

# Queen of Angels Church History

On July 4, 1947 Archbishop John F. Noll assigned Fr. William Faber to establish a new parish north of Fort Wayne for parishioners living in that area who had been attending the Church of the Most Precious Blood. More than four years went by before this new parish, to be named Queen of Angels, began to function independently.

May 22, 1950 was the Big Day — Groundbreaking, then the beginning of construction. A severe winter delayed construction from November, 1950 until late March, 1951. Queen of Angels School was able to open on September 21, 1951 with the Precious Blood Sisters agreeing to staff the school. Sr. Mary Sienna Langhois was the first principal, and 83 students were enrolled; the school consisted of two classrooms containing four grades.

The first Mass was celebrated in the barely completed Church on October 6, 1951 – a Wedding Mass! On the next day, October 7, 1951, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, Msgr. Charles Feltes, Chancellor of the Fort Wayne Diocese, dedicated the Church. Queen of Angels Parish at this time had 255 registered families.

Sr. Matilda Boyert became principal of the School in 1956, and in 1957, a seven-room addition was added to the school. Fr. Robert Hammond served as assistant pastor from 1955 to 1960 when he was appointed principal of Central Catholic High School. Fr. Dennis Blank replaced him and was assistant pastor at Queen of Angels until 1964. In 1961, Father Faber celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood (May 28), and Sr. Alphonsa Habig became school principal (August); Queen of Angels now numbered 535 families with 515 children attending the School.

In the spring of 1962, ground was broken for the new Sisters' convent (1500 W. State); construction was completed by October 7. Fr. David Carkenord was assigned as assistant pastor at Queen of Angels in September, 1964 and served for nine years. In February of 1966, a four-room addition was added to the school at the northeast side, and in October of 1966, Bishop Pursley conferred the rank of Domestic Prelate (Monsignor) upon Father Faber. In 1967, Sr. Angela Theresa Ballard became principal of the school.

The year 1970 saw Fr. Donald Muldoon come to the Parish for a brief stay as assistant pastor; it was also in the fall of this year that the first Parish Council was formed. In January of 1972, Sr. Gabriel Wathen, a Victory Noll Home Missionary Sister, joined the Parish Staff and served here for three and a half years. She worked with CCD, Adult Education, and with the sick and elderly. In 1972 the Parish decided to finance a Renovation Program to repair and remodel the Church; the work was completed in the Spring of 1974. Rev. Dan Durkin served his deacon internship here from June, 1972 to February, 1973; he was ordained a priest in June, 1973.

The fall of 1972 witnessed a major change in the life of Queen of Angels Parish. Monsignor Faber, the founding pastor who served 25 years here, became pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Kendallville. Fr. Robert Hammond, a former assistant pastor, was appointed the second pastor of Queen of Angels. Another significant change

came in June of 1974 when the Precious Blood Sisters left our school after 23 years of dedicated service. In 1973-74, Fr. Donald Gillig served the Parish for a brief time as assistant pastor as did Fr. Brian Carsten in 1974. July of 1974 saw the appointment of Msgr. Stanley Manoski as pastor of Queen of Angels and Fr. Laurence Tippmann as assistant pastor; in September of 1974, Sr. Johnine Heinze, a Dominican Sister, became the new principal.

In October of 1976, Queen of Angels numbered 630 households with 258 students in the School. The summer of 1980 witnessed the Dominican Sisters leaving Queen of Angels Parish and Miss Marjorie Mommer becoming the first lay principal. It was also in this summer that Fr. Laurence Tippmann was transferred to another Parish and Fr. Edward Krason was assigned to Queen of Angels as Priest in Residence, while being in charge of the Continuing Education Program for Priests of the Diocese. 1980 saw the convent remodeled into the Rectory. Monsignor Manoski retired in July, 1982 and Fr. Barry England was appointed pastor. In 1983 Mr. Steven Bloomfield became principal of the School and Msgr. J. William Lester came to live in residence; Kindergarten was started in September, 1983.

Others who have been principal at Queen of Angels School are Barbara McClure, Mary Czech, and Paul Cress. Sandra Koziol became principal in July, 1995 and served for five years. Our current principal, Marsha Jordan became principal in July, 2000. Three Permanent Deacons have served our parish: Joseph Zickgraf (1983-85), Richard Crowder (1985), and Edward Alexejun (1987-88). Two School Sisters of Notre Dame who have served Queen of Angels Parish are Sr. Helen Settersten (1989-1994) as Director of Religious Education and Sr. Joan Bakle (1989-2005) as Pastoral Associate, RCIA Director (1989-1995), and Minister to the Elderly and Homebound.

In August of 1988, Fr. Richard Stieglitz was appointed pastor. In the Fall of 1993, Msgr. J. William Lester was appointed Administrator. In January of 1994 our sixth pastor, Fr. John Pfister, was appointed. Fr. Rohan de Alwis, a priest from Sri Lanka, served as associate pastor from May 1996 through August 1997. Fr. Lourdino Fernandes, from India, served as associate pastor from October, 1998 to August, 2000; and Fr. John Bosco Perera, from Sri Lanka, served as associate pastor from April 2001 to July, 2002.

Through the hard work and sacrifices of many parishioners, a long-desired Activities Center was added to the Parish in the spring of 1998; the Activities Center includes a gym, kitchen, and meeting rooms. The Activities Center was named for our founding pastor, Msgr. William Faber, who joined us to celebrate our Parish 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass and the official groundbreaking for the Activities Center on September 14, 1997.

In January, 2003 we had an extensive renovation of our Church and Sanctuary. In August, 2005, Fr. Gary Sigler was appointed our seventh and current pastor. In June, 2007 our Parish Residence at 2312 Cambridge Blvd., was sold with permission from our Diocese. The Parish Office was renovated to include private living quarters for our Pastor, Fr. Gary Sigler.

Our Parish at this time numbers 789 registered households and 255 children in our school (Pre-School through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade).