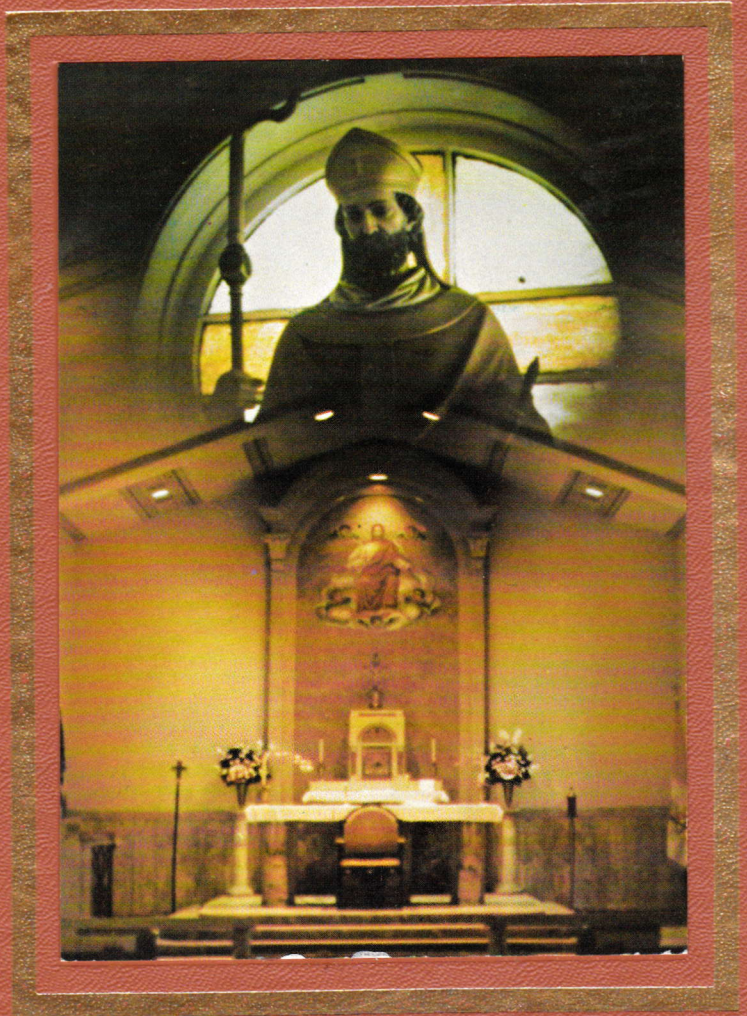


842

St. Boniface Church
Cleveland, Ohio



We are
one in the spirit



St. Boniface Church

Cleveland, Ohio



1979

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Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul I
joyfully imparts
His Apostolic Blessing
to
The Family of Saint Boniface Parish
Cleveland, Ohio
during the celebration of Diamond Jubilee
as a Parish Community
October 1979

Ex fidelis Vaticanis die 5 III 1979

+ Anthony W. Bradis, Bishop
Cleveland, S.P.

March 2, 1979

Dear Family of Saint Boniface Parish,

It is a great pleasure to offer my congratulations on this special anniversary, the diamond jubilee of Saint Boniface Parish. A diamond is a singularly appropriate symbol for this occasion. Diamonds are precious and durable. The faith of the people of Saint Boniface has endured through many years and many changes. This faith is a true treasure which has greatly enriched the Church.

Seventy-five years can be judged as a relatively brief period of time. Doubtless there are people here who remember Father Seeholzer and the founders of this parish. They can relate instances of the many sacrifices which helped create Saint Boniface Parish. Father Seeholzer, the founding pastor, dedicated everything to the parish. When he died, his grieving parishioners discovered that he had died penniless. Everything he had possessed had been given to the parish.

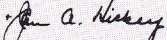
The gentle dedication and self-sacrifice of Father Seeholzer established the character of Saint Boniface Parish. Though it had been founded by people of a German background, it welcomed Slovak, Bohemian, and Polish immigrants. Despite their diverse heritages, these people quickly united into a loving family.

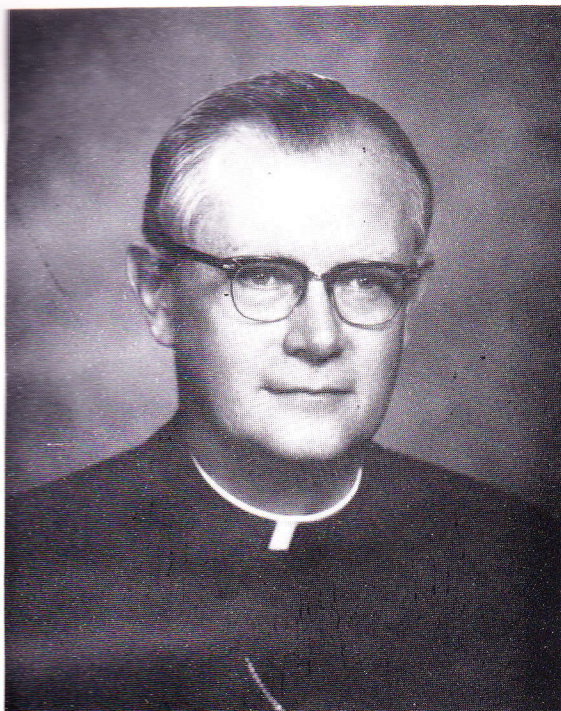
This family spirit manifested itself in a deep concern for the children of the parish. The parish school at Saint Boniface was renowned for its dedicated teachers. The priests with the support of the laity created a number of programs that would help the children grow in the image of Christ.

I pray that this occasion may be a time of rejoicing for the entire parish community. May all of you use this anniversary to renew yourselves and your parish in the service of God. May you follow the footsteps of Christ no matter where they lead.

With my blessing, I am

Sincerely in Christ,


(Most Reverend) James A. Hickey
Bishop of Cleveland



*Most Reverend
James A. Hickey
Bishop of Cleveland*

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP - SUMMIT COUNTY
40 EAST CENTER STREET
AKRON, OHIO 44308

September 1, 1979

Very Rev. William P. Lyons, V.F., Pastor
St. Boniface Church
3545 West 54th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Dear Father Lyons,

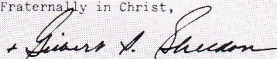
It is a pleasure to offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes to you, your Staff, the Sisters, and the members of St. Boniface Parish on the occasion of the 75th Jubilee of the Parish.

It is an added joy for me because of my pleasant, if brief, stay as a guest and a part of St. Boniface in 1978.

The witness to the faith and to Christian community that St. Boniface has given during these last seventy-five years is incalculable. Its true dimensions will be known only in eternity. In terms of human history, St. Boniface is a landmark in the Cleveland Community.

As we rejoice in the accomplishments of the past, we look forward to many more fruitful years in the future. As I join my prayers of thanksgiving with yours, I pray that it be so.

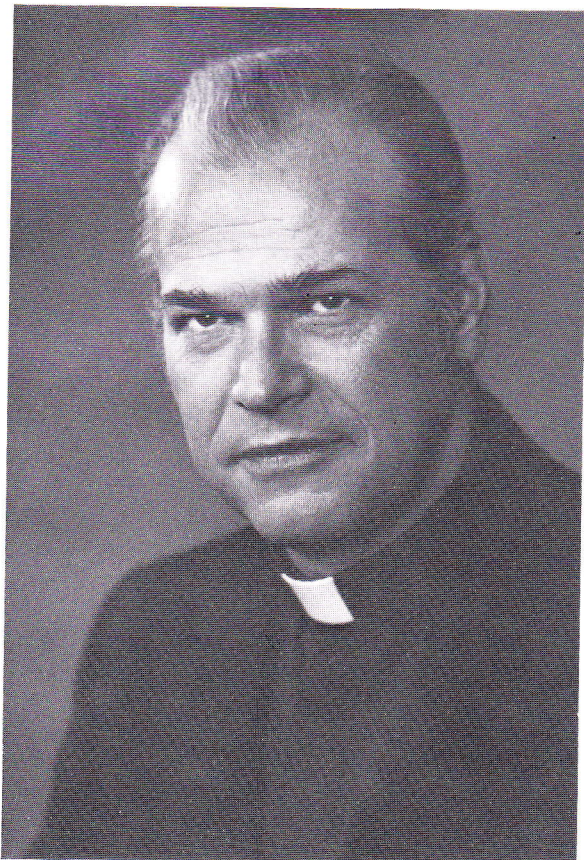
Fraternally in Christ,



Most Reverend Gilbert I. Sheldon
Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland

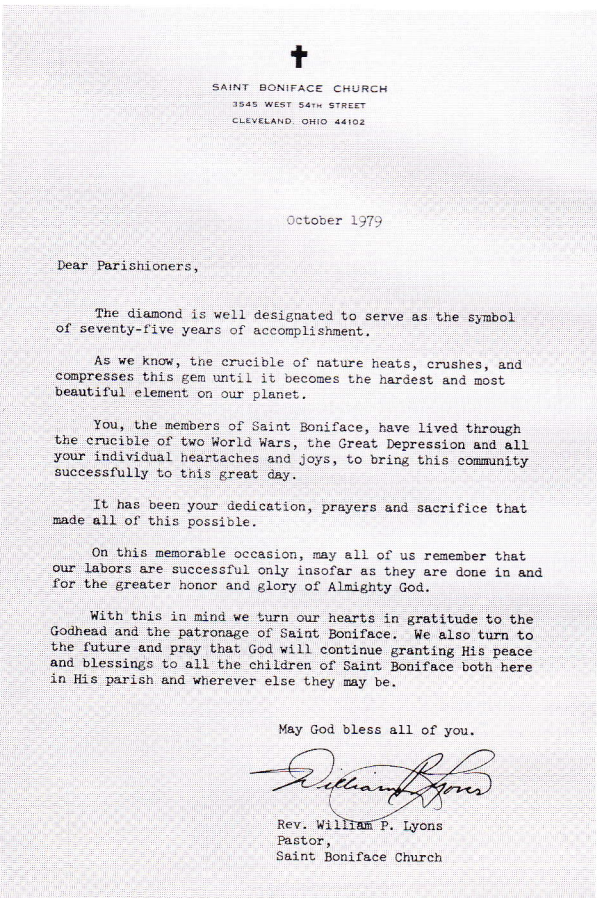


*Most Reverend
Gilbert I. Sheldon
Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland*



*Reverend William P. Lyons
Pastor*

*Reverend James A. Smith
Associate*



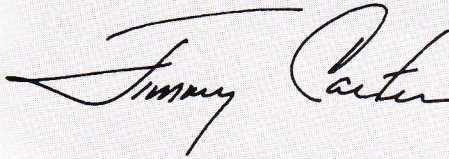
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 14, 1979

To the Congregation of
Saint Boniface Church

Congratulations on the anniversary of your congregation.
It is a pleasure to send my very best wishes to all of you
and to join in your prayers for continued spiritual strength
for all Americans.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

*Jimmy Carter
President of the
United States*





James A. Rhodes
Governor of Ohio



THE STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE HOUSE, COLUMBUS 43215

JAMES A. RHODES
GOVERNOR

October, 1979

Rev William P. Lyons
Pastor
St. Boniface's Church
3545 West 45th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Dear Reverend Lyons:

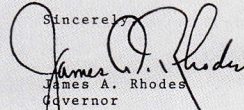
Please extend my congratulations and best wishes to your congregation as you observe the 75th anniversary of your church.

St. Boniface's Church has earned a warm place in the hearts of all Cleveland residents and particularly in the hearts of those who live in the west side area where the church is located.

It has served as a neighborhood center of spiritual and social activity and has adapted itself magnificently to changing needs of the area as time has passed.

The State of Ohio benefits and grows with support of such strong churches. The entire state is indebted to St. Boniface's for its contributions to the Ohio way of life.

It is my great hope that you have a memorable and enjoyable Diamond Jubilee. I am sure that your church and its congregation will continue to grow with abundant success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

James A. Rhodes
Governor



City of Cleveland

DENNIS J. KUCINICH, MAYOR

October 1, 1979

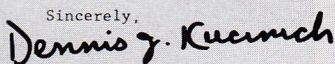
Members of St. Boniface Church:

October marks the 75th Anniversary of St. Boniface Church. All parishioners can take pride in the fact that St. Boniface has been serving the religious and social needs of its community during those seven and a half decades.

Parishes such as yours are the lifeblood of our neighborhoods. They are a hub of activity and a central meeting place for the people of the area.

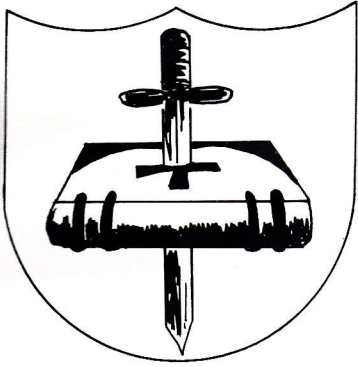
They also provide organized programs for our youth, promoting Christian ideals of cooperation, goodwill and good citizenship. These activities lay the foundation for a fundamentally sound adult life.

On behalf of the people of the City of Cleveland, I congratulate all of you on this most auspicious occasion and commend you for the many contributions you have made to your community and to our city during your first 75 years.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis J. Kucinich
Mayor of Cleveland





St. Boniface

St. Boniface, an Anglo-Saxon, born in Devon, England, entered a Benedictine monastery, in Exeter at the age of five to study for the priesthood. Later, he became head of the abbey school. He was ordained a priest when he was thirty. Six years later he set off on his first missionary expedition to Germany, which proved a failure. He left England again in 718 and went to Rome to obtain the pope's blessing on his next mission to the German people.

It was slow and dangerous work: he destroyed pagan temples and built churches on their sites. Once, for example, he cut down a huge oak that was dedicated to Jupiter, and used the tree to build a church dedicated to St. Peter. His evangelizing mission was a success. He was recalled to Rome by the pope, consecrated a bishop, and returned to Germany to continue his work of organizing the church, establishing his episcopal see at Mainz.

He founded schools and abbeys, and sent to England for nuns and monks to staff them. With the backing of Charles Martel and Pippin he organized the Frankish church. At the age of seventy-five he finally set out to convert a pagan tribe in Holland. While he was waiting to confirm a group of newly-baptized Christians, a band of pagans arrived. One of the bishop's attendants wanted to oppose them but he said, "My children, do not resist." So it was that the pagans killed the saint and the other fifty-two Christians with him on June 5, 755.

St. Boniface, because of his great work in converting the 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.



St. Boniface Church

75 Years of Faith



St. Boniface Church and School, around 1905

At the turn of the century, when the Reverend Casimir Reichlin was rector of St. Stephen's Parish, Cleveland, he noted that many of his parishioners were having a difficult time with the long distances they had to travel to attend Mass. This was especially true of the families living in the distant southwest section of the parish. It was a difficult and undeveloped section of Cleveland at the time, and the Catholic families living there were mostly of German and Hungarian descent. In a plan to form a new parish to serve these families, Father Reichlin first obtained permission from Bishop Ignatius Horstman to purchase eight lots along Iona and Poplar Streets (now West 52nd and West 54th Streets) at a total cost of \$2,750. These streets would mark the first boundaries of St. Boniface church property, which was established in 1903.

A New Home for the Faithful

In August of the following year, a small frame church was completed. Catholic education being of primary importance to the founders of this new parish, they built the church in such a way that it could be divided into three rooms for use as a school during the week. The space would then be opened on Sundays when the congregation, numbering approximately three hundred members, attended Mass. The First Mass offered at St. Boniface and the dedication of the new church building took place on October 7, 1904. During this same month, on October 30, 1904, the Reverend Adolph Seeholzer, who had been serving as assistant at St. Stephen's, was named the first pastor of the new parish at St. Boniface, where he remained for the next two decades, guiding its initial stages of growth and development.

The Parish School

The children of the parish were especially dear to Father Seeholzer and he saw to it that the provision of good Catholic education was a top priority during the earliest years of the parish. In fact, the Sisters of Notre Dame arrived to supervise the opening of the new school of St. Boniface before the parish pastor was officially appointed! The first three nuns



who came were Sister Mary Basilla, Sister Mary Adelphine, and Sister Mary Emerita. They arrived at the southwest Cleveland parish on October 22, 1904, three days before the school was scheduled to open.

October 25, 1904, however, was so cold, that the first day's classes were canceled because there was no heating system in the new church building. Quickly installing a stove, the nuns opened St. Boniface School for its first day of classes the following day. A total of sixty children were welcomed to classes in the first, second, and third grades. These young students came to St. Boniface mainly from the neighboring public schools. Within another three months — by January, 1905 — one hundred and fifty children were attending St. Boniface School. These children were members of the new parish who had been transferred from St. Stephen's School, and who entered grades three-through-five at St. Boniface.

In 1905 a separate school building was constructed directly behind the original parish church. In outward appearance it looked like a large framehouse, the kind that might be found in most neighborhoods, but it contained four new classrooms. A total of seven rooms were now available for the instruction of St. Boniface pupils. At the time also, another eight lots were purchased toward the future expansion of the parish.

Yet a further purchase a year later, in 1906, yielded more classroom space and, just as important, a rectory. This property was the Storer homestead on Denison Avenue, bounded by Iona and Poplar Streets. It was the main house that became the much-needed rectory, while the large Storer barn was remodeled to provide two new classrooms. In less than a year's time, two additional classrooms were added to this building, so that a total of eight rooms was

now available for classes in the various separate structures.

The house and lot occupied by the Sisters of Notre Dame was purchased in 1907, and then enlarged three years later to its present size and appearance. By 1907, St. Boniface Parish owned all the land bordered by what is now Denison and Carlos Avenues, and West 52nd and West 54th Streets. Nine years would pass before another major change in the parish school facilities was undertaken.

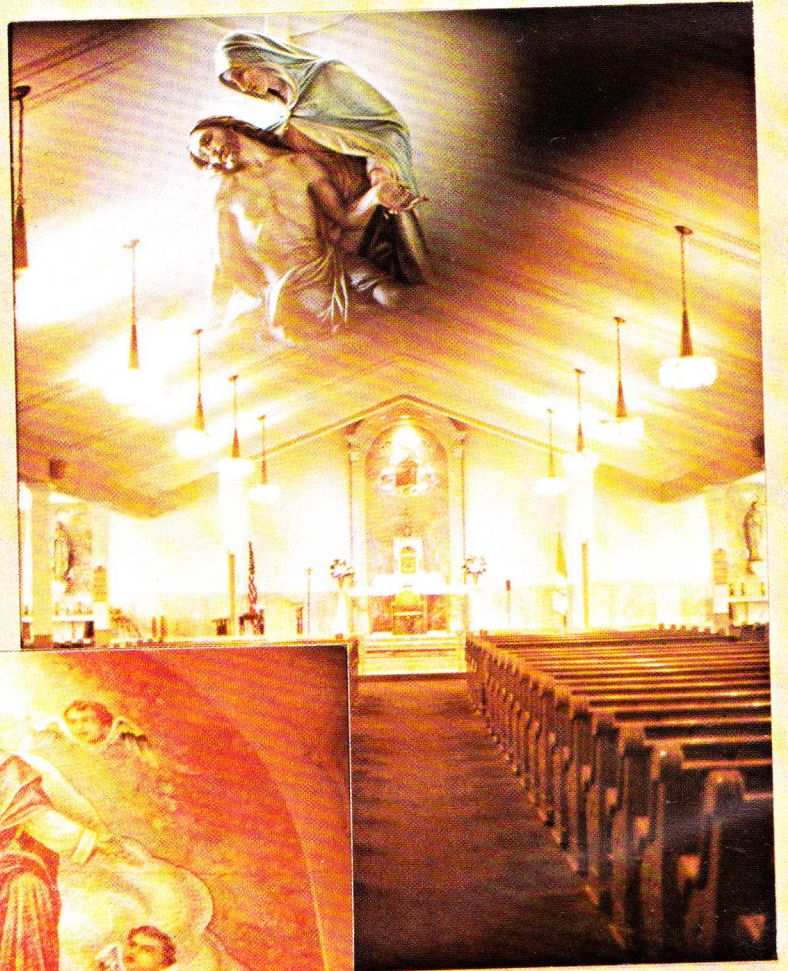
Years of Church Growth

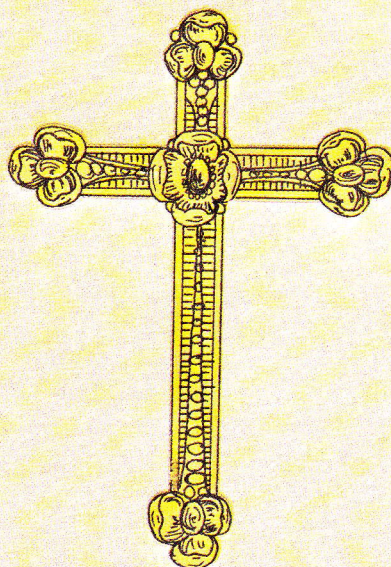
With the needs of the parish's children being met, the concern of the parish now turned back to the church. The original small frame church that seated three hundred parishioners was no longer needed for classroom space. In 1911 the main church was widened to include the two side aisles of the present church. New pews were installed. The frame exterior was encased in a brick veneer. Confessionals were purchased, as well as other church furniture. Stained-glass windows were donated, the whole effect combined to beautify the house of God and testify to the parish's devotion to their Savior. At this time the iron fence that still surrounds St. Boniface was installed, as were the church's electric lights. St. Boniface Church could now accommodate seven hundred parishioners.

During this same era, and still under the guidance of Father Seeholzer, the cornerstone

*“How awe-inspiring this place is!
This is nothing less than the house
of God; this is the gate of heaven.”*

Genesis 28:17





*“Gladness of heart is life
to a man, joy is what gives
him length of days.”*

Ecclesiasticus 30:22,23



The Second Pastor Father Reber



St. Boniface High School, with its commercial program was instrumental in the growth of St. Boniface Parish

for a new school building was laid in October, 1916. It was a monumental undertaking for the parish, but within the following year the first story of the school was completed, and it provided eight new classrooms along with such special facilities as an auditorium and a kitchen.

A temporary roof was installed over this first story of St. Boniface School, and the auditorium was quickly put to permanent use serving the older children of the parish. It housed the classes of the parish's new two-year commercial high school. Within seven years, the second story of the new school building was in place, adding a complement of eight more classrooms as well as an office for the administrative staff. This phase of the building program was completed in March of 1923, and still the enrollment at St. Boniface School continued to increase. 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.

It was in the midst of this period of growth that St. Boniface's first pastor, Father Seeholzer, died on March 31, 1926. Most of the land now owned by the parish had been purchased during his tenure. Through his labor and dedication—always tempered by kindness and patience—he presided over the construction of most of the present church structures.

The parish whose foundations he had so lovingly guided now welcomed its second pastor, the Reverend George Reber, who came to St. Boniface on May 18, 1926. A period of continued spiritual and material growth followed and, like his predecessor, Father Reber especially cared for the children of the parish, and worked to see that they grew strong in the faith.

To accommodate the still-growing congregation, a new program to enlarge the church was undertaken and in 1932 the body of the church was lengthened approximately thirty feet. St. Boniface's seating capacity now grew from seven hundred to one thousand. To give some idea of how short the church was before this work was done, the two steps leading to the communion rail were even with the two front confessionals before the extension was undertaken. In outward appearance, the church in 1932 looked essentially the same as it does today, complete with the improvements that had been finished under Father Seeholzer in 1911.

The enlarged interior of St. Boniface accommodated the many beautiful services in which the parish children took special part—from the lovely devotion of the May Crowning



to each year's class of children making their First Holy Communion. Father Reber is remembered for the pains he took to see that every service of the church was one to be remembered and cherished. Who could forget the good pastor walking through the church before Mass each Sunday, checking to make sure that all the children were seated up front and not sitting in the back of the church with their parents? Beyond this commitment to the children, Father Reber gave love and understanding to all the parishioners. These feelings were gratefully returned.

Many physical changes in the parish took place under Father Reber's pastorate. The first was the building of the brick parish house in 1935, a change that eliminated the long walk up Denison Avenue the good priests were forced to make in all kinds of weather. The new parish house, built directly north of the church, was on the site of a small wooded park. It was an area filled with many fond memories because the annual parish picnic had been held there each year on Labor Day weekend. The old rectory on Denison Avenue was leased to Van Schuster, who converted it into a funeral home — a business that is still operated there today by Mr. Schuster's son-in-law, Hugh Straker.

It was also during construction of the new brick parish house that the parish's first separate school building — the old wood structure that had been built directly behind the church — was demolished. It had served for thirty years, and provided meeting rooms for various parish organizations for the last ten of those years.

Before a new era of physical changes were begun, however, St. Boniface's beloved second pastor died on November 16, 1940. Within the month the Reverend Monsignor Joseph Trapp was appointed to lead the growing parish, coming to St. Boniface on December 12, 1940,

and serving until he died less than two years later, on October 6, 1942. During that time, he worked constantly for the better education of the parish, striving to give spiritual guidance to the people. His guidance was especially needed with the beginning of the war years that brought so many changes and dislocations to the parish family.

Changes in the school program were also 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 facility on Denison Avenue was discussed at length. Those who pointed out what a serious financial burden this would impose on the parish gradually prevailed, and the new school was built elsewhere. St. Boniface High School then ceased operations completely in June of 1959.

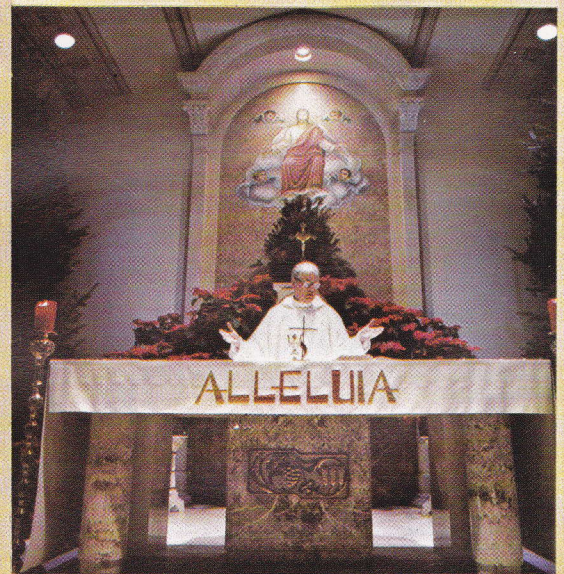
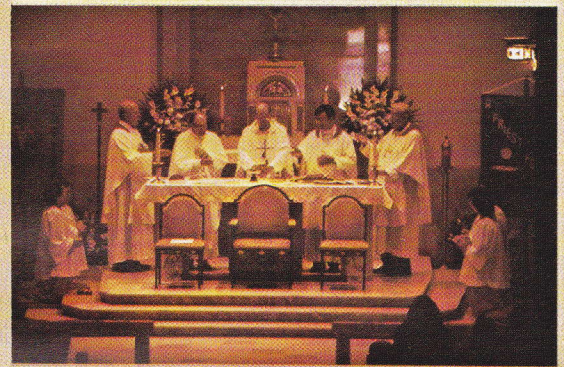
Monsignor Mechler Comes to St. Boniface

It was at this time, during the initial changes in the high-school program, that the Reverend Anthony V. Mechler assumed his duties at St. Boniface. He came to the parish on October 30, 1942, and was elevated to Monsignor some eighteen years later, in 1960. In these early years of World War II, Father Mechler inaugurated the special Monday night novena of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to pray for the

"I love the house where you live, the place where your glory makes its home."

Psalms 26:8







*St. Boniface Grammar School
is dedicated to excellence in
academic and religious education*

young men and women who were serving their country, and especially for those of the parish who were serving overseas.



Enthroning Christ the King

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 3, 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 at St. Boniface School. In preparation for this event, the Reverend Francis Larkin, S.S.C.C., the National Director of the Enthronement, had visited the parish to speak about the movement and its goals. The parish coordinators of the Enthronement were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weber.

While he was pastor during the closing of the high school, Father Mechler saw the elementary enrollment stabilize at a continuing population of between five hundred and six hundred pupils. At about this time too — on March 10, 1960 — Father Mechler was elevated to the honor of Monsignor. It was a time of great joy for the parish as well as an honor for its priest. In terms of the physical needs of St. Boniface, he committed himself to a thrifty program of saving and paying off church debts. This program would leave the parish free of debt when he retired many years later.

What an undertaking and achievement this was must be understood in the context of the changes going on in the church at that time, and the complete local program of remodeling and renovation that conformed to the liturgical changes in the life of the church. During the period of the middle 60s, the interior of St. Boniface Church was completely renovated. The ceiling of the sanctuary was raised approximately three feet, so that it met the roof of the structure. New altars and altar accessories were purchased. New statues were bought, and the existing pews and the church confessionals were completely refinished.

This program of complete remodeling was carried out in a spirit of devotion to enhance the worship of God and to enrich the parish's prayer and sacramental life. The best Italian marble available was purchased for the sanctuary. The finest organ that was available was purchased to add beauty to the music of the liturgy. It is a magnificent instrument that took ten days to install. The altar boys' sacristy was enlarged, and the new baptismal area was constructed behind the Main Altar of the church. Finally, all the parking areas of the church were renovated and newly black-topped.



New Splendor in the House of God

To celebrate and give thanks for this new splendor, the church was reopened after renovations with a solemn high Mass celebrated on October 29, 1967—just sixty-three years to the month from the time of its original dedication and First Mass in 1904.

The priest who continued Father Seeholzer's commitment to St. Boniface and its people, Monsignor Mechler, was also being honored on that day in 1967. The Solemn Mass commemorated not only the building but his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor.

This event occasioned an outpouring of love and prayerful affection that the parish felt for its devoted pastor. It was time to show thanks for his twenty-five years of faithful ministry to the needs of his people. After this memorable day Monsignor Mechler retired to his home in Doylestown, Ohio, where he continued to celebrate Mass daily at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Doylestown. Here he also heard weekly confessions. It was because of his leadership at St. Boniface that the parish savings had accrued sufficient funds to completely pay for the church's renovation. He retired knowing that St. Boniface was free of debt. Monsignor Mechler died on March 4, 1978. He is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery.

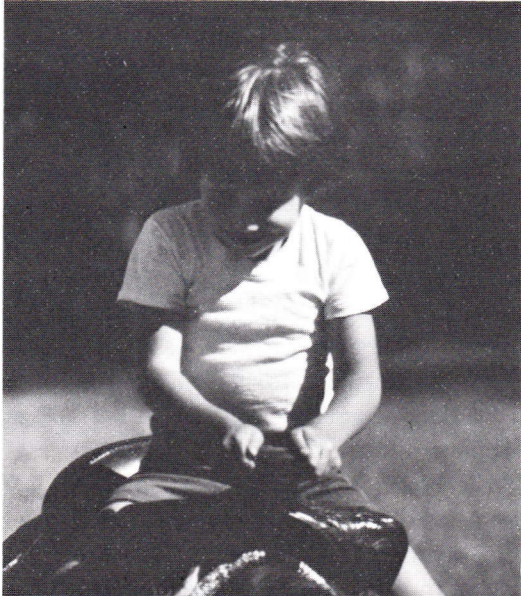
It was after Monsignor Mechler's retirement that the Reverend Albert A. Karper came to St. Boniface, becoming pastor on November 28, 1967. He did much to carry on the good work and the high quality of leadership that had been established by his predecessors. During his pastorate the "250" Club was founded,

and laymen were first introduced as Mass commentators. Due to Father Karper's illness, however, the Reverend Eugene Kane was appointed administrator of St. Boniface's on February 23, 1971. Father Kane continued to serve through the resignation of Father Karper, because of ill health, on June 26, 1972, and until the appointment of a new pastor.

It was Father Kane who initiated the Tuesday night bingo games to help meet the tuition of the school children, and to establish a permanent scholarship fund. In 1973 the enrollment of St. Boniface School, which had been slowly ebbing downward from the 500-600 mark of the 1960s, dropped to a low of 232 children. A scholarship program, then, was one of the ways of making it possible for more parishioners to send their children to the parish school. Father Kane also introduced the guitar Mass on Sunday, and remained as administrator until the appointment of the next, and current pastor just before the 1973 school year began.

Father Lyons at St. Boniface

With the appointment of the Reverend William Lyons as pastor of St. Boniface on August 29, 1973, there came new energy to carry on the tradition of St. Boniface's preceding pastors, and also to continue integrating new liturgical forms into the life of the parish. Some of the new innovations include: the distribution of Communion by laymen, the installation of a new Cry Room, and the building of new confessionals. The interior of the church has also been completely redecorated.



"...We are children of God."
I John 4:6

The School Today

During the 1973-74 school year—and immediately after the record low enrollment of two hundred and thirty-two pupils—it was decided to reopen the St. Boniface School kindergarten. It had been closed for many years. Parents of these youngest pupils were now able to begin their children's education in the parish school. Since this new kindergarten program became available in the fall of 1974, the elementary school population has gradually in-

creased in size. As of October, 1978, there were three hundred and forty-one children attending classes in kindergarten through eighth grade.

St. Boniface School continues to be supervised by the Sisters of Notre Dame, and its staff includes six Sisters, seven lay teachers, and five other staff members working in the service areas. In this Diamond Jubilee year of the parish, the continuous devotion of the Sisters of Notre Dame in guiding and caring for successive generations of parish young people deserves special praise. One parishioner recently commented that in their work the Sisters: "not only succeeded in the spiritual and academic education of the young ones, but they did everything possible to instill in them a love for their fellow-men through discipline and understanding. They were strict when the occasion called for it, but they were always there with a helping hand when it was needed—and they were glad to do it. God was good to St. Boniface when he let the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame be chosen as the leaders of our children. God bless them—and accept our thanks."

St. Boniface School today participates in the Auxiliary Service Program that is sponsored by the State of Ohio. While maintaining high standards of excellence in its academic areas, this affiliation brings the school the additional services that round out its programs, and supports the deployment of special staff members. This special staff includes two remedial teachers, a speech therapist, a psychologist, and a nurse.

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

Leona O'Donnell next assumed responsibility for the church choir. Under her direction



the Boys' Chancel Choir was formed, and it sang for all special church occasions. The children of the school were also taught to sing the Latin Mass, then in use.

In 1950 Miss O'Donnell organized the Holy Name Men's Choir, and in recent years she combined the men's and women's choirs so that they now lead 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 the 1960s.

This past March Leona O'Donnell marked 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 in our church.

Bishop Sheldon in Residence

During the late seventies St. Boniface was privileged to have a very special guest in residence, Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon. Though he was in residence only a short time—little more than nine months from March 29, 1978 to January 9, 1979—he quickly won the love and respect of all the parishioners. One person recently remarked that he would never have been permitted to leave if the people of St. Boniface could have had their way! Currently he continues his work as auxiliary bishop of the diocese, being Vicar of Summit County.

Parish Organizations

St. Vincent de Paul Society—Fifty-five years ago Father Adolph Seeholzer asked two men of the 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 society is made up of not more than eight male lay members of the parish. Women have recently been admitted to membership as well. With the pastor or his assistant as a spiritual director, the group is responsible for all physical, spiritual, and material help that is given to the people of the parish who request such aid. The society is affiliated with the Cleveland Diocesan Particular Council, and one of the St. Boniface officers serves on that council. The society gives assistance on a limited scale until the individual's problem can be referred to a city, county, or state organization.

During the past few years, the society has taken on two special projects during the Christmas season. One project is the visitation of shut-ins of the parish during this holiday time. Each person visited is brought a gift. Another project, with a spiritual goal, is supporting the purchase of religious articles as holiday gifts. These are sold at the Altar Society's Christmas Santa Shop.

When society members go out two-by-two to help the sick, the lost, and the needy of the parish, they help their fellow-men as well as themselves: For they both bring Christ and see Christ the Savior in each other.



“A friend is a friend at all times.”
Psalms 17:17

St. Ann’s Altar and Rosary Society—Active since 1942, this society today counts two hundred and sixty members who provide a variety of services for the church. It sponsors such annual activities as the rummage sale, the Christmas shop, and card parties and raffles that provide for the various needs of the altar and the church. Some of the profits from these activities are used to buy church vestments, altar bread, 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 weekly.

Holy Name Society—Membership in St. Boniface’s Holy Name Society brings a unifying spiritual awareness to the men of the parish. A member of the Northwest Deanery, this parish group has been active since its inception in 1950. It now has many new members, as well

as its continually active charter members who organized the society in the parish.

The Holy Name Society has taken up certain temporal responsibilities in addition to its primary spiritual goals. One of its major concerns in the daily life of the parish is supporting and encouraging the youth of St. Boniface in their various sports teams. Profits from the sale of Christmas trees, and from various breakfasts and dinners that are held throughout the year, provide funds for these special parish youth projects.

Little Flower Mission Circle #59—Organized in February of 1959, this group continues to meet monthly at the members’ homes. It sponsors a variety of projects throughout the year to raise funds for its special mission, which is supporting the Notre Dame Sisters in India. Help is also given the Jesuit missionaries who are stationed in Patna, India.

St. Francis Xavier Mission Circle #1—This group was formed about eight years ago and its members, nearly all of whom come from St. Boniface Parish, meet once a month at one another’s homes. They work and pray for the missions, and have raised \$2,000 through rummage sales, bake sales, paper sales, and card parties. Their project in the Japanese mission is the support of the Reverend Albert Evans, SS.CC., a native of Cleveland who has worked as a missionary priest in Japan for many years.

Parish Ushers—Membership in the usher’s organization is made by special appointment by the pastor. Their special responsibilities are taking up the collections, and seating and attending to the special requirements of parishioners at Masses on Sundays, on Holy Days, at special devotions, or at any other function requested by the pastor or the nuns of St. Boniface



School. Over the years five distinct groups of men have provided these services for the parish, and they total thirty men when their membership is a full strength. The ushers meet four times a year to conduct special business or to review new regulations that may be introduced.

Cleveland Police Auxiliary Unit—This special unit was organized in 1976, and now uses the school annex building as its base of operations. Its main purpose has been to assist the Cleveland Police Department with patrol activity in the neighborhood, and also to provide assistance by furnishing personnel to serve as school crossing guards and to direct parking at various parish functions.

Parent-Teacher Unit — This group was first organized in 1974, after a school self-study group recommended forming such an organization. The present membership is eighty-six, and its Board consists of the pastor, the principal, and various officers elected by the P.T.U. membership. The purpose of this unit is to promote a closer relationship between teachers and parents, so that both groups may cooperate effectively and intelligently to advance the spiritual and temporal welfare of the children at St. Boniface School.

The P.T.U. fund-raising activities include the annual Children's Christmas Bazaar, and the candy sale in early spring. A variety of other projects also benefit the children and school-sponsored events.

"250" Booster Club — Organized in February of 1971 during the pastorate of Father Albert Karper, its two hundred and fifty members are under the direction of several group captains. The Booster Club sponsors twenty-five weekly drawings, and on the twenty-sixth week a dinner dance is held at which approxi-

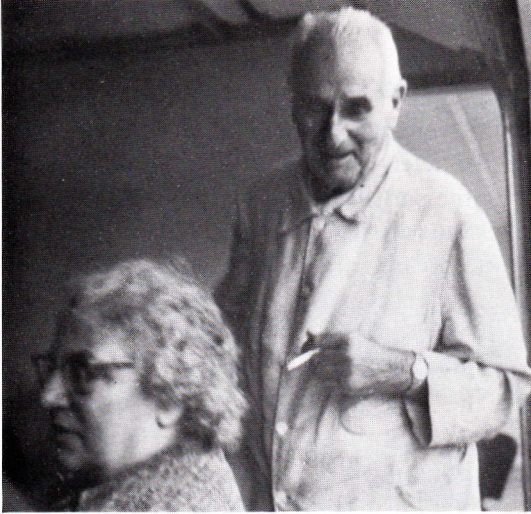
mately \$2,000 in cash prizes is awarded. During the past eight years the club has helped raise approximately \$40,000 to defray the costs of running the parish.

Boy Scouts of America, Troop #94—The Boy Scouts were first organized in the parish in 1927, their expenses under-written by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Cub Scout Pack #77 began here in June of 1943. It was on October 30, 1977, that the Scouts celebrated their 50th Anniversary at St. Boniface, with former members dating back to 1927 in attendance!

Troop 94 now has thirty active scouts in addition to the dens of cub scouts. Three den mothers assist in the program of building and developing scouts' values.

Volunteer Workers—Many parishioners, whether members of the parish organizations or not, have supported the good works of St. Boniface by giving freely of their time to conduct the scrap and paper drives and the weekly bingo games. Parish records show that scrap iron drives were held semi-annually in 1957. The work proved very hazardous, however, and so it was replaced with the paper drives in about 1959. An all-time high of one million pounds of paper was collected in 1970, and current collections average twenty thousand pounds, with the success of such projects due to the continued efforts of all the parish's volunteer workers. For example, in 1978 ten Golden Agers volunteered their time to collect industrial paper from four Cleveland firms, and the money resulting from such drives go directly to the Holy Name Society.

Volunteers also continue to operate the parish bingo games which were started in 1971 to raise money for teachers' salaries and for tuition for children whose families could not



“The crown of the aged is their children’s children; the children’s glory is their father.”

Proverbs 17:6

otherwise afford to send them to St. Boniface School. Volunteers working these games either had children attending the parish school, or they were paid and turned their money over to the school as a tuition fund. With the Ohio State Law of 1975, all workers at the bingo games must volunteer their time, and they receive no payment for their long hours of work. But with their assistance, the games continue to prove very successful, and they have been a key factor in keeping St. Boniface School open.

At the Diamond Jubilee

With the 75th Anniversary, this October of 1979, St. Boniface Parish stands as a monument to the love and foresight of the

early pastors, and to the generosity of the parishioners during its lean early years. There were additions to the church and to the school, new building and renovations, to which the good people of St. Boniface were called upon to contribute materially and physically. They were always there to support the life and work of the church in its ministry to others and in its own programs. Some who gave materially are remembered by their gifts — this is true of the beautiful stained-glass windows of the church, on which the donors’ names appear. But the commitment of so many others is remembered now, as well. For it is this generosity of spirit that has blessed the life of this parish over the past three-quarters of a century, and that continues to make St. Boniface a true spiritual home, even for those who have moved away from the parish.



Pastors at St. Boniface



Parish Status Report 1904-1979

Baptisms	8,400
First Holy Communions	7,322
Confirmations	6,790
Marriages	2,975
Deaths	3,000
Converts	705

Parish members who have entered the Convent, Brotherhood, or Seminary. (Records date back only to 1936)

Women Entering Religious Order	43
Men Entering Religious Order	20
Men Entering Priesthood	29

Parish Membership

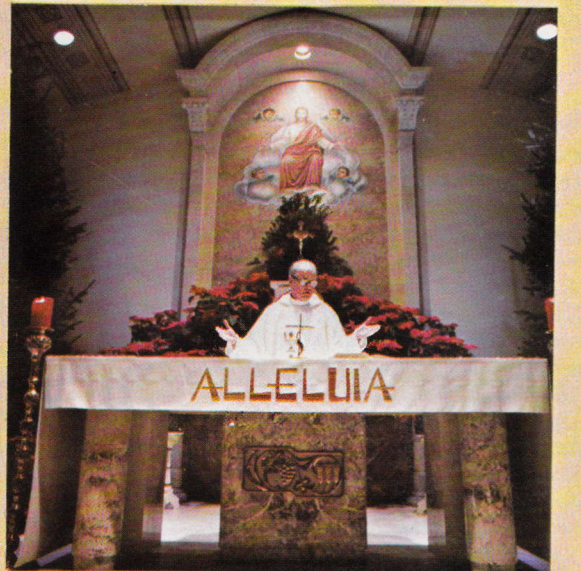
Families	890
School Children	294
C.C.D. Students	90



The Reverend Adolph M. Seeholzer became the first pastor of St. Boniface on October 30, 1904. Under his guidance, all the land now owned by the parish was purchased, and most of its present structures were built. By kind and untiring patience, he succeeded in fashioning the new parish of St. Boniface out of a difficult and undeveloped section of Cleveland. His labors bore abundant fruit, especially among the children who were so dear to him. Father Seeholzer died on March 31, 1926, and was buried in a family plot on Kelly's Island.

The Reverend George Reber became pastor on May 18, 1926, and under his leadership the parish grew spiritually and materially. Like his predecessor, he cared deeply for the children of the parish. Who can forget 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 and cherished, from the simple but beautiful service of the May Crowning to the First Holy Communion Day. He gave much love and understanding to all parishioners and it was gratefully returned. 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, 1942.





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CONGRATULATIONS!
BOY SCOUT TROOP 94
FIFTY-ONE YEARS
OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

RAY AND LAVERNE SCHMOTZER

WITH GRATITUDE TO GOD,
THE FOUNDER OF ST. BONIFACE
FATHER SEEHOLZER,
AND THE PRIESTS
WHO HAVE SERVED HERE.
MR. AND MRS.
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St. Boniface Holy Name Society, 1978-1979

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Anonymous	Living and Deceased of Little Flower Mission Circle #59	The Schulda Family
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John and Anna Dedinsky	Wilson H. Miller, Sr.	Vincent and Anna Simoncic
Mary DeLuca	Stephen J. Misencik	The Simunek and Kurz Families
Bernadine Dittenhaver	Michael Moysey, Sr.	Charles (Lefty) Smick
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