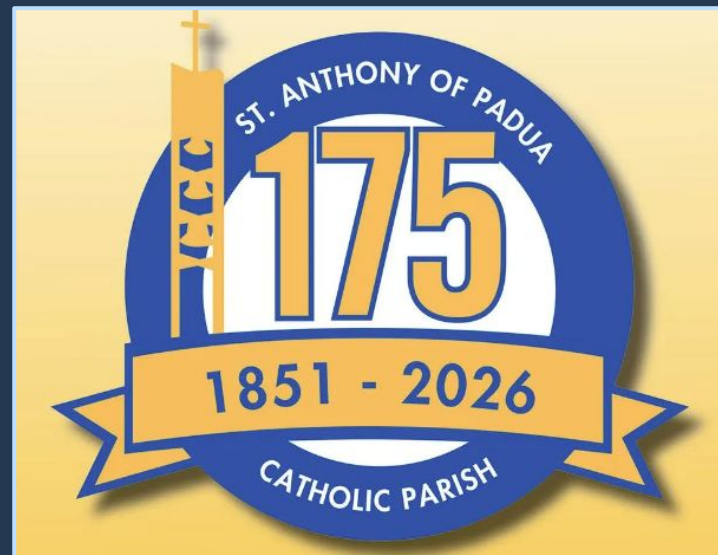


History of St. Anthony of Padua

Part 2: The Clarksville Years



Planning for the Move to Clarksville

The old Jeffersonville property at Maple and Wall Streets proved too small for the parish, especially with the post-World War II population boom...

"...St. Anthony has become too small to accommodate its parishioners. ...[The] School is also limited through lack of space. The four-room school, with a capacity enrollment of almost 200 pupils, has been forced to transfer many students to St. Augustine..."
(Fr. Mathias, *Evening News*, July 28, 1948)



REV. SCHNIEDERS OUTLINES MOVING CHURCH AND SCHOOL

St. Anthony Pastor Tells Of Plans At Rotary Club

The Rev. Fr. Mathias Schnieders, pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church, a Rotarian and guest speaker at last night's meeting of the Rotary Club, outlined the plans for relocating his church and parochial school on a six-acre plot in Greenacres.

The move is to be made in the near future, in accordance with instructions from Archbishop Schulte, of the Indianapolis diocese, Father Schnieders said.

Built almost 100 years ago at Maple and Wall Streets, St. Anthony has become too small to accommodate its parishioners. The limited seating capacity makes it necessary to conduct four services on the Sabbath, Father Schnieders disclosed.

The St. Anthony Parochial School is also limited through lack of space. The four-room school, with a capacity enrollment of almost 200 pupils, has been forced to transfer many students to St. Augustine Parochial School.

Father Schnieders expressed the opinion that the move to Greenacres would eventually make St. Anthony's the largest Catholic Church in this area. This will be brought about, the priest said, by eliminating two Catholic churches in the same area, and removing one to serve a fast-developing subdivision which has no church nor school facilities.

According to present plans, Father Schnieder said, the school building would be constructed first, in the form of an auditorium, surrounded by classrooms. The auditorium would be used as a sanctuary until the regular church structure is completed.

The old church and other buildings at Maple and Wall Streets, would be razed, with the salvaged materials to be utilized for the buildings in Greenacres. The Jeffersonville property would then be disposed of, Father Schnieders said.

Construction Begins in Clarksville

Construction on the new facility in the Greenacres began in April 1949...

“Father Schnieders expressed the opinion that the move to Greenacres would eventually make St. Anthony’s the largest Catholic Church in the area. This will be brought about, the priest said, by eliminating two Catholic churches in the same area, and removing one to serve a fast developing subdivision which has no church nor school facilities.” (*Evening News*, July 28, 1948)



Laying the Cornerstone

After construction had progressed for a few months in 1949, a special ceremony marked the laying of the cornerstone for the new church in Clarksville...



Fr. Mathias, pastor, leads a prayer at the dedication of the cornerstone in Clarksville.



Archbishop of Indianapolis Paul Schulte presides over the laying of the new church cornerstone. From left to right at the ceremony are Fr. Angelus LaFleur, Fr. Al Jacoby, the Archbishop, Fr. Wenceslaus Hertvik (Minister Provincial), Fr. Theodore Eickholz (future pastor 1957-1960), and Fr. Oderic Auer (former pastor 1914-1929).

Construction Continues in 1949

Construction progressed rapidly through the spring and summer of 1949...



These two views detail construction on the two sides of the facility, the church (left) and school (above). Cost of construction was approximately \$200,000 (about \$2.5 million today).

Construction Continues in 1949

Construction progressed on the church and school in one building and a convent for the nuns...

Local photographer and pilot Norris Mode shot this aerial view of the new campus buildings rising up on farmland in Clarksville in this photo from 1947. The new convent, which cost approximately \$50,000 to construct, was built beside a little house that was already on the property (today's Scout Lodge).



The Transition from Jeffersonville to Clarksville

School began in the new facility in Clarksville in September 1949. Meanwhile, church services continued in the old Jeffersonville facility while construction continued...

School started on Monday, September 12, 1949. The larger school allowed for an increase in enrollment of about 20 percent.

At the new St. Anthony Parochial School in, Greenacres, it was reported by the Rev. Fr. Mathias Schnieders that 1949 enrollees totaled 266. The initial enrollment last year was 220.

Schools To Start; Vacation Ends

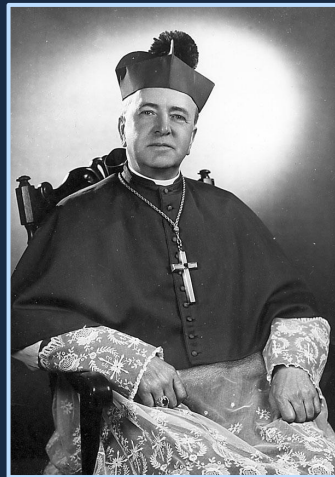
1949-50 Term To Begin Monday A. M. In City

Today is the last day of vacation for Jeffersonville youngsters of school age attending the city schools. On Monday morning the trek to classes for the 1949-50 term will begin for hundreds of children. The only exception will be the Taylor School. Opening there has been delayed until September 26, in order to allow contractors engaged in the remodeling and enlarging project, time to complete their work.

Children attending St. Augustine Parochial School started last Tuesday. Enrollees at St. Anthony, school in Greenacres starting Monday.

The Transition from Jeffersonville to Clarksville

Although school began in September, the formal dedication and first Mass did not take place until close to Christmas...



Archbishop Schulte (above) blessed and dedicated the new facility on December 18, 1949. At left is the earliest known photo showing the initial configuration with the altar in the rear and a Communion rail across the front.

St. Anthony To Dedicate New Clarksville School Dec. 18th

The new St. Anthony Parochial School, Sherwood Avenue, Clarksville, will be formally dedicated Sunday morning, December 18, after the 11 o'clock Mass, it was announced by the Rev. Fr. Mathias Schnieders, pastor of St. Anthony Church.

The Rt. Rev. Paul C. Schulte, Archbishop of Indianapolis, will officiate at the solemn ceremonies and deliver the principal address. The Very Rev. Fr. Wincelous Hertwig, Provincial, will read the Mass, and neighboring clergy will assist in the ceremony, Fr. Schnieders said.

teria 48 by 55 feet; a first-aid room; a storage room; and kitchen by 57 feet wide. It contains a play and furnace room, all on the ground floor.

The first floor has four classrooms, rest rooms and an auditorium 50 by 115 feet which will serve as a church until a new edifice is built.

On the second floor are four more classrooms, hall, library, office and music room, with a glass partition into the auditorium. This was provided so that mothers of small children may use it during Mass. Father Schnieders explained. The choir balcony is also accessible from the second floor.

Built of buff colored brick, and trimmed in Indiana limestone, the school is completely fireproof. All floors are of terrazo and asbestos tile, with the side walls of the halls, kitchen and restrooms of ceramic tile.



Archbishop Schulte Will Dedicate School

Open inspection of the new school will be held following the dedication ceremonies, until three o'clock on the afternoon of December 18. The school will also be open for inspection on Monday, December 26, from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. and on New Year's Day from one to five p. m., the pastor said.

The new school building, built on a ten-acre tract, is 210 feet long room 50 by 115 feet with a stage and two dressing rooms; a cafe-

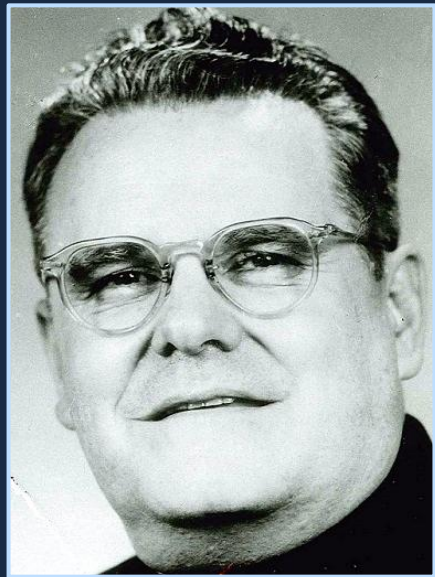
"Built of buff colored brick, and trimmed in Indiana limestone, the school is completely fireproof." (Evening News, December 10, 1949)

The Parish Settles in and Gets a New Pastor

Shortly after moving to Clarksville the parish began planning for its 100th anniversary. A new pastor also came to the parish...



The photo to the left from 1957 show the south end of the Clarksville campus. photo below shows an enlarged portion in which is visible the convent on the left and the farmhouse (with arrow) that served as the first rectory.



Fr. Ignatius Hanley, OFMConv., who was serving as a pastor in Wisconsin, replaced Fr. Mathias in August 1951, shortly before the centennial celebration. He served as pastor until 1957.

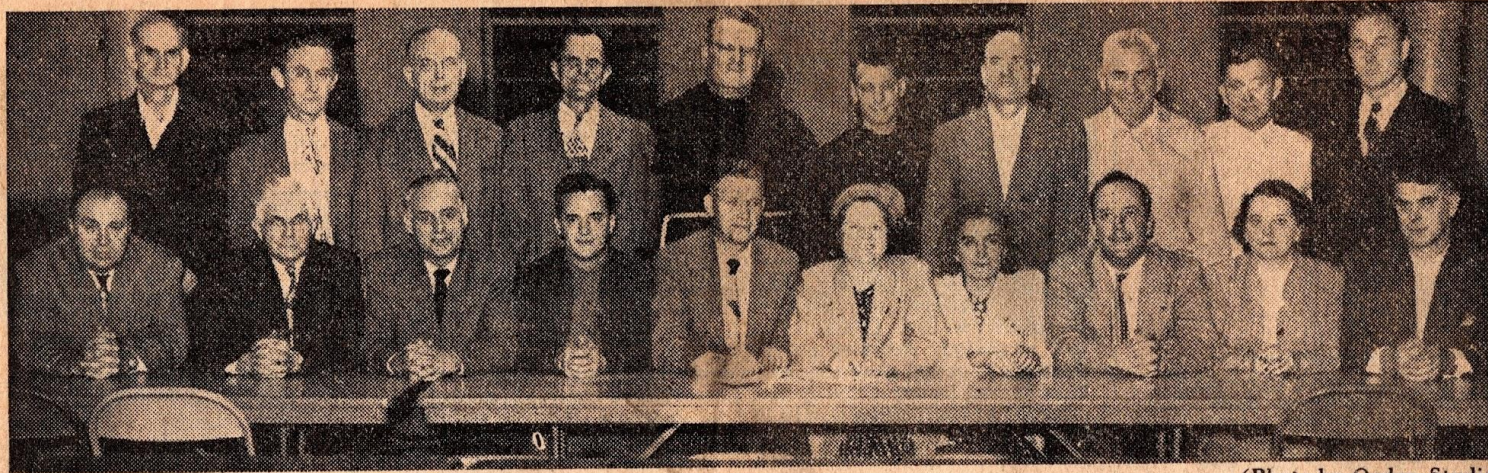


Centennial Celebration in 1951

Shortly after moving to Clarksville the parish began planning for its 100th anniversary...

Many familiar parish names are represented in this photo of the committee formed to celebrate the parish's centennial.

Committee Plans St. Anthony's Centennial



(Photo by Ogden Studio)

A committee of twenty, shown above, has been hard at work for weeks on plans for next Sunday's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Jeffersonville—and event that will bring church dignitaries and former parishioners from near and far to the church in Jeffersonville.

Seated, left to right, are Claude Ritz, C. A. Brown, Ray Bonifer,

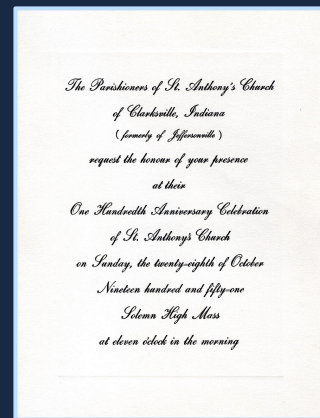
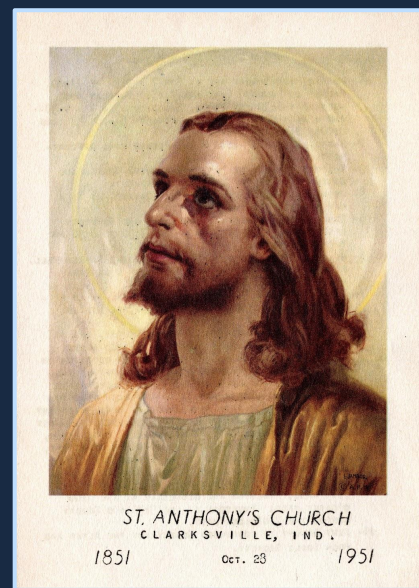
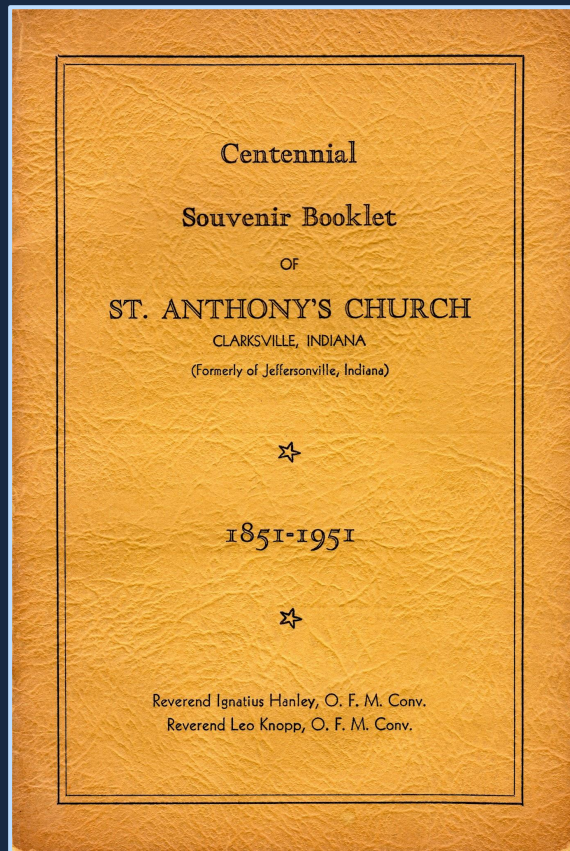
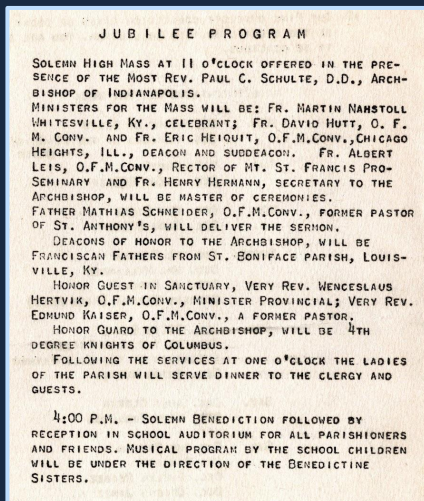
Leroy Freund, Henry Minta, Mrs. A. C. Weidner, Mary C. Herberich, Lewis Millburn, Mrs. Louis Julius, and John Paull.

Standing, left to right, are John W. Hale, William M. Hutt, Louis Julius, Dan MacDougall, the Rev. Fr. Ignatius Hanley, O. F. M., the Rev. Fr. Leo Knopp, O. F. M., John Leuthart, L. William Hutt, Edward Houser, and Frank L. Hutt.

Centennial Celebration in 1951

The Jubilee Mass was celebrated on October 28, 1951...

Archbishop Schulte returned to Clarksville for the parish's centennial. Parishioners, who were given a souvenir booklet to commemorate the event, also posed for special photo (next).



Centennial Celebration in 1951

A panoramic picture marked the special day the parish celebrated its centennial...



St. Anthony Credit Union Established

In January 1954 Fr. Francis Xavier Knopp, OFMConv. founded the St. Anthony Poverello Credit Union...

During his short term in residence at St. Anthony Fr. Knopp wanted to help parishioners, many with young families, to help build their finances. Their first office was in the school basement.

St. Anthony's Church Starts Parish Credit Savings Union

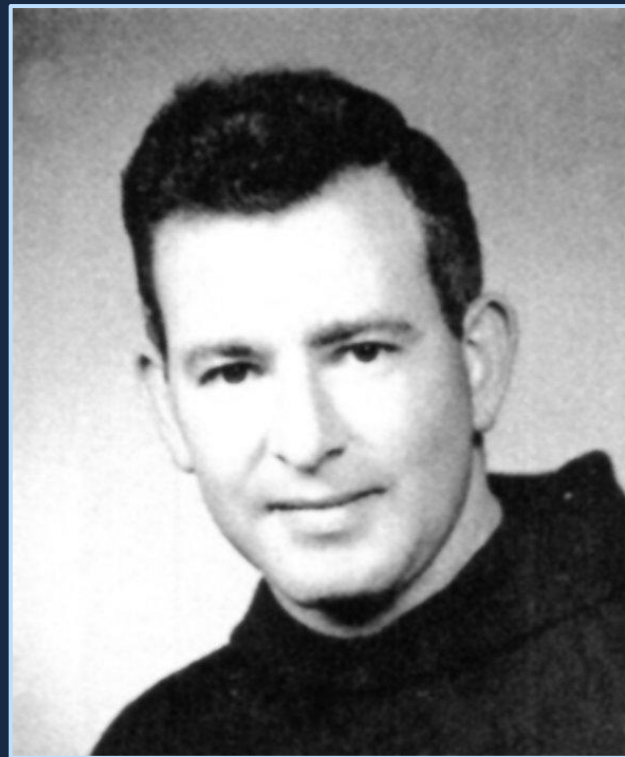
The parishioners of St. Anthony's Church, Clarksville, have received a charter for a parish credit union from the Federal Bureau of Credit Unions. At an organization meeting, recently, officers for 1954 were elected as follows: Moderator, Rev. Fr. Ignatius Hanley, O.F.M.Conv., Pastor of St. Anthony's; President, Henry Minta; Vice-President, Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier OFMConv.; Treasurer, Mrs. Sidney Oehmann; Clerk, Mrs. Charles Graninger; Directors, Robert Stemm, Rudolph Koranchan, and Elmer Germann; Credit Committee, L. L. Vornholt, William H. Apfel, and R. Lechleiter; Supervisory Committee members, Mary Sorg, Mrs. A. Bolduc, and Carl Berbet.

St. Anthony's Poverello Federal Credit Union is chartered for parishioners and all members of their immediate families. Membership is open to children as well as adults. It will provide a thrift and loan service.

The credit union office is located in the school basement and will be open Sundays from 8:00 to 12:00 noon, Tuesdays, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. and for the school children, on Tuesdays during the lunch hour.

Mrs. Oehmann, the treasurer, reports that the credit union now has 124 members with assets of \$2,215.09.

"Fr. Xavier [Knopp] said if we can get enough people interested, we can help everybody live a little by sharing the savings of a few." Longtime Credit Union Chair Raymond Martin



Fr. Francis Xavier Knopp, OFMConv.

Parish Growth in the 1950s

By the middle of the 1950s the parish was booming...

St. Anthony Eighth Grade Class of 1956 poses in front of the school entrance with Fr. Ignatius Hanley.



This photo of the First Communion Class of 1955 gives an idea of how large St. Anthony School's enrollment was getting. Burgeoning enrollment by the middle of the 1950s led the parish to plan an addition to the school, which was having trouble fitting the increasing numbers into its existing eight classrooms.

St. Anthony Adds Annex in 1957

The parish constructed an eight-room annex to ease the burden on the overcrowded classrooms...



This photo from St. Anthony School Field Day shows the annex as it appeared in 2010.

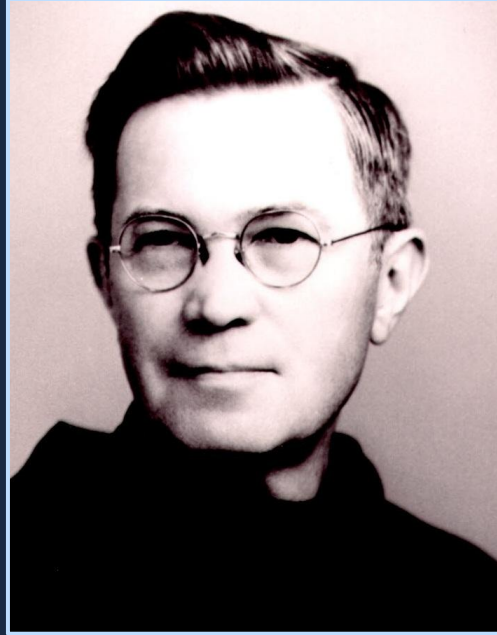


St. Anthony Eighth Grade Class of 1957 poses in front of the school entrance with Fr. Ignatius Hanley. This was the first class to attend first through eighth grade in Clarksville.

St. Anthony in the Late 1950s

Fr. Theodore Eickholtz replaced Fr. Ignatius Hanley in August 1957...

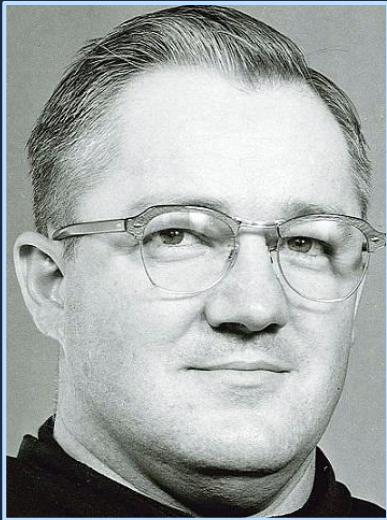
Fr. Theodore Eickholtz, OFMConv. had been serving at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio, when he was transferred to Clarksville. He was born and grew up near Charlestown. He served as pastor until 1960.



In its continuing tradition, the parish raffled off this new car at the 1958 parish picnic.

A New Pastor for a New Decade

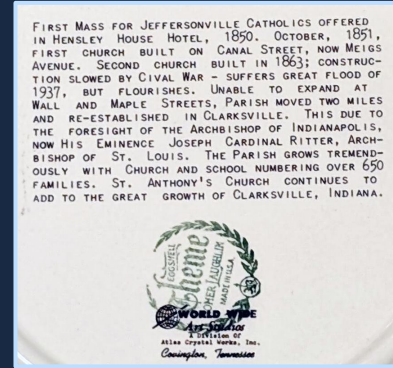
Fr. Maurus Hauer replaced Fr. Theodore Eickholtz in 1960...



Fr. Maurus Hauer, OFMConv. Spent much of his life ministering to parishes in New Mexico, but from 1960 to 1966 he served as pastor of St. Anthony. He was known as an avid card player. He worked full-time until the age of 92 and when he passed in 2019 he was the oldest Conventual Franciscan in the entire world.



The parish produced this commemorative plate in 1962 with the text above on the reverse side.



St. Anthony in the 1960s

St. Anthony continued to thrive through the 1960s...

At right Fr. Maurus Hauer, pastor, and Sr. M. Louise, principal, gather with St. Anthony students in April 1965 to plant a tulip poplar, the state tree, in front of school. In the photo below left from 1961 before the tree planting, one sapling is visible. In the recent photo below right, both trees planted in the 1960s are visible.



CLUB DONATES TREE TO SCHOOL—Clarksville's Garden Club is donating trees to each of the town's elementary schools as part of a special project of the organization and the tree selected for presentation to St. Anthony School was of the tulip poplar variety—the official state tree. Pictured here at the planting are eighth graders Cary Williams and Bill Zinser preparing to com-

plete the watering and shoveling process and looking on are, from left, first graders Ann Pacellano, Robert Davis, Denise Gettelfinger, Robert Douglas, Kateri Parrott and James Canter; and standing, school principal Slater M. Louise, garden club president, Mrs. Kenneth Roy, and pastor, the Rev. Father Maurus Hauer.



St. Anthony in the 1960s



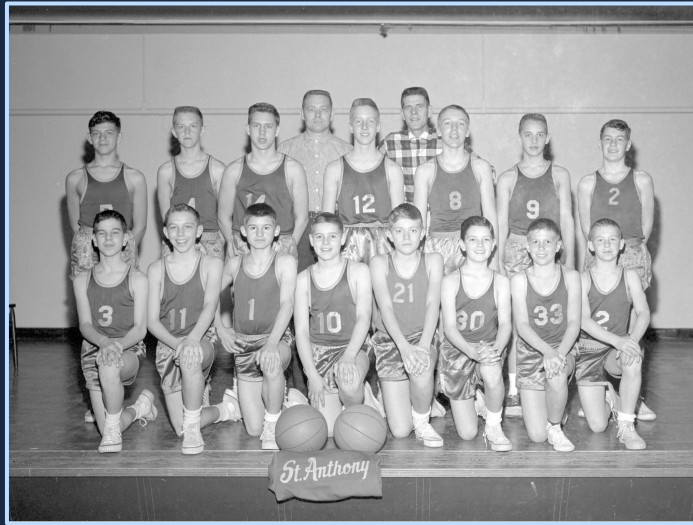
In 1966 the St. Anthony Church high school team won the deanery's CYO Bible Quiz. Pictured left to right are John McCarthy, Nancy Kruer (later McGarvey), Cindy Schamel, and Mary Kay Dorman.



St. Anthony School graduates pose in front of school in June 1963 with the priests and nuns.

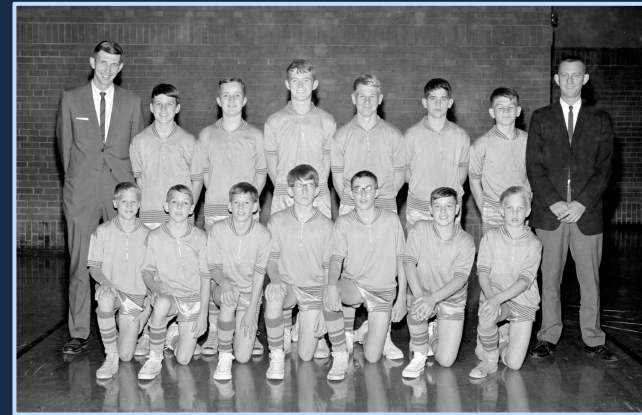
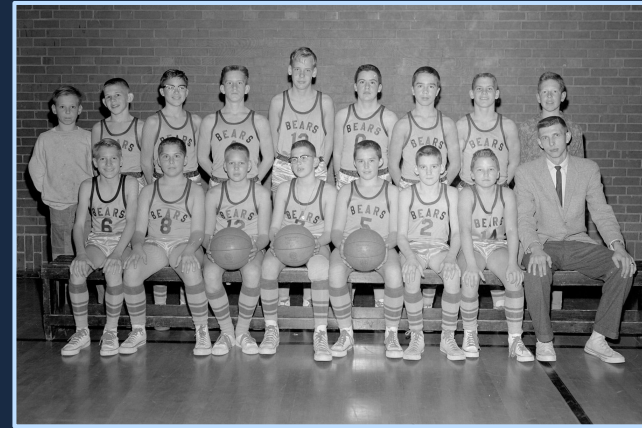
St. Anthony Basketball in the 1960s

St. Anthony boys proudly represented their school on Bears basketball teams...



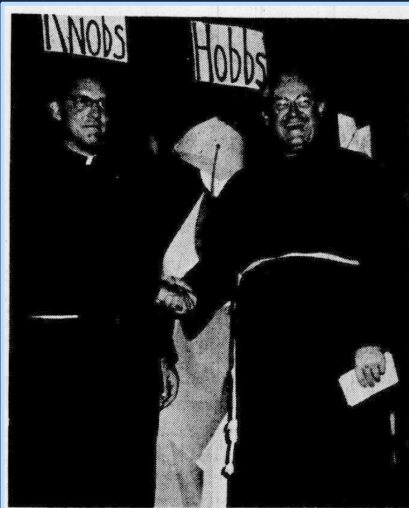
The Bears basketball team poses on the stage in the old St. Anthony cafeteria stage in February 1960.

Coach John Minta first began coaching basketball in the early 1960s and led many winning teams, three of whom won the Archdiocesan championship in Indianapolis over his 35 years coaching. Above right is Coach Minta's 1961 squad and below right is the 1966 team.



New Pastor in 1966

The parish said farewell to Fr. Maurus Hauer and welcomed Fr. Benjamin Knopp...

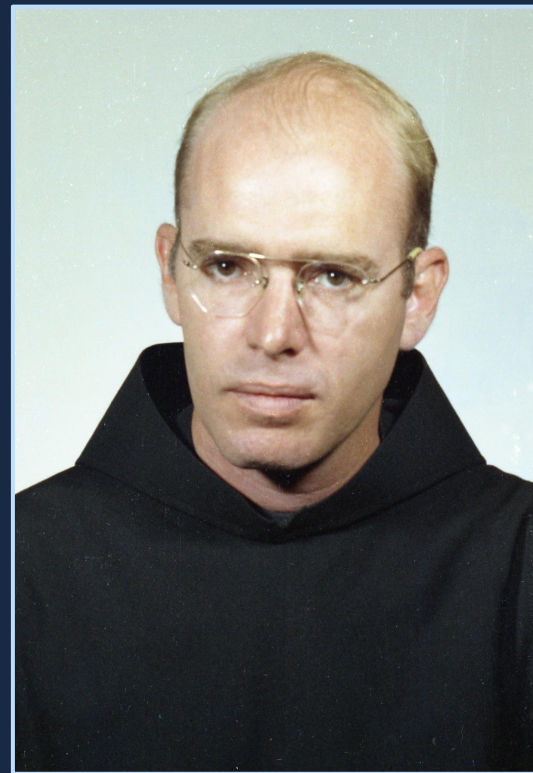


APPROXIMATELY 400 members of St. Anthony's Parish attended a farewell tea honoring the Rev. Fathers Gerard Herman, left, and Maurus Hauer, both of whom are leaving the parish. Father Herman has already assumed his duties at Mt. St. Francis in the Knobs and Father Hauer is now enroute for Hobbs, New Mexico.



WAYNE "SLEEPY" MARLIN, extreme right, world champion fiddler, and his sons, from left, Bob, Jack and Jerry, provided lively entertainment at the Sunday afternoon farewell tea for St. Anthony's parish priests, Father Maurus Hauer and Father Gerard Herman.

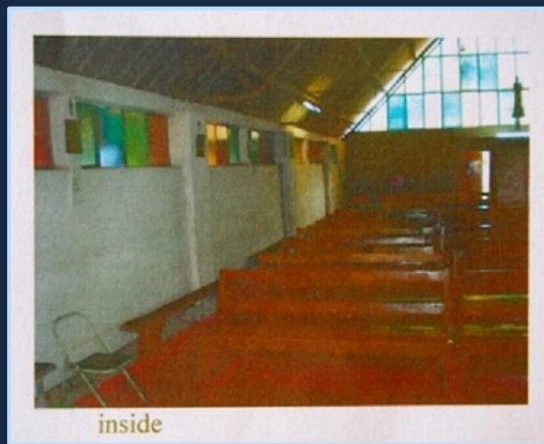
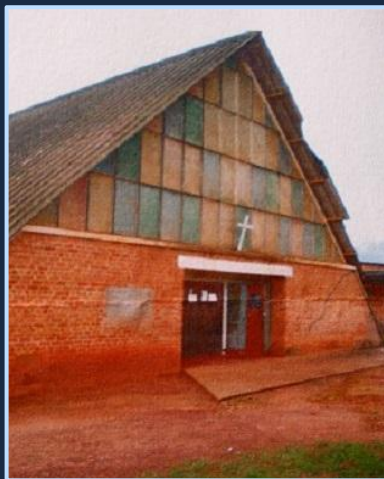
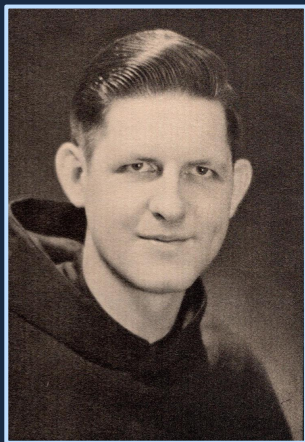
The parish honored the Gerard Herman (associate) and Fr. Maurus Hauer (pastor) upon their transfer out of the parish in September 1966. An early version of the Marlins entertained at the party.



Fr. Benjamin Knopp, OFMConv. Replaced Fr. Hauer in 1966 and was pastor until 1970. His brother founded the credit union.

Parish Son a Missionary

Fr. Edgar Hughes, OFMConv. was born in 1930 and grew up in Jeffersonville, but his life would take him far from here...



Fr. Edgar became a priest in 1957 and served about three years as an associate at St. Anthony in Louisville. In 1961 he joined the Franciscan mission in Zambia where he served with distinction. He died suddenly at the age of 35 in 1966 of a ruptured aorta. His photo is by the front door to the social hall.



Edgar Hughes funeral 2 Paul Brown, 3 Celestine Karowicz, 5 Ralph Murtaugh



Vatican II Renovations

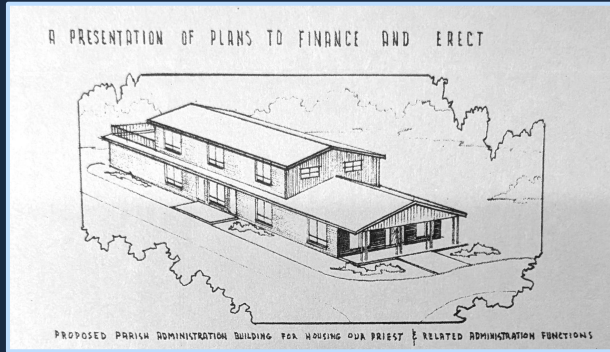
St. Anthony remodeled the church interior to modernize the layout in accordance with the reforms of the Second Vatican Council...

This rare color photo of a wedding inside St. Anthony in the late 1960s shows how the parish remodeled to comply with Vatican II reforms. The communion rail was removed and an altar was built so that the priest could face the congregation.



Construction of the Friary

The parish recognized the need for a new friary to replace the farmhouse at the south end of the property that had served since the parish moved to Clarksville...



The diagram above was used to sell the parish on financing the new structure. The completed structure (right) cost approximately \$65,000.

Members of the building committee break ground on the new friary in September 1969.



GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW RECTORY— Ground-breaking ceremonies were held last night in Clarksville for a new St. Anthony Rectory which will be constructed on Sherwood Avenue on church-owned property. The new structure will contain four offices and accommodations for four priests, quarters for a housekeeper and a full basement. Estimated cost of the project is \$65,000. Taking part in the ground breaking were, from left, Tom Lynch, co-

chairman of the building fund campaign; architect Bob Kissinger, of Garner Kissinger Associates; the Rev. Father Maurice Hays, assistant pastor of St. Anthony's Church; Ed Zinser, vice-president of the building fund committee; John Muisa, president of the building committee; Jim Hughes, member of the committee; the Rev. Father Benjamin Knopp, pastor; and Louis Bailey, co-chairman of the building fund campaign.



Music at St. Anthony

Music programs at St. Anthony excelled in the 1960s and '70s...

The school had a band for a number of years between the 1960s and '70s. There was also a very active choir.



CONSERVATORY TO OPEN—St. Anthony's parish in Clarke will open its Music Conservatory building, located between the rectory and convent structures, Saturday afternoon with a 3:50 o'clock program. The school's 20-piece band will open the ceremony outdoors, when presentation of achievement certificates will take place. St. Anthony's 60-voice choir will present several selections and Father Maurice Hauer will bless the building, which will be open for inspection from 2 to 5 p. m. Above, a section of the choir is shown rehearsing for the program; from left, first row, Mary Klumb, Nancy Kruse, Ann Kirchgasser, Cheryl Hoffmeyer; second row, presentation of achievement certificates; third row, John McCarthy; fourth row, Cindy Schaefer, Donna Spitznagel.

In 1964 the school turned the little house next to the convent into a music conservatory. The building later became the preschool and is the Scout Lodge today.



BOUND FOR EUROPE AND MUSIC STUDY are three local students who will be among a group of seven taking part in a foreign study tour sponsored by the American Institute of Foreign Study. The group will leave for London on July 25 for a four-week course of music study and will also visit Paris, Salzburg, the Alps and Rome. They will attend a number of operas, recitals, and concerts while on tour which ends Aug. 25. From left are Linda Bauer, Debbie Jellison, music teacher; Sister Virginia Schenk, chaperone from St. Anthony School, Clarkeville, and Alice Healy.

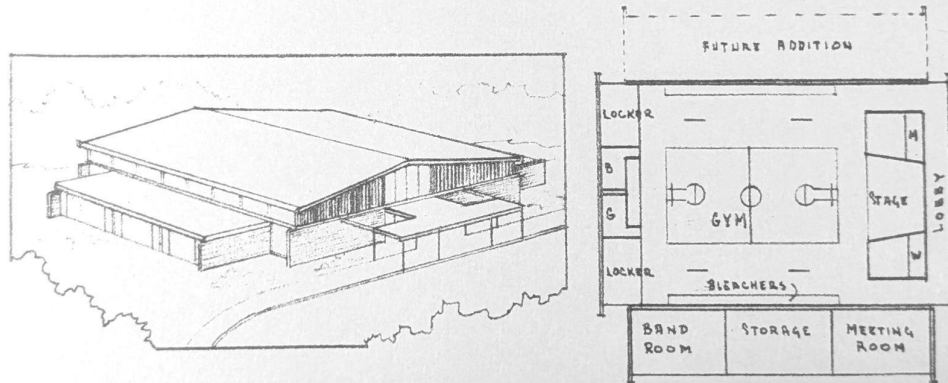
In July 1970 several students studied in Europe.



Plans for a Parish Activity Center

In addition to raising funds for a new friary, the parish also hoped to build a multi-purpose facility for activities.

This proposed plan for an activity center was circulated with the fundraising materials for the friary in April 1969. A major event in 1970 would change those plans dramatically.



PROPOSED COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES INCLUDING NEW FEDERAL PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM

MEET YOUR FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SEE WHAT THEY PROPOSE TO DO TO LEAD SAINT ANTHONY TO WHERE THEY BELONG

THESE PROJECTS ARE NEEDED AND HAVE BEEN NEEDED FOR A LONG TIME !!

A New Pastor in 1970

Fr. Gerard Herman returned to St. Anthony as pastor...

Fr. Gerard Herman, OFMConv., had been an associate pastor for the parish between 1960 and 1966 when he was transferred to Mt. St. Francis. On January 28, 1970, he came back to St. Anthony to serve as pastor. Not long after he retired he would face a major challenge...



The Fire of 1970

On May 12, 1970, near the end of the school day, a bolt of lightning struck the building and ignited a fire that totally destroyed the church and damaged the school...



Blaze Destroys Church; Six Firemen Overcome

Seconds after a bolt of lightning struck St. Anthony's Church Tuesday afternoon, the Catholic church was engulfed in flames and within less than an hour the entire structure was completely gutted.

However, the adjoining parochial school was saved, and all 540 pupils were safely evacuated within a matter of some 40 seconds.

The office of principal Sister Clarita was damaged by fire and the educational wing of the school-church building on Sherwood Avenue received some smoke damage.

Pictorial layout on the fire at St. Anthony's Church appears on page 12 of today's edition.

Six firemen were overcome while fighting the huge blaze, which broke out minutes before the 3 p.m. school dismissal time, with five being treated at Clark County Memorial Hospital and General Hospital in Louisville and the sixth receiving emergency treatment at the scene.

Today, the Rev. Father Gerard Herman, pastor, said that no estimate of loss has been determined, although it was extensive. However, the pastor said that the loss was completely covered by insurance.

A small army of firemen and equipment from four departments battled the raging flames which produced thick billowing black smoke which was visible for miles. On the scene were fire-fighting units from Clarksville, Jeffersville, McCullough and Louisville.

When the blaze was finally

St. Anthony pupils.

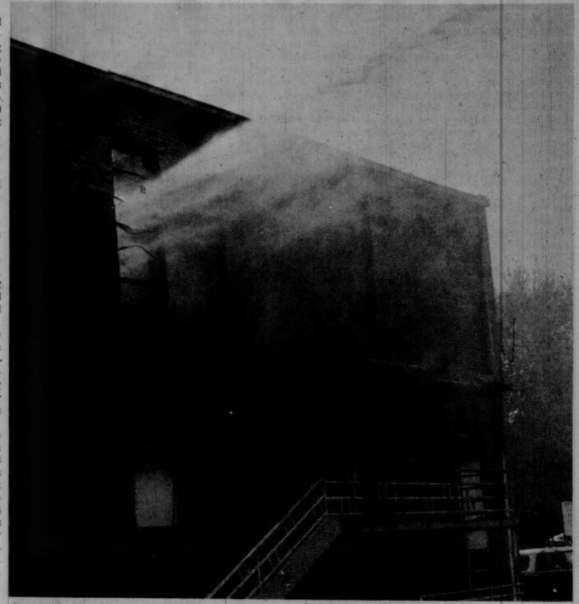
Father Gerard today also stated that until further notice, Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses will be held at Providence High School. The pastor said that the regular Mass schedules will be followed, with the Saturday evening Mass set at 7:00 and Sunday morning Masses set at 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00.

The other three departments responded calls for assistance by Clarksville Fire Chief Torrence Wenning. The snorkel units of Jeffersville and Louisville proved to be two of the key pieces of equipment utilized in attacking the raging flames from above roof level.

According to Wenning, a lightning bolt struck the northeast corner of the building, touching off the fire which traversed through the church sanctuary and into the basement.

Father Gerard said that he heard a loud cracking noise when the lightning bolt hit. The pastor said he looked in the direction of the church-school building and saw "one window after another shattering," with flames licking through the openings.

Firemen suffering from smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion were Lloyd Pruitt, 57, of 753 McKinley Avenue, and Warren Garbrough, 25, of 1041 S. Clark Blvd., of the Clarksville department; Don Kayron, 34, of 2304 McDonald Avenue, and James McFeala, 21, of 1022 Highway 62, both of the McCullough department; and Scott Craig and Edwin McGregor, of the Louisville department.



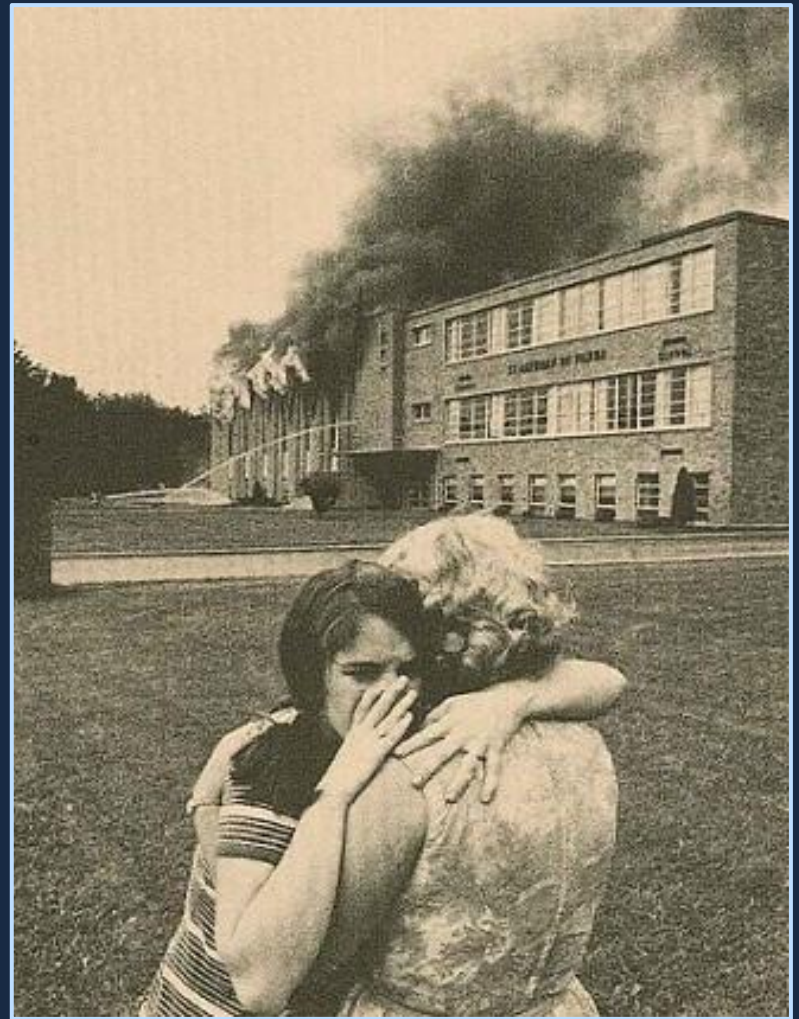
FLAMES AND SMOKE issue from windows of St. Anthony's Church during the height of yesterday's blaze which completely gutted the structure.

St. Anthony's 540 students evacuated the building in 40 seconds after the alarm was sounded.

The Fire of 1970



Flames poured out of the windows and even ignited the grass below. At right teacher Mrs. Reitzel comforts her daughter at the scene.



The Fire of 1970



MIXED EMOTIONS ARE REFLECTED in the group, with the youth second from left wiping tears away as he watches the devastating fire at St. Anthony's Church yesterday.

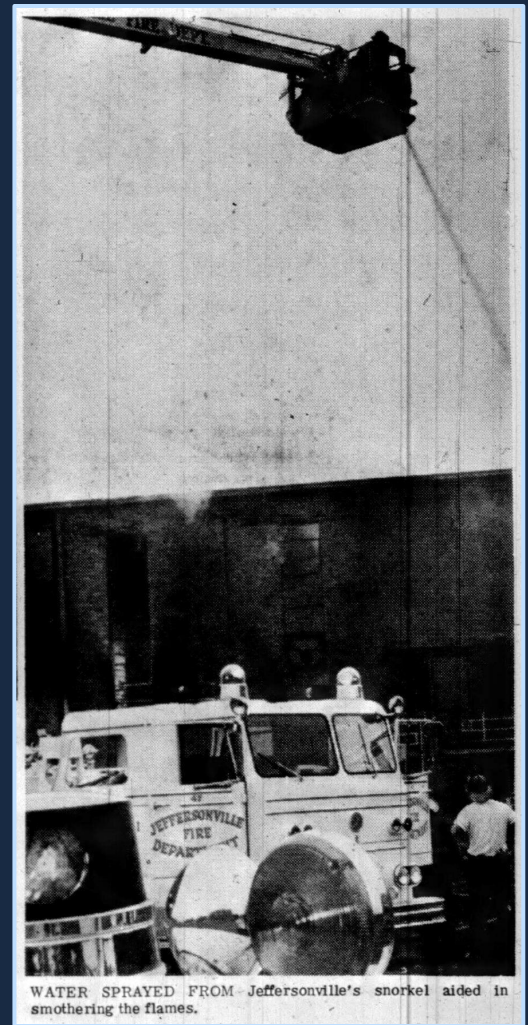
Students and other onlookers stared in disbelief at the conflagration.



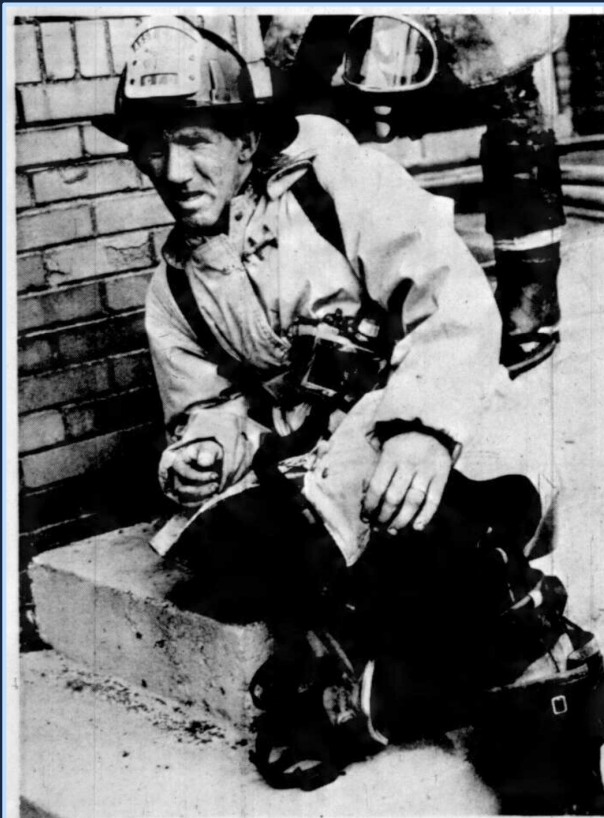
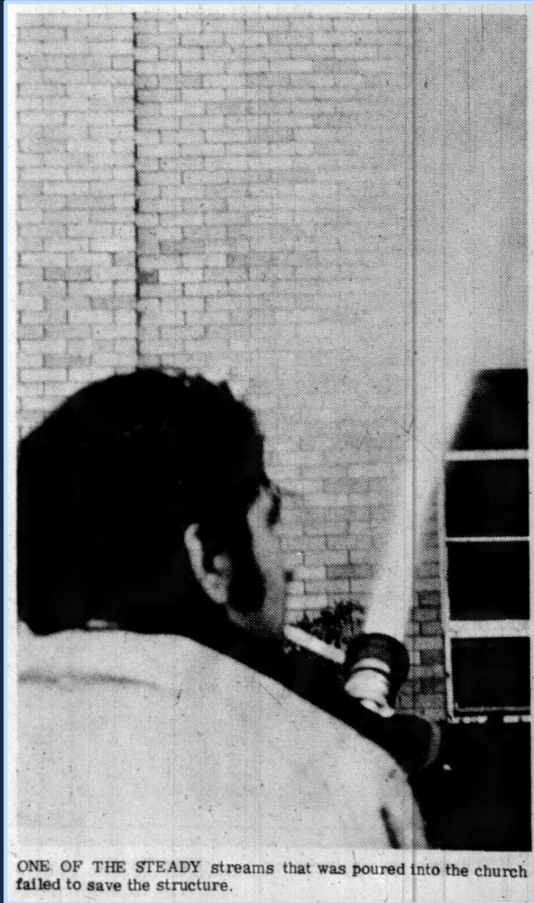
The Fire of 1970



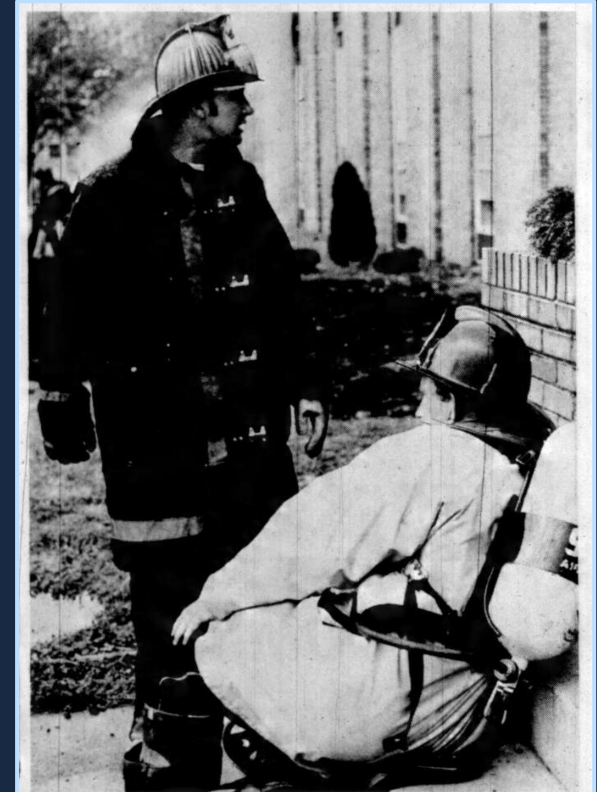
The Jeffersonville Fire Department's snorkel truck helped douse the flames from above.



The Fire of 1970



A PICTURE OF EXHAUSTION is James Kaster, assistant chief of the Clarksville Fire Department.



PAUL KRAFT, of the McCulloch Volunteer Fire Department, is shown with Clarksville Assistant Chief James Kaster, after the fire nears end.

Firefighters were overcome by the smoke and by exhaustion as they fought the flames.

The Fire of 1970

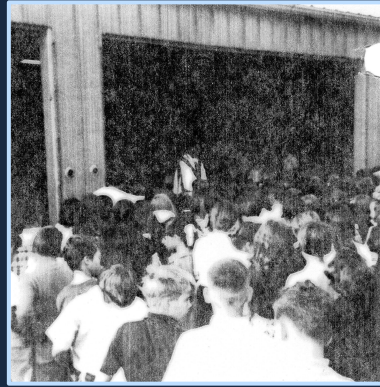


The church was a scene of total destruction. Fr. Gerard Herman, below left, surveyed the disaster inside from the choir loft. Before long crews would come in to demolish the church down to the ceiling of the basement and parish leaders would begin planning the rebuilding effort.



Recovering from the Fire

Masses were held in various locations while the parish worked on rebuilding...



The first Masses after the fire were held in the garage.

Masses were then held in the Providence High School gym (as seen in this photo of its appearance before its remodeling c. 1990).



Masses then began being offered in the school cafeteria on August 23, 1970, after the initial cleanup phase was completed. The photo above, taken before First Communion Mass April 1971, shows the configuration for church services. On June 27, 1971, Mass began being held in the new gym upstairs.

Life during Rebuilding

Despite the disaster, St. Anthony moved on...



The First Communion Class of 1971 are shown in these photos.

Life during Rebuilding



Another photo of students from the First Communion Class of 1971 is shown at left. An impromptu photo on the front sidewalk shows family gathered as well as Sr. Anna Rose and an unidentified priest behind a camera.

Life during Rebuilding



The St. Anthony School Class of 1971 are shown in the cafeteria with Mr. Harbeson, Sr. Anna Rose, and Mrs. Reitzel,

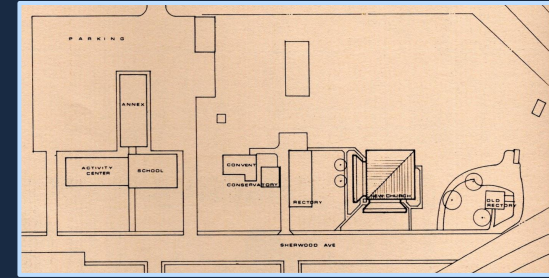
Life during Rebuilding



The St. Anthony School Class of 1972 and faculty pose in front of the stage on the parquet floor of the newly rebuilt activity center. The parish scrapped the plans for the detached activity center proposed at the same time as the friary project.

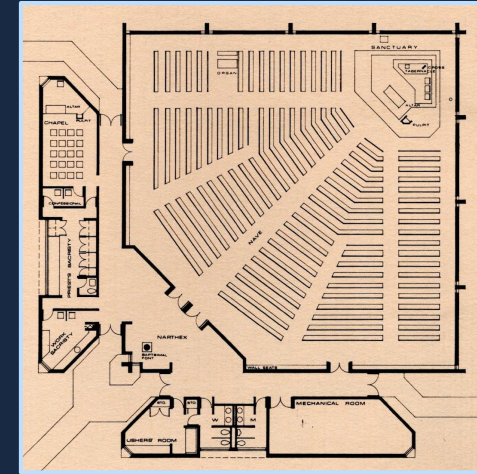
Constructing a New Church

Meanwhile,
plans for
rebuilding the
church
progressed...

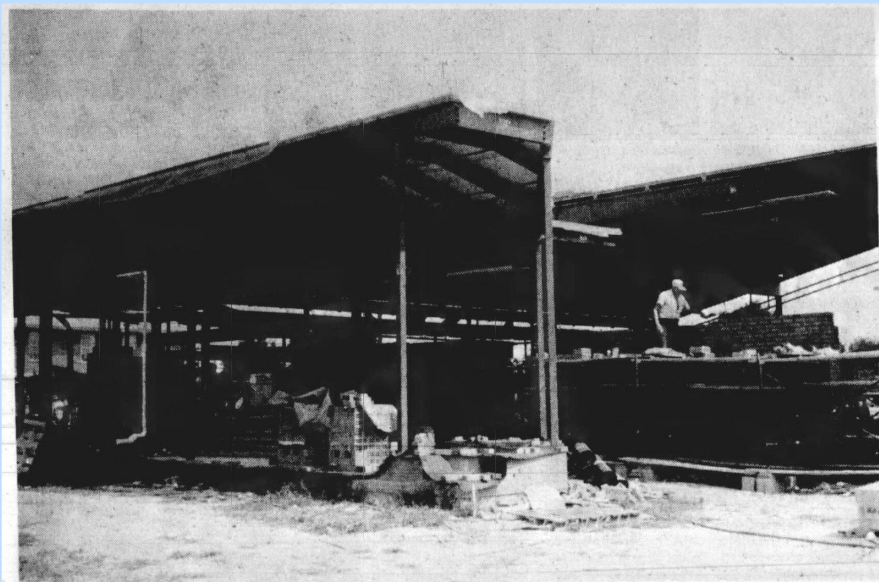


GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES for the new St. Anthony Catholic Church in Clarksville were conducted Saturday afternoon, with the Rev. Fr. Gerard Herman, pastor, turning the first shovel of dirt. Also taking part in the ceremonies were, from left, the Rev. Fr. Joseph Herp, assistant pastor; Amos Brandenburg, building committee chairman; Jim Mann, of N & M Builders; Ed Zinser, finance chairman; Gilbert W. Campbell, architect; and the Rev. Fr. Alphonse Boardway, assistant pastor.

The building committee approved plans for the new church on January 12, 1971, and groundbreaking took place on March 13. The designs were drawn up by Ralph Steinhauser and the plan was carried out under the leadership of parishioner and architect Gil Campbell. Total cost was \$325,214.

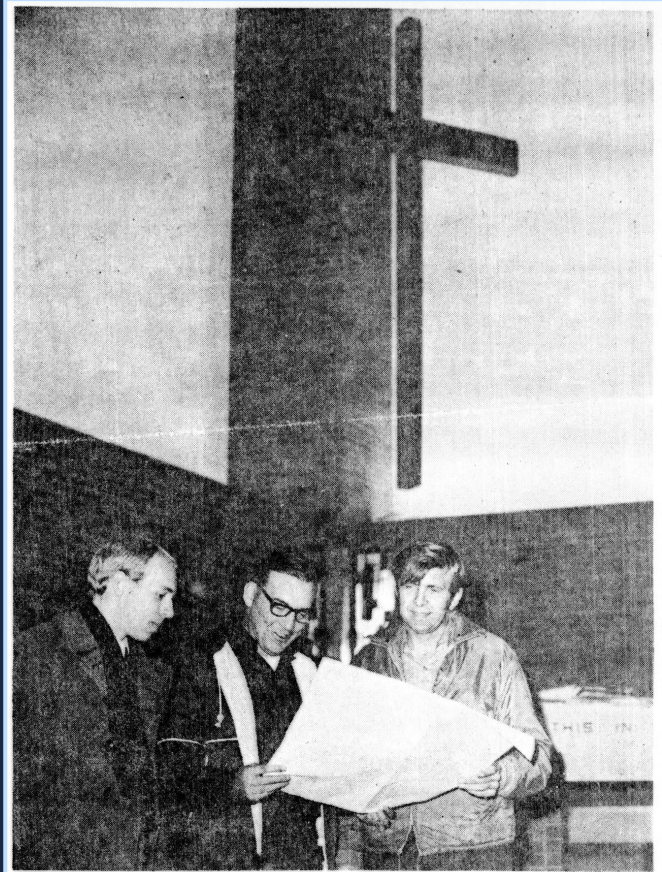


Constructing a New Church



WORK IS BEHIND SCHEDULE on the new \$325,000 St. Anthony Catholic Church in Clarksville, which is being constructed to replace the church destroyed by fire in May of 1970. Officials still are hoping that the structure will be completed by Christmas, although delays in the shipping of materials are playing havoc with the construction timetable.

Construction in the summer and fall was plagued by material delays (above), but the building was nearly finished by January 1972.



CLARKSVILLE CHURCH NEARLY FINISHED—The new church under construction at St. Anthony's parish, Clarksville, should be ready for occupancy within a month. The pastor, Father Gerard Herman, O.F.M. Conv., is shown above (center) with the designer, Ralph Steinhauer (left), of Hartstern, Schnell, Campbell, Schadt Associates, of Louisville, and the contractor, Jim Mann, of M & M Builders, Clarksville. The fan-style contemporary design will seat an estimated 750 persons. Cost of the building will exceed \$325,000.

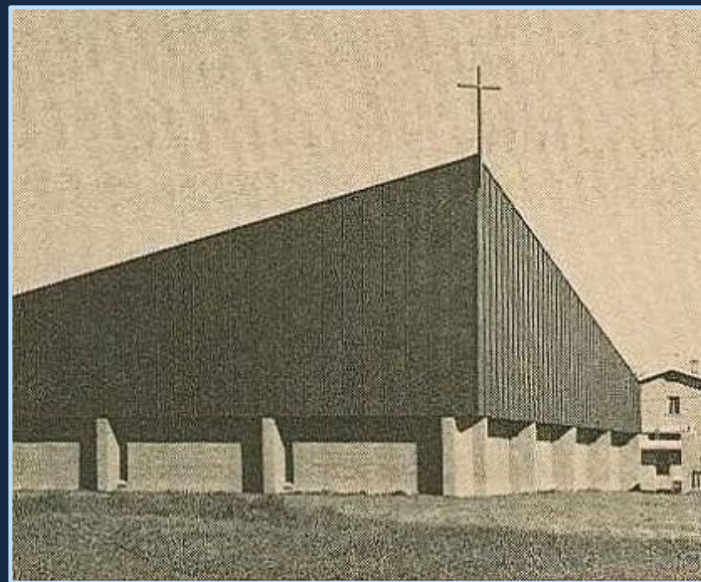
First Mass in the New Church

Construction was basically complete enough by February 1972 that Mass could be celebrated there...



FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE IN NEW CHURCH — Parishioners of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Clarksville attended the first Mass in the new \$350,000 church Saturday evening, marking the first time in more than 21 months that worship services for the congregation were held in "conventional" facilities. Fire destroyed the

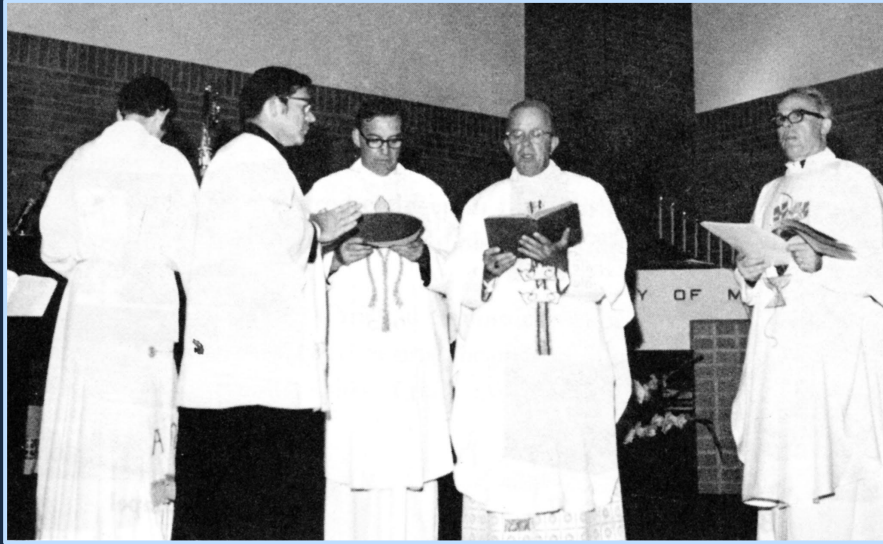
church on Sherwood Avenue in May of 1970 and during the period that the new church was under construction, services were conducted first at the Providence High School Gym and later in the newly-constructed community building. The new church has a seating capacity of 750.



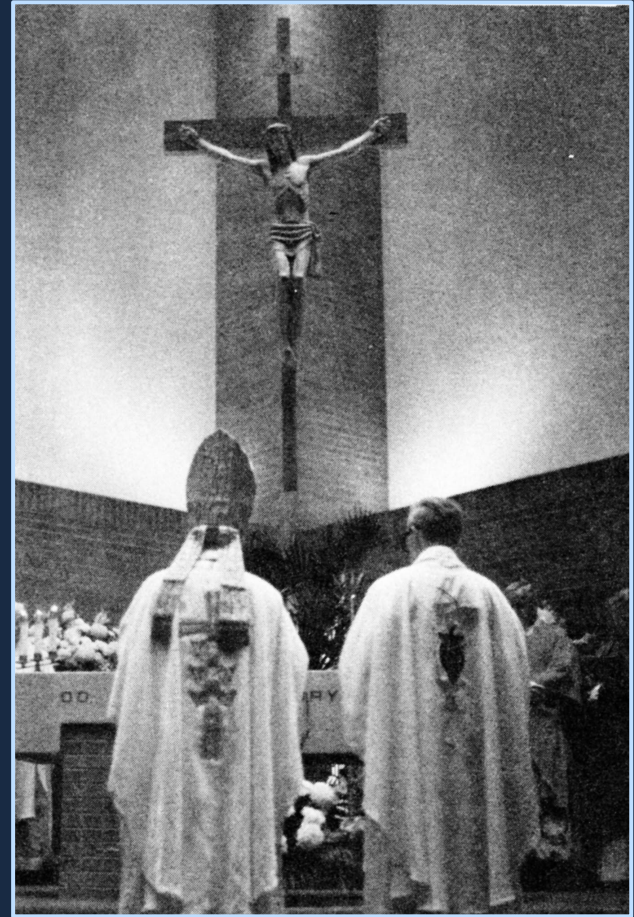
The first Mass in the new church took place on February 19, 1972. The formal dedication would be held later in the spring.

Dedication of the New Church

The Archbishop officially dedicated the new church in May 1972...



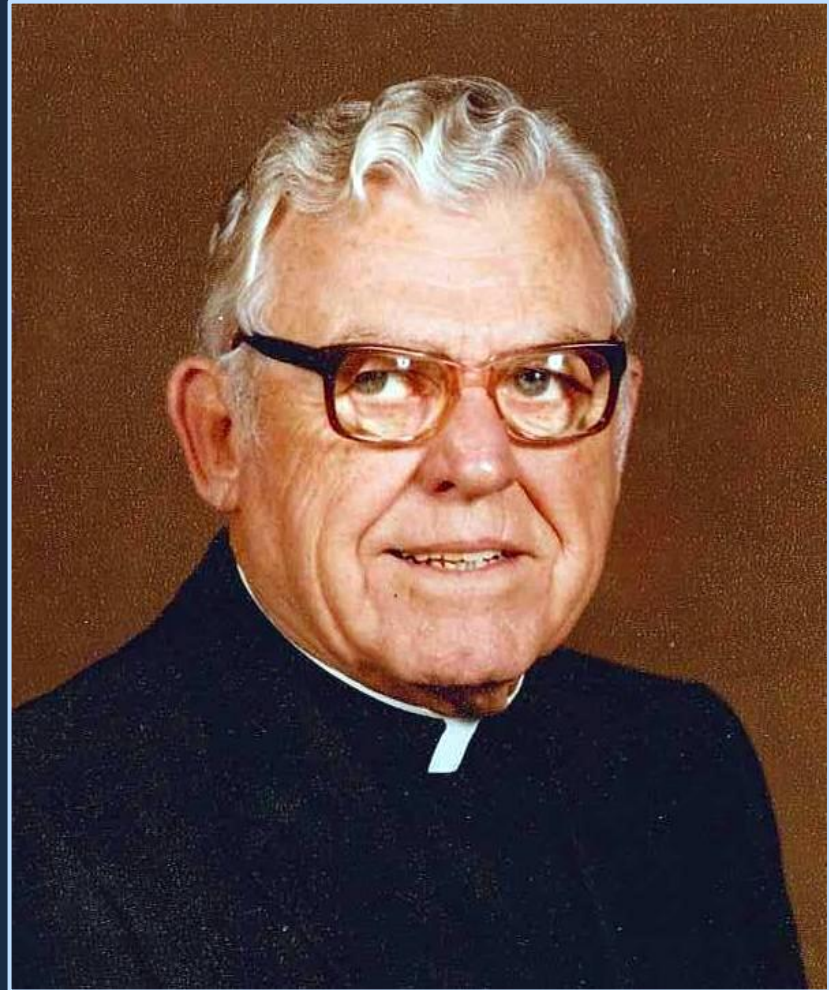
Archbishop George Biskup joined together with almost fifty other members of the clergy and a full to capacity crowd to bless and dedicate the new church on May 23, 1972.



A New Pastor in 1973

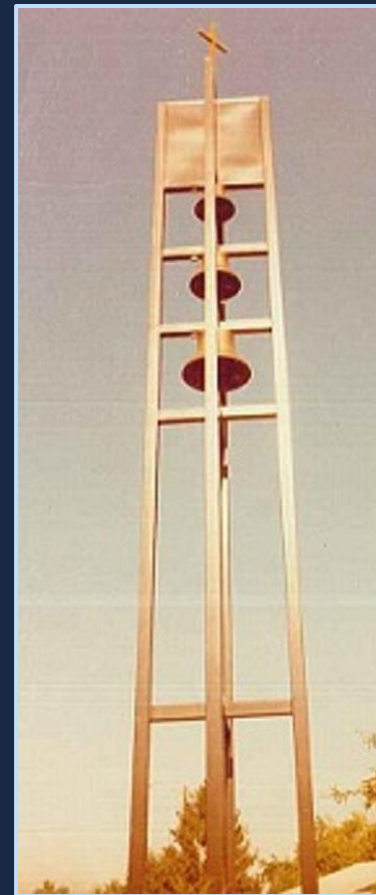
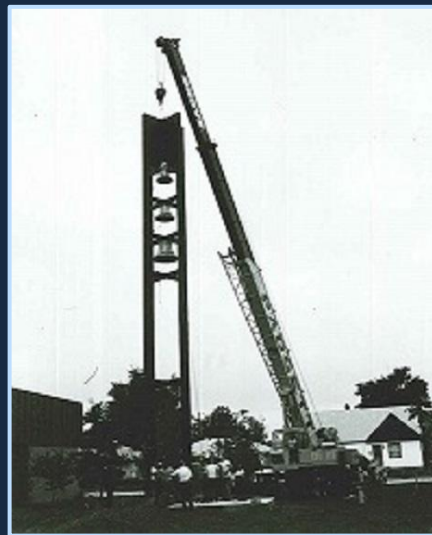
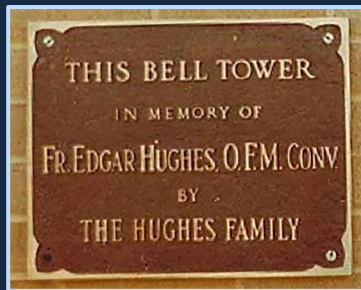
Fr. Hilary Gottbrath,
OFMConv., came to St.
Anthony as pastor in 1973...

According to his 1997 obituary, Fr. Hilary was one of the first friars on the faculty of the newly formed Bellarmine College, and for over twenty years served as Chairman of the Mathematics Department among other roles. He served as pastor from 1973 to 1976.



Bell Tower Construction in 1975

Thanks to Fr. Hilary the new church would have a belltower...



St. Anthony's bells date back to 1898 when they were installed in the old St. Peter's Church in Louisville. Fr. Hilary actually attended there as a child and when he heard that the church was to be torn down he arranged for the bells to come to Clarksville. The parish financed the construction of a new tower, which was dedicated on August 6, 1975.



A New Pastor Serves a Short Term

Fr. Daniel Emerine,
OFMConv., came to St.
Anthony as pastor in 1977...

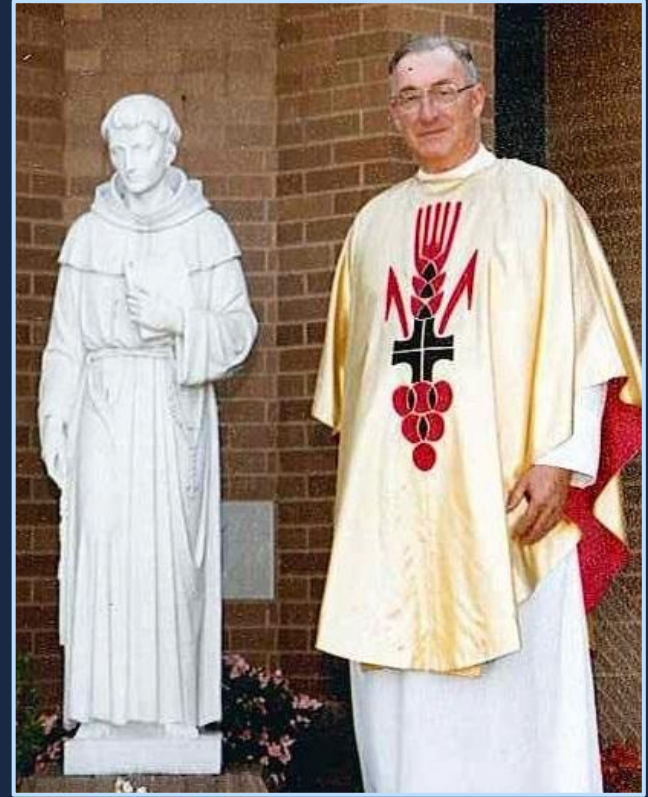
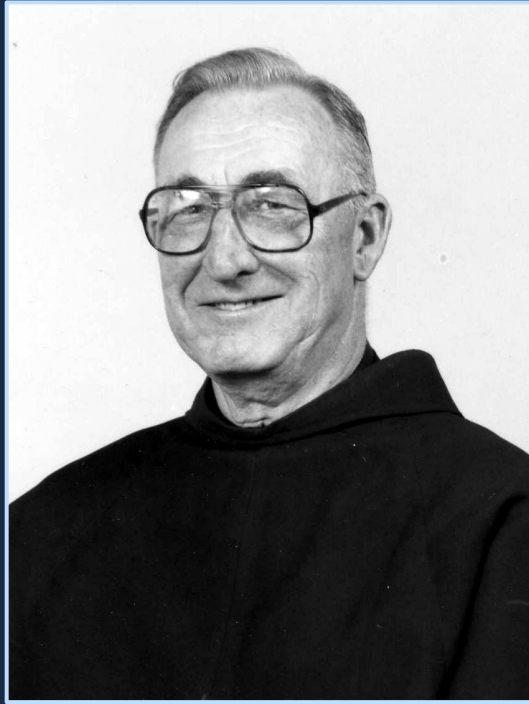


Fr. Dan served only a short term at St. Anthony, between 1976 and 1977. Pictured above is the First Communion Class on April 17, 1977.

St. Anthony's Own Fr. David Hutt

Fr. David Hutt, OFMConv., began a long term as pastor in 1977...

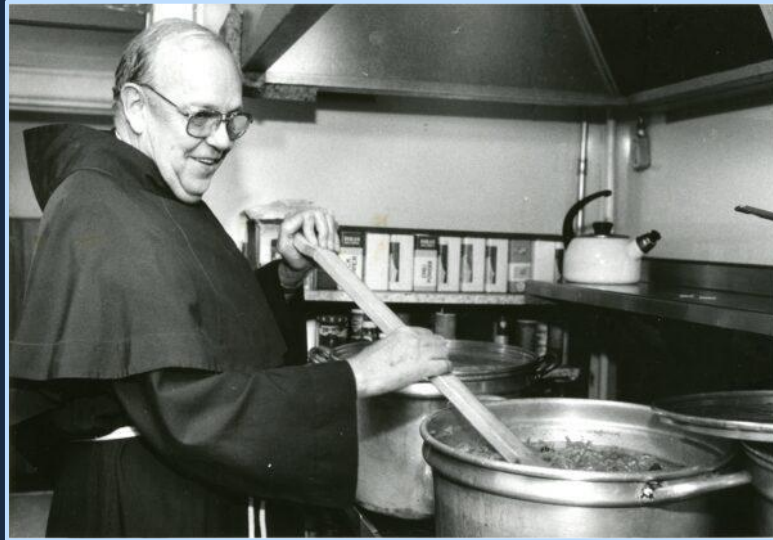
Fr. David was born in 1922 and grew up in Jeffersonville. He was ordained in 1949 and said his first Mass at the old St. Anthony Church facility shortly before the parish moved to Clarksville. Over his five decades as a friar he served in many parishes. He was well-loved by his home parish and served here until 1985. He died in 1997.



Brother Jim Fields

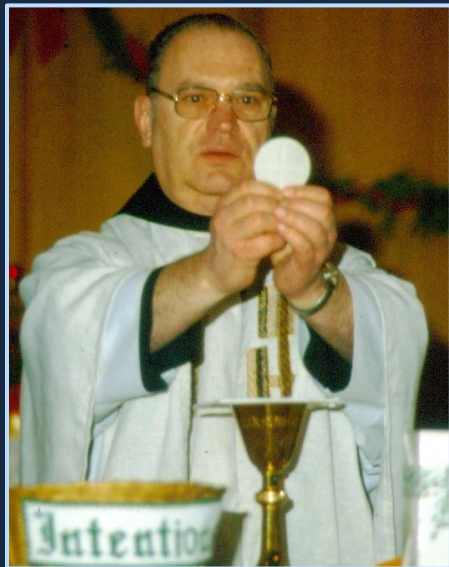
One of our very own friars created the Franciscan Kitchen, an organization that feed the hungry and homeless in Louisville...

Brother Jim, an associate at St. Anthony in the 1970s, wanted to help the needy in our community. In 1980 he started the Franciscan Kitchen. According to Tony Perito, the organization's advancement coordinator, "Brother Jim served as the director, host, cook, chief fundraiser, volunteer recruiter, and spiritual advisor of the organization until his death in 1998."

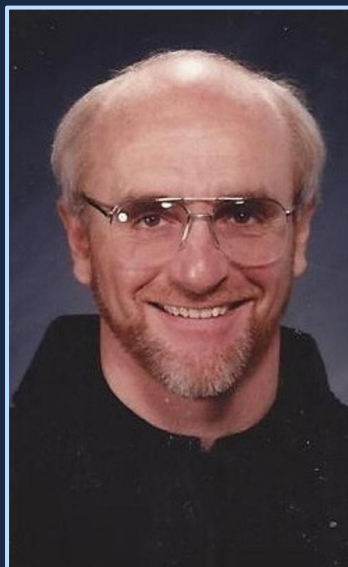


St. Anthony in the late 1980s and Early '90s

St. Anthony had three pastors from 1985 when Fr. David was reassigned until 1996 when Fr. Dismas came to the parish...



Fr. Victor Waller, OFMConv.
Pastor, 1985-1991



Fr. Richard Kaley, OFMConv.
Pastor, 1991-1994



Fr. David Lenz, OFMConv.
Pastor, 1994-1996

Church Lighting Improvement

The parish installed new pendant-style lighting in 1994 to supplement the recessed lighting already in the church...

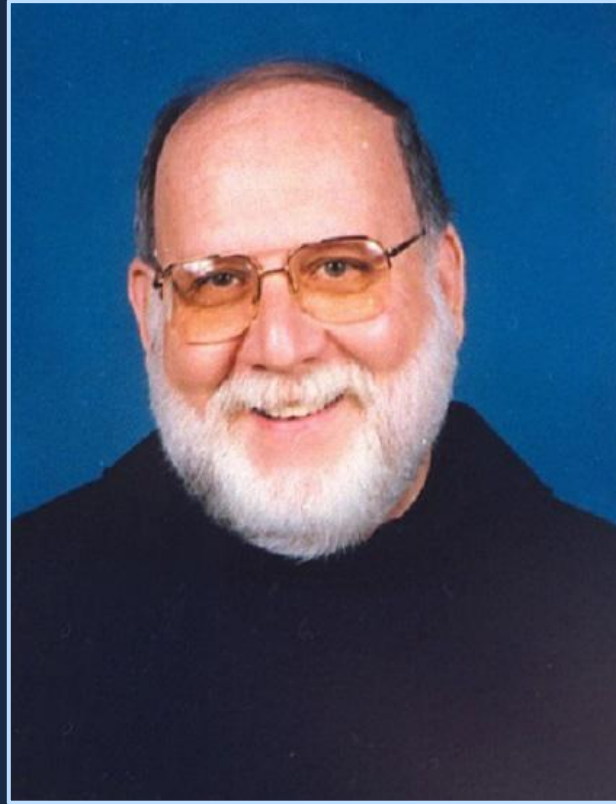


In recent years the ceiling was refinished to remove some of the old recessed lights and some of the pendants were shortened to improve sightlines.

The Fr. Dismas Veeneman Era

Fr. Dismas Veeneman, OFMConv., became pastor in 1996 and led major changes to our campus...

Fr. Dismas served from 1996 to 2005. One friar described him as “self-deprecating and aware of his own foibles. He was a larger-than-life guy who filled the room. No matter how you felt about him, you couldn’t ignore him. He was a pastor who was always concerned for his flock.”



Building the Social Hall

St. Anthony began a capital campaign in 1998 and that eventually raised nearly \$2 million to add an addition and make major repairs to the school. The campaign also led to the construction of a new social hall and gymnasium...

Groundbreaking for the new social hall took place on June 3, 2001. Pictured here, left to right, are campaign chair Page Walker, Fr. Dismas, and Linda Chambers.



The new social hall is shown under construction (above) and as it appears today (below).



Improving the St. Anthony School Campus

Major changes came to the school campus that greatly improved the experience for students, teachers, and families...

The \$860,000 school renovation project included:

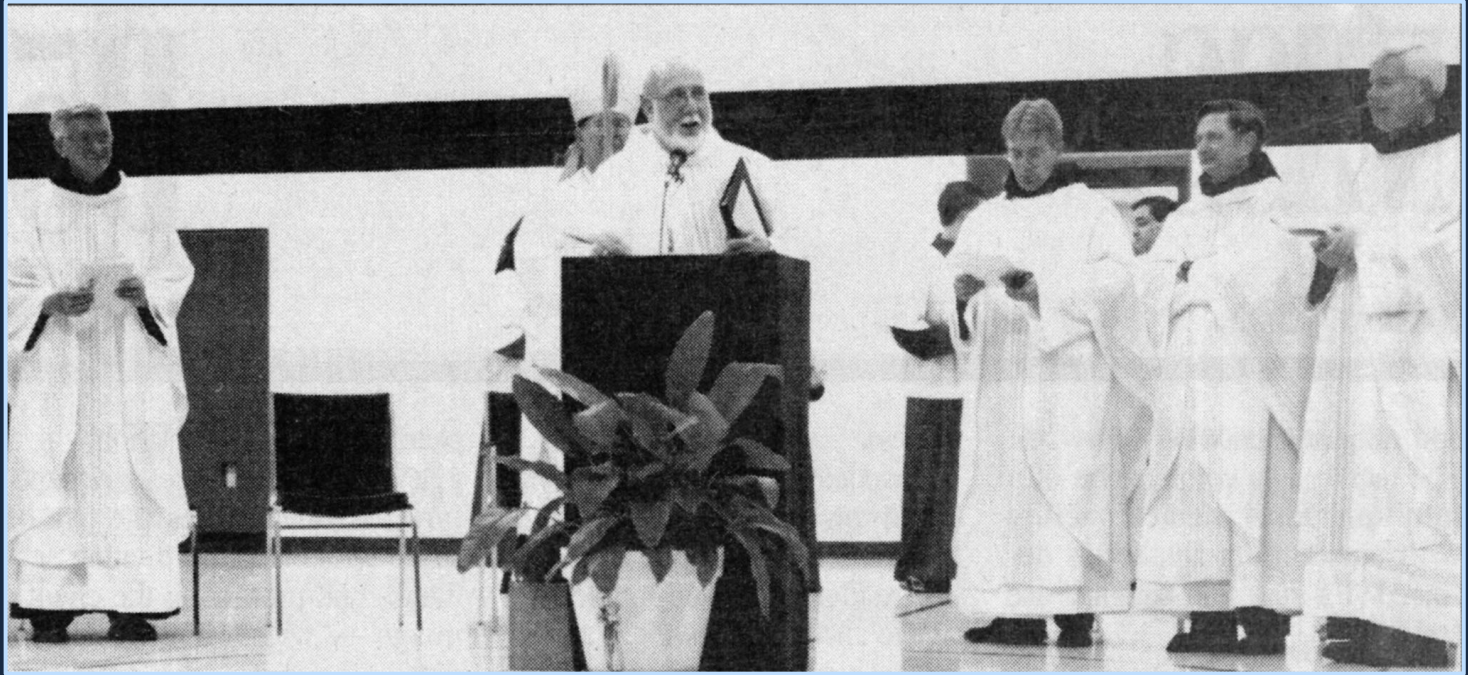
- An addition to the front of school with a new office, computer lab, and library
- Hardware and software for the computer lab
- New energy-efficient windows
- Installation of air conditioning
- Relocating and updating the kitchen and cafeteria



Dedication of the Social Hall

Capital campaign improvements wrapped up with the completion of the parish's new social hall...

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, O.S.B. joined with Fr. Dismas and other friars to bless and dedicate the new social hall on April 6, 2003.



Fr. Regis Returns to St. Anthony

Fr. Regis Schlagheck, OFMConv., became pastor in 2005...

Fr. Regis, who was born in Toledo, was ordained in 1966 and lived for a time at St. Anthony in the late 1960s. He then served many years at the Franciscan mission in Zambia. He returned to St. Anthony and served six years as pastor until 2010.



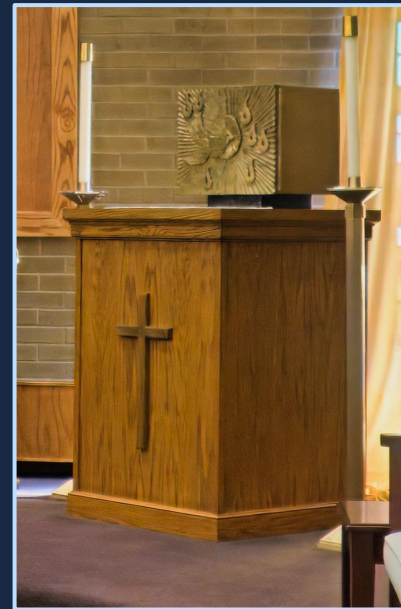
Above, Fr. Regis smiles for the camera with friary cook Margaret Hess in 2006. Right, a very young Fr. Regis appears in this photo about the time of his first residence in Clarksville.



Upgrades to the Church

During Fr. Regis's term as pastor, there were several improvements inside the church.

Parishioner Allan Dehli used his master wood-working skills to handcraft several beautiful additions items, a tabernacle stand and ambo for the altar and an ambry (holy oils cabinet) for the narthex (foyer). He also crafted matching register covers.



Fr. Joseph West Pastorate

Fr. Joseph West,
OFMConv., became
pastor in 2010...

Originally from Logansport, Indiana, Fr. Joe became a priest in 1992 and served in several parishes before coming to Clarksville. Fr. Joe was known for his diligence in keeping the parish financially sound, but also for his care and concern for the school, where he often ended homilies to the children by reminding them that their number one goal in life is to get to heaven.



Fr. Joseph West Pastorate



Fr. Joe collects pumpkins with St. Anthony students on a field trip to Huber's Farm in September 2011.

Bishop Emeritus Gerald Gettelfinger blessed and dedicated the Scout Lodge at St. Anthony in September 2013.

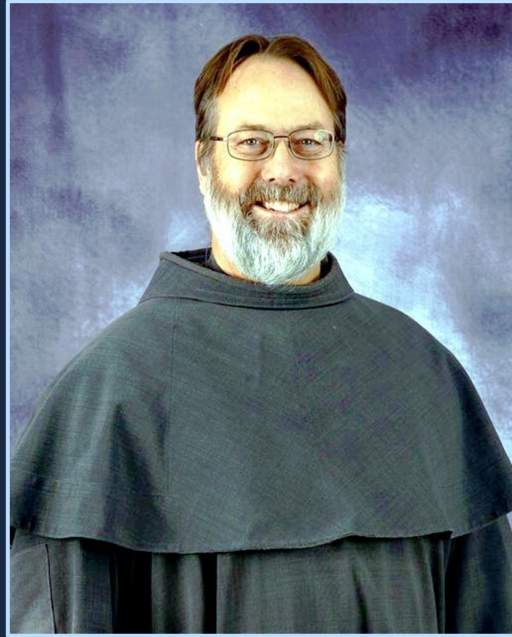


Archbishop Thompson, unable to perform the sacrament due to his schedule, delegated Fr. Joe to confirm the Confirmation Class of 2019 in May that year.

Friar John

Friar John Bamman, OFMConv. came to St. Anthony in 2022...

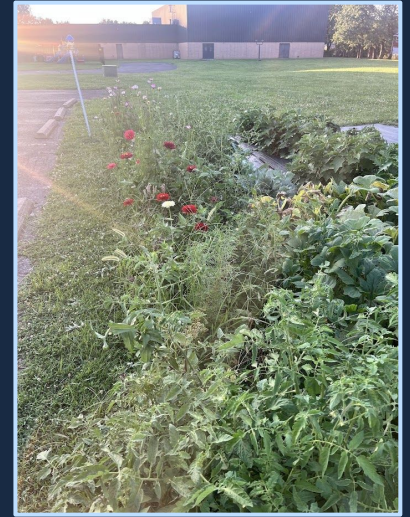
Friar John grew up in Toledo, Ohio. He earned a B.A. in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University and for a time operated a tour bus in the Pacific Northwest. He was ordained in 2009 and was serving at the Basilica in Carey before coming to St. Anthony to serve his first pastoral role.



Community Garden

A special area of care during Friar John's time at St. Anthony has been the Community Garden...

Friar John worked to establish the Community Garden in 2024 [is that correct?]. The following year St. Anthony Scout Rylee White-Waiz (center of group photo, holding drill) improved the garden by building raised garden beds for her Eagle Project. Local residents may fill out an application to participate.

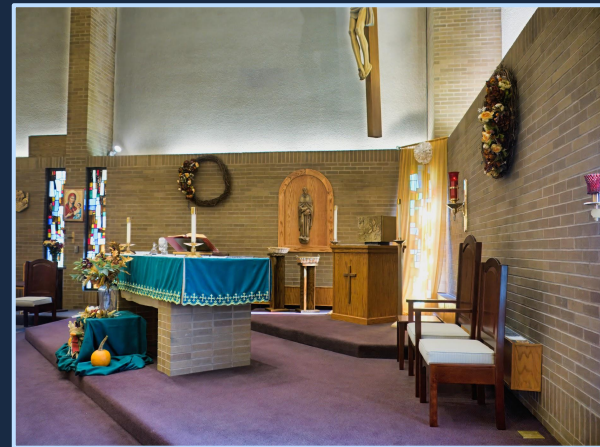


New Altar Furnishings

The parish Art and Environment Team led the effort to purchase new furniture for the altar in order to update our church for our 175th anniversary...



The Joe and Terri Beam helped place the new furniture into the sanctuary on November 6, 2025.



175th Anniversary Celebrations

St. Anthony kicked off the 175th anniversary celebrations in January 2026 with a year of special events...



On January 11 the parish held a special Mass and breakfast.



175th Anniversary Celebrations

On May 16 there was a special Living Rosary featuring key parish groups offering decades of the Rosary.



175th Anniversary Celebrations

Following Mass in honor of our patron saint on June 13, the parish blessed and dedicated the new Family Legacy Memorial in the prayer garden. Afterward families enjoyed a pitch-in dinner.



Meet Our New Pastor

We were sad to say goodbye to Friar John, but we are also happy to welcome Fr. Tom Smith, OFMConv. in July 2026. Previous to his assignment here, Fr. Tom served as director of the Holy Cross Retreat center near Las Cruces, New Mexico, since 2010. He served at St. Mary's in New Albany prior to that. He grew up in the Knobs and is back home now in southern Indiana. Fr. Tom has extensive experience in outreach to the Spanish speaking community. He also enjoys gardening and playing the guitar. We're glad to have him here!



We hope you
enjoyed this!

*We need your photos
to help us tell our
history. Please
contact Garry Nokes
for details. Thank
you!*

