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ST. ROBERT PARISH

The Fourth Decade

1942-1952

- Shortly after St. Robert Parish was incorporated, the First World War began in Europe in 1914. When the United States entered the War in 1917, the parish provided several young men and one young woman for the Armed Services. The St. Robert usher corps was diminished greatly by the departure of the young men.



*Monsignor Harold O. Prudell,
St. Robert Asst. Pastor, 1939-40;
Army Chaplain; Pastor, 1974-80*

- Just prior to the beginning of the Second World War, young assistant pastor Harold O. Prudell, who had been assigned to St. Robert Parish since shortly after his ordination in 1939, left the parish to join the United States Army Chaplain Corps. He was the youngest Catholic chaplain to serve.

- At the close of the third decade in St. Robert history, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, on Sunday, December 7, 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt went before a joint session of Congress the next day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and stated that December 7, 1941, would be a "date that would live in infamy" and he asked Congress to declare a state of war with the nation of Japan.

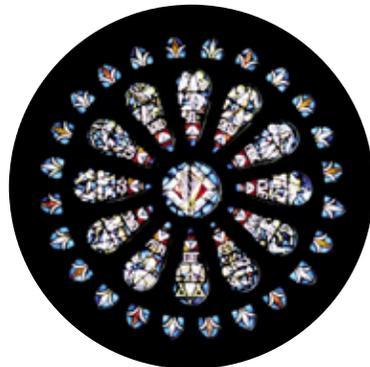
- The St. Robert Community joined in the war efforts with the many things that civilians were asked to do or required to do such as gas and food rationing and travel and building curtailments. The school children collected newspapers for resale and gathered tin cans for the war effort. The intermediate and upper classes knit

squares to be made into afghans by Red Cross volunteers. College age women volunteered as hostesses at USO parties held at Hubbard Lodge in Shorewood. The vigil lights in the church were operated electronically - each evening before dark, the lights were turned off so as not to cause any light to shine through the windows during blackouts.

- Probably the biggest contribution to the war effort was made by the many young men and women who joined the various branches of the armed services. Thirteen young men were returned to St. Robert to be buried in military funerals. The names of all those who served in the Second World War are memorialized in a framed tribute in the main vestibule of the Church.

- When the Church was built in 1936-37, it was not immediately furnished according to the architect's plans. Eventually the altars and statues were installed. In 1941-42, a fund drive was held to pay for stained glass windows that would be installed in all the windows, including the rose

- window in the organ loft and the clerestory windows high on the walls of the nave. The windows were designed and placed during 1942 by the Rambusch Decorating Company of New York City.



Installed on the front facade of St. Robert Church in 1942, the Rose Window is an identifying feature of the Church and is the design for the Centennial ornament/suncatcher.

1942 - 1952

St. Robert of Newminster Parish

- **March 18, 1941** - Assistant pastor James Mehan wrote to parents of public high school students asking their cooperation in having the children attend Newman Club meetings for religious instruction and recreation.

- **May 16, 1943** - 82 children received First Communion. On June 6, 1943, 10 additional children received First Communion because they were quarantined with chicken pox on May 16.

- **Summer 1943** - Assistant pastor George Schumann conducted a vacation religion class.

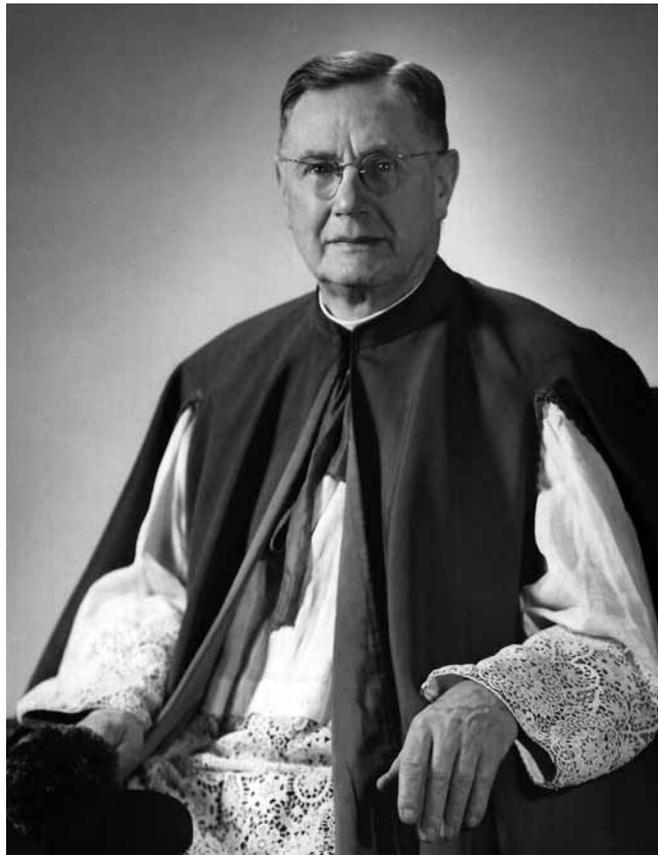
- **March, 23, 1944** - Fr. Farrel P. Reilly was raised to the position of Domestic Prelate (Monsignor) by Pope Pius XII.

- **May 14, 1944** - On the 40th anniversary of his ordination, Father Reilly became Monsignor Reilly as he was invested to the high office of Domestic Prelate.

- **April 1945** - A "Gay Nineties Revue" was presented by parishioners on the low stage in the parish community room in the lower level of the school building.

- **December 1946** - A unique proposal was made to the congregation. An anonymous donor promised to contribute a sum of money equal to the Christmas collection to a planned for east side high school fund, provided the minimum collection amount was \$5,000. The Christmas donations amounted to \$13,000.

- **In the late 1940s**, a plea for the establishment of parish libraries was made by the Archbishop. Miss Esther Hayes took charge of the project and was able to open the library in the basement of the church in January 1950. Parishioners paid annual membership dues of \$1.00. The library was open Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings after Mother of Perpetual Help devotions.



Right Reverend Monsignor Farrel Patrick Reilly, Domestic Prelate - March 21, 1944

- **The '40s and '50s** were times of parish solidarity and community. The societies - Holy Name for men, St. Ann and Altar for women, St. Thomas More for teenagers - gathered at monthly "communion breakfasts" served in the parish hall following the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Masses. The societies processed before Mass led by members carrying the societies' banners.

- **Assistant Pastors during the Fourth Decade:** Rev. Robert A. Kemp (1935-47); Rev. James A. Mehan (1940-56); Rev. George J. Schumann (1942-59); Rev. Leo M. Lambert (1947-48); Rev. Robert Graves (1948-50); Rev. Edward E. Carroll (1950-55)

- **School Principals during the Fourth Decade:** Sr. M. Gracita O'Hara, O.P. (1941-47); Sr. M. Viviana Roe, O.P. (1947-53)

- **Parish Trustees during the Fourth Decade:** Treasurer Thomas C. Whelan (1917-53), Secretary James H. Fisher (1914-52)

- **Popes during First thru Fourth Decades:** Pius X (1903-14); Benedict XV (1914-22); Pius XI (1922-39); Pius XII (1939-58)

- **Archbishops during First thru Fourth Decades:** Sebastian Messmer (1903-30); Samuel Stritch (1930-40); Moses E. Kiley (1940-53)



Assistant Pastors Edward Carroll (1950-55), James Mehan (1940-56), George Schumann (1942-59)