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1912 2012



ST. ROBERT PARISH

The Second Decade

1922-1932

- **October 29, 1923** - An advisory committee decided to erect a permanent convent, which would provide living quarters for 23 sisters and accommodate three classrooms. The committee also decided to sell the Convent at 1277 N. Prospect Ave. (now 3921), the former home



First permanent convent

of parishioner Edgar Weirich, which had been purchased in 1920 as a home for the Dominican Sisters teaching at St. Robert School.

- **April 1924** - Construction on the Convent began. A reception was held on September 10, 1924,

at the new building next to the Church/School. There were three classrooms on the first floor, living quarters on the second floor and a large room on the third floor, which was used as a study and community room. The Convent chapel was conveniently located on the first floor with an outside entrance facing Atwater Rd. (Capitol Dr.), making the chapel accessible to parishioners who attended Mass when daily Mass was offered there instead of in the church.

- **November 1926** - A meeting was called to discuss a new church, a school addition, or both. Crowded church conditions prevailed but it was the continuing increase in school enrollment that influenced building projects. A \$100,000 school addition was decided upon.

- **Late November 1926** - A campaign for the \$100,000 was formally begun at a kick-off dinner. It was so successful that a victory dinner was held December 7, 1926, during which it was announced that \$107,696 had been pledged.

- **Summer 1927** - With the school addition about ready for use, the first floor of the convent was remodeled and the three classrooms were converted into a community room, music room, two parlors, refectory, guest dining room, and kitchen.

- **September 1927** - The new addition to the school was ready for occupancy. Eight school-rooms had been added. At a celebration in November 1927, H. Hemingway, Superintendent of Shorewood Schools, was a speaker. Mother Samuel, prioress of the Dominican Sisters, attended the celebration. The convent (built in 1924) and the school were dedicated Thanksgiving Day 1927 by Archbishop Sebastian Messmer.

- **1928** - The Theresians, a young ladies sodality, was organized for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the young ladies of the parish. Social activities were held at regular meetings and the group gathered for a monthly communion breakfast.

- **May 1, 1928** - First annual meeting of the St. Robert School Alumni Association was held. In an April 1928 letter to Principal Sr. Vivian, Mother Samuel of the Sinsinawa Dominican Order wrote that "...I think the word is spelled alumni when



Boy Scout Troop 15 of 1923

1922 - 1932

St. Robert of Newminster Parish

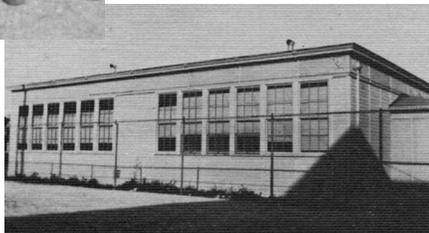
both boys and girls are included. I would want the sisters in the house to give every possible encouragement to them and, of course, it will be all right for them to go to the meeting if it is an organization meeting or a literary program or something of that kind. I would not want the sisters to go to a banquet, nor to any entertainment which would be just amusing or which would conclude with dancing, etc. ..."

• **June 19, 1929** - The school children presented a program in the new gymnasium (built in 1927, for many years called the Multi-Purpose Room and now Reilly Hall) in honor of the 25th Anniversary of Fr. Reilly's ordination. Fr. Reilly had asked in a letter to parishioners dated June 18, 1929, that they receive Holy Communion for his intention rather than to observe his jubilee by a celebration of another kind. He stated that he definitely did not want a purse (monetary gift). In the meantime a committee had nearly completed final arrangements for a parish event for June 23. Fr. Reilly agreed that the plans be carried out after hearing that all the plans were completed. At the jubilee program a purse of \$2,500 was presented to him with the expressed wish that he would use it for a trip to Rome. At the program he spoke about the necessity of a new church and announced his personal subscription of \$5,000 to the building fund for a new church.

• **Fall of 1929** - Increased school enrollment dictated the need for more space. A portable wood structure, The Annex, was built next to the playground that was north of the school. The Annex was located north of the Rectory and contained four ordinary sized classrooms, three of which were used in the fall of 1929 and the fourth the following September 1930. One fifth and two sixth grades were in The Annex.



Three members of the Class of 1937 pose next to The Annex constructed in 1929



• **April 28, 1930** - At a meeting attended by 181 parishioners, final action on the erection of a new church was taken by the unanimous acceptance of the Survey Committee report. Fr. Reilly was authorized to select a building committee and it was the

privilege of that committee to select an architect for the new church and to negotiate any transaction necessary to begin building before or after January 1, 1932.

• **January 26, 1931** - Ways and Means Committee report: **1.** The need exists for a new church. Ground should be broken on or about January 1932. **2.** Changes should be made in the rectory to provide for an additional assistant pastor. **3.** Changes and additions should be made to the convent to provide for additional sisters. **4.** On completion of the church, space in the school now occupied by the church should be converted into classrooms. **5.** This program will involve an estimated maximum expenditure of \$395,000, which must be added to the parish debt of approximately \$55,000 (1/1/1930) making an aggregate obligation of \$450,000. These funds should be secured through a parish subscription campaign for \$200,000 and a bond issue of \$250,000.



St. Robert School Class of 1928

• **May 24, 1931** - 191 children received First Communion. It was the first time children below fourth grade were allowed to receive.

• **January 31, 1932** - It was announced that the Building Committee had engaged Maginnis and Walsh of Boston as architects to design and plan the new church, with cooperation by E. Brielmair and Sons Company, associate architects.

• **Assistant Pastors during the Second Decade:** Rev. Timothy O'Keefe (1926-28); Rev. Joseph Horrigan (1928-30); Rev. Edward Connelly (1930-32). Fr. Reilly worked unassisted by another priest for 14 years until 1926.

• **School Principals during the Second Decade:** Sr. M. Aloysius Reilly, O.P. (1915-26); Sr. M. Vivian Doran, O.P. (1926-32)

• **Trustees during the Second Decade:** Treasurer - Thomas C. Whelan (1917-53); Secretary - James H. Fisher (1914-52)