

# St. James Parish

Rising Sun



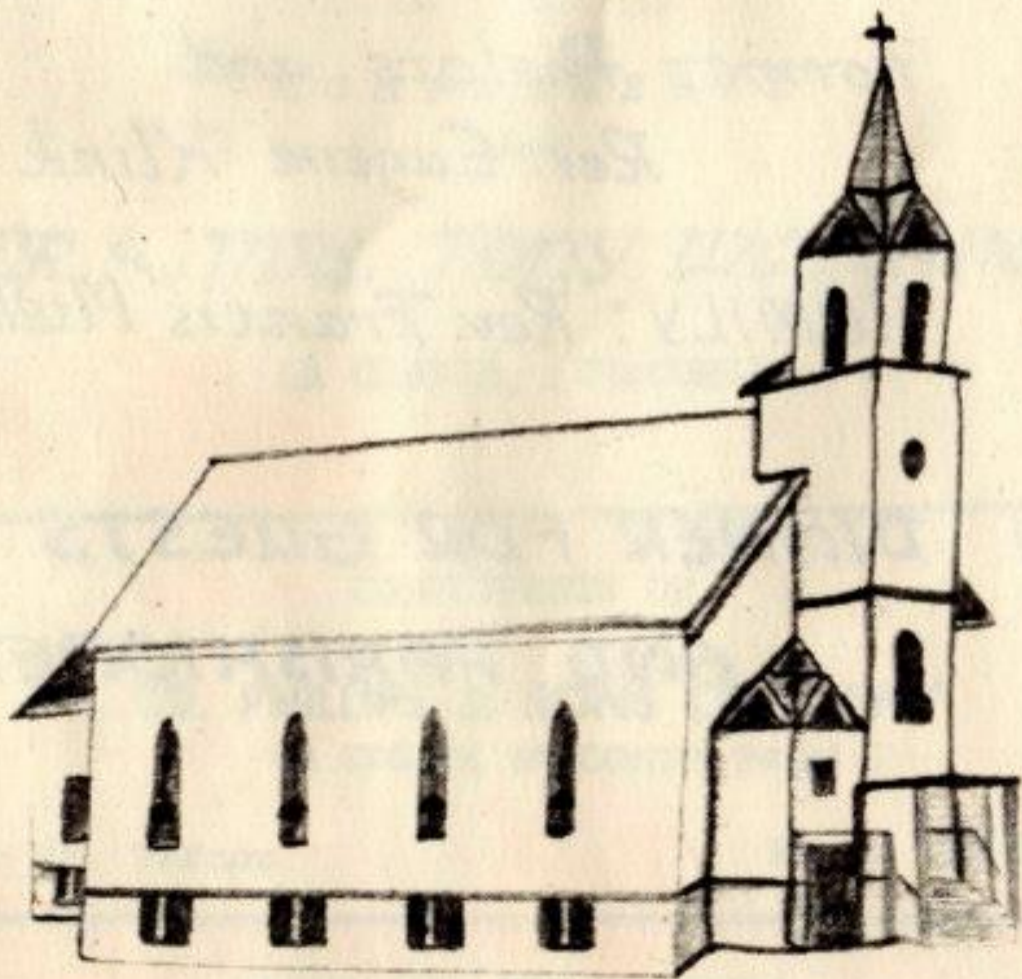
**THE  
FIRST HUNDRED YEARS**

Centennial Celebration

July 2, 1972

HISTORY  
of  
ST. JAMES PARISH

RISEING SUN, WISCONSIN



**CENTENNIAL PROGRAM**

**July 2, 1972**

**12:00 CENTENNIAL MASS of THANKSGIVING**

**Concelebrants:**

*The Most Rev. F. W. Freking, J.C.D.*

*Bishop of LaCrosse*

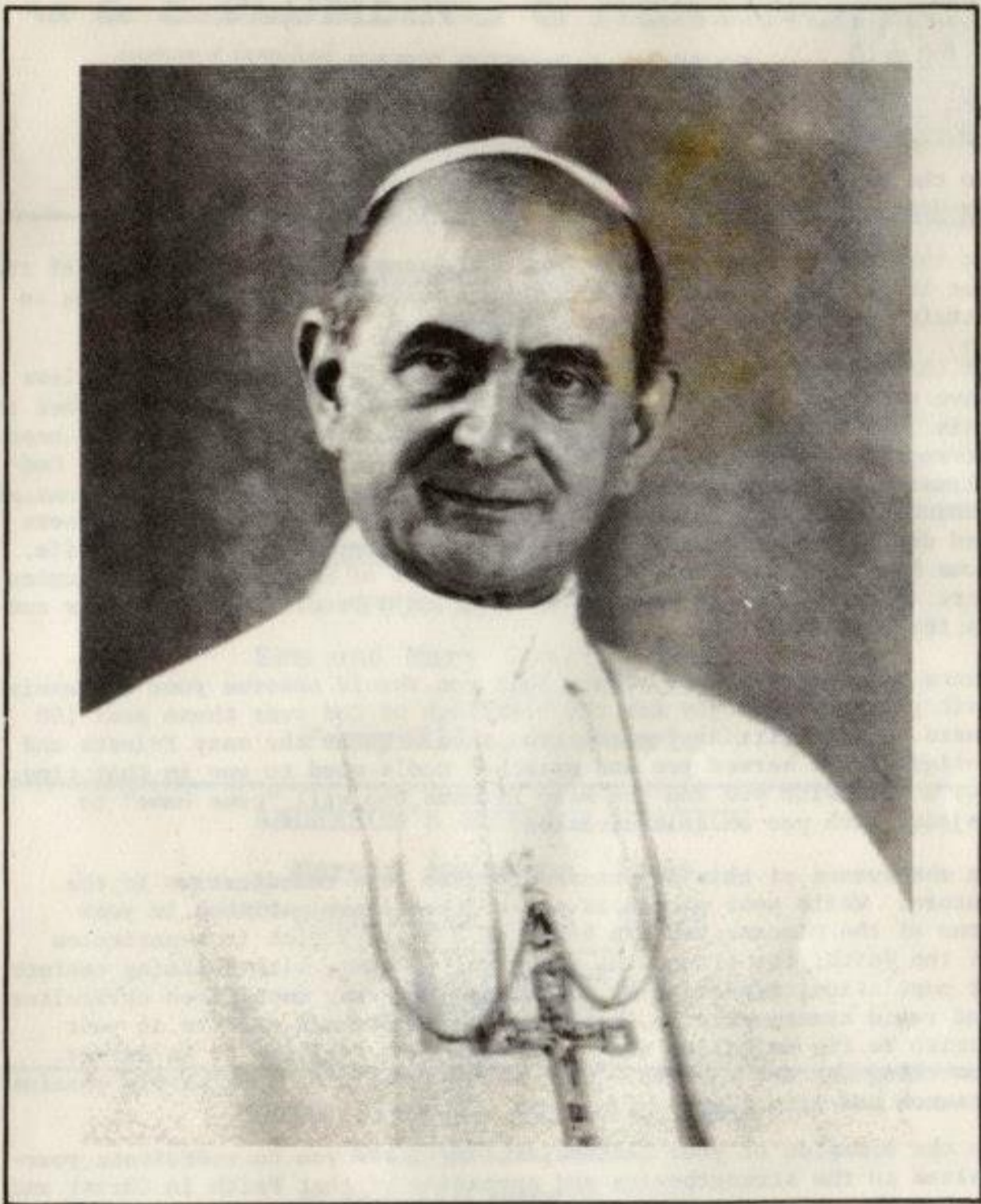
*Former Pastors and*

*Rev. Eugene Klink*

**HOMILY: Rev. Francis Mulligan**

**1:30 DINNER FOR GUESTS**

**AND PARISHIONERS**



POPE PAUL VI

... and Children Hospital  
... 6 days a week  
... on Sunday  
Carole & Pauline Glenn      Perryville, Wisconsin



The Bishop's House  
520 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

June 1, 1972

To the Faithful of St. James Parish, Rising Sun:  
My dear friends in Christ,

In the long history of salvation, 100 years is but a short span of time, but it is also more than the ordinary allotted years given to man to attain his eternal destiny and salvation.

In the 100 year history of St. James Parish at Rising Sun, countless souls have received the new life of grace in Baptism, have been nourished in this life of Faith through the Eucharistic Bread of Christ, have been strengthened and matured through the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, have been often reconciled and healed in the forgiveness of Penance and, through the Holy Anointing, have been aided in sickness and declining years unto the day of their journey into eternal life. Some have been made holy through the bonds of Matrimony, and a number were also selected to be ministers of God's People in Holy Orders and in the Religious Life.

Hence it is fitting and proper that you should observe your Centennial with gratitude and joy for the blessings of God over these past 100 years. It is fitting too that you should honor the many Priests and Religious who served you and preached God's word to you in that time. May I join with you and the many friends who will "come home" to rejoice with you on this occasion.

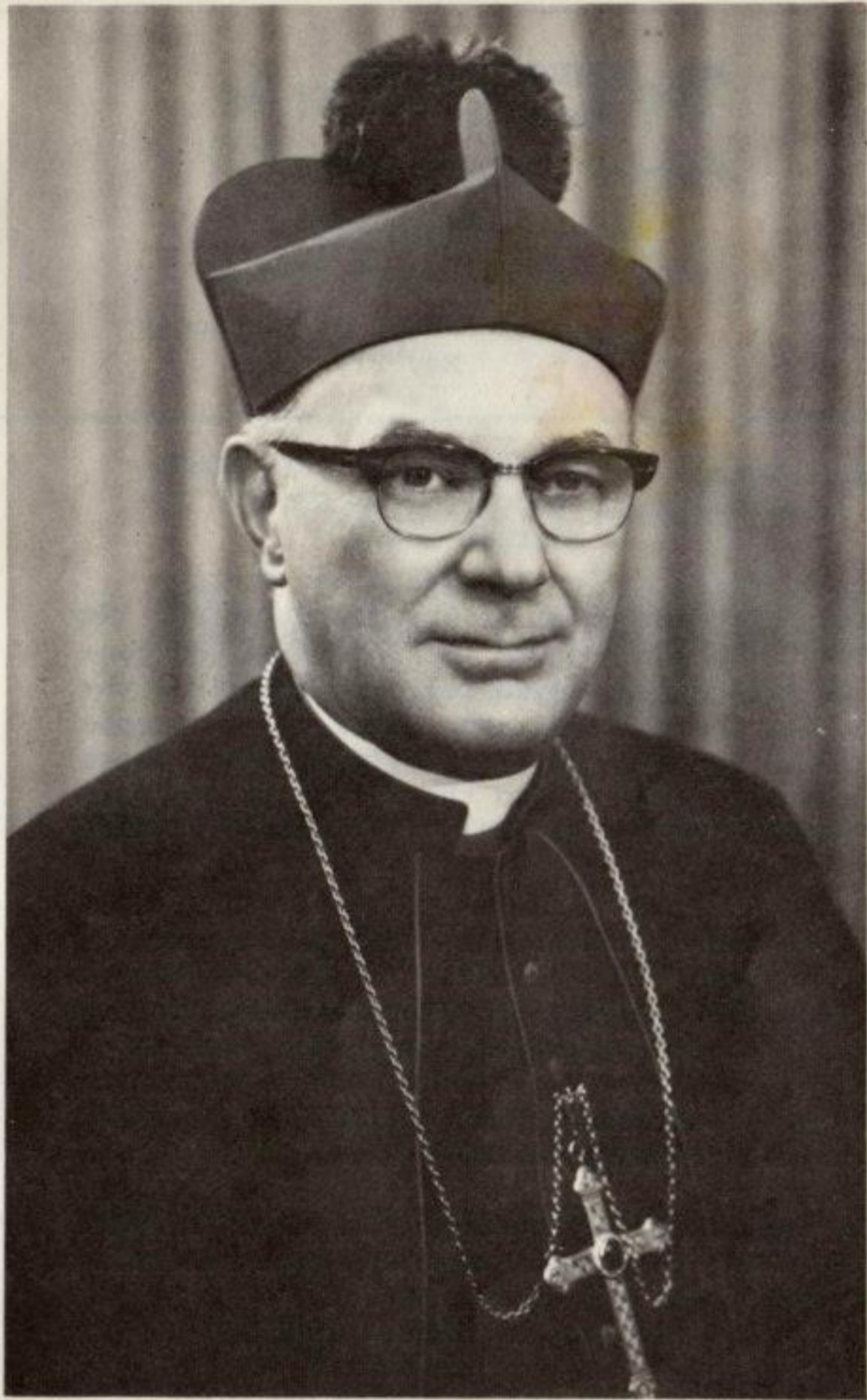
An observance of this nature should also be a rededication to the future. While your parish is one of the oldest parishes in your area of the Diocese and can boast of a history rich in experiences of the Faith, the changes of our rural economy, with shifting centers of population, migration to industrial centers, mechanized agriculture and rapid transportation, have also had their sad effects in your parish in the dwindling number of souls and families to be served. One thing has not changed - the Catholic Faith of your people remains staunch and firm.

On the occasion of your Centennial, may I ask you to rededicate yourselves to the strengthening and spreading of that Faith in Christ and in His Church so that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide your future as a People of God.

With sentiments of esteem and gratitude and begging for you God's choicest blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ D.W. Darling*  
Bishop of La Crosse



**MOST REVEREND FREDERICK W. FREKING, D. D., J. C. D.**  
**BISHOP OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN**

**ST. JAMES CHURCH**

*RISING SUN*

*RR 1, FERRYVILLE, WIS. 54628*

Feast of Pentecost  
May 21, 1972

Dear Parishioners and Friends  
of St. James Parish,

It is in a spirit of joy and gratitude that we celebrate this centennial of St. James Parish. We are filled with joy because the Spirit of God continues to make his presence felt in a tangible way in the vital Christian witness given by the people of St. James Parish. We gratefully remember those who faithfully responded to the Spirit of God more than a hundred years ago and established St. James Parish.

For over a hundred years, St. James Church has stood as a symbol of the conviction of hundreds of people that their Christian faith was very important to them. For over a hundred years, the members of St. James Parish have sacrificed much to maintain their house of worship and to support the priests who were sent to serve them.

It is my hope that this same spirit of faith and sacrifice which motivated those who went before us will be ours today and in the future.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Eugene Klink*

HISTORY OF RISING SUN AND ST. JAMES PARISH  
By Victor Leahy

The village of Rising Sun is situated on the highest ridge in Crawford County (elevation, 1283 ft.), midway between the majestic Mississippi River on the West and the smaller Kickapoo to the East. From this high point may be seen a vast panorama in every direction of rolling, wooded hills with many valleys between.

At the time the first settlers arrived here, this region was mostly wilderness, but now it is thickly dotted with cultivated fields and farm homes. Until the year 1851, Crawford County included what is now La Crosse and Vernon Counties, but in that year the area was surveyed and the boundaries of the three counties set in their present location. In 1800, there were only about 25 white residents in Crawford County, excluding the town of Prairie du Chien, but by 1850 the population had grown to about 2500.

Rising Sun is in the northwest corner of Utica Township. Legend has it that the Indian Chief, Black Hawk, and his starving band of followers, passed through here and camped overnight at the spring north of the present village. This spring is still in existence and has been known as Wilder's Spring.

The first owner of the land where Rising Sun is located was Truman P. Wilder, who with his wife, Nancy, later kept a hotel in the log cabin he had built.

The unusual name of the village has given rise to questions about its origin. This is the story as told by early settlers: When Mr. Wilder and a few others first arrived here, there had been rainy, foggy weather for about two weeks, and in all that time they hadn't seen the sun. The settlers were feeling very gloomy and discouraged. Suddenly, without warning, the rain stopped and the sun burst forth, flooding the drenched hills with beauty, bringing

warmth and cheer to the hearts of the lonely settlers. They could think of no better name than "Rising Sun".

In the mid 1840's and early 50's many pioneers began to come to this region in search of land offered by the government. They were immigrants from the northern and central countries of Europe, mostly from Norway and Ireland, with a few from England and Germany. They had settled in other eastern and southern states, then came to this region seeking homesteads. Some came here directly from their homelands to join relatives who had come earlier. All of the Irish people who settled around Rising Sun were Catholics and later formed St. James Parish. Some of the names of the Catholic settlers here, as found in the records of Father O'Connor, listed in 1859, are as follows:

Flanagan	McSherry	Clancy	Parkinson
Boyle	Lynns	Mines	McShane
Feeny	Rogers	Broderick	Mulchrone
Sullivan	O'Hearn	Desmond	Finley
Dolan	Dagnon	Kane	Dunlevy
Killbride	Barret	Leahy	Muloney
McManus	Mahan	Shea	Tully
Burns	McCarten	Keleher	Melvin
Wheelock	Shannon	Lane	Kenefick
McConville	Harrison	Roach	Murphy
Ferrick	McRutiger	McGraw	O'Hara
Finnegan	Phalin	Conroy	Anglum
O'Leary	McBuze	Bow	Connelly
Mynes	Conway	Lavin	Gorman
Murray	Waltz	Barton	Gavney

The village of Rising Sun is located on land homesteaded by Truman Wilder in 1852. The place was never plotted, but Mr. Wilder sold lots beginning about 1867. At that time two men named McCulloch and Sink erected residences and a blacksmith shop. The first store was built by Robert Henrich in 1871. A stage line was in operation at that time between Prairie du Chien and Black River Falls, carrying passengers and mail over the route then known as the "Black River Road". Mr. Wilder was operating a hotel in the log building he had built earlier. James Curran conducted a store from 1872 until 1877. He also served as postmaster, and

kept an inn. Later he moved to Prairie du Chien. The store was taken over in 1878 by Michael Dolan, who had settled here in 1855.

By the late 1800's, Rising Sun had grown to quite a thriving village. There were two hotels, a postoffice, a saloon or two, and two stores. The store run by Michael Dolan is still operating under the ownership of Mrs. Rose Finley. Justus Groh ran a repair shop, a feed mill, and a sawmill for a number of years. His son, Elmer, continued the operation of the sawmill and repair shop until his death a few years ago. The repair shop is still in operation, owned by Elmer's son, William. There were many others who were in business here over the years, but at the present time the village has dwindled to a store, repair shop, a tavern owned by William Crowley, and a barber shop owned by Bernard Hanson.

In 1847, Fr. Lucien Galtier, a French Missionary who had been working in the northern and eastern part of the state founding missions and building churches, was sent to St. Gabriel's parish at Prairie du Chien. From there he continued his missionary activities, arriving at Rising Sun about 1849. Here he celebrated Mass in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Finnegan, just north of the village. This house is still standing on the farm now owned by Bernard Hanson. Fr. Galtier continued to make regular visits to the community, baptizing infants and ministering to the spiritual needs of the people. He also established a mission in Copper Creek, where he built a log church and started a cemetery. This mission was called St. Mark's. He also made trips through the region east of Gays Mills and Soldiers Grove, and established a mission there called St. Philip's. He also started building a church there.

Times were hard in those days and money was scarce, but labor and timber were cheap. So in about 1855, Fr. Galtier, with the help of the settlers and timber furnished by them, built a small log church at Rising Sun. It was built on about twenty acres of land donated by Michael Dolan for a cemetery and church site. This land was located on the west side of the road which is now Highway 27. The log church



REV. LUCIEN GAULTIER



RISING SUN TODAY



FINNEGAN HOUSE  
ON HANSON FARM



SAWING WOOD  
BEHIND OLD RECTORY

was built to the north of the present frame structure.

This log building was used for several years as a place of worship and was the beginning of St. James Parish. Fr. Galtier continued to serve the people on his regular visits to St. James, St. Mark's and St. Philip's, until failing health forced him to give up his arduous missionary labors in 1859. He was succeeded by Fr. Arthur O'Connor. Fr. Galtier, who may truly be called the Apostle of Crawford County, baptized 1,762 people during his ministry here. He also started a mission at what was then called Pig's Eye, Minnesota, and built the first church there. He changed the name of the locality to St. Paul and so named the Church, thereby being the founder of the City of St. Paul. A statue of him has been placed in St. Paul's Cathedral and a street named in his honor. He is buried in front of St. Gabriel's Church in Prairie du Chien. The inscription on his tomb reads as follows: Very Rev. Lucien Galtier, born in France, December 17, 1812; died Feb. 21, 1866; "Pray for a sinner".

In the spring of 1859, Fr. Arthur O'Connor came to Rising Sun to continue the work of Fr. Galtier. He was also placed in charge of St. Philip's at Rolling Ground and St. Mark's at Copper Creek. During his tenure the log church began at St. Philip's was finished and many improvements were begun at St. James in Rising Sun. Among these were a picket fence to protect the cemetery, and the building of a rectory.

Many of the records of Fr. O'Connor cannot be read because they are so faded by the passage of time. But in his records we find many interesting items, such as fencing the cemetery with posts furnished by the parishioners and lumber hauled by them. These records are the earliest to be found at St. James. Among them are also found lists of those who paid for support of the church. The highest amount on the list was \$13.50. We find there also a list of materials for building the rectory. There was lumber, bought and hauled by the people; such items as nails, lime and hair for plastering, doors and windows; and labor, mostly furnished by the parishioners. Very little skilled labor was hired, as one item showed labor costs for painting the house at \$8.00. The whole



YESTERDAY



TODAY

ST. JAMES CHURCH



ST. JAMES CEMETERY



amount of the building was around \$400. Fr. O'Connor also was instrumental in building a modest structure at St. Philip's for use as a church. In 1862, Fr. O'Connor left Rising Sun and was succeeded by Fr. J. J. Murphy, who also administered the parish of St. Philip's.

In 1868, Fr. Murphy left and was succeeded by Rev. Montague. In that year, Fr. Montague began the construction of a frame church. It faced southward, and was approximately 32 by 60 feet. The steeple rose 38 feet above, dominating the landscape. It is this church, still in fine condition, which is used by the Christian community of St. James today.

Two years later, in 1870, Rev. M. Heise was sent here and remained until 1875. In 1874, St. Patrick's Church in Seneca was built, and at that time, St. Mark's in Copper Creek was closed, and the people joined the Seneca Parish.

In 1875, the duties of St. James Parish were assumed by Fr. C. Von Droste, who remained for two years. In 1877, he was replaced by Rev. B. DeGoey, O.S.B. He was called elsewhere in 1880, and Rev. J. J. Burns was appointed. He also stayed for two years. In 1875, Rev. Gabriel Momo came from his native Italy directed to Genoa, Wisconsin, where he was established as the first resident pastor and remained for seven years. In 1882, he was appointed to St. James, Rising Sun, succeeding Fr. J. J. Burns, who had left for other fields. Fr. Momo remained at Rising Sun for twenty-two years, thereby establishing a record for the longest pastorate in the history of the parish. He retired from St. James in the fall of 1904, returning to Italy, where he died a few years later.

During the fall and winter of 1904-05, Fr. J. M. Keeley, pastor of St. Patrick's at Seneca, took charge of St. James. He remained in charge until the spring of 1905, when Rev. Edw. C. O'Reilly was appointed to St. James. He was a native of Ireland who had been an assistant pastor at a Superior parish. Finding on his arrival here that the old house was not in very good condition, he immediately set about building a new one. Part of the old rectory was torn off and the main part moved to the site of the present one. An addition was built on to make a two-story, eight room house. In



A SHILLELAGH BROUGHT FROM IRELAND BY FATHER O'REILLY, FAR RIGHT, WAS THE PRIZE FOR COLLECTING THE MOST ITEMS FOR THIS CHURCH PICNIC, BAZAAR AND AUCTION AT RISING SUN ABOUT 1905. IT WAS WON BY MIKE SHANNON WHO DEFEATED JOHN LUCEY FOR THE TREASURED CUDGEL. THE ALTAR BOY ON FATHER O'REILL'S LEFT IS VICTOR LEAHY, WHO IS STILL A MEMBER OF THE PARISH.

order to help finance these improvements, he sponsored many contests, ice cream socials, basket socials, raffles, etc., at the homes of parishioners. He also put on a home talent show with actors picked from the parish. It was a great success. When the house was finished, he started remodeling the church. First it was turned to face the east, then the sacristy was enlarged and a new entrance was built. A new steeple was also built, rising almost seventy feet into the air. The basement was partly excavated and a furnace installed. A new well and windmill were added at the same time. Each year, Fr. O'Reilly sponsored a parish dinner and bazaar, which was always well attended and a good sum of money was taken in. At one of these affairs he held a contest between two men. The one who took in the most money would win the prize. It was a hard fought contest between John Lucey and Mike Shannon, and the prize, a shillelagh brought from Ireland, was won by Mike Shannon.

During his years here, Fr. Momo had made four or five trips a year to Viroqua to minister to the few Catholic families there. Fr. O'Reilly now began to make regular monthly trips there to offer Mass for them. By about 1906 the Catholics had become more numerous, and Fr. O'Reilly was able to build a small church there. He did this with the aid of St. James Parish, the people of Viroqua, and a grant from the Catholic Church Extension Society of Chicago. At this time, the church at Viroqua became a mission of Rising Sun.

On July 8, 1907, Rev. Michael Morris, a friend of Fr. O'Reilly from Ireland, celebrated his first Mass here. He had been ordained by Bishop Schwebach at La Crosse.

When Fr. O'Reilly came here, the parish numbered between forty and fifty families. Some of the family names were:

Wm. McManus	Joseph Melvin	John Lucey
Thos. Finnegan	Michael Tully	James P. Finley
Patrick Lynn	Mrs. Wm. Mahan, Sr.	Martin Dolan
John Cain	Joseph Mahan	Mrs. Anna Dolan
Michael Shannon	James Wheelock	James Denning

Wm. Smith	James Dunne	Mrs. John C. Finley
Peter Phalin	Wm. Price	Timothy R. Finley
Michael Phalin	Wm. Tully	Timothy Leahy
James Bangs	Thos. Melvin	Neal Leahy
Wm. Downy	Wm. Wood Family	Michael Finley
Nicholas Brophy	John McEntee	George Finley
James Phalin	Saul Larson Family	James Finley
Barney Barret	John Neville Family	Joseph Finley
Henry Walters	Michael Neville	Mrs. Anna Leahy
Peter Walters		

There was a choir under the leadership of Winnifred Dolan, the church organist, a Ladies Altar Society and a young Ladies Sodality. Upon his arrival, he also organized a Men's Holy Name Society. The Altar Society is still thriving but the others have been discontinued for lack of members.

Father O'Reilly left here early in 1909 for a parish in Reedsburg and was succeeded by Rev. John Shanaghy, also a native of Ireland who came here from Australia. These two priests had previously been neighbors in Ireland. During Fr. Shanaghy's tenure here and at St. Mary's Mission in Viroqua (which lasted almost nine years), all the programs initiated by Fr. O'Reilly were continued and all necessary improvements made, including new pews for the church and a furnace for the house.

In 1918, Father John Pohlen, O.M.I., a native of Germany, was appointed to the parish, coming here from Mexico, where he had been working in the poor missions. He also made many improvements, but is best remembered for the spiritual as well as the physical aid to the many influenza victims in the parish. This good priest had brought with him from Germany some very effective remedies for this virulent disease, which had decimated many areas in the wake of World War I. Leaving here he was sent to work in the Indian missions of South Dakota. It was here he saw the need to help the Sioux Indians, especially the little ones. His crowning work was the building of an orphanage and school to care for the neglected Indian children. His last 38 years were spent there. He finally returned to his hometown of Stalberg, Germany, where he died February 24, 1969.



INTERIOR OF ST. JAMES CHURCH  
IN THE PAST

PRESENT  
INTERIOR



About the year 1920, Rev. J. Howard Brown, a convert and a prominent Eau Claire attorney before his ordination, took charge of the parish. Fr. Brown remained here less than two years and was replaced by Father Thomas O'Shaughnessy. This appointment was a pleasant one for the pastor as well as for the people. His hometown was Wauzeka, only 30 miles away.

During his administration many improvements were made. One of them was a new picket fence made of iron embedded in cement which was placed around the cemetery. This was the first parish for Fr. O'Shaughnessy. He was later elevated to the rank of Monsignor and is now retired and living in Wausau.

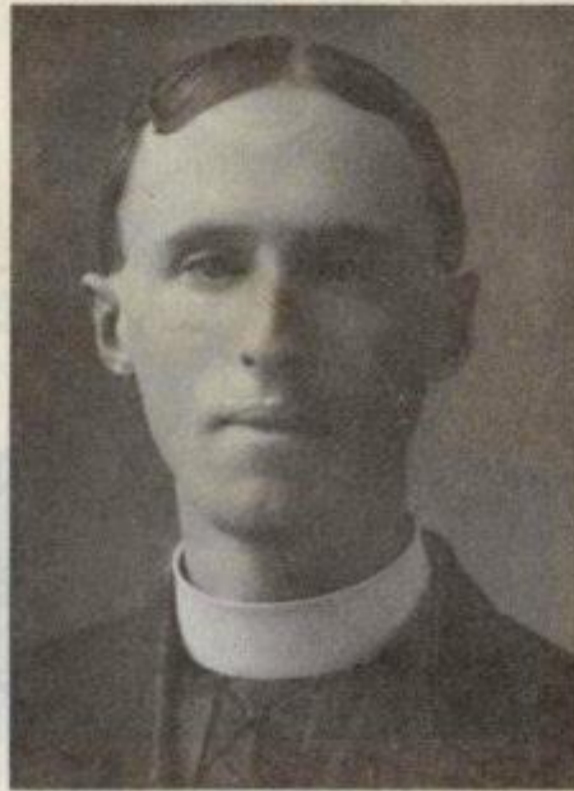
In 1926, Father Francis Gray assumed pastoral charge. He was succeeded in 1928 by Fr. A. F. Wortman, an Order priest from Sparta. He stayed about six months until Father John Pinion was appointed pastor. His tenure lasted about eighteen months. Then he moved to St. Philip's at Rolling Ground.

The earlier pastors had no means of transportation of their own. However, a short time after Fr. O'Reilly arrived here, he purchased a driving team and buggy with which he was able to get about. Father Shanaghy fell heir to this team which he used until about 1914. At that time he bought a Model T Ford. Travel was hazardous due to the poor condition of the roads. All of the following priests had their own means of transportation except Father Pohlen. The parish held a meeting and voted to furnish a car to enable him to get about the parish and make regular monthly trips to the mission at Viroqua. They bought a Willys Overland "90", which, at that time, was considered a good reliable car. However, it was not much good in winter when the roads were usually piled high with drifted snow. In such cases, his successors would borrow a horse and sleigh from someone in the parish, but Father Pohlen would cheerfully trudge twelve miles to Viroqua on Saturday afternoon over snow and drifted roads to offer Sunday Mass for the parish, then home again on Sunday afternoon. He considered it healthful exercise.

In 1930, the parish welcomed Father Francis Mulligan as their next pastor. A native of Ireland, his appoint-



FATHER MOMO



FATHER O'REILLY



FIRST RECTORY



SECOND RECTORY  
NOW ON GABE DOLAN FARM



FATHER POHLEN



MSGR. O'SHAUGHNESSY



FATHER WORTMAN



FATHER PINION

ment here was his first parish. During his stay he finished excavating the basement under the church, put a cement and tile wall under the church and finished a large dining hall and kitchen. Father Mulligan remained here through the depression years and was replaced by Rev. John Doran in 1938.

Under the leadership of Father Doran, the interior of the church and sacristy were remodeled, and a new altar was installed. Father Doran remained here for five years. He was replaced by Father John Agnew, who was to stay less than two years. Father Agnew transferred to Wauzeka and Father Albert Roemer came to the parish. In 1947, St. Mary's Mission at Viroqua was severed from St. James at Rising Sun and raised to an independent status. Father Roemer was appointed to be the first resident pastor of the new parish. At the same time, Sacred Heart Mission at DeSoto was detached from St. Charles at Genoa and attached to St. James at Rising Sun. The parishioners were sorry to lose Father Roemer and gave him a large farewell dinner which was attended by all the neighboring priests, including Father O'Reilly, who, needless to say, was very pleased to see the mission at Viroqua, at which he had worked so hard, become an independent parish.

In the summer of 1947, Father John McMahon arrived to take charge of St. James and the mission at DeSoto. He had been an Army Chaplain serving the U. S. Army in World War II. He found the rectory was in need of extensive repairs. He held a meeting of the parish to decide what they wanted to do. It was decided to build a new rectory rather than attempt to remodel the old. So, despite his poor health, the result of a previous accident, he began the arduous task of building the new rectory. The old house was sold to Gabriel Dolan, who moved it to his farm. A simple but beautiful ranch style structure was erected on the same site. The mission church at DeSoto was remodeled at the same time.

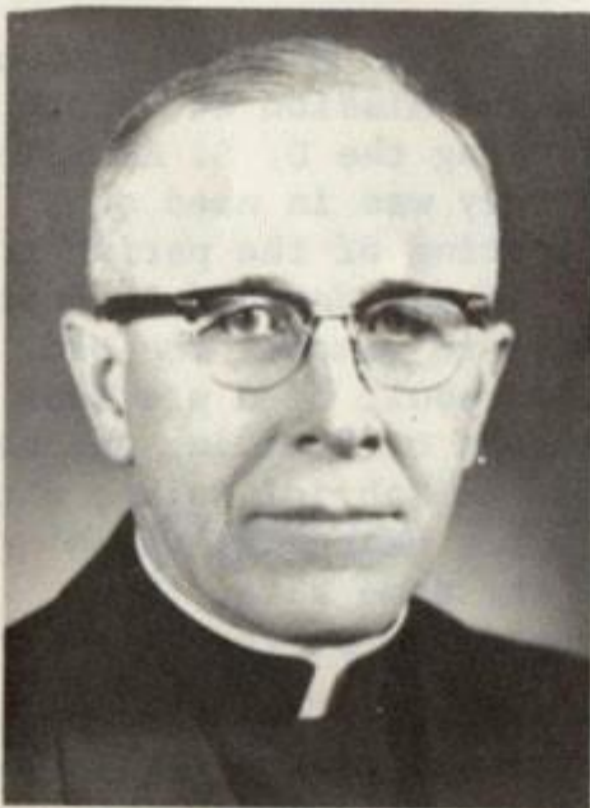
When the parish house was completed, Father McMahon was moved to the parish at Bangor and Father Louis Clarke, formerly from Canada and Holy Hill, Wisconsin, was appointed administrator. Father Clarke also contributed to the improvements of the grounds by putting sidewalks



FATHER MULLIGAN



FATHER DORAN



FATHER AGNEW



FATHER ROEMER

around the church and house and also made other minor improvements.

In 1951, Father Clarke was replaced by Father Chester Wrzaszczak, who had just returned from graduate studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Upon his arrival here, he found the parish had a large debt due to building the new house. He immediately set about paying it off. Under his leadership, a series of annual church dinners, bazaars and auction sales was begun. The debt was soon erased. Many items for use in the rectory and church were purchased during his years here. He left the parish June 6, 1956.

About this time the Brothers of St. Pius X, who had established themselves in La Crosse, moved to DeSoto. They located on a farm given to them by the Loftus family on the condition that they establish their Monastery there. Father Albert Roemer was their spiritual director and was also placed in charge of Sacred Heart Mission. At this time too, by order of Bishop Treacy, a few families were separated from St. James and placed in the DeSoto parish. This hurt Rising Sun somewhat as St. James was already a small parish.

After Father Chester Wrzaszczak left in 1956, the parish was administered for a short time by Father Roemer and his assistant at DeSoto, Father George Stashek. At this time there was some conjecture that Rising Sun would become a mission of Sacred Heart. However, in that year Father Raymond Peters was appointed as pastor. During the four years of his pastorate, he worked assiduously in parish affairs and in youth groups in the parish. In 1960, he was succeeded by Father Eugene Smith, who spent the next three years as pastor here. During this time affairs were efficiently administered and a new organ was installed in the church. Mrs. Gladys Henderson contacted all members of the parish to solicit donations. The drive was successful and a new Hammond organ replaced the old one which had been in use for many years.

Father William Rorke was the next pastor. He came here in June of 1963. Father Rorke spent three busy



**FATHER MC MAHON**



**FATHER CLARKE**



**FATHER WRZASZCZAK**



**FATHER STASHEK**

years here redecorating both the interior and exterior of the church. It became his duty to instruct the people in the new liturgy of the church as formulated by the Second Vatican Council in Rome and accustoming them to its use. At this time he installed a new liturgical altar. In March, 1966, Father Rorke was transferred to St. Charles Parish at Genoa. His replacement was Father George Becker, who stayed for two years, leaving here in 1968.

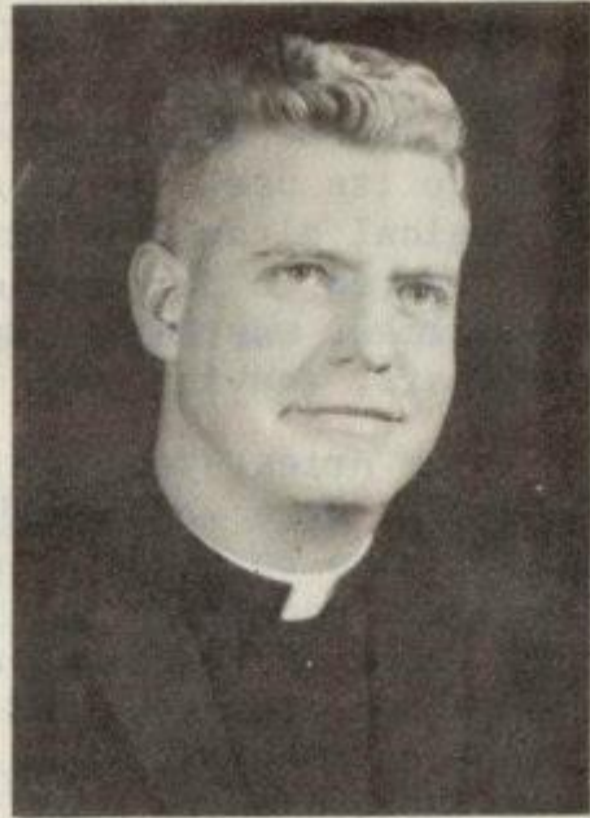
The priest-teachers at Holy Cross Seminary in La Crosse were then assigned the care of the parish, coming here on Sundays and Holydays, and all other necessary occasions to offer Mass. Although there was some doubt as to the fate of the parish at this time, the parish committee and the Ladies Altar Society continued to keep the place in top condition and also made some improvements. The dining hall was paneled, the kitchen painted, and the aisles in the church carpeted. The house and the grounds were also kept in good condition. Because of the scarcity of priests and the smallness of the parish, rumors continued to abound that it would be closed and the buildings disposed of.

In the spring of 1971, Bishop Frederick Freking made a visit to St. James Parish to review the situation. He decided against closing the parish at this time on the condition that financial support by the parishioners be greatly increased.

When Holy Cross Seminary closed for lack of enrollments, several priest-teachers became available for parish work. In June, 1971, Father Eugene Klink, a former teacher at Holy Cross Seminary, was named to administer St. James Parish and to work at the Diocesan offices in La Crosse. Under his direction, the church kitchen has been remodeled and awnings have been erected over the church doors to protect them from the weather. The basement of the rectory has been remade into three modern classrooms for the CCD classes. Religious instructions for the children are held here weekly under the supervision of Father Klink with the assistance of three lay teachers - Mrs. Wm. Wines, Mrs. Harold Nicolai and Mrs. Robert Stuckey. There have been improvements and more are being planned.



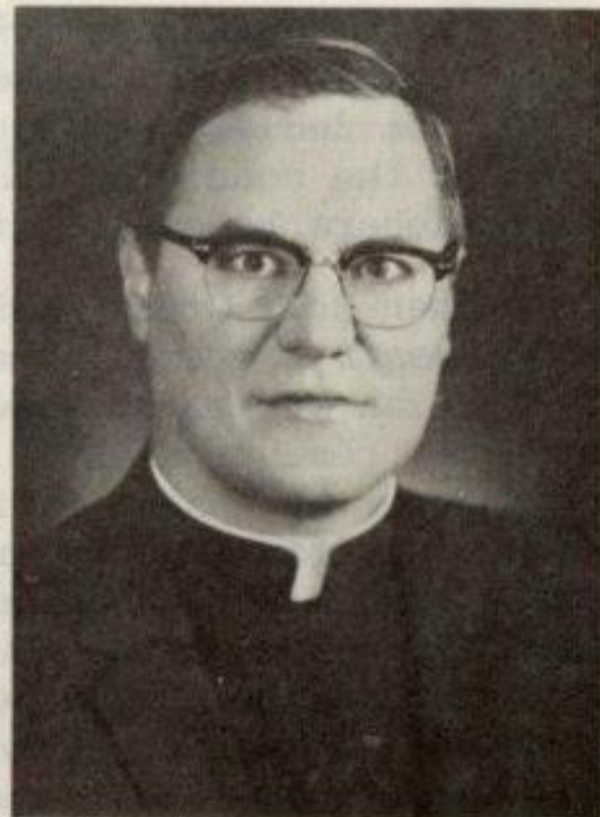
**FATHER PETERS**



**FATHER SMITH**



**FATHER RORKE**



**FATHER BECKER**

Father Klink, a young, energetic priest, has found much to do since his arrival in the parish.

#### Societies and Committees of the Parish

A parish council headed by Father Klink is composed of the following members: Thomas Dolan, Wm. Crowley, Patrick Finley, Robert Stuckey, Mrs. Harold Nicolai and Mrs. Joseph Cain. Their duties are to confer with and assist Father Klink in making decisions relating to matters of administration of parish affairs.

An active Altar Society holds monthly meetings under the leadership of their President, Mrs. Bernadine Tully. The Altar Society is responsible for keeping the church dining hall and kitchen and also the rectory clean and in good condition. They also sponsor various social activities and carry out improvements.

The Cemetery Committee takes care of the maintenance and all other matters relating to the cemetery. The present members are: Lawrence Becwar, Edward Cain and John Henderson.

The parish has always had a choir. One of the earliest organists and choir directors was Winnifred Dolan. She was succeeded by many others through the years. At the present time the choir is directed by Mrs. Bernadine Tully, who is also the organist.

#### La Crosse Diocese

St. James is located in the Diocese of La Crosse. In 1868, this area was separated from the Milwaukee Archdiocese and established as an independent diocese with Father Michael Heiss consecrated as its first Bishop. He was succeeded by Rt. Rev. Kilian Flasch, Bishop Schwebach, Rt. Rev. Alexander McGavick and auxiliary Bishop Griffin. Then came Bishop Treacy, who built the new Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman and also Holy Cross Seminary. His successor is our present Bishop Frederick W. Freking.

It is with a sincere appreciation of the many dedicated priests, who established St. James Parish and ministered faithfully to its spiritual and



**FIRST COMMUNION-1971**



**FATHER KLINK**



**PRESENT RECTORY**



temporal needs, that we close our chronicle of the past century, with the hope that St. James may continue and grow for many years to come.

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH

Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Paul, Minnesota

Sister St. Isadore (Letitia Phalin)  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Phalin

Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen, South Dakota

Sister M. Eulalia (Minnie Leahy)  
Sister M. Euphrasia (Margaret Leahy)  
Twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Leahy

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse

Sister Geraldine (Cecilia Mahan)  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Mahan, Sr.  
Sister Rose Frances (Helen Phalin)  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Phalin

Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin

Sister Elizabeth (Elizabeth Ann Lucey)  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lucey  
Sister Eleanor Lucey  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Lucey



SISTER ST. ISADORE  
PHALIN



SISTER EULALIA  
LEAHY



**SISTER ROSE FRANCES  
PHALIN**



**SISTER GERALDINE  
MAHAN**



**SISTER EUPHRASIA LEAHY**



**SISTER ELIZABETH  
LUCEY**



**SISTER ELEANOR  
LUCEY**



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