

Father Francis Pischery



Photo courtesy Aurelia Kuehl

Francis C. Pischery was born October 13, 1867 at Beaver Dam. He studied at St. Francis Seminary and one year at Teutopolis, Illinois. Father was ordained June 16, 1895, at St. Francis Seminary by Bishop John Vertin of Marquette, Michigan. He was stationed at St. Charles Borromeo, Cassville. At a later time Father ministered at St. Aemilian Orphanage, and continued to assist at St. Mary, Milwaukee. Father then was appointed assistant to the pastor at Neosho in July, 1899. In January 1902 he was appointed pastor at St. Andrew parish. One of the first projects Father faced was the building of a convent for the sisters. The old brick church was dismantled brick by brick, and the bricks were used to build the convent. Stories handed down by word of mouth relate that Father cleaned the bricks for the convent building with chisel and the old fashioned wet grinding stone. This building is now owned by Roger Zangl. The Zangls relate that the cleaned brick from the former convent were undersized, attributed to Father's method of reclaiming. Evidence indicates structural lumber from the second church was also used in building the convent.

Other parish affairs also needed immediate attention. Loans negotiated during the building of the new church needed to be paid. A new boiler was installed October 1902 at a cost \$ 1,091.81 by Ahern Heating Co. The school was expanded to four rooms, using the area vacated by the sisters when they moved into the convent. Father had a special interest for the youth in his parish. The following local

newspaper article reports about a Soldiers' Reunion, August 29, 1907. "Last Thursday has gone down in history as the 18th annual reunion of the Dodge County Veterans Association. The day dawned bright and clear, but by ten o'clock the sky threatened rain and slight showers fell intermittently. These however, did not mar the festivities of the day. The first delegations came in on the 8:25 train, others came on the 9:45. The delegation from Le Roy came by team, bringing one of the largest delegations from any one single place. Besides the members of the G.A.R. and Sons of Veterans, 40 little boys in uniforms were here, accompanied by the Le Roy band. After the visitors were welcomed a business meeting was held in the rooms of the Calumet Club, in the Music Block. The meeting was an interesting one, and several talk's on the work in Grand Army Circles were given by the visiting members of the association. After this meeting, the visitors were given a fine dinner at Otto's Hall by the ladies of this city. After dinner the Festivities were continued at Foster Park, where several fine addresses were rendered, and where the 40 little boys in uniform drilled. The little boys did some fine drilling, having been trained by Rev. Father Pischery of Le Roy. A feature of the afternoon's program were the fine addresses delivered by Mayor Becker of Milwaukee and Rev. Father Pischery of Le Roy, the former speaking in English and the latter in German."

In 1906 the fourth year of Father Pischery's administration, Joseph Heimerl and August Wolfschmitt were elected parish trustees. In 1910 Joseph Koch replaced Joseph Heimerl as treasurer. Joseph Koch served in this office until January,

1915, when Andrew Schmidbauer assumed these duties.

In the fall of 1915, mason contractor Stoffer & Co. and John Heimerl, carpenter, built the porch on the rectory

for a cost of \$ 504.16. On July, 1916 Father Pischery was transferred to St. Joseph parish, Waupun, where he served until December, 1918. Father then shepherded the parish of the Immaculate Conception in Saukville. On Sept. 25, 1922, Father was assigned to St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan, where he served until he died January 15, 1930.



Above: Second Convent built by Fr. Pischery in 1904. The convent was sold to Roger and Diane Zangl in 1971.

St. Andrew's First Holy Communion Class 1905



Photo: Courtesy Donald Bauer

Scattered indentifications are as follows: Center top row: Father Pischery.
 In the back row: second boy from left, Arthur Rost and third boy from left, Albert Urban.
 Third row: Gertie Wild first girl on the left and fourth girl from left: Rose Schmidbauer.
 Second row: girl second from right, Josephine Wolfschmitt .
 Front row: third girl from left, Emma Lehner third girl from right, Veronica Wild.
 Sister Hildegard (far left) , Sister Isabelle and Sister Andrew also taught at this time at St. Andrew.

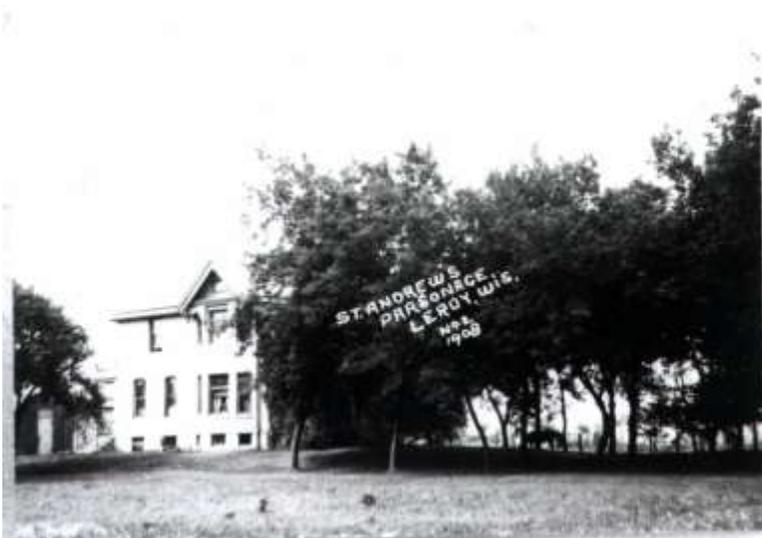


Left: Postcard photo of St. Andrew church shows the ornate parapet walls were remodeled by 1908 under the pastorate of Father Pischery.
 Photo : Courtesy Donald Bauer

Right: Postcard photo of St. Andrew church interior dated March 16, 1910. The church interior, as reported earlier, was not painted till 1923.



Photo courtesy Dale Hoffman



Left: St. Andrew Parsonage facing east 1908. Was the pony grazing in the back ground Fathers source of transportation?

Right: Front view of St. Andrew second church.



Father Peter Delles



Ordination photo

Peter Delles was born December 14, 1866 in Belgium, Ozaukee County. When he was five years of age his parents moved to Port Washington where he attended the parochial school until 1880. He then attended St. Lawrence College of the Capuchin Fathers at Mt. Calvary taking the five years classical course. In the summer of 1885 he entered the seminary at St. Francis where he completed courses in philosophy and theology and was ordained Oct. 18, 1889 at St. Francis by Archbishop Michael Heiss. Father Delles celebrated his first Mass at Port Washington. He was assigned to St. George's parish at Kenosha as assistant where he remained until July 1890. In 1890 Father Delles was sent to organize a new parish at Fredonia. From 1910 to 1916 Father served St. Mary Parish, Lomira. Completing his tenure at St. Mary Father was assigned to St. Andrew at Le Roy, August 16, 1916. During the transition between Father Pischery and Father Delles at St Andrew Father John Marion, son of the parish ministered to the parish for two weeks in August of that year.

In 1919 the parish celebrated the Golden Jubilee anniversary of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Racine as educators in the parish. Father Delles improved the school by installing electric lights and also installed the two angels holding lamps in the church sanctuary.

In 1920 Bernard Schabel replaced August Wolfschmitt as parish secretary. Wolfschmitt had served in this office since 1906. Andrew Schmidtbauer remained treasurer. Parish membership reached 224 in 1921. Members of the Auditing committee were Peter Hinkes, Michael Feucht, John Burelbach, and John N. Schraufnagel. The membership listings in the financial report were not placed in alphabetical order, but according to the rate of assessment. A special fund was set up for church decoration in 1922, as the church had not been painted since its building. This fund totaled \$4,157.50. The Henry J. Gardner of Milwaukee contract price for church painting was \$3,000.00. Other expenses were ridge tin, lamps, fixing of roof, etc.

Fees paid for trustee services: Bernhard Schabel, Sec. \$15.00, Max Bachhuber, Treas. \$ 5.00 per year. This practice had been consistent for many years.

The yearly salary for the four teaching Sisters and one house maintenance Sister was \$ 1, 200 plus \$100 for the organist. The parish priest received a round figure of \$1,200

With the Diamond Jubilee approaching in 1924, a special account of \$2,013.34 was deposited for the celebration of the 75th anniversary. The following article appeared in The Mayville News, August 24, 1924. Recorded here in part:

St. Andrew's Diamond Jubilee 1924

Pontifical High Mass to be sung at St. Andrew's church, hundreds are expected

Commemorating the organization of St. Andrew's parish at Le Roy the parish will hold a diamond jubilee home coming celebration on August 26-27. Hundreds of people, clergy, and laity are expected to attend the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Andrew's. A pontifical High Mass will be celebrated at 10, AM. August 26. Arrangements are being made to serve a homecoming dinner and supper to the many visitors. Msgr. Joseph Lain of St. Francis seminary, Vicar-General Emeritus and Promontory Apostolic, will celebrate the Pontifical High Mass. The Rev. Peter Burelbach of Jefferson will act as Deacon and the Rev. John Marion of Edgewood, Illinois will be the sub-deacon. These two priests were sons of St. Andrew's congregation. The Rev. J. J. Clark, Rector of Pio Nono college will be Master of Ceremonies. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. Nick Mass, who is a member of the faculty at St. Francis seminary.

In 1927 the removal of the earlier remodeled parapet walls was part of the church repair. Doyan and Payne Co. supplied the asbestos shingles for the roof at a cost \$ 939.08. Ed Leibold, carpenter, assisted with the renovation at a cost of \$311.30. In addition the needed copper flashing amounted to \$2,709.84. Photos of exterior remodeling in earlier years will reveal these changes. In 1927 the outgoing officers were Bernhard Schabel, Sec. and Max Bachhuber, Treas. Members of the auditing committee were, John Nep. Schraufnagel, Peter Hinkes Sr., August Feucht, Michael Feucht and F. H. Weiss. In 1928 a new slate of parish officers assumed their responsibilities to carry on parish business. James Weinberger, Treas. Joseph A. Schraufnagel, Sec. Members of the auditing committee were: Robert Bonack, Joseph Hadaller, Adolph Schraufnagel, Edward Zehren and Albert Vollmer.

Father Delles remained as pastor till June of 1929, when he was stricken with pneumonia and died at St. Agnes Hospital June 17, 1929. Father Delles is buried in St. Andrew's cemetery. While the parish was awaited a new pastor, Father John Marion, visiting son of the parish ministered to the parish while Father Groff of Theresa, was temporary administrator and served the parish until Father Henry Stehling arrived in mid-summer of 1929.

Father Henry Stehling



Henry Stehling was born in Milwaukee on December 8, 1887. After preparing for the priesthood at the Salesianum, Henry Stehling was ordained a priest on June 8, 1913. His first assignment was assistant at St. Joseph Parish, Waukesha. Thereafter he served as assistant at St. Mary Portage, St. Mary Milwaukee and St. Augustine, Milwaukee. In 1919 Father was appointed pastor of St. John, Lamartine and St. Mary Mission at Eldorado. In September, 1921 he was transferred to St. John, Clyman, and on July 11, 1929 Father Stehling arrived at St. Andrew, Le Roy. Father's first order of business was to deal with the overcrowded school problem. Parish membership support reached 226 in 1929 with a token \$ 578.62 in the school fund. At a special meeting on Sept. 11, 1929 it was decided that a new school building would not be considered until \$25,000 was in the treasury. A building committee was elected as follows; Father Henry Stehling, Joseph Schraufnagel and James Weinberger, trustee, Arthur Sterr secretary, Alois Keller treasurer and committee members, Albert Vollmer and Louis Schmidt.

While contract work was being processed for remodeling the school, Father focused on several added projects which came to his attention. He realized the recreational needs of the community and opened the parish grounds to baseball, tennis, and ice skating, and he set up playground equipment in the park.

Financial records concerning the Christian Mothers society and a Young Ladies Sodality were now published in the parish financial report. Summer parish picnics and winter time card parties and stage plays were introduced to bring about social and financial stimulation.

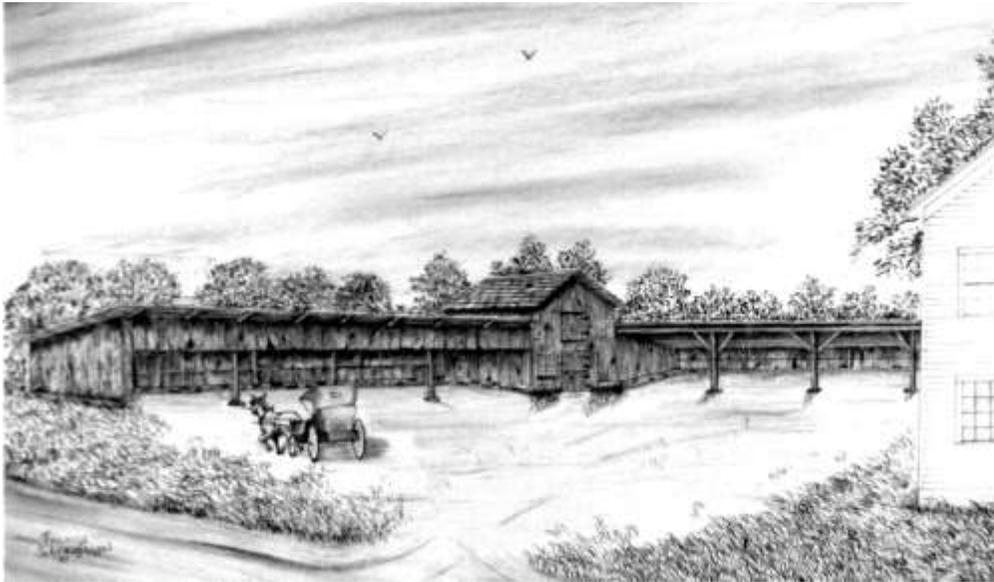
Early in 1932 the school building committee received a proposal from Arthur Kuenzi Engineering Service with the recommendation of local contractor Leo Neumeyer. This plan to remodel the school would increase room for students by removal of the center stairway and enlarging the two east rooms. Plans called for the installation of a central heating and ventilating system located in the eastern area of the basement. The plan further suggested building a new structure on the north central location of the school to accommodate an entrance, a hall and stairway to provide entrances to all rooms. A special school fund was put in place and membership assessments levied at 1-1/2 times above the usual annual assessments. Total costs of this new addition, \$10,825.86. The Parishioners made great sacrifices during our country's worst financial depression and drought. Seven years after school remodeling was completed in 1940, a published report listed 118 members as delinquent, totaling \$3,342.50 in arrears. This method of assessment was an accepted and common practice of church support.

Father's weekly pastoral routine included the Saturday afternoon and evening confessions and scheduled Sunday Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 A.M. Father delivered the homilies from the pulpit at every Mass, the Low Mass in English and the High Mass in German. During the school year Father visited two classrooms a day for catechism instructions. When free time permitted him to pursue his hobbies, Father, with the assistance of his housekeeper, Olive Urban, a kind humble lady, worked tirelessly on his beautiful rock garden and rectory grounds with many assorted plants and flowers.

Parish officers who server on the 'Auditing Committee' during Father Stehling pastorate were: Albert Adelmeyer, Alfons Schmidtbauer, Albert Vollmer, Norbert Bauer, and Adolph Neumeyer

On October 16, 1941 Father was transferred to St. Kilian , Hartford, and also shepherd St. Patrick Mission at Erin. Father received his last appointment on March 3, 1950 as Pastor of St. Mary, Racine, where he served until his death. A Solemn Funeral Mass was offered in St. Mary church April 5, 1956 and burial took place in Holy Cross Cemetery, Racine. Father left a legacy as a bilingual preacher, an excellent singer, a sportsman, gardener, hunter, woodworker and writer. Father wrote two books of poems entitled "Chalice Filled."

THE LEGENDARY LIVERY STABLE



Drawn by Francis Schraufnagel

In keeping with the events of those times, stories of the past come to mind about parish related activities. Reminisce if you will on the following: The livery stables located opposite St. Andrew's church on Hwy. Y was once used to shelter horses for parishioners who came to worship at Sunday Mass. The stable was private property and may have been built to accommodate customers at the adjacent saloon partly sketched at the right, now known as the Brian Bauer property. The village map of 1910 (page 186) illustrates the Robert Bayerl property consisting of 3-3/16 acres. In those years the livery stables were referred to as the Bayerl barn. Legend passed down through the years claims the large house once accommodated living quarters and a saloon facing to the south. The livery stables were later used to shelter the horses that provided transportation with buggies or riding carts for the school children of the families living in distant areas of the parish. Some of these families included Edwin Lehner, Alois Feucht, Henry Eilbes, Linus Schraufnagel, and Joseph Zangl, to mention a few. The children, four or five, crowded into the cramped buggy. Parishioner Rudolph Schraufnagel relates the sequence of many such 4-5 mile trips to school from the lower marsh area along County Trunk Z and then to the Reiser's hill, two miles west of Le Roy. The oldest boy of the group was in charge and responsible for safety and prompt arrival. As the fully occupied buggy approached the base of the long and high Reiser hill, all occupants including the teamster disembarked to ease the pulling load for the horse. All would climb this tedious stretch on foot. Upon reaching the crest of the hill all would resume their familiar positions and continue on their journey to school. In the early years the livery stable and adjoining lot were owned by Robert Bayerl. Later in the 1950s, Theodore Liegl owned this lot till it was purchased by James Weinberger to shelter cows awaiting the Monday morning butchering. One exception; a productive milking cow was kept for the Weinberger family milk supply. This milking chore was done every morning by family member Norbert Weinberger. In the late 1930s the only part of the stable that remained standing was the center part of the structure with a loft to store a limited supply of hay. Some time in the 1950s this lot was purchased by Alois Feucht, who built a home there upon retirement. At this time, most of the old livery stable had already been removed.

The Story of the Big Bang

The big bang incident happened about 1932 when the basement was excavated for the additional entrance and stairway that was to be built on the old 1882 four room school. The farmers donated their skills with pick and shovel to dig to the required depth as this was the only way to achieve this in the early thirties. The local retired gentlemen kept a close eye on the day by day digging progress as the stubborn earth was slow to ease this tedious job. Many suggestions were offered by the inactive elderly as the project moved to slowly. Finally an elderly gentleman suggested that dynamite would solve the digging problem. This suggestion was readily approved by his peers as these gentlemen were respected and regarded with the gift of ultimate wisdom. Immediately some one supplied the blasting power which was carefully placed into the lower part of the excavation. It was further suggested to place all available planks over the charge and then cover the planks with mud. As the count down moved to 1 minus zero, the blast was sure to achieve the expected result. To the astonishment of the retirees, the blast shot the planks over the roofs of the neighboring houses like a missile projectile and in addition the blast shattered dozens of windows of the convent and school. Before the dust settled, the elderly gentlemen quietly retreated to their homes. Digging continued with pick and shovel.

Organ Pumpers and Wood Cutters

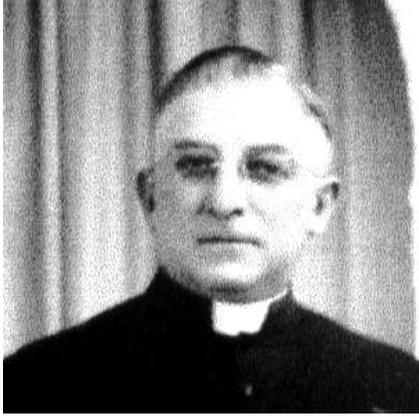
Published financial records from 1900, continued through later years, reveal many stories about a way of life, and customs of the times. These entries when pieced together, create a picture and to enhance the quality of this picture, some imagination may help. Among many of the items entered into the records was the annual fee paid to the organ pumper. Insignificant as this chore may seem, the organ pumper was vital to supply the organist with air to the musical pipes from the organ bellows.

This special responsibility was assigned to Henry Huber in 1900 and he diligently carried on these duties until 1910, at which time George Huber assumed the duties until 1914, when Wolfgang Huber carried on until 1917. While away for military service, Wolfgang was replaced by William Hall, John Feucht, and Joseph Hall. Philip Ertl continued until 1923 when brother Frank took over until 1928 at which time an electric organ blower was installed. The hand operated organ pump consisted of a bellows type contraption when pulled inward and outward by hand with the likeness of a joystick, air was drawn into the bellows. When compressed, it forced air into the pipes for sound. The organ pumper received about \$25.00 a year for this work. This pipe organ, a beautiful sounding instrument, was replaced by the an electric organ donated by the Albert Adelmeyer family in memory of Air Force Pilot Lt. Harvey Adelmeyer about 1948. The old pipe organ was given to a smaller parish. Among other disbursements at the early 1900s, we find expenditures for cutting and splitting wood. One such entry listed Frank Jungbeck splitting wood for school, \$3.50, on May 5, 1902. Other parishioners that provided this service through 1928 were Albert Wittman, Joe Bauer, Henry Huber, Fred Zoschke, Henry Wittmann, Albert Sterr, Martin Eilbes, Linus Oechsner, Andrew Zehren and Alois Bauer. These parishioners were a part of the work force providing wood supply to heat the school. Other expenditure entries of interest were entered in 1902 when Frank Herman received \$1.70 for gravel. This category continues on with purchases of sand, lime, and cement, all in small amounts, indicating minor repair throughout the years. At the closing of the expenditures accounts in this era, we want to mention the 70 ft. church chimney built in 1902 by David Ahern and Son for the cost of \$41.85.



St. Andrew second rectory built under the pastorate of Father Bernard Weyer in 1891. The rectory porch was added in 1915 by Father Francis Pichery. In 1964 the rectory was demolished to be replaced by the present standing rectory by Father Anthony Gundrum.

Father Peter Klinkhammer



Peter Klinkhammer, a native of Racine, studied for the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary and was ordained February 1, 1925 by Bishop Paul Rhode of Green Bay. Following ordination he was assigned as assistant at St. Victor, Monroe and later St. Edward, Racine. Father Klinkhammer was temporarily in charge of St. John, Montello, followed by a one year tenure at St. John, Lamartine in 1937. Father then served St. Michael from 1937-1941, at which time he was assigned to St. Andrew, Le Roy. Father accepted the incumbent Parish Officers Joseph Schraufnagel, Sec. John Feucht, Treas. and members of the auditing committee, Albert Adelmeyer, Norbert Bauer, Adolph Neumeyer, Alphonse Schmidbauer and Albert Vollmer.

After a one year assignment at St. Andrew, Father Klinkhammer accepted assignments as chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, West Bend 1942-1951 and at the old Salvatorian high school, Milwaukee. Following sick leave in 1954, Father Kinkhammer moved to the Tucson Diocese, where he served as pastor of several parishes. Father Klinkhammer celebrated his

golden jubilee January 1975.

Father John Stehle



Father Stehle with retiring trustees Joseph Schraufnagel and John Feucht

John Stehle was born in Milwaukee, on December 23, 1903. He studied for the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary and was ordained February 2, 1928 by the Most Reverend Sebastian Messmer. His first assignment was as associate pastor at Holy Name Parish, Sheboygan, on Feb. 14, 1928. He became pastor of St. Matthew Parish, Neosho, with the Mission at St. Mary Woodland on Sept. 24, 1937. On July 23, 1942 Father Stehle was appointed pastor of St. Andrew Parish. Father continued the traditional devotion to the Sacred Heart celebrated every First Friday with the strong support among the young people of grade and high school age.

The following article written by a former editor of the Dodge County Pionier, J. M. Sevenich portrays his thoughts in this 1942 article which appeared in The Mayville News.

“TIME MARCHES ON “
All Aboard, for

Town Dreizehn: (Town Thirteen)

Few people appreciate the little and old things which are as important as the big and new things. For instance, the watch is the daily companion of millions. A watch will tick for years and years. It is frequently handed down from generation to generation. 60 seconds a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. If a person fractures the pelvis, he may be crippled for life, nevertheless able to move about, but if the smallest bones in the human body, the hammer and anvil in the ear be injured, the person is shut off from all sound—music, song, the patter of little ones and the consoling voice of the one nearest and dearest to him. And so it is with old things, houses that housed generations, old machinery and implements which grandfather used and highly prized old spinning wheels. We are bound for Le Roy --das bayrische Landel, a quaint old, and small village. Some referred to it as Lehner's corners, and everybody knew Louis Lehner in the nineties. Perhaps no other village was more improved by the construction of modern highways than Le Roy. Coming to Le Roy from the east, one passes St. Andrew's church. I have before me "The History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin" published in 1899.

It is stated that St. Andrew church at Farmersville was founded 50 year ago. In 1890 the Rev. Bernard Weyer was appointed pastor of St. Andrew's and in 1896 the Rev. Fred. Raess succeeded him. Rev. Raess was succeeded by the Rev. J.W. Blum during whose pastorate the present church was built. The present pastor of St. Andrew, the Rev. John Stehle, is an old friend of the writer. He was born in Milwaukee, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Stehle, attended St. Anne parochial school and then entered St. Francis seminary. After his ordination, Father Stehle was appointed assistant at Holy Name parish, Sheboygan; later he became pastor at Neosho. I knew him as a boy and as a student, in fact the Stehle's lived only a half block from our home. I like to refer to him as the little priest with a big voice and an equally big heart. That is what counts, sympathetic understanding and mutual appreciation.

May God bless him and his work and through him bless his parishioners, many of whom may remember me as "Der junge Redakteur des Pionier" [the young editor of the pioneer] now within a stone's throw of the Biblical age of three-score and ten. The history referred to also states that the membership of the congregation was around 1,300, and that 124 children attended the parochial school. The older people of Le Roy have not forgotten the old church, facing the highway with a pathway between poplar trees leading to the church entrance. The building was much too small for the congregation. Father Blum was known as a church builder, and upon his arrival in Le Roy took steps to provide a church large enough to house the congregation. Building material was hauled from Knowles and Mayville, and before Father Blum left the parish, the new church, one of the finest rural churches in all Wisconsin, was completed. It seems that the first settlers settled about Farmersville, which at one time boasted of a brewery and the best quality of beer. The settlers came from Bavaria and brought with them their language, customs and thrift. Such men and women as came from far off Bavaria are few and far between today. A hardy, God fearing race who came to this country to find a new permanent home and take part in the development of a new country. There was a time when I knew hundreds of men and women from the Bayrische Landel and who delighted in telling me stories of the pioneer days. To illustrate the hardships, I shall mention but one of these pioneers, Grandpa Joseph Krapfl, who came to Le Roy in the early days, bought a small tract of land and began to clear the land. Krapfl and his wife enjoyed America's freedom and shared the crudeness of pioneer life until she was called away by death, leaving him with two small children. "My home was empty," said Grandpa Krapfl. But what else could I do but carry on? I took the children to the woods with me and back to the cabin after a hard day's work. Time and again, I said to myself: Better get married again, but then I thought of the children in the care of a stepmother, and I thought of my wife who had come all the way from across the sea, for better or worse, and I know that she could not be replaced. I am an old man today, an almost forgotten man, but the thought that I did my duty as I saw it, cheers me."

In the eighteen- nineties we printed many, many sets of wedding invitations for people who were to be married in St. Andrew's church, sets running into the hundreds. I was told time and time again that these invitations were distributed by men on horseback, an old custom. It never was my privilege to attend a wedding celebration at Lehner's hall, but I know that they were great festivals, lasting all day and night, and sometimes longer. One of the features were the Tusches in honor of the bride.

The postmaster of Mayville, Martin J. Bachhuber, whose ancestors were among the first to reach Le Roy showed me a document, written in German on the occasion of a wedding. It expresses the wishes and sentiments of those present and is signed by the relatives and guests. Another old custom, now forgotten and lost to humanity. The sturdy Bavarian pioneers who hunted big game, cleared the land and made their contribution to the productiveness and progress of Dodge County found their last resting place in the cemetery. The cemetery tells the story, and is, perhaps the only record left besides the record in the archive of the church. To me, cemeteries have always been rather intriguing. A quarter of a century ago I spent a few days in a northern city. It was in the month of June, on a Sunday morning. I left the hotel before 6 o'clock and while wandering about the outskirts of the town came to the cemetery. It was a revelation to me. Tombstones, erected more than a half century ago, bore the names of Frenchmen, tombstones erected a decade later bore the manes of Scandinavians, then came the tombstones bearing German names-hunters, explorers, woodsmen and agriculturists. When I returned to the hotel after 8 o'clock, a friend of mine who had been looking for me for an hour asked, "Where have you been?" "I told him, and he said: "Of all the things on earth." Then I related the story of the city to him as I gathered it from the tombstones, and he said: "Man, I think you found something". Remember what was said of little things and old things the hamlet of Farmersville, the little rural church by the roadside and the old settlers and tombstones. But the Bavarian spirit did not die out in Le Roy- you will meet there a jovial, hard-working, honest, Godfearing group of people, a small, but dependable part of our great nation. Le Roy furnished fighters in the Civil war, in the Spanish-American War, in World War I, and in the present war- no further evidence is needed for their loyalty, courage and fitness. "Le Roy, Gruess Gott, und b'huet di Gott!" [Le Roy hello, and may God watch over you] *J.M. Sevenich.*

Father Stehle oversaw the installation of a new furnace in 1943 by John McCoy Co. at a cost of \$2,524.15 and roofing of the school by Walter Tighe, \$174.00. In 1944 a terrazzo floor was installed in the church by the Donaldson floor Co. at a cost \$2,700.

In the war years parish fund raisers discontinued during Father Stehle's pastorate. At a special meeting August 29, 1947, it was decided to restore the exterior of the church which included the painting of all windows, paint or staining of the two main towers and four ornamental towers with two complete coats on shingles, also louvers and windows in the towers. In addition the brick work should be repaired wherever necessary and the two crosses removed on the main towers and replaced with new stainless steel crosses, for a total cost \$ 3,331.00. The work was contracted to the Schnell Bros. of Oshkosh. This contract work was financed by a special assessment of 50% of annual dues of the parish membership. A centennial fund was set up in 1944 and continued to increase in the account by free will donations until 1949 to a total sum of \$ 2,256.75 when the fund was closed. The three hundred contributors to this fund are listed in the archives of the parish records. The following in part is an account of the parish centennial celebration as written in The Mayville News, August 1949.

LE ROY PARISH CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY AUGUST 28, 1949

St. Andrew's parish of Le Roy will celebrate on Sunday, August 28. A Solemn High Mass will be offered at 10:30 A.M. in the presence of Archbishop Moses E. Kiley of Milwaukee who will assist at the Mass in Cappa Magna. Officers of the Mass will be celebrant, Father Gabriel Hinkes, O.Praems. of Philadelphia; deacon, Father Henry Stehling of Hartford; subdeacon, Father Cyril Spiegelhoff of Mayville; and Father Peter Burelbach of Jefferson will be the presbyter assistant. Father Michael Groff of Theresa and Father Rayner Hausman of Belgium will be chaplains to the Archbishop. Father Hugo O'Connell, C.S.S.R. of the Redemptorist Seminary at Oconomowoc will preach. The celebration will conclude with a dinner that will be served to visiting clergy at the parish school by the Christian Mothers.

The demographic changes after WW II resulted in an increase in marriages, followed by the baby boom generation. It became apparent that a new school was needed to accommodate the increased enrollment. At a special meeting called by Father Stehle on October 19, 1953, discussion centered on cost, architecture, location and the advisability of including living quarters for the sisters.. Discussion further focused on money on hand before building, interest rates and whether it would be advisable to ask members for voluntary contributions. A building committee was appointed by Father Stehle . This appointed committee was to visit parishes with the latest structured school buildings and obtain facts and costs.

At the annual parish meeting, January 17, 1954, Merlin Schabel was voted in as parish secretary replacing Joseph Schraufnagel, who had faithfully carried out the duties of this office for 26 years. Among other changes was the election of Joseph Feucht as treasurer, replacing John Feucht who had served in this office 17 years.

Members serving on the auditing committee under Father Stehle's pastorate were, Norbert Bauer, Wilbur Steiner, Joseph Feucht, Benno Sterr and Merlin Schabel.

On August 10, 1954 Archbishop Meyer appointed Father Stehle to the pastorate of St. George Parish, Kenosha where he served for eighteen years until his retirement on September 26, 1972. Father Stehle died in November 1985 and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Milwaukee.

Father Francis Eschweiler



Francis Eschweiler, a Milwaukee native, studied for the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary, where he was ordained June 15, 1935 by Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch. In the 1930s to the 40s he gained attention as a 'labor priest' for his ministry with striking workers at Allis Chalmers plant in West Allis. He served as assistant pastor at St. Michael, Milwaukee, 1935 to 1938. He was appointed to St. Joseph, Fond du Lac 1938 to 1939, and Holy Name, Racine, for about five years. In June 1944 he was appointed professor at Saint Francis Minor Seminary. In April 1948 he was named pastor at St. Michael at St. Michael, followed by a pastorate at St. Andrew, Le Roy, in August, 1954. Father accepted parish officers Merlin Schabel secretary, Joseph Feucht, treasurer, and members of the auditing committee, Norbert Bauer, Roman Zangl, Benno Sterr, Andrew Schraufnagel and Robert Weinberger.

As plans for the new school were far from complete, Father called a special parish meeting on Nov. 28, 1954 at the Le Roy Town Hall at 2:30 P.M. First order of business: Do we need a new school? The results by ballot vote were 77 yes and 50 no. It was decided to assess all contributing members thirteen and one-half times the yearly assessment which was the projected amount to cover total costs of the school. This met with full approval by all present, and plans for construction were now set in motion. Arthur Sterr was once again appointed secretary of the school fund. Arthur Sterr had shouldered this responsibility since 1929 and administrated this office 33 years or since the old school was first remodeled. The building fund was now the focal point of attention, geared for three times the amount of assessment to be paid by June 1, 1954 with a goal of \$75,000.00. However, unforeseen declining membership resulted in a slower accumulation of funds.

With the building fund in progress, the membership dropped to:

405 members	in 1951
390	in 1952
386	in 1953
373	in 1954
372	in 1955
336	in 1956

Meanwhile payments were being made on the school debts. Membership increased in the following years

369 members	in 1957
365	in 1958
369	in 1959
377	in 1960
376	in 1961

St Andrew gained 24 members in 1962 and again reached the 400 membership listing the year the school debt was paid. The temporary declining membership was not a result of the school debt alone; the industrial growth in neighboring cities was also a factor.

Early in 1955 men of the parish came with chain saws, axes, trucks and tractors to remove the trees from the north section of the parish park to make room for the new school. The following article appeared in the Catholic Herald Citizen, June 11, 1955.

Begin Construction of New School for Parish at Le Roy

Work began this week on the new \$180,000 St. Andrew's school here. Ground was broken a week earlier on Sunday, May 29. The building will provide a parish hall accommodating 400, with kitchen facilities, and five classrooms. In addition, there will be a school office, faculty room, storage and supply room, boiler room and a wardrobe room connected with the hall. The new school is located on a large tract of land owned by the congregation, and will provide ample playground facilities. It will be built directly south west of the present church.

The building will be constructed in form of an 'L'. One of the wings, nearest the church, will contain the parish hall, and the other will house the classrooms. The one-story exterior will be finished in a combination of face brick and Indiana limestone with large clear glass windows. The classrooms will be bilaterally lighted, with sky domes located on the room ceilings near the interior walls. The rooms will have acoustical ceilings and tile floors. The corridors and entrance will have ceramic tile floors. The parish auditorium slanting roof will be supported by interior exposed, laminated wood arches. Each of the five 30 x 30 foot classrooms can accommodate 30 pupils. The present school will be vacated as soon as the children can be accommodated in the new building which is expected to be early next year. Fr. Francis Eschweiler is pastor of St. Andrew's parish. Three Dominican sisters of Racine and one lay teacher, Mrs. Joe Sokoly, compose the regular teaching faculty. The architect is Herbst, Jacoby and Herbst of Milwaukee, and the Zweig Construction Co. of Mayville is the general contractor.



Parish Park before groundbreaking. Huge Poplar tree in foreground was cut down by a two man chain saw manned by Armond Wass @ Sons. Farmers from the parish spent the winter hours to clear the park for the new school. Little white building served as a kitchen for summer picnics

On November 6, 1955 the blessing of the cornerstone gave evidence that the building was becoming a reality. It was then decided by a vote at the annual meeting on January 22, 1956 that a majority favored a single assessment school fund payment. By April 1956, the building was complete. On September 2, 1956 Archbishop Albert Meyer blessed the new school. This ceremony attended by 20 neighboring clergymen was followed by a dinner served by the Christian mothers in the new parish hall.

The school was then occupied on September 5, 1956. The principal, Sister Rita, assisted by Sister Marie Imelda, Sister Magdala, and lay teacher Mrs. Joseph Sokoly, welcomed the 158 students into the new edifice.

Thursday, June 5, 1957, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Father Eschweiler celebrated Mass at St. Andrew's for the last time. Father accepted a new assignment at Menomonee Falls where he became the founding pastor of the Good Shepherd parish where he served until retiring on August 31, 1984. Father Francis Eschweiler died December 27, 1997 and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Milwaukee.



Groundbreaking Ceremony May 29, 1955. Standing forward left, General Contractor Orris Zweig, Frank Sonnentag, Joe Feucht, Joseph Schraufnagel, James Weinberger Sr., Father Eschweiler, Merlin Schabel and acolyte Dan Weinberger.