

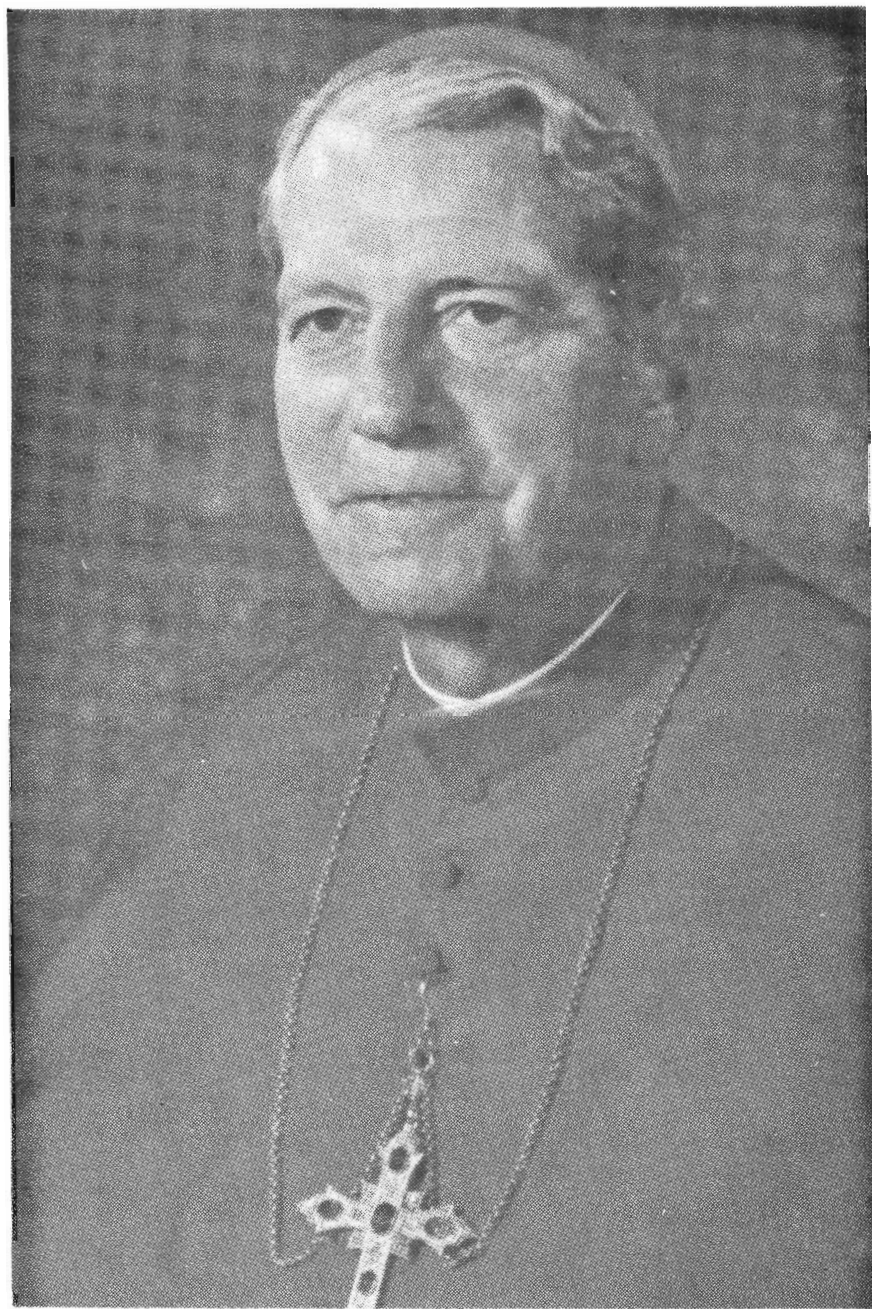
**100th Anniversary
of
St. John Nepomuc
Parish**

**Prairie du Chien,
Wisconsin**

1891 1991

100th ANNIVERSARY
OF
ST. JOHN NEPOMUC PARISH
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WISCONSIN
1891 1991

Compiled by
Beatrice Jean Check



The Most Reverend John Paul, D.D.

Bishop of LaCrosse



The Most Reverend Frederick W. Freking, D. D.

Auxillary Bishop of LaCrosse



The Present Church

FOREWORD

A message from the Pastor, Fr. Hubert Boschert, S.J.

100 years ago our ancestors in faith had a vision of their own parish wherein many of their Czech traditions could continue to be nurtured and so they set about establishing a parish church, then a rectory, and then a convent and school. Over the years, the church, rectory, convent and school were each replaced once and now most recently the church has undergone a renovation and the rectory and convent have switched locations. All of these are external things that can be seen and touched and I make reference to them on the occasion of the centennial only because I feel deeply that each of them have mirrored the ongoing developing faith of each generation here at St. John's. And what a beautiful faith that has been and is!

As generations have passed, the ethnic individuality of the parish has lessened to a certain extent and at this point it is the manifestation of the faith practices of this parish family, whatever their ethnic heritage, that gives significance and value to our unique identity. As the people of 100 years ago and down through each decade have been strong in their relationships, so we continue to be strong in our present relations. And how beautifully the Holy Spirit has manifested its presence in our midst: today with all of our pride and gratitude for the heritage that started us out, how grateful we are that we seemingly are focused much more on our Catholic faith and have been able to grow from strengthening our own Faith family circle to reaching outside of ourselves to strengthen our relations with our brothers and sisters at St. Gabriel's and with so many of our separated brothers and sisters in the faith belonging to the various Christian denominations in town.

As the first 100 years have seen some powerful manifestations of God's activity in our midst, so let us enter into the next years with the strong faith conviction that He will not abandon us but rather will continue to work out His beautiful will in, through, and for us if we just keep up our efforts to be open to His inspiration and cooperative with His graces. May God bless each and everyone of the parish family!



Czechoslovakia was changed to Czecho-Slovenko in 1979.

Czechoslovakia is composed of three distinct regions:

CESKE (Bohemia)

MORAVA (Moravia)

SLOENSKO (Slovakia)

Early History

The early history dates back to 500 A.D., and was inhabited by the Alpine Boii Tribe, a slavic people. The Romans named Bohemia after the Boii. The Cechs migrated to the area under a chieftan named Jan Cech or Cechus.

About 800 A. D. the slavic tribes joined to form the Moravian Empire. In 900 A.D. the Premyslide family ruled the country. Bohemia became a semi-independent country under the Holy Roman Empire, during this time.

Charles IV ruled from 1346 to 1378. This was the cultural peak and Prague, or Praha, was the leading city.

Civil wars began in 1415 and in the late 1400's Polish kings ruled Bohemia. In 1526 Bohemia became part of the Hapsburg Empire of Austria.

In 1618 the Thirty Years War touched off a Czech revolt. In 1620 the Battle of White Mountain found the Hapsburg armies in control and the country was divided into three provinces, Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia.

THE CECHE (Bohemian) IMMIGRATION

Augustine Herrman, was the first Czech immigrant. He arrived in America in 1633.

The greatest influx of immigrants started in 1848, and continued until the 1890's. Many of the early immigrants were well educated, patriotic men who could no longer live in society in Cechy because they had taken an active part in the general revolutionary movement in Europe.

The immigrants did not call their country Bohemia, but Cechy. They did not call themselves Bohemians, but Cechs, sometimes written Chekhs. This is important to a number of our older parishioners, whom we need to understand, to realize the importance the new Cech Church had for them and their parents.

The first immigrants came to enjoy the blessings of freedom; the later immigrants came to improve their material prospects by escaping from industrial and agricultural depression.

The first Cechs came and stayed in Ohio or Chicago for a few years working before they came to this area.

They would buy provisions they needed, a cow, a plow, horses and a wagon, and then continue their journey to the farmland in Wisconsin. When they arrived, if they had saved enough money, they bought a few acres of land. They built a log cabin, and a lean-to for a barn.

Later they would save money to send for relatives to come to join them.

The railroad was finished in 1857 to Prairie du Chien, and it was a much faster means of travel.

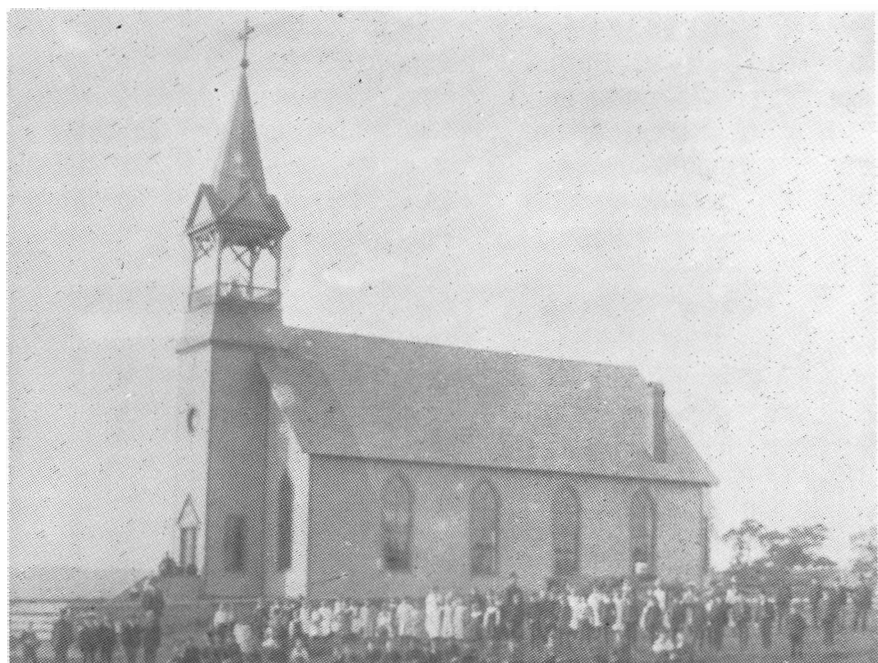
The Cechs liked Wisconsin as a farming community. The climate resembled Cechy (Bohemia) and Moravia.

Many of the Cechs settled in the Milwaukee, Green Bay, Eau Claire, Hillsboro, and Prairie du Chien areas.

It was hard coming from the old country. The people were used to small villages like Vodnany. Vodnany had a village square in the center, the churches, homes, businesses and farm buildings were built close around the square. The people went out to the surrounding countryside to farm and work the land. Here in America the farms and people were scattered farther apart. So many different nationalities, many different languages they couldn't understand. They longed for a church of their own, a pastor who would administer the sacraments, and preach in their language, and a school for their children.

As I write the history of Saint John Nepomuc Parish, I want to remember the words of the song; "The Prayer of Saint Francis". "Make me a channel of thy peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love. Where there is injury, your pardon Lord, and where there is doubt true faith in you. O Master, grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love, with all my soul."

I also want to remember Vatican II and the different ideas that came from it. The church is not just a building, even though it is sacred and holy. It is a people; parishioners, sisters, priests, bishops, right up to the Pope. It is what they believe, their songs, liturgy, everything combined make up the church.



ORIGIN OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH

In the 1880's many people of Bohemian descent came to the Prairie du Chien area. They were served by the then Jesuit pastors of St. Gabriel's. Many of the parishioners spoke and understood Bohemian, and it was decided it was best to build a new Bohemian church.

Right Reverend Bishop Flasch appointed Father George Kiefner, to organize the church. Mr. John Lawler was approached by some Bohemian residents, with a request for a plot of ground for the necessary parish buildings. James Reiseman, Albert Kalina, and Charles Kalina were thought to be the men who asked. Mr. Lawler granted the request for the land for the church and the rectory.

Frank Uher, Vavclav Lechnir, Albert Cecka, and Frank Fuka were also very active in the work involved organizing the new church.

Father Kiefner began organizing the funds needed. A small plant, building small craft for the government closed. Many Bohemians were without livelihood, and didn't feel they could shoulder the burden. Father Kiefner went to other parishes in Wisconsin, and Chicago for his plea for funds.

In a local newspaper, The Courier, dated June 30, 1891, the following item appeared: "The Bohemians of St. Gabriel's

Congregation of this city have decided to build a new church. They received a donation of building lots near St. Mary's Institute for the new church. This liberal gift is from the Lawler estate."

This was the last official act of Mr. Lawler as he died shortly after granting the request.

Laying the Cornerstone

Shortly afterward work began on the foundation. Farmers donated the stone, and Frank Rod, Frank Zeman, and Frank Kasparek did the masonry work.

Another article appeared in the Courier under the date of September 8, 1891. It read as follows:

"The customary formalities of laying the cornerstone were fully observed in Prairie du Chien on Sunday, August 30, 1891, at 2 P.M. Several Catholic societies, the Bohemian St. Joseph's Society, the Knights of St. Wenceslaus, Lodge 129, and the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, branch No. 9, formed in procession on Church Street and escorted the Reverend Father George Kiefner, Father A. Phillip Kremer, and their attendants from St. Gabriel's Church to the foundation of the new Bohemian Catholic Church on Minnesota Street, east of St. Mary's Institute. The grounds enclosed by a substantial fence, were filled with people and a dense crowd pressed up to the fence outside to see and hear".

The usual ceremonies were observed by the clergymen. Reverend Father Kiefner delivered an address to the Bohemians in their own language. Father A. Phillip Kremer gave an address in English.

The Dedication

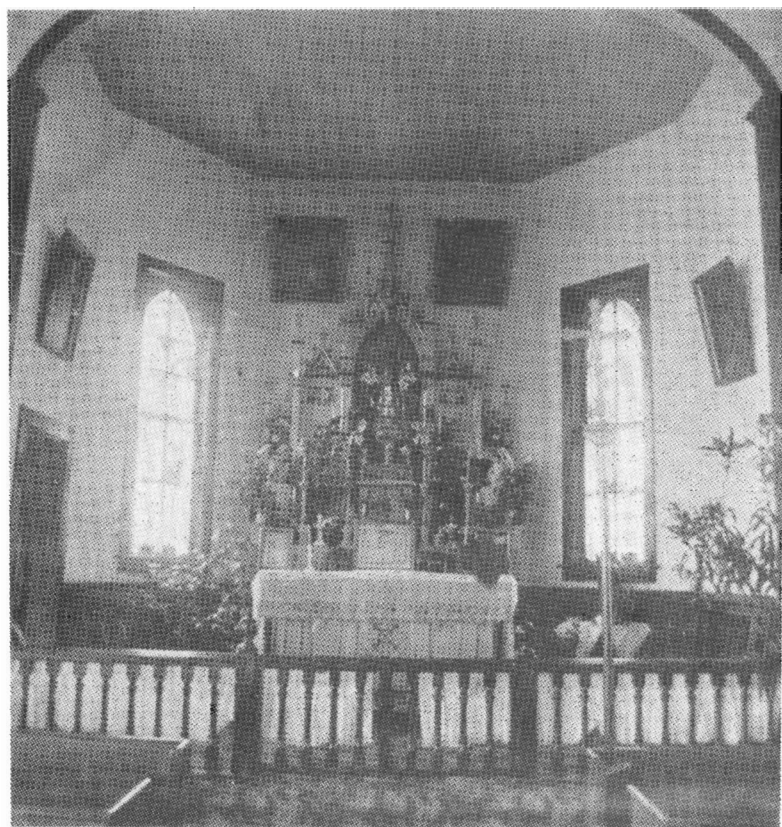
The Courier gives an account of the event as follows:

"On Sunday, December 13, 1891, the Bohemian Catholic Church was dedicated by Reverend Father Schwebach, administrator of the LaCrosse diocese."

The Reverend Father was assisted by Reverend A. Phillip Kremer, deacon, Reverend Father Steffan, subdeacon, and Father Kiefner, master of ceremonies. The beautiful and impressive

assemblage of people, including several Bohemian societies, marched in procession, headed by the Northwestern Band, to the church site.

The "Catholic Church in Wisconsin" informs us the church building cost six thousand dollars, and the "History of Bohemian Americans" printed in 1910, states it was completed without debt.



The Church Interior

The interior of the church was nicely decorated. The walls had scriptural paintings. The size of the interior was 36 X 60 feet with a 19 foot ceiling.

The patron Saint John Nepomuc statue was placed in a niche on the high altar. The scene of the Charles IV Bridge over the Moldau, where St. John was cast into the stream was painted behind by Frank Kautman.



Patron Saint

St. John Nepomuc was born at Nepomuc, a small town in Bohemia, about the year 1330. His early education was directed toward the service of God. He went to the University of Prague, and he was distinguished in philosophy, divinity, and canon law.

After his ordination to the priesthood he was given charge of the parish of Our Lady of Tein. King Wenceslaus, the ruler of Bohemia, summoned him to preach the Lenten services at the court. The empress was touched by the divine unction of the holy preacher, and chose him to hear her confession.

King Wenceslaus wanted John Nepomuc to disclose the empress's confession. John tried to explain in a respectful manner how injurious such a sacrilege would be to reason and religion.

John was thrown into a dungeon, tortured on the rack and after a final futile attempt to force John to reveal the empress's confession to the King, the King ordered him bound hand and foot, and thrown

into the river. He was cast into the Muldow River from the Bridge that joins Great and Little Prague on the Vigil of Ascension Day, May 16, 1383.

Saint John's remains rest in the cathedral at Prague. Saint John has been honored in Bohemia as a martyr from the time of his death. Pope Innocent the XIII decreed his beatification in 1721, and his canonization was published by Pope Benedict the XIII in 1729.

Our statue of St. John Nepomucene was carved by Frank Kautman whose decedents still belong to our parish. The original statue had a wreath in his hand, but the wreath fell and broke. A palm branch has replaced the wreath.

Saint John's statue is in the niche on the north wall of the church.

LIFE OF SAINT JOHN NEPOMUC, OUR PATRON SAINT

Saint John Nepomuc's family name was Wolflein, or Welfin. He was born between 1340 and 1350, in the town of Nepomuk or Pomuk. He studied at the University of Prague, which had recently been founded by Emperor Charles IV, king of Bohemia. Later on he held various ecclesiastical posts, and eventually became the vicar general to the Archbishop of Prague, John of Genzenstein.

Emperor Charles IV died at Prague in 1378, and was succeeded by his son Wenceslaus IV, who was a vicious young man who gave way to fits of rage, in which he would perpetuate acts of cruelty. John of Pomuck received the offer of the bishopric of Litomerice, which he refused. There is no evidence of this or that he was appointed almoner and confessor to the king's wife. King Wenceslaus IV was himself unfaithful, and extremely jealous, and was suspicious of his wife. Tradition widely credited in Bohemia to this day, attributes the martyrdom of St. John Nepomuc to the resentment of the king because the holy St. John refused to reveal the substance of the queen's confessions. No mention of this is in contemporary documents, for forty years after his violent death, or his torture in prison.

In 1393 Wenceslaus IV wanted to found a new diocese at Kladrau. To furnish a cathedral and endowment, he wanted to confiscate the revenues and church of the Benedictine abbey of Kladrau, as soon as the old abbot would die. This was strenuously opposed by Archbishop John of Genzenstein and by Saint John Nepomuc as his

vicar general. A new abbot was elected by the monks, and ratified by the archbishop, and his vicar generals. The king was informed at the same moment of the death of the old abbot, and the institution of the new abbot. Wenceslaus had one of his raging temper tantrums. He confronted the vicar generals, and other dignitaries. He struck the aged dean, Boheslaus, on the head with the hilt of his sword; and ordered them to be tortured. He applied a burning torch to the side of St. John and to the side of Nicholas Puchnik, his coadjutor.

St John was dying of his injuries and so to get rid of him, Wenceslaus IV ordered St. John's body be trussed up, "like a wheel", his heels tied to his head; a gag was forced into his mouth, and he was born secretly through the streets of Karlsbrucke, and cast into the river Moldau. This was on March 20, 1393. His body was washed ashore the next morning, and was immediately recognized. It was later buried in cathedral of St. Vitus, where it is today.

On the old bridge a metal plate, adorned with seven stars, marks the place where St. John was cast into the river. A story tells that on the night of the murder seven stars hovered over the water.

Saint John Nepomuc is the principal patron of Bohemia, where he is invoked for help against floods, against slander, as well as for help to make a good confession.

We celebrate his feast day on May 17th.

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Father George Kiefner



Pastor 1881-1899

Father George Kiefner was the first pastor at St. John's. He was born at Mlynec near Domazlice, Bohemia on May 1, 1863. In 1881 he emigrated to the United States.

His education began at Mlynec. He attended the Gymnase at Domazlice. His education in this country took him to the Benedictine College of St. Vincent, Pa. He completed his studies of philosophy, and theology at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, WI.

He was ordained to the priesthood by the Right Reverend Bishop Flasch at LaCrosse, WI., June 24, 1889. He was appointed to organize the new Bohemian Parish at Prairie du Chien in 1891.

Father Kiefner died in Mankato, Minnesota, on January 12, 1938 after spending many years of invalidism at the hospital in Mankato.

The First Records -

The first baptism was Emelia Johanana Mara, daughter of Joseph Mara and Christina Bebel

The first marriage was Joseph Svoboda and Josephine Opat.

The first funeral was for Albert Svoboda.



The First Rectory

Father Kiefner lived in a house about a mile from Saint John's. He traveled to the church and to Saint Wenceslaus in Eastman on his grey horse. The horse was killed by a train on the Milwaukee Railroad, whose tracks ran close to his home.

The first rectory was built in 1893. The building was directly south of the present convent. Father Kiefner resided at the rectory from 1893 until 1899. He had a brief absence from July to October 1897, when he returned to Bohemia for a visit. On his return he brought a small statue of the Infant of Prague, which was placed in the church.

The first Confirmation was held on September 30, 1894. There were eighty-three confirmants.

President Benjamin Harrison was in office in 1891, when the new Cech Church was built.

In 1893 President Grover Cleveland was elected, and President William McKinley followed in 1897.

President Theodore Roosevelt came into office with his election in 1901.

Father Xavier Till

Father Xavier Till was born in Chrudim, East Bohemia, December 12, 1861. He was ordained to priesthood at Koeniggratz, Bohemia, July 5, 1885. He was appointed pastor at St. John's the latter part of December 1898. During his pastorate, art glass windows were installed. They were donated by individual parishioners. The belfry was enclosed to the inclement weather. Father Till was pastor until August 1901. He died May 4, 1921 while serving as chaplain of an orphanage near St. Louis, Missouri.



Pastor 1898-1901

Father Kiefner Reappointed

Father Kiefner was reappointed pastor of St. John's in August 1901.



St. John's Church, and School
1902

School children attended classes at St. Mary's Parochial School until classes began here on September 16, 1902.

The teachers at St. Mary's were Sister Philotea Nolte, who died in October, 1931; and Sister Notker Finley, who died in June, 1920; both are buried at St. Gabriel's Cemetery.



School Interior

In the summer of 1902 Mrs. Katherine Lawler of Kansas City, Missouri, and her son Thomas of Dubuque, Iowa gave a plot of ground, across the street from the church, as a gift for the new school building.

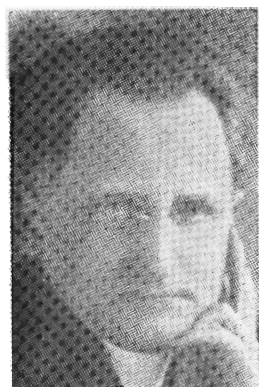
The new school was dedicated on Thursday, September 11, 1902. The Very Reverend A. Phillip Kremer, V.G. officiated, assisted by Reverend A.J. Joerres and Reverend J.M. Keeley.

The school had two classrooms.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame were in charge of the school. They lived at St. Mary's Institute.

The Sisters were:

<u>Name of Sister</u>	<u>Date</u>
Philotea Nolte	- 1901
Cyrillus Cekanek	1901-1903
Cordula Rogosinski	1903-1904
Notker Finley	- 1903



Father Ferdinand Cech

Father Cech, pastor at St. Wenceslaus, Eastman took care of the parish from August, 1904 until October, 1905.

Father Cech was born July 30, 1878 at Jindrichov, Moravia, Austria. He attended the Gymnase at Kromeriz in Moravia and studied theology at Olomoue, where he was ordained to priesthood July 5, 1902 by The Most Reverend Archbishop Theodore Kohn.

Pastor 1904-1905

Father Anthony Bilik

Father Bilik was born at Tubesy, near Velehrad, Moravia, June 13, 1873. During his pastorate the sanctuary was remodeled, the sacristy was enlarged, and the entire church was redecorated. Frank Kautman did the redecorating. Plumbing and electric lights were installed in the rectory.

Father Bilik contracted the flu, during the epidemic that was prevalent in 1918. He died at the



1905-1918
Pastor

rectory October 16, 1918. Funeral services were October 18, 1918, and he is buried directly behind St. Gabriel's church.

During the interval from Father Bilik's death until Father Smetana came, the Jesuit Fathers of Campion took care of the parish.

The First Communicants

1905.

The first Communicants in earlier years were much older than they are today. They usually made a Solemn Communion when they were about 12 to 14 years of age. These names that were recorded by Sister Maxentia in 1905 were probably some of the newest members of the new Cech church. They started their schooling at St. Mary's Institute and came to the new St. John's school when it opened.

Sister Maxentia had their names recorded in English.

Bouzek, Rose	Tauberman, Mary
Fuka, Anne	Polodna, Frances
Hanzal, Mary	Plihal, Mary
Kovanda, Clotilda	Prochaska, Anne
Kozelka, Alvina	Polodna, Anne
Mára, Anne	Strnad, Rose
Mára, Emily	Valenta, Mary
Bilý, Joseph	Novák, Wenceslaus
Bauer, John	Pajer, Francis
Čečka, Adalbert	Pribyl, Francis
Částka, Edward	Svoboda, Adolph
Ceplecha, Edward	Tauberman, Thomas
Foršt, Joseph	Vaňek, Francis
Habart, John	Vachyta, Charles
Kautman, Wenceslaus	Voneš, Anthony
Loudna, Francis	Zeman, Edward
Mára, Charles	

1907

Bouzek, Adolph
 Beneš, Edward
 Bohoňek, Felix
 Čečka, Joseph
 Částka, Wenceslaus
 Kautman, Adalbert
 Ludvik, Anthony
 Lechníř, Alfred
 Polodna, George
 Slama, Charles
 Taubl, Charles
 Šíma, Frances
 Šíbr, Anne

Bauer, Mary
 Hanzal, Anne
 Habbart, Anne
 Kozelka, Mathilda
 Lechníř, Hattie
 Loudna, Mary
 Mezera, Christina
 Mezera, Mary
 Polodna, Elizabeth
 Polodna, Helen
 Rod, Mary
 Štěpán, Josephine
 Vavruška, Anne

Please remember some of these children went to the out lying country schools. When it was time for them to receive their Solemn Communion they would live with a relative in town and attend St. John's school for a few weeks.

1908

Laňka, Leo
 Novák, Andrew
 Rod, Emmanuel
 Šahák, Francis
 Šíbr, Wenceslaus
 Sláma, Edward
 Vaňek, Charles
 Valenta, Edward
 Valenta, George
 Zeman, George

Fuka, Mary
 Čejka, Rose
 Příbyl, Mary
 Procházka, Mary

1909

Ceplěcha, Wenceslaus
 Čečka, Rudolph
 Hanzal, John
 Koreš, Stephen
 Kozelka, Emmanuel
 Pulda, Anthony

Bilý, Anne
 Habbart, Helen
 Mezera, Christina
 Mezera, Albina
 Mezera, Christina
 Polodna, Mary
 Tomsícek, Dora
 Tauberman, Bessie

Sister Adelberta recorded the names from 1909 through 1916.

1910

Fuka, Joseph	Fuka, Wenceslaus
Ludvick, Francis	Beneš, Henry
Cějka, Joseph	Māra, Edward
Plihal, Cyril	Polodna, George
Příbyl, Wenceslaus	Kašparek, Mary
Lechníř, Albina	Māra, Anne
Mezera, Barbara	Kautman, Mary
Panka, Rose	Polodna, Elizabeath
Popelak, Mary	Slāma, Ludmila
Valenta, Irene	

In a Catholic Cech school children learned about their religion, before they could make their Holy Communion.

They learned about God (Bůh) the Father (Otec), Christ (Kristus) Jesus (Ježíš) was His son (syn) and Our (Nas) Savior (Zachrance).

They learned about the Holy Bible (Bible Svatý). The Old (Stary) Testament (Zákon).

They learned about the angels (anděl) in heaven (nebe), and the devil (dábel) in hell (peklo).

They learned to pray (prosit) and go to church (kotel).

1911

Bohonek, Jindřick
Bouzek, Jiří
Dohse, Elmer
Bouzek, Karel
Hanzal, Ondrej
Kautman, František
Paulus, Eduard
Polodna, Vilém
Pulda, Vilém
Slāma, Raimund
Sima, Josef
Stanek, Josef
Tomšicek, Jan

1911 in English

Bohonek, Henry
Bouzek, George
Dohse, Elmer
Bouzek, Charles
Hanzal, Andrew
Kautman, Frank
Paulus, Edward
Polodna, William
Pulda, William
Slama, Raymond
Sima, Joseph
Stanek, Joseph
Tomsicek, (Check) John

Bily, Helena
 Dvorák, Klara
 Fuka, Helena
 Habbart, Anastasia
 Kautman, Anastacia
 Koniček, Markéta
 Lanka, Helena
 Pajer, Alžběta
 Panka, Anna
 Polodna, Anežka
 Pulda, Laura
 Sahák, Marie
 Sibr, Alžběta
 Tauberman, Josefa
 Valenta, Emilie
 Vaňek, Cecílie
 Vavruška, Marie
 Zeman, Alžběta
 Kautman, Karel

Bily, Helen
 Dovorak, Clara
 Fuka, Helen
 Hubbard, Stasia
 Kautman, Stacia
 Konicek, Margaret
 Lanka, Helen
 Pajer, Elizabaeth
 Panka, Anna
 Polodna, Agnes
 Pulda, Laura
 Sahak, Mary
 Sibr, Elizabeth
 Toberman, Josephine
 Valenta, Emily
 Vanek, Cecilia
 Vavruska, Mary
 Zeman, Elizabeth
 Kautmen, Charles

Bread
 (Chéb)
 and
 Wine
 (Vino)



Body
 (Tělo)
 and
 Blood
 (Krev)

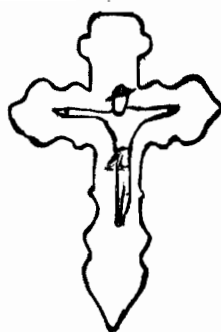
Slavnostní sv. přijímání
Solemn Celebration Holy Communion
June 23. 1912

Cech	narozeni Birth	English
Bouzek, Karel	10/28/1899	Bouzek, Charles
Bouzek, Tomáš	9/ 6/1899	Bouzek, Thomas
Čečka, Antonín	1/ 14/1899	Cecka, Anthony
Fuka, Jiří	1/ 26/1899	Fuka, George
Kašpárek, František	6/ 14/1899	Kaspárek, Frank
Kadlec, Rudolf	4/ 21/1899	Kadlec, Rudolph
Lukáš, Vavřiner	12/ 29/1899	Lukas, Lawrence
Mezera, Antonín	5/ 30/1899	Mezera, Anthony
Panka, Václav	7/ 6/1899	Panka, Vencil or Wenceslaus
Peloch, Eduard	1/ 22/1900	Peloch, Edward
Popelák, Stanislav	10/ 18/1899	Popelak, Stanley
Sahák, Vilem	5/ 27/1900	Sahak, William
Vaňek, Jindřich	10/ 9/1900	Vanek, Henry
Zeman, Raimond	2/ 15/1900	Zeman, Raymond
Beneš, Jiří	9/ 28/1898	Benish, George
Lanka, Lucie	2/ 16/1900	Lanka, Lucy
Lechniř, Helena	2/ 26/1901	Lechnir, Helen
Ludvik, Marie	8/ 16/1899	Ludvik, Mary
Lukáš, Anna	2/ 12/1901	Lukas, Anna
Mára, Helena	4/ 11/1900	Mara, Helen
Polodna, Anastasia	4/ 4/1901	Polodna, Stasia
Pulda, Emilie	11/ 5/1899	Pulda, Emily
Pribyl, Anna	11/ 8/1899	Pribyl, Anna
Strnad, Cecilie	8/ 9/1900	Strnad, Cecilia

THE CRUCIFIX

The Crucifix is the symbol of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe He died on the cross to save us, and help us get to heaven.

Cech families had a crucifix in every room of their homes in the olden days. Today you will find the crucifix somewhere in every Catholic home.



1912

Privatni první sv. přijímání
Bring First Holy Communion

Cech	Birth	English
Bilý, Karel	11/19/1902	Bily, Charles
Blažek, Martin	8/27/1901	Blazek, Martin
Hanzal, Richard	12/28/1901	Hanzal, Richard
Jelinek, Josef	1/19/1902	Jelinek, Joseph
Kozelka, Rudolf	3/ 9/1902	Kozelka, Rudolph
Lukáš, Alois	8/ 4/1902	Lukas, Aloysius
Mezera, Matěj	2/19/1902	Mezera, Michael
Mezera, Pavel	1/25/1902	Mezera, Paul
Peloch, Václav	8/23/1902	Peloch, Wenceslaus
Polodna, Tomáš	9/ 9/1902	Polodna, Thomas
Bouzek, Anežka	12/ 9/1901	Bouzek, Agnes
Bouzek, Marie	11/ 1/1901	Bouzek, Marie
Jelinek, Marie	5/ 8/1904	Jelinek, Marie
Kašparek, Alžběta	11/ 5/1901	Kasperek, Elizabeth
Ludvik, Anna	10/21/1903	Ludvik, Anna
Popelak, Anna	5/18/1903	Popelak, Anne
Strnad, Hermína	10/10/1901	Strnad, Hermína

Slavnostní sv. přijímání
Solemn Celebration Holy Communion
1913

Kozelka, Rudolf	3/ 9/1902	Kozelka, Rudolph
Benes, Karel	1/ 8/1901	Benish, Charles
Mezera, Matěj	2/19/1902	Mezera, Michael
Mezera, Václav	9/16/1898	Mezera, Wenceslaus
Mezera, Martin	11/11/1901	Mezera, Martin
Polodna, Jindřich	7/14/1900	Polodna, Henry
Prochaska, Tomáš	10/21/1900	Prochaska, Thomas
Pulda, Jiří	9/27/1897	Pulda, George
Forst, Marie	10/20/1899	Forst, Marie
Tomšíček, Marie	7/16/1900	Tomsicek, Mary
Strnad, Hermína	10/10/1901	Strnad, Hermína
Valenta, Helena	7/18/1901	Valenta, Helen

President William H. Taft was elected in 1901, and in 1913
President Woodrow Wilson was elected.

Slavnostní sv. přijímání
Solemn Celebration Holy Communion
1914

Síma, Eduard	3/17/1900	Sima, Edward
Hanzal, Richard	12/28/1901	Hanzal, Richard
Habbart, František	3/ 9/1901	Hubbard, Frank
Jelinek, Josef	1/12/1902	Jelinek, Joseph
Lukáš, Alois	9/ 4/1902	Lukas, Aloysius
Koníček, Louisa	10/ 4/1899	Konicek, Louisa
Fox, Viola	8/22/1901	Fox, Violet
Ludvik, Johannah	10/22/1901	Ludvik, Johannah
Kašparek, Alžběta	11/ 5/1901	Kasperek, Elizabeth
Koníček, Alžběta	10/24/1901	Konicek, Elizabeth
Bouzek, Marie	11/ 1/1901	Bouzek, Marie or Mary
Bouzek, Anežka	12/ 9/1901	Bouzek, Agnes
Forst, Růžena	12/29/1902	Forst, Rose
Prochaska, Albina	2/ 9/1902	Prochaska, Albina

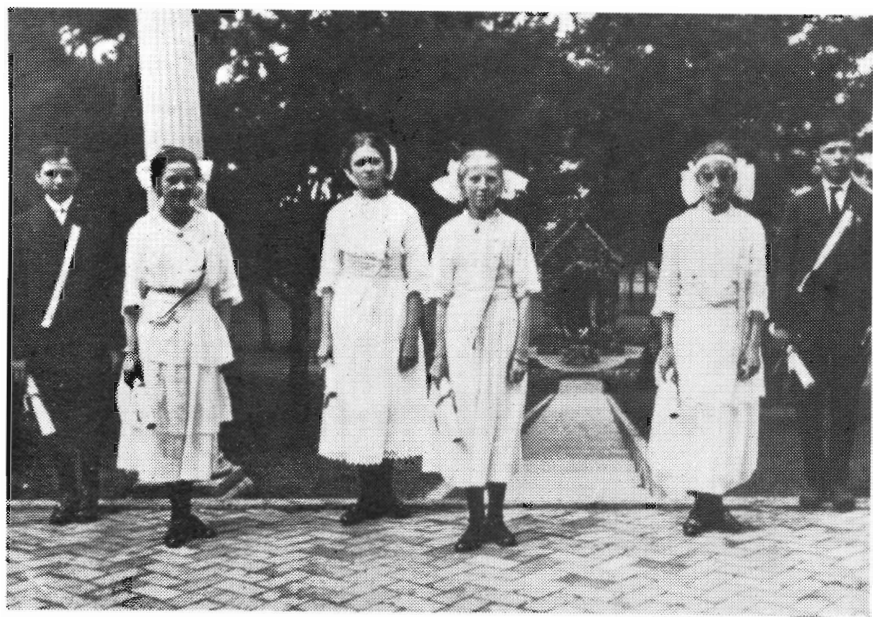
Privatní první sv. přijímání
Bring First Holy Communion
March 26, 1915

Lechníř, Václav	9/ 1/1903	Lechnir, Wenceslaus
Kašpárek, Josef	3/23/1904	Kasperek, Joseph
Mezera, Geo.	4/ 1/1904	Mezera, George
Pulda, Leonard	3/ 18/1902	Pulda, Leonard
Fuka, Lucie	10/15/1902	Fuka, Lucy
Jelínek, Marie	5/ 8/1904	Jelinek, Marie or Mary
Fuka, Anna	3/ 10/1904	Fuka, Anna
Konicek, Božena	9/ 20/1901	Konicek, Bessie
Mára, Johannah	2/ 18/1904	Mara, Johannah
Peloch, Veronika	1/ 14/1905	Peloch, Veronica
Příbyl, Albina	2/ 14/1904	Pribyl, Albina
Pulda, Julie	2/ 15/1901	Pulda, Julia
Pulda, Marie	3/ 21/1901	Pulda, Marie or Mary
Valenta, Teresa	10/ 1/1904	Valenta, Teresa

These names were recorded by Sister Adelberta.

<u>School Sisters</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade Taught</u>
Emmanuela Schaub	1906-1907	Grade 5 to 8
Milwida Finnegan	1907-1908	
Marentia Koncel	1901-1909	
Cand. Magdalena Wagner	1910-1911	
Constance Buck	1908-1911	
Cand. Maria Machut	1911-1912	
Cand. Martha Wallschaefer	1911-1912	
Božena Bousha	1911-1912	
Adelberta Kramer	1909-1916	
Rose Hrdlicka	1915-1919	

We are sorry we can not find graduates pictures and records before 1915. We hope the First Communicants listed before will be sufficient.



Class of 1915

Left to right:

Henry Vanek, Anastasia Polodna, Christine Vavruska, Helen Lechnir, Lucie Lanka, Lawrence Kukas.

This picture was taken at St. Mary's in front of the grotto of the Blessed Mother.

Privatni prvni sv. prijimani was held on March 26, 1915.
(Private First Holy Communion was held on March 26, 1915.)

Solemn Celebration of Holy Communion for five girls and six boys was on June 6, 1915.

<u>School Sister</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade Taught</u>
Cand. Ada Richer	1921-1922	
Vittoria Degenfelder	1922-1923	1,2,3,& Choir
Cand. Ruth Freienstein	1923-1924	
Ludwina Melinska	1922-1924	Homemaker
Karla Candor	1924-1925	Homemaker
Meda Piotrowska	1925-1926	
Agnes Chlanda	1916-1929	
Throphora Flint	1918-1930	1 thru 8
Tichonia Pisarek	1925-1931	Homemaker



Class of 1916

Front row, left to right:

George Portz, Elsie Konicek, Anna Lukas, Elizabeth Kasparek,
Row 2:

Ralph Kozelka, Hannah Ludvik, Violet Fox, Helen Valent, James
Panka.

The First and Private Communion was held for nine boys and three girls on June 11, 1916.

The Solemn Communion was held June 18th for six boys and ten girls.

Father Cyril Smetana

Father Smetana was born March 22, 1892 at Bloomer, Wisconsin. He attended St. Paul's Parochial School at Bloomer, Sacred Heart High School at Watertown, Wisconsin, and St. Joseph's College, now Loras College, at Dubuque, Iowa. He studied theology at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Archbishop John Ireland on June 8, 1917. He came to take charge of St. John's Parish on December 6, 1918.



Pastor 1918-1923

There was no First Communion recorded in 1917.



Class of 1917

Left to right:

Lucy Fuka, Joseph Jelinek, Anne Mezera, Herman Portz, Margaret Yavruska, Thomas Polodna, Anna Popelak.

On April 6, 1917 the United States declared war on Germany, and entered World War I.



Class of 1918

Front to back, left to right:

Joseph Kasparek, Anna Ludvik, Thomas Cahalan, Agnes Koepp, George Mezera.

Row 2

Theresa Valant, Hannah Mara, Paul Portz, Albina Pribyl, Portz, Mayme Jelinek, Vernie Pelock.

První tiché sv. přijímaní, May 29, 1919, and Slavné svatí přijímaní was on May 25, 1919.

First Quiet Holy Communion, May 29, 1919 and Solemn Holy Communion was on May 25, 1919.

Class of 1919

The Class of 1919 did not have a formal picture taken. Class members were:

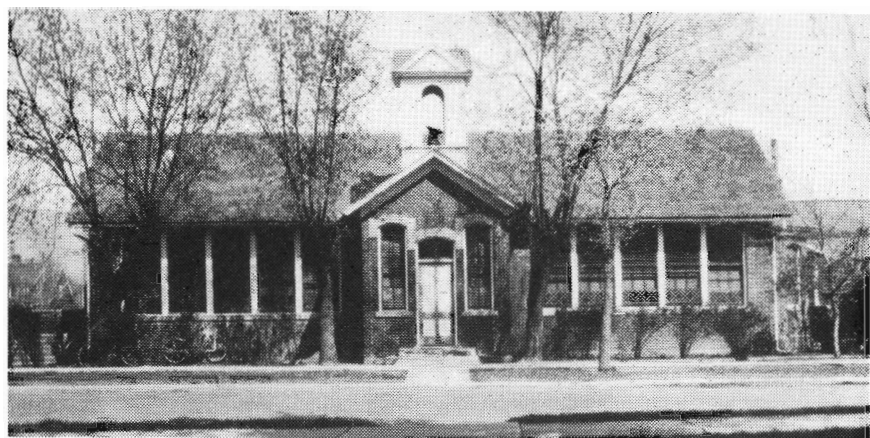
Regina Forst

Harold Smrcina

Dorothy Fox

Elmer Fuka

First Quiet Holy Communion was held on December 25, 1919.



School Addition and Convent

Ground was broken for two new classrooms and the sister's home annex on September 15, 1920.



Class of 1920

Bottom row, left to right:

Ernest Pulda, Frank Lukáš, Jack Kašparek

Row 2

Viola Muller, Father Smetana, Marie Zach, Agnes Koniček

Row 3

Vincent Mezera, Robin Cahalan, Bill Nicholson, Charles Vavruska, Richard Valley.

Holy Communion was June 13, 1920.