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Fr. Yauss Center was Holy Trinity School, now houses Religious Education; closed Convent now Parish Office

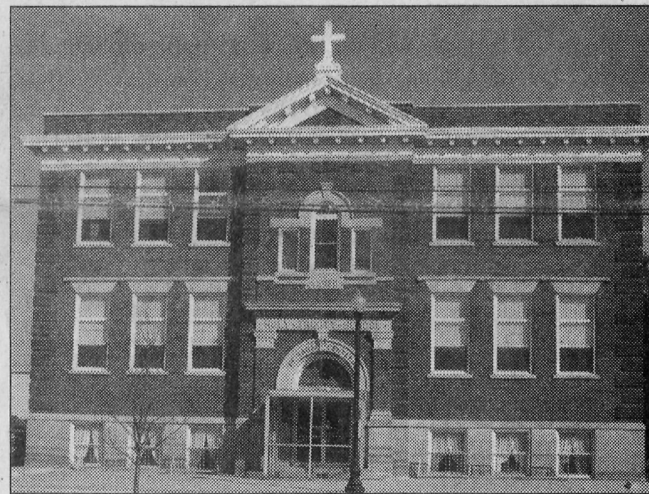
**BY GRETCHEN
BOLLENBACHER**

(This is Part II of the account of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Coldwater. This part will talk about the Holy Trinity School, the Holy Trinity Convent, the Parish Council and its commissions and other organizations and ministries through which Holy Trinity parishioners give generously of their time to their church)

In 1913 the parish erected the Holy Trinity School building immediately north of the church. A parochial grade school staffed by Precious Blood sisters was operated from 1913 to 1935. According to Sr. Noreen Jutte, archivist,

from the Salem Heights motherhouse, "The school opened in 1913 with four Sisters of the Precious Blood teaching. In the 1950s and 1960s there were ten Sisters in the school; later a Sister was a full time director of religious education. The school changed to Coldwater Public in 1935, and the Sisters still taught in the school until spring of 1979."

Until 1990 the building was rented by the Coldwater School System for an elementary school. Since then it has been renamed the Father Yauss Center, after Fr. Louis Yauss who was pastor of Holy Trinity from 1915 until 1957, and ----- *Continued on page 10A*



BUILT IN 1913, this was a parochial school staffed by Precious Blood sisters and operated until 1935. The building was then used by the Coldwater school system as a "grade" school through 1990, when it was named the Fr. Yauss Center. It now houses religious education offices. Gretchen Bollenbacher photo.

Fr. Yauss Center

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the building now houses the religious education offices and classrooms and meeting rooms for other groups.

"If you're in the Center when a young group is meeting, you hear what a noisy good time they are having. They're having a great time and they're learning, too," parishioner Eileen Weber said.

What is now known as the Parish Offices building to the east of the Church was built in 1953 as a residence for the Sisters of the Precious Blood. There was a frame convent there before that was moved to St. Henry and converted into a one story home. The new one was dedicated as the Holy Trinity Convent on the Feast of Christ the King on October 25, 1953.

Sr. Noreen said, "While the Sisters were in residence in the convent, it was also used for a food pantry and for CCD classes and offices. After the sisters were no longer in the school, they continued in various pastoral ministries and still lived in the convent until 1992 when it was closed."

The building was for a time leased to the Mercer County Mental Health Department, and in 2002 was renovated and currently serves as the parish offices.

PARISH COUNCIL ASSISTS IN ADVANCING MEMBERS' FAITH

The Parish Council is the Church's main governing body. Its most important function is to assist in advancing the Catholic faith for all members. Its members serve as liaison with the various parish commissions including worship, social action, finance/maintenance, and education.

Many active ministries fall under the broad wings of each commission. There is a youth representative that oversees both a junior high and high school group. A teen bible study is also held. The CCD program in the church is, according to their activities booklet, "the second largest in the diocese with 1,050 students enrolled in the four year old to twelfth grade classes." They are taught by 115 catechists who "proclaim Christ's message, develop community, guide people to worship and prayer and motivate them to serve others."

Worship services offer opportunity for many areas of ministry including eucharistic ministers, lay presiders who conduct some communion services, lectors, servers, ushers and cantors.

With leadership from Sr. Elizabeth Westgerdes, C.P.P.S., the evangelization committee, according to the parish ministries annual booklet, "coordinates efforts to reach out in many ways to establish the proper climate for a successful, total-parish effort." Sr. Elizabeth also works with RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), an organization designed to look at Catholicism for outside the faith, interested persons.

The spirituality of the Church is shown through a prayer group, homebound, communion and sick ministries, a nursing home and hos-

pital communion ministries, and also ministries of bereavement, child care and prayer request.

Other areas are marriage preparation, marriage encounter, pre-baptism class, M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mothers Sharing), a food pantry and a hospitality committee.

Organizations include Squires, a youth group ages 12-18 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, CYO basketball, a Catholic Adult Singles Club (CASC), St. Ann's Rosary Altar Sodality, St. Cecilia Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John and the Knights of Columbus.

A MOST UNUSUAL AND UNIQUE THING ABOUT HOLY TRINITY

"A most unusual and unique thing about Holy Trinity," said parishioner Eileen Weber, "is our ministry of music. We have eight active choirs. Ron Johnson is music director.

"There is the mixed choir which is the main liturgical choir that sings at all the major liturgical celebrations such as confirmation, first communion, Holy Week, Advent, Christmas and Lent. This choir has 30 to 40 members, the youngest of which are two or three high school kids and the oldest of which is 93.

"There is also," said Weber, "a 9-12 age youth choir, a junior high aged choir, a cherub choir for grades 3 through 5, a men's choir, a women's choir and the Resurrection choir who provide musical support for all funerals."

Pat Naveau directs the Folkgroup that sings and plays contemporary guitar-based music, and there is also an instrumentalists group who share their musical abilities on various instruments.

Weber noted that the role of cantor has been restored in its proper liturgical position in the history of the Church. The cantor's role "is much more than that of a soloist," reads the activities booklet. "Based on the ancient Hebrew tradition, the cantor has the responsibility to lead our congregation in singing the Psalmody and other acclamations and songs. Cantors are members of the various choirs and sing various Mass times." Weber said she sometimes serves as cantor for the 7 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses when there is no choir.

A weekly bulletin is used for important announcements like schedules for Masses being said for wedding anniversaries and banns of marriage.

In-house, in-town and neighboring parish activities and programs are publicized.

Parishioners serve Mass every Tuesday at Briarwood. "A lot of people go along to help take people from their rooms to the service," said Weber. They also generously give of their time to support the long-standing and very successful K of C Picnic the first of June every year. There is also the annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper that this year served "four different kinds of vegetarian soups and peanut butter bread."

Despite all these active committees, the church also benefits from a large number of volunteers who serve in

different areas from child care or cleaning the church to clerical or computer data entry. A beautification committee plants flowers around the church every spring.

Holy Trinity and the Coldwater United Methodist Church have a strong ecumenical relationship. Together they hold a Thanksgiving service, a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, and Memorial Day services. They also work together in a Vacation Bible School program.

"We also held a special September 11 Memorial Concert together with the Coldwater High School Symphonic Choir and the school's Women's Symphonic Choir, and we had a CD made," said Weber.

"Later at a choir practice our director wanted us to listen to a song before we began practicing. He played Dona Nobis Pacem for us from our



PICTURED ARE SEVEN of the Precious Blood Sisters who lived at the Holy Trinity Convent and worked in the Holy Trinity School. The time is prior to 1955. Salem Heights Archives.

CD but didn't tell us what he was doing. I suddenly realized 'That was us!' We all thought it was a professional group, we sounded so good."

Holy Trinity is part of a cluster that also includes St. Anthony Catholic Church and St. Mary, Philothea. The Rev. Fr. Rick Walling is pastor, the Rev. Mr. Virgil Lochtefeld and the Rev. Dr. Thomas

Huff, are deacons. The Rev. Fr. Ron Wilker, though retired, still helps in the ministry.

Worship services celebrated at Holy Trinity include Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.; Sunday 7, 9 and 10:30 a.m. and noon; Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. Communion Service, Monday, Thursday 6:30 a.m., Saturday, 7 a.m.

Daily Mass is broadcast on Channel 55 at 8 a.m. and repeated at 12 noon, 7 p.m. and 12 midnight, and on Sunday on Channel 33 at 10:30 a.m.

A Holy Trinity Church has stood at the corner of Main and Second Streets in Coldwater since the first frame building was built in 1868, a vital part of the life of Coldwater since that time.

5th Annual

ROCKFORD Business Expo

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Parkway High School • 8 a.m.-Noon

7-10 a.m. Breakfast Open To Public
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8:15 a.m.: OSU, Barb Hennard
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THE HOLY TRINITY CONVENT, that was dedicated in October 1953, also housed a food pantry and CCD classes and offices until 1992. It was for a time rented out and then in 2002 was redecorated and is now used for parish offices. Salem Heights Archives.

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