



# Heritage Happenings

Archives Office  
March 2018

Lest We Forget...

February was a month filled with many questions, concerns and prayers. Theresa wrote about Father Fessler's request to stay in the Milwaukee Diocese. The February issue of HH ended with the creation of the Green Bay Diocese on March 3, 1868 with the Manitowoc and Fox Rivers being the division between Milwaukee and Green Bay. Clarks Mills rested in the Green Bay Diocese and St. Boniface rested in the Milwaukee Diocese. All Theresa says in her memoirs is: *...in compliance with his request, Bishop Henni gave him charge of St. Boniface congregation, Manitowoc, where he labored with untiring zeal until he was removed to Silver Lake.* It is suspected that he preferred to stay in the Milwaukee Diocese because of his ongoing contact with Bishop Henni who was instrumental in helping him found the new congregation of Sisters. So, in May of 1868, he was missioned by Bishop Henni to leave Clarks Mills Parish and transfer to St. Boniface, 15 miles away. Theresa does not give us any idea of what she and Mary Ann, or Josepha or Rosa were thinking about this month and the ensuing months before the assignment was effective.

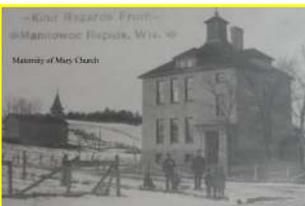


During these early years Catholic churches were quick to develop. It is from this influx of immigrants that the Maternity of Mary and then St. Boniface were established. Did you know...Mother Alexia was baptized in this little wooden church in Manitowoc Rapids? Here is some interesting history that was happening while our foundresses were busy at school in Milwaukee and teaching in Clarks Mills.



Before 1848, church members at Manitowoc were obliged to go to the county seat—Manitowoc Rapids—to attend services. Services were held in family homes. Lumber and building materials were acquired but nothing was done until Father Joseph Brunner, S. J. arrived in 1850. He announced that he was *preparing the children for Holy Communion.* At the end of the

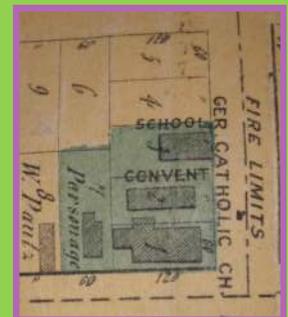
*three weeks of preparation, he wanted the service to be held in a church...*and up it went in time for the Saturday before the Sunday of services. The little church had a bell, ten windows and seated 132 people. Brunner stayed until 1853. Reverend H.S. Nuyts came next to the Maternity of Mary. He is the one who decided a church was needed in Manitowoc. Accordingly the first St. Boniface, a structure 40 by 70 feet, was erected on a lot on Marshall street. It could seat 700 people. Then a small parsonage was built and a five acre burial site purchased south of the city (Calvary on 10th). Between 1856 and 1868 seven priests served at St. Boniface. Rev. Joseph Fessler arrived in May 1868 and remained for ten years. (This is a later map showing parsonage, church, convent and school years after we moved out to Silver Lake.) In April....more on "The Move" to Mtwc.



Here's a photo circa 1915: school on right and church far back left. In 1918 a fire

damaged the rectory and the closed school. The frame church was sold and now only the cemetery remains. The oldest remaining tombstone: 1856. The

church bell and collection basket were given to Holy Family Convent where the bell hung for about 40 years until it fell and broke. Both items are in the Heritage Display Room.



150

After Vatican II many changes in celebration of the Liturgy took place. These included changes in Liturgical vessels, setup of the altar, use of materials such as corporals, burses etc. that our Sisters use to prepare in the "Fancy Work Room" now Poverello. This issue of HH acquaints you with many of these items that are treasured as representatives of our past. See how many you remember. Some are very old. Copied here are just a few of the items on display.



Candlesticks from Good Samaritan Hospital honoring 25th anniversary 1900 - 1925



This is a BUGIA—low candlestick with a short handle. It is held beside a bishop as he celebrates certain liturgical functions.

Hand Made sewing box found in St. Rita's Chapel "Closet" - with felt circle still holding needles and pins!!



Remember a paten held under your chin??



Simple gold pyx for carrying Eucharist to the sick. Found enclosed in



Sick Call Kit: Water Spoon, Brush, Plate, Holy Water, napkin. The cross stand is in 3 pieces...ornate holy water bottle, a spoon cup used for abluion of priest's fingers after anointing.



this flower painted, silk carrying case from Fancy Work Room. Two other ornate pyxes are also shown.



Old metal crucifix from the altar in Sister's convent in Woodsfield, OH.



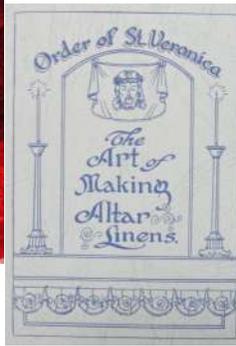
This is a vintage Host Box—the large host is placed on the bottom, then small hosts in glass container on top. Next the metal cover. This one is missing the cross on top.



A burse was a flat, square, fabric-covered case in which a folded corporal was carried to and from an altar in church. The corporal is a linen cloth on which the Eucharist is placed. Sisters painted, stitched, copied designs to create many of these in the Fancy Work Room.



Chalice veil with four lappets that form a cross when laid flat. Patterns and directions have been saved and affirm work done by Sisters.



Holy water bottle with hand sprinkler aspergillum—used to sprinkle holy water



This was a maniple—a band of silk hung over left arm, used to wipe face and hands, like a handkerchief. Its use was dc'd in 1967.