

History of the Churches of Waucoma

(1852-1950)

ILLUSTRATED



BY
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The Author and "Blister"

This little booklet is dedicated to the memory of "Blister" who was a true partner to the author for 16 years and brought to him many happy hours.

D E D I C A T I O N

We honorably dedicate this little booklet in glorious remembrance of the old pioneers but, specially to Jimmie Scallan who made possible the publication of the history by submitting script and pictures, and we are most grateful to him.

To the men and women who dedicated their life's to the glory of God in establishing Him a house of worship in our home we call Waucoma.

To the old Irish who erected in a beautiful setting of nature a shrine to a saint they loved, Saint Rose of Lima and lift up their hearts, their labor, their hope in a great faith which they had brought over from the old world, to Him, who like Him had suffered persecution.

To the pioneer ministers and priests who braved the storms of winter, who rode horses and lumber wagons for days, waded sloughs, swam streams, suffered bitter cold, lived on Corn Meal and received little pay.

To all who made sacrifices that religion might be preserved and chosen a partner for life, to live well and die right, that all be rewarded in a better nation blessed by God.

The Author



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ST. ROSE CHURCH

1852-1915

The first church to be built was St. Rose Catholic church near the present Waucoma.

From the life of Bishop Loras the first Bishop of Dubuque we quote the the following decription of the diocese of Dubuque, one hundred years ago: A soil unrivaled in fertility a climate unrivaled in salubrity, an immense .region enchanting in beauty sky and landscape, prairies and forest teaming with Nature's offerings, mighty rivers coveting the task of bearing on their waters southward and northward to earth's great seas, for the wealth of Nations, the reward of human industry.

He advertised this new unsettled country to the world by personal contact, letters, and in the leading Catholic Newspapers of that day.

This description fell on fertile soil and soon caravans of covered wagons bearing men and woman fired with a determination to make good, and looking upon this promised land as a future home, were soon journeying westward toward the setting sun..

The people at whom we are at present interested lived



St. Rose Church at the time of dismantling 1915

in and around Sibley, Ohio and consisted of Patrick (Kfor) Brannon and family of five sons, John (married) Owen, Lawrence, Thomas, Philip, three daughters, Matilda, Nancy and Mary Ann, and a brothers family consisting of Thomas, Patrick and John O. Brannon, Michiel Kieron, Owen Burns and Michiel Dignan, the latter three being husbands of Brannon sisters.

These families journeyed in covered wagons during the summer of 1852 to Dubuque, Iowa and continued to a location in section 4 Eden Township, Fayette County and in the adjoining section 38 in Winneshiek County, this was north of where the village of Waucoma was later laid out. Patrick K. Brannon and family spent the winter in Dubuque but joined his companions the following spring. He bought the land from the government in section 7 Eden Township. This was the foundation of the Brannon settlement and they nucleus around which St. Rose Catholic church was centered, It was also the first Catholic church in Fayette County.

Many families from adjoining communities in Ohio and other parts of the east came in the year following and made their homes in the new settlement.

PIONEER PRIESTS

Pioneer Priest's traveling from one settlement to another attended to their spiritual needs.

Father Louis Decailly

The first mentioned was Father Louis Decailly, a close friend and relative of Bishop Loras. Undoubtly it was at his suggestion that forty acres of land, the SW 1-4 of NE 1-4 of section 23 Stapleton Township, Chicksaw County was purchased from the government to be used for church and cemetery.

Church Property in Chickasaw County 1854

The church property secured in Chicksaw County was deeded to Bishop Loras December 24, 1854. This deed is recorded in the recorders office in New Hampton, Iowa. No church was build on this property but a few burials were made, remains were later moved to the present St. Rose cemetery.

For some reason not known, this site was not satisfactory, and a new location was chosen, this was about one mi-

le farther east on a hill, commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country. In the recorders office at West Union we find that Patrick K. Brannon deeded this forty acres the NE fractional 1-4 of section 7 Eden township, Fayette county to Bishop Loras June 5, 1856

Stone Church Built in 1857

A history of Fayette county published in 1878 states that a church was built there in 1857. It was built of stone and Mass was celebrated in it, we are told, by Rev. F. Hannish, before the floor was laid. He was the priest attending the German settlement around Old Mission, previous to the building of the church Mass was celebrated in the settler homes by the pioneer priest's who traveled from one settlement to another. It was customary in those days to stay after Mass and have dinner, Pioneer hospitality.

Stone Parsonage is Built by Father McCollow

About this time Rev. Henry McCollow bought land on the east and westside of the church property and built a stone house on it (the gable-ends still standing are all that remained to day) This was occupied by a renter, James McCaffery, with whom he made his home when not attending the outlying missions. As no records are available we are unable to state how long this arrangement lasted. Father Richard Nagle stationed at McGregor, Ia. had St. Rose on his list, of outlying missions at one time.

Rev. Patrick McGinness is also recalled as attending during the Civil War days.

We can find no records as to when the original stone house on the church property was built.

Early Members of St. Rose Church

The following family names are typical of the nationality of old St. Rose membership who attended Mass in the stone church: Ball, Brannon, Burns, Caffery, Campfield, Casey, Cassidy, Commers, Connell, Conzen, Courtney, Cuff, Daily, Deeny, Dignam, Doyle, Duffy, Dunn, Egan, Farnan, Farrell, Finegan, Galligan, Goss, Graham, Murray, Kieron, Kenney, Lensing, Lyone, Lynch, Mangan, Green, Grimes, Hand, Heath, Heatherton, Hoey, Kelly, Kennedy, King, Morris, Rourke, Montgomery, Murphy, McEnaney, McMahon, McGovern, McGrath, Nichols

Neon, Plunkett, Quirk, Regan, Ronan, Scallan, Scally, Shekleton, Maddon, Sheridan, Sloan, Tierney, Ward, Burke, Callan, Dugan, Drum, McGowan, Woods, Maher, Kirley, Jackson, Cavanaugh, Nulty, Cronin, Rooney, Deekery. Sounds like as if a portion of Ireland was transferred to Iowa. When Lawler was established many of the above names were transferred to "Our Lady of Mt. Carmel" parish.

Baptism, Marriages 1867

With the coming of Rev. P. F. Harrison in 1867 a record of baptism, marriages etc. was kept and a more complete history of the church is obtainable. His mother died here Nov. 7, 1869 and her remains repose in the adjoining cemetery. During his pastorate three young men went to college to study for the priesthood, namely Patrick Tierney, Thomas Brannon and John Burns, also a sister of the latter joined the Sisters of Charity about the same time. Father Harrison was a favorite among his brother priests and during his stay here entertained much company. In 1868 a baptism was performed by Rev. John Ryan, in 1869 Thomas M. Lenihan baptized, Father Ryan later be



Father Henry McCollow 1864-1867
First Residing Priest of St. Rose

Bought land on the east and west side of the church and built a stone house, Dorchester, Iowa, Father McCullough, one of the oldest Catholic priests in Iowa, breathed his last August 1, 1891. The deceased was about ninety years old, and for the past four years had made his home with his nephew, Father McCullough of this place, where his death took place. The

remains were brought to Waukon by a large funeral procession, and were sent for burial to Larchill, County Derry, Ireland, his native place.

Note-Photo by Steel Bros., Waukon, Ia.. This may have been the only picture of him ever taken.

Clipping from a Waukon, Iowa newspaper.

came Bishop of Cheyenne, Wyoming. On September 15, 1870 Rev. N. F. Scallan performed a marriage ceremony. Father Scallan was then stationed at Waterloo and was a cousin of Joseph Scallan.



Father P. F. Harrison 1867-1872
Second Residing Priest of St. Rose

Kept records of baptism, marriages etc. and entertained many neighboring priest. Father Harrison also attended Catholic mission at West Union and Fayette and also at Pinhook settlement in Bremer county, he also went to New Hampton to read Mass. The mother of Father Harrison is buried at St. Rose cemetery,

In 1872 Father Harrison was succeeded by Rev. Patrick Farrelly. Previous to his coming the Milwaukee Railroad built the Iowa and Dakota division west of Calmar. The town of Lawler was started, a new parish established and a church built.



Rev. Patrick Farrelly 1872-1876
Third Residing Pastor of St. Rose

Father Farrelly was born at Aughavis, county Leitrim, diocese of Ardagh, Ireland in 1848. He finished his collegiate course in Ireland and came to the United States at the age of 17. After spending one year at Assumption college, Montreal he completed his course in philosophy and theology in the Kenrick seminary at Cape Girardeau, Mo. He was ordained in Dubuque June 2, 1871 by Bishop Hennessey and was temporarily assigned to Blairstown in 1871.

In 1872 he was appointed pastor of St. Rose holding also Lawler as a mission. In 1876 he gave up St. Rose and moved to Lawler. In 1867 he was transferred to Holy Cross, Dubuque county and in 1899 he went to Sheldon and in 1902 to Carroll. In 1912 he was appointed pastor of Assumption church, Emmetsburg and on Feb. 17, 1921 he was made Monsignor. He died at Emmetsburgh Sept. 2, 1924 and burial was made at Denison.

Rev. Michael Lynch 1876-1877

Fourth Residing Pastor of St. Rose

After Father Farrelly gave up St. Rose parish the Rev. Michael Lynch was assigned to St. Rose where he died in the spring of the following year. If any reader wishes to say a prayer at his grave, they will find it in the cemetery at Holy Cross, Ia.



Rev. M. J. Quirk 1877-1879
Fifth Residing Pastor of St. Rose.

Following the death of Father Lynch, Rev. M. J. Quirk was sent to care for St. Rose and Reilly Settlement.

New Church Built

He found the old stone church altogether too small to accommodate the members of the parish. It was decided to build a frame church and use the rocks of the old church for the foundation of the new--and thus an old pioneer landmark became a memory. This new church never contained pews, the faithful had either to stand or kneel. The woman occupied the right side and the men the left.

School is Built

When the new church was built Father Quirk wished to have a school in connection with it. A new building was built attached to the north end, it was financed voluntarily by subscriptions. A district was to be established with a territory drawn from the three adjoining counties, school was taught during the school year 1878 and 1879. Father Quirk was sent to another parish and St. Rose was without a residing pastor until the following spring.

Rev. R. A. Byrnes of Lawler Serves

In the intervening time, Rev. R. A. Byrnes of Lawler attended the faithful's spiritual needs.

Rev. J. F. Corbett 1888

During the lenten period in 1880 Rev. J. F. Corbett acted as pastor Pro-Tem.

Rev. F. McMahon 1880-1881

In May 1880 Rev. F. McMahon was given a permanent charge while stationed at West Union, he also had charge of a small parish known as Christian Prairie in a settlement SE. of F'burg, he still attended there while stationed at St. Rose, he also had charge of Reilly Settlement

Lightning Destroys Church

In the summer of 1881 lightning caused the total destruction of the new church. Sunday services were now transferred to a nearby schoolhouse (Dist. No. 4 Eden township) until another building was erected on the old foundation.

Father McMahon's Health Declines

Father McMahon's health beginning to fail because of the extra work required, was transferred to Waverly. He died at Mercy Hospital Dubuque July 3, 1889 at the young age of 35. He was born in Limerick, Ireland, He received his education at the Christian Brothers school and Jesuit college of his native city and was ordained in Dubuque in the summer of 1877 and was Prof. at St. Joseph's college Dubuque for four years.

Rev. M. J. Hennessey 1881-1889

Sixth Residing Priest of St. Rose

Rev. M. J. Hennessey was stationet to St. Rose after the calling of Father McMahon

Rev. D. W. Murphy Assigned to Reilly Settlement

About this time Rev. D. W. Murphy was assigned to Reilly settlement, but died a short time later and it again was attended by St. Rose pastor and continued so until the sisters school was opened in Waucoma in 1915

New Parsonage is Built

In 1884 Father Hennessey built a new modern parsonage directly west of the church (see picture on page 5) and was pastor of St. Rose parish until December 1889. The declining years were spent in Ireland where he died in 1939



Rev. M. J. Hennessey 1881-1889

Sixth Residing Priest of St. Rose

In 1884 Father Hennessey built a new modern parsonage directly west of the church.



Rev. Patrick O'Reilly 1890-1898
Seventh and last residing Priest of St. Rose

Rev Patrick O'Reilly succeeded Father Hennessey. St. Rose was Father O'Reilly's first assignment after being ordained in Ireland for the Dubuque diocese. He was of a quiet, peace loving nature, perfectly contented with the rural surroundings and social customs of the people.

Horse and Buggy Days

Father O'Reilly's pastorate was during the height of the "horse and buggy days." A farmer who could not sport a driving team and a buggy was considered ancient. The ancient mode of traveling to the old stone church consisted of a lumber wagon with one spring seat. An armful of hay in the rear of the box was sufficient accommodations for the youngsters. At harvest time, if the man of the house was unable, or too tired or lazy to remove the hayreck from the one wagon he owned, it was not unusual to see a family coming to Mass on a jag of hay.

Two Kinds of Roads

Those having only a short distance to go, generally walked. In those days there were two kinds of roads, muddy in wet weather and rough in dry weather. When the news of Henry Fords horseless carriages, seen on the streets of Detroit, began to interest people, times changed.

Church Picnics

A history of St. Rose would be incomplete without a description of at least one of the many church picnics held in the adjoining woods. Following is an account of one by Dennis Duffy, a cousin of the pastor, it was clipped from a Chicago Catholic newspaper "A little west of St. Rose's church and in a very picturesque spot in the woods was erected all the paraphernalia requisite for such an occasion, ice cream stands, lemonade and pop corn counters, two large commodious dining tables, capable of accomodating two hundred people at one time and a pretty dance pavilion with band stand attached and shaded from the rays of old Sol by the overhanging foliage. Athletic sports, base ball and horse racing were also indulged in. And what a happy crowd of over 700 people participating in the various amusements. Your correspondent has been to different celebrations through the west, both city and country and must say that St. Rose church picnic was an enjoyable time as he ever spent. It was a pleasing sight to see the crowds of athletic young farmers and their rosy checked

companions enter with such a hearty good will into every thing. The order was excellent, not the slightest thing cropping up to mar the days pleasure. The popular pastor, Rev. P. O'Reilly worked like a Trojan, looking after and handling his big crowd of visitors, The success socially of the picnic tended to make also a financial one, and the goodly sum realized far exceeded anticipations. Before concluding I must refer to the well deserved act of recognition of a committee of the men who called at the parsonage on Miss Ellie O'Reilly, the pastors sister and housekeeper and presented her with a handsome testimonial for her valuable assistance.

Religious of the Parish

The following sons of the parish entered the Priesthood as members of St. Rose parish: Patrick A. B. Tierney (deceased) Thomas D. Brennan (deceased) and buried in St. Rose cemetery. John J. Burns, a priest of the Trappist Order in who's cemetery at New Melleray his remains now lie.



Patrick A. R. Tierney

Patrick A. R. Tierney was born in St. Rose parish Feb. 24, 1855. He obtained his education at St. Francis Seminary Milwaukee, Wis. where he was ordained June 29th 18-

79. He was assigned to the following parishes at different times: Ossian, Granville, Spencer, Whitmore, West Bend and Centralia. He was a brilliant orator and had one outstanding hobby, namely, temperance. He was one time treasurer of the Dubuque temperance association of priests. The following items appeared in the Catholic Union and Times, published in Buffalo, N. Y. "Father Tierney of Ossian, Iowa is pronounced the Father Matthew of the West and doing good work for the temperance cause.



Thomas D. Brennan

Thomas D. Brennan was born near Waucoma, Ia. the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brennan. He commenced his studies for the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wis. The last three years were spent at the Seminary of "Our Lady of Angels", Suspension Bridge, N. Y. He was ordained at Buffalo, N. Y. by Bishop Ryan in June 1878 and remained in the diocese of Dubuque. He served as pastor at Dorchester, McGregor and Clermont, Ia. at different times. He took a years vacation from studies and taught a select school during one winter in the stone church at St. Rose during the early seventies. Many of the young people of the parish availed themselves of this opportunity to improve their education. He died at Mercy Hospital Dubuque April 4, 1883. His remains rest in St. Rose cemetery.

John J. Burns



John J. Burns was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burns, obtained his education in Milwaukee and when ordained was assigned to LaCross, Wis. diocese. Later he became a Trappist Monk at the New Mellary Monastery near Dubuque, where he died about 1939. He was known to the world as Brother John,

Sisters of the Parish

The following young ladies of St. Rose parish joined the Sisters of Charity, B. V. M.: Sister Mary Felix, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burns.

Sister Mary Roderick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Burke.

Sister Mary Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burns.

The following joined the Sisters of Mercy:

Sister Mary Huberta and Sister Mary Camela, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Burns.

Special Church Activities

The first vestments, sanctuary supplies and organ used for Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament at St. Rose were purchased by Rev. M. J. Hennessey. It was he who first used this religious service at St. Rose.

Missions at St. Rose

The first mission given at St. Rose of which there is any record was in the month of June 1884. It continued one week with three services each day, it was conducted by two Missionary Fathers. The leaders name was Father LaGree.

Last Years of St. Rose

Because of disputes among the parishers Father O'Reilly left for Dorethy, Ia. in 1899. After Father O'Reilly Rev Hogan was called to St. Rose and as this parish grew older and larger and more Catholics took up their residence

in Waucoma, it became necessary to devote the parish and in the year 1899 a new church was built in Waucoma followed soon by a modern priest house. for a while both parishes were served from Waucoma. Some of the families were so stubborn in attending Mass they drove right by St. Mary's in Waucoma to attend services in St. Rose, and when in 1915 this services were discontinued, some were so disgusted that for a while they would not attend services at Waucoma and went to St. Rose to pray the rosary by themselves.

A Glorious Ending

So same to an end St. Rose, placed by faithful Irish in a beautiful setting of nature, the first Catholic church in Fayette County with a glorious history.

OTHER WAUCOMA CHURCHES

Numerous church organizations have existed in Waucoma from time to time, but some of them have not sustained their early organizations, while others have come and superseded them. Of the former we mention the Christian denomination, where among the early occupants of the field, but their organization went down.

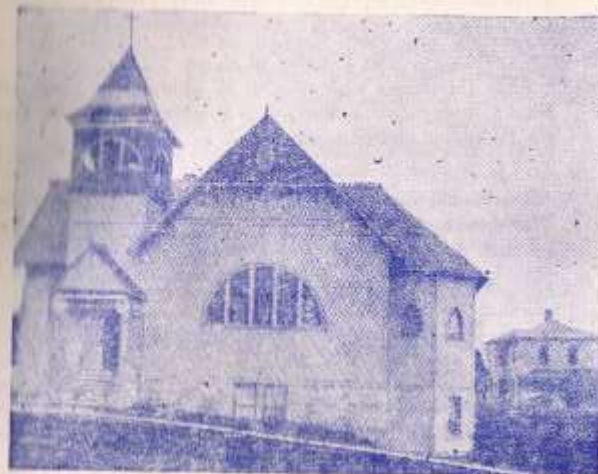
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1874

In 1874 both the Congregational and United Brethern people effected organizations in Waucoma and held their services in a school house which was standing between the present Albert Kurash lot and the railroad track. The church organization of the Congregationalists was effected in the country and later removed to Waucoma, where they built the first church edifice. In 1894 this congregation built their present house of worship, and this is the principal Protestant organization in Waucoma.

First Church

The congregation erected its first building in the fall of 1874 and the dedication service was held January 9th 1875 During the pastorate of Rev. W. W. Lewis 1889 to 1893 the building was enlarged and changed to its present form and stands as a pleasing specimen of modern church architecture.



Congregational now Federated Church

Parsonage Established

In September 1883 a building costing \$1,150 was purchased for a parsonage.

Pastors

The following pastors served the congregation:

Rev. Henry Lees Oct. 1, 1875 to Oct. 1, 1878
Rev. Henry Kent Oct. 1878 to July 1883
Rev. C. C. Humphrey Feb. 1884 to May 1885
Rev. Palmer Litts May 1885 to Oct. 1889
Rev. W. W. Lewis Nov. 1889 to Feb. 1893
Rev. M. S. Freeman March 1893 to April 1894
Rev. V. B. Hill July 1894 to June 1899
Rev. N. E. Hannat July 1899 to Sept. 1902
Rev. R. E. House March 1903 to June 1903
Rev. M. A. Frost Sept. 19, 1903 to
Later the Rev. W. W. Tuttle, G. C. Summers, R. H. Howard, W. H. Gifford, W. G. Clark and Rev. W. H. Gifford returning the second time.

M. E. Church Unites with Congregational Church

In the year 1928 the Methodist Episcopal united with the Congregational church. Under this administration

there have been Rev. J. P. Gable, Rev. McMichael Rev. C. C. Winter.

Changing of Name

After the merger with the M. E. church the name of First Congregational church was abandoned and the name Federated church was adopted.

1939

During the year 1939 there was no residing pastor in Waucoma and the congregation was served from Fayette by Rev. G. P. Clite.

LAST RESIDING PASTOR

1940

In the year 1940 Rev. B. B. Wright was called to Waucoma and under his faithful leadership the congregation was served until 1943. Since that time the congregation had no residing pastor and was served from New Hampton and Fayette.

Mrs. A. H. Bartter

When in the summer of 1943 Rev. Wright left for Medford, Wis. Mrs Alfred H. Bartter of Decorah was hired to succeed him, she was ordained in Waucoma July, 9, 1944 and remained here until July 15, 1945.

Ordination of Woman Pastor in Waucoma

Only Second in Iowa

1944

On Sunday July 9, 1944 Mrs. Alfred H. Barter was ordained a Minister at the local church, she was the only second woman pastor in the state of Iowa. Many Ministers were present for the ordination as Rev. Max Strong of Dubuque, Rev. Robert J. Watson, Manchester. The Ordination Sermon was preached by Rev. Ralph B. Moyce of Grinnell, the Ordination Vows and Prayer of Ordination by Rev. A. H. Bartter, Decorah and her husband. "What Does the Master Expect of Me" by Rev. and Mrs C. Snyder of New Hampton, Declaration by Moderator of the office conferred. Remarks were made by Rev. John Clyde, Fayette at which time he presented a bible which was a gift from her mother, Mrs. Pratt. The Right Hand of Fellowship by Rev. Clarence Wolstedt, Elkader; Charge to the congregation, by Rev. Charles F. Jacobs, Water-

loo, Benediction by the new ordained Rev. Frances Pratt Bartter. On July 15, 1945 Rev. Frances Bartter left for Fargo, N. Dak.

From that time Dr. Royal J. Montgomery of Grinnell and Rev. John P. Clyde of Fayette filled the pulpit.

Rev. David E. Arnold

In October 1945 the Rev. David E. Arnold of New Hampton was hired as pastor of the church. in 1946 he made a trip to Germany for charitable purposes. On Nov. 4, 1948 Rev. Arnold resigned for health reason. Since that time visiting pastors have served the congregation.

Societies

A Young Peoples Society of Christian Endiavor was organized in the year 1886 and a Ladies Cooperative Society was organized in 1908 and since the merger of the Methodist Ladies Aid with the Cooperative Society is now the United Ladies Aid.

The Federated Church Today.

Today the Federated church has a membership of 75 souls, a very active woman church society, the United Ladies Aid who by their efforts and sacrifices keep the home fires burning by serving the public wholesome meals at popular prices- a Sunday school with 50 pupils attending. The church property is very neatly kept and one of pleasant sitnes in town.



1874 UNITED BRETHERN CHURCH 1888

Later the Methodist Episcopal Church

In 1874 the United Brethern church was organized and they first held their services in a school house along with the Congregational's in the same building which was standing north of the railroad track east the present Kurash lot.

Revival Meeting Held by Rev. M. S. Drury 1874

A revival meeting was held in 1874 by Rev. M. S. Drury of the United Brethern denomination and his son, Rev. M. R. Drury who was then pastor of the church in West Union. Excellent results were attained and a strong class was organized which flourished for a number of years so a church was erected on the northside of the present John Drilling residence on Ann street and maintained a successful organization until a change in the church curriculum devited the members.

Radicals and Liberals

The change in the church curriculum divited the members on doctrinal points into two organizations known as "Radicals" and "Liberals" neither of which was financially able to sustain their weakened organization, and the Waucoma church lost its identity, and the building was sold to the Methodist in 1888

1888 METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1928

United Brethern Converted
1888

In 1888 Rev. Emmet G. Hunt, who was the pastor of the Hawkeye circuit, visited Waucoma and found there a church building owned by the United Brethern built by them some time before. The few of the old United Brethern class still remained, as they were not using the church rented it to Bro. Hunt for three months and during which time he and Rev. P. N. Dwella preached regularly, held revival meetings in which a considerable number were converted and a Methodist Episcopal class was organized. During the conference year beginning Oct. 1888 Rev.s E. G. Hunt and H. N. Lawrence were pastors of the Hawkeye circuit which had six appointments, Waucoma being one of the six.

1889

In 1889 and '90 Rev. D. M. Parker was associated with Bro. Hunt as pastor, each taking its turn at Waucoma

along with the preaching places. Rev. H. L. Townsend assisted them part of the year.

1891

Ladies Aid Society Organized

In 1891 the Ladies Aid Society was organized which proved to be helpful to the church.

1892

Parsonage Purchased

During the year 1892 a parsonage property adjoining the church was purchased of Mary Hilsinger.

Hawkeye Circuit Devided

At this time the Hawkeye circuit was divided and Waucoma and Little Turkey formed a charge, then later Waucoma and Alpha.

Ministers

The following are the Ministers that served the congregation: Rev. D. N. Howe, Rev. F. P. Cassidy, Rev. L. N. Green, Rev. D. M. Parker, Rev. W. E. Rose, Rev. S. C. Platt, Rev. W. N. Brown, Rev. H. L. Townsend, Rev. J. B. Bird, Rev. Will A. Pieper, Rev. S. L. Bear, Rev. R. W. Luce, Rev. C. S. Burnard, Rev. Walter Eadie, Rev. Robert B. Falk, Rev. Glen Heartong, Rev. Leonard Davies.

1925-1928

In the years 1925 to 1928 the churches united, and from 1928 church services were discontinued at church.

Charter Members

Charter members were: Mrs. Luella Moody, C. A. Moody, Mrs. Nettie Adams, Mrs. Edna Burleson, Bernett Coffin, Mr. and Mrs. John Morf, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Havenstrite, Mr. Aaron, A. Boylan.

Trustee's

A. Ivis, C. M. Potter and C. A. Moody

Stewards

James Zoller, C. A. Moody, Mrs. C. M. Potter, Mrs. Helen Northrope and Mrs. Nettie Adams.

Sunday School

The first Sunday School Superintendent was C. M. Potter.

Church Sold

Eleven years after uniting with the Congregational church, the church building was sold to High Lovrien in 1936 and the land was sold to W. H. Stone. The parsonage was rented for a while but later sold to Bill Adams of Waucoma.

1900

TABERNACLE

50 Families Converted

There was a big tabernacle below the Birdella Baker home about the year 1900, where converts were made, and about 50 families were converted.

1901 CHRISTIAN CHURCH 1909

About the year 1901 a certain Rev. George DeVolt, Evangelist, made the proposition to erect a Christian Church and Wm. Miller donated a lot where the church to be build. The side of the church was chosen where now the Kent residence is located. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Ives Warren were the main boosters for the new congregation. The business people of Waucoma helped financially.

Church sold in 1909

In a period of eight years the congregation was dissolved and the church property sold to Wm. Kent who remodeled the church into a residence.

1898

TURNING POINT

The year 1898 marked the turning point in the history of Waucoma when a Catholic church was built by Rev. Martin Hogan. Many families who lived on the east side of Waucoma attended church in St. Lucas, a parish who had also a large and good Catholic School.

A little later than 1900 Waucoma had three Protestant churches, namely Congregational, Methodist and Christian church, but by placing a Catholic church in Waucoma farmers of St. Lucas parish who lived closer to Waucoma came to church in Waucoma with the effect that farm after farm was sold to them either by the Irish or Yankee's and today eighty or more per cent of the population of W.

Waucoma and as far as Lawler is settled by those German elements who originated from St. Lucas parish.

Today Waucoma has only one Protestant church, the Federated church with a membership of about 75 and a Catholic church, St. Mary's with a membership of about 800. History points clearly to 1898 as the turning point in Waucoma.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

1898

Because of haste in building and inferior workmanship the church building at St. Rose became unsafe and a new building was required. St. Rose church was about three miles northwest of Waucoma and many Catholic families were located there and had to walk in order to attend Mass.

Petition Made

A petition to Archbishop Hennessey asking permission to build a new church in Waucoma was circulated and many signatures obtained. The petition was acted upon favorably by the Archbishop and the Rev. Martin Hogan sent here about Sept. 1, 1898 with instructions to build a new church in Waucoma.



Father Martin Hogan 1898-1916
First Residing Priest of St. Mary's

Opposition Prompts Action

During the winter opposition to relocating the church developed to such extent that it finally was decided that the church and rectory would be build in Waucoma and that Mass also would still be said at St. Rose. This arrangement continued until September 1915 when the Sister's school was opened. At that time services ceased at St. Rose and later the old church and rectory was sold as well as thirty acres of the original land. Ten acres were still held for cemetery purposes.

SHRINE BUILT

On the site of the old church a beautiful shrine has been erected, using the old cement steps that formerly lead into the church, they are cracked by age but holy in the memory of the old Irish, adorned by a statue of St. Rose of Lima and with an praying angel on each side. Since then, open air Mass has been celebrated on two occassion.



St. Rose of Lima Shrine
Built on the site of old St. Rose church

New Church Built
1899

The basement of the new church was built early in the spring of 1899, twelve month's from that date the church was finished and clear of debt, a church property valued \$12,000.00 The first Mass in the new church was celebrated by Rev. Martin Hogan Feb. 9, 1900 The dedication services were performed by Archbishop John J. Keane on April 25, 1901



1900 ST. MARY'S CHURCH 1915

New Cemetery Laid Out
1903

In December of 1903 a piece of ground was bought east of Waucoma Public Cemetery and is now known as St. Mary's cemetery. The first to be buried was a baby born to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schlichte.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BUILT
1915

In the autom of 1914 Father Hogan received instruction from the Archbishop James J. Keane to make arrangements for a Catholic School in Waucoma at the beginning of the next school year. The parish was immediately canvassed and ten thousand dollars pledged to build the school the following year. On September 1, 1915 the building was completed, furnished and in charge of the Sisters of Charity at a cost of \$15,000.00. The original enrollment was 93, thirty of whom were High School students. The High School was discontinued in 1918. The present enrollment is 108 pupils for the grades.

CYCLONE DESTROYS PROPERTY
1915

On Thursday Nov. 11, 1915 at 2 o' clock in the afterno-



St. Mary's Parochial School
Built in 1915 at a cost of \$15,000.00

on a cyclone bore down on the peaceful village of Waucoma. When daylight came it found St. Mary's church completely demolished, the school building unroofed blown in and the rectory badly damaged. Immediately temporary repairs were made on the school and classes resumed. The following week Mass was celebrated in the school hall until a new church building could be provided.



St. Mary's Church after Cyclone
Thursday Nov. 11, 1915

SETTLEMENT MADE

Upon satisfactory settlement being made with the insurance companies a part of the wreckage was salvaged

for future use and the balance sold at auction. Plans were made to erect a brick structure on the old foundation the following year.

FATHER SHEEHY COMES TO WAUCOMA 1916

In the summer of 1916 Father Hogan was succeeded by Rev. James Sheehy of Green, Ia. who carried on the building activities, his watchful supervision and ability as a financier brought the church to completion by spring and on Sunday March 4th 1917 the first Mass was celebrated in the new building. It was dedicated Thursday June 14, 1917 by Archbishop J. Kane assisted by Father Sheehy and neighboring priests.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
1917
Built by Father Sheehy 1916-'17

Addition to School Built
1920

In the spring of 1920 an addition one-half as large as the original building was built on the school at a cost of \$10,000. This gave the sisters much better living quarters and a large chapel. In 1933 Father Sheehy took a much needed vacation to tour the Holy Land and Europe. Father Louis Flynn had charge of the parish during his absence.



1916 Rev. James Sheehy 1939
 Second Residing Pastor

December 14, 1933

On Dec. 14, 1933 Archbishop Francis Bekman paid his first visit to Waucoma and administered the sacrament of confirmation to a class of one hundred and five, among them several converts. On the occasion the Archbishop bestowed on the congregation the Papal Benediction.

Summer 1936

Father Flynn remained here as assistant until Jan. 1934 when he was succeeded for some time by the Rev. Maurice Tracey. Father Sheehy made another trip to Ireland in the summer of 1936 and left the Rev. Francis Phelan in care of the parish.

ST. MARY'S A CONTINUANCE OF ST. ROSE ?

Some claim is made that the parish of St. Mary's Waucoma is a continuance of St. Rose, in some respect it is and in some it is not--to the fact that services were held in both parishes for about five years shows plainly that both places were handled as two separate parishes, only St. Rose went out of existence in 1915 when no priest went there anymore and some stubborn parishers had to toe the mark and come to Waucoma only a few miles distance.

BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM NOT OBSERVED

A most beautiful custom which originated in France and is held all over the world where there is a Catholic church is the custom of ringing the "Angelus", three times daily calling the people to prayer in dedication and honor of the Virgin Mary, very unusual this custom never has been held here in Waucoma in spite that the church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

FATHER GORMAN APPOINTED

1939

Father Phelan who had managed the parish for about three years with the best of success and who had a new roof put on the church was called to the sorrow of many of the parishers to Dubuque to be chaplain at Mercy hospital and now is pastor at McGregor Father Gorman arrived here in Passion Week of March 5, 1939 and on July 21st 1940, Father Gorman observed his silver jubilee of the priesthood at a Solemn High Mass at which Rev. D. A. Gorman was celebrant, Rev. F. Schuh, St. Lucas, Deacon, Rev. Henry Scharpoff of Gainsville, Sub Deacon, Rev. Louis Putz now of Waterloo, Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Mevey of Lawler. Acolytes were Wm. Brannon and Birchard Hoy. Rev. Phelan delivered a most probate sermon. For the occasion the interior of the church was decorated as also the statuary in the church was refinished and given by the congregation to Father Gorman as a Jubilee gift. Father Gorman was a pious priest and he won many souls for Christ. Before his departure a farewell party was given in his honor at the local Gymnasium. Father Gorman left Waucoma May 1944 for Webster City, Ia. at which place he is still stationed.



Father D. A. Gorman
1939 1944
Third Residing Pastor

Father Sheehy died on Sunday evening of Feb. 11, 1939 and his remains were buried in the priest cemetery at Dubuque.

Father Drummy comes to Waucoma.

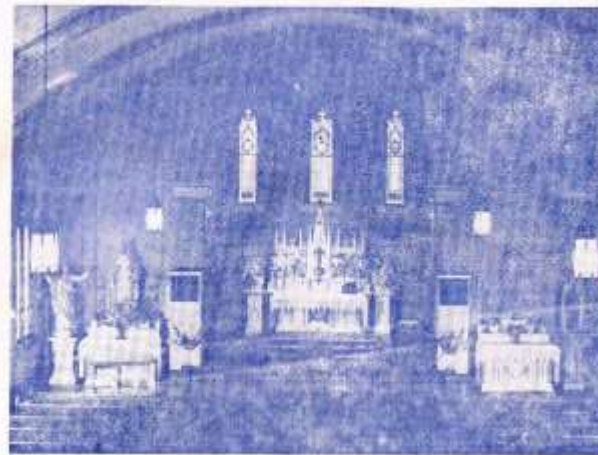
At the later part of May 1944 Father Clarence Drummy was called to Waucoma and under his supervision several improvements were made at the school, church and parsonage. The church basement was converted into a hall and a new entry into the church hall was built on the west side of the church, padded kneelers were installed, a loudspeaker and fans as also other accessories were purchased

the lighting system was improved, in the school inside toilets were installed for the children, the kitchen for the sisters was remodeled and a new stocker was purchased for the school, the church, school and parsonage received a general modernizing by Father Drummy.

CATHOLIC SOCIETIES

St. Mary's Guild

The following Catholic societies have been organized: St. Mary's Guild, this was organized by Sister Mary Ann Ciata at the time the cyclone destroyed the church. She was elected president with Mrs. F. F. McKay as vice president who assumed active leadership. When the pews, costing \$1,000 were installed in the new church this group of ladies had money enough in the treasury to pay for same. Today this society is the most active in the church.



THE INTERIOR OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The beauty of St. Mary's can measure with any church in this part of the State.



FATHER C. DRUMMY
1944
Fourth Residing Pastor

Catholic Daughters of America.

Another group of ladies belong to the Catholic Daughters of America. This Society is still active.

Rosary Society

The Rosary Society have nearly 100 pct. membership and is well active.

Holy Name Society

Father Flynn while here organized a Holy Name Society which was reorganized again in 1949 by Father Drummy.

Young Peoples Club.

Another society which was short lived was the Young People Catholic Club organized by Father Phelan.

SPECIAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Missions at St. Mary's

Father Hogan had the noted Rev. L. A. Lambert give Missions lasting a week on two different occasions.

From Dec. 10th to 17th the Diocese Missionary band of Dubuque. It was conducted by Rev. R. P. Murphy now stationed in Mason City and the Rev. Henry P. Rohmann now Archbishop of Dubuque.

During World I. Rev. P. T. Monohan gave a Mission during the week of October 21, to 28th 1917

From October 11th to 18th 1931 the Paulist Father Rev. Micheal Frassrand conducted a mission.

On October 3, 1937 a mission was conducted by a parish priest from S. Dak. the Rev. Fr. Stanton with morning and evening preaching.

A Mission was held combined for the first time with the Forty Hours Adoration when Father Gorman was pastor and during the war years. The Mission lasted one week from March 8th to 15th 1942 and were conducted by the Rev. Herman J. Fisher, a priest of Franciscan Order,

The last Mission was held under the supervision of Father Drummy from June 6 to 11 1943 by a Paulist Missionary Priest who was a very able speaker, the Rev. Edward Byrne who also was called back the year after for the Forty Hours Adoration.

Forty Hours Devotions

Forty Hours Devotions are now held annually during the month of May.

RELIGIOUS OF THE PARISH

The following sons of the parish entered the Priesthood

B. I. Deeny

B. I. Deeny, son of Hugh and Anna Deeny was born at Lucergus, Ia. Attended St. Patrick parochial school and St. Joseph's college (now Loras) Dubuque. Graduated from there in 1897, Entered the Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis



the same fall and completed his studies June 14, 1902. Ordained in the same city by Rev. J. Kain, D. D. Archbishop of Dubuque. Said his first Mass in the new church of Waucoma June 22, 1902 and was assigned to Dallas, Texas and is at present pastor at Dennison, Texas.

Louis A. Putz

Louis A. Putz the son of the late C. S. and Mrs. Putz was born at Elkport, Ia. April 23, 1905. After attending the grade school at Elkport his parents moved to Waucoma in January 1921, where he graduated from High School. He attended Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, two years and taught school later. He is a graduate of Columbia College of Dubuque, Ia. He received his theological training at St. Mary's Seminary at Baltimore, Maryland Was ordained in the Cathedral at Dubuque, Saturday June 14, 1930 by Archbishop F. J. Beckman and read his first



Father Louis A. Putz

Mass in St. Mary's church Waucoma, Ia. the following day. Immediately, after Mass the ladies of St. Mary's church served a three course dinner to about three hundred of his friends and relatives. After serving as chaplin at Mount St. Francis he was appointed assistant at Sacred Heart parish at Waterloo, Ia. Later he was appointed pastor at Raymond, Ia. and now is pastor of a new established parish in Waterloo, Blessed Sacrament.

Thomas H. Burns

Thomas H. Burns, the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Burns attended St. Mary's school, Waucoma and finished High school at Plankinton High school S. Dak. He is a graduate of Loras College, Dubuque and took his theological studies at St. Paul's Seminary, Minneapolis. He was ordained December 17th, 1944 at Sioux Falls, S. Dakota and read his first Mass at Waucoma Sunday December 31 and was assigned to the Sioux Falls diocese.

He was the third son of the parish given to God



Thomas H. Burns

St. Rose claims credit for three sons given to the service of God and St. Mary's has claim to an equal number.

STUDYING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

Raymond Brannon

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brannon of Waucoma attended St. Mary's and Waucoma High school. He is a member of the Order of the Society of Jesus and will be ordained at Alma, California in 1952.

Bernard Brannon

Is also a son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brannon of Waucoma, he also attended St. Mary's and Waucoma High school and is now at the University of San Francisco, California. He will be ordained at Alma, Calif. in 1953 and is a member of the Society of Jesus.

John Tillman

Is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tillmann of Waucoma, he attended St. Mary's parochial and Waucoma High school and is a student of Loras college in Dubuque.

SISTERS OF THE PARISH

The following young ladies joined the sisterhood from St. Rose Parish:

Sisters of Charity, B. V. M.

Sister Mary Felix, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burns,

Sister Mary Roderick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Burke,

Sister Mary Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burns.

The following joined the Sisters of Mercy:

Sister Mary Huberta and Sister Mary Camela, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Burns.

Sisters from St. Mary's Parish

Sister Mary George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Drilling,

Sister Mary Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Myers who is teaching in Chicago,

Monvilia Kriener who will be known as Sister Mary Boniface and is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kriener.

ST. MARY'S TODAY

St. Mary's is one of the most beautiful plated out parishes of the diocese of Dubuque, thanks to the faithful labor and planing of the late Father Sheehy and today has a striking school with about 108 pupils attending the lower grades under the supervision of the good sisters and leadership of sister Mary Jegome. The church has a membership of about 180 families with approximately 800 souls, a adult and children choir, a very active church society, St. Mary's Guild and Rosary Society as also the Holy Name Society. Many improvements have been made the last five years by Father Drummy on the church property. Devided into nationalities, there are about 85 families of German descent, 43 of Irish descent and 13 of Bohemian descent, the rest of the families are mixed between English, German, Irish and Bohemians. When St. Rose was established there was only one German family, being all Irish who were members of that congregation. (see page 7) Priest that have served St. Rose and St. Mary's have always come from Ireland, Father Sheehy being be the last, some returned there to

die, or have been of Irish descent.

FEDERATED CHURCH

Since Dr. Eichorn of Calmar has taken over the ministry for the Federated church here many improvements have been made and a new spirit of action has followed, all members receive a postal card every week as an invitation, listed with the order of service that will follow the next Sunday. The dining room kitchen has been remodeled and a new chimney was built.

Today the Federated church has a membership of about 75 souls, an very active woman church society who are making many sacrifices to benefit the church. A Sunday school, well attended, and the church property is neatly kept and a beauty spot in Waucoma.

