

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

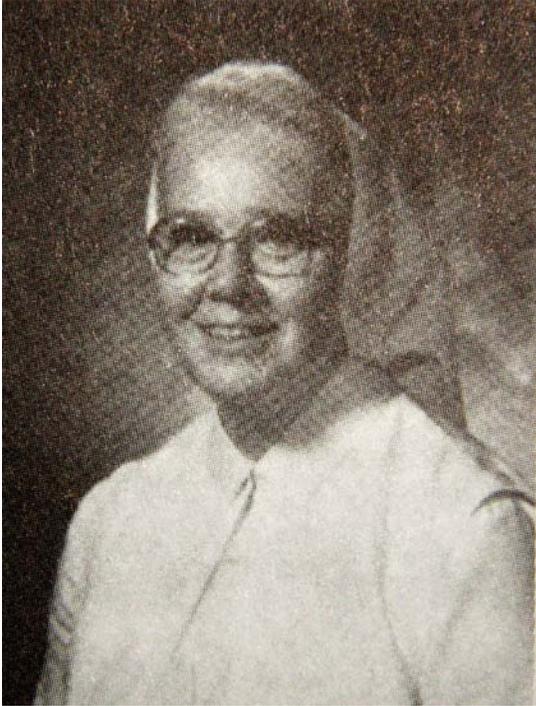
1925 – 2003

Two Ministries Introduced to the Parish at this Time



The Charismatic Renewal began in the United States in 1957 and came to St. Joseph in 1976 with the Prayer Group led by a pastoral team of Ruth Smerzenski, Betty Vinson, Lois Williams and Ken Houser. The purpose of the group, then and now, is to meet weekly to praise and thank God, as well as offer petitions for the special needs of the group members and for the parish. New leaders have emerged over the years, but the focus remains on using the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit to energize the group members to carry the Spirit into the parish and the world. Other leaders have been Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ling. Today, the group of approximately 40 is lead by Ann Luciano, Ann Shannon, Barbara Knott, Ken Houser and Janice Slawinski.

The RCIA program began in September of 1980 with Fr. Eamon Tobin as the director. What had once been inquiry or convert classes became the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The Rite was developed in Rome seven years previously and gives people who may be curious about Catholicism but may not yet be ready for conversion an opportunity to examine the Catholic faith. Now instead of Godparents, those who decide to make a commitment to the faith are assigned a sponsor who accompanies the candidate to gradual initiation into the sacrament of the church. Sr. Margaret Mary Gilmore, SND (Joan of Arc) initiated the Rite here and was assisted by Carleton and Mary Lou Layne. Judy Hagler, who is the present director, was another early assistant.



Sister Margaret Mary was dubbed “the Monsignor” for her ability to coerce workers into assisting in parish activities and programs. She was also responsible for the CCD classes, which served 2321 children in 1983. Sister was eventually called to Rome to serve as Assistant General of the Order. Another Sister who directed this program was Sr. Mary Katherine, SND.