

Waucoma-St. Mary-Oral History Project, 1987

The following oral history of St. Mary's parish Waucoma, Iowa has been produced from interviews conducted by three senior girls. Jamie Bries, Jane McEnany, and Jill Meyers, and coordinator of religious education Shirley Rehaul. Histories of St. Rose and St. Mary's written by James Scallon and Mrs. [inaudible]. Telephone conversations and personal observations. Thanks to all who have helped in any way. Prepared by Mrs. Leonard and Roberta Brannon, submitted April 1st, 1987 to the Archdiocese of Dubuque as a part of the 150th year celebration of the Archdiocese. William Burke narrator.

St. Mary's parish in Waucoma Iowa was established in 1898 by the outgrowth of the St. Rose of Lima church which was the first Catholic church in Fayette County. Ann Scallon of St. Joseph parish in Waterloo gave us a brief history of St. Rose. Her ancestors were some of the first settlers of the northwest county of Fayette County and Mass was held in their homes occasionally by priests before the church was built at St. Rose. Patrick Keane Brannon deeded 40 acres of land to Bishop Loras on June 5th, 1856 and a stone church was built in 1857. This church became too small, so a wooden church was built in the late 1870's. This church never contained pews. The parishioners either stood or knelt with the women on one side of the church and the men on the other side. In the summer of 1881 lightning struck the church and it burned. Another frame church was quickly built and within about 15 or 18 years it was apparent that either a new church would have to be built or very expensive repairs made. By this time Waucoma was a thriving town located about 4 miles southeast of St. Rose with many Catholic families attending church there. Many of the residents of Waucoma did not have transportation so had to walk the 4 miles to church which made attending Mass a great hardship for the elderly and small children. Jack and Lucille McKay in an interview shared a paper Jack's grandmother, Mrs. Ann McKay wrote on the history of St. Mary. Quoting from her paper "so, during the summer of 1898 a little group of men and women met Sunday after Sunday in Waucoma to discuss ways and means and try to find a solution. After a great deal of deliberation, a petition and subscription list was circulated. Many subscriptions were given by non-Catholics in town. Some were small, 5, 10, or 15 dollars, but we were deeply grateful for every dollar. Mrs. Charles Webster and Mrs. Ace Webster each contribute 100 dollars. My brother J.J. Kearns was selected as the delegate to interview the archbishop. Carrying the subscription list and a little sketch, which I had made, showing the relative location of St. Lucas on the east, Lawler on the west with the main road, we did not call them highways at that time, going through Waucoma, and St. Rose, nearly 4 miles northwest. He told a story to the archbishop and he made this comment. I have no fear for the old who have carried the faith thus far through many difficulties, but I do fear for the children. The archbishop readily gave his permission to build a church in Waucoma. Fr. Martin Hogan was sent to St. Rose in September of 1898 to care for St. Rose and build a church in Waucoma immediately and have charge of both parishes. Due to some controversies between Father Hogan and the people at St. Rose, the building at Waucoma did not start until May of 1899."

Land in Waucoma was purchased from Ace Webster and his wife Ida A. Webster for consideration of \$250. The deed was dated May 26th, 1899. The transaction also stated that it is hereby agreed by the parties hereto that the above-described land shall not be used for a cemetery and if so used, this deed shall be null and void. Work on the excavation and laying the

foundation was done by the men, and the building proper began on June 8th of 1899. 12 months from that date the church was completed and clear of debt. As soon as work had started on the church Fr. Hogan made it known that he no longer cared to live at St. Rose and a rectory would have to be built in Waucoma. The rectory was completed and furnished so that Father Hogan moved in the first week of February in 1900. The women of the parish took to action to help with the furnishings of the rectory. Quoting Mrs. McKay, "we met every Tuesday afternoon at different homes to make bed linens, table linens, curtains, towels, comforters, everything needed in a home. We charged 10 cents for a lunch served each meeting and we had a series of card parties. We had a little fund with which to buy silver, dishes, and a rug. Fr. Hogan said the first Mass in the new church on February 9th, 1900." Archbishop James J. Keane dedicated the church on April the 25th of 1901 and officially named it St. Mary's. Land for a cemetery east of the Waucoma public cemetery was purchased in December of 1903. In an interview with Ken Smith, a member of our parish, he told of lots in the cemetery were sold to get money to pay for the land. The first burial in the cemetery was a baby born to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Slickty. Archbishop Keane made a church corporation of each parish in the Archdiocese in the Fall of 1911. James E. Scallon, father of Ann Scallon, previously mentioned, and Lowell Scallon of this parish, served as secretary and Clem T. Smith, father of Ian Smith, served as treasurer of the corporation. In 1914 instructions were received to build a school.

The parish had grown considerably by this time, so the financial burden wasn't so great for each family. When a subscription list was circulated 10,000 dollars was raised. The building was completed and ready for the opening of school on September 1st, 1915. Staffed by the Sisters of Charity. The original enrollment was 93, with 30 of these in high school. In a telephone conversation with Rena Daily of our parish, she mentioned that her older sister was in the first graduating class. The high school consisted of 9th grade and a business course offered in the 10th grade, the high school was soon discontinued.

On November 11th of 1915 at 2 a.m. a cyclone struck the church property, completely destroying the church. Unroofing the school building, plus blowing in the windows and badly damaging the rectory. Temporary repairs were made immediately on the school so that the school could resume, and Mass could be said in the school hall." Rena Dailey has written this interesting description of her recollection of the tornado. We were all happy and busy in the Frank Dailey home on the morning of November 11th, 1915. This was the day we were to honor our pastor, Fr. Hogan, on a feast day with a program and a party. The sisters had worked hard and had everything in readiness for a wonderful time for all of us. Now, mother was doing her part to see that we were all cleaned up and in our best dresses. The roads were so muddy that dad had to take us to school with the team and the wagon, and we had been looking forward to this day for so long that nothing could dampen our spirits. As we were nearing the school, dad started to give the horses some sharp commands and we realized that something was wrong, the horses had seen it first as we came over the hill and dad always said, their ears shot straight up to the sky. There was our beautiful church lying in the road before us, completely smashed. It took some skillful driving for dad to get the team into Dee Lynch's yard and they would go no further. I'm sure we felt upset about it. Just to look at the ruins would scare you. However, we had no worries in our minds as our parents did. How were they going to replace it? Instead when we were told we could not have school for a few days, the dream of all school children, our hearts were broken,

'what no program, above all, no party?' To us, that was the greatest tragedy that a cyclone could cause.

A brick church was started in the Spring of 1917 under the direction of Father Hogan. Due to poor health, he asked to be transferred, so Father James Sheehy came from Greene to assume his duties as a parish priest in Waucoma and to take charge of the building of the church. The church was built at a cost of 30,000 dollars with Donahue and Scalberg Construction Company of St. Paul and E.L. Masqueray doing the work. The building commission and committee was Archbishop James J. Keane, President, Father James Sheehy, Pastor, and Vice President Joe Riley. Secretary and Martin Boskey, Treasurer. The first Mass was said in the new church on March the 4th, 1917. Archbishop Keane dedicated the church on June 14th of 1917. In the Spring of 1920 an additional half, as large as the school, was added to the west side of the north end of the school at a cost of 10,000 dollars to give more classroom space and better living facilities to the nuns. Father Sheehy landscaped the church property which contributed much towards its appearance.

In an interview, Catherine Brannon, a former member of the parish, but now a member of Sacred Heart church in Waterloo, told of the church dinners held in the school basement in the 1920's. A lady and her helpers were assigned to the charge of a table. The food was prepared at home and brought to the basement. She related the work involved in packing the dishes in bushel baskets, hauling from the school, unpacking, setting the tables and then washing the dishes, re-packing them to carry home and then unpacking and washing the dishes again before they were put away. She said it was lots of work, but fun, and very rewarding to earn money for the church. Father Louis Flynn was sent to Waucoma in 1933 to assist, so that Father Sheehy could tour the Holy Land in Europe until January of 1934. Father Maurice Tracy followed Father Flynn as an assistant and then Father Francis Phelan came to care of the parish while Father Sheehy made another trip to his beloved Ireland. Father Phelan remained until after Father Sheehy's death on February the 12th, 1939. Funeral services for Father Sheehy were held at St. Mary's where he had been the pastor for 22 years. And the burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Dubuque. On the evening of Father Sheehy's death, a card party was in progress in the school basement. Teresa Slickty, his housekeeper, came to the party to get Father Phelan, and told the people that Father was dying. During the time that Father Phelan was here the church was re-shingled with fireproof asbestos shingles. Father Daniel Gorman was assigned to St. Mary's following Father Sheehy's death. Father Gorman celebrated his 25th year of ordination in 1940. The parish, the interior of the church, and the presented the finished work to the Father as a gift of his jubilee. Father Schuh of St. Lucas suggested the gift and helped the parish carry out their plans. This project was done because everyone knew that Father Gorman would never approve a collection of money for a purse of monetary value. He was that kind of a person. Other improvements that were made while Father Gorman was here was a new heating plant in the church and a modern water system in the school and rectory. Father Gorman was transferred to Webster City the middle of May in 1944. Father Clarence Drummy of St. Anthony was appointed our pastor but did not take charge until June 22nd, of 1944. Father Gregory Einck newly ordained, was assigned to take care of the parish until Father Drummy arrived. Father Schemmel, assistant in Ossian, helped until Father Einck was ordained. Father Einck was very busy during the month he was here, as he had a funeral, some baptisms, and mixed marriage and a wedding of Frank and Arlene Bowsky Bursack of our parish, plus the other pastoral duties. As he had to leave, Father

Schuller? of St. Lucas said Mass the Sunday before Father Drummy arrived. Father Drummy assumed charge of St. Mary's on June the 22nd of 1944 and remained our pastor until his death on June the 22nd, of 1976, exactly 32 years from the date that he said his first Mass here. In his first sermon, Father gave us the thoughts that he wasn't exactly pleased to come to Waucoma, but that he had been sent and that was it. He apparently learned to love us as he refused to leave when he had the opportunity after being here for many many years. Many major changes were made while Father Drummy was our pastor, the first was to complete the digging of the basement under the church, putting in a cement floor throughout and installing a kitchen and furnishing it so dinners could be served. Katie Nolty, Loretta Corsendorfer and Maggie Witchmen were guild officers at that time. They told us in an interview of purchasing dishes and silver, paying for them with their own money and then serving a dinner which netted enough money to refund them for their expenses. Archbishop Binz sent order to Father Drummy in the Spring of 1955 that a new rectory should be constructed. A petition was circulated to the church membership for people to sign either for or against the building of the rectory. As with all building projects, some were quite sure it was unnecessary, but plans moved forward and the rectory was started on October the 31st of 1955. A two-story brick veneer rectory was completed and ready for occupancy the next Fall. The basement was equipped to use as a meeting room during the Winter months. The women of the parish made the draperies for the house, the cost of the house was 35,000 dollars. A sale was held shortly before Father Drummy moved into the new rectory to dispose of unneeded furnishings in the old house. Clarence Kappler purchased the house and then later sold it to Ed Wenthold who along with his brother-in-law, Leo Burke, dismantled the house and hauled the lumber home. The area where the old house was sitting is now a part of the parking lot. On March 29th, 1957 1.4 acres of land was purchased from John Block at the cost of 1,000 dollars to enlarge the school ground. This was made possible by a 600-dollar donation by the Ray Bodenstein families and other donations. The parishioners donated time and money to fence in the playground and build a backstop for ballgames. The extra playground was needed due to increased enrollment in the school. This increase in enrollment also necessitated moving the Sister's chapel to the basement of the church so that the room could be used as classrooms. On May 31st, 1958 lightning struck the school and knocked off the chimney, tore a hole in the roof and caused other damages. The cost of the repairs was 10,000 dollars. In the Fall of 1961, a new two-car unattached garage was built west of the rectory. A walkway was added later to connect the garage and the rectory. It seems like a minor project, a door opening on the south side of the church and to the front pews, has proved to be a great convenience for the people who park in the schoolyard and for the residents of the Waucoma [inaudible] who walk to church. The Sisters also enjoyed this entrance while they were here. It also serves as a fire exit. The state fire department imposed some restrictions on public buildings, so it became necessary to install a fire escape to the school in 1952. In '59 a fire alarm system was installed in the school and convent. Two furnaces were installed in the basement of the church in 1959 at a cost of 2,000 to replace the undependable old furnaces. Father Drummy started the services for the seniors of the parish which are represented by seniors from Turkey Valley Community School and North Fayette school in West Union. The services were held on the Sunday morning of commencement at Turkey Valley, now they are held on the Saturday evening before the school commencement. The seniors wear their caps and gowns, march into church, have a Mass especially for them and in recent years, a reception is held for them in the church basement. Father Drummy always encouraged the non-Catholics to attend too, which they often did. The dialogue Mass was started during Lent in 1960. Members of the ACCM were

the leaders, and the leaders to help Father Drummy bring this great change in the way Mass is said for the parishioners. In 1961 the church was re-decorated by Fred Riley Company of Cresco. The pews, woodwork and floors were varnished, also to complete the job. The walls were last painted in the Summer of 1946 with work in progress when William and Anna Jane Miller Tomacek were married. Having scaffolding in a church when a beautiful wedding has been planned would be a disappointment to any bride, but most of all to a new member of the parish. On November 22nd, of 1963 the whole country was stunned beyond words and were grieving on the death of our beloved president, John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. He was the first Catholic to be elected president of the United States. On November the 25th, Father Drummy offered a requiem high Mass in his honor. The [inaudible] American Legion of Waucoma participated by marching in a body and following a 21-gun salute with the playing of the TAPS following. Many non-Catholics attended this Mass.

In the Fall of 1964, a program was set up for the teaching of Christian doctrine who attended Turkey Valley and other public schools. Mrs. Mildred Marrin taught the first and second grades in her home on Saturday mornings. Mrs. Jocine McGreavy taught the high school students, and Mrs. Linus Seiglmen taught the other elementary schools on Sunday mornings after Mass in the school building. This was the beginning of the CCD program. The next year, Mrs. Joe [inaudible] taught first and second grades. Mrs. Francis O'Regan taught the upper grades, and Dave Crohad and Shirley Rehaul had charge of the Freshman and Sophomores, and Mrs. William Block and Francis Rehaul taught the juniors and seniors. After three months of intensive study, the Dubuque Catholic Diocese Board of Education announced on Sunday of 1968 that St. Mary's school would close at the end of the '68 school year. The 7th and 8th grade had been discontinued the year before. The reasons for the closing were increasing state requirements, low census, and cost of operation and the main factor, the lack of teaching nuns to staff the school. One of the requirements of the state was one grade per room which would have meant lay teachers would have to be hired and more space provided, which would have been too costly. The school building was rented by the Turkey Valley school during the 68 and 69 school year while a twenty-room addition was being added to the Turkey Valley building in Jackson Junction. Two first grade sections, two second grade sections and two special education classes were bussed from Turkey Valley. They were bussed to Turkey Valley at noon for their lunches. The closing of the school was an especially sad day for those who had worked so hard to provide the building. The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary first came to St. Mary's in 1916 and served us faithfully for 52 years. Many of us have wonderful memories of the good teaching and religious influence they brought to our community.

Many of our young men served our country World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. Our parish was saddened to hear the death of Gerald Rosenbaum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rosenbaum, killed in action in March of 1968. As a memorial to their son, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenbaum donated the two entrance doors to the church. In 1969 ministers to the Eucharist were accepted into the Diocese. The first ministers at St. Mary were David Croat, and Francis Rehaul, who assisted Father Drummy at Mass on Christmas Day. Shortly afterwards Roger Leibold, [inaudible], William Burke, Leo Burke, Ray Bodensteiner, Jack Adams, Albert Brawn, Bernard Schmidt, and Norm Gosling were appointed. They served as lectors also.

During 1973 the steps of the main altar were removed, and the altar lowered even with the floor. The table was moved forward, so the priest faces the congregation as he offers Mass. The communion railing was removed and replaced by two communion stations. Green carpeting was laid throughout the church but not under the pews. In 1974 new carpeting was laid in the rectory and a new central air furnace was installed as a gift to Father Drummy for his 75th birthday, which was July 23rd of 1975.

Father Drummy loved people and perhaps should have been a genealogist as after visiting after a person for a short time he had him related to someone Father knew or someone the person thought he had no connection with whatsoever. It was so easy for him to go into a group and make himself at home and make everyone feel at ease. One always knew when he was around as the smell of his cigar filled the air. Father Drummy was generous beyond words, but then he never bought [just] one thing, he bought in wholesale lots, including his cigars and gum, so he had lots to give. Whenever he went someplace, he usually took someone with him. Many times the high school boys in town who weren't too busy. To ride in his car in the Summer after he had air conditioning was like sitting in a refrigerator. He always had the radio on unusually [inaudible] along with the television and seemed be able to comprehend what was on each. He knew the programs when they came on and kept the dial changing often. At times he even had two televisions so he wouldn't miss anything. Mrs. Bridget B. Brannon kept house for him for 19 years and she was surely qualified to live with his impetuous ways, as she was brought up in a family of 9 boys and 3 girls and had a family of her own of 9 boys and 1 girl. Father was from a family of 16, mostly boys. Once Father had a chance to make an acquaintance, he never forgot the person. He was just as unforgettable.

Father enjoyed reasonably good health during the years except for a serious auto accident he had on January the 18th of 1952, east of Lawler. During his convalescence, Father Claude Norton assisted. Father Norton was a young priest and very interested in young people. He promoted boy's basketball; the guild organized into circles while he was here. During Father Drummy's last few years he developed a heart condition which hospitalized him for short intervals on several occasions, but he always returned to care for the parish. Father died at the rectory on June the 22nd of 1976, just 32 years to the date when he had said his first Mass in Waucoma. Had he lived until July the 23rd, he would have been 76 years old. His wake and funeral were held in St. Mary's church, about 80 priests attended the funeral. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Ryan in the family plot, which includes his parents, his older brother, who was a monsignor, and his twin brother, Father Clare Drummy.

Father John Moran of Lawler was appointed administrator of St. Mary's until our new priest, Father Francis McEnany of Dorchester, arrived on August the 14th of 1976. Father McEnany soon implemented changes. A liturgy committee was organized consisting of Mrs. Francis Rehaul, Mrs. Florine Landrick, Mrs. Agnes Brock, Mrs. Karen Brock, William Brock, Martin Lynch, [inaudible], David Miller, and Charles [inaudible]. Albert Brock continued faithfully and still continues to when health permits to be a Mass server at daily Mass. An adult choir was formed to sing at funerals and special occasions, we have had many compliments on our adult choir from people outside the parish. Herman Brock, and [inaudible] had served as trustees for the 27 years and asked to be relieved of their responsibilities. The parish voted to replace them with Charles Tesmer and James [inaudible]. A board of building and grounds were elected which

include Gerald [inaudible], Jerome [inaudible], Francis Kennan, Clarence Rausch, and Eugene Leonard. In the Fall of 1976 new storm windows were added to St. Mary's school, while some of the other repairs to the building... [inaudible] is used during the Winter for CCD classes. The Winter of '76 an '77 was one of the coldest on record in Iowa. Father McEnany wanted as many as possible to assist with Mass so the duties and the ministries of the eucharist and lectors were separated. On October the 19th of 1976 the first women of the parish volunteered to be lectors. These women were Mrs. Francis [inaudible], Mrs. Leo Burke, Mrs. Mary Ann Ott, and Mrs. Margaret Clay. Other lectors were Gerald Ditzenbach, Gerald McEnany, and Charles Tesmer. Mrs. Shirley Rehan continued as the coordinator of religious education. Another first for St. Mary's parish was the communal anointing of the sick on Sunday, February the 20th, 1977 at 3:00 afternoon Mass. Father Richard Bohr? of St. Lucas and Father Robert Ament of St. Luke, assisted Father McEnany. Volunteers furnished transportation and nearly a hundred attended the Mass. The new rite of penance went into effect throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque on the first Sunday of Lent, February the 2th of 1977. In June the old confessionals were taken out and reconciliation room completed. Provisions were made for going to confession either the old way or face to face. The room serves as a cry room during Mass. Restrooms were installed in the church basement in the Spring of 1977. Other improvements were made to the inside stairway to the basement including carpeting the stairs and changing the entrance door to the school. Many years had passed since the Mass had been said at St. Rose.

From Memorial Day in 1977 the Liturgy Committee with Mrs. Francis Rehan, Chairperson, and Mrs. Florine Lancrick, as secretary organized and promoted a Memorial Day Mass at the 120-year-old St. Rose Cemetery, which was the first Catholic cemetery in Fayette County. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Francis McEnany, Father Raymond Branon, and Father Cornelius O'Meara, both of Azusa, California. Father Branon is a great-grandson of the Patrick King Branon, who donated the land for St. Rose. And he was here to celebrate his 25th year of ordination to the priesthood. Ray McDonald, of Lawler, who served as an altar boy over 50 years ago, at the last Mass said at St. Rose, was an honorary altar boy. 39 parishioners, both old and young who had roots in old St. Rose participated in the Mass. The Mass was well attended in spite of the damp morning.

The Spring of 1977 was very dry and the great need for rain for our crops prompted Fr. McEnany to have an outdoor Mass for rain on Sunday afternoon, June the 26th. With the altar set up on the east steps of the school. Many from our parish as well as neighboring parishes attended. Our prayers were answered during the week, so the next Sunday another outdoors Mass was offered with the altar set up on the platform on the south entrance of the church to offer thanksgiving and prayers for the continued rain. We did have a good harvest that year. During the Summer of 1977 a large group of volunteers, organized by Bernie Schmidt, and Gene Clay, donated many hours to cut down trees and underbrush to make way for a new driveway from the St. Lucas Road into St. Mary's Cemetery. A new fence, entrance gate, and cement driveway over the creek were installed. On Sunday, October the 9th, Father McEnany offered a 2:00 Mass at the cemetery for the intentions of the workers and those buried in the cemetery. Father McEnany was in charge of the funeral of William Billy Buckholz, December the 19th of 1977. Mr. Buckholz, a native of Germany, a unique personality, an editor of the Jericho Community Echo for many years, took great interest in the history of churches. He published a book on the history of churches which included St. Rose and St. Mary's as well as other churches in the area. He also

enjoyed writing poetry. His unusual spelling awards won him fame in the newspaper world. Christmas Eve in 1977 was celebrated with Mass and a program of the first Christmas in Jerusalem produced by members of the parish. Keith Hoy, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hoy portrayed the part of baby Jesus.

In 1978 at a meeting of interested parishioners, it was decided to sell the 1.4 acres of land west of the church that had been added as a playground to the Waucoma Manner at a price of 2,000 dollars. Four units of four one-bedroom apartments, each were built as part of the government program to provide low-rent housing for senior citizens. Pope John Paul II visited the Living History Farm in Des Moines and said Mass there on October 4th, 1979. Father McEnany offered a Mass at St. Mary's for his safety and success of his visit. Many from St. Mary's joined others from Lawler and St. Lucas to take a charter bus to Des Moines to attend the Mass.

On Memorial Day of 1980 Waucoma celebrated it's quasiquicentennial, which our parish participated in. St. Mary's was represented by a float in the parade which placed first. A food stand was under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. James Burzak, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Clay, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kennan, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mail, and Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Bowsky. Many contributed recipes for the cookbook printed by the Waucoma library. Both young and old participated in and helped with all the activity which made our quasiquicentennial such a memorable occasion. During the year a new sound system was installed in the church, a gift of Yvonne Collin in memory of the James Collin family. A new organ was purchased and put into place in December. The organ was dedicated as a memorial to Carl Hackman, who left the bequest to completely cover the cost. The organ was dedicated on May the 3rd of 1981 with a recital by Father Mark Nemmers, of the chancery staff, featuring sacred music, classical music, and popular works of modern times.

When Father McEnany came to Waucoma he had an older dog which had been his hunting companion for many years. As the dog aged it had many problems. One Saturday during the Summer Fr. [inaudible] said Mass for us because Fr. McEnany had taken his dog to the veterinary laboratory in Iowa State at Ames. We prayed for the dog during Mass but that was one time our prayers weren't answered as the dog died. Fr. McEnany accepted the loss well but never replaced the dog. Fr. McEnany left on July the 12th of 1981 to become pastor at Coggon.

Father Vincent Simon came July 14th from Earlville to be our pastor. His housekeeper [inaudible] also came to St. Mary's. Father Simon's repair work began nearly as soon as he moved in, with heavy rains he knew a new roof must be put on the house. New ceiling fans were installed in the church to circulate the air in both summer and winter. A parish auction was held on August the 30th to dispose of items no longer needed. Many improvements have been made and much of this has been possible through donations people have made to the church. The church has been redecorated, a new furnace placed in the church, insulation installed in the church attic, new lights put in the church, new carpeting in the church, new front steps on the church and rail. New nativity set, new walk on the south side of the church, new Easter candle and processional candle holder [inaudible]. Tuckpointing the front of the church and chimney, rewiring the church hall, new rail for steps southeast of the church, new stone for the rectory. Many monies donated for starting a fund for a new CCD center, new funeral hall, and matching [inaudible]. Window repairs, several large-sized altar boys' cassocks, new funeral book, Mass

books and no doubt others not mentioned. Everyone in the parish and Father Simon are most thankful to all who have contributed to make our church a well-kept institution.

St. Mary's parish has had several young men become priests. Father Bernard Deany, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Deany left from St. Rose parish to study but was not ordained until St. Mary's was built. He was the first priest to say his first Mass in Waucoma on June the 22nd of 1902. Father Deany spent his priesthood life in Texas, serving several parishes, but spent 30 years at St. Patrick's parish in Denison. He died May the 9th of 1953 and is buried in Fort Worth, Texas. Father Louis Putz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Putz was the next young man to be ordained. Ordination was in Dubuque on June the 14th of 1930 and his first Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's on June the 15th. Father Putz served in our Archdiocese and will be remembered as the priest and builder of the newly formed parish of the Blessed Sacrament in Waterloo. After the tornado hit Charles City Father was transferred there to have charge of building the beautiful Immaculate Conception church. Funeral services for Father Putz were held on April the 14th of 1977 at Blessed Sacrament in Waterloo. He is buried in St. Mary's cemetery in Waucoma beside his parents and his sister. Father Thomas Burns, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.H. Burns, spent part of his childhood in Jackson Junction where his father was a railroad station agent, was ordained on December the 17th of 1944 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He read his first Mass in Waucoma on Sunday, December the 31st of 1944. A dinner and reception followed. Father Burns has served in churches in South Dakota and is presently serving at Briton, South Dakota. Father Burns wrote in a Christmas card a couple of years ago "can always remember sitting in the first pew in St. Mary's and Father Sheehy would really sprinkle us with holy water, a real shower". Father Ray Branon was the fourth from our parish to be ordained. He left for California after he completed high school and studied in several Jesuit colleges on the west coast in preparation for the priesthood. His last year was with, was at West Baden College in southern Indiana. His first Mass was celebrated in Waucoma June the 21st of 1952. His work has been teaching and retreat work, being stationed at Brophy Prep in Phoenix when it was getting well established. He has been at retreat work at Manresa Retreat House in Azusa, California for the past 17 years. Father Bernard Branon, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Branon, and brother of Father Ray and both nephews of Father Deany, was the next young man to study for the priesthood. His studies followed the same pattern as Father Ray's, and he was ordained on June the 17th of 1953 at West Baden College. His first Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's on June the 21st of 1953. Most of his life has been in teaching. Much of it at Loyola High in Los Angeles, where he is currently teaching. He was team ministry at Holy Family parish in San Jose, California for about 5 years and was also in a parish in Phoenix for a time. At Loyola he has been privileged to have sons of Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, John Wayne, Loretta Young, brother of Mia Farrow and others. He says the real joy is in teaching the student. Father Richard Tmacek, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tmacek, is the young man of this parish to become a priest. When he completed high school, he left to join the Jesuit society and study for four years in Minnesota. Followed by studies in Missouri, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. He was ordained June the 2nd of 1973 in St. Mary's church in Waucoma, by the Most Reverend Francis J. Dunn, Auxiliary Bishop of Dubuque. His first Mass was celebrated on Sunday, June the 3rd at St. Mary's. His mother Helen Tmacek of our parish told of his teaching experiences since his ordination which had been in Milwaukee, Germany, India, and Korea. While in Korea he developed a health problem that required his return to the United States. He is currently teaching at Creighton Prep in Omaha. His mother also said when Father Dick was a junior in high school, Father Ray Branon gave a retreat

at St. Mary's for high school students and at that time he confirmed his leaning towards being a priest. Father Drummy who was so good to him was also a great influence. Father Tmacek is especially talented in music.

Four young ladies from St. Mary's have become nuns. Sister Mary George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Drumming, entered the Sisters of Charity, BVM in 1921. She spent her life as a teacher and now is retired and residing at Mt. Carmel in Dubuque. Sister Mary Elaine, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Meyers and a niece of Sister George, entered the Sisters of Charity, BVM in 1943. She spent 26 years teaching before separating from the convent. She taught ten more years in Florida where she is now retired. Sister Mary Delores, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Meyers, entered the Sisters of Charity, BVM in 1957. She spent quite a few years as a counselor in West Hempstead, New York. Now she is on an advisory board for the Catholic Charities in Merrick, New York on Long Island. Sister Mary Boniface, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Kringer, entered the Sisters of St. Francis, La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1948. She is an x-ray technician and was located at Carroll, Iowa for several years. She has been in Idaho Falls, Idaho for many years. There were several religious from St. Rose parish, they were Sisters of Charity, Sister Mary Felix, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burns, Sister Mary Roderick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Burke, Sister Mary Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burns. Sister of Mercy, Sister Mary Roberta, and Sister Mary Camilla, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Burns. Father Thomas Branon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Branon and the uncle of the late Roy McEnany, and the late Mrs. John Scally of the is parish, had a short life as a priest as he died young and is buried in St. Rose cemetery.

There are many organizations within our parish, some have been mentioned earlier and some will probably not be mentioned. The guild, now church circles, has been a part of the church almost since the church existed. Mrs. James Hoye is currently in charge of the funeral and activity groups. The Catholic Daughters of America, Court Queenship of Mary, number 1806 was instituted on May the 27th of 1959 with 73 members, some of them from St. Luke parish in St. Lucas. Mrs. Madonna Hoye was the first grand regent, and Mrs. Joe [inaudible] is the new grand regent. The Catholic Order of Foresters was instituted on November the 20th of 1955 with Joseph Barnes, the chief ranger. Florine Landcrick is currently the chief ranger and the membership number is 83. The Knights of Columbus council was formed with the St. Lucas members in May of 1984 with headquarters in the St. Lucas school. Devir Manderfield, and Gregory Kregner of St. Mary's is the present grand knight. One of the older organizations of the parish is the Altar and Rosary Society, it provides the leaders for the rosary said before Mass and provides funds altar breads, altar wine, and the care of the altar linens, and masses for living and deceased members of the society.

The loss of a member and funeral are part of our parish and family life. Mrs. James Scallon wrote an interesting article about funerals in olden days which is repeated for your thoughts. Mr. Scallon died in 1952. Burial customs in pioneer days by the late Jimmy Scallon. How burial customs have changed since the writer was a boy. In the earlier days when a death occurred in the community all work not absolutely necessary ceased. The young able-bodied neighbors would volunteer to dig the grave free of charge. Older people men or women, as the case required would prepare the corpse for burial. Embalming and undertaker services were unheard of. Some gentlemen, whose command would be heeded would have charge of the funeral

procession. Pat Collin, a stonemason by trade, usually officiated on such occasions. The coffin, later streamlined and called a casket, would be hauled in a lumber wagon. As lighter vehicles with springs become common, they would be used. A hearse wasn't to be had. After services in the church, pallbearers would carry the corpse to the open graves where leather lines from some farmer's harnesses would be used to lower the coffin. The mourners would stand and see the last full shovel of earth put on the grave. It would be a considerable disrespect to leave sooner. These old customs are changed and modernized as we all do it today. Graves are open and now instead of being dug and the minimum charge is supposed to be from 10 to 15 dollars, even the poorest people had modern funeral home and undertaker services. Burial and funeral customs may have changed and streamlined, but one thing still remained unchanged and unchangeable, namely, earth to earth and dust to dust.

Many joyous days have been celebrated in St. Mary's. Dedication of the church. Father Sheehy 2nd year of ordination, Father Gruman's 25th year of ordination, Father Drummy's 25th and 40th year of ordination. Father Ray Branon's and Father Bernard Branon's 25th year of ordination. Father Tmacek's ordination. Father Simon's 40th year of ordination. First Masses, many weddings, and wedding anniversary. Special days of organizations and more too numerous to name. Our next planned special event will be our Heritage Day, schedule for June the 14th of 1987, which is the 70th anniversary to the day of the dedication of St. Mary's church. This celebration is in conjunction with the 150th year celebration of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. May we have many more happy years. God has truly been good to us.