



## St. Ann's Sodality

Debbie Russell

The St. Ann's Sodality has been a part of our St. Joseph Parish for more than 125 years. In 1978, during the 100th Anniversary celebration of St. Joseph Parish, Mary Flamm, a member of the Parish interviewed the oldest living member of the Parish, Mayme Johnson, who recounted some of the society's history.

Mayme moved to Cobden in 1902, when she was twelve years old. Mayme remembers that she had been told that the women's group was formed by her Aunt, Ann Clemens Petsch, and was named St. Ann's Society in her honor. Some of the earliest responsibilities of the Society were to make sure the altar cloths, candles and Communion hosts were available and ready at all times. They also provided food, sacks of sweet potatoes, buckets of lard and even live chickens for the care of the priests.

*Anna Clemens Petsch (1847-1924) and her husband, Franz (1836-1911). They were married in 1891. Anna was the daughter of Mathias Clemens. From the collection of Margie Stadelbacher.*



## Priests of the past

### Rev. Ted Baumann 1977-1981

Serving from 1977 to 1981, Father Ted Baumann guided us through major renovations, holding Masses in the Parish Hall while the church was updated. He brought a heart for service to Cobden, initiating Spanish Masses for migrant workers and supporting Garth Gillian in his preparation as a permanent deacon. He also celebrated a Mass at our beautiful cemetery. Later named Monsignor for his extensive diocesan leadership, he retired in 2008 after a lifetime of dedicated ministry.



Father Ted Baumann

## The Holy Family



*The Holy Family window  
Donated by the St. Ann's Altar Society (now called St. Ann's Sodality).*

## Father's corner: The Holy Family

Fr. Uriel Salamanca

Jesus was born into a humble family and lived His life within the family unit like any of us; that is why we always strive for our families to be a reflection of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

The family is a domestic church and the fundamental unit of society. It must be a presence of God and His love for all its members, and at the same time, it is called to be a reflection of God's love for a wounded society that attacks the family, even seeking to dilute it and reduce it to just another social group.

The Christian family has love as its core and foundation. That is why we say that the family is called to be a community of love, in which all its members can grow and relate to one another through the love poured into their hearts by the Holy Spirit. In this way, it will become a reflection of God's love for others.

To respond to this calling and be faithful to its mission, the family must cultivate the following values, which Saint Paul mentions in his letter to the Colossians, for healthy relationships among its members: understanding, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, gratitude, peace, respect... All of these attitudes stem from a single, solid foundation: LOVE.

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## St. Ann's Society (CONTINUED)

Ann's husband, Mr. Franz Petsch, had relocated from Germany to Cobden, where he met and married Ann Clemens. (The Mathias Clemens family hosted the first Mass in Cobden in their home in 1861.) Franz and Ann Clemens Petsch donated the private cemetery of Mathias Clemens to the parish in 1893 – a large part of the land that is now St. Joseph Cemetery.

The window featuring the Holy Family was donated to the Parish by the St. Ann's Society in the 1950's.

Sometime between when the window was donated and 1978, the name of the women's organization was changed to St. Ann's Sodality. The Sodality continues to thrive, and is open to all women of the parish. The Sodality is involved in many devotional and charitable activities, including:

Caring for the Altar. Priest and server vestments. Church and Altar floral arrangements. Church statuary. Fundraising (Cobden Lions Club dinners, athletic award dinners, raffles, Christmas bazaar). Parish events (wiener roast, parish picnics, Octoberfest). Holiday parties (Christmas, Halloween, Easter). Funeral meals. Scholarships for students and seminarians. Lenten fish fries. Bingo. Food pantry. Sacramental support (Confirmation, First Communion).



*The Franz Petsch house on Clemens Street. Franz married Anna Clemens, the daughter of Mathias and Gertrude Clemens. Anna was standing on the front porch. From the collection of Margie Stadelbacher.*

## Father's corner

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This love is called to be a true reflection of God's love. To this end, the family must become an authentic school of Christian life, like the Holy Family of Nazareth, faithful to God's will at every moment, promoting personal and family prayer, consistent engagement with the Word of God, reception of the sacraments, thanksgiving, and the shared experience of God's action among its members. This also includes fulfilling their responsibilities and duties as citizens. One cannot be a good Christian without first being a good citizen.



*The Holy Family with a Little Bird*  
~ by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

## Ecumenical Service

During St. Joseph Parish's centennial celebration in 1978, a special ecumenical service was held on Sunday, September 24. A public open house followed the service.

Three of Cobden's clergy members participated in the service. Father Ted Baumann, the pastor serving St. Joseph Parish, welcomed guests and read the Scriptures. Rev. Richard Ryman, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and led the prayers. The Rev. Clifford Heil, pastor of the First Baptist Church, delivered the sermon. Music and songs were presented by the Union County Community Chorus. The sounds of the community chorus and the congregation "rang through the Church rafters."

Following the service, a reception was held in the parish hall.