

School, Church and Community Memories
By JoAnn Lutkenhaus Franzen
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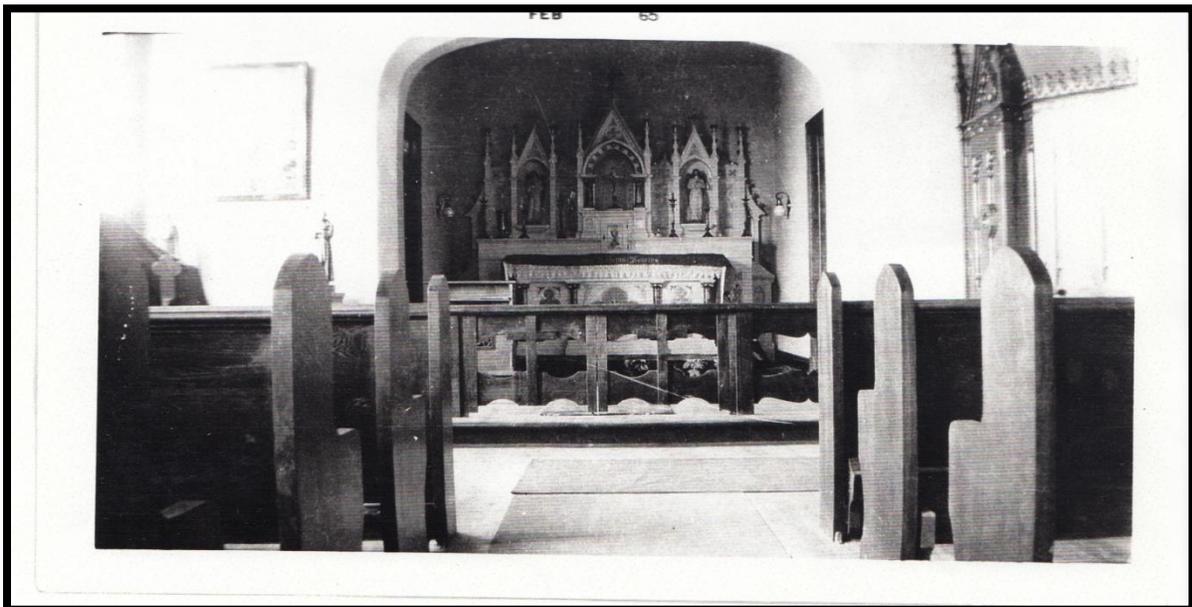
I remember in first grade how the Sister would come out and teach us to play softball. She would pitch and guide us on running the bases etc. As we went from grade to grade we played outside whenever possible. The time was always too short and the play varied.

The sacraments were always very special. First Communion followed First Confession of course. The class dressed in white dresses and veils for the girls and suits with white shirts and ties for the boys. Two girls from the first grade were flower girls dressed in long dresses made by their mothers.

On a following Sunday in May we would have May Crowning. The second grade dressed in their First Communion outfits. All the other classes were in their Sunday best. The whole school participated in the Living Rosary. One girl from the 10th grade was chosen to crown the Blessed Virgin Mary. She would borrow a wedding dress from someone. The other high school girls wore formal dresses which were also borrowed. At the end of the service the Sister would play the organ wide open and the people would sing "Holy God". The church just rang with the music.

During Lent and Advent the parish had evening devotions on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday nights. The children in school would see who would miss the services the least. The girls sang in the choir and the boys served mass. There was a five o'clock mass every weekday in the Sister's Chapel which my brother got up to serve.

We had a school chapel also, which was used for weekday masses. When we would come in from recess some of us would go in for a quick visit. It was also used when the church was being repaired.



JoAnn's 8th grade graduation memory book lists her teachers as: Sister Lydia – Grades 1, 2 & 3; Sister Mildred – Grades 4 & 5; Sister Roseen – Grades 6, 7 & 8 and Sister Teresita – Grades 9 & 10

During the time Sister Cecelia was in our parish, she had the choir singing in three part harmony for Christmas and Easter. She would also come out when she could and play volleyball with the older girls.



I feel very blessed to have been raised in such a faith filled community. I was also confirmed and married in this parish. It is one of the reasons LeRoy and I decided to come home to Festina. We knew the people would welcome Greg. May God continue to bless this community with faith filled people and pastors who care for them.

JoAnn Lutkenhaus Franzen