

fore established and canonically erected in January 1923. They began at once to plan the first Pre-Lenten Party to be held on February 12th and this feature too has continued uninterruptedly till the present day.

- February 11 —Organization and Instruction for the First-First Communion Class.
- February 18 —First Collection for the Indian and Negro Missions.
- March 25 —Holy Week Services announced.
- April 1, 1923—At last the long-looked for day arrived when everything was in readiness for the official opening of the upper-church. It was on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1923 that we entered in triumphal procession into the new church, singing allelujahs of joy and thanksgiving for the privilege of giving this new home to God, where He would establish His throne of mercy and of grace and where we might come and go as children in their father's home. The church was blessed privately by the pastor—the official dedication by the Rt. Rev. Bishop was to follow later.
- April 29 —It seemed opportune at this time to give the people the extraordinary grace of a mission so that spiritually they might renew their fervor and their faith, and therefore the well-known Missionary Fathers, the Vincentians, were asked to conduct a two-weeks mission beginning April 29th and ending May 6th. The Revs. P. F. Flanigan and Robert A. Gillard conducted the mission, and their eloquence and zeal were the means of bringing back to the fold many of the careless Catholics who on account of the great distance to their church had grown cold in faith.

Trinity Sunday, May 27th, was the next event of importance, for on that day the first class of children to receive their First Holy Communion in the new church were welcomed by a crowded house of worshippers. There were 57 in the class.

At last came the day of the official dedication by our Rt. Rev. Bishop, September 16, 1923. That day had been postponed because of the impaired health of His Lordship, and a happy coincidence made of it a real anniversary, for it was just a year since the Bishop had laid the cornerstone of the church. It was an added pleasure for all of

the parishioners to see our Rt. Rev. Bishop on that occasion, for it was he who created the parish, named it after the great Pope and Martyr, St. Clement, laid the cornerstone and now accepted the task of presenting our gift officially to God. His eloquent sermon on what the church means to the individual and to the community will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of hearing it. Assisting the Bishop were Msgr. N. Pfeil, celebrant of the mass; Rev. E. Ahern, Chaplain at St. John's Hospital, deacon; Father Girard, O.F.M., sub-deacon; Rev. Carl E. Frey, Master of Ceremonies.

To complete the story of the building of the church, due credit must be given to the generosity of the pioneers who volunteered to supply the furnishings. A Catholic Church is more than a meeting-house with a devotional background for the rostrum or pulpit, and the necessary furnishings from the altar of sacrifice to the Holy Water Fonts are often an expensive, yet essential item in making it truly a house of worship and of prayer. When the church was nearing completion in the Spring of the year 1923 the pastor issued an appeal. "Our new church," he said, "is rapidly nearing the stage when it will be ready for the interior furnishings. These are many and costly, but it has been the experience of every newly-organized parish that there are always enough men and women in every parish who consider it a distinct honor and privilege to buy something for the church that will be used in divine service or will help to beautify the House of God. We give gifts to our friends, why not to our Changeless Friend? It is our hope that St. Clement's church will be completely furnished by the members who are building and supporting it, and judging from the splendid zeal they have thus far shown, we know that our hopes are not in vain." The appeal was answered most generously. Altars and Altar Linens, Chalices and Ciboriums, candelabra and crucifixes, stations and statues, vestments and vases, in fact, everything needed to carry out the ancient ritual of the church, or to give a religious setting and atmosphere to the House of God was donated. We shall not mention names. The gifts were tokens of gratitude to the God Who had come to dwell forever in our midst, and are recorded in the book of life.



II

The Story continues from
September 1923 to September 1927

THE SCHOOL

To keep the chronological record intact we enter on record:

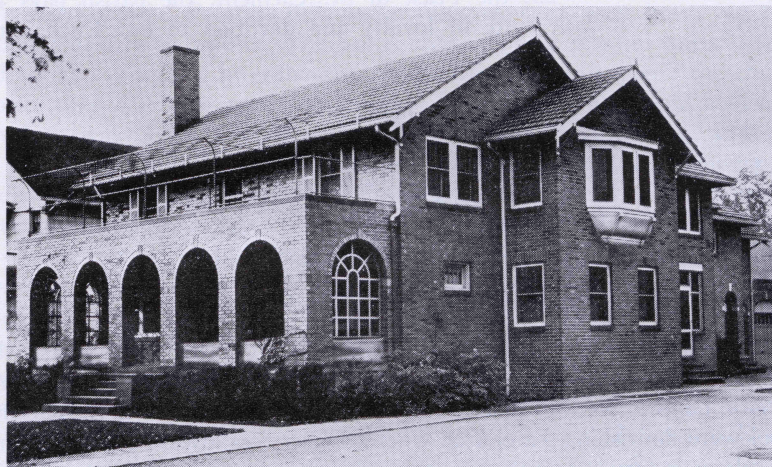
- October 12, 1923—Organization of the Young Ladies Sodality. All over 16 were eligible for membership.
- October 25 —Rev. Joseph Krispinsky, a newly-ordained priest was appointed as assistant. Up to now the Franciscan Fathers from the Monastery on Riverside Drive had helped with the Sunday Masses, but the parish had grown to number nearly 500 families and required the services of two resident priests. Father Krispinsky was with us for nearly a year and is now pastor of a large parish in Warren, Ohio.
- November 25 —Celebrated Feast of Our Patron, Saint Clement. The sermon on this festive occasion was preached by Rev. James A. McFadden, now the Most Rev. Bishop of the Youngstown Diocese.
- November 19-24 —The annual Bazaar netted \$8,350.
- January 2, 1924—The announcement was made that Communion would be distributed every week-day morning at 6:30 to give workingmen who could not stay for mass an opportunity for daily communion and this practice has continued to the present bringing manifest blessings on the individuals and on the parish.
- January 10 —First regular election of Councilmen. Frank Butler and George Quigley were elected for a period of two years.
- February 24 —Organization of the Holy Name Society and Solemn Reception of members at 8:00 p. m.

In the Spring of 1924, only a few months after the solemn dedication of the church, and with a debt of \$100,000, the parish had to face the problem of building a school. A campaign for subscriptions was organized and sixty-five men volunteered to canvass the parish. During the week of March 16th, without the aid of professional experts and wizards of finance they closed their Campaign with a Subscription of \$28,000 to be paid over a period of two years. The plan was to

build and eight-room school, making provision for a future addition when needed. It was to be modern in every detail comparing favorably with any school in Lakewood and architecturally to harmonize with the church. It was to be a free school, the gift of the parish to its children. Work began at once. The contract was let to the Forest Steel and Iron Company for \$95,000 and was ready for the opening day on September 8th. The enrollment was 350, the children coming from seven different schools. The Sisters of St. Joseph, under the direction of the first Principal, Sister Rita, took charge and they have been the faithful, efficient and progressive teaching staff ever since. Bishop Schrembs and Dr. Hagan, later Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, were with us and preached for the solemn dedication on November 23, the Feast of our Patron Saint.

August 1 —The Rev. Francis J. McGlynn was appointed assistant. He was with us for seven years and left to organize the newly-established parish of St. Francis de Sales in Parma. At present he is pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Cleveland.

1925 —The year 1925 saw the establishment of a parish library in January; the dedication of a new organ and Sacred Concert in April, under the direction of Edgar Bowman, assisted by St. Ann's Choristers; the First Class of Graduation (36) in June; the organization of a Young Men's Club in November; and the First Confirmation Class in December.



Rectory

1926

—The year 1926 marked the beginning of regular Convert and Inquiry classes. Every year during Lent and some years during Advent also, an invitation was extended to all to bring their non-Catholic friends, relatives or neighbors for a systematic course of Instruction on the Faith of Catholics. The annual census revealed that there were nearly two hundred mixed-marriages in the parish and a personal letter was sent to everyone of the non-Catholic husbands or non-Catholic wives inviting them to attend this course for the sake of harmony in the home and a better understanding of the important role religion plays in the lives of their Catholic consorts and Catholic children. For those who could not attend the scheduled course, special arrangements were made for their instruction at the rectory. The results were amazing and most gratifying. Year after year the good work continued and a compilation of the records shows that nearly 400 converts were received into the Church during these past twenty-five years. Surely God blessed the zealous efforts of the parish clergy who like St. Clement in the Epistle of St. Paul to the Phillipians could be called "fellow-laborers" in extending the Kingdom of Christ. As a matter of record, the year 1926 also marks the celebration of our First Forty Hours Devotion. Since that day every year during the week of November 23, the Feast of St. Clement, the parish pays its tribute of loyalty and devotion to our Eucharistic King.

III.

The Story continues from

1927 to 1931.

Another addition to the School

Another addition to the Rectory

The parish grew steadily and rapidly during these early years—the territory south of Madison saw a boom in the building of homes and many Catholic families were drawn to this district where a Catholic church and school were flourishing—a church where the services always began on time and where money was never mentioned from the pulpit except on one Sunday in January, and a school that was modern in equipment and

rated with the best of Lakewood schools in educational standards. The parish had now outgrown the school and it was necessary to build an addition which more than doubled its original size. Eight more rooms and a large gymnasium gave us at last a school that could take care of all the children. To the credit of the parents whose faith prompted them not only to build a school but to make still further sacrifices in sending the children, it must be said that at no time were there more than ten percent of the children attending the public school. The contract for the new building was let to the Super-Built Construction Company for \$80,000 and if the cost of furnishings and changes in the heating plant, and showers for the use of the gymnasium is added, it represented another \$100,000 in the value of St. Clement's church property.

At this time the Rectory had to be enlarged again to provide for a second and later on a third assistant and so in the face of a staggering debt the rectory was again enlarged to provide offices and living quarters at a cost of \$23,000, so that at the end of 1927, the parish debt had reached an all-time high of \$245,000.

It might be of interest here to say a word about our system of finance that carried and eventually paid the debt. During the prosperous years preceding the memorable depression that began after 1930 and that lasted over five years, every effort was made to lower the debt. There were no money-talks from the pulpit; no house-collections when taking up the census, and with one exception that recorded the first subscription, no advertised contributions. Every month an informative letter was mailed to every parishioner and the social activities from small parties to mammoth Bazaars were increased from year to year and all of them helped to forge the parochial Clementine Spirit that ultimately gave us a completed parish-unit freed of debt. Printing bills and mailing expenses were heavy but they brought gratifying results. The percentage of profit was measured not in dollars and cents but in enthusiasm and willingness to support the church which they felt was really their own. The slogan on every collection envelope was: Give 2% of your weekly income every Sunday and 2% of your monthly income every Monthly Collection Sunday. Allowing for added donations at Christmas and Easter and the financial cooperation they gave to the many social activities especially the Annual Bazaar, the rate of assessment on their income amounted to about 5%, one half of the traditional figure mentioned by the Pharisee who boasted that he complied with the law of tithes. The social activities were many and varied—there were house-parties, lawn parties, alphabet and district parties, Pre-Lent and Post-Lent parties, Fall Bazaars, school and parents parties, Holy Name, Altar Society and Sodality picnics and parties, bake-sales, Smokers, Minstrel Shows, comedies and Passion Plays, yes even Hollywood Breakfasts and Pot-Luck suppers, everything but Bingo parties. Everyone in the parish at one time or another was asked to serve on a committee, and for