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In This Issue:

- **Two Jaacks (but no Jill) on the Milwaukee Road**
- **Our Lady of Victory - 100 years**

As we launch into the year 2006, the Jefferson Park Historical Society looks forward to disseminating more local history through community events. In 2005, we were fortunate enough to join together with the community and learn more about the past at several important local venues. These places included the Gateway Theater (now the Copernicus Center), the Masonic Lodge, and Beaubien Elementary School, which just celebrated its 100-year anniversary. In March, we look forward to celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Our Lady of Victory Church. Additionally, we are anticipating several more events throughout this coming year.

Very recently, Jefferson Park has seen some changes that have drastically altered the landscape of our neighborhood. Not only have we seen a fire devastate the Schueneman building, but we have also witnessed the demolition of May's Funeral Home. Additionally, the future of developments along Lawrence Avenue are still uncertain. While we revel in watching history unfold, we still remain devoted to preservation of the history and historic character of the neighborhood. Our mission includes collaboration with community members for maintenance and preservation of this history, and we hope that you will continue to support us through your awareness and appreciation of our place in time.

Highlights from this edition include the story of early settlers to Jefferson Park Township as well as a history of Our Lady of Victory Church, which is celebrating 100 years as an important pillar in the community. Also, throughout this edition, see all of those sponsors who help to make this publication possible. We are grateful for their unending support and we hope that you will in turn, support their local businesses. Without them, this newsletter would not be possible.

We continue to look for more members and volunteers. We need assistance with our many tasks throughout the year. If you are interested, please see our contact information on the inside of the front cover. We look forward to seeing you in 2006! - *Susanna Ernst*

Mission Statement:

As the Jefferson Park Historical Society, our mission is to educate others about the history of Jefferson Park and the surrounding areas of Chicago. We will accomplish this through discussion at meetings, public tours and events, and dissemination of historical documents and photos through publications. Additionally, we desire to collaborate with others in the community to continue to maintain and preserve the history of our neighborhood. By linking the past with the present and the future, we will provide an awareness and create an appreciation for our place in Chicago's and Illinois' history.

The Jefferson Park Historical Society

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\$10.00 per calendar year
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Jefferson Park Historical Society

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Two Jaacks (but no Jill) on the Milwaukee Road

by Wayne J. Straight

Introduction

This article deals primarily with the settlement of two of my maternal ancestors, Hans and Hermann Jaacks in late 19th and early 20th Century Cook County. Although I try to keep the general North-Western part of Chicago as the focus, in reality, these men and their numerous kin, settled all along the Belmont Ave., North Ave., and especially, Milwaukee Ave., corridors, in Jefferson, Maine and Niles Townships, to include, Niles, DesPlaines, Skokie, Dunning, Norwood Park, Norridge, Avondale, Wicker Park, Logan Square, Hermosa and Irving Park. Allied surnames from this period included: Boettger, Burmeister, Buthmann, Conrad, Ellerbrock, Gahde, Grewe, Harder, Hendricks, Hermann, Glander, Kath, Kruse, Larson, Loeding, Lohmann, Nordin, Schuemann, Timmermann, Wettermann and Wiborg. Please note that much of what I relate is interpolation based upon my analysis of the available records. No genealogical work should be based solely upon the data presented in this article.



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Hans Jaacks:

Born in the town of Wahlstedt, Kreis Segeberg, S-H, on 27 August 1830, my g-g-g-grandfather, Hans Jaacks, was the second son of Hans Heinrich Jaacks also of Wahlstedt' and Catharina Graeve from Fehrenbotel, Kreis Segeberg. Hans Hinrich was a Vollhufner (farmer), who is believed to have owned one of the larger farms in the area, known as Wahlstedt No. 5¹. Hans Sr. and Catharina had 9 children, at least 3 of whom, Marx Hinrich (the eldest), Hans the younger, and Magdalene Elsabe Timmermann, emigrated to Cook County.

In 1856, young Hans married Dorothea Boettger of Jersbek, Kreis Segeberg. They had at least 7, and possibly 8 children, all probably born in Wahlstedt, of whom 3: Fredericke (m. Kath); Luise (m. Buthmann) and Wilhelm; emigrated to Jefferson Twp. with their parents on 13 October 1881, aboard the S.S. Herder². Their oldest son, Hermann Hinrich (my g-g-grandfather), preceded them, probably no later than 1875³, but I have yet to find any immigration records for him⁴. Daughters, Christine (m. Greve) and Dora (m. Ellerbrock), apparently also traveled separately

Once in Illinois, the Jaacks clan worked primarily as truckfarmers, serving the burgeoning population of turn-of-the century Chicago. (I can picture them now, traveling along the Milwaukee Plank Rd. to the Randolph St. Market aka Haymarket). From 1891 to 1900, Hans ran his own truckfarm at Belmont and 44th in Hermosa. In May 1900, Dorothea died after which, Hans lived with his daughter, Frederika, and husband Hans Ehler Hinrich (Ehler) Kath, Sr., on their truckfarm on Milwaukee Ave., in Maine Twp.


(Footnotes)

1 Source: Jim Bestman of Addison, IL, from official archives in Wahlstedt and Bad Segeberg, GE.

2 Source: Ancestry.com—Immigration Collection—Database: New York Passenger Lists, 1851-1891

3 Date indicated in the 1910 Census.

4 Since he probably would have had to register for the Prussian draft in 1871, he may have left earlier.



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Photo courtesy of Jim Bestman

Much, if not all, of the area where they farmed is now in urbanized areas of Cook Co. The photo above, ca. 1904, portrays the widowed Hans, and his daughter, Fredericke Kath, on what was surely the Kath family truck farm on Milwaukee Ave. most likely in Niles.

Photo on the right portrays Fredericke Jaacks and Ehler Kath on their wedding day, December 29, 1887, when they were married at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jefferson Park. Ehler's obit states that he & his family settled in the vicinity of Jefferson Park.



Hans survived Dorothea by 23 years, dying on March 20, 1923, at age 92. A condense version of his obituary¹ follows:

With the passing of 'Grandpa Jaacks', East Maine lost its oldest resident, a man who was deeply loved and highly respected by all who knew him.

Hans Jaacks was born in Wahlstedt, Kreis Segeberg, Holstein, Germany, August 30, 1830. He was married to Dorothea Boettger in the same community in 1856. In 1881 they came to this country and settled in Jefferson Park, Chicago. In May of 1900, his wife died, and Mr. Jaacks continued to make his home with his daughter Mrs. Ehler Kath, Sr. with whom he was living at the time of his death.

He is survived by 5 daughters, 1 son, 4 sons-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law, 1 sister, who is still in Germany, 37 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild and other relatives." His body was taken to Union Ridge cemetery at Norwood Park and tenderly laid to rest.

(Footnotes)

¹Source: Mr. Jim Bestman of Addison, IL



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Hermann Heinrich Jaacks

The story of Hans, his daughters and the extended family is obviously one of extreme respectability. They seem to have been, to a person, stable, God-fearing, church-going farmers and pillars of their respective communities. My g-g-granddad, Herman Heinrich (or Hinrich) Jaacks may have been cut from somewhat different cloth. His life-style and mores, though not bad by most standards, still seem to have been much removed from those of the rest of the family. Whether this was due to the fact that he and his remained in what gradually became the city, thus removed from proximity to the extended family, or to a few wild genes in the mix, may never be determined. However, his brother, Wilhelm (William), who also stayed in the city, seems to have been quite stable, keeping the same job as a plasterer all his life and living out most of that life at one address in Portage Park (4857 Henderson).

Born on 4 August 1856, probably in Wahlstedt, certainly in Holstein, Germany, my g-g-granddad emigrated to Illinois at some point before 1877. Since he would have been eligible for the Prussian draft in 1871 (Prussia annexed S-H in the 1860's), he may have emigrated elsewhere first and later moved to the Chicago area. The census record for 1910 indicates that he emigrated in 1875 but I have no real evidence for that date.

The photograph at right (the resemblance to my son and myself at the same apparent age is uncanny) reveals a young man who seems to have been full of himself. I suspect that this is his wedding photo. He married Magdalena Lohmann (possibly seated to his right in the photo), at St. John's German-Evangelical Lutheran Church in February of 1877.



Photo courtesy of Wayne J. Straight

All 7 of their children were christened at St. John's German-Evangelical Lutheran Church¹ and all 5 girls (including my g-grandmother, Martha Hendricks) were confirmed there (the 2 boys died in childhood).

By 1880, Hermann, Lena and their two eldest daughters, Bertha (m. Hermann) and Rosa (m. Wiborg) were living on a farm in, then, rural Jefferson Twp—what later became the Portage Park neighborhood of Chicago.

By 1890, Magdalena had borne all 7 of their children and both boys had died. The family was living, and Hermann working as a saloon keeper, at 2395 Milwaukee Ave (current address would be 2813 Milwaukee Ave. in the Avondale area. This is the same location as the grocery store operated by August Jaacks and Adolph Stender—who probably owned the building².

By 1899, Lena was dead and in the 1900 census Hermann is shown as being married to an Annie (Inu) for 2 years. Living with them are his youngest daughter Annie (m. Larson) and a second girl, Hattie, who was listed as his child but was apparently Annie's by a previous marriage. His other 4 daughters; Bertha, Rosa, Ida (m. Nordin), and Martha; were on their own by that time. I can't believe, that this marriage, so soon after Lena's death, would not have estranged him from many, if not most of the clan.

(Footnotes)

1 Most everyone would know this church by the name, St. John's Lutheran Church which is now at 4939 W. Montrose Ave.

2 By 1915, this bar was known as Arenberg's Saloon.

The photo is of Hermann J a a c k s driving a bottled beer wagon for the West Side Brewery Co., on Paulina—a job he held till his death in 1916. At the same time, Hermann's second wife,



Annie was listed in the 1905 Chicago city directory as a “widow”, living at 463 W. Belmont. (now 3100 W. Belmont, in Avondale)—apparently divorcee wasn't an acceptable term in those days.

Photo courtesy of Wayne J. Straight



In 1907, Hermann married his third and last wife, Cora Fisher, and they moved to 1668 Warwick (now 4747 Warwick). Cora died of cancer in March of 1916, while Hermann, probably in a fit of depression, took his own life in August of the same year—only 6 days after his 60th birthday. Witness on his death certificate was my g-grandmother, Martha Jaacks (m. Hendricks).

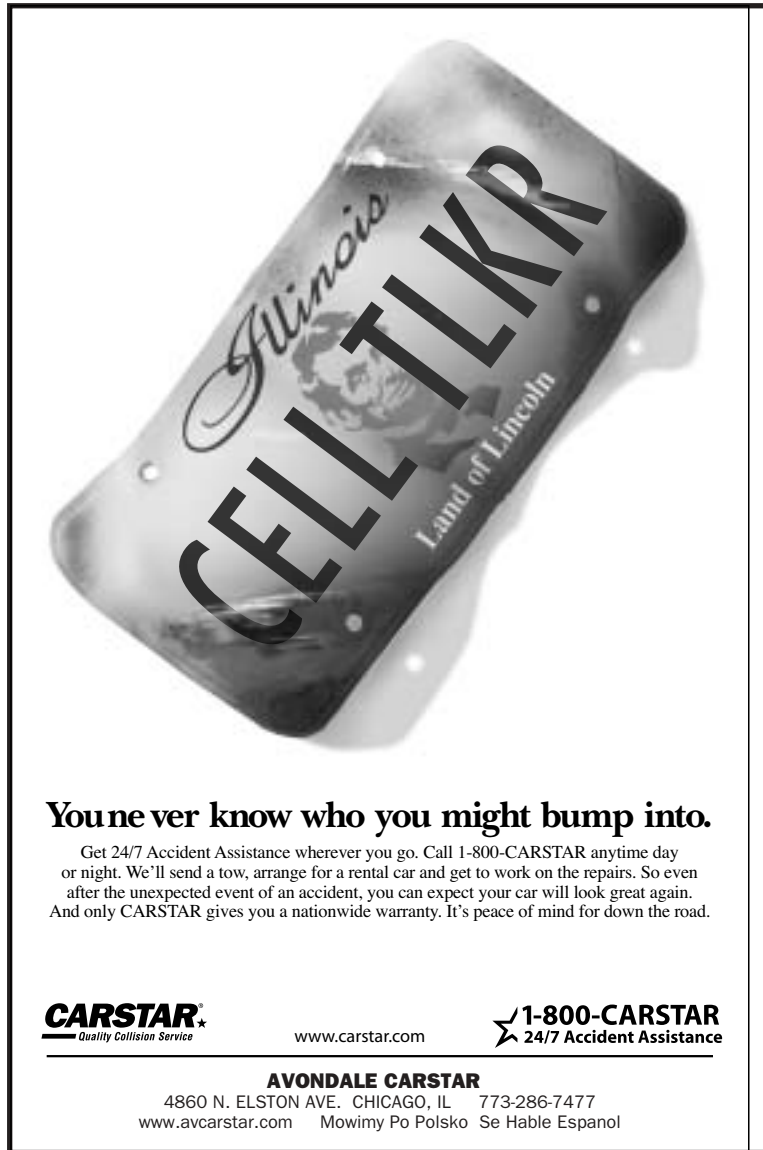
Although this photo may portray a 4th of July celebration or perhaps an attempt to display patriotism in an era of anti-German sentiment, I suspect it was actually the grand opening of Matthew's bar (note the abbreviated first name on the sign). My original estimated time frame of the photo is 1915-16. My grandmother Evelyn Hermann—in front of the wheel; would have been 9 in the spring of 1916—the young Evelyn in the photo surely can't be any younger than that—while Sonny, sitting atop the wagon, would have been 5, going on 6. Since Hermann Jaacks, sitting behind the mule, died in August 1916, that puts an upper cap on the timeframe.

Matthew's saloon was listed in the 1917 city directory as 3932 N. Cicero, on the corner of Cicero and Dakin in Portage Park. The original photo was taken from the Dakin side of the building.

Photo Courtesy of Mr. Wayne Straight

Our Lady of Victory - 100 Years

Our Lady of Victory Church was organized on September 10, 1906 as a mission of St. Edward parish. Rev. Martin M. Lennartz CS (Viatorian) cared for the small Catholic community, and celebrated Mass in a hall on Milwaukee Avenue, on the southeast corner of Lawrence Avenue. On August 18, 1906, a "Lawn Social" for the benefit of the new Catholic church in Jefferson Park" was held on the lawn of the J.S Dietchert home. At that time, there were wooden sidewalks, wooden block streets, and streetcars which operated to Lawrence and



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the East side of Milwaukee Avenue between Montrose and Agatite, and of Silverman's pond near 4900 Sunnyside Avenue. Others recall the red painted Dickenson Inn at the bend on Milwaukee Avenue near Warner (Lincoln slept there, so the story goes), the horse and chicken barn on the church grounds, and the three foot high black iron rail circling the parish grounds.

In 1907 a cottage at 4741 N. Linder Avenue was acquired for use as a church. During the Eucharistic celebration in this frame structure, the men occupied one side of the room and the women the other. In 1907 the congregation numbered about 25 families.

The parish boundaries extended from Mayfair (Cicero Avenue) on the East to the Des Plaines river on the West, and from Belmont Avenue on the South to Higgins Avenue.

Elizabeth Massmann was instrumental in organizing the Catholics of the district, and she solicited donations for the new church from shopkeeper along Milwaukee and Lawrence. Her fondness for a Catholic Church in Ohio named Our Lady of Victory, promoted her to request that the new parish be named "Our Lady of Victory."

It appears that for a short time, Rev. Edward J. Mullaly, CSP, an assistant at Old St. Mary Church, cared for the small Catholic congregation in Jefferson Park



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On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1909, Rev. Francis Cichozi, former assistant at the German parish of St. Joseph in Wilmette, began his tenure of 41 years as pastor of Our Lady of Victory. One of his first acts was to appoint a church committee, the members which were drawn from the three ethnic groups in the parish - German, Polish, and Irish. The committeemen were Gabriel Marcenkowski, August Kowalski, George Bezold, George Lux, Andrew Killoren and Edward Cox.

In March 1910, 20 lots at the present parish site were purchased, and construction began on a combination church-school building. The cornerstone was laid on May 22, 1910. This three story structure, located at 4444 Laramie was dedicated on May 28, 1911, by Archbishop James E. Quigley. The New World commented that:

“The development of Our Lady of Victory parish has been phenomenal. Only a few years ago the place where the church is now situated, as well as the surrounding territory, was nothing but farm land and pasture. Today beautiful residences and modern flat buildings are in evidence everywhere...many of the Catholic families of the inner city, who are anxious to get away from the smoke and congestion and who wish to give their children a beautiful home, near a parochial school and church are locating in the new parish. The Milwaukee Avenue car line cuts diagonally through the entire section in which Our Lady of Victory parish is located. The church property is at 52nd [Laramie] and Sunnyside Avenues, only one block West of Milwaukee Avenue.”

The School Sisters of St. Francis from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, opened the parish school in the fall of 1911; and The New World reported that nearly 200 children were enrolled.

Father Frank bought an old farm house which stood on Milwaukee Avenue near Agatite. It was moved across Milwaukee Avenue at night because the trolley wires had to be cut. The building became the Rectory and is presently known as the “Club House.”

To help the parish grow financially, chance books were much in circulation and picnics were scheduled every summer. These were held usually in July at Elm Tree Grove or at Kolze’s near Narragansett on Irving Park Road. The children enjoyed the merry-go-round (pulled by a tired old horse) and the boat-like wooden swings at Elm Tree Grove. There were many willing workers on the grounds, and the kitchen was quite a drawing card as ham sandwiches, cake, coffee or milk could be purchased for twenty five cents. Ice cream cones were only a nickel. Streetcar fare to the grove was seven cents for adults and children over five paid three cents. Those were the good old days.

In 1914, St. Pascal parish was organized at 4242 N. Austin Avenue; and in 1917, St. Bartholomew parish was established at Addison Street and Lavergne Avenue. On October 7, 1917, Archbishop George W. Mundelein blessed St. Constance Church at 5809 W. Strong Street. This parish had been established by 90 Polish families who formerly belonged to Our Lady of Victory Church. All of these parishes were originally within O.L.V. borderlines.

In 1919, the O.L.V. school was enlarged by the addition of three bungalows which were erected on Sunnyside Avenue. A 1925 Catholic directory listed Our Lady of Victory as a “German and English” parish. In that year, 706 children were enrolled in the school.

The Catholic population of this district was growing so rapidly that, in 1925, St. Cornelius Church was established at 5430 W. Foster Avenue. Plans for a new convent and church were drawn up by the architectural firm of E. Brielmaier & Sons, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The firm also designed the rectory, which was built at 5212 W. Agatite Avenue.



Looking south from Sunnyside Avenue. The school was enlarged by the addition of these three bungalows in 1919. Located on Sunnyside Avenue, just west of the club house. Lifetime parishioner Bob Bartnick, remembers attending 7th & 8th grade (1935 – 1936) in two of these bungalows. At that time the middle bungalow had been removed (possibly it was removed in 1927 because it was in the way of the new one story church).

On April 27, 1927, ground was broken for the new structures on Agatite Avenue. The Sister’s convent at 5240 W. Agatite Avenue was completed on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1927. Mass was celebrated in the substructure of the church on Palm Sunday, April 1, 1928. On May 12, 1929, Cardinal Mundelein dedicated this portion of the church.

In 1930, St. Robert Belarmine parish was established to serve Catholic families who lived West of Central Avenue. Despite a loss in O.L.V. territory, the membership at Our Lady of Victory parish continued to increase.

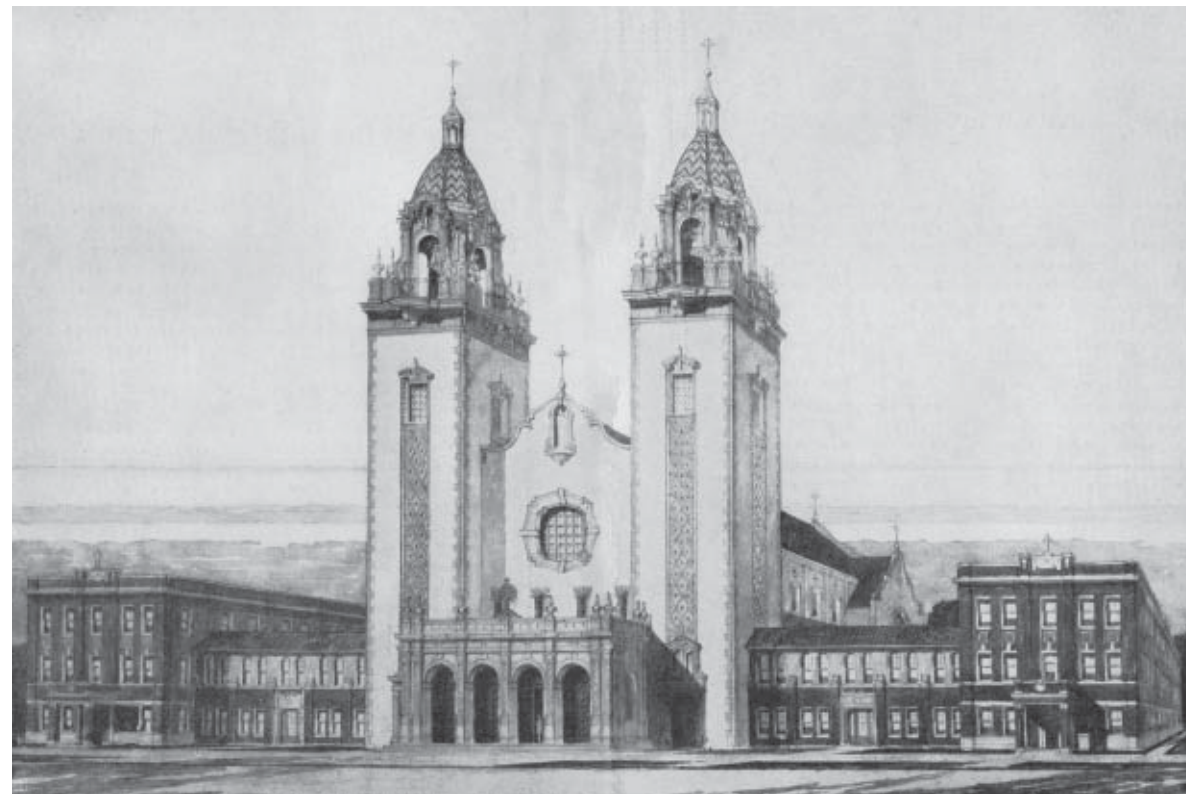
In 1934, Father Frank Cichozi celebrated the 25th anniversary of his appointment as pastor. During the 1940s, he directed the modernization of the parish plant. The new school building was completed in 1949, at 4434 N. Laramie Avenue, at a cost of \$300,000.



The Our Lady of Victory graduating class of 1925, proudly holding their diplomas with Father Cichozki sitting in the middle.

Photos courtesy of Our Lady of Victory Parish

The original one story church was built in 1927. It became the “base” of the new church.



The sketch shows the convent on the left with the rectory on the right of the church. The left tower on the church was never built do to a cost saving decision.

Photo courtesy of Our Lady of Victory Parish

When Father Cichozki’s health began to fail, Rev. Gerald J. Morrisey was appointed parish administrator. He served in this capacity from September of 1948 until March of 1950.

At the time of Father Cichozki’s death on March 5, 1950, Our Lady of Victory parish numbered 2,500 families with approximately 1,100 children enrolled in the school. Rev. Daniel J. Strokes, a former assistant at this parish, became pastor of O.L.V.

Under Father Stokes leadership, work was resumed on the upper church. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the building complete; he died on June 20, 1953, at the age of 55.

Rev. Henry W. Fitzgerald, a former pastor of St. Bridget Church, began his tenure in this parish in July, 1953. Under his direction, construction continued on the upper church, which was opened for services on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954. On October 3, 1954, Samuel Cardinal Stritch dedicated the magnificent structure, completed at a cost of more than \$1 million. The interior and exterior of Our Lady of Victory Church are of modified Spanish design. The facade is of stone quarried in Minnesota, and its cross-topped spire rises 118 feet above the sidewalk.

As you enter the church through massive oak doors, your attention is drawn to the travertine marble walls and to the main altar in the sanctuary which is surmounted by a magnificent painting of Our Lady of Victory. Above the altar is a crucifixion/group which includes the figures of the Blessed Mother and St. John. The combined seating capacity of the lower and upper churches is 2,000.

The stations of the cross were carved by an artist in Italy. The stained glass windows depicting the mysteries of the Rosary are in brilliant colors. The sanctuary windows symbolize the passion of Our Lord. And the choir window represents the Resurrection of Christ.

The baptistry was originally to the right of the main entrance under the tower, and was enclosed by bronze doors and screens imported from Germany. To conform with the latest rubrics, the baptistry has been moved to the front left side of the sanctuary. A three manual organ was installed by the Allen Organ Company, at a cost of \$21,000. As part of the building program, a central heating plant was built, and the school and rectory were remodeled.

The Parish property today occupies 3 acres, consisting of church, rectory, convent, school building with 24 classrooms, club building, and a parking area. The parish membership is over 2,600 families.

Following Father Fitzgerald's death on November 21, 1958, at the age of 60, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raymond J. Zock, former assistant at St. Casimir Church, was named pastor. The parish debt totalled \$800,000. To better serve the 1,300 students who attended the parish school, the pastor directed the construction of a junior high school building on Laramie Avenue and Sunnyside Avenue. The structure, with its six classrooms, gym, faculty lounge, and science laboratory, was dedicated on December 15, 1964, by Albert Cardinal Meyer. The existing school buildings were renovated to harmonize with the new addition, and the total cost of these projects were \$400,000. These improvements increased the financial burden of the parish; but, through the generosity of the parishioners and the excellent leadership of Msgr. Zock, the parish debt was liquidated by 1969.

After guiding Our Lady of Victory parish through the Vatican II years, Msgr. Zock became pastor emeritus in 1973. He retired and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where he was active with the local church there until his death on October 4, 1986.

Rev. Francis R. Nolan, a former associate pastor at nearby St. Edward Parish, was named pastor on October 3, 1973. He directed the liturgical renovation of the lower church, which is known as the "Marian Chapel" and which was dedicated to the memory of Fr. Martin Poole. In June 1978, Father Nolan requested sick leave. He died on December 30, 1978, at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois.

Rev. John A. Kuzinskas began his pastorate at Our Lady of Victory on March 25, 1979. Father Kuzinskas has the singular distinction of being the first Catholic priest to officiate at the wedding of a daughter of an incumbent President of the United States when Lucy Baines Johnson married Patrick J. Nugent. Prior to his appointment to O.L.V. he served as pastor of St. Bartholomew Church in Waukegan, Illinois.

In the late 1970s, Our Lady of Victory parish served more than 2,600 families who lived in the area bounded by Lawrence Avenue on the North, Irving Park Road on the South, Central Avenue on the West, and Cicero Avenue on the East. Annual enrollment in the parish school numbers more than 600 children.

This edited text of the history of Our Lady of Victory was taken from their website.

For a the complete history, see their website. www.olvchicago.org



Our Lady of Victory

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Our Lady of Victory also supports a vital Religious Education Center for all ages. From three and four year-olds to Seniors, we have a Religious Education Program for all.

Leisure time organizations are the heartbeat of Our Lady of Victory, from Scouting for boys and girls of all ages, sport activities, to our Mothers' Club, Parish Men's Club, Teen Club and including our very active Music Ministry of Children and Adult HandBell Choirs, Children's Choirs, Adult, Teen and special Choirs.

We welcome you to join with us in our celebration of God's Word.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Fr. Chris".

Reverend Christopher Doering, *Pastor*

<p>MASS SCHEDULE</p> <p><i>Saturday Evening Mass</i> 4:30 pm</p> <p><i>Sunday Masses</i> 8:00 am 9:30 am 11:15 am</p> <p><i>Weekday Masses</i> 6:30 am 7:30 am (Chapel) <i>Holy Day Masses</i> As Announced</p> <p><i>Rosary</i> Daily in the Lower Church after the 7:30 am Mass</p> <p><i>Novena to</i> <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> Tuesday 7:00 pm</p> <p><i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Every 1st Friday 8:00 am until 7:00 pm <i>Holy Hour</i> Last Sunday of month after the 11:15 am Mass</p>
