

Ten young ladies of St. Mary's, Lycurgus, have consecrated their lives by entering the religious Sisterhoods.



## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, FAIRFAX

The history of St. Patrick's parish of Fairfax begins in the late fifties. Among the first Catholic families to settle in the Fairfax community were the Murrys, Flahertys, Kellys, Starks, Moynihans, Brechts, Cahills, O'Connells, Wickes, Ferreters and Sears. Their nearest church was in Iowa City. In those days, when there were no roads, and traveling was slow and difficult these pioneer Catholics journeyed over beaten paths through woods and thickets to Cedar Rapids to attend Mass, celebrated by Father Wm. Emmonds. Father Emmonds, whose headquarters were at Iowa City, made known his coming to Cedar Rapids days in advance.

Later Mass was celebrated in the Fairfax homes, principally in those of Patrick Flaherty and Vincent Thoman, by Father John Zleipsic, stationed at Norway. He was affectionately called and known as "Father John." Occasionally Father Clement Lowery came from Cedar Rapids to celebrate Mass and to minister to the spiritual needs. In 1875, through the efforts of Father John Zleipsic, the first church was built in Fairfax. Shortly after its completion, the Fairfax congregation received its first resident pastor, Father Edward O'Farrell. He remained until the summer of 1878. Twelve priests are numbered among the former pastors of the Fairfax parish. They are: The Rev. Fathers O'Farrell; D. F. McCaffery; Wm. Quinn; F. D. Kelly; Thos. Richardson, who enlarged the first church (in 1886 he was transferred to Cedar Rapids and became the first pastor of St. Patrick's parish on the west side); Father John Hogan; Father Thos. J. Reynolds who died in Fairfax and is the only priest buried in the Fairfax cemetery; Father Patrick Reynolds, now pastor of the Hanover parish. During the pastorate of Father Reynolds the present beautiful Gothic church was built. It cost approximately forty thousand dollars. The corner stone was laid in June, 1912. Next Father P. E. Donnelly, now pastor of the Elma parish, remodeled and improved the parochial residence and in 1916 built the parish school. The Sisters of Mercy from Cedar Rapids are in charge, teaching high school and graded courses. Next came Father Thos. Fitzgerald, then Father J. D. Kearns, now pastor of St. Matthew's Church in Cedar Rapids. In April, 1934, when Father Kearns was transferred to Cedar Rapids, the present pastor, Father J. J. Buzynski, was appointed to Fairfax.

Six former members of the Fairfax parish are now religious in the Order of the Sisters of Mercy.



Attended from the Fairfax parish is the mission of Stark Settlement, located six miles northwest of Fairfax. The church was built in 1880 and dedicated to the patronage of St. Joseph. Still standing today, it is in excellent condition. Last year the interior was renovated and decorated. The land where the church stands was donated by Andrew and Mary Stark, early pioneers, after whom the community was called Stark Settlement.



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, GILBERTVILLE

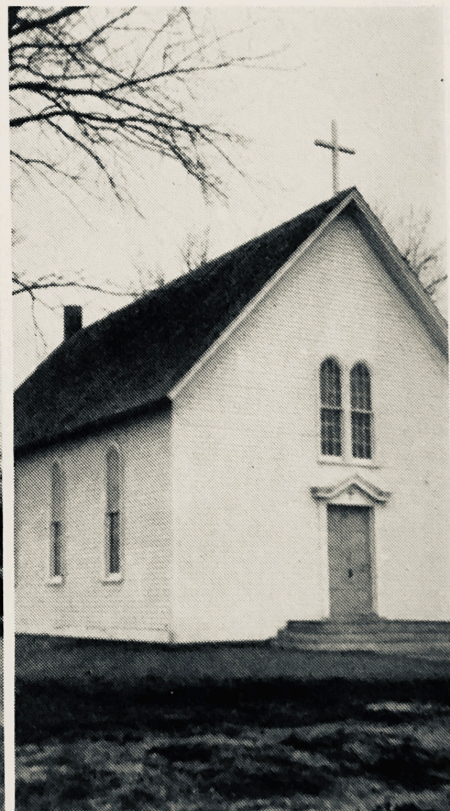
Many of the first settlers of Gilbertville were earnest Catholics. There is no record of the first Mass said, but it must have been in the early fifties. The first church was built about 1854 or 1855. It was a small building, erected of the cast-off slabs of a local sawmill. It is said that Bishop Loras visited the place in 1855. In 1856 and 1857 a Father Baumgarten came up from Davenport to minister to the Catholics in this part of the state, saying Mass in Gilbertville. Later, in 1858 and 1859, Father James Orth, who was then stationed in New Vienna, came occasionally. At this time there were some twelve or more Catholic families in Gilbertville. These built a new stone church about the year 1857, where the Sisters' residence now stands. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception, no doubt because that dogma had been declared a few years before.

After 1859, and in the early sixties, Father John Shields came down from Waverly several times a year. From 1863 to 1875 Father John Gosker, the first pastor of the new parish at Independence, had charge of Gilbertville as a mission. In 1869 Father Nicholas Scallan came to Waterloo as the first resident priest. About 1875 the mission of Gilbertville was placed under his charge. Sometimes Father Sweeney, who had founded a small Irish colony at Sunnyside, fourteen miles southeast of Gilbertville, took Father Scallan's place at his mission. Father John Baumann came to Gilbertville several times during the year 1874, and prepared the children for their first Holy Communion.

By this time the parish had about fifty-five families. In 1875, under the direction of Father Scallan, a larger frame church was built, but the next year, just after it had been completed, it was destroyed by a violent wind storm. The people immediately began the erection of a new church; this was completed and dedicated in April, 1877.

The Rev. John N. Nemmers was born October 16, 1847, in a log cabin near Têtes des Morts, now St. Donatus, in Jackson County, and was or-





ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, FAIRFAX  
ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL

REV. J. J. BUZYNSKI, PASTOR  
ST. PATRICK'S RECTORY

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, STARK SET-  
TLEMENT, MISSION OF FAIRFAX