

CATHOLIC SETTLEMENT AND CHURCHES

The Catholic church built in Liberty Township, Section 10, was the third Catholic community established in Marshall County. It was known both as the Dunn Settlement Church and St. John's Church.

A group of four Dunn brothers and a group of five Dunn brothers, who were cousins, came from Ireland to settle in this area, beginning in 1851. The people were ministered to for a number of years by horseback missionary priests from Iowa City, Des Moines and Ackley, and services were held in the homes of the people.

As the area became more heavily settled, priests came from Marshalltown, Eldora and State Center. Several of those who served the area were Rev. Emmonds, Rev. Gunn, Rev. Halpin and Rev. Schulte.

In the late 1870's, erection of a church began. The four Dunn brothers, Henry, William, Hugh and James, along with the five Dunn brothers, Thomas, Patrick, Hugh, James and John, as well as people living in the Eldora area, Lawlers and Megans, were chiefly responsible for its erection. Patrick Lawler, who had experience in masonry, built the foundation of rock, chiefly from Secor. The church was finished in 1878.

A cemetery, established on land donated by Henry Dunn, was about one mile north and one-half mile west of the church. It was known for many years as the Dunn Settlement Cemetery, now officially St. John's Cemetery, and is cared for by Sacred Heart Parish in Saint Anthony. Some of the early Dunns who were buried at Bevins Grove Cemetery were moved to the Dunn Settlement Cemetery after its establishment.

As the area around Saint Anthony became more highly populated, a Catholic church was needed. The first church was completed in 1893 and was located two blocks west of the present church. The first pastor, John McMahon, celebrated the first Mass in the new church on Christmas, 1893.

This church served the people until July 2, 1900, when it was struck by lightning and burned. A new church was built the following year and is the church currently in use. Rev. Denis Lundon, who had been recently appointed to the parish when the church burned, was responsible for the building of the church. Sacred Heart Cemetery, one-half mile west of town, was established shortly after the church in Saint Anthony was built.



For a time, both the Dunn Settlement and the Saint Anthony congregations were active, being served by the same pastor on a rotating basis. Use of the Dunn Settlement Church was eventually discontinued, however, and the property was sold to the directors of Liberty Consolidated School in 1924. The church was moved to the school grounds and converted to a gymnasium.

During the tenure of Rev. L. D. Tobin, the present brick rectory was built to replace a wooden structure on the same site south of the church in Saint Anthony.

In 1926, the present sanctuary and sacristy were added by extending the west end of the church. Over the years a number of changes have been made in the rectory and the interior of the church. In 1955, a hall was completed in the refurbished basement of the church.



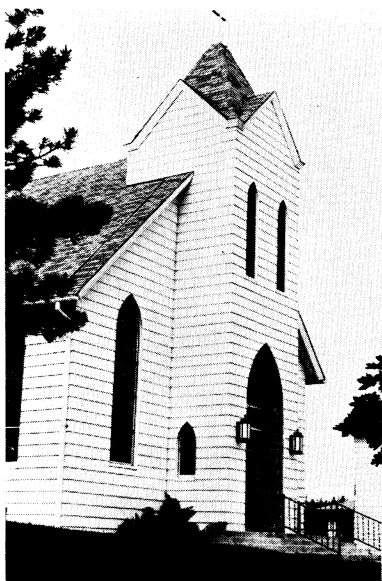
First Communion class, circa 1908. Father Tobin, pastor



First communion class, circa 1910. Father Tobin, pastor



First Communion class, circa 1919. Father Tobin, pastor. Ada Cameron, Bernard Lyons, John Mackin, Rocelia Doser, Leslie Bryant, Leo Dunn, (?) White, Neva Doser, Albert Dunn, Opal Bryant



Sacred Heart Church, 1982

Since the time Mass was offered in the home of W. H. Gogerty in Zearing in 1901, a priest has jointly served the communities of Saint Anthony and Zearing. Before St. Gabriel's Church was built in 1908, Zearing area Catholics went to Colo or the Dunn Settlement Church.

The following have served as pastors of Sacred Heart Church:

Rev. John McMahon, 1893-1894
 Rev. John Hehir, 1894-1899
 Rev. Denis Lundon, 1899-1906
 Rev. L. D. Tobin, 1906-1920
 Rev. F. J. Frien, 1920-1936
 Rev. J. P. Connell, 1936-1939
 Rev. C. E. Drummy, 1939-1945
 Rev. Joseph Murphy, 1945-1954
 Rev. Robert Swift, 1954-1956
 Rev. C. P. Schallau, 1956-1960
 Rev. Cecil McSweeney, 1960-1973
 Rev. Robert Hirsch, 1973-1975
 Rev. John Schmitz, 1975-1979
 Rev. Thomas Purtell, 1979-

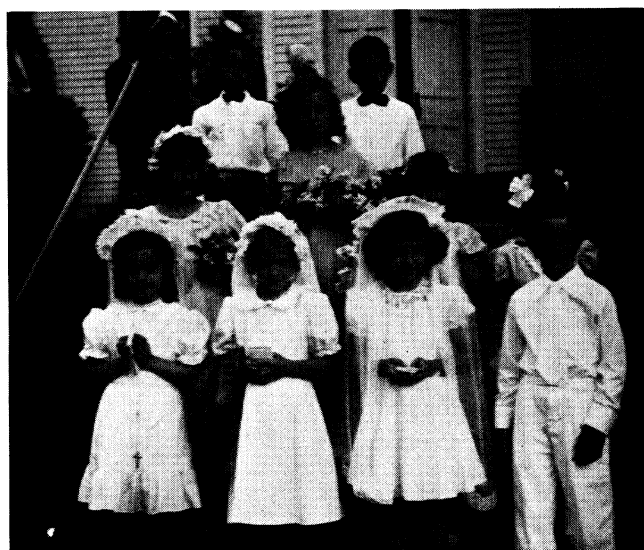
The Altar and Rosary Society has been active in the parish for many years, as have the Knights of Columbus, who belong to the Marshalltown group. A parish council came into existence during Rev. Robert Hirsch's tenure.

Two families have members who belong to religious communities of women. Sister Therese Mackin, daughter of John and Josephine Mackin, has been a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, since 1950. Sister Connie Howe, daughter of Ralph and Rita Howe, has been a member of the Sisters of Mercy, Cedar Rapids since 1971.

—Karlene Kingery



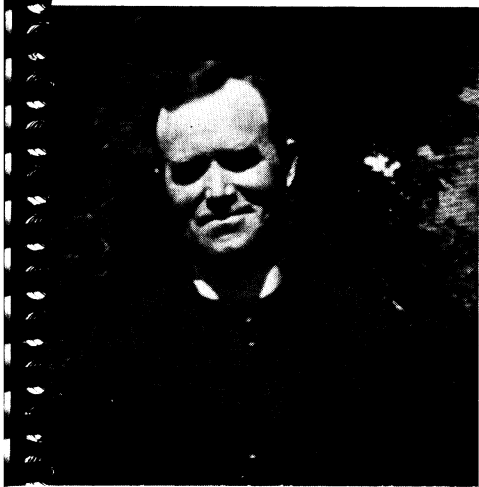
First Communion class, circa 1921. Front row: Leo Dunn, Kathryn Dunn. Second row: Jim Dunn, Merle Drew, Mary Mackin, Nellie Dunn. Third row: Bill Jordan, Mary Curley, Opal Bryant, Mary Kelly, Violet Meimann. Fourth row: Francis Meimann, Lester Meimann, Theodore Webb, Joseph Kelly. Father Frien, pastor



First Communion class, June 12, 1949. First row: Hannah Jane Kurtz, Joan Hines, Maurine Mackin, Francis Dunn. Second row: Joan Drew, Catherine Cochran, Rita Karns, Mary Mackin. Third row: Stanley Karns, Dick Karns



First Communion class, 1954. Front row: Jeanette Cochran, Carl Kurtz, Phyllis Dunn. Second row: Nancy Ward, Ann Dunn, Jim Knoll, Pat Burg, Kenneth Dunn, Patricia Burg. Third row: (?), Mary Lou Mackin, (?). Cross bearer: (?)



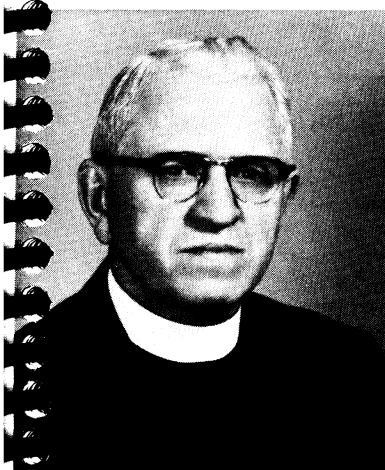
Rev. Denis Landon
1899-1906



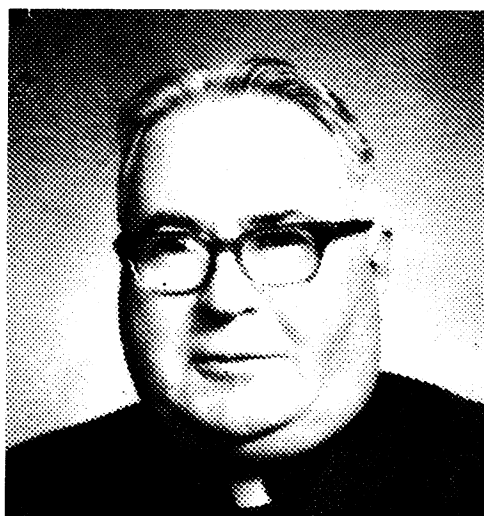
Rev. L. D. Tobin
1906-20



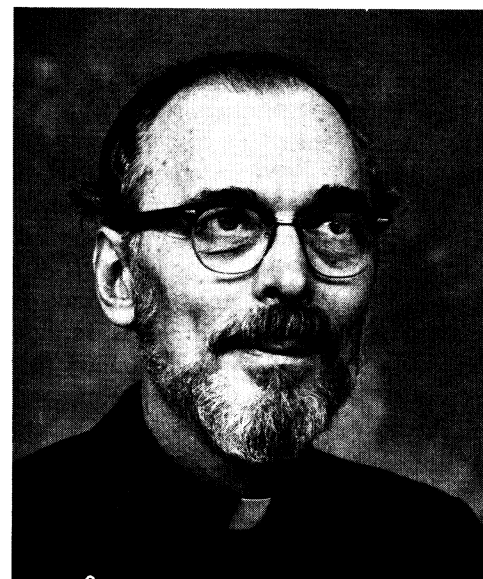
Rev. F. J. Frien
1920-36



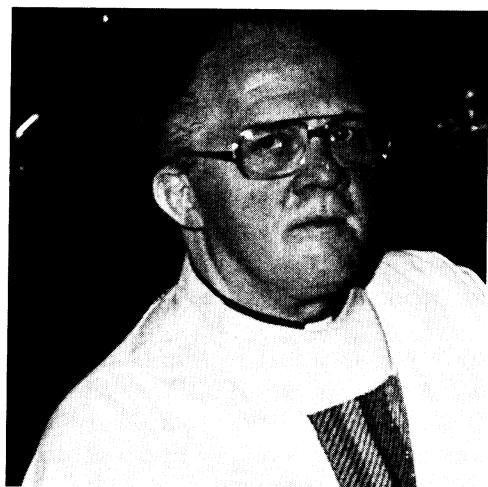
Rev. Clarence Drummy
1939-45



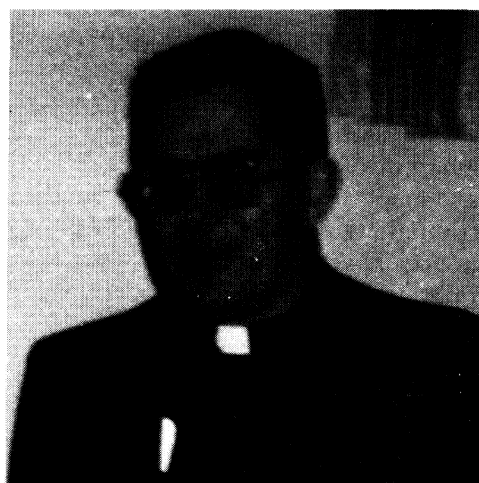
Rev. Joseph B. Murphy
1945-54



Rev. Robert V. Swift
1954-56



Rev. Robert Hirsch
1973-75



Rev. John Schmitz
1975-79