

+++++ HOLY FAMILY PARISH + 100th ANNIVERSARY +++++
Barbeau, Michigan + 1883-1983

REFLECTIONS of the PAST 28 Years by Inge Hornung

When it was decided to begin plans for a new church, the ladies of the parish sold greeting cards to raise money for the Building Fund. They had a parish dinner in the gym of St. Mary's in Sault Ste. Marie with our own parishioners and even the ladies from the Sault parishes helping us; the teen-agers pitched in also to make it a big success. Our first card party and bake sale were also held in the Sault in the old St. Joseph Hall. For several summers we had Strawberry Festivals. Ladies from Holy Family Parish would locate every ripe strawberry in the area for it.

The old church which was west of our present building was something else. We had an old rectory which we rented, and the people who lived there would sometimes help themselves to our coal pile in the Church. Some winter mornings it was cold! Bernard LaJoie decided one morning to build a fire in the wood stove, and it along with the oil burner got so hot that the candles melted and were bent over in all shapes. It was something to see the next day at Mass. Fr. Lawrence Gauthier was so warm that he opened the windows to cool things down to offer Mass. About this time Father Gauthier had the men of the parish visit the families to find out if they could donate \$2.00 a week to support the Church. The ones who were unable to pay worked on the new building to pay off their pledges.

Four men of the parish, Bernard Doll, Anton Hornung, Richard Sweeney, and Henry Ware went with Father Gauthier to visit and look at some of the churches in the area to help in the decision as to what kind of structure to build in Barbeau. A location for the proposed new church also had to be decided upon. It was either going to be on the corner of M-129 and 15 mile Road in Donaldson or near the location of the old church. It was finally Bishop Thomas L. Noa's decision to build the church where the old one was located. The old rectory was sold, and Robert Sharpe who bought it, had it moved. The building project really got going in 1957, and the first Mass was celebrated in our present church in 1958. Soon after Bishop Thomas L. Noa came to dedicate the new church of the Holy Family. Mary Wood was the organist for the Mass and dedication; Gerry Capucille sang---and we are happy to welcome them back twenty-five years later to participate in our 10th & 25th Anniversary Celebrations today. Holy Family Parish was considered an Indian Mission and received \$15,000.00 from the Catholic Church Extension Society in Chicago to help in the construction of the church. Henry Ware was the chief designer of the church, and certainly was the foreman in its construction.

Who prepared the 1st Communicants? Sisters always were taken for
One First Communion Sunday, Father Gauthier forgot the altar wine, and two men from the parish had to drive to town to pick-up a bottle -- perhaps it would have been more accurate to say "the men flew to town." After that episode, a bottle of wine was always left at a parishioner's house so it wouldn't be necessary to drive to the Sault.

The National Guard Armory was completed in 1958 and they had meals served there. Bids were taken to see which organization would serve the meals. The ladies of Holy Family were the lucky ones, and they served meals at the Armory to help pay off the debt of the new church. Working at those dinners each week would at times become very tedious and it would be difficult to always get the help necessary to put them on. Then we got to a system which made it easier for everyone. We had three committees: (1) Preparation, (2) Serving, and (3) Clean-up. Once in a while we were really short of help and Father Elmer Bares and Father Gauthier would pitch in and wash dishes--believe-it-or-not! Everyone in the parish helped do their share of the work at the Armory; some even worked pulp--every little bit helped--and as a result we paid off the debt of the church faster than we ever thought possible.

Every week an organist and a choir would travel from Sault Ste. Marie to help with the music at Holy Family. For a long time the ladies took turns cleaning the church and the basement, and this way the job came up for you only about twice a year. The ladies even cleaned the church windows on the inside twice a year. Carpeting was installed in the aisles and the entrance when people began to fall on the wet terraza. Two years ago the outside walls were insulated and new shutters were installed on the windows to help conserve fuel. A new gas heater was also recently installed in the basement, and the parish hall was brightly painted the week before this celebration.

In your prayers today please remember all the parishioners--living and dead--who helped to build the community of Holy Family, Barbeau. Many wonderful people have donated time, muscle, money, sacrifices, talents, prayers to help us arrive at our 100th Anniversary -- and the 25th of this beautiful church! Please pray also for the many priests who served Holy Family--that God will grant them the graces they need to continue to minister to the people of the Diocese of Marquette: Fathers: Elmer J. Bares, Lawrence T. Gauthier, Henry L. Mercier, Matthew Nyman, Kenneth G. Bretl, Joseph R. Callari, Allan Mayotte, Robert F. Polych, OFM. Cap., and Paul J. Nomellini. Deo Gratias!

Share this
with Sr Theda
and anyone
who would
be interested
in Barbeau
100th jubilee
and 55th of the
new church.

Sr Leah &
✓ Sr Juana both
taught there and
maybe others.

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