

increasing enrollment. Therefore, through his untiring efforts, the cornerstone for the new school was laid in 1912. The old school building was dismantled and the new school was finished.

In 1914, Fr. Boniface Weckman began the first children's choir at St. Wendelin. These young voices provided the singing for High Masses, Vespers and Funerals. This choir still exists today. Formal graduation ceremonies were inaugurated in 1919 by Fr. Marcellus Horn.

When Fr. Oswald Greiner became pastor in 1924, he brought an undaunted energy to the school. He used every opportunity to up-grade and modernize the school. What Fr. Oswald considered his greatest contribution to St. Wendelin was that he succeeded in getting a Religious Community of Sisters to administer and staff the school. On August 27, 1927, three Sisters of St. Francis (Millvale) arrived with Sr. Angeline Graner as Principal. A Convent was built for these Sisters and was blessed on September 1, 1927. This Religious Community still administers the school to the present day.

With the 1930s came the depression years. St. Wendelin School progressed as usual. One difference was that as long as weather permitted, the children walked to and from school bare-footed in order to save shoe soles. When the soles did wear through, rubber soles were glued on to make them last another season.

By 1950, St. Wendelin Parish had 136 families and the school had an enrollment of 140 children. Fr. Linuw Doemling, OFM, was pastor from 1949 to 1962. He was completely untiring in his efforts to serve the people of St. Wendelin, both spiritually and materially. He mowed the lawns of the Church Rectory and Convent. He drove the school bus. He worked right with the people in every endeavor including the building of the addition to the

school.

Many improvements have taken place in the 1990s. During the summer of 1991, the entire school was electrically re-wired and a Public Address system was installed. In December, 1992, the school secretary and Principal began an annual luncheon for the many people who volunteer their time and talents to help St. Wendelin School and Parish. The library books have recently been cataloged, computers have been added to the classrooms, and Spanish has been added to the curriculum.

All through the one hundred and fifty years, the people of St. Wendelin have placed a high priority on Catholic education. Next to food on the table and clothes on their backs, their children's foundation in Catholic doctrine and morals, as well as self discipline, have always been important. This training, begun in the home, is continued and strengthened in the Catholic School.

† † †

THE DIOCESE OF ALLEGHENY
by Monsignor Francis A. Glenn

Bishop Michael Domenec was consecrated as Bishop of Pittsburgh, in St. Paul's Cathedral on December 9, 1860, prior to the Civil War. The Civil War, and the post-war period, were very difficult times. Because he was of Spanish birth, Bishop Domenec was commissioned by the United States Government to present the cause of the Union before the Government of Spain, and it is recorded that of all such commissions, he was the only one who "really succeeded".

The constant growth of the Diocese, and the panic of 1873, made the work of the Bishop very arduous. To ease the situation Bishop Domenec advised the division of the Diocese, and the see of Allegheny was created and he



was appointed its first Bishop. This division, effective March 19, 1876, was most impractical, and Bishop Domenec was summoned to Rome to explain his recommendations for the division. July 29, 1877, Bishop Domenec resigned the See of Allegheny, and it was reunited to the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and later was entirely suppressed.

AN OVERVIEW OF
BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

At the January meeting, the new Board of Directors formally met. Elections for officers were held and the results were as follows:

- Rev. James W. Garvey - President
- Mike Aquilina - Vice President
- Anita Karg - Treasurer
- Mary Lloyd - Secretary

The following is a list of the other members of the Board:

- Paul Demilio
- Msgr. Russell Duker
- John Farmerie
- Sr. Anna Mary Gibson
- Msgr. Francis Glenn
- Jerome Janssen
- Anthony P. Joseph, Jr.
- Regina Kelly
- Rev. David J. Kriss
- Robert Lloyd
- Rev. Joseph Scheib

Gathered Fragments

Kathleen M. Washy
Mary Wohleber

The Society held its members meetings in October and February. Msgr. Russell Duker spoke about Eastern Rites at the October meeting and Fr. Kris Stubna spoke on Catholic Schools at the February meeting.

The upcoming October meeting will be held October 6 at Synod Hall. The speaker will be Fr. Joseph Link.

The Board of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania would like to thank those members who took the time to fill out the questionnaires last summer. Your input is valuable to us.

Gathered Fragments

Contributors: Sr. M. Zita Green, OSF
Msgr Francis A. Glenn
Editor: Kathleen M. Washy

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THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD HALL
125 NORTH CRAIG STREET
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