cross", and taught young and old alike the power of a praying community. He suffered from severe heart disease, and received a heart transplant on



Easter Sunday of 2005. Through many trials and seemingly insurmountable odds while hospitalized, our "Miracle Man" persevered to return to St. Jude in the summer of 2007. Although primarily confined to a wheelchair, and having multiple medical issues, he ministered over the next two years to all of us with the same joy and dedication he had exhibited prior to his illness. He celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his ordination on May 23, 2009, and less than a week later, he was hospitalized with numerous medical complications.

Our beloved Fr. Mike entered eternal life on July 26, 2009. His funeral liturgy was an inspiring and fitting tribute to his dedication and faithfulness to the people of St. Jude.

Physical change to our parish campus began gradually (but loudly!) on September 4, 2001, as the front entrance to our old church was closed off (a temporary side entrance had already been added) and the rectory was torn down, in order for the new church construction site to be readied for work to begin. St. Jude had already purchased several



houses on Second Avenue, which were being utilized as residences for the priests, as well as Parish Offices. As work progressed, two townhomes were purchased in the Bluestone Bay subdivision to serve as the priests' residence, where they moved in 2002. The Parish Offices remained in the homes until late summer of 2003, after remodeling of the old church building was complete.

October of 2001 brought the 50th Anniversary celebration of St. Jude School. The celebration began with a Mass by the Most Rev. Bishop Roger Kaffer, D.D. They held a Dinner Dance following the Mass, which was attended by both alumni and teachers who attended or taught at St. Jude School throughout the years.

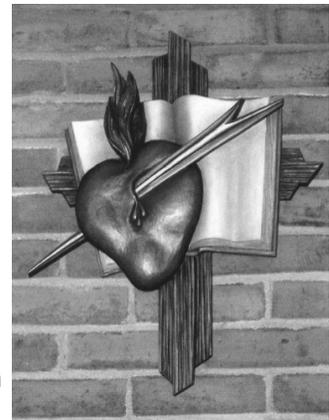


Construction continued for the next 18 months. Our parish organ was removed and refurbished. This Wicks pipe organ had originally been purchased for \$8,000 in 1969, through the Franciscans when they sold their 100-year-old seminary building in Teutopolis. New carpeting and ceiling tiles were installed in the school. Roof repairs were done on the old church building. A number of parish organizations (Knights of Columbus, CCW, Junior Women’s Club, SJS Parents Association and others), as well as countless parishioners, joined together in this worthy effort to create our new worship space. Donor and Memorial Plaques currently hang on the west and south corner walls of the main narthex, commemorating the generosity of those who donated to the building campaigns, and/or paying special tribute to loved ones.

By September, 2002, the new church building was erected, and Fr. Mike Slattery invited all parishioners to sign the concrete floor. Both young and old came to compose prayers and create artwork on the floor. All who had been part of the foundational effort to build our new church were now leaving their mark upon the actual foundation of the building. It was a memorable and significant event.



A Cornerstone Committee was organized to prepare a new cornerstone for placement, along with an updated time capsule. The old time capsule was removed and opened. It included: a church bulletin, dated 10/13/1957; a booklet from the 20th anniversary; a newspaper from the *New Lenox Press* dated 10/20/1957, with a featured story about the cornerstone being laid; a copy of the *New World*; a list of registered parishioners; a \$1 silver certificate, Series 1957; a half-dollar, quarter, dime, nickel and penny, all dated 1957; written copy of St. Jude history from 1934-1957. All of these items are currently on display in the foyer of the Parish Office.



On March 30, 2003, the Closing Ceremony for the old church was held following the 7pm Mass. On Thursday, April 3, 2003, Bishop Joseph Imesch unlocked the doors and dedicated our beautiful new St. Jude Church in a moving and memorable Mass. An Open House was held on Sunday, April 6th, for parishioners and visitors to view our new worship space, and witness the laying of the new Cornerstone.

Construction began immediately on converting the old church space into the new Parish Office Center.



Stained glass sections that were made and donated by Mert Seeley, were removed, mounted in light boxes, and hung



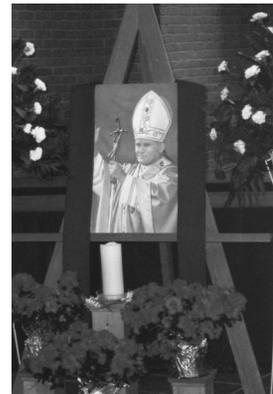
in the west narthex of the new church. The work was completed in a few short months. Office furniture, filing cabinets, and the like were obtained through the generosity of a local business that was relocating. On August 22, 2003, all of the priests and the Parish Office staff moved into their new space. The office opened on Monday morning, business as usual. The remaining houses on Second Avenue, which were being used as offices, were then torn down to make room for additional parking.

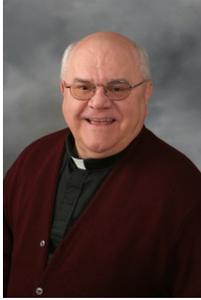


We celebrated again, when on September 13, 2003, Dennis Theriault, who had served our faith community for years in the music ministry, and alongside his wife, Mary Ann, in other ministries as well, was ordained to the permanent diaconate at St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet.

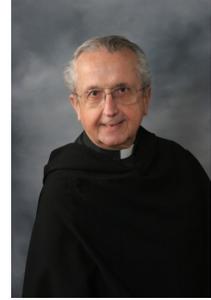
The year 2004 got off to a sad start for our community, when one of our Associates, Fr. John Murphy, OSA, entered eternal life on January 13th. Later, a digital bell carillon was erected in Fr. Murphy's memory, in the picnic grove just west of the Parish Office. The bells are rung daily, playing the Angelus at noon, calling us to worship before Masses, playing seasonal hymns, and providing a bell toll at funerals. We also marked our 70th Anniversary in 2004, and published a photo directory for the occasion.

The year 2005 brought change to the global Church, when Pope John Paul II entered eternal life on April 2nd. He had been our Shepherd since October 16, 1978. He was the third-longest serving Pope in history, exceeded only by Pope Pius IX in the 19th century, and the Apostle Peter himself. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected as our new Pope on April 19, 2005, becoming Pope Benedict XVI .





We bid another bittersweet farewell in 2006, when Fr. Mike Slattery left us to serve the Midwest Augustinians as Provincial Treasurer at their office headquarters in Olympia Fields. We were blessed with the arrival of Father Don Lewandowski, OSA, who came to us from Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Homer Glen. Father Don Bates, OSA, who had previously served



as a hospital chaplain and, most recently, coordinator of health care for retired Augustinians, also joined us as an Associate. Although Brother Bob Fisher had since moved away, we sadly learned of his passing on December 20, 2006.

We had a new leader, and a new vision for our future. With Fr. Don's strong education and administration background, he looked carefully at the religious education we were providing. With the influx of new homes in New Lenox, our main demographic was younger families, yet a count of our weekend Mass attendees, taken during October, 2007, showed that just a little more than 15% of our registered parishioners were attending Mass regularly. Fr. Don thoughtfully and carefully reviewed a new program that was just being conceived when Fr. Slattery left. After several months of consideration, Fr. Don gave approval for a program that he felt would reach farther and wider into our community of registered parishioners. Generations of Faith was designed to provide not just religious facts and figures, but to encourage everyone to take a more active, hands-on role in the faith education of our young, and of each other. This program, now called Lifelong Intergenerational Formation & Evangelization, or **LIFE**, combines classroom teaching with hands-on Faith Festivals, with all age groups participating.

We have long been a parish devoted to supporting vocations. In fact, the following prayer, written by our Vocation Committee several years ago, continues to be recited at each week-day morning Mass:

Loving God, your Word finds a home in our hearts. In the Name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us. Inspire men and women among us, young and old, to respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church. Give courage and guidance to those you have called to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ministry. We thank you, Lord, for those who have answered this call and pray that many more will choose to respond. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.



Over the last few years, we've celebrated the ministry and dedication of several wonderful men and women who serve, or have served, the people of St. Jude:

- ◆ May 7, 2002: Fr. Mike Slattery, OSA, celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination
- ◆ September 10, 2003: Brother Bob Fisher, OSA, celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Solemn Profession to the Augustinian Order
- ◆ April 27, 2006: Deacon Bill Ciston celebrated his 15th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate
- ◆ June, 6, 2006: Sister Sharon Marie Stola, our Liturgy Director, celebrated her 40th Anniversary of Profession to the Benedictine Order
- ◆ February 9, 2007: Fr. Ray Ryan, OSA, celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Ordination
- ◆ September 23, 2007: Fr. Bill Sullivan, OSA, celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Ordination
- ◆ October 29, 2008: Deacon Bob Fitt celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate
- ◆ May 11, 2009: Fr. Mike Schweifler, OSA, celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination
- ◆ December 20, 2009: Fr. Don Lewandowski, OSA, will celebrate his 40th Anniversary of Ordination

There are two other people, whose commitment, dedication and loyalty to their vocation at St. Jude Parish cannot be overlooked, both of whom retired in the fall of 2009. Jim Mrumlinski worked as our Maintenance Supervisor, and jack-of-all-trades for almost 21 years. Mr. Jim, as he was known to the school kids, has been our reliable "go-to guy" for all things, big and small, and



has always worked without fanfare, and with true humility. Diane Faford has served as our Parish Secretary for almost 23 years. Diane's warmth and loving ways have touched newcomers and old-timers alike. It is impossible to capture the scope of the many lives and circumstances that Diane has touched throughout her time here. To so many who cross our threshold, she has been both the frontline



of ministry, as well as the backbone of our day-to-day parish operation. Her warmth and heartfelt compassion have consoled those who come in grief, and her joy and steadfast kindness have rejoiced with those who come to celebrate. Diane, and Jim, will be dearly missed.

At the end of 2008, committees were formed to begin preparing and planning for 2009, the year of our 75th Anniversary celebration. Fr. Mike Schweifler was instrumental in the organization of these committees, and their initial planning, as well as composing the 75th Anniversary Prayer that has been recited throughout the year. The kick-off Mass was held on January 11, 2009. The St. Jude School Parents Club held a dinner dance in February, with the theme, *Diamonds Are Forever*.

Coffee mugs, ball caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and Christmas ornaments were created to commemorate this special anniversary. Our remarkable resident artist, Fr. Don Bates, created the 75th Anniversary logo that would adorn all of these items. Doug Slusarski and his team of helpers, put together a fabulous St. Jude 75th Anniversary float for the New Lenox Loyalty Day parade on May 3rd. Our Anniversary Dinner will be held on November 22nd at the Palos Country Club in Orland Park, and our festive year will conclude on December 20th, when Bishop J. Peter Sartain will celebrate a very special Liturgy with us. This day will be most memorable and significant, as it is also the 40th Anniversary of Ordination of our Pastor, Fr. Don Lewandowski.

Throughout the year, our church has been graced with the beautiful banners designed by Fr. Don Bates and Judy Mudore, a long-time parishioner and fellow artist. They were assisted in this creative task by Mary Lee Gustafson, Dorothea Hanna and Julie Tillman. The funds for the materials for all three banners were donated by the St. Jude Augustinians. All of them were made from the same fabrics, thus creating a unity among the three banners, even though each has its own unique design.

The first banner was hung in the narthex, between the doors leading into the church proper. It depicts the St. Jude Parish logo, which is the outline of four people from the four directions in which we draw our parishioners, all reaching into the heart of Jesus, from where we draw our strength as individuals and as a parish. The number 75 is in the background.



At Easter, a second banner was hung on the wall above the Blessed Sacrament Shrine. Beginning in the bottom right-hand corner of this banner, the baby or catechumen has the water poured from a shell over the forehead, while being received into the Church community, shown huddled around the cross of salvation. Through continued adherence to the words of Scripture, each Catholic Christian opens themselves to faith-filled incorporation in Christ in the Eucharist.

The final banner was revealed on Pentecost Sunday, and hangs on the wall behind the choir area. The 75th Anniversary theme, *Soaring at 75*, is readily captured in the exuberant, exultant exclamations rising above the dove. The dove, at the bottom of the banner, symbolizes the Holy Spirit hovering close to us, the St. Jude Parish community. The white segment of a circle at the top of the banner represents God, the Father.



We are deeply grateful to all who have worked so hard on this 75th Anniversary year of celebration and remembrance. Special mention must be given to Kathy Mackay, our current Parish Council president, who worked tirelessly to coordinate, administrate, and integrate the many and varied efforts that went into making this a year of celebration.

We are grateful to those pioneers who have gone before us and forged the path that we continue to walk today, and into the future. The history of our shared Catholic faith serves as the unbroken thread that binds us all. It unites us in our joy and our sorrow, in our moments of silence and in our hours of joyful celebration. It creates deep and lasting relationships that edify and strengthen our hearts, and it fans the flames of self-giving that impel us to service and leadership in our world. We are a people of the Word and the Eucharist. To quote St. Augustine, *“Be what you see, and receive what you are.”* Thanks be to God!

Happy 75th Anniversary, St. Jude Parish!

75th Anniversary Prayer

Father, we thank you for the abundant blessings
that you have bestowed upon the
St. Jude Parish family for the past 75 years.

We are grateful to the people who had a faith filled
vision in founding our parish.

We recall the special moments in our lives when we
felt your presence in the sacraments we have received.

As we continue on our journey of faith, send Your Holy Spirit
upon us that we may carry on the mission of Jesus.

Open our eyes that we might see the needs of others.

Open our ears that we might hear your call to discipleship.

Open our hearts that we might love without prejudice.

Open our mouths that we might share the good news
of Jesus Christ. Amen



Composed by Fr. Mike Schweifler, OSA, and prayed throughout the 75th year

