

1900 -- 1940

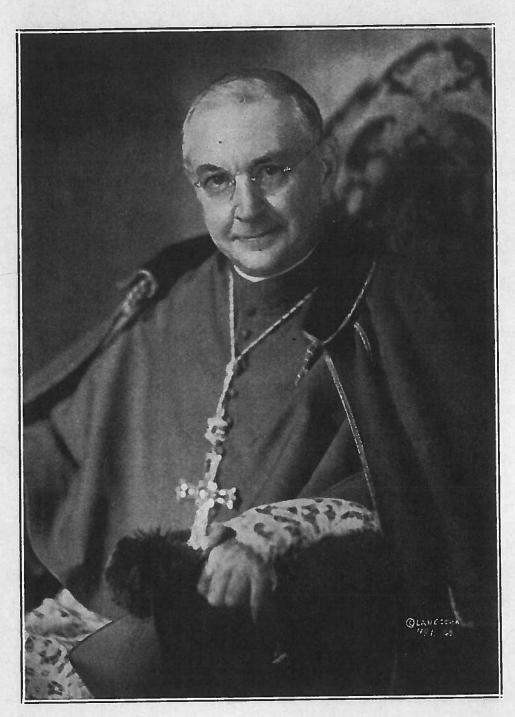
**PROGRAM** 



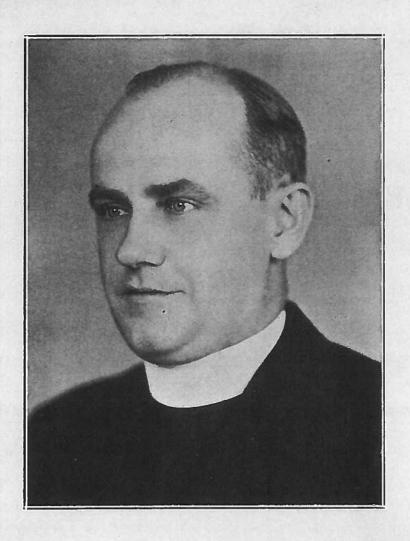
#### Dedication . . . .

Forty years ago in a little hall on Broadway Avenue, a priest bent low over a spotless host and uttered for the first time within the confines of Bradley, the solemn words of consecration.

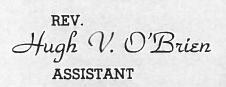
To all those, who, through their labors and sacrifices, were instrumental in bringing this great blessing to us, and to all those, who helped to erect the present dwelling place of the Eucharistic Christ, this program is humbly dedicated.



Samuel A. Stritch, d. d. ARCHBISHOP of CHICAGO



REV. Raymond B. Bernau PASTOR





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#### A Brief History of St. Joseph Parish

#### EARLY DAYS

A few hundred years ago, a brave and haughty Indian espied a rabbit nibbling at some grass in a meadow. With great caution the Indian approached as close as possible to the rabbit, drew an arrow from his shaft, and, taking steady aim, let loose the arrow on its errand of destruction . . . .

But we are not concerned with this little woodland adventure, because neither the rabbit, nibbling away in unsuspecting bliss, nor the Indian, already whetting his chops in anticipation of rabbit stew, realized that in the years to come the land on which their little drama was being enacted would become Broadway, the main street of Bradley, Illinois.

Nor are we concerned with the story of the growth of Bradley itself, interesting though it may be, but rather we intend only to mention a few facts concerning the beginning and growth of the Catholic Church in Bradley.

#### PART OF BOURBONNAIS

The early pioneers of this territory were visited by priests from Vincennes, Indiana. The saintly priest, Maurice de St. Palais, who was consecrated Bishop of Vincennes on January 14, 1849, stopped several times in this territory on his missionary journeys, and made the house of Mr. Le Vasseur in Bourbonnais his home and church. In those days the parish of Bourbonnais included the whole county of Kankakee and even a little more,

Until the year 1855, the people of Bradley attended this parish in Bourbonnais exclusively. In that year, however, St. Rose parish in Kankakee was established; and much later, in the year 1892, St. Patrick's parish in Kankakee was established. This was the first English speaking parish in the county.

#### BRADLEY MADE A MISSION OF KANKAKEE

In the year 1900, Father William Hackett, a native of County Waterford, Ireland, then pastor of St. Patrick's in Kankakee, organized Bradley into a mission, and celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time here in Bradley. This Mass was said in a hall belonging to Mr. Norris Umstead. Afterwards sacred services were held in the Woodmen Hall on Broadway. Some of the men who were very instrumental in having Bradley made into a mission were Thomas Hickey, Mattias Stefanich, T. R. McCoy, Anton Munich, and Emery Souligne.

(Continued on Page Seven)

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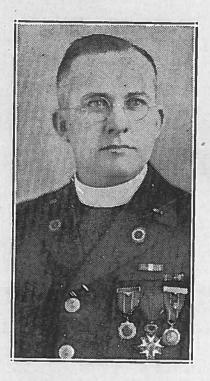
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IN MEMORIAM

#### **REV. HARRIS A. DARCHE**

APRIL 16th, 1937

Who was a courageous captain in the Militant Church of Christ

and

Who died, as he had seen many a soldier die, in the service of His Master.

R. I. P.

#### FIRST PRIESTS

Father Hackett, whose place was frequently taken by Father Matthew Hanley, his assistant, died in the year 1901, and was succeeded by a Father Whalen. Father Whalen had very poor health and died after having been pastor for only a few months. He was succeeded by Father Alward, who, by a strange but sorrowful coincidence, died after being pastor for a little more than a year. All of these Reverend Fathers attended the Bradley Mission in turn; so that in the space of four years this little mission was attended by four priests.

#### BRADLEY FORMS A PARISH

By the year 1904, however, the people of Bradley began to feel, and rightly so, that they had grown large enough to leave the Mission stage, and to have a parish and pastor of their own. On June 24th, therefore, Archbishop Feehan sent to Bradley as its first resident pastor, Rev. J. A. Milot, who had been assistant pastor for many years at Notre Dame church, Chicago.

Naturally the first thing done by the new pastor was to find a more suitable place in which to offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The best that could be had at the time was an old Baptist church. This was rented and used as a church for three years. It was located on Center avenue, a few doors north of Broad-

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All this time Bradley was growing by leaps and bounds and so also grew in proportion the number of Catholics. Day by day the need for a new church became more and more urgent. Finally, after a general meeting of the parishioners, in which they pledged their hearty support, Father Milot obtained permission from the Archbishop to erect a combination church, rectory, and auditorium. This building, substantially the same as it is today, was finished in January, 1907. On January 27 it was dedicated by Rt. Rev. P. J. Muldoon with a very impressive ceremony. This building has a frontage of fifty feet by eighty-five feet, and is built of pressed brick and stone trimmings. The cost of the building was \$20,000.00. The fine bell to adorn the belfry was not added until spring of the year 1920.

#### SUBSEQUENT PASTORS

In the year 1911, Father Milot, founder of the parish, resigned his position as pastor of St. Joseph's parish because of poor health. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Stukel, who was pastor for a brief period of nine months, when he was appointed pastor of a parish in Waukegan. He was succeeded by Rev. Rene Pugny, who took charge of the parish in June, 1912. Father Pugny remained pastor until January 1915, when he was asked by Archbishop Quigley to take charge of the parish of St. Louis in Kensington, Illinois.

(Continued on Page Fifteen)

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In January, 1915, Rev. William H. Granger became pastor. Under him the parish increased and prospered until in 1918, after the parish had been founded eighteen years, he was able to record a total of 225 families living in the parish. Father Granger was succeeded in 1920 by Rev. Victor Primeau. While he was here, Father Primeau (now Monsignor Primeau, pastor of Our Lady of Grace parish in Chicago) tried to realize an ambition, which we hope some day to realize, the erection of a new church. Unfortunately the time was not yet ripe; and, much to his regret and the regret of all the parishioners, the erection of the church building had to be deferred.

FATHER DARCHE BECOMES PASTOR; BUILDS SCHOOL

When Father Primeau was transferred to Manteno, he was succeeded by Rev. Harris A. Darche, who took charge of the parish January 16, 1923. Under him was added to the parish one of its most important and most necessary parts, the parochial school. Father Darche took the words of Christ, "Learn of Me", as a literal command. He saw that, because of the absence of a parochial school, the children, always near and dear to the Heart of Christ, were being deprived of the religious training and example so necessary to the proper foundation of their Catholicity and Christian character. He

(Continued on Page Eighteen)

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obtained as a gift from the Bear Brand Company, a building which had been on Broadway, and had it moved alongside the church building. This building was transformed by various alterations into two large classrooms and a hall. Two classrooms were placed in the first floor of the church building, and a convent made up the rest of the first floor. Father Darche then procured the services of a great teaching order of nuns, the Dominican Sisters from Springfield, Illinois. Under the able guidance of Sister Dionysius as superior, the school opened for the first time in the year 1924. During this same year the final building of the present parish unit was creeted by Father Darche. This was the priest's rectory. Finally, after many years devoted to his flock,

years in which he brought widespread recognition to himself and to Bradley for his work as pastor and as national chaplain of the American Legion, Father Darche died suddenly on April 16, 1937. His death came as a great loss to all in Bradley, Catholic as well as non-Catholic.

#### FATHER BERNAU COMES TO PARISH

On April 26, Rev. Raymond Bernau, the present pastor, arrived from the Little Flower parish in Chicago. Thus far Father Bernau's main objective has been the reduction of the parish debt, in which work he has succeeded very well with the splendid cooperation on the part of the parishioners.

(Continued on Page Twenty-one)

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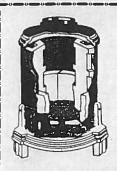
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#### **NEW ASSISTANT**

Until the year 1938, the various pastors had been very capably assisted by the Viatorian priests; but in July of that year Cardinal Mundelein, realizing the need and advantages of a resident assistant priest, sent to St. Joseph's parish, Rev. Hugh O'Brien, present assistant pastor. Since the opening of the school in 1924, it has had three superiors, Sister Dionysius, Sister Machtilde and the present superior, Sister Euphraisa.

#### PRESENT STATUS

The parish has now about 400 families, and is ever growing larger. It has a large and increasingly active Holy Name Society, as well as a Society of St. Anne for the married women, and a Children of Mary Sodality. Non-parochial groups comprising parish members are the Daughters of Isabella, Saint Cecilia Society, St. Peter and Paul Society, and the Society of St. John the Baptist.

#### CONCLUSION

Thus far there has been excellent cooperation of the parishioners with their parish priests. Despite the many different nationalities well represented in the parish, there has existed and, we are sure, will continue to exist, a Christian harmony. With that thought in mind, we humbly ask God, Our Father, Blessed Mary, our Mother, and St. Joseph, our Patron, to continue to bless us both spiritually and materially in the future so that we, both pastor and flock, might some day be brought in peace to Our Divine Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

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