

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

Nadine Hoffman's Contributions

Father Anderson was influential in introducing music to the school system. He brought in the first piano, and in time a school band was formed. At one time, Ruby and Charlie, the Happy Faces, directed the band. Students were active with regular choir members in such ambitious musical programs as HMS Pinafore, The Mikado, and Showboat, which



were directed by Nadine Hoffman, the first lay teacher at St. Joseph. These musicals were performed at Nora Mayo Hall. Mrs. Hoffman had earlier produced and directed such plays as The Prince and the Pauper and Julius Caesar, which were performed in Lyceum Hall.

Later Mrs. Hoffman would become the music director for the church and school. Under Father Vincent Smith, the choir loft of the new church was remodeled to accommodate a larger choir and choir rooms and choir robes

became available. One of the significant events organized and directed by Mrs. Hoffman was the Harvest of Music. Every year for at least seven years, church and school choirs from around the city would perform these

ecumenical Thanksgiving celebration at St. Joseph. After the performance, the musicians and the audience were invited to meet in the parish hall for refreshments and hospitality.

Under Father Smith, Mrs. Hoffman would contribute articles and poetry to *The Chronicle*, which was created to supplement the Sunday bulletin and was published monthly describing people, organizations, and activities of the parish.

But this all occurred after Father Anderson completed the building of the “new” church. Nora Mayo Hall must have been a familiar site for parishioners of St. Joseph. Not only were dramatic and musical productions performed there but Mass was celebrated there as well. The Church on Avenue K could comfortably seat only 300 and although two Masses were offered each Sunday, people attending would have to stand outside the church doors to participate in the celebration. Now that the school was completed with eight classrooms in 1958, Father Anderson moved immediately in 1959 to a building fund drive for a new church. Meanwhile, parishioners brought pillows or hand-made kneelers to kneel on for Mass at eight and eleven am at Nora Mayo Hall from May 1959 until the new church was completed. During this period, the parish also built a chapel in Haines City for \$35,000 where Father Anderson also said Sunday Mass.