



St. Catherine's Church

SILVER JUBILEE

1925

1950

Souvenir Edition

St. Catherine's Parish News

Sunday, November 26, 1950

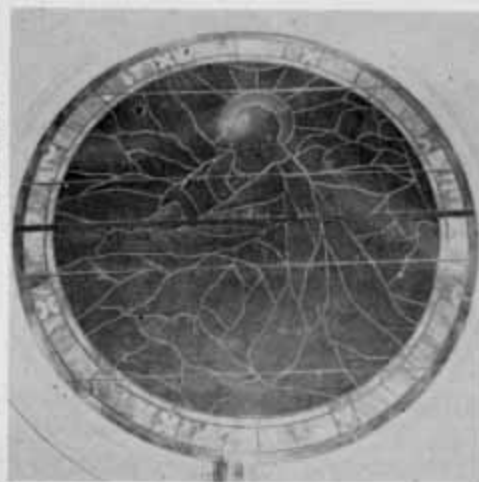
Commemorating
**Twenty-Fifth
Anniversary**
of the founding of
**St. Catherine's
Catholic Church**
105th and Grandview Road
Hickman Mills, Mo.

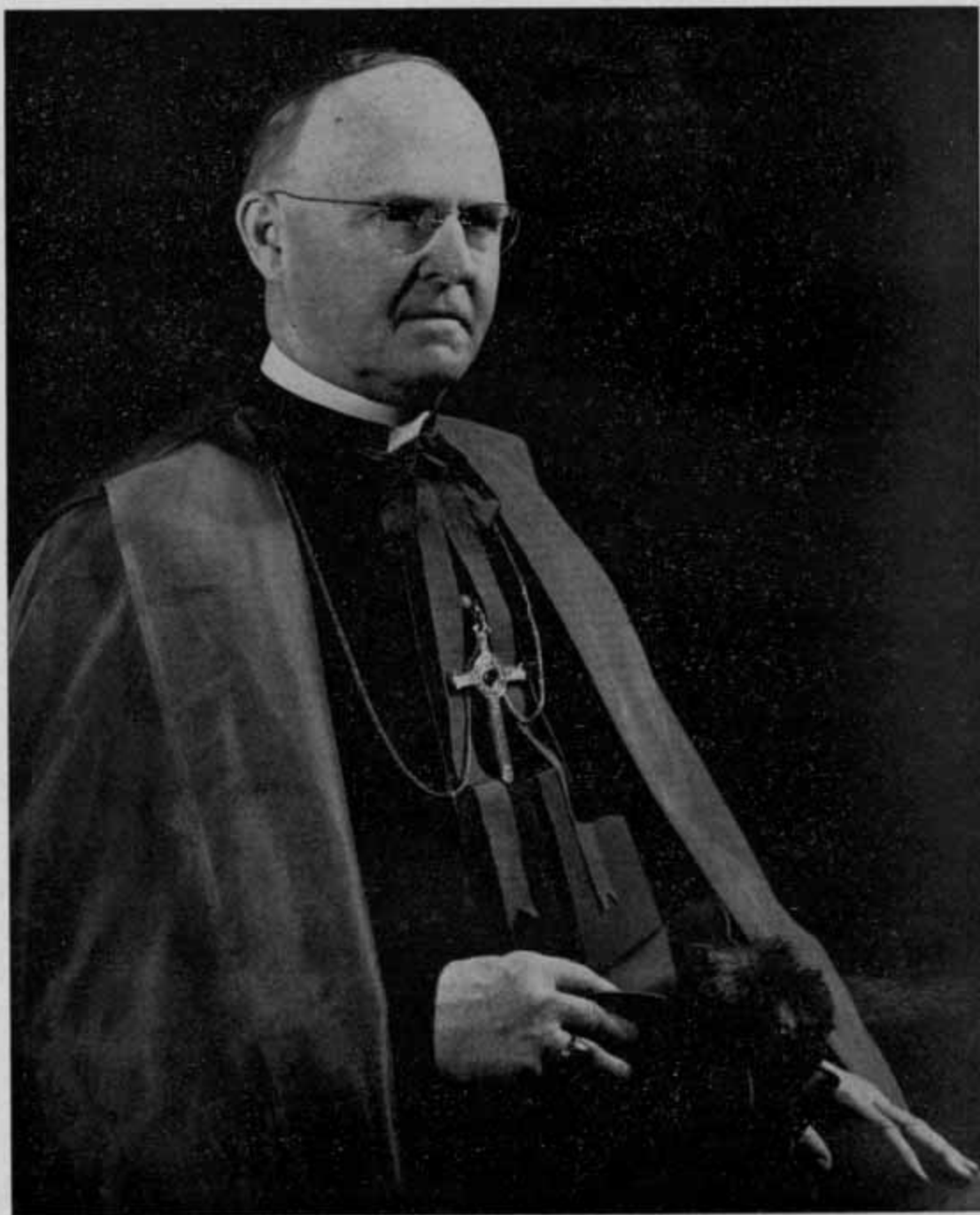


TOP: Present day view of the Church.

LEFT: Interior of Church.

RIGHT: Window of Church.

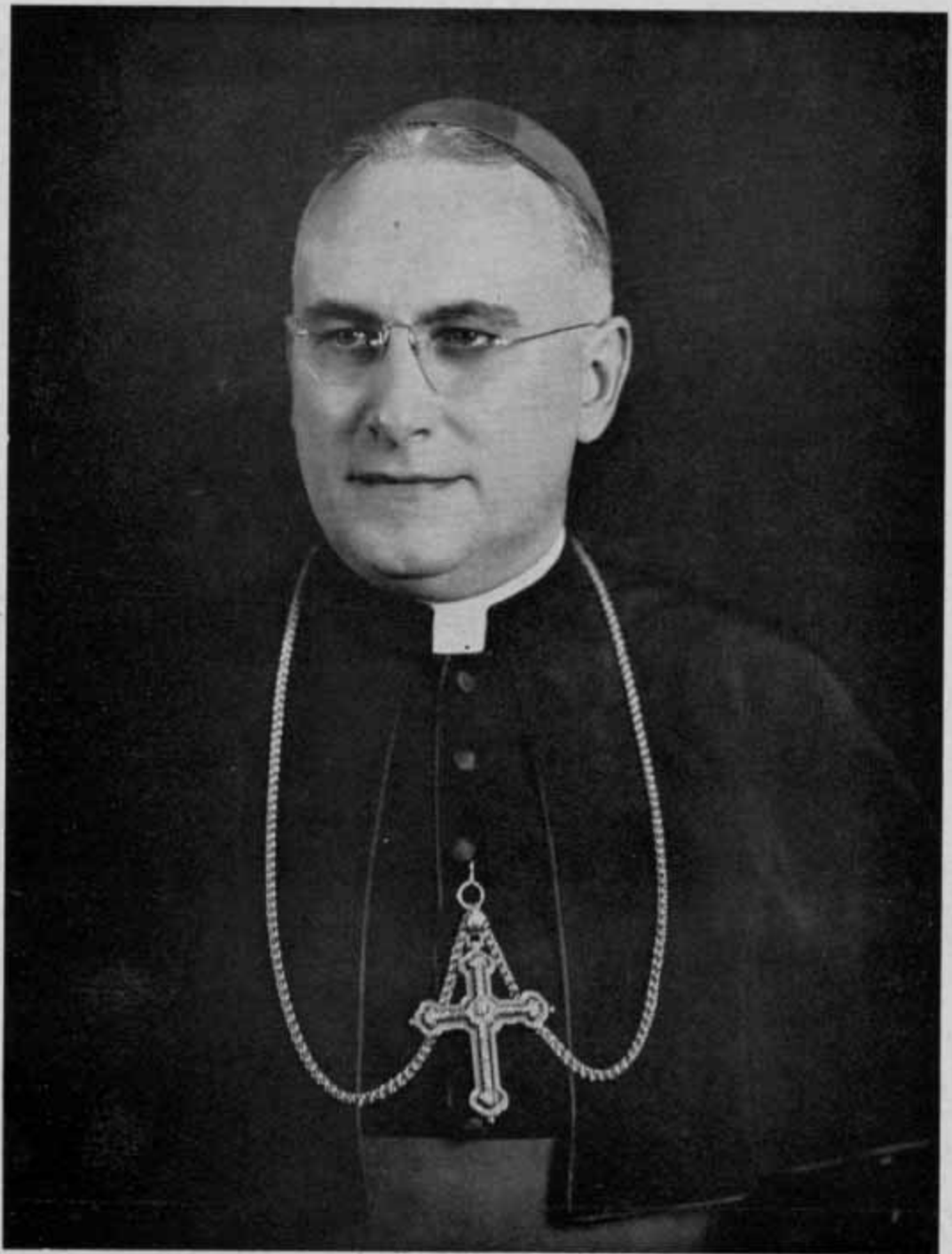




"Permit the Little Children to Come to Me"

His Excellency the Most Reverend Edwin Vincent O'Hara D.D., L.L.D., and K.C.H.S.

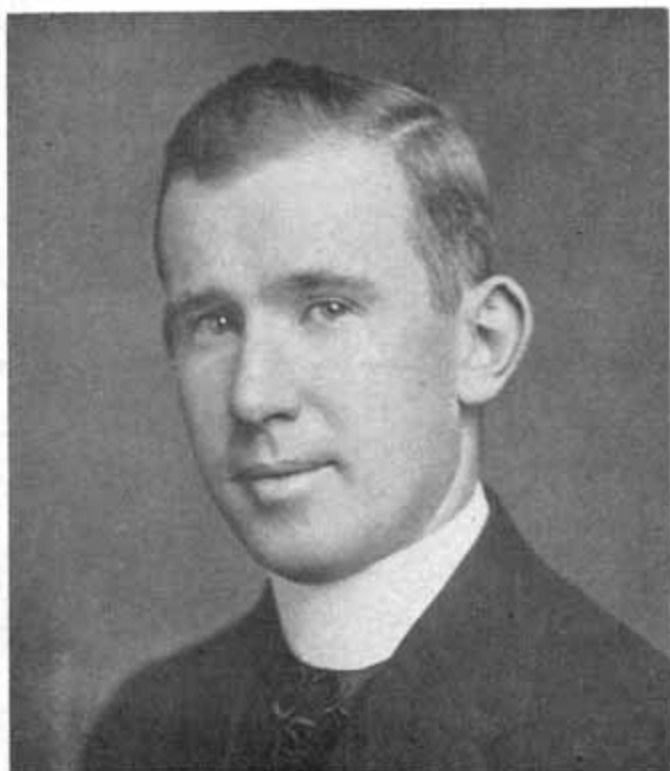
Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City



Most Reverend Joseph M. Marling, Bishop of Thasus

**Auxiliary Bishop
of the
Diocese of Kansas City**

Former Pastors of St. Catherine's



Reverend Thomas Kane



Reverend Michael Ahern



Reverend James P. Nichol



Reverend Bernard J. Hale



Our Pastor

Reverend Joseph Ruysser

It is with grateful thanksgiving that we offer our prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the many blessings given St. Catherine's during these past twenty-five years.

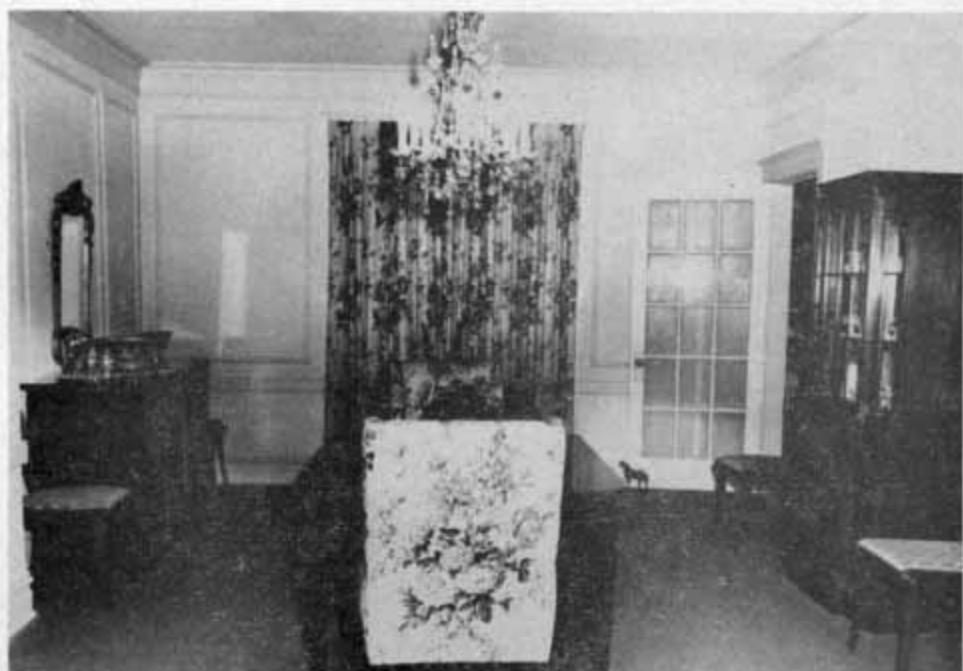
Since the day Bishop Lillis appointed Father Thomas Kane as pastor, St. Catherine's has been blessed with spiritual men who have watched over the flock and have seen the faith and devotion of the people fructify.

We are deeply grateful to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary who have been in charge of our School since its opening. We thank the good people of St. Catherine's and the friends of the parishoners for their wonderful zeal their intense interest and whole-hearted sacrifices and generosity who have helped make this day a happy occasion.

Sincerely,
Rev. Joseph C. Ruysser



Walsh Estate and Church



Living room
of the present Frank
Bosch home, formerly the
Walsh residence, where
the first Mass
was said.



Dining room
where
Confessions were heard.



"With the implicit confidence of children, we have placed St. Catherine's under the direction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The work to be done at St. Catherine's cannot be accomplished without their aid. Instinctively our hearts turn to them and we feel that any success we might enjoy. . .



. . . we will owe to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His Blessed Mother, and to our patron Saint, St. Catherine of Sienna."

St. Catherine's New School

. . . a sound investment

St. Catherine's new school, built of solid construction, with the latest and best appointments for educational purposes, provides for nearly one hundred and fifteen of our children. After the Tabernacle, which radiates the love of Christ and His faith, there is no parochial unit that yields the dividends for the building of faith and maintaining it as the school in a Catholic parish.

St. Catherine's parish provides its children with as fine a school building as can be found in the United States.





TOP: All School Children; RIGHT: First Holy Communion Day; RIGHT: Graduation Class.



Our Sisters

Our school is staffed by the Sisters of Charity of the B. V. M. of Dubuque, Iowa. Our principal is Sister Mary Agnes Helen and with her are Sister Mary Trinita, Sister Mary Casilda and Sister Mary Reginaldi.

The following sisters formerly were stationed at St. Catherine's: Sister Mary Candida, Sister Mary Anthony, Sister M. Anne Isabelle, Sister Mary Carissima, Sister M. Rose Catherine, Sister Mary Oliver, Sister Mary St. Xavier, Sister Mary Robert Ann, Sister Mary Ellen Therese. The entire parish is grateful to all these wonderful sisters not only for their guidance of our children but for the inspiration they are to all.



Since there is no adequate way in which to repay them we can only express our undying appreciation of the devotion and time which they give in the education of our little ones and assure them that they are ever in our thoughts.



School Bus

George Arnone
driver



Our School Lunch Program

One of our many ambitions was realized last year with the beginning of the school lunch program. The children receive hot, appetizing and well-balanced meals. The beneficial effect of this program on growing children is well borne out by government statistics. The children and parents appreciate the pioneering of Mrs. Lucille Petted in this project, which today is being so capably handled by Mrs. Frank Horn and Mrs. Huey Thompson.



John Kilmer



Walter Axtell, Jr.



Fred Miller



Wm. Farren



Harold Cramer



Jos. Goetz

Church Committee

This group of parish leaders on finance and other matters dealing with the physical side of the parish, work closely with the pastor. The present members are: John Kilmer, Walter Axtell, Jr., Fred Miller, Wm. Farren, Harold Cramer and Jos. Goetz.



Enos Axtell



Wm. Farren



John Kilmer



Mike Kelly



Gerald Borserine



Walter Axtell, Jr.

Much of the work of obtaining pledges from parishioners and friends outside of the parish has been carried on by the Holy Name Society. The men alone have cooked and served a number of very successful dinners and have always cooperated in the various undertakings of the other parish societies. Many new names have been added to the membership list and the attendance on the monthly Communion Sunday is steadily increasing. This year the men are led by these officers: Enos Axtell, president; Wm. Farren, vice-president; John Kilmer, secretary; Mike Kelly, treasurer; Gerald Borserine, chairman of men's dinner committee; Walter Axtell, delegate.

Holy Name Society



A Successful Venture

These are some of the cattle sold at the auction this year. This successful venture of the Holy Name Society, which was the inspiration of Mr. Enos Axtell, has developed surprisingly during the last few years.

Choir

The Mass for this very memorable occasion is sung by the parish choir which is conducted by Mrs. Wm. Farren, who is also the organist. The members from left to right, are: Dorothy Corteville, Bernard Sullivan, Mrs. Mary Pepper, Louis Emert, Virginia Walsh, Mrs. Mary Ellen Emert and Mrs. Farren.



Walt Kurzweil



John Fehlig



James Felder



Andy Gately



Chas. Miller



Leo Schmitz

Ushers

This group of men are at the service of the parish at all Sunday Masses, on Holydays of Obligation, and for all special devotions to see that there is order and administer to the physical needs of the people. They are: Walter Kurzweil, John Fehlig, James Felder, Andy Gately, Charles Miller, Leo Schmitz, Louis Emert, Robert Bowes, Jr.



Louis Emert



Robt. Bowes, Jr.



Altar Boys

These boys receive instructions for serving the Mass under the direction of the Sisters.

25 Years at St. Catherine's

A quarter of a century ago this month, Saint Catherine's Parish, Hickman Mills, was founded with the sanction of the late Most Reverend Thomas F. Lillis.

It was through the inspiration of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Walsh that the permission was granted. Through their labors and with the assistance of Mr. Tom Mullins the necessary information as to the need of a parish in this locale was obtained.

At that time only thirty-five Catholics were known to reside in the vicinity. The Walsh family offered the use of their home for religious services until a permanent Church could be erected.

The Story of St. Catherine's parish from that time until the present is one of **MRS. FRANK P. WALSH** consistent growth and development.



The late Reverend Thomas F. Kane was appointed pastor and on November 22, 1925, the first Mass was offered on the feast of St. Cecelia with fifty-eight persons in attendance. The Altar was set up in the living room of the Walsh residence, the present home of the Frank Bosch family. Mass was offered there for thirteen months. Confessions were heard in the dining room.



FRANK P. WALSH

In 1926 our present Church and rectory were built. The idea of the style of the building was obtained from a Catholic chapel in Virginia where George Washington once attended.

On Christmas day in the year 1926 the first Mass was offered in the new Church.

In October of 1931 Father M. J. Ahern was appointed pastor. The Reverend James P. Nichol,

well-remembered by many of the present parishioners, succeeded Father Ahern. Shortly after Father Nichol arrived he made arrangements for the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth who were teaching at St. Louis School to come out every Sunday morning to teach Sunday school.

During the summer months these same Sisters conducted a vacation school for one month each year. Father Nichol rounded up the students each morning driving as far as Belton for some. So much credit for the strong faith instilled in the young people during these years should be given these good Sisters and Father Nichol.

Anyone who has had a part in our annual carnival dinners during the last few years will note with interest that so far back as 1934 chicken dinners were being served on St. Catherine's lawn. These dinners became a regular summer affair; later on, some were held on the grounds of what was then the Automobile Club at 110th and Grandview Road. In the fall months a ham dinner was usually held in conjunction with a bazaar.

The Reverend B. J. Hale followed Father Nichol. It was during Father Hale's pastorate that the building was remodeled to serve its present purposes. The first project was the excavation of the basement during '41. This hall served the parish for dinners and meetings until the new school was erected.

Upon the completion of the hall, work was immediately begun on a new rectory on the north side of the Church so that the old one might be



A NEW RECTORY IS ADDED

remodeled for a Sisters' convent in anticipation of a school.

On September 7, 1942, Labor Day, His Excellency, Bishop O'Hara blessed the new buildings and reblessed the original ones. The next day the first classes in St. Catherine's school assembled—



SCHOOL IS DEDICATED

forty-two pupils in all. The original faculty consisted of Sister M. Candida, superior; Sister M. Anthony, Sister M. Carissima and Sister M. Anne Isabelle.

As Hickman Mills and Grandview became more and more just suburbs of Kansas City, families moved out of the city and St. Catherine's school attendance grew proportionately until during the 1946-47 term there were just too many students for the three small rooms. The outcome of a meeting of the men to discuss the situation was that plans were drawn up for a new school.

The actual building of the school itself did not get under way until late summer and on October 4, 1947, His Excellency, Bishop Marling, Auxiliary Bishop of Kansas City, was present for the laying of the cornerstone.

Finally in September of 1948 the school itself was open and there were bright smiles on the faces of both the children and Sisters as they took their places in the shiny new and completely modern classrooms.

The priests who were sent by the Bishop to assist Father Hale certainly deserve special ment-

ion at this time. The Reverend Richard Schumacher served as Administrator for several months. Fathers Francis Weir, Francis McAuliffe, Wm. O'Brien, Leo Boyle and L. C. Boehm all served as assistants to Father Hale for various periods of time. During the last few years the Jesuit Fathers of Rockhurst College have also become familiar figures around the Church.

The wisdom of our good Bishop in assigning the Rev. Joseph Ruysser as the new pastor of St. Catherine's in February of 1949 has been commended many times by our parishioners. At the time of his arrival St. Catherine's faced a debt which to many seemed overwhelming.

In celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of St. Catherine's parish we cannot fail to have a deep awareness of the contribution which Father Ruysser has made toward the enrichment of our lives.

In a rural parish such as we have the task has been most difficult. And we cannot fail to express our admiration for his wisdom and nobility of character and our gratitude for his invaluable services to the parish to which he has been recently appointed.

On this occasion we salute him and take pride in the fact that it has been our great privilege to know him and honor him on this — Our Silver Jubilee.



CORNERSTONE IS LAID



The development of the Altar Society during the last several years — in both spiritual and temporal affairs — its activities and its progress—is a source of very just pride for all the parish.

Monthly luncheons and business meetings, on the first Tuesday following the regular Communion Sunday, always well attend-



ed, are a fine display of the initiative and cooperation of this group whose officers for the current year are: Mrs. John Livers, president; Mrs. G. L. Borserine, vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Molinaro, secretary; and Mrs. C. Coleman, treasurer. Mrs. Pat Cornforth, telephone committee.

Above: Altar Society Luncheon.

Below: Altar Society Officers.

Altar Society

Ann Bosch,
director of the
Needle and Thread Club



Virginia Walsh
and
Mrs. Jos. Goetz
promoters of
Our Lady of Fatima Devotion



Chairmen of Committees, left to right: Mrs. Angela Burton, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Mrs. Elsie Stegmaier, P.-T. A.; Mrs. Dee Martell, Mother Cabrini Society; Mrs. Mary Goetz, Altar Linens; Mrs. Mary Fox and Mrs. Florence Adams, C. Y. C. sponsors.



Kitchen and Dining Room Chairmen: Mrs. Betty Plunkett, Mrs. Mary Ellen Emert, Mrs. Betty Smith.

Catholic Youth Council

The Catholic Youth Council has taken its place among the active organizations of the parish during the last several years and has assisted in all of the large undertakings. In addition the members have carried on their own program in



Matthew Fox

both spiritual and social affairs. Lessons in ballroom and square dancing, picnics, hayrides, skating and swimming parties and frequent Communion breakfasts are enjoyed by the young men and women who are part of this vital organization.

The officers for this year are: Matthew Fox, president; Charles Adams, vice-president; Rose Marie Effertz, secretary; and Mary Lou Axtell, treasurer.

Our Carnival

The fame and reputation of the Carnival and fried chicken dinner, which is always a part of it, has spread so that today there is scarcely a Catholic in the diocese or a non-Catholic in the neighborhood who is not familiar with "St. Catherine's Annual Carnival."

This last summer almost fifteen hundred dinners were served during Saturday evening and Sunday.

The cooperation of everyone in the parish in manning the booths, conducting the games and carrying out the numerous details is legend.



**Wm. Farren
Chairman**

Silver Jubilee Committee

Many long hours of work were spent by each of these persons in his own task in an effort to make our Silver Jubilee a complete success.



**Dr. Joseph Molinaro
Chairman**



**Mr. Joseph Goetz
Co-chairman**



**Mrs. Harold Cramer
Silver Jubilee Tea Chairman**



**Mrs. Martha Brady
Advertising Chm.**



**Mr. Harold Cramer
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