

THE NARRATOR

November 11, 1962

John A. Freeborn "Dedicated to the principles of Columbianism"

Francis (Babe) Denk

URGENT NEEDS O POSITIVE BLOOD

Michael Sommerville needs 25 Blood Donors with O Positive type blood for OPEN HEART SURGERY on December 4th. Please contact his mother as soon as possible at SP. 7-0522. VERY URGENT.

The late Mr. Sommerville belonged to our Council. Mrs. Evelyn Sommerville the boy's mother, is an active member of our Isabella Guild. Thank you. —J.A.F.

FACTS ABOUT OUR ADVERTISERS

THE STORY OF DOVER LEADER REXALL DRUG

The owner is Brother Stanley F. Zychowski, a member of our K. C. Council. A very charitable man in the many things he did for people. I know him personally. Not once did he refuse a donation. He carries a full line of drugs. They have specials every week. Stop in and say hello, or better yet, when you need something in his line give him a try—you won't be sorry. —J.A.F.

SPECIAL NOTICE—READ CAREFULLY

Will you be one who will be hearing what a wonderful time was had at our annual social evening? Or will you be one telling what a terrific time you had?

December 5th at 6:30 P.M. the Knights will team up with the Isabella Guild to prepare an evening of enjoyment for you. The evening will begin with a pot luck dinner and continue with refreshments and entertainment.

Wednesday, December 5th. Bring your wife and a hearty appetite to our annual social party.

QUARTERLY COMMUNION

Our Quarterly Holy Communion was held at St. Raphael's Catholic Church, Bay Village, Sunday, November 4, at the 10 o'clock Mass. About 35 attended along with some Squires. It was a pretty good turn out, but it could be attended by more members, that is why the Mass was at one of the late Masses, for your benefit. We would like to thank all the brothers and Squires that took part. —J.A.F.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 8:00 P.M.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S PARISH

Olmsted Falls, Ohio

Around the year 1849, Catholicism came to Olmsted Falls. John Reynolds was the first Catholic to settle here. The building of the Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railroad through this section brought other Catholic families, the leader of these families was a James Hickey, (Grandfather of Charles Barnum and Mrs. Theresa O'Brien, present members of the parish).

In the beginning, Olmsted Falls was mission and its religious needs were taken care of by Priests from Cathedral in Cleveland and from St. Mary's, Elyria. The increasing flow of Catholics, German, Irish and Polish lay people insured the life of the Church in the village and caused the building of a Catholic Parish. Holy Mass was first said in a barn, belonging to a Protestant villager, Calvin Geer. Afterwards, a log schoolhouse served as a church. For many years, the home of James Hickey on Lewis Road was used for the celebration of Holy Mass.

By 1856, a resident pastor was necessary and Father Louis Filiere became the pastor and organized a parish known as St. Mary's of the Assumption. For just two years, Mass was said in a house owned by Richard Pollard. Father Filiere then purchased a frame house to serve as a church and rector. The following year, 1858 the pastor bought a lot located then on Columbia Road near Plum Creek, and built a wooden Church. At this time Father Filiere had St. Mary's, Berea, and St. Patrick's, West Park, as missions. In 1862 Father Filiere was transferred to St. Mary's, Berea, his former parish, and St. Mary's, Olmsted Falls, became a mission.

A Father E. J. Murphy became the second resident pastor in 1873. During his first year, he purchased several lots at Columbia and Dutch Roads (W. Bagley). This is the present church property. He moved the wooden church to its new location and enlarged it. He converted a stone house which stood on the property to a parish rectory. This stone house was torn down in 1956.

The generosity of the people who worked on the railroad, on the farms and in the stone quarries enabled Father Murphy to make many improvements and also to open a parish school in a school building purchased from the village. However, a nation-wide panic forced the parish to close the school after a short time and the school was never reopened until our present school was built in 1949.

During the following years many priests served as pastors of St. Mary's. Some resided here and others took care of the parish from St. Mary's, Berea, as a mission. The names of these priests will go down in history for their good work here in the service of the

Lord. During this time the parish grew gradually and many improvements were made.

The present pastor, Father Joseph P. Walsh, was appointed by the Most Rev. Joseph Scarmuby, the Bishop of Cleveland in October of 1937.

The tragic date in the history of the parish was January 24, 1948, when the old wooden church (blessed with years of grace and blessing) was destroyed by fire. Father Walsh and his people started plans for a new Church and school. In the meantime, Mass was said every Sunday in the Olmsted Falls High School Gymnasium (thanks to kindness of our good neighbors). The new building was completed in August 1949, and dedicated May 1950. The Sisters of St. Joseph (Rocky River Drive) became the teachers of the new school. Sister M. Michael was the first principal. The Sisters took care of the religious instructions for the school children on Saturdays for many years previous. The parish increased and the school became crowded. In 1951, the Martin Bilskey home was acquired by the parish and remodeled into a Sister's Convent. Until then the Sisters resided in two rooms in the school. The garage behind the Sister's Convent was converted into a classroom. Due to crowded conditions in the school, some of the children were sent to St. Mary's, Berea, for school. A temporary school building was moved from Christ the King, East Cleveland, to our property and remodeled into five new classrooms and attached to the classroom in rear of the Sister's home. At the present, the need of classrooms is still urgent.

In 1957, the first resident assistant pastor to the parish was appointed. The people welcomed Father Wallace Roth. During the years previous, from 1949, Fathers, especially a Father Jos. Marositz, came weekends from Sacred Heart Seminary in Shelby to give us religious help. The Walkem property on Taylor Street was purchased for custodian's residence. Also property at the south corner of Columbia and Taylor Street was given as a gift from the Bilskey family. This property will be used as a playground and parking lot.

In 1959 a new Colonial Church to seat 900 people was planned. Ground was broken in 1959. The new church was opened and blessed February 18, 1960. The old basement church was remodelled into a church hall. Space does not allow for a fitting description of the simple beauty of our new Church. All are invited to see for themselves. As of this date, the good people, priests and sisters are getting ready for the day of dedication. Its dedication to the honor and glory of God and for their own sanctification. Father William Hand became the new assistant June 15, 1962.

St. Mary's Cemetery, located on East Bagley Road, is the final resting place of many good men and women who worked and lived here in the service of God. Rev. Father Walsh, Pastor

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Managing Editor J. Freeborn
Spring 7-1710

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Council — 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Kay Cee Club — 2nd Tuesday
6 P. Chairman—1st Thursday
Trustees—Last Thursday
Officers—Last Friday

Bro. Bernard Beck

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