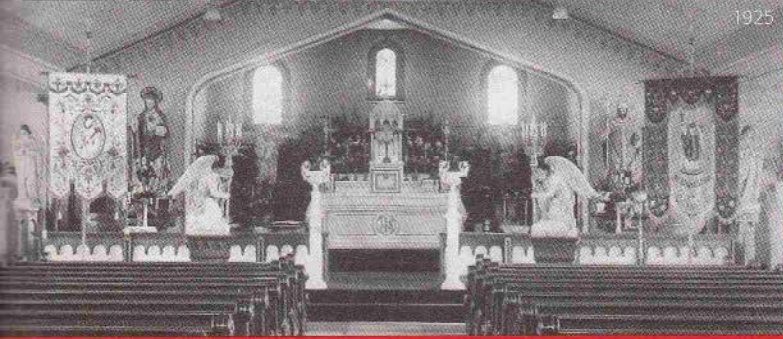


1903



1910



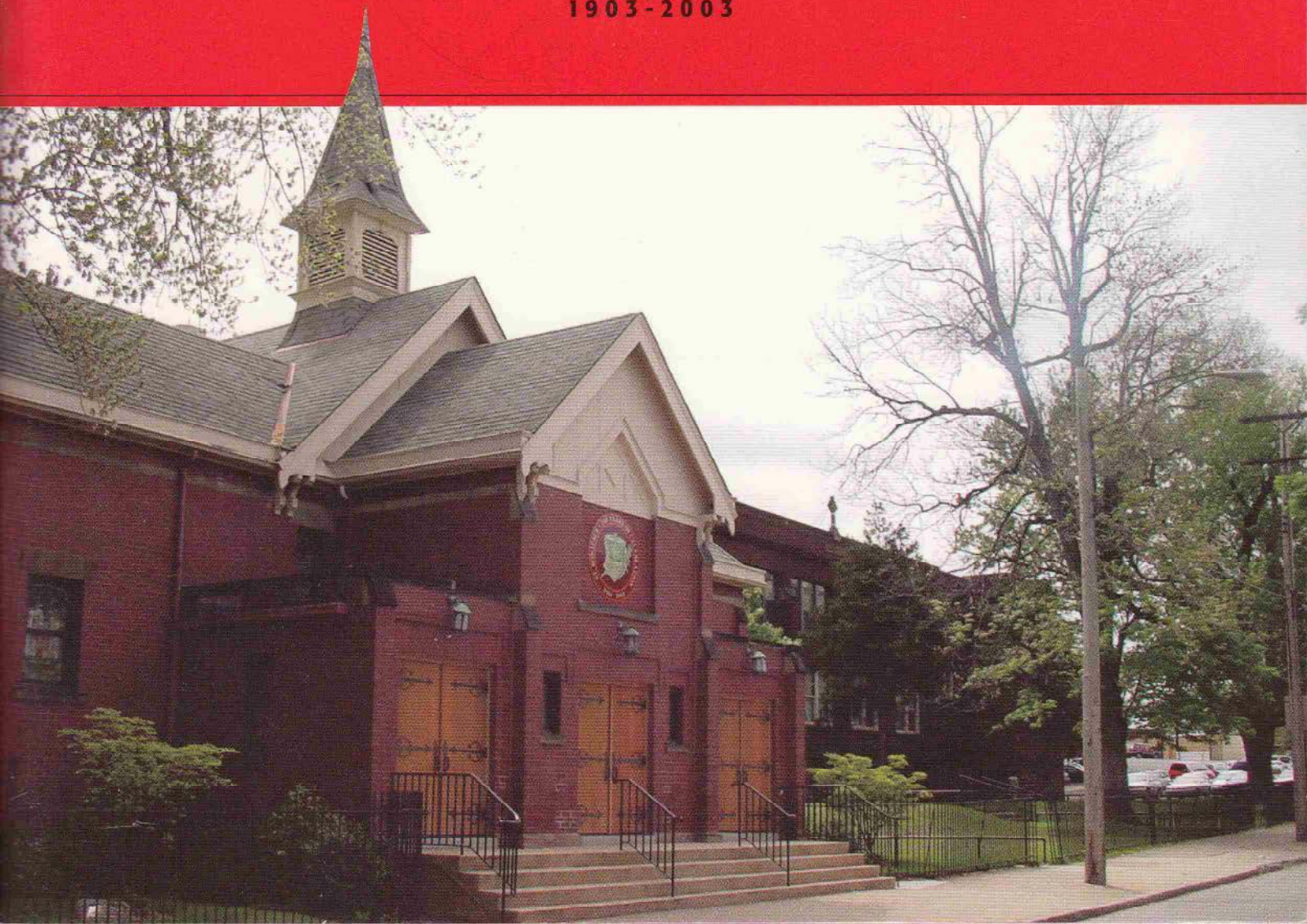
1925



2005

ST. BONIFACE

100 YEARS OF CELEBRATION
1903-2003



*Congratulations
Saint Boniface Church
On your 100 years
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CLEVELAND, OHIO

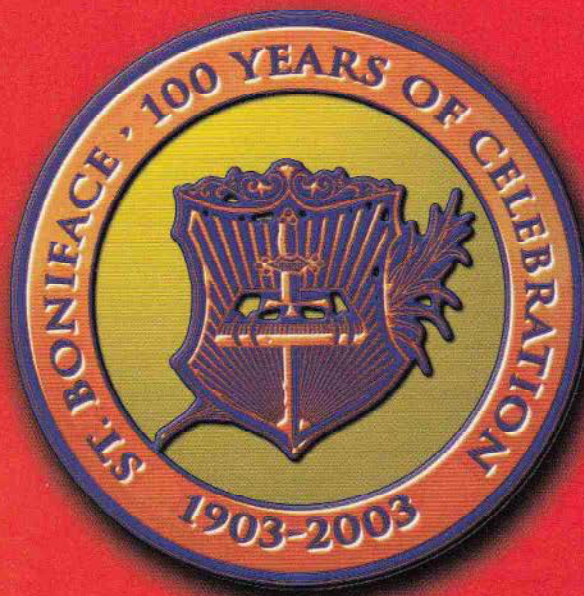


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GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
OHIO

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3604

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

ETHICS
CHAIRMAN

FOREIGN RELATIONS

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
UNIVERSITY OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

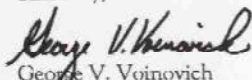
IN RECOGNITION OF
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
UPON YOUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY
OCTOBER 12, 2003

I am pleased to send my warmest congratulations as you celebrate your 100th Anniversary.

Over the past one hundred years St. Boniface Church has grown into a strong community of faithful members. It serves as a stabilizing and constant presence of spiritual, emotional and temporal nourishment to your parishioners and the surrounding neighborhood.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this anniversary celebration possible. I extend my gratitude to St. Boniface Church for its years of dedicated service to the community and to God. May He continue to bless you.

Sincerely,


George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

STATE OFFICES:
36 EAST SPRING STREET
ROOM 2815
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202
(513) 684-3265

1240 EAST NINTH STREET
ROOM 5185
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44199
(216) 522-7095

27 WEST BROAD STREET
ROOM 330 (COURTWORK)
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 469-6774

37 WEST BROAD STREET
ROOM 310
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 469-0697

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



June 15, 2003

Reverend Augustine P. Can
St. Boniface Church
3545 West 54th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44124

Dear Pastor Can:

I send my best wishes as you celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Boniface Church.

This event is an important and wonderful milestone in your church's history. I hope that the well deserved sense of pride and devotion you feel will continue to play a major role in the life of your congregation.

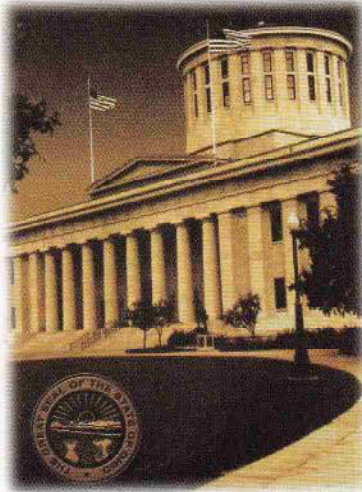
Again, congratulations on this momentous occasion. You have my best wishes for your continued success.

Very respectfully yours,



MIKE DeWINE
United States Senator

RMD/ft



**IN RECOGNITION OF
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH**

I want to extend my warmest greetings to the pastors, members, and friends of St. Boniface Church as you celebrate your 100th anniversary.

Ohio's churches have traditionally been the bedrock of our society. I am humbled by the churches' daily work, which has truly been a testament to members' faith in God and love for humanity. Always conscious of the needs of the larger community, local church fellowships devote considerable time working toward the betterment of their neighborhoods. I commend the members of the St. Boniface Church congregation for the work you do to improve the quality of life in your community.

On behalf of all Ohioans, best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable anniversary celebration!

Sincerely,

Bob Taft
Bob Taft
Governor



77 SOUTH HIGH STREET • 30TH FLOOR • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6117 • 614.466.3555 • FAX: 614.466.9354



The City of Cleveland
Jane L. Campbell, Mayor

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Cleveland, I am pleased to extend congratulations to St. Boniface Church as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

St. Boniface serves as a historic source of faith, community, education and love to many of its parishioners, students and members of the community. The Church has continually provided a supportive, nourishing environment and quality education that continues to strengthen the neighborhood as well as nurture the beginning relationships that the students have with God. The 100-year history of St. Boniface speaks to their unwavering efforts to benefit children of all ages.

Congratulations on 100 years of dedicated service! I would like to thank you for your positive efforts to benefit the community and I extend my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Campbell
Jane L. Campbell
Mayor



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN HONOR OF SAINT BONIFACE PARISH

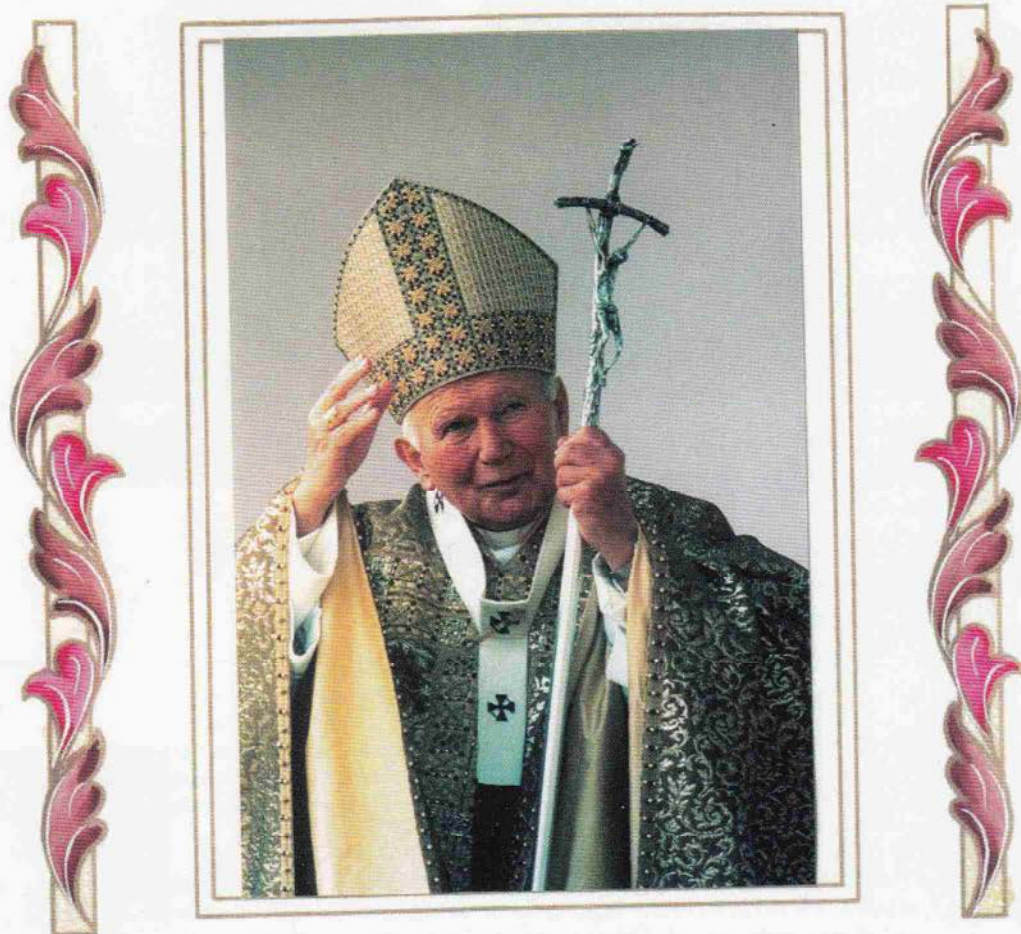
Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the parish community of Saint Boniface Parish, as they celebrate one hundred years of faith and hope in Cleveland's Westside neighborhood. Throughout the past century, Saint Boniface Parish has served as a spiritual refuge ~ radiating hope, encouragement, education and faith.

Father Casimir Reichlin began the ministry of Saint Boniface in February of 1903. His visionary focus aimed at educating children within the framework of the neighborhood parish has remained as significant and impactful today as it was one hundred years ago. As Saint Boniface Parish was born, so was Saint Boniface School. In 1904, Reverend A. M. Seeholzer was named Pastor of Saint Boniface Parish. Under the guidance of Father Reichlin, Pastor Seeholzer oversaw the construction of a four-room frame building that would serve parishioners and students for the next twelve years.

In March of 1923, parishioners and spiritual leaders of Saint Boniface Parish celebrated the grand opening of the new Saint Boniface School. The sturdy, two-story brick structure contained sixteen classrooms, accommodating more than seven hundred students, in grades kindergarten through high school. Today, Saint Boniface School provides preschool, kindergarten and first grade instruction.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every member of Saint Boniface Parish, as they celebrate one hundred years of fostering faith, hope, enlightenment and love within our Cleveland community. Saint Boniface Parish continues its dedication to providing educational and spiritual growth ~ elevating the lives of countless children, adults and families within our community.

(Appearing in the Congressional Record in June, 2003; Vol. 148)



His Holiness John Paul II
cordially imparts the desired
Apostolic Blessing
as a pledge of divine protection and graces to the
Pastor and Parishioners
of St. Boniface Cleveland - Ohio
on the occasion of its **100th Anniversary**
1903 - 2003.

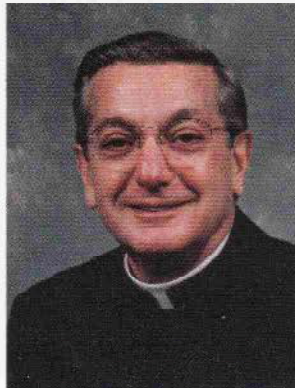
Ex Aedibus Vaticanis die, 24 - V - 2003

+ Onor. Ruffato

Archiepiscopus Eleemosynarius Apostolicus

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla

BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND



My Brothers and Sisters
of Saint Boniface Parish,

It is with deep gratitude and joy that I salute you on this 100th Jubilee of your parish founding. Please accept my best wishes and my promise of prayer as we begin the second hundred years of your pilgrimage of hope.

For 100 years you have faithfully witnessed to the life,

death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on Cleveland's West Side. In the spirit of your patron your parish was founded to serve the mainly German and Hungarian immigrant Catholics of what was called the "Stockyard" neighborhood. One hundred years later you are still a vibrant community that welcomes the new immigrant, especially our Vietnamese-American, while providing stability, faith, and hope for all.

As Catholics we stand upon the shoulders of those faithful witnesses who have gone before us. In particular, your parish family boasts of a history filled with many good and generous members and leaders. I share your gratitude for the wonderful pastors, priests, and the educational ministry of the Sister of Notre Dame who, relying upon the gifts of your faithful community, have been and continue to be essential to the vibrancy of your parish life for 100 years. Under the leadership of your current pastor, Fr. Augustine Pham Van Lan, I am confident that that life will flourish for many years to come.

I am happy to join you for this celebration of your jubilee which is a call to remember that the foundations of our faith lie in and upon Jesus Christ alone. Your fidelity to that faith in Jesus Christ, your love of your families, your dedication to those who are most needy, and your commitment to the Church are an inspiration for all people in our city and this entire Diocese.

My hope is that your celebration of the 100th anniversary of your parish founding will be a time of great blessing. Know that you have my heartfelt congratulations and my promise of prayer as you mark yet another milestone in your history and as you continue to respond to the ever-changing needs of the people you serve. May God bless you all and grant you His peace.

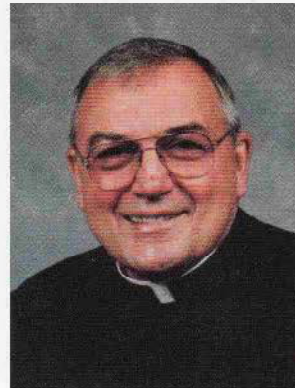
Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony M. Pilla".

Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland

Bishop Roger Gries

AUXILIARY BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND



Dear Father Augustine and
parish family:

It is with great joy that I congratulate you on the occasion of your 100 Jubilee Celebration.

These one hundred years have been filled with many blessings for the people of Saint Boniface Parish. In 1903, in an area of Cleveland known as the "Stockyards,"

German- and Hungarian-Catholics founded this parish. Along with the well-being of the community, these early parishioners dedicated themselves to providing a sound secular and religious education for their children by securing teachers from the Sisters of Notre Dame. Catholic education continues at Saint Boniface with students from Metro Catholic School, a true example of collaboration in the spirit of Vibrant Parish Life.

In 1992, Saint Boniface opened its doors to the Diocese's Vietnamese-American Apostolate. Today, as a multi-ethnic community, you reach out and serve the needs of your immediate neighborhood. The food bank and the St. Vincent de Paul Society are a tremendous support to the needy in Cleveland.

Over these hundred years your parish has seen many changes and have met the challenges that arose. As you celebrate this centennial celebration, I pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen the spirit of cooperation within your community. Your effort to integrate is a tribute to the spirit of the founders of St. Boniface Parish as you make everyone feel welcome. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice. Peace!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roger W. Gries, OSB".

Most Reverend Roger W. Gries, OSB
Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland

Father Augustine Pham Van Lan

PASTOR, ST. BONIFACE CHURCH

Parish 100th Anniversary:
A Pastor's Reflections



St. Boniface Parish is truly gifted in its people, its traditions, its hospitality and friendliness. These characteristics are often noted by visitors and new parishioners alike. They are also constitutive of a capacity among people of diverse cultural background to work together to forge a common bond in the Spirit and to form a thriving and vibrant community. That St. Boniface after a hundred years in existence is a thriving community few will dispute.

In retrospect, St. Boniface can be both thankful for its varied giftedness and properly proud of its many achievements. The gifts are many: lifelong parishioners and later arrivals hold a common bond in their deep love for the parish; people of many and diverse talents offer themselves in the service to the community through various ministries, liturgical, educational and social outreach; the elderly, the not so old and the young willingly work together to be the backbone of a vibrant faith community.

In addition, St. Boniface is singularly blessed in the arrival of the Vietnamese Community since 1992. Vietnamese too come with a long tradition of family solidarity, of strength in faith honed through many religious and political persecutions, and a sense of joy open to new venture. They add much to the liveliness of faith, a sense of celebration and social concerns that have been long standing in the parish community.

The future for the next hundred years could be very bright for St. Boniface, but the challenges could be great and daunting. For wherever people of diverse interests and background forge a common bond to work together for a greater good, the Spirit will be there and great things happen. On the other hand, where division, fragmentation and especially hostility exist, disintegration cannot be far.

"Ad Multos Annos," and may God's multitude of blessings be ours for the next hundred years.

Pham Van Lan

Father Gus

Sister Dianne Skubby

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Dear Parishioners, Former Parishioners,
and Friends of St. Boniface Parish,



With deep gratitude I give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received over the last hundred years. You and your families have served, and have been served by, St. Boniface Parish in a most generous way. You truly know what it means to be a vibrant parish in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese and in the world today.

Your committees and organizations have been viable and

dedicated. The love with which you take care of our more needy family members, friends, and neighbors, is certainly deeply Christian. It speaks of your committed relationship with Jesus, Who shed His blood and gave His life for us.

For 11 years I have been humbled by your example of prayer life and your cooperation in service projects. Your expressions of faith and commitment are certainly an encouragement and sign of hope for the future. Without God we can do nothing; with Him, all things are possible.

Parents of children to be baptized, of children preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, participants (candidates, sponsors, team members,) in the RCIA—all have inspired me to be a better Christian, a better Catholic. For that I am grateful.

Together we give praise and thanks to God, Who has blessed us so much over 100 years.

In a spirit of gratitude,

Dianne Skubby, CPPS

Dianne Skubby, CPPS

Lynn Steppke

CHAIRPERSON, 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

My dear fellow members of St. Boniface,



One hundred years ago, October 25th, 1903, a priest from St. Stephen's parish offered up the first Mass in the newly established St. Boniface parish. Today, a hundred years completed, another priest who came from St. Stephen's parish will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of the past one hundred years.

Our parish has much to be thankful for. We have a beautiful church with a giving and loving Community; and a great commitment to God. We are just a small wheel in His great diocese and we want to continue to work with Him for the salvation of souls.

Their our so many people who made our parish what it is today, from Father Casimir Reichlin who had the great idea to establish a new church for the Hungarian and German descendants to Father Augustine Phan Van Lan who established the Vietnamese American Community to have a place to worship together in fellowship. It is with the foresight and greatness of men like them that will keep St. Boniface going for yet another century.

May God Bless Us All

Lynn Steppke

Lynn Steppke
Chairperson, 100th Anniversary Committee

The History &

The parish of St. Boniface was established in February, 1903. Rev. Casimir Reichlin, pastor of St. Stephen's parish, with permission of Rt. Rev. Ignatius Horstmann, then bishop of Cleveland, had purchased property for this in 1901.

In August, 1904, he began the erection of a frame building which was so arranged that it could be divided off into three rooms and supply enough space wherein the congregation could attend Mass. This marks the beginning of the Catholic school in St. Boniface parish.

The idea of church and school were inseparable in the mind of Father Reichlin. Such they have always remained in the history of the parish. On the 25th of October, 1904, the new parish received its pastor, Rev. A. M. Seeholzer who had served as Father Reichlin assistant for several years and had learned from him. In 1905 a frame building of four rooms was erected in the rear of the church to serve as a school. It was erected at the cost of \$7,054.73. New property and buildings were purchased in the following year, including the Rectory with a barn at the rear of it. This barn was renovated and furnished two class rooms to supply the ever increasing number of the children at that time. Only a little later two more class rooms were added to this building. These eight class room sufficed for ten years. Conditions were always becoming more crowded during this time. There was an urgent need for more room and for better conditions. Plans were drawn up for an up-to-date school of brick. The plans were approved and work was begun. On October 15, 1916, the corner stone of the building was laid. Rev. Nicholas Pfeil delivered the oration on this occasion and a great crowd attended the celebration. The first story was completed in the following year and supplied eight more rooms. The first story was covered by a temporary roof which, if removed, would allow for an addition of another story. Two rooms in the old frame school were no longer needed now for school purposes and in them Father Seeholzer and Father



Terwood, then assistant, organized the Seewood Club for the young men of the parish. To promote a love for their school and to keep the children who had finished the elementary grades under the influence of religious education a commercial course was instituted. The graduates quickly took advantage of this, this class was accommodated temporarily in the hall which was partitioned off so as to furnish two class rooms. A condition such as this had to be remedied. The number of sisters having increased with the growth of the school, were living in very unsuitable quarters. It was decided to add another story to the new school and then bring all of the children of the elementary grades into one building. Work began in July, 1922, and during the last week of March, 1923, the children carried their desks and books and other apparatus from the frame building to their new and comfortable rooms in the new school. On Easter Sunday of that year

Father Seeholzer invited the parishioners to inspect the new building. The new school at that time accommodated 750 children. It contained 16 large, well-lighted, well-ventilated classrooms, a hall, kitchen, offices, etc.

In September, 1925, the doors of the parish school opened to receive seven hundred and sixty-five elementary students, and fifty-nine students who were enrolled in the commercial high-school program.

Changes in the school program were undertaken in 1941. The high school, which had offered a two-year co-educational program since it began in 1916, now added the classes and staff necessary to offer a four-year program of study, still as a co-educational institution. Beginning in 1953, a new program was adopted and only girls were admitted to St. Boniface High School. Shortly thereafter, in the late 1950s, the question of building a new high school was discussed at length. It had proved to be too serious a financial undertaking and this would impose a burden on the parish. St. Boniface High School then ceased operations completely in June of 1959.

During the 1973-74 school year, and immediately after the record low enrollment of two hundred and thirty-two pupils, it was decided to re-open the St. Boniface kindergarten. It had been closed for many, many years. Since the new kindergarten program became available in the fall of 1974, the elementary school population at that time increased to three hundred and forty-one children attending classes in kindergarten through eighth grade.

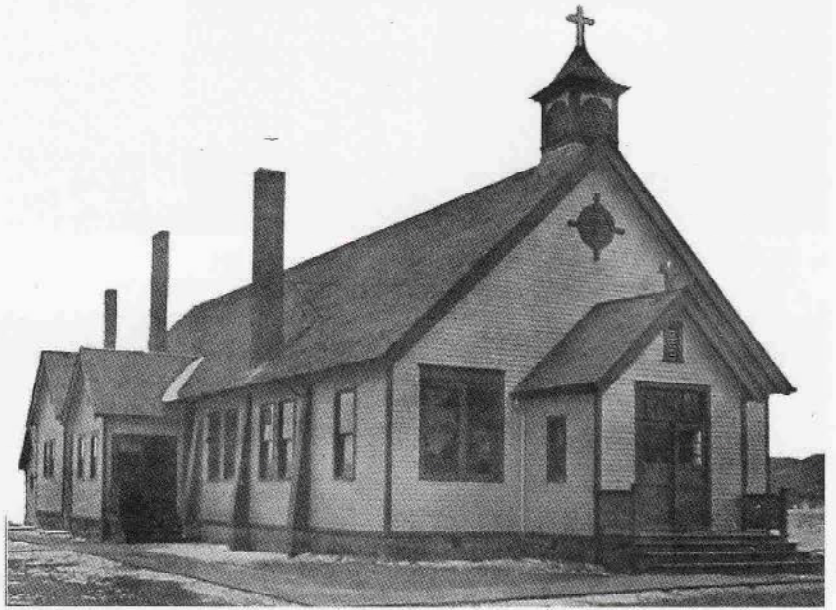
In the school year 1988-1989, St. Boniface grade school merged with St. Stephen and St. Michael schools, to become Metro Catholic Parish School.

At the present time St. Boniface has pre-school for 3-4 year olds and kindergarten and a first grade. The children of the parish in grades 2 thru 8 attend St. Stephen's. In the last hundred years of our parish the circle has been completed back to it's original origin.

The School of St. Boniface Parish



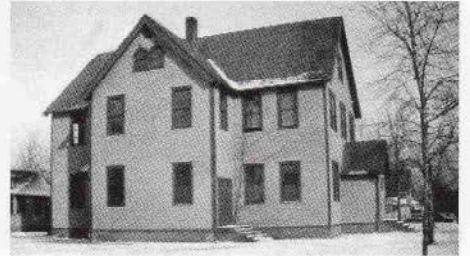
Left: Reverend Casimir Reichlin,
 Pastor of St. Stephen and organizer of St. Boniface Parish.
 Right: Original church of St. Boniface 1910



Original church & school of St. Boniface, 1904



Parish House 1910



High school 1910



Nun's House



Interior of St. Boniface 1910

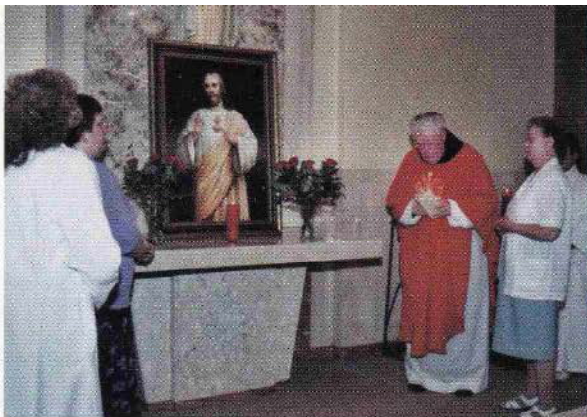


Sept 1915 Parish Labor Day family picnic



May 23, 1915 St. Boniface Aid Society Tenth Anniversary

Re-Enthronement – June 29, 2003
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

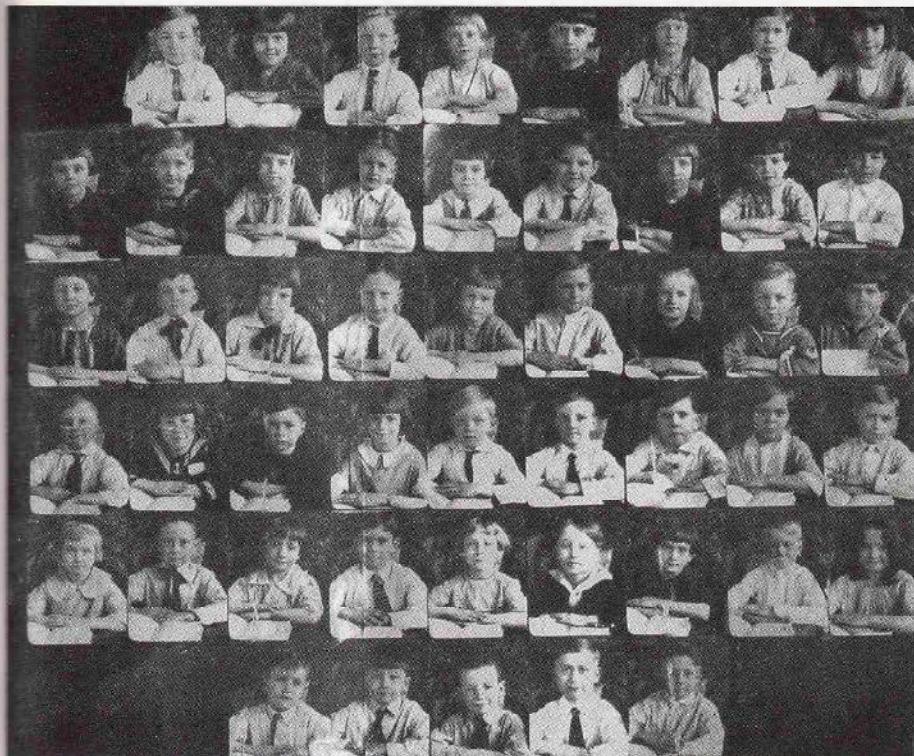


Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

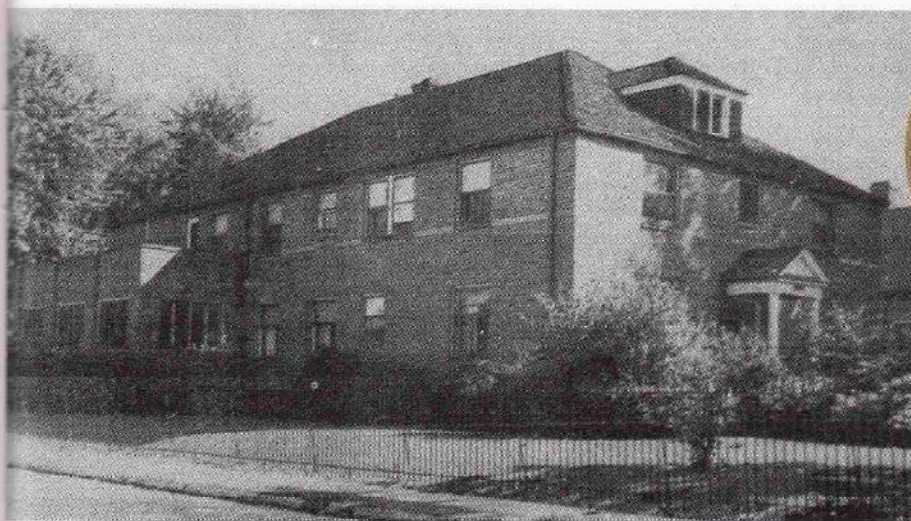
Within the post-World War II decade, St. Boniface had the honor and distinction of being the first parish in the diocese to have the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This took place on Palm Sunday, April 3rd, 1955, and the Diocesan Director of the Enthronement Center, the Reverend Giles Strub, O.F.M., came to St. Boniface for the ceremony. Later that same year the Sacred Heart of Jesus was enthroned as King at the rectory, the convent and St. Boniface School. The parish coordinators of the Enthronement were Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Weber.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is still a functioning part of St. Boniface Parish; it is under the direction of Mrs. Concette Weber who is one of the founding organizers and is available to any who want to partake of this special blessing of God in the form of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



The first Bonnie Ventures members of St. Boniface, 1928



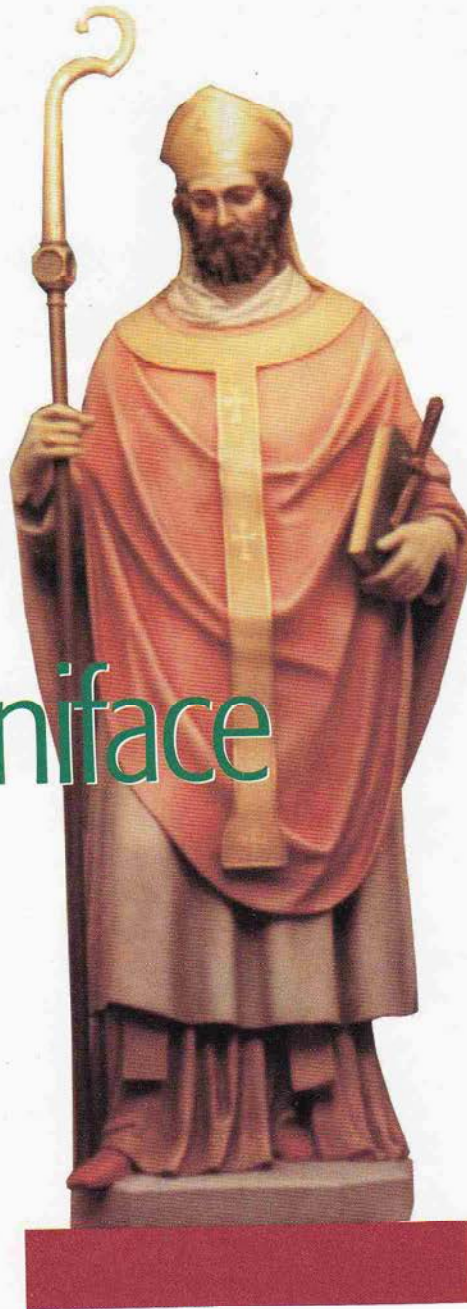
1954 Parish House



The Blessings of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

May the grace and blessings of the Sacred Heart be with you; the peace of the Sacred Heart encompass you; the merits of the Sacred Heart plead for you; the love of the Sacred Heart inflame you; the sorrows of the Sacred Heart console you; the zeal of the Sacred Heart animate you; the virtues of the Sacred Heart shine forth in every word and work; and may the joys of the Beatific Vision be your eternal recompense. Amen.

St. Boniface



St. Boniface was born at Crediton in Devonshire, England, in the year 680. Some missionaries staying at his father's house spoke to him of heavenly things, and inspired him with a wish to devote himself, as they did, to God. He entered the monastery of Exminster, and there trained for his apostolic work. His first attempt to convert the pagans in Holland having failed, he went to Rome to obtain the Pope's blessing on his mission, and returned with authority to preach to the German tribes. It was a slow and dangerous task; his own life was in constant peril, while his flock was often reduced to abject poverty by the wandering robber bands. Yet his courage never flagged. He began with Bavaria and Thuringia, next visited Friesland, and then passed on to Hesse and Saxony, everywhere destroying the idol temples and raising churches on their site.

He endeavored, as far as possible, to make every object of idolatry contribute in some way to the glory of God; on one occasion, having cut down an immense oak

which the Germans had consecrated to Jupiter, he used the tree in building a church, which he dedicated to the Prince of the Apostles.

He was recalled to Rome, consecrated Bishop by the Pope, and returned to extend and organize the rising German Church. With diligent care he reformed abuses among the existing clergy and established religious houses throughout the land. At length, feeling his infirmities increase, and fearful of losing his martyr's crown, Boniface appointed a successor to his monastery, and set out to convert a fresh pagan tribe.

While St. Boniface was waiting to administer Confirmation to some newly baptized Christians, a troop of pagans arrived, armed with swords and spears. His attendants would have opposed them, but the Saint said to his followers: "My children, cease your resistance; the long-expected day has come at last. Scripture forbids us to resist evil. Let us put our hope in God: He will save our souls." Scarcely had he ceased speaking, when the barbarians fell upon him and slew him with all of his attendants, to the number of fifty-two. He was killed on June 5th, 755.

St. Boniface because of his great work in converting pagan tribes and bringing scattered religious centers into unity is known as the Apostle of Germany, and he is the patron saint of that country.

Reflection: St. Boniface teaches us how the love of Christ changes all things. It was for Christ's sake that he toiled for souls, preferring poverty to riches, labor to rest, suffering to pleasure, death to life, that by dying he might live with Christ.

In the beginning...

Rev. Seeholzer, First Pastor of St. Boniface Church

Ohio is renowned for producing great men. Even her islands in Lake Erie have contributed to them. Here we shall tell you of one born on Kelly's Island. He made his appearance in this life on March 13, 1873. His parents were noble-hearted liberty loving Swiss who came to this country after the Civil War. He was the youngest of three surviving children. Under the devotion of his parents he developed splendidly. When he was a young boy he came under the benign influence of Father J.B. Mertes, who was the pastor of the little congregation of St. Michael's on Kelly's Island. This good man took a special interest in Adolph and directed his mind and heart along ennobling lines.

After graduating from the parish school he was sent to Causius College, in Buffalo, New York, where he received a through classical training under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers. Having finished his collegiate course after the prescribed period of six years, he entered St. Mary's Seminary, Cleveland, Ohio, to take up philosophical and theological studies preparatory to priesthood. After the lapse of six years he was admitted to holy orders and ordained by Bishop Horstmann, June 4th, 1898. A week later he was at home on Kelly's Island, a young priest of twenty-five years old, ready to ascend the altar for the first time. He said his first solemn Mass on June 12th, 1898 with his family and friends all present for this occasion.

His first appointment by the Bishop was as assistant to St. Stephen's church with Father Reichlin on West 54th Street in Cleveland, Ohio. Under the excellent guidance of this excellent pastor he spent the first six years of his priesthood.

In 1901, Father Reichlin purchased eight lots on Poplar and Iona Streets, with

the view of using this property for a prospective new parish. Three years later (1904) he had a combination church and school erected for the sum of \$6,136.00. When Bishop Horstmann asked him whom was best fitted to cope with the problems of the new parish, he recommended the

Rev. A. Seeholzer, as he was familiar with the situation,

understood the people and knew the exigencies of the place. Accordingly

Father Seeholzer was appointed pastor of St. Boniface, October 25th, 1904, and took charge of the parish as it was

still young and in the first stage of development. Accordingly in the second year of his pastorate a separate school building was erected at an outlay of \$7,054.00.

Additional eight lots were purchased for \$2,400.00.

In 1906 Father Seeholzer acquired the old homestead of Mr. Storer, fronting Denison Avenue, and all the adjacent territory between West 52nd Street and West 54th Street, for the sum of \$9,900.00, making now the property of St. Boniface's, one of the most eligible sites in the city at that time. The large barn in the rear of the house was cleverly remodeled and formed into a much-needed school room at the expense of \$1,523.00. The following year (1907) two additional class rooms were added for \$6,204.00.

About this time the house and lot occupied by the Sisters in charge of the schools was bought for \$2,825.00.

A steam heating plant with other improvements were installed in 1909 at an outlay of \$5,268.00.

Meanwhile the congregation had grown so as to require the services of an assistant priest, who was Rev. F.A. Terwood. For ten years these two priests worked together to make St. Boniface have a solid foundation.

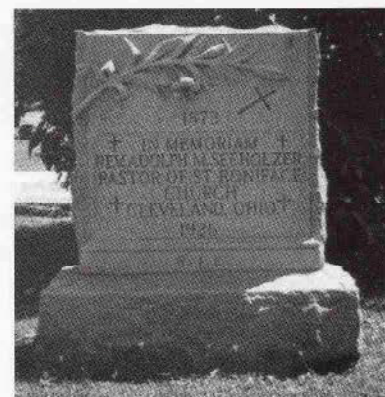


In 1910 the extensive iron fence around the entire church grounds was built and electric lights installed in church along with other improvements that cost \$2,321.00. About an equal amount was paid in 1911 for an addition to the teachers' house. In the same year the frame church building was skillfully enlarged and incased in a brick veneer, and the interior furnished with new pews, confessionals and other church furniture at a cost of \$12,901.00. By enlarging the church edifice, which originally could accommodate only 300 persons, an additional seating capacity of 400 was gained, so that altogether 700 worshipers could then be taken care of comfortably at one time.

From 1904 till 1913 the sum total of \$65,000.00 was expended for the purchase of real estate, buildings, improvements, etc. At the end of 1913 the church debt was reduced to \$30,000.00

From 1913 to 1923 various improvements had been made. The most remarkable enterprise was the erection of a large up-to-date brick school building containing an auditorium and sixteen class-rooms that cost \$135,000.00.

The Reverend Adolph M. Seeholzer died on March 31st, 1926, and was buried in a family plot on Kelly's Island.



Pastors of St Boniface



Rev. Seeholzer
1904-1926



Rev. Reber
1926-1940



Monsignor Trapp
1940-1941



Monsignor Mechler
1942-1967



Rev. Karper
1967-1972



Rev. Kane
1972-1973

The Reverend Adolph M. Seeholzer was the first pastor of St. Boniface church and school, and it was through his efforts that St. Boniface is what it is today. He died on March 31st, 1926, and was buried in his family plot on Kelly's Island.

The Reverend George Reber became pastor on May 18th, 1926, and under his leadership the parish grew spiritually and materially. Like his predecessor, he cared deeply for the children of the parish. Many can remember the good pastor walking through the church before each Mass on Sunday to see that all the children were up front and not sitting in the back of the church. He is remembered for making every service at the church one to be remembered, from the beautiful service of May crowning to the First Holy Communion Day. Father Reber died on November 16, 1940.

Monsignor Joseph Trapp was appointed on December 12, 1940. In the little less than two years of his leadership, he worked constantly for the better education and spiritual guidance of his parishioners. Monsignor Trapp died on October 6, 1941.

Monsignor Anthony V. Mechler was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. His elementary education was in the parish school in Bloomfield, New Jersey. His high school and preparatory seminary training were in St. Vincent's in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Father's seminary training was at St. Bernard's in Rochester, New York, and St. Mary's in Cleveland, Ohio.

Father Mechler was ordained by Bishop Farrelly on May 29th, 1915.

His first assignment was as assistant at St. Francis Church, Cleveland, from 1915 to 1927. From there he went to SS Peter and Paul Church in Doylestown. He was pastor there until 1933. From Doylestown, Father went to North Canton where he was pastor at St. Paul's until 1942.

On October 30th, 1942, Father Mechler was made Pastor of St. Boniface.

Under his leadership, all church debts were paid, and the interior of the church was remodeled and later completely renovated to accommodate the changes made in the Catholic liturgy. He initiated the Monday night Miraculous Medal Novena for the men and women in the service during World War II.

Father Mechler was elevated to Monsignor on March 10, 1960. He passed away on March 4th, 1978 and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio.

The Reverend Albert A. Karper became pastor on November 28th, 1967. He did much to carry on the work of his predecessors. During his leadership the "250 Club" was started, and laymen of the parish were introduced as Mass Commentators. Due to illness, Father Karper resigned his pastorate on June 26th, 1972.

The Reverend Eugene Kane was made administrator of St. Boniface parish on February 23, 1971. Father Kane initiated the Tuesday night Bingo games to help raise tuition money for the school children and to establish a scholarship program. He was also responsible for starting the guitar Mass at Sunday services. He continued his duties until August 29th, 1973, when a new pastor was appointed.



Rev. Lyons
1973-1980



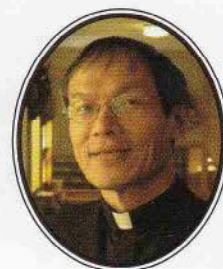
Rev. Byrne
1980-1987



Rev. Hudak
1987-1989



Rev. Brazynetz
1989-1997



Rev. Augustine Lan
1997-Present

The Reverend William Lyons was appointed pastor on August 29th, 1973. He did much to carry on the traditions of his predecessors and also of initiating new ideas. Father Lyons started the new procedure of having communion distributed by laymen. He had the interior of the church completely redecorated. In addition, a new cry room and open confessionals were built. He suffered a debilitating heart attack in 1979 that caused him to resign from his full time duties in 1980 and become a senior associate at St. Matthew's in Akron. The Rev. Lyons later was diagnosed with throat cancer. Surgery cost him his voice in 1992, yet he continued in his ministry, communicating through written words and gestures. When he celebrated Mass, he wrote homilies for others to read for him. He retired in 1994. Father Lyons passed away on November 10th, 2000.

The Reverend Richard Byrne was appointed pastor on December 1st, 1980. Father also did much to help St. Boniface, he restarted Parish Council, completely revamped the Sisters home added updated electricity to the school hall and started the Ethnic Dinner which we still celebrate every November. The renovation of the church interior took place in the mid nineteen eighties under his pastorate as well as new carpet for the vestry. He passed away in residence on February 2nd, 1987.

The Reverend Richard Hudak was appointed pastor on March 1st, 1987. Father did much to help the parishioners heal in there faith. He was also instrumental in the merger of Metro Catholic. He was transferred to another parish in 1989.

The Reverend Alex Brazynetz was appointed pastor in May of 1989. During his pastorate the narthex was enclosed and glass doors were installed and the interior was redecorated. The windows were replaced by the generous donation of the parishioners and a handicapped ramp was installed at this time. Father left his pastorate in June of 1997.

The Reverend Augustine Phan Van Lan was appointed pastor of St. Boniface August 22, 1997. During his pastorate the beauty of our church has been much enhanced: new church doors, and steps both in church and rectory with new wrought iron railings have been installed through generous donations from parishioners and the Vietnamese Catholic Community.

Also under his leadership, new opportunities for liturgical ministry are now open: Ladies of the Altar & Rosary Society as well as other women of the parish are active as "senior" altar servers along with the men and youth of the parish.

During the 100th Anniversary observance, which goes from Oct 2002 to Oct 2003, along with other monthly activities, an offertory increase campaign has been successfully undertaken. The *Vibrant Parish Life* project is underway as well at St Boniface with great promise for the future.

The Vietnamese Catholic Community, which is part of Fr Lan's diocesan assignment since 1977, is at present very much a vibrant part of St. Boniface's parish life.

Associate Pastors at St. Boniface

Name	From	Through
France Terwood	07-17-1909	06-12-1919
Victor Studer	07-09-1919	11-30-1922
Richard Roth	12-01-1921	01-27-1927
Charles Adolph Hoot	04-27-1922	09-21-1929
John Treshock	07-28-1927	04-25-1928
John Hreh	03-30-1929	10-30-1929
Philip N. Buchmann	09-21-1919	06-15-1930
Paul Ceikel	10-01-1929	07-02-1930
Raymond Steiger	07-02-1930	06-17-1932
Anthony Boeff	06-16-1930	04-29-1938
Joseph Ungarsky	06-17-1932	07-08-1937
Carol Nicolay	03-12-1937	07-29-1938
Michael Ondik	07-08-1937	04-29-1938
Jerome J. Schneider	07-29-1938	06-21-1940
George Winca	04-29-1938	06-21-1940
Leroy Fenstermaker	04-29-1938	07-23-1943
Howard E. Sammon	06-21-1940	03-04-1941
Arthur M. Nist	06-21-1940	12-28-1943
Jileo Brennan	03-04-1941	02-13-1942
Joseph Krisko	12-11-1941	10-30-1942
Michael G. Hnat	01-05-1944	06-18-1947
Anthony Krepis	07-23-1943	04-19-1949
John Maro	06-18-1947	05-15-1951
John Hilker	04-19-1949	01-07-1954
Albert Tesesk	05-15-1951	06-07-1956
Joseph Magyar	01-07-1954	06-14-1962
Paul Gencur	06-07-1956	06-08-1961
Sylvester Fridrich	06-08-1961	06-09-1966
Willard F. Wiesler	06-14-1961	03-05-1968
Albert Kunkel	06-09-1966	06-17-1970
Eugene Kane	03-12-1968	08-29-1973
E. Fred Ritty	06-17-1970	08-01-1971
Charles McCabe	06-29-1971	07-05-1971
John Olsavsky	08-13-1973	01-24-1979
Edward Szabo	06-07-1976	08-28-1976
James A. Smith	01-08-1979	04-14-1979
Robert F. Pheiffer	05-20-1979	05-20-1980

Superiors, Principals & Pastoral Associates

Superiors of St. Boniface High School

Sister Mary Basilla	1904-1910
Sister Mary Bonita	1910-1911
Sister Mary Basilla	1911-1914
Sister Mary Ethaburgis	1914-1920
Sister Mary Julia	1920-1926
Sister Mary Thaddea	1926-1928
Sister Mary Adelphine	1928-1929

Principals at St. Boniface

Sister Mary Thaddea *	1929-1930
Sister Mary Vincenta *	1930-1933
Sister Mary Floriana *	1933-1941
Sister Mary Renilla *	1937-1938
Sister Mary Adalrika *	1941-1942
Sister Mary Oscara *	1942-1948
Sister Mary Cesarie *	1948-1952
Sister Mary Norbert	1953-1956
Sister Justille	1956-1957 grade school 1957-1959 high school
Sister Mary Michael *	1957-1962 grade school
Sister Mary Louanne	1962-1966
Sister Mary Herbert	1966-1967
Sister Mary Celine Therese *	1967-1972
Sister Mary Ronald	1973-1974
Sister Mary St. Patrick (Marian Coughlin)	1974-1978
Sister Mary Donalee	1978-1983
Sister Mary Rita	1983-1984
Sister Mary Virginia Reesing	1984-1989

August of 1988 St. Boniface merged with St. Stephen and St. Michael to become Metro Catholic Parish School. The High School closed in June of 1959. All principals thereafter were elementary.

* Deceased sisters.

Pastoral Associates

CERTIFIED PASTORAL MINISTERS
OF THE CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE

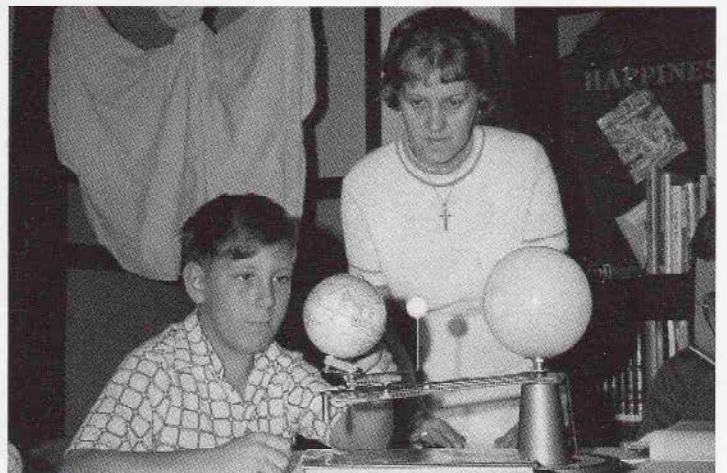
Sister Kathleen Knechtges, SND	1989-1992
Sister Dianne Skubby, CPPS	1992 to June 2003



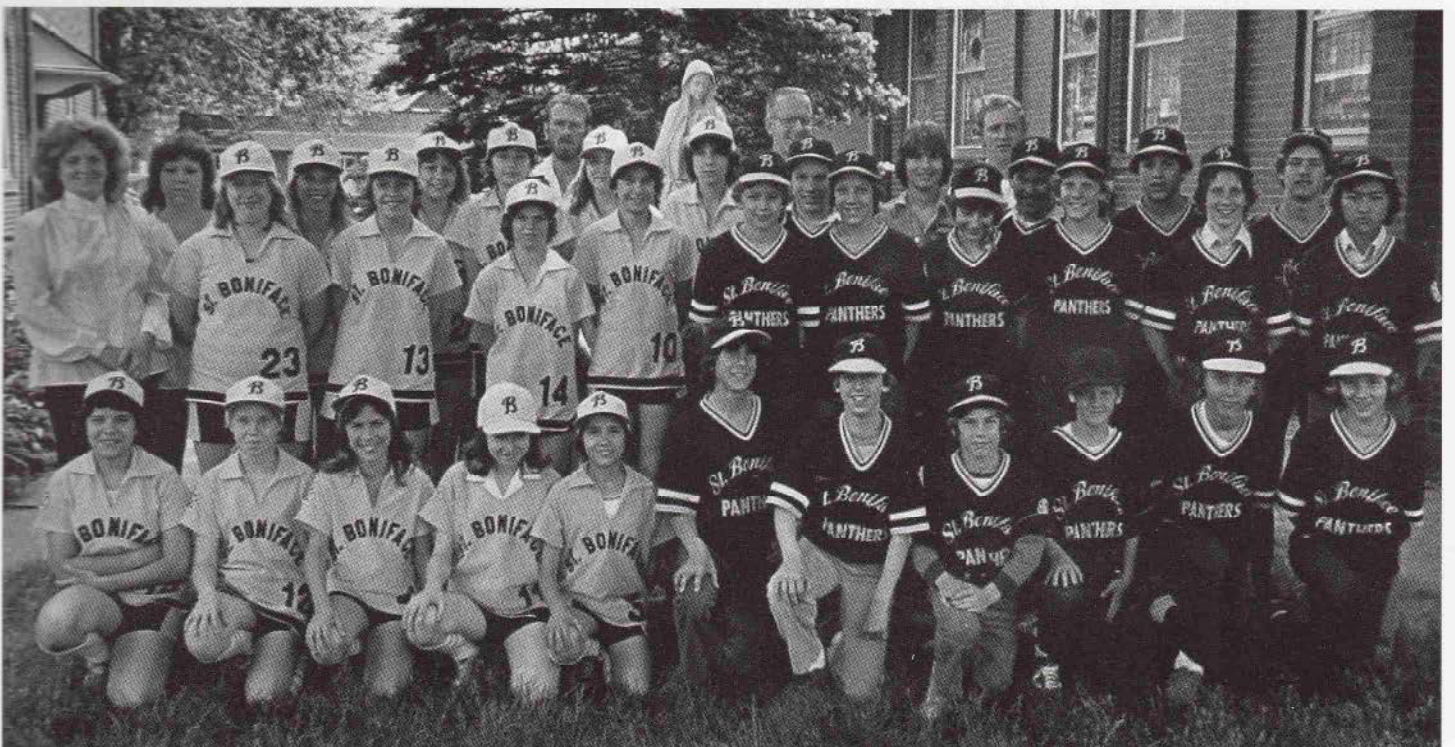
Sister Dianne Skubby, CPPS
Pastoral Associate, 1992 to June 2003



Sisters of Notre Dame serving St. Boniface Parish. Standing, l. to r.:
Elaine Baechle, Mary Ann Tusai, Alice Marie Resley, Michelene Cossack. Front:
Patricia Gannon, Kathleen Knechtges, Virginia Reesing.



1973



Parish Organizations

2002-2003

Parish Pastoral Council

The council serves in a consultative capacity to the pastor in providing both vision and leadership in the life and direction of the parish community. Elections are held in June of each two years, members meet monthly from September through June.



Father Augustine
Pham Van Lan



Sister Dianne Skubby



Carol Noble
Council Chairperson



Lynn Steppke
Vice Chairperson



Kathy Brenenstuhl
Secretary



Debbie Brenot

Finance Advisory Board

Appointed by the pastor, this group is consulted and serves in an advisory capacity to assist in the financial planning of the parish.



Rose Cummings



Donna Campbell



Dr. Dieu Do



Nub Bruening



Terri Kucinski



Peter Lungo



Ruth McClain



Joe McNeeley



Peter Nguyen



Karen Swiger



Duc Truong

St. Ann's Altar & Rosary Society

Active since 1943, this society still has over one hundred fifty members and fifty members who provide a variety of services for the church. It sponsors such activities as the Christmas Boutique, Holy Thursday Parish Supper and its members all help our annual Ethnic dinner in November of every year. Some of the profits from their activities provide for our altar bread, to buy items needed for the church and also flowers for the altars on feast days and special occasions. Members of the society also undertake the special responsibility of cleaning the church before each special holiday. During our 100th year celebration, the Altar & Rosary will be celebrating its sixtieth year of serving St. Boniface Church.



From left to right: Joan Evert, Cecil Romanchik (seating), Concetta Weber, Karen Swiger, Rita Balash, Lil Kitcko, Carol Blackburn, Sister Dianne Skubby, Kathy Brenenstuhl, Lynn Steppke, and Carol Noble.

Parish Ushers

Their special responsibility are of taking up the collections, seating and attending to the special requirements of parishioners at Masses on Sunday, on Holy Days, at special devotions, or at functions requested by the pastor of St. Boniface Church.



Parish Ushers, Left to right: Steve Losh, Israel Gonzalez, John Kucinski, Stan Stary

St. Francis Xavier Mission Circle #1

This group was formed in 1971 and its members, nearly all of whom come from St. Boniface Parish, meet once a month at one another's home. They work and pray for the missions.

The Men & Women Funeral Servers

This group of dedicated men and women have the distinct honor of being servers to all who have passed away and are buried from St. Boniface Church.

The Bonnie Seniors

This group meets on the second Monday of the month at 1:00 P.M. in the school hall. A variety of programs are planned throughout the year; also they provide an opportunity for companionship and friendship for our Senior parishioners.



The Bonnie Seniors. Left to right, front row: Irene Kaschak, Rose Kvac, Ann Strick, Marge Bruening, Mary Rep, Libby Lustic, Frank Jentner. Back row: Rose Reese, Lil Kitcko, Ruth McClain, Betty Pavlik, Elsie Janke, Carol Vrona, Frank Vrona, Bob Johnson, Marie Johnson, Joe Shiner, Rita Jentner.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Seventy-nine years ago Father Adolph Seeholzer asked two men of our parish to form a St. Vincent de Paul Society. Today, it is still active, the oldest continuing society in the parish. Its growth in membership and spiritual works at St. Boniface parallels the organization's growth throughout the United States. The group is responsible for physical, spiritual and material help given to those who request such aid within our parish boundaries.



Below, SAINT VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY: (Back) Terry, Dan, Candy, Sophie, Israel (Front) Rose, Rita, Sister Dianne



The Vietnamese Catholic Mothers

The Vietnamese Catholic Mothers was founded in May 2001. Any Vietnamese mother can join; currently the group has 40 members. They meet every first Friday of the month at 7 p.m. in the evening in church. Members visit the sick, greet new arrivals, coordinate the Vietnamese social activities, help prepare foods for special events. The Vietnamese Catholic Mothers collaborate with the Altar Rosary Society of St. Boniface in various parish events.

Parish Activities

Food Program

St. Boniface Parish has an established Food Program to help those in need. Food is collected from various organizations and given to St. Boniface, which then distributes it to those in need. Food is delivered every Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Over 100 families are helped each month.



FOOD PROGRAM: Left to right: Sister Dianne Skubby, Candy Jones, Terry Jones

Liturgical Ministries

These are many at St. Boniface, all of whom utilize their talent and generosity, they are:

Hospitality Ministers. Greeters assist before Mass in welcoming people to church, handing out the necessary books for Mass, and providing information to any guest.

Lectors assist in proclaiming the Word of God and at other prayer settings.

Eucharistic Ministers assist in helping with the distribution of communion during Mass, and at times, in carrying communion to our homebound parishioners when requested.

Altar Servers are comprised of the children of the parish as well as the men and women of the parish. They assist at all Masses and Holy Days as well as on special occasions.

The Choir and Ministers of Song. The choir is a great part of St. Boniface Church, it helps in our sung prayer, and assist at every 10:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday throughout the year and for any special occasion. The Ministers of Song, which is a unique part of our choir, also contributes their great talent and voices.



LECTORS & GREETERS: (Back row) Candy Jones, Rose Kristo, Donna Campbell, (Front row) Terri Kucinski, Sister Dianne, Rita Balash, (Not shown) Ed Petrish, John Terry



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: (Left to right) Donna Campbell, John Haas, Betty Paviik, Sister Dianne, Carol Kanzig, Lynn Steppke, Marlene Petrish, Karen Swiger, (Not shown) Ed Petrish, Herminio Mendez, Kathy Stary



ALTAR SERVERS: (Back row) Matt Swiger, Lynn Steppke, Ryan Smith, (Middle row) Donna Campbell, Karen Swiger, Rose Cummings, Betty Paviik, (Front row) Ean Balyer, Charmaine Bruce, Sister Dianne, Rachelle Bruce, Carol Noble, (Not shown) Amber Kemmerer, Cory Grega, Ashley McComas

Opportunities of Spiritual Formation

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This is available to all who are considering looking into the Catholic faith and have never been baptized or confirmed, or may be looking into joining the Catholic church and have already been a member of another Christian denomination. The process seeks to meet the needs of the individuals who come forth, and usually extends over one year from the time one begins.

Bible Study

This group meets weekly in the church narthex at 10:00 A.M. they study scripture and discuss many related topics.

Sacramental Preparation Programs

Infant Baptism. This is for the parents to attend baptism classes as directed by the Dioceses.

First Penance and First Eucharist. This is for the children who are preparing to receive the First Eucharist, classes are held during the school year.

Confirmation. This is offered to students who are freshmen in high school or older. Adults who need to receive the sacrament are also welcome.

Marriage Preparation

This is offered by the priest who is preparing the couple for the reception of this sacrament, and must begin (according to Diocesan Policy) at least 6 months prior to the marriage.



USHERS: (Back Row) Israel Gonzalez, Steve Losh, Nub Bruening, Matt Swiger, Jim Wennman
(Middle Row) Stanley Stary, Joe McNeeley, Benny Kucinski, Dan Steppke
(Front Row) Terri Kucinski, John Haas, Rita Balash, (Not shown) John Kucinski

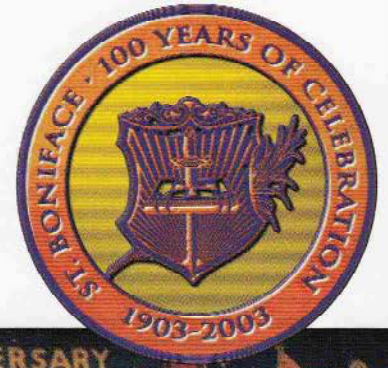


RCIA certification.
Sitting: Oanh Nguyen, Michelle Younes.
Standing, l. to r.:
Le Tran, Dan Steppke, Pat Weber, Tam Tran, Rose Cummings, Rhonda Adkins, Sister Dianne.



The Choirs

2003 activities



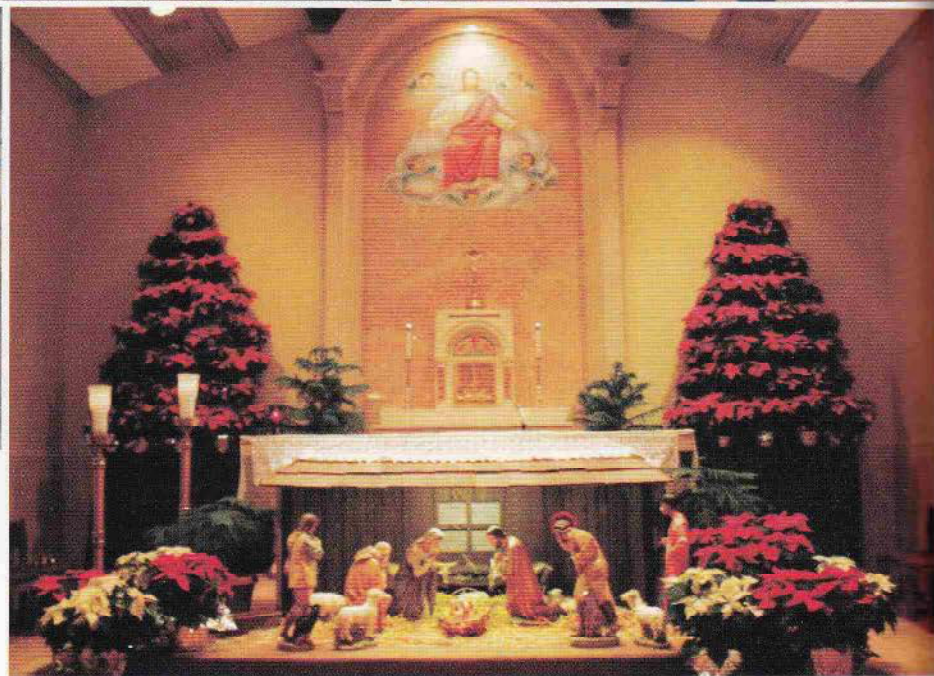
Kick-off 100th Anniversary
Polka Mass
October 26, 2002



Egg Roll Sale
February 2003
L. to r.: Carol Noble,
Ruh McLain,
Lynn Steppke



Below: Altar &
Rosary Society
60th anniversary



Christmas
December 25, 2002



Food Program, Thanksgiving
November 26, 2002
L. to r.: Dan Steppke, Candy
Jones, Terry Jones, Israel Gonzales



Far left: Thuy Do,
Archbishop J. B. Man,
Le-Hang Phan,
Anthony Young (Front)
March 16, 2003



Left: Nite at the races
February 15, 2003



100th anniversary thank you picnic, June 8, 2003. L. to r.:
Hannah Faith McComas, Genny McComas, Corey McComas,
Margaret Drury, Ashley McComas, Matt McComas.

Father Lan's 40th anniversary of Priesthood Ordination,
May 18, 2003

The Vietnamese American Apostolate

The parish community of St. Boniface was enhanced by the addition of the Vietnamese American Apostolate in May of 1992.

The Vietnamese Catholic Community was established by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland in 1977, when the influx of Vietnamese into Cleveland was most keenly felt during the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Its purpose was to provide for spiritual, cultural and social needs of the Vietnamese, using the plentiful resources of the many social services and offices existing in the Catholic Diocese.

The center for communal activities was originally placed at St. Stephen's Church on West 54th Street. In 1992, the Community had been transferred by the Diocese to St. Boniface. Starting with just a few families scattered throughout the eight counties of the Diocese, the Community now serves some 700 members, living as far South as Akron, West in Lorain and Medina and East in Painesville.

The Community is led by the director of the Vietnamese American Apostolate appointed by the Diocesan Bishop, in conjunction with a Pastoral Council, consisting of men and women selected from the Community. They carry on the planning and implementing of programs to serve various needs of the Community with a monthly meeting. During the past years, activities have been geared toward serving the needs of special population: youth, elderly and families, those of long time residents as well as new comers.

The distinctive services to the Community besides religious services are:

Classes held every Sunday taught by volunteer teachers drawn from the Community. Vietnamese children are taught language and Vietnamese history and culture. For catholic children a religious component is included. During the summer, a Bible Study week is held again with the help of volunteer teachers and parents.

In 1997, with the help of a small grant from the Diocese's Church in the City Program, an association of Vietnamese Seniors was founded. From a modest beginning with a little more than a dozen founding members, membership now swells to 85, and these included many not of the catholic faith.

The Community has family prayer groups which gather at members homes every Sunday for the praying of the Rosary. Besides celebrating all major feasts on the Catholic Calendar, such as The Feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs (November 24th), Christmas, and Easter, the Community also celebrates Tet (Vietnamese New Year) with proper solemnity.

The Vietnamese Community cooperates with St. Boniface Parish in many Liturgical, religious and social activities throughout the year.

Top: Vietnamese parishioners at Father Lan 40th anniversary Mass.

Middle left: L. to r: Singers celebrating lunar new year; l. to r.: My Truong, Thuy Do, Yen Phan, Oanh Nguyen, My Nguyen, Hoa Pham, Thuy Truong, Le Nguyen, Le-Hang Phan, Thu Doan

Middle right: Vietnamese youth group at the diocese youth conference 2003

Bottom: Vietnamese Sunday school classes



Facts worth remembering



- The current organ we have is still the original purchased from Germany by Father Mechler.
- The first mass offered at St. Boniface and the dedication of the new church building took place on October 8th, 1904.
- On October 30th, 1904, Father Seeholzer was named the first pastor of St. Boniface Church.
- Carl Horton, son of Hubert Horton of Horton Dairy, then the treasurer of the parish, was the first person to be baptized in the new church; Rev. C. Reichlin performed the ceremony on October 16th, 1904.
- The first wedding was solemnized on November 22, 1904, when Father Seeholzer united Joseph Reichl and Mary Roob in the bands of holy matrimony.
- The original founder and organizer of St. Boniface Church was the Rev. Casimir Reichlin, pastor of St. Stephens.
- The first statue of the Blessed Virgin was imported from Munich, Germany and donated in 1911 by the Women Sodality.
- In April 1907 the Young Ladies Sodality donated the first new ciborium.
- In 1910 the extensive iron fence around the entire church grounds from West 52nd Street down to Carlos to West 54th Street up to Denison Avenue and back down around the playground was erected; also electric lights were installed in the church for a total cost of only \$2321.00. Most of the original fence was donated to the war effort, although parts of the original fence still encompasses the rectory and St. Boniface School and the back playground.
- In 1910, the frame church building was skillfully enlarged and encased in brick veneer and the interior furnished with new pews at the cost of \$12,900.00. The original church structure is still encased to this day.
- The very first vestments used were gifts from the Christian Mothers Club.
- In October of 1910, the St. Boniface Aid Society purchased a banner from Europe, pronounced by Art critics as a masterpiece. The banner was blessed on the fifth Anniversary, its whereabouts are unknown today.
- The very first organist was John A. Weigel; he was engaged two weeks after its organization.
- In the history of St. Boniface Church there have been only four organists.
John A. Weigel
Leona O'Donnell
Lou Boday
Loretta Patten
- The first paper of St. Boniface Church was introduced by the Young Men's Sodality in 1911 and was called "The Bulletin", the same name that we refer to it today.
- The very first scheduled day of school in the new school building was cancelled due to the typical Cleveland weather, snow -no heat in the new building yet.
- In July of 1911 proceeds were acquired for the windows in the church, and in 1913 the Young Ladies Sodality made a cash donation of \$200.00 to St. Boniface, which was a very large amount in those times.
- The Young Ladies Sodality was organized in December of 1904, and placed under the patronage of the Virgin Mary and St. Rose of Lucia. The first meeting was held in June of 1905 with 53 active members. Today the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Boniface has over a hundred members, but actually have only 53 active members today.
- The statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was enthroned in St. Boniface Church on Palm Sunday, April 3, 1955. The late Rev. Giles Strub, O.F.M. officiated. Today, at St. Boniface we still have the enthronement of any person's home available to them.
- Father Reber talked from the rectory at the Masses for three years due to his illness with cancer till the time he was unable to do so.
- When we had our altar rails, they were always draped with an altar cloth from end to end and when a parishioner received communion, their hands were placed under the cloth in case the communion fell it landed on the cloth and not the floor.
- In the altar beneath the statue of St. Joseph there lies the relic of St. Boniface.

- **The three trees in front of St. Boniface School** were planted during the First World War to honor the three men from St. Boniface who were killed in action. Up till 1950 on Veterans Day St. Boniface remembered its dead parishioners with a small ceremony and a Mass in their honor. Their names are lost to history as no one in the parish remembers their names only the story.

- **There are two priests buried beneath St. Boniface Church, both are former pastors.**

- Did you know that one day Father Mechler, the former pastor of St. Boniface was hearing confessions and he took a break to go to the bathroom and when he returned he found wrapped in newspaper \$9,000.00, it was never claimed and he used the money to purchase a new tabernacle and a Monstrance.

- **Have you ever looked at the small wooden crosses under each station of the cross? These were hand made by Michael Frantz an original member of St. Boniface. His cousin, Dorothy Frantz is still a member of St. Boniface.**

- Did you realize that when St. Boniface came into existence, it was a priest from St. Stephens who founded the parish and gave it its first pastor? And now one hundred years later, the pastor is once again a priest who came from St. Stephens.

- **Did you know that at one time St. Boniface was able to provide their own heat. In 1909 a steam heating plant was installed for the cost of \$5,268.00, it was on the site where our rectory garage is now.**

- **Our current school building** was at the time a remarkable enterprise, with its large up-to-date (at that time) brick school building containing an auditorium and sixteen classrooms for the mere cost of \$135,000.00.

- **Also, the same building for a time had no second floor; it was covered till a time that the second floor could be built.**

The Young Ladies' Sodality

- **This Society was established in 1904, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It had 53 active members and a count of 114 enrollments.**

During the year the ladies would get together in the middle of the week and assemble items to be sold at their annual fair, which was held in December.

They were the active group who always attended to the various parish activities and gave of their time and talents, whether it be cooking, cleaning or sewing.

Their other responsibility was to take care of the needs of the altar of the church.

The Altar & Rosary Society

- **The Altar & Rosary Society was re-established in 1943, under the patronage of St. Anne, who is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has an active membership of 53 members and has a current enrollment of 114 members.**

During the year the ladies of the Altar & Rosary Society meet on Wednesdays in the rectory basement to make items, which are sold at the annual Christmas Boutique, which is held every December.

The Altar & Rosary Society is a group of ladies who at every parish function pitch in and help, whether it be to cook, clean or sew Baptismal bibs for the newest members of our parish.

The other function of the Altar & Rosary Society is to take care of the needs of the Altar, they purchase the host, which is used, members clean and keep the vestry in order and also a certain member decorates the altar for every holiday.



The Organists of St. Boniface

Through the 100th year history of St. Boniface parish there have only been four organists at St. Boniface.

The first organist of St. Boniface Church was **John F. Weigel**. He served in this capacity for approximately 26 years, enriching the worship of the parish.

Leona O' Donnell assumed responsibility for the church choir. Under her direction the Boys' Chancel Choir was formed, and it sang at all church occasions. The children of the school were taught to sing the Latin Mass, then in use.

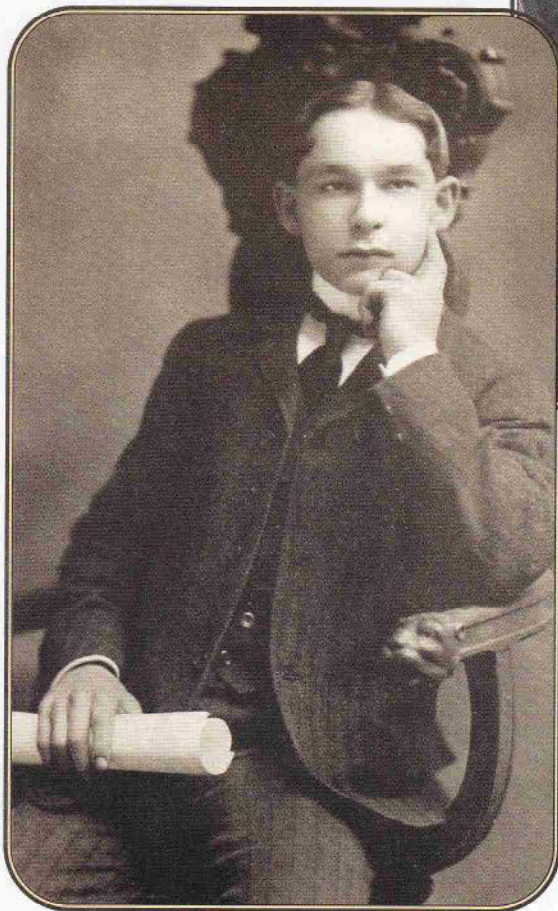
In 1950 Miss O'Donnell organized the Holy Name Men's Choir and in the years following she combined the men and women's choir so that they led the hymns at the regular monthly Sunday Mass and also on most of the Holy Days. Music at St. Boniface was given new impetus with the installation of the church's beautiful new organ during the major renovation of the church in 1960.

In March of 1979 Miss Leona O'Donnell celebrated her 50th Anniversary as choir mistress at St. Boniface. The time had come to recognize her great skills as a musician, and her work with the various choirs whose singing enriches the devotional life of our church.

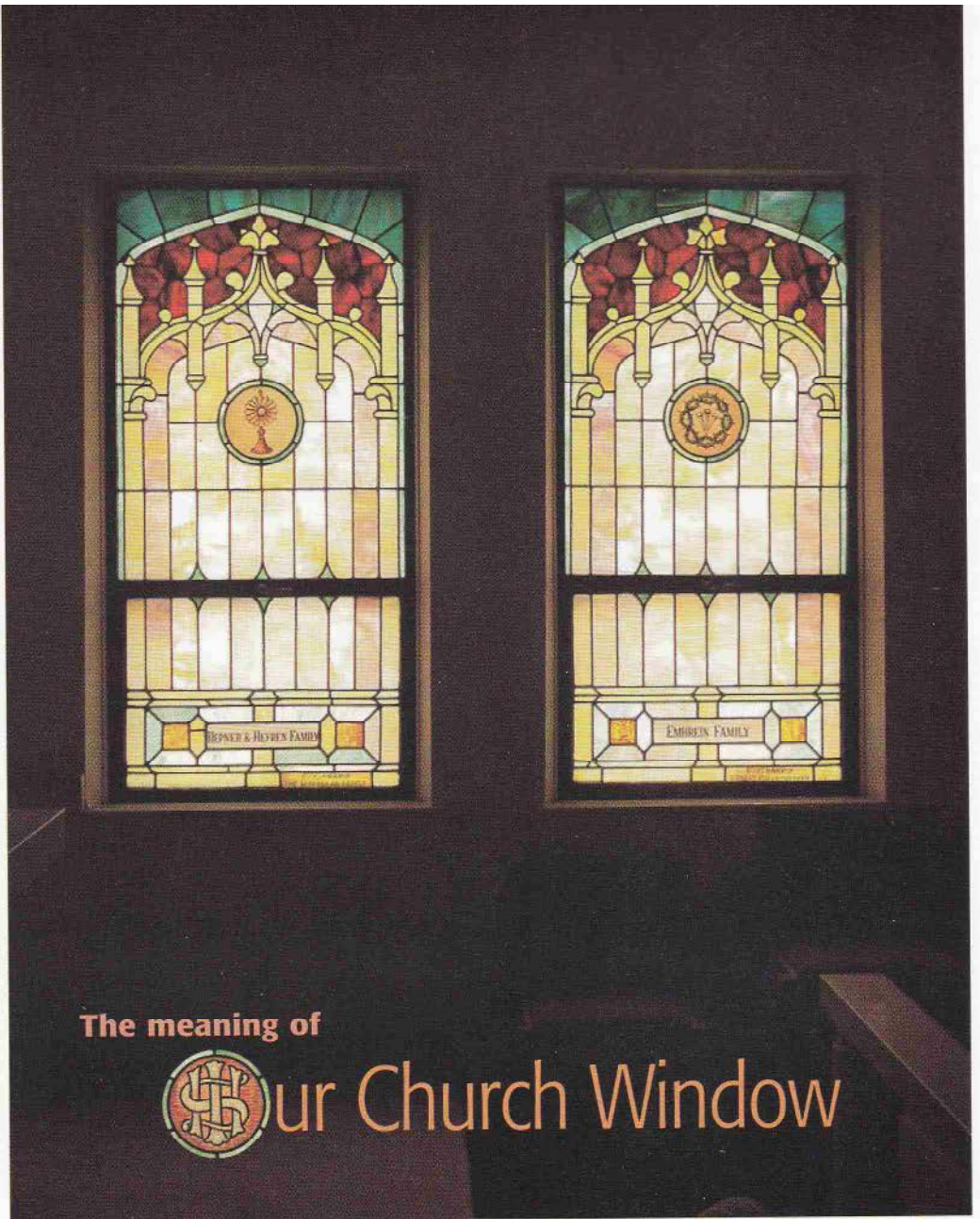
After Miss O'Donnell our organist was **Mr. Lou Boday**, who stayed a very short time at St. Boniface.

Our current organist is **Mrs. Loretta Patten**. Loretta came to us in 1989 and has been with us ever since. Not only does she do our Masses but she plays at all of our funerals and special occasions. And on every Sunday morning you can be sure she is there to lead us in song.

Our choir is now under the direction of Miss Judy Lungo. Not only does Judy direct the choir and the Ministers of Song but also she does remarkable work with the children of St. Boniface. She directs them in special pageants and events and we are extremely blessed to have her.



Left to right: John Weigel, Leona O'Donnell, Loretta Patten



The meaning of

ur Church Window

Windows are often used as an allegory for enlightenment or perhaps new pathways. Surely, you have noticed the stunning glass windows that align the sides of the church. These magnificent works of art depict the diverse people of St. Boniface. Coletta Medino, a former St. Boniface parishioner, obtained the meaning of each window from some of the Boniventure members. If you have ever wondered what the German phrases say, here they are:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Die Scholkinder | The School Children |
| Der Engel Verein | The Angel Club |
| Der St. Boniface Maenner Verein | The Men's Club |
| Gesang Verein | The Singing Club |
| Naeh Verein | Alumni of Distinguished Club |
| Mutter Kiche Verein | Mothers of Christ Club |
| Der Hof Mariae | The Courtyard of Mary |

Let the warmth and beauty of our church and its people open the windows in our hearts. Help us build a parish that can be every bit as strong and viable as it was when the stained glass windows were first installed. This is your parish, your home and your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Parish Statistics

		Baptisms	First Holy Communion	Confirmation	Marriages	Deaths
Rev. Adolph M. Seeholzer	1904 - 1926	2,887	77*	2,114	789	772
Rev. George Reber	1926 - 1940	1,594	458	1,484	694	574
Monsignor Joseph Trapp	1940 - 1941	139	138	284	74	40
Monsignor Anthony V. Mechler	1942 - 1967	4,473	2,898	2,127	1,174	1,269
Rev. Albert A. Karper	1967 - 1972	341	409	151	115	184
Rev. Eugene Kane	1972 - 1973	49	60	177	58	97
Rev. William Lyons	1973 - 1980	320	363	303	145	270
Rev. Richard Byrne	1980 - 1987	136	255	209	39	170
Rev. Richard Hudak	1987 - 1989	94	78	56	27	56
Rev. Alex Brazynetz	1989 - 1997	251	236	124	88	201
Rev. Augustine Phan Van Lan	1997 thru Present	135	114	105	35	89
Total	1904 - 2003	10,419	5,086*	7,134	3,238	3,722

* First Holy Communion records for Father Seeholzer are lost, no records available on this.

Parish membership 2003:

Total Catholic Households	648
Total Catholic persons (registered)	1,588

Parish members who have entered the convent, brotherhood, or seminary.

(Dating back only to 1936)	
Women entering Religious Order	52
Men entering Religious Order	27
Men entering Priesthood	33

Parish organizations

That was then...

St. Boniface Aid Society

The Young Ladies' Sodality
St. Boniface Young Men's Sodality
The Choral Society

The Christian Mothers' Society
St. Stanislaus for Boys Group
The Court of Mary

This is now...

Holy Name Society
Parish Finance Advisory Board
Altar & Rosary Society
St. Vincent DePaul Society
The St. Boniface Choir
The Vietnamese Choir
Vietnamese Catholic Mothers
The Youth Group
Men & Women Funeral Servers
Liturgical Ministries

First Societies in the parish

St. Boniface Aid Society
St. Boniface Young Men's Sodality
The Young Ladies' Sodality
The Christian Mothers' Society
St. Stanislaus for Boys Group
The Choral Society

The Court of Mary

Liturgical Ministries

Current Societies & Groups

Parish Finance Advisory Board
St. Vincent DePaul
The Altar & Rosary Society
The Vietnamese Catholic Mothers
The Youth Group
St. Boniface Choir
The Vietnamese Choir
Men & Women Funeral Servers
St. Aloysius for young men
Parish Pastoral Council
The Bonnie Seniors
The Food Program
Bingo
Bible Study Group
St. Francis Xavier Circle Mission # 1
Parish Ushers
Vibrant Parish Life
And the Many Volunteer Workers

Without the work and dedication from these groups, from the past to the present, the spirit, which is St. Boniface Parish, will endure for yet another 100 years.

Thank you to the 100th Anniversary Committee

On June 12, 2001, Father Lan asked the parishioners to establish a committee to form the 100th Anniversary Committee. An Executive Committee was formed, consisting of the following members:

Rev. Augustine P. Van Lan	Sister Dianne Skubby, CPPS
Lynn Steppke	Rita Balash
Kathy Brenenstuhl	Dr. Dieu Do
Lois Krause	Terri Kucinski
Mary McNeeley	Peter Nguyen
Carol Noble	Elizabeth Quinones
Dan Steppke	Carol & Frank Vrona

Through the hard work and dedication of these people a great many accomplishments and events were done towards our 100th Anniversary. There was Sister Dianne who contributed long hours so that we may have a current pictorial directory, and Peter Nguyen who not only helped design and plan the layout of our history book, but designed the logo we have to commemorate the 100th Anniversary, Carol & Frank Vrona who took it upon themselves to get the logo made, Dr. Do who was able to get special guests, Rita Balash who did our advertising in the bulletin, Mary McNeeley who made sure special notices were mailed out, Kathy Brenenstuhl and Liz Quinones who were always there to help in any event, Lois Krause who kept us up to date with our minutes and who also planned our celebration dinner, Terri Kucinski and her family who helped in fund raising, Carol Noble who organized the events we have had so far to date and Dan Steppke who did the advertising for our book.

There were those who were not on the planning committee who gave of their time and talents they were; the Ladies of the Altar & Rosary Society who always pitched in and helped, the Vietnamese Catholic Mothers who helped with a fund raiser, the Choir who sang such beautiful songs, the Office Staff who helped with our copying and bulletin inserts, Rick for always helping set up our events, and Nub Bruening who took pictures for us. The children of St. Boniface School who made our great banner for us, and participated in events.

Then there were those that helped and were always there when something needed doing, Pat Weber, Rose Cummings, Pete Lungo Sr., Matt Swiger, and my husband Dan Steppke who not only was there to help me in all that was planned but to be at my side in doing it all and most importantly the parishioners of St. Boniface Church who without their help and support none of it would be possible and finally Father Lan who gave us guidance and support in every thing we did.

My Very Special Thanks to all, and may God Bless us towards another 100 years.



Lynn Steppke
Chairperson, 100th Anniversary

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Michele Noernberg
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Ministers of Song
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Saint Michael the Arch Angel Church
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Saint Wendelin's Church

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1943-2003

Celebrating our 60th year

In memory of
Anthony & Martha Rupar
Love,

**Jean, Kenneth, John,
Maxine, & William**

In memory of
John E. Strick
Judy Strick Ramsdell

**From
Parents John & Anne Strick**

Congratulations
on your 100th year

Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dianne Skubby, CPPS

In loving memory of
our mothers
Josephine Young
Mildred N. Steppke

In loving memory of
Shelley Kitcko

November 25, 1974 – March 11, 2001

Living and deceased
members of the
Dusek and Kitcko Family

In loving memory of
Patrick, Agnes, Donald
Cummings

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on your 100th year
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The Kermock family
in loving memory of
their parents
Nick & Anna

In loving memory of
Henry Evert &
Catherine Mizera

Best wishes
on beginning
your
second century
of caring

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with St. Boniface Parish

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on your
100th Anniversary
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my husband Jake

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and God's blessings*

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on its 100th Anniversary*

1903-2003



and

*Father Augustine Pham Van Lan
on his 40th Anniversary
of the Priesthood*

1963 - 2003

Father James H. Beatty, Pastor of Holy Spirit Church

**Dr. & Mrs. Dieu Do
Francis, Stephanie, Jennifer**

*God blessing
to
St. Boniface Church
on your
100th anniversary*

*The Ray & Laverne
Schmotzer family*

Congratulations
on your 100th anniversary!

St. Patrick Parish
Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

In loving memory of
my parents:
Bev, Catherine and Ella Pekar

Congratulations
and God's blessings
on your 100th
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Best wishes on your
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Ed, Marlene & Jason Petrish

Congratulations on your
100th anniversary

**The Zjaba Family
Jackie, David, Michelle, Danielle**

For the clergy, religious and
parishioners, past and present,
living & deceased whose love,
dedication and service
have brought us to this
celebration of 100 years

“The Ministers of Song”
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for 16 years

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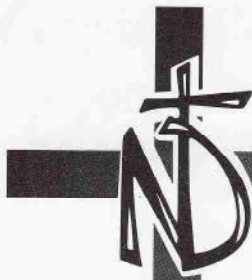
In loving memory
of my husband
Jim Weber

In loving memory of
Harry & Sophie Witkiewicz



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The Sisters of Notre Dame

*extend congratulations
to the faith community of*

St. Boniface Parish

on the occasion of your

100th anniversary.

*We wish you God's blessing now
and for the future and thank God
for the privilege of ministering
with you since 1904.*

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Best wishes
on your
100th anniversary

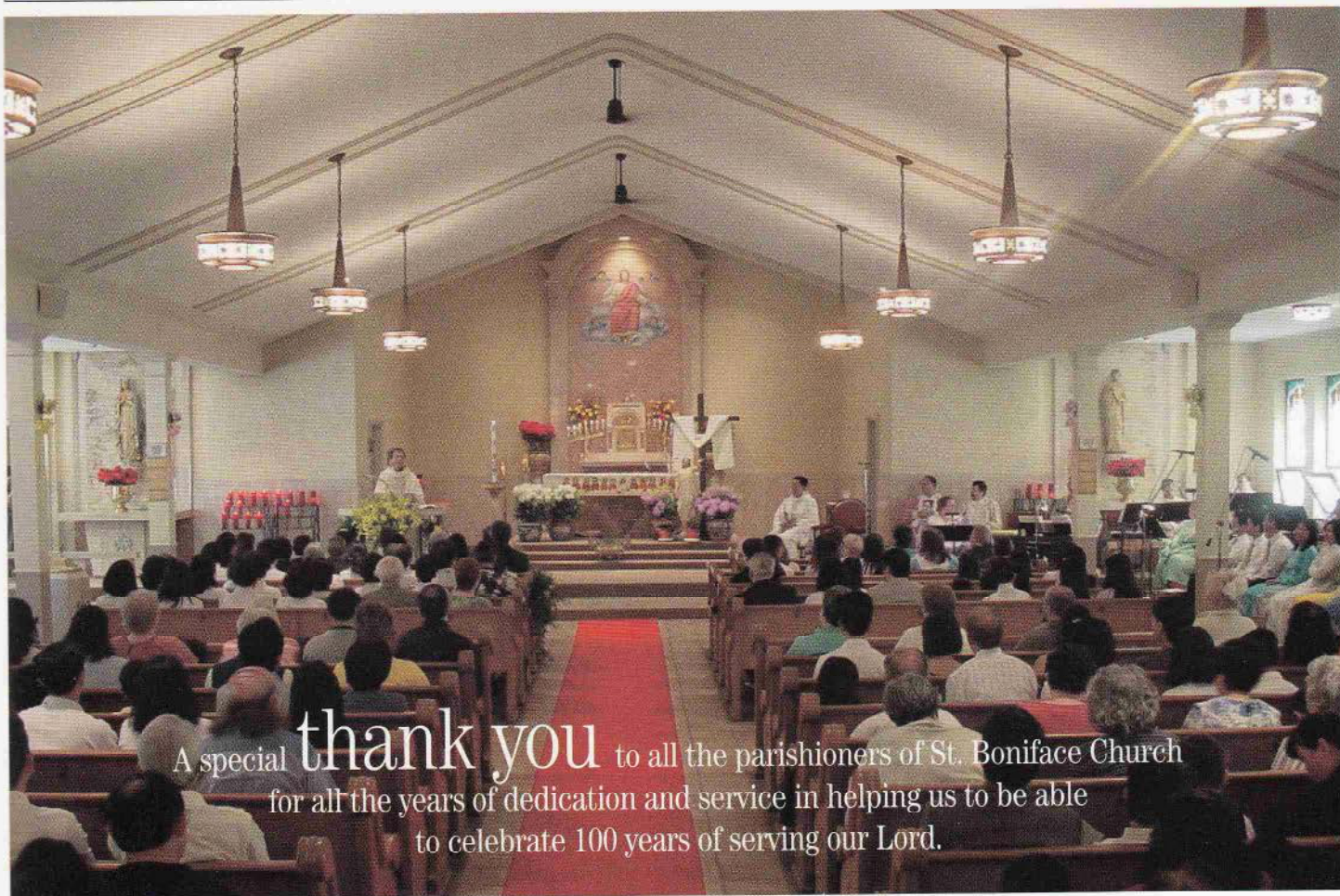
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A special **thank you** to all the parishioners of St. Boniface Church
for all the years of dedication and service in helping us to be able
to celebrate 100 years of serving our Lord.

Congratulations,
blessings and
best wishes on the
100th anniversary of
St. Boniface Parish

From your neighbor and friends at
St. Wendelin Parish

100th
Anniversary



1
9
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3
to
2
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3

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Church*

Congratulations
on one hundred
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God's people

Father Joseph Mecir, OSF

Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus
Son of the parish

Congratulations
and best wishes on
a hundred years

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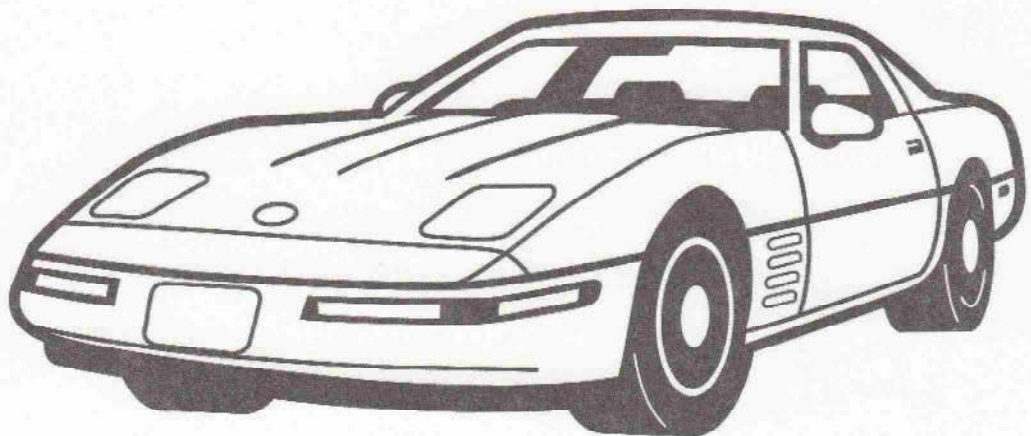
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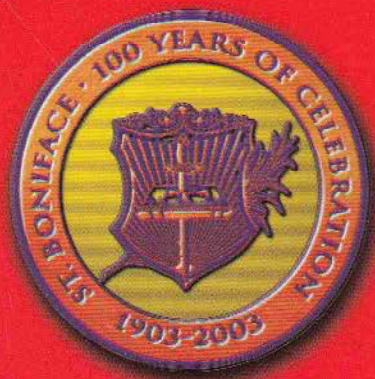
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