

FOREWORD

This History of St. Philip the Apostle Parish was created as the result of many hours of careful research and detailed work by Carvel Steinke. Preserving the history of our Parish is vitally important and Carvel's dedication and hard work is especially appreciated by Parishioners.

The following pages were originally created in 2005 and then updated periodically. Most recently, Carvel worked with John Spoelker to update and after many years, Carvel is handing over the task of maintaining the history.

We would like to thank Carvel for taking the initiative to capture and preserve the historical information and for maintaining the updates for almost 10 years.

Original Mission Statement of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church

We, the parish community of St. Philip the Apostle Church, are people committed to serve and to bring the message of Christ to all, while striving to live our own lives in accordance with His example and teachings.

The establishment and growth of St. Malachy and St. John the Evangelist parishes

It is with considerable interest that we look back at the history of two parishes which have ceased to exist, St. John of Foster and St. Malachy of Morrow; and how a new church, St. Philip the Apostle, was formed by the merging of these two churches into a single parish. Due to the lack of space and frequent flooding of both properties a decision to combine the two parishes came after members of the churches were queried about the proposal. Thus on August 1st, 1965 St. Philip the Apostle was dedicated. *1

According to a document by Robert Doane; St. Malachy was flooded in 1913, 1937, 1959, 1960, 1961, and 1963. *9 There is no mention of St. John Church ever being flooded, just the priest's residence in 1913 according to a letter from Rev. John J. Malone.

The histories of St. Malachy and St. John are very intertwined since most of the time they shared pastors. It is surprising how far some of the priests traveled to bring the Sacraments to this area, especially when you consider the transportation problems of the times, railroad hand-cars were a common method of transportation since they both were on the railroad line.

Ohio became a state in 1803, just a few years before it was a dense woodland and prairie. Homes were separated by great distances and the roads connecting the majority of communities were little more than Indian and animal footpaths or trails. Immigrants from Europe were pushing westward looking for land to call their own. Commerce followed and water routes by canal were opening. The railroad came of age, and the speed of travel was increased. *1

The railroad needed men to clear the land, lay the track and run the locomotives. In the 1840's Europe was in revolution and famine. People poured into America and the eastern United States was welcoming many with such signs as "Irish need not apply" when they sought employment. So they pushed west with the railroad - rugged, hardworking, freedom-seeking people. *1

One place that railroads were building and immigrant farmers were locating was Warren County in Ohio. Here William Clement was building the Little Miami Railroad. Many people working on this particular section of track or brought here by the press westward were Catholic. Mr. Clement laid out a new town in 1844, the town was named Morrow. It was named for the seventh governor of Ohio and president of the Little Miami Railroad Company. He was also a resident of Foster's Crossing. William Clement donated a certain section of land within Morrow so the Catholics might have their own church. It should be noted that William Clement was not Catholic. St. Malachy Church was erected in 1854 at a cost of \$2,000. In 1866 the belfry and tower were added at a cost of approximately \$3,000. The 400 pound bell in the belfry was a gift from the section hands. *1

St. Malachy was the first Catholic Church in Warren County and consisted of approximately forty families. Previously Catholic services were held in the Union Church which was used by all religions. People came to church in handcars from Milford and Xenia on the Little Miami Railroad. *9

On October 12, 1864 Archbishop John B. Purcell purchased a tract of land, approximately 5 acres on Morrow Woodville Road just outside of Morrow, from William H. Clement and his wife Caroline. The upper (South) part of the tract had been used as a cemetery prior to the purchase because there are tombstones dated prior to 1864. This part of the tract consists of approximately 2 acres and was called the Catholic Cemetery. The land at the back of the cemetery drops off very sharply into the creek many feet below. Over the years vandals have thrown many of the markers over the cliff, which then broke up on the rocks below. Especially damaged were the stones with crosses on top of them. They were more easily broken off.

At some undetermined time, someone came in and planted trees along the edges of the cemetery and in among some of the graves. This makes the burial area look smaller than it really is. There are flat stones in among the trees, which were always thought to mark graves even though there is no writing on them.

There were few burials after 1900. The last parishioner to be buried in the cemetery was Barbara Wund in 1960. Barbara and Margaret Wund owned a dry goods store in Morrow.

In 1940 Miss Alice Cain died and in her will she left a trust fund of \$11,000 in bonds and securities. Her will states, "The net income derived from said Bonds and Securities, shall be used for the care and upkeep of our family lot in the Catholic Cemetery near Morrow in Salem township, Warren County, Ohio; and the balance of the net income from said Bonds and Securities shall be used in the general upkeep of said cemetery." *2

Senator John Holden was the fund's first trustee and served as such until his death. He lived in Morrow on Railroad Street across from the railroad station. He immigrated to the U.S. around 1922 or 1923 and for a while worked at Rookwood Pottery. He suffered from TB in the 20's but successfully recovered from it. He passed away in the middle 50's.

Somewhere near Margaret Smith Trainer's (1908) grave there should be two unmarked graves for James and Hugh Trainer according to a letter from the great granddaughter of James Trainer, Mrs. Marguerite T. Moore of Burgaw, North Carolina.

At one time there was a grave marker at the very South end of the cemetery, but none is there now. Frank Schlake Jr. remembers mowing around it 50 years ago. He doesn't know what happened to it.

As best as can be determined there are 152 burials in the cemetery, but no one can find a plot plan. Vandals have done much damage over the years so no one can be real positive where some of the graves are located. According to the records of the Veterans Administration there are 11 Civil War soldiers buried in the cemetery, but only 10 graves can be located now and one body was supposed to be relocated to Nashville, TN, but a marker still exists for him here.

Frank Schlake Sr. was then appointed trustee by the Archbishop. The Schlake family cared for the cemetery throughout the 1950's, 60's, and 70's. At one time there was a fence along the part of the cemetery which fronts on the road. Frank Schlake Sr. removed it because of all the damage caused by automobile running into it, and all the trash that it tended to collect. It was much easier to maintain. *3

In 1982 George Johnson was appointed trustee and performed all the cemetery maintenance until May 2002. At that time the court terminated the trust and turned the funds over to Saint Philip the Apostle Church, "..... Certifies that upon receipt of the net assets of said trust, that it will use said assets to carry out the purpose of said trust in the care and upkeep of the family lot of Alice Cain and in the general upkeep of said cemetery". *4

In 1967 the unused portion of the tract of land, 3.9 acres, was sold to Earl and Jalah Reynolds for the sum of \$2300 by Father John Seaman at the suggestion of the Parish Council. The funds were used to pay part of the building fund debt.

The following article was copied from "The Western Star" - Lebanon, Ohio
Thursday June 26, 1952

Morrow Catholic Church to Observe Centennial Observance on Sunday

On Sunday, June 29, St. Malachy Catholic Parish will commemorate its centenary, the Rev. Father William Goldschmidt, pastor announced today.

For the celebration ,the Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati, will come for the first time to this parish since his installation as Archbishop of Cincinnati in 1950. He will sing a Pontifical High Mass at 10:30 a.m. Hardly a member of the parish today can remember when Mass was said by an archbishop in the church the last time. The retired. Rev. Mons. William

Welsh, Pastor of St. Ann Church Hamilton, and Dean of Butler and Warren Counties, will be the assisting priest at the Mass. Rt. Rev. Mons. Paul F. Leibold, Chancellor of Cincinnati Archdiocese, will deliver the sermon. The color corps of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will participate. Many priests of the archdiocese have been invited to attend as well as the officials of the city of Morrow. The Pastor, Rev. William J. Goldschmidt, cordially extends an invitation to all the people of Morrow.

A new crucifixion shrine of Our Savior will (be) erected by the date of celebration. (Sic) It is a gift of a man in Cincinnati. It will be an inspiration to the many passing motorists on the busy highway. It will be blessed by the Most Rev. Archbishop.

A dinner for the clergy will be served by the ladies of the parish and of St. John Parish, Foster, at one o'clock, in the St. John Catholic Parish building in Foster. After the banquet, at 2:30p.m. the Archbishop will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the members of both parishes, in the St. John Church, Foster.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

The parish of St. Malachy was organized a hundred years ago under the direction of Rev. William Blake, noted missionary priest of southwestern Ohio, and Pastor at that time of St. Brigid Church in Xenia. At that time he attended already (sic) missions at Circleville and Washington C.H. He was commissioned by the Most Rev. Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati to minister to the little group of railroad-construction men who settled at Morrow. He called a meeting of his prospective parishioners shortly after he received his appointment on Oct, 11, 1851. For some months Mass was said in one of the homes of the parishioners (sic). Then Mass was said in a union church which existed for different denominations until finally it was decided to build a parish church. That church is still standing and is being used. Cornerstone was laid Aug. 14, 1853. The present ground was donated by William H. Clement, president and general manager of the Little Miami Railroad at the time. The cost was \$2000. Though Mr. Clement was not a Catholic, he was very interested in the spiritual welfare of the men under his supervision. He was insistent that they perform their spiritual duties. He was helpful in establishing the parish. Father Blake continued to serve the parish from Xenia until 1859 when Rev. John Baptist O'Donoughue was appointed the first resident Pastor.

Mr. Clement toured Europe in 1856 and visited the Vatican. He was presented a commemorative medal by the then reigning Pope Pius IX, in a private audience and personally thanked by the Pope for his gift toward St. Malachy Parish in Morrow. This medal was in the possession of the late Senator Holden until his death when it passed to the parish.

The church and parish was in fine condition under the pastorate of Fr. John O'Donoughue. He built the belfry in 1886. This was done at a cost of \$3,000. The bell was donated by the Catholic men on the railroad. It weighs 400 pounds and is still in use. In the same year the parish bought a building adjacent to the parish property and it had been used as a school. This became the first rectory. The present rectory, however, was built in 1883 by another priest Father Henry Brinkmeyer, who succeeded Father O'Donoughue upon his death or rather murder. Father O'Donoughue was allegedly assaulted on Oct. 7, 1882 by one Timothy Greene. He died on Nov. 5, 1882.

The church was finally dedicated on Nov. 5, 1884. Patrick Denny and William Holden (father of

John Holden) met the Most Rev. Archbishop Elder in Cincinnati and accompanied him and his party to Morrow. The congregation knelt along the way of procession from the depot to the church.

The stained(sic) glass windows were insalled(sic) in 1892 by a Father George Germaine, who came from France and returned shortly there. These same windows were reconditioned in 1952.

The pews are the same as originally installed. They once had locks on them.

Once when the little children were making their first Holy Communion, a girl who was carrying a lighted candle fainted and the candle ignited the net-veil of another girl. The girl was burned but not seriously.

Some Pastors of late are: Rt. Rev. Mons. Chas. A. Hickey who is still living and served the parish in 1890. He is in retirement at the Good Samaritan Hospital. Rev. Chas. Diener who is pastor of St. Clara Church, College Hill, Cincinnati, who served from 1904-09; Rev. Francis Ratterman, who is pastor at Russia, Ohio, and served from 1918-21; Rev. Clarence Graf from 1921-26; Rev. Henry Volker from 1929-31, who is a patient in the Dunham Hospital, Cincinnati; Rev. Herbert McDevitt from 1931-35 who died in 1945; Rev. Raphael Rodgers, from 1935-41, who is pastor now of St. Mary Church, Chillicothe; Rev. Leonard J. Vonderbrink, from 1941 to 1947; Rev. Richard Kennedy from 1947 to 1950, who is pastor of St. John Church, Tipp City. The present pastor is Rev. Wm. J. Goldschmidt who came in Dec. 1950.

Prominent in the early history were names as Denny, Cassidy, Carroll, Molloy, Reilly, Holden, Smith, Trainor, Corcoran, Gray, Quirk, Penders, Conway, Tuite, Mitchell, Wund, and McGuiness.

Barbara and Margaret Wund are the only surviving people of the pioneer parishioners (sic) today.

St. Malachy Cemetery, one mile south of town, is the only Catholic cemetery in the county. There are twelve union soldiers buried in that cemetery. Two of the soldiers were killed in battle and one other died in Service. One of those killed in battle won the distinction of being the first Union soldier from southern Ohio to lose his life. The cemetery is endowed through the trust created by the will of Alice Cain, who died (sic) in 1940.

In 1951 Senator John Holden, right before his death, bought the property adjacent to the parish which was once the rectory and gave the property to the parish. *7

End of Article

Prior to the Civil War, Foster's Crossing had been a major stop over on the Underground Railroad for Negroes on their way through Ohio to Canada. In the 1870's and 1880's Foster's Crossing was the home of Governor Jeremiah Morrow.

St. John Mission Church was constructed on a hill overlooking a creek near the Little Miami River in 1883. The land was donated by Ed Daley. The priests serving St. Malachy took over the duties of this mission church and both parishes grew in membership. St. John became a parish in 1883, Masses were held there once a month. The foundation of this church can still be seen today on the west side of Socialville-Foster Road. There are pictures of this foundation in the master history binder, courtesy of Mr. Thomas Blatz Sr.

The following letters tell the history of St. John the Evangelist in the writer's own words. It is as though they were here telling their stories.

Following are reprints of actual letters that were part of the Archdiocese Archives. With permission of the director they were copied. Every letter is reproduced verbatim.

This is a cover letter followed by a 6 page history of Priests at Fosters written by Mrs. Ann Daly on 'The Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Co.' stationery. It is copied verbatim. *5

Foster Ohio Nov. 17th 1893

Most Revnd and Dear Abp,

I have complied with your request and send you names and residence of the different Priests who have attended this mission since I have resided in Fosters.

In 1850 when my brother and I were coming to this country, we had the very high privilege of assisting at a Mass celebrated by the Revnd Prince Gallitzean in the little log church which he built on the bank of the River in Johnstown, Penn.

Hoping I will have the pleasure of meeting you again, I remain your respectfully
Mrs. Ann Daly

Please pray for me.

1st

Fosters Warren County Nov. 6th, 1893

Names and residence of the different Priests who have attended this Mission during my residence here which is since the year of 1852.

The first Priest was the Revnd Thos Blake who resided in Xenia, Ohio and who began the erection of St. Malachy's Church in Morrow. The Church being finished during the time the Rev. J. B. O'Donoughue was pastor.

The second was the Revnd Dr. Pabisch who resided at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati and attended Brown Co. and Morrow and many of the Missions attached. The people of Fosters attended Mass in Morrow, going ten miles on a hand car. The Revnd Dr. came here and said Mass at my house one during his visit here. He had a sick call and several children to Baptize. This was in the year of 1854.

The third priest was the Rev. Fr. Foley who came here in the year of 1855 who resided in Milford. I wrote for him to come and say Mass at my house as there were so many old people who did not have an opportunity to receive the Sacraments.

2nd

The Revnd Robert Doyle who was then a boy and resided here served Mass. Fr. Foley said Mass in Fosters twice.

The forth Priest was the Revnd Peter Perry who came in the year of 1857 who also resided in Milford, O. He came here on two sick calls and another time to perform a marriage ceremony and to baptize two children. Fr. Perry also attended Morrow, O.

The fifth Priest was Revnd J. B. O'Donoghue who succeeded Fr. Perry coming to Milford from Hillsboro in the year of 1857. He attended all the Missions from Milford to Washington C. H. Ohio coming to say Mass in Fosters once or twice a year. He lived in Milford about ten years and then moved to Morrow, O.

The sixth Priest was the Revnd F. C. Mallon who came in the year 1868 and resided in Milford, attended Fosters and was the first Priest to give Mass on Sunday here. He also was the first Priest to administer First Communion in Fosters. Fr. Mallon lived in Milford eight months and was greatly beloved by all his people.

3rd

The seventh Priest to attend Fosters was the Revnd Fr. Anderson who came here the year 1869, resided in Milford, said Mass in Fosters once a month on Sundays, prepared a class for Confirmation and had them go to Milford to be Confirmed.

The eighth Priest was the Revnd Fr. O'Rourke who came in the year of 1873. Resided in Milford, gave Mass in Fosters once on Sunday. The people of Fosters had to attend Mass at Loveland as there was no Mass given in Fosters. So the congregation here wrote to the Most Revnd Apb Purcell for a Priest and he sent Rev. J. B. O'Donoghue a second time to attend Fosters from Morrow. He said Mass occasionally in Fosters. He said Mass at my house on Nov 2nd 1882 and was struck by Timothy Greene on Nov 7 and died Nov 10.

The Revnd Michael O'Donoghue succeeded Rev. J. B. O'Donoghue and resided in Morrow about three months, said Mass at my house twice.

The Revnd H. Brinkmeyer succeeded Fr. M. O'Donoghue. He came in 1883, resided in Morrow about six months. He had the Churches built in Lebanon, Waynesville and Fosters, also the parsonages in Morrow and Lebanon where he went to reside.

4th

He was assisted by Fr. A. F. Runnebaum for about three months. Fr. Runnebaum was the first Priest to give Mass in Fosters on an Easter Sunday.

The next Priest to attend Fosters was Rev. Jas O'Donnell who came in Dec 1884 and resided in Morrow, gave Mass in Fosters once a month. He died at the Good Samaritan Hospital Nov 4th 1891.

Fr. O'Donnell was succeeded by Rev. J. B. Dickhaus who came in Sept 1885, and resided in Morrow. He had a mission given in June 1886 by Frs. Francis and Boniface, C.P. in Morrow & Fosters, had the children of Fosters go to Morrow to be confirmed having the most Revnd Abp Elder come to Morrow to give confirmation.

The next Priest to attend Fosters was Rev. C. A. Hickey who resided in Lebanon, came here in

July 1888, attended here three months. He was succeeded by Fr. L.J. Miller who came here in Sept 1888 and resided in Morrow, said Mass once a month in Fosters. Fr. Miller was succeeded by Fr. C. A. Hickey coming a second time in June 1890.

5th

Fr. Hickey started a subscription to get new vestments and other articles for the Church. He has the credit of one convert in this Mission, Mr. Robert Cook, who suffered a paralytic stroke and whom the doctors had given us as hopeless, was Baptized and anointed by him, was restored to perfect health and is now a good member of this congregation. Even the Protestants who saw Mr. Cook said his recovery was miraculous.

Fr. Hickey was succeeded by Fr. Germain who was sent to Morrow, once a month came to Fosters and said Mass twice on week days.

The next Priest to attend Fosters was Rev. A. F. Runnebaum who resided in Lebanon and came here in Sept 1891, this being his second time to attend Lebanon and Missions. During his time in Fosters the congregation purchased a new bell which was blessed by him Aug 14th 1892.

Fr. Runnebaum was succeeded by the present Pastor Rev. Jn Cusack who came to Lebanon in Jan 1893, is the first Priest to give Mass twice a month in Fosters. He took a census in all his Missions finding many families who were Catholics and did not go to Mass.

6th

Fr. Cusack has brought many back to the Church. In taking census in this Mission he came to a sick German who had not been to the Sacraments for over twenty years. Fr. Cusack had a German Father to come and prepare him for death, the man dying a few days later after being prepared. Fr. Cusack had the Churches of Lebanon, Monroe and Fosters frescoed in oil paintings. He also prepared a class for First Communion and Confirmation in each of his Missions, being the first Priest to have the Most Revnd Abp visit Fosters. He also sees that the Germans have a Priest to attend their spiritual wants, having several Frs. of the Passion come here to attend them. All the people pray our Dear Lord to spare him long with them.

Mrs. Ann Daly

Fosters

Warren Co.

Ohio

(Following is a verbatim copy of a letter written to the Archdiocese in response to another request for information.) *5

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, FOSTERS, WARREN, COUNTY,

OCTOBER 9, 1912

It is a very difficult task to obtain an exact account of the early history of this Church since but two eyewitnesses are available.

Rev. Hanke of Xenia was the first priest in charge of Fosters. In the period between 1852 - 1854 he came from Xenia to Fosters and read two Masses.

In 1854 Rev. Dr. Pabisch of Mt. St. Mary Seminary, Price Hill, took the place of Rev. Hanke. During that year Dr. Pabisch visited a sick woman, baptized several children, and said Mass once in a house since there was no Church building.

In 1855 Fosters was placed under the care of Father Foley stationed at Milford. Rev. Foley discovered that quite a few of the older people had not yet fulfilled their Easter duty. He read Mass at Fosters on a certain weekday. A young man, Robert Doyle, who acted as server was later ordained to the priesthood.

In 1857 Rev. Foley of Milford was succeeded by Rev. V. Perry. He came to Fosters at various times to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice, prepared a number of sick people for death and administered Baptism several times. After Rev. Perry came Rev. V. J. O'Donoghue, who was transferred from Hillsboro to Milford. He went to Fosters once a year to say Mass. He was very zealous in the care of the souls entrusted to him. Besides Fosters Father O'Donoghue had charge of the following missions - Morrow, Monroe, Lebanon, Waynesville, Wilmington, and Washington Court House. In order to reach these places Father O'Donoghue, who resided at Milford as stated above, very often had to make use of handcars. On these tours he covered from 75 to 80 miles.

He labored in these missions from 1858 to 1867. Heretofore Fosters enjoyed but one annual Mass; beginning in 1864 however, Father O'Donoghue celebrated the Holy Sacrifice twice a year - but never on Sunday. The first Priest to read Mass on Sunday in Fosters was Father O'Donoghue's successor, Father F. C. Mallon of Milford.

He was made pastor of Milford and the neighboring missions in 1868 and accomplished much good among the Catholics in Fosters. He was the first priest to instruct a First Communion class there. The children of this class together with several adults then went to Milford to be confirmed. Father Mallon said Mass once a year in Fosters, visited a number of sick, and baptized several children.

Father Anderson was the next pastor; he read Mass once a month in Fosters on Sunday. He also prepared a class for Confirmation, who later went to Milford to receive the Sacrament.

In 1873 Rev. W. F. O'Rourke succeeded Rev. Anderson in Milford. He continued the latter's custom of saying Mass once a month in Fosters. About this time several families used to go a distance of 8 miles to Loveland to attend divine services. Since they were too poor to own a horse and wagon, they traveled on foot - certainly a great sign of their piety.

Rev. J. B. O'Donoghue resumed charge of these missions again in 1874, residing at Morrow.

He labored with his usual great zeal until his death in 1882. He was murdered by a fallen-away Catholic, a certain Timothy Green.

Rev. Michael O'Donoghue next had charge of these missions with his center at Morrow. He remained there but three months and during that time offered the Holy Sacrifice in Fosters about three times.

Rev. Henry Brinkmeyer succeeded him in 1883.

Father Brinkmeyer enjoyed great success as a mission priest. It was due to his efforts that the first church was built in Fosters. Until 1883 Mass had been celebrated in homes of the faithful. The church he built is still in good condition. He erected moreover, the priest's house at Morrow and the rectory and church at Lebanon.

His missions were Monroe, Fosters, Waynesville, and Lebanon; he had his residence at Morrow, where he remained about six months, visiting the congregation at Fosters monthly. From Morrow he went to Lebanon. At this time a young priest Rev. Runnebaum was made his assistant for the above missions. Father Runnebaum is now stationed at Holy Family church in Price Hill.

Rev. Runnebaum labored but three months on these missions; he was then appointed as assistant to the church of St. Augustine, Cincinnati. During his missionary work he said Mass at Fosters on Easter Sunday.

Rev. Brinkmeyer was followed by Rev. P. O'Donnell, who also chose Morrow as his residence; his missions were Fosters and Waynesville only. One Sunday monthly Father O'Donnell read Mass at Fosters. Two years later Rev. J. B. Dickhaus was given charge of these missions. He celebrated Mass once a month in Fosters, visited Waynesville, living however at Morrow.

These stations were next cared for by Rev. Charles Hickey, who chose Lebanon as his center. He said about three Masses at Fosters.

He was followed by Father Miller who resides at Morrow during his short pastorate, visiting Fosters several times. In 1890 Father Charles Hickey returned but remained only a short time during which he celebrated Mass several times in Fosters; he was succeeded by Rev. F. Runnebaum who came back to the missions as pastor of Lebanon and Fosters.

Rev. John Cusack was the next Pastor. He took up a census in Fosters and discovered that many Catholics had neglected their religious duties. Among these was an old man who had not performed his Easter duty for more than twenty years. Like his predecessors Father Cusack labored with great zeal. Through his efforts the church was frescoed. It was during his incumbency that Confirmation was conferred in Fosters for the first time.

In 1896 Rev. Michael Mulvihill took Rev. Cusack's place at Lebanon, coming once a month to Fosters. A year later he was followed by Rev. N. Kelly, who lived at Lebanon, visited Fosters monthly to say Mass, and give benediction immediately after. He was relieved by Rev. John

Singleton who also lived in Lebanon, saying Mass once each month in Fosters. He was Pastor from 1901 to 1902.

His successor was Rev. George Meyerhoefer who came from Lebanon to Fosters once a month. Then followed Rev. Charles Diener; this energetic priest read Mass three or four times a month in Fosters; he also contemplated the erection of a new church building in Fosters, and had the plans prepared. These plans, however, were made on too large a scale, i.e. the church they call for would cost \$15,000. Since during the past 7 years Fosters has numbered but 30 families of which 25 belong to the congregation, and since there is no expectation of an increase, it is evident that these plans were too ambitious and consequently they were abandoned. Rev. Diener worked here with great success from 1904 - 1910. He had his residence at Morrow.

He was followed by the present Pastor Rev. George H. Meyer, who came Jan. 22, 1910. He has charge of Morrow, Foster, and Jamestown.

The congregation in Fosters has cooperated generously. In 1912 the treasury showed a balance of over \$311.00. When \$4000 more will have been added a second Catholic Church with God's help, will be built.

There are several sodalities and societies in the parish or mission of Fosters, which have been in existence for 8 or 9 years. The present pastor lives at Fosters and attends to Morrow and Westchester.

(The letter is not signed.)

(Following is another letter written to the Archdiocese in response to their request for information. *5

Historical Sketch of St. John Church, Foster, Ohio

Mass was offered for the first time at Foster, Ohio in the year 1887 by Rev. John B. Donohue. At that time there was no church and Fr. Donohue offered the Holy Sacrifice in private houses - Molloy's, Burns', O'Brien's, and Daly's.

In 1883 Fr. Brinkmeyer, Pastor of St. Francis de Sales church, Lebanon erected a small edifice capable of seating about 96 persons. It cost \$1000 and was built on a lot deeded to the little congregation by the Daly family. The consideration mentioned in the instrument is "one dollar" and the consensus of opinion is that it was worth it.

For two years the new parish was attended from Lebanon or until 1885, when Rev. J. B. Dickhause was appointed pastor of St. Malachy church, Morrow; from which time until 1888 it was attached to Morrow as a mission. In 1888 it again became a mission of Lebanon and so remained for a period of sixteen years. The archives of Lebanon and Missions give us nothing of historical value during these sixteen years; from which we may charitably, if not logically, conclude that the good pastors who edified the churches during this period were much more zealous in doing than in recording their deeds. At least some future and less conscientious historian assume their modesty as proof of their inactivity and do them the injustice of silence, I give below a list of their names.

Revs. Charles Hickey, A. F. Runnebaum, John Cusack, Michael Mulvihill, Nicholas Kelly, John Singleton, George Meyerhoefer.

In 1904 Rev. Charles Diener became pastor of St. Malachy church, and Foster once more became a mission of that parish. In the meantime the congregation had outgrown the little church and Fr. Diener took some steps toward the erection of a new one. He purchased a lot of about one acre a mile from Foster and had a sketch made for a church which would cost about \$25,000. As this amount far exceeded the resources of the congregation, the church never got any farther than paper.

In 1910 Rev. George Meyer became pastor at Morrow succeeding Fr. Diener and when in 1912 a new combination of missions was formed, he took up his residence in a little shack at Foster. He moved thither in good time for the 1913 flood. Foster had now a resident pastor, but it could hardly be said that the pastor had a residence.

Rev. Wm. Casey succeeded Fr. Meyer in September 1913. His first concern was to relieve the crowded condition of the little church.

After many pros and cons it was decided to abandon the idea of a new building on a new site. Arrangements were therefore made to enlarge the old church and the work was begun in the summer of 1914. It was well along toward completion when on June 5, 1915 Fr. Casey was promoted and the present pastor appointed. The improvements were finished in August, 1915 at a cost of about \$3600. The church has now a seating capacity of 144, amply sufficient for the thirty families which make up the congregation.

This expense left the treasury almost depleted, and two or three members who had been

dreaming of having a residence built for the pastor were much disappointed. A meeting was called to see what could be done. Mr. Edward Daly proposed that each family contribute \$15. One man declared he would not give a cent, and as the rest remained silent, the meeting was adjourned without motion and sine die. With the permission of the Mt. Rev. Archbishop the pastor then took up his residence at Morrow and Foster once more became a mission.

In September 1915 Fr. Charles Cassidy C. P. gave a mission at Foster the first in seventeen years. It was a pronounced success. Sodalties were re-organized, Holy Name Society established, faith revived, a new spirit infused and Our Sunday Visitor introduced. As a result of the number receiving Holy Communion monthly has increased fourfold.

John J. Malone

(All spelling is exactly as in the letters)

The public school in Foster was closed in 1942; the Archdiocese of Cincinnati purchased the property in 1944 at public auction for \$7,000. This structure became the St. John Church. The Glenmary Brothers built an addition to the school that served as the chapel and they used the windows from the old St. John Church.

In 1957 the Honekamp family donated land near Twenty Mile Stand in the Myrtleville subdivision for a new church. But the property was never used, so eventually the family purchased it back. According to documents, as of 6/14/63, \$1113.00 had been paid in property taxes.

On July 20th, 1964 Rev Carl B. Luehrs wrote the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Chancellor a letter requesting the merging of the two parishes. There is a very interesting paragraph in his letter. Here is a portion of it: *"Three weeks ago, an Official from the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co, told me that St. Philip's property was exactly in the center of their population explosion survey of Warren County south. The Master Plan for the State of Ohio presently limits Urban Development from Cincinnati to the Eastern edge of Morrow, thereby designating the Eastern half of St. Malachy Parish (from Morrow to the Warren county line) as Agricultural Land Development."* Our present day population explosion was planned back in the early 1960's. A copy of the original letter is included in the master history binder.

These two Churches continued to serve the people until August 1, 1965 when they were merged to form Saint Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Zoar, Ohio.

Under the leadership of Father Carl O. Luehrs, who became the pastor of St. Malachy and St. John parishes in 1961, a campaign was begun for a new church on August 4, 1963. *6

Groundbreaking for the site of the new St. Philip the Apostle Church was October 4, 1964.

The new church was designed by Bankemper and Associates of Cincinnati, Ohio and was constructed by Building Crafts of Newport, Kentucky at a cost of \$165,000 on a 44-acre site along the U.S. Highway 22 & 3 in the hamlet of Zoar, Ohio. The Dick Clark family formerly owned this property. The house on the property was converted into a rectory for the pastor. The entire package was purchased for \$35,000. *6

The name of the new parish was selected from the names of the apostles at the suggestion of Archbishop Alter. May 3rd is the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle, the patron of our parish. St. Philip was an Apostle of our Lord and was one of the first called by Christ. He preached the gospel in Asia Minor until he was stoned and crucified by hostile pagans. His remains were transferred to Rome during the sixth century and concealed under the High Altar in the Church of the Twelve Apostles where he lies today. Our church has possession of a relic of this saint. *6

The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati, dedicated the Church building on Sunday, August 1, 1965. The new facility provided a church seating for 450 people, a kitchen, large hall for parish functions and CCD classes and a parking lot for fifty cars. *6

Many of the furnishings came from the churches in Morrow and Foster - the altar, baptistery and organ from St. John. The pews (supplemented by new ones), communion railings, tabernacle and canopy were from St. Malachy. The beautiful tabernacle was enshrined prominently on the shelf attached to the back wall. *6 Mrs. Evelyn Schuchter donated the Baldwin electronic organ and tone cabinet.

Many parishioners beautified the grounds and buildings through donations. Father John Jennings' family donated the statues in the circle in front of the building. The children in this shrine were modeled after the children of the late President John F. Kennedy. The Harry J. Hater Family donated the cross hanging on the south side of the church. The Venetian Enamel mosaic Stations of the Cross were imported from Dublin, Ireland. *6

Father Luehrs sold all the former church properties to help finance the new church facilities. He was pastor of St. Philip less than a year after the dedication. On May 31, 1966 Father Luehrs died of a heart attack. *6

Following the death of Father Luehrs, Father John Seaman was appointed pastor. He worked diligently to complete the work of the new parish. He served as pastor until 1969 when he was transferred to St. Mary Church in Oxford, Ohio. He also served as the Director of the Neumann Center at Miami University. *6

The next Pastor appointed to St. Philip the Apostle Church was Father Frances J. Marinelli. Under his leadership the church and grounds were paid off, and he had \$140,000 on deposit with the Chancery. He served until his retirement in 1979. *6

On May 23, 1970 a son of our parish, Norman W. Langenbrunner was ordained. Father

Norman said his first Mass here at St. Philip on May 24th, 1970. He is the son of Ralph and Grace (both deceased) and stepson of Marge Langenbrunner. He is currently (2003) pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Fairfield, Ohio. To date, this is the only 1st Mass said in our Church.

The next Pastor appointed to St. Philip the Apostle Church was Father Walter A. Hauser. Under his leadership the parish continued to grow. Sister Jane Roberts, SNDdeN was appointed full time Director of Religious Education in 1981. The Parish Council was initiated and it coordinated many improvements. An Allen organ was purchased, and air conditioning was installed in the Church. The Communion rail was removed when the carpet was replaced. *6

Also under Fr. Hauser's leadership a Woman's Group was organized. Many social activities were initiated, such as: Koffee Klatsch on the third Sunday of the month, an Easter egg hunt for the small children, parish basket picnics, spaghetti dinners, October Fest and a Network of Care Group. *6

Because of the unique design of our facilities, it is possible for the handicap and disabled to vote. St. Philip's was selected by the Warren County Board of Elections to serve as polling places for two precincts at election time. The rent is an additional source of income for the parish. *6

The facilities were also used for wedding receptions, meetings of the 4-H Clubs, Food Co-ops, Mission Workers, Youth Club, Bible Study Group, Cana Dinners, evenings of Recollection and the YMCA Physical Fitness Classes. *6

Also many major improvements have been made to the parish facilities. Because of increased energy costs, the oil boiler was replaced by a gas boiler in 1980. The original oil boiler was retained as a back-up heating system. The original parking lot was enlarged and resurfaced which provided parking for 100 cars. New outdoor lighting fixtures were also installed. Richard Viox and Tom Hutt donated their time and equipment to improve the appearance of the church grounds, especially around the pond. An office was built for the Director of Religious Education. Donations from the Estate of Paul Hildebrant and Dorothy Hildebrant Trust Fund were used to pay for the construction of the Cry Room and the new penance or Reconciliation Room. It should be mentioned that the Hildebrants were not members of St. Philip's but life-long residents of the Maineville area. *6

The number of registered families dropped considerably when St. Margaret of York parish was established in the Landen area. But by 1990 when the 25th Anniversary was celebrated, the number of registered families was back up to 425. The 25th Anniversary was celebrated with an outdoor Mass under a very large tent to accommodate all those in attendance.

In 1991 Father Walter Hauser retired. His successor was Father J. C. Allison. Under his leadership Our Lady of Zoar Shrine and brick walkway was dedicated. New lighting,

carpet, and air conditioning of the CCD classrooms and basement were installed. The church's roof was replaced; and the parking lot was resurfaced. Perpetual Adoration was started at St. Philip with almost all of the 168 hours in a week covered.

Father J. C. Allison undertook a big project, the \$830,000 expansion and remodeling of St. Philip Church in 1999. The church was transformed into a round designed worship space with the table in the center. The Tabernacle was removed and installed in the cry room, which then became a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. The Crucifix and statues were removed to the narthex. The altar was made smaller and the altar stone removed. It was then used as a base for the statues. A Baptismal font large enough for adult immersion was installed in the narthex. The Stations of the Cross were the only original items that remained in the new worship space. The former elevated sanctuary area became the choir area with some seating. The new worship space contains 500 chairs with kneelers attached to the back of the chairs. Much needed offices were built in the basement for the pastor and staff.

Cost overruns expanded the expenditure to \$1,300,000. The capital campaign was based on the \$830,000 figure with about \$525,000 pledged. As of this writing (2002) most of the pledges have been paid.

Although Father Edward B. Stolze had been announced as our new Pastor in the spring of 1999, because of the remodeling project Fr Allison delayed his retirement until November 21, 1999. Fr. Allison returned for the official dedication on December 12, 1999 by the Most Reverend Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati.

Sister Jane Roberts, SNDdeN left to assume a new position and was replaced by Sister Mary William Luxford, O.S.U. Sister Mary William became the Coordinator of Religious Education, which included the RCIA ministry.

Father Edward B. Stolze came to shepherd St. Philip parishioners. His first role was one of a healer of a divided parish. The remodeling which converted the traditional Church into a modern worship space in the round caused a divided parish. He performed his role as peacemaker admirably. The Good Lord provided the right man for the job.

At his first Pastoral Council meeting, Fr. Ed asked the Council if there would be any objection if he brought his mother, Edna, to live with him. He received unanimous approval and Edna was welcomed and loved by all. This was to be the first house she had ever lived in, and she enjoyed it so much better than the apartments.

The Parish Council decided that it was time to either refurbish the rectory or replace it. No improvements had been made to it during the tenure of Fr. Allison. The Pastoral Council directed Carvel Steinke to oversee the project. For less than \$15,000.00 the rectory received new windows, roof, gutters, and siding. (A very interesting side note: I contacted Gilkey Window because I had them in my home and was satisfied. I was there when the Gilkey salesman arrived with a passenger. I took them into the rectory and was

very surprised when Fr. Ed knew the passenger. He was Mike Gilkey in person. Fr. Ed had baptized all his children.) The St. Malachy Knights of Columbus Council # 5128 took on the project of soliciting donations and installing a completely new modern kitchen and painting the garage attached to the rectory. The kitchen was gutted down to the subfloor. Carvel Steinke did a fish fry of Lake Erie walleye at his home and invited 12 families and their checkbooks. \$7200.00 was donated by 12 families. This was the exact amount needed. This remodeling effort was completed in just one week by Marion Ackman and Carvel Steinke while Fr. Ed and Edna took a vacation.

The number of parishioners continued to grow rapidly because of the growth of the area. The parking lot was expanded to accommodate another 80 cars in 2002.

In 2002 Father Stolze started the transformation of the Parish Council to a Pastoral Council. Commissions were formed to better serve the parish and move away from a maintenance or repair council. This most providential change improved the operation of the parish.

In January the Baptismal Fount in the Narthex began leaking into the basement copier room. It had to be drained, cleaned and inspected, but the source of the leak could not be determined. Meeting with the Church remodeler, Beischel Construction Co, was no help and it was not covered by any guarantee. The original portable Baptismal font was put back into use. Estimates to repair it ranged from \$6700 to \$18,000. Eventually parishioner and K of C member Gary Merz of Valcom Enterprises personally took it apart and put it back together properly in the summer of 2004. The fount was installed partially on the original solid 6 inch concrete church floor and on the new floating floor which probably caused the leak.

The Commissions allowed the Parish to function after his untimely death. On February 16, 2003 Fr. Stolze suffered a massive heart attack between the rectory and Church and died instantly on his way to Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass. He was not discovered immediately because of the extremely deep snow.

Father Ed was laid out in his Church on Friday February 21st from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There was a half hour entrance service at 5:00 pm -the Rite of entrance for bringing the body into the Church. A huge crowd of people came to pay their respects. Five men directed traffic in the parking lot. There was a steady stream of cars in and out, but they never overflowed the lot. Because of 6 feet of snow pushed all around the lot, there was no parking on the grass, besides it had started to warm up a little so the ground was soft under the snow. *10

For the funeral Saturday, 684 chairs were placed in the worship space and 50 in the narthex. Only a few empty seats could be seen. 62 priests attended the Mass. Archbishop Pilarczyk was the celebrant of the Funeral Mass, Auxiliary Bishop Moeddel was also present. *10

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard from Fr. Butler Assembly #814 stood guard at the casket Friday evening. Father was a 2nd Degree K of C member. The 4th Degree also was present at the Funeral Mass. Quite a few other K of C members from Council #5128, St. Malachy, also marched in and out of Church with the funeral procession. They formed the arch of swords as his body was moved out of Church to the waiting hearse. *10

Between 47 and 50 cars of people went to the Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Price Hill in a very heavy downpour of rain. The procession took Montgomery road to US RT 48 North to I71 South to US RT 50 East to Price Hill. Traffic was stopped on Fort Washington Way because it had to cross 4 traffic lanes to exit left. The final service was conducted in the mausoleum because of the tremendous downpour of rain which was accompanied by one extremely loud clap of thunder. *10

The Communications Commission kept the parishioners informed about how the parish was running and how the future looked. It attempted to squelch any rumors by timely accurate information. Rumors at a time like this can destroy the morale of a parish. The one month old Property Management Commission worked with Fr. Mark Burger through Sr. Mary William to keep the Church functioning as well as possible and take care of any maintenance problems.

At that time Father Mark Burger, Dean of St. Andrew's Deanery and Pastor of St. John's Church in West Chester, was appointed as the temporary Parochial Administrator of St. Philip Church until the assignment of a permanent Pastor. Sister Mary William Luxford was appointed the contact person for St Philip's parish by the Archdiocese.

Inserted here are letters from the Communications commission intended to stop the rampant rumors after Fr. Stolze's death.

Communications Letter # 1

MARCH 1, 2003

We have suffered a great loss in the death of Fr. Ed, but we must continue on the path that he laid out for us. This we will do under the guidance of Fr. Mark Burger our appointed Parochial Administrator.

We will continue our normal Sunday schedule. The celebrants for the Sunday Masses are already scheduled several weeks out. We will have daily Masses as often as possible, with Communion services the other days. But please remain flexible. For the Sacrament of Reconciliation you will need to go to a neighboring parish at this time.

Emergency Sacramental needs, such as Anointing of the Sick, will be taken care of by neighboring parishes. The procedures are already in place and have been because of Fr. Ed's extensive traveling with Marriage Encounter. Please contact the Parish Office.

When will we get a new priest?

Now what is going to happen to Father's mother?

What are we going to do? These are natural questions.

When will we get a new priest? Right now the Archbishop himself can only guess at the answer. Priests who would be available must be identified and then given the opportunity to look at our parish to determine if they think they would fit into it. This process will not happen in a matter of weeks. We need to pray for Divine guidance in this selection process. Father Ed was the right priest for us in 1999; now please pray for another one.

What will happen to Fr. Ed's mother, Edna? I don't know. The thing I told Edna last week was, "Please, don't make any decisions at this time. Wait until the waters calm a bit. You will have plenty of time later to think about your future. Just remember, we, of St. Philip's parish, have adopted you, and somehow we will help you." If we ask the Good Lord to send His Spirit to guide us, I have complete confidence everything will work out. God's plans are always better than the best of ours.

What are we going to do? We are going to carry on in the direction Fr. Ed has set our course, but we will not act alone. We will coordinate everything through Sister Mary William for approval from our Parochial Administrator. We will obediently carry on as smoothly as possible.

This will demand every parishioner's cooperation to work together. We cannot do this if we give in to the rumor network. Instead of partaking in idle gossip of our future, please say a "Hail Mary" for it.

Here is a list of the major activities scheduled at this time:

March 19 - Lenten talk by Father Bok O.F.M.

March 28 - Fish Fry by the Knights of Columbus

April 2 - Lenten talk by Father Putka S.M.

April 11 - Fish Fry by the Knights of Columbus

April 26 - Monte Carlo - re-scheduled from March 1

Watch the bulletin for the schedule of other Lenten devotions.

By your presence at these activities, you will be making a statement, "I believe in St. Philip's parish, and somehow only God will turn our tragic loss into good."

Pastoral Council Communications chairman, Carvel Steinke

COMMUNICATIONS LETTER # 2

March 8, 2003

I have been asked by Fr. Mark Burger to keep writing communications letters to keep you informed of what is happening at St. Philip.

Where is Edna? How is she? I haven't seen her. The rectory is dark at night.... etc, etc, etc....

Mrs. Stolze is currently staying with the Russell Williams family. It is very charitable of them to help her. She doesn't feel as though she can stay by herself at this time. She has some medical problems to solve. Losing her son has really been difficult for her. But with our support she will come through okay. Our prayers will help also.

We had a very good Pastoral Council meeting Tuesday evening. Father Mark Burger, our Parochial Administrator, attended and added very much to the meeting. (Henceforth he shall be known as Fr. Mark.) He is the Dean of our Saint Andrew Deanery; he is chairman of the Diocese Personnel Board. He gave us excellent advice. He gave us a questionnaire to fill out, which will be given to all the priests who want to consider relocating to St. Philip. The Council has scheduled a special meeting on March the 11th to fill it out.

Fr. Mark explained how the selection process works. We are not alone, there are 14 other parishes needing a pastor. BUT don't get frightened by the numbers, you need to know what is happening. We WILL get a new pastor. We must patiently allow the process to work. The most probable date for a new pastor is the first of July. Until then, please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the process and that we will get a pastor who is right for us as was Fr. Ed.

This interim time between pastors is our grieving time for Father Ed, a time to submit to God's will, and a time to prepare for our new pastor.

I most sincerely apologize to the organizers of the Spaghetti Dinner for omitting it from the schedule of major events in last week's letter. Please show up. One of the ways to entice a new priest to our parish is to demonstrate that we are alive and functioning. Attending functions like this is another way to demonstrate it.

You probably don't know it, but we have already had two priests visit us - incognito. They want to see us as we really are. This is normal. Father Ed first came to see us on a Sunday afternoon in Lent during the Stations of the Cross. He was dressed in street clothes. You just never know!!!!

Why is the Baptistry empty? I heard it was leaking, when will it be fixed? Yes it leaks, and no one has been able to determine why. Two companies have looked at the problem, but no solution yet. Yes, the company who installed it has been out. Look at the bright side, according to Church tradition it is supposed to be empty during Lent. But the down side -- it will not be fixed before Easter. It will be a very expensive item to fix. Common sense says to wait until our new pastor has arrived and let him decide what to do with it. Fr. Mark agrees.

Pastoral Council Communications Chairman, Carvel Steinke

COMMUNICATIONS LETTER # 3

March 16, 2003

I don't know how many more Communications letters will be required. I will keep you informed if there is something to report, but I will not waste your time with worthless stuff. Valid information prevents rumors.

This will be the last bulletin insert. **ALL FUTURE LETTERS WILL BE ON A TABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU. THEY WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER MASS.**

Isn't it great to see lights on in the rectory again! Yes, Edna is back! In the evening of March 6th she went to the hospital with severe back pain. She came home March 8th, and is feeling a lot better. Good news -- she plans to stay here for a while. Visit her.

If you have been in our kitchen lately, you would have noticed that the old big cooler is missing. It has been slowly wearing out. March 7th Pepsi came and delivered a new cooler free of charge. We can thank Ken Schuchter for setting all this up. We now have an account with Pepsi; therefore we will be using their products at our future functions. Their prices are good and they will deliver on Fridays. If your group is going to have a function, please contact me - Carvel Steinke - or Charlene Huber for an order form.

In return for the free cooler, Pepsi deserves our support.

We had an excellent Pastoral Council meeting March 11th to address a questionnaire from the Archdiocese about our parish. The meeting was long, 3+ hours, and everyone kept an excellent attitude of cooperation. Getting an amicable consensus from a group is many times impossible. I am convinced this happened only because the Holy Spirit was present and guiding us. Every parish needing a priest must fill out this form and forward it to the Archdiocese.

As a united parish we must pray that the Holy Spirit direct the selection process. If we pray for a certain priest to come, then we are praying that God does our will. If in prayer we submit to God's will, then we will get the priest who will be just right for St. Philip Parish.

No, we didn't forget about the sign. It is ordered. It should be here by the first of the month. Father Ed had made all the arrangements; he just hadn't signed the contract. Father Mark signed it.

Pastoral Council Communications Chairman, Carvel Steinke

COMMUNICATIONS LETTER # 4

April 6, 2003

I think this news is worth another communications letter. In case you missed the announcement last weekend, we have a new Pastor. No, I don't mean that he is on site, his start date will be the first weekend in July. That is the official date for the priests to make their move to their new assignments.

Our new Pastor will be Father Ronald J. Piepmeyer. He has been celebrating Sunday Mass here quite often. Currently he is the Parochial Vicar at St. Cecilia parish in Oakley. He will be working on a biography to be distributed shortly before his arrival.

We have been praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the selection process so I feel confident that he will be the exact priest St. Philip needs for its future. Now let's say a lot of prayers of thanksgiving for our new Pastor.

The Spaghetti dinner was a success as was the Knights of Columbus fish fry. We fried 240 pieces of fish and 60 pounds of fries. We are planning to fry more next Friday the 11th. Come on out!! We appreciate your support.

One of the goals of the Communications commission is a personal welcome of the new parishioners after they register. We have put together a Welcoming package and now we need some volunteers

who would like to personally deliver the booklet and greet the new members of St. Philip's parish. The more parishioners who join in the effort, the better we will be able to assist our new members. Just think of how much you would have appreciated someone taking the time to personally say "Welcome". Please contact me, Carvel Steinke at 513-683-0813.

Have you noticed the new sign? The old one will be removed. This is just the completion of one of Father Ed's projects. Another project of Father Ed's to be completed is lighting up the flag, and new lights for the grotto, and power to the garage. Frey Electric had been contracted to do this when they rewired the parking lot lights. When the parking lot was expanded the wires were cut, because the old wiring was direct burial about a foot under ground. The wire now is in conduit 4 feet deep. This should be completed in the near future.

We are going to be needing volunteers to assist in beatifying our cemetery before Memorial Day. There are quite a few Civil War Veterans buried there. Frank Schlake and George Johnson have worked hard caring for it for many years. The care was turned over to St. Philip's Church last year. It has a very interesting history that I would like to make available to everyone, but I don't have a target date at this time. Interested??? Please contact Stephen Pirtle at 513-877-2746 or me.

Pastoral Council Communications Chairman, Carvel Steinke

On March 29, it was announced that Father Ron Piepmeyer will become our new Pastor the first weekend in July 2003, the time that priests switch to their new assignments.

On May 16th, just 3 months after her son's death, Edna died. Many who knew her said that she just couldn't go on with out Fr. Ed. It was a sad loss.

Once more, the Knights of Columbus took on the task of remodeling part of the rectory. New carpet was installed in the first floor, and the first floor rooms were painted. New window treatments were installed. Thirteen ladies from the parish helped this time. The downstairs rectory bathroom was remodeled. Thad Agricola was hired to do some of this work. With a joint effort of the ladies Carvel Steinke and Thad the entire project was completed in one week after Father and Edna Stolze's belongings were finally removed. It was completed 1 hour before Fr. Ron's moving truck arrived. Fr. Ron's arrival was delayed by a week because of the delay in removing Fr. Ed's personal belongings.

July 6, 2003, at 10:30 am Father Ron Piepmeyer officially celebrated his First Mass as the Pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church. The Knights of Columbus, St. Malachy Council #5128 and Fr. Butler Assembly #814, escorted him at Mass and then hosted a pancake breakfast for the parish.

As our parish continued to grow, Susan Hamel was hired as part time Business Manager. Also the Finance committee was expanded to provide more expertise in this area. The Property Management and Maintenance commission continued to work with the business manager to resolve maintenance problems as efficiently as possible.

Since Pope John Paul II had declared the year of 2005 to be the year of the Eucharist,

Fr. Ron started Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour after the 9:00 am Saturday Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the same time.

The parish is alive and well. Michael Walsh was hired as full time Youth Director. He is effectively working with the youth of the parish to help them understand their Faith and live it. And on the other end of the spectrum, the Seniors group is very active with meetings and travels.

During the past two fiscal years (July 2003 -June 2005), the parish debt has been reduced from \$805,173 to \$399,973. This has been primarily due to the increased generosity of parishioners combined with significant refinements in parish financial management by Fr. Ron's leadership.

In June 2005, it was recommended to Archbishop Pilarczyk that St. Philip the Apostle and St. Francis De Sales (Lebanon) form one of thirteen "pastoral regions" within St. Andrew Deanery. Under this plan, the two parishes would seek closer cooperation in various aspects of parish life in case, at some future time, they would have to share a single pastor.

St. Philip the Apostle parish should be rightfully proud of their two seminarians in Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Mr. Barry Stechshulte entered the seminary in 2004; and Mr. William Hancock will enter on August 21, 2005. The Good Lord is truly blessing this parish.

Mr. Russell Williams, chairman of the planning committee, along with Fr. Ron is planning the 40th Anniversary Celebration of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church. There will be a parish picnic on Sunday and an evening Mass on Monday followed by a reception for the entire parish. The St. Malachy Knights of Columbus #5128 will provide the food and prepare it for the July 31st Parish Picnic, and also prepare the snacks for the August 1st reception after the Anniversary Mass. The new Blessed Sacrament Assembly #2879 of Wilmington, Ohio will provide the Color Guard for the Anniversary Mass. Fr. Butler Assembly #814 of Hamilton, Ohio will also be invited.

July 12, 2005 end of document created for the 40th Anniversary. Following is updates for historical purposes.

2006 HISTORY UPDATE

Through God's grace and the generous support of parishioners, the debt was drastically reduced. By the end of 2006 the debt was under \$200,000.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament has continued on Saturday mornings, even though the year of the Eucharist has ended.

A new pictorial directory was started in 2005 and completed the first part of 2006.

Saint Vincent de Paul Chapter was started at St. Philip the Apostle on May10, 2006.

Michael Walsh, our Youth leader, resigned in August 2006. He will be missed because he has been very successful in attracting the youth of the parish. Fred Weideman was hired to take his place. He attended Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. But Fred Weideman had to resign for personal reasons. Michael agreed to come back part time until the end of the school year in the spring of 2007.

On March 6th the first measurements were taken of the inside of the Church to determine if we could increase the number of chairs. Several preliminary drawings were made before putting the concept on a Cad Cam program. This allowed for an exact count of the number of chairs and easy layout changes. About the first of June, the fire marshal said that he had allowed metal chairs around the perimeter of the Church as long as possible. Fr. Ron started the process of getting approval for the reconfiguration from the Worship Office.

Work was started a week after approval was received. The Church body was reconfigured and thereby increased the seating to 563 plus several wheelchair spots. A new decorative wall was built and the Altar was moved to the original location before the 1999 remodeling. The process took less than 3 weeks to complete. Many parishioners participated in the reconfiguration process, and donations covered almost all of the expenses. *12

2007 HISTORY UPDATE

Mathew Burkert asked if there were any Eagle Scout projects at St. Philip. I took him and Gary (his father) to the Morrow Catholic Cemetery. When I showed Mathew the project, he was enthusiastic and ready to start. He cleaned up the cemetery, cleared a lot of brush, cleaned up the tombstones and put many back together with a special epoxy. He retrieved as many as he could find from the hillside and creek in the rear of the cemetery. Vandals had destroyed many of the stones. He built a new cross, improved the driveway, and installed picket fence at the drive entrance. He did an excellent job and was awarded his Eagle Scout badge. Later the cemetery property and the funds that remained in the trust fund were turned over to Salem Township.

The debt to the Archdiocese was significantly reduced this year. It will be paid off next year. That is an exceptional accomplishment.

The adjoining property on the South side came up for sale so St. Philip purchased it for \$132,512. After a refurbishment it became the new rectory. The Pastoral Council hasn't been able to come up with a decision on the use of the old rectory. Since Father Ron moved to the new rectory, the Church property should now become tax exempt. The Archdiocese is pursuing this matter. Property tax savings should eventually pay for it.

2008 HISTORY UPDATE

Two large tents (40'x60') were purchased for the Parish use, thanks to an anonymous donor. The Knights of Columbus erected one for Vacation Bible School and both were erected for the Parish Picnic.

The debt was paid off before June 30. The parish celebrated with a "Debt Pay-Off Party" on July 20. It truly was an event to celebrate. The entire debt was paid off in nine years.

David Merz contacted St. Philip asking for an Eagle Scout Project. He had an idea to install a pump and use lake water to water the flowers at the Statue of Mary. This made the maintenance of Mary's flower garden very much easier. He also built a decorative fence around the Church's septic system. He earned his Eagle badge for his fine work.

The Saint Malachy Knights of Columbus Council #5128 purchased a statue of St. Philip the Apostle for the Parish. Once again George Johnson agreed to build the pedestal for it. Fr. Ron commented that if the Knights get their Statue of Saint Malachy refurbished it could be placed in the Sanctuary opposite the Statue of Saint Philip. It was placed there on December 19 on another of George Johnson's exquisitely made shelves. We are very pleased to have our own statue of St. Malachy in the Church.

On July 17 plans to bring the Tabernacle back into the main body of the Church were being discussed. Hurricane Ike came through the area on September 14 accompanied by very high winds. It damaged many roofs and trees. The Church roof was damaged; many shingles were blown off the South side. But there was no rain with Ike. It was over a week until power was restored to the Church. I brought a generator to power the PA system for the weekend Masses. Then on October 8 it rained for the first time. Water ran into the Adoration Chapel from the damaged roof. The ceiling was in danger of collapsing. After 9 am Mass Fr. Ron said the Blessed Sacrament and the Tabernacle had to be moved out. I contacted George Johnson again. By 4 pm George, Frank Scalese and I built a platform, installed two spotlights, and had the Tabernacle and Sanctuary candle moved into the main body of the Church. We used the old Altar from the original Church as a table for the Tabernacle. Fr. Ron decided that the Tabernacle move would be permanent so on November 8 we carpeted the platform. The carpet was donated by Bowling's Carpet. George Johnson will build a new Altar for the Tabernacle.

The roofing companies were extremely busy, so the Church roof did not get replaced until the first week in January 2009. Insurance would not replace the entire roof, just the damaged areas. Since the roof was 17 years old this was not a good option. The entire roof was replaced except for the flat roof over the new addition and St. Philip paid the additional cost.

The old rectory driveway was badly broken up so it was replaced in the fall.

Parish survey by Pastoral Council was mailed to registered parishioners. The survey results showed 54% in favor of building a new church. Another result of the survey caused the Mass schedules to be changed. The 10:30 am Mass was very crowded and the 8 am Mass had plenty of room. Changing the Mass times to 9 and 11 am relieved this problem.

St. Janet Schneider, CDP came to St. Philip as Coordinator of Religious Education/Youth Ministry.

2009 History Update

George Johnson built a beautiful Altar for the Tabernacle. It was installed on April 8th right before Easter and is a beautiful addition to the Church. The stained glass in the legs was left over from the reconfiguration project, exactly what was needed.

A steel carport canopy 24 feet by 30 feet was erected on an existing slab of concrete where the storage garage was previously located. It was paid for by an anonymous donor. It is used for Summer Bible School activities, staff summer lunch spot, and also the cooking area for the Knights to prepare the food the Parish Picnic. It was decided this year that the time for the picnic will be fixed at the first Sunday after Labor Day. Since 2002 the Knights of Columbus have purchased, prepared and served the food for the Parish Picnic. They also erect the Church's tents for various activities.

St. Philip the Apostle member Fr. Barry Stechshulte ordained a Priest on May 23 by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Philip on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009. He was assigned to Holy Trinity parish in Coldwater Ohio for 3 years. The Knights of Columbus erected the tents for the ordination party for Father Barry Stechschulte held on May 31st. It was an afternoon reception for the parish and well attended.

The major action of 2009 was the parking lot and driveway improvement. The drive was relocated so that it didn't pass directly in front of the Church steps. This was a major safety concern. More handicap spaces were made and relocated for easy access to the handicap ramp. The lot was expanded toward the North for additional parking spaces. The entire lot was crack filled, top coated and restriped to accommodate the new traffic pattern. The driveway between the parking spaces was increased for easier parking. Two cars can actually pass if necessary. Two light poles were added, others were moved and all the heads were changed to properly illuminate the parking lot. It is now a white light instead of the red sodium vapor. The driveway lights were also changed.

As part of this project, a walk path from the rectory to the Church was planned if it would fit into the budget. The parking lot came in under budget enough to pay for the walkway. But since the fall rains were starting, it was delayed until better weather next spring.

The Knights of Columbus, St. Malachy Council #5128, purchased 35 new 8 foot tables and 5 round tables for the Church basement. The old ones were in bad condition. They also purchased an event grill for the Church. It is an 8 burner propane grill on wheels. The Knights also purchased a 35 foot aluminum flag pole with internal halyard to replace the one blown down last year and the Knights installed it themselves.

The Church lighting control computer crashed on November 27th. It was decided, for the time being, to return to the easier, more simplified system of plain switches to control the lights. We did an emergency fix on the 27th so that we would have lights for the weekend. The following week Dave Honkomp installed the switches. They are so much easier than dealing with the lighting system computer.

Based on the parish survey of 2008, a Planning Committee was established under the leadership of Fr. Ron and Robert Stegeman which held its first meeting in May. Its purpose was not to plan a new church, but to plan how the land would be developed in the future, where a new church would be built if necessary and the corresponding buildings. CDS Associates was hired to draw up a master plan based upon the committee's recommendations.

2010 History Update

First Deacon for St. Philip the Apostle parish - Deacon David Wallace ordained permanent deacon by Archbishop Schnurr on April 24, 2010. Later that year Deacon Paul Liebold (already ordained) came to St. Philip from St. Mary Church in Hillsboro. He moved here because of job relocation.

St. Janet Schneider, CDP left St. Philip in July. Mary Orite-Shea became the new parish Coordinator of Religious Education/Youth Ministry.

Pastoral Council spent much time discussing a possible future church building, fundraising, and reviewing reports from the Planning Committee.

2011 History Update

Fr. Ron finally dismissed the Planning Committee in 2011 because the downturn in the economy and Little Miami School problems has caused many parishioners to leave the area and our membership growth was static. Also he would be retiring in 2015 and it would not be right to plan a building and then hand it over to someone else to build.

2012 History Update

12/3/2012 the original rectory was demolished by Evans Corp. We had removed anything of value from the old rectory. Maintenance men, Frank Scalese and Dave Honkomp had

removed all the copper plumbing and wiring and sold it for several hundred dollars which was given to the building fund. I removed all the kitchen cabinets that I had installed in 2002 and sold them for \$600.00 which I gave to the building fund at Church. I delivered them down in Northern Kentucky. Since the sign out front was powered from the rectory, it went dark but not for long. We planned to do a direct burial of the wire as soon as the gas line installation was completed. Duke Energy had to install a new gas line from the road to the Church because the old rectory was tied into the original line. The trench wasn't backfilled before the winter rains and snow started so we measured the wire needed, put a male plug on both ends, and plugged it into the outlet on the sign and the other end in an outlet on the Church, and laid it on top of ground. Thus the sign was dark for only one night

Tom Shea presented to Pastoral Council at a 2012 meeting an impressive presentation of updated local population growth estimates. Parish size is expected to be stable over next 3-5 few years. The council decision following this presentation was that the Parish needed to increase the fellowship opportunities and needed volunteers in order to accomplish this work.

2013 History Update

4/5/2013 took my tractor and subsoiler to Church to direct bury the wire to the sign out front. I have fabricated an attachment to the subsoiler to direct bury wire. I followed the new gas line trench which is why we had to wait until the ground dried out from the winter.

4/27/2013 David Bertsch started work on an Eagle Scout project at Church. He is installing a tombstone memorial to the 'Victims of Abortion'. The Knights of Columbus Council #5128, St. Malachy, and the Ladies Auxiliary funded the project. He laid the walkway to the memorial this day. The K of C had previously sold bricks (pavers) to help fund it. There were 94 bricks that could be engraved. The sales were overwhelming and 124 bricks were sold so David was able to rearrange the pattern to get them placed in the same space.

4/29/2013 he put in the foundation for the tombstone, which was delivered on 5/7/2013.

5/11/2013 he made the flower beds surrounding the memorial.

St. Philip the Apostle Mission statement was updated as follows:

The parish community of St. Philip the Apostle Church is committed to serve and to bring the message of Christ to all as we strive to live our own lives in accordance with His example and teachings as articulated by the Catholic Church's magisterium.

The Tom and Jean Moorman family was named 2013 Family of the Year for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and also for the entire state by the Ohio State Knights of Columbus Council at their yearly convention in May.

Fellowship Committee - began under leadership of Kristi Geier. Mission statement for the committee is to "Celebrate Christian fellowship at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church with Christ-centered activities that help parishioners strengthen their faith."

New photo directory of the parish was published.

2014 History Update

Sr. Mary William Luxford was named 2014 Religious of the Year for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and also the entire State of Ohio by the Ohio State Knights of Columbus Council at their yearly convention in May.

The Dan and Cindy Chappie family was named 2014 Family of the Year for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and also the entire State of Ohio by the Ohio State Knights of Columbus Council at their yearly convention in May.

Outside Stations of the Cross dedicated by Fr. Ron Piepmeyer October 26, 2014. The stations were donated by Knights of Columbus. The project was the idea of Sir Knight Brian Boon, he planned and coordinated it. The work was performed by the K of C Council except for the concrete pathway which work was donated.

In preparation for the upcoming celebration of the golden anniversary of St. Philip the Apostle Parish, an anniversary Logo and Motto contest was held and 6 ideas were submitted and voted on by parishioners. The winning logo was submitted by 10 year old Brooke Glaser. The motto "Love All, Serve All" was submitted by Mark Beerse. The logo is captured on the following page:



2015 History Update

The Brian and Joanne Boon family was named 2015 Family of the Year for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati by the Ohio State Knights of Columbus Council at their yearly convention in May.

Approximately an acre of ground which contains the foundation of the original St. John the Evangelist Church in Foster was sold to Deerfield Township. It surprised most everyone that the Archdiocese of Cincinnati still owned the property.

Archbishop Schnurr announced that the pastoral region created back in 2005 including St. Philip the Apostle in Morrow and St. Francis De Sales in Lebanon will be enacted. Beginning July 1, Fr. Bernie Weldishofer becomes Pastor for both regional parishes and Fr. Eric Wood (ordained by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr May 17, 2015) will become Parochial Vicar for the pastoral region and will reside in the St. Philip rectory. Each of the Parishes will remain open and autonomous.

March 23, 2015 an open meeting of both parishes was held at Great Wolf Lodge hosted by Bishop Joe Binzer, the Priests' Personnel Director of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Father Len Wenke, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Director of the Department of Pastoral Services. They explained why this was happening and then were open to questions.

A PRCC (Parochial Regional Coordinating Committee) was formed and headed up by Fr. Bernie and consisting of 4 members from each parish. St. Philip members are Lisa Williams from Pastoral Council, Fred Vonderhaar from Finance Council, Brian Boon and Carvel Steinke 'at large members'. St. Francis de Sales members are Michael Boyd, Matt Packer, and Carol Schumacher.

On June 28, 2015, an open house dinner was held to celebrate Fr. Ron's retirement and thank him for his many years of leadership as Pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish. Funding for this celebration was graciously provided by an anonymous donor so that parishioners could attend and enjoy the catered event. Fr. Ron announced his next assignment in his retirement would be celebrating Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe in Liberty Township.

August 2, 2015 - A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at the 11:00 am Mass by Archbishop Schnurr with Fr. Ronald Piepmeyer, Fr. Bernard Weldishofer, Fr. Eric Wood and Fr. Norm Langenbrunner also presiding. Deacons Paul Liebold and Dave Wallace also participated in the Mass.

A celebratory brunch followed the Mass with approximately 300 Parishioners in attendance.

The parish staff at the time of the 50th is:

Deacon David Wallace
Deacon Paul Leibold
Coordinator of Religious Education/Youth Ministry - Mary Orite-Shea
Business Manager - Susan Hamel
Parish Secretary - Kathy Cowen
Director of Music - Mark Cowen
Parish Office Assistant - Joy Kelley
Maintenance Supervisor - Frank Scalese

Finance Council

Fr. Bernie Weldishofer
Susan Hamel - staff
Jim Carson, Chairman
Mark Baltes
Fred Vonderhaar
Anthony Philips
Brian Boon
Paul Dillenberger

Pastoral Council

Fr. Bernie Weldishofer, Pastor
John O'Maley, President
Debbie Nadaud Ardizzone, Vice President (16)
Bruce Schweikert, Recorder (16)
Pete Beerse (17)
Joanne Boon (16)
John Clubb (15)
Cindy Fairman (15)
Odette Glick (18)
Bob Kelley (15)
Judy Steinke, Vice Present Pro tem (17)
Lisa Williams (15)
Tuesday Hanavan (16)

"O" means official pastor according to Archdiocese records. The other priest's names that I have from letters were "probably" (my assumption) assistants who took over the care of the parishes. Assistants are not listed in the official pastor records. *11

O -Both Churches : OM -St. Malachy : OJ -St. John

1851 - Rev. Thomas Blake of Xenia started ministering to St. Malachy in Morrow.

OM - 1854 is the official canonical start date for St. Malachy Parish of Morrow.

OM -1854 -1859 - Rev. Thomas Blake was first Pastor of St. Malachy.

{1852 -1854 - Rev. Hanke of Xenia was the first priest in charge of Fosters. During this time he celebrated five Masses at Fosters.} Cannot find supporting documentation, he is mentioned in only one letter. I suspect a misspelling of his name.

1854 - Rev. Dr. Pabisch of Mt. St. Mary Seminary, Price Hill was assigned to Morrow and Fosters. He celebrated one Mass in a private home in Fosters, baptized several children and visited a sick woman.

1854 - St. Malachy Church was built in Morrow.

1855 - Rev. Foley of Milford was assigned to Fosters.

1857 - Rev. V. Perry was assigned to Milford and Fosters. He made more frequent trips to Fosters administering the Sacraments.

OM - 1859 - 1882 - Rev. John O'Donoughue became pastor of St. Malachy.

1858 - 1867 - Rev. John Baptist O'Donoughue was transferred from Hillsboro to Milford. He took over the following mission areas: Fosters, Morrow, Monroe, Lebanon, Waynesville, Wilmington, and Washington Court House. Before 1864 Fosters had one Mass annually, after 1864 two Masses were celebrated annually, but never on Sunday.

1866 - Bell tower was added to St. Malachy Church and bell was installed.

1868 - Rev. F. C. Mallon was made pastor of Milford and the neighboring missions. He was the first to celebrate a Sunday Mass in Fosters.

1869 - Rev. Anderson was the next pastor of Milford and thus Fosters also. He began to celebrate monthly Sunday Masses in Fosters.

1873 - Rev. W. F. O'Rourke succeeded Rev. Anderson.

1874 - Rev. John B. O'Donoghue was assigned to Morrow and again assumed charge of these missions until his murder in 1882 by Timothy Greene.

1882 - Rev. Michael O'Donoghue replaced the murdered priest. He remained there only three months.

OM - 1882 -1883 - Rev. A. F. Runnebaum was assigned pastor of St. Malachy.

OJ - 1883 is the official canonical start date of St. John the Evangelist Church in Foster.

O -1883 - 1886 St. John the Evangelist Church was built in Foster with a seating capacity of 96. Rev. Henry Brickmeyer was appointed pastor of St. John and St. Malachy. His residence was in Morrow. He also established St Frances de Sales Church in Lebanon and St Augustine Church in Waynesville.

1884 - Rev. A. F. Runnebaum was made assistant and took over the mission Churches for Rev. Brickmeyer. Rev. Runnebaum remained three months before his assignment to St. Augustine in Cincinnati.

1884 - Rev. P. O'Donnell was assigned pastor of Fosters. He also chose to live in Morrow. His missions were Fosters and Waynesville. He served for two years.

OM - 1886 - 1888 - Rev. J.B. Dickhause was the next pastor of St. Malachy.

OJ - 1886 - 1893 - Rev. A. F. Runnebaum became pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Lebanon and St. John the Evangelist Church in Foster. He resided in Lebanon.

1888 - Rev. Charles Hickey was the next priest from Lebanon to minister to Fosters.

OM - 1888 - 1889 - Rev. Benedict Mueller was assigned Pastor of St. Malachy.

1888 - Rev. L. J. Miller was the next assigned to the mission Churches and lived in Morrow.

OM - 1889 - 1893 - Rev. Joseph Germaine was assigned to St. Malachy parish.

1890 - Rev. C. A. Hickey returned for a short time to Fosters and the mission Churches.

1891 - Rev. A. F. Runnebaum returned to the area. He made his home in Lebanon at St. Francis de Sales and took care St. John the Evangelist in Fosters.

O - 1893 -1896 - Rev. John Cusack was the next pastor in Lebanon. He was assigned to St. Malachy and St. John. It was during his time as pastor that the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred for the first time in Fosters.

○ -1896 -1898 - Rev. Michael Mulvihill was assigned to Lebanon and thus to Fosters and Morrow until 1897.

OM -1897 - 1898 - Rev. C. A. Hickey was the pastor of St. Malachy.

○ -1898 -1901 Rev. Nickolas Kelly was assigned to Lebanon and thus to Fosters and Morrow.

1900 - St. John the Evangelist Church burned and was rebuilt.

○ - 1901 - 1903 - Rev. John Singleton was pastor of Lebanon, Morrow, and Fosters.

○ - 1903 - 1904 - Rev. George Meyerhoefer was the assigned pastor of Lebanon, Morrow, and Fosters.

○ - 1904 - 1909 - Rev. Charles Diener became pastor of St. Malachy in Morrow and St. John in Fosters.

○ - 1909 - 1914 - Rev. George H. Meyer became pastor of St. John the Evangelist. He had charge of Morrow, Fosters and Jamestown. After reorganization of missions he came to live in a "little shack" in Fosters in 1912 and attended to Morrow and West Chester. He arrived just in time for the 1913 flood.

○ - 1914 - 1915 - Rev. William Casey succeeded Fr. Meyer as pastor of the two churches (September 1913 to June 5, 1915 according to one of the letters).

1914 - St. John the Evangelist Church was enlarged to a seating capacity of 144 for the 30 registered families. Work was completed in August of 1915. The expansion depleted the treasury so there was no money to build a rectory after the flood. With the permission of the Archbishop the pastor moved to Morrow and Fosters once again became a mission Church.

○ - 1915 - 1918 - Rev. John Malone was pastor of both St. John and St. Malachy.

○ - 1918 - 1921 - Rev. Francis Ratterman was pastor of St. Malachy and St. John.

○ - 1921 - 1926 - Rev. Clarence Graf was assigned to St. Malachy and St. John.

○ - 1926 - 1929 - Rev. George Grunkemeyer was pastor of both churches.

○ - 1929 - 1931 - Rev. Henry Volker was pastor of St. Malachy and St. John.

○ - 1931 - 1935 - Rev. Herbert McDevitt was pastor of St. Malachy and St. John.

○ - 1935 - 1941 - Rev. Raphael Rodgers was the next pastor of both churches.

1937 - St. John the Evangelist Church moved to a larger location.

○ - 1941 - 1947 - Rev. Leonard J. Vonderbrink was pastor in Morrow and Fosters.

○ - 1947 - 1950 - Rev. Richard Kennedy was pastor of St. Malachy and St. John.

○ - 1950 - 1954 - Rev. William J. Goldschmidt served as pastor of both churches.

○ - 1954 - 1955 - Rev. Bernard Felix was assigned both parishes.

○ - 1955 - 1961 - Rev. George J. Stenz was the last pastor of the separate parishes.

○ - 1961 - 1966 - Rev. Carl B. Luehrs became pastor until his death in 1966. Under his leadership both parishes united into St. Philip the Apostle Parish in 1965.

August 1, 1965 - Official Canonical start date of Saint Philip the Apostle Church.

○ - 1966 - 1969 - Rev. John Seaman became the second pastor of St. Philip.

○ - 1969 - 1979 - Rev. Frances J. Marinelli became pastor until retirement in 1979.

1970 - Rev. Norman W. Langenbrunner said his first Mass on May 24th in St. Philip Church.

○ - 1979 - 1991 - Rev. Walter A. Hauser became Pastor until retirement in 1991.

1990 - 25th Anniversary of St. Philip the Apostle parish.

○ - 1991 - 1999 - Rev. J. C. Allison become pastor until retirement in 1999.

1999 - Major remodeling and expansion of entire structure.

○ - 1999 - 2003 - Rev. Edward B. Stolze became pastor until his death on February 16, 2003.

○ - 2003 - 2015 - Rev. Ronald Piepmeyer became pastor of St. Philip on July 1, 2003 until his retirement on June 30, 2015.

○ - 2015, July 1, St. Philip the Apostle and St. Francis de Sales were directed by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnuur to become a region. Each parish will remain autonomous but will share a Pastor. Rev. Bernard J. Weldishofer, present pastor of St. Francis is pastor of both parishes and Rev. Eric M. Wood is Parochial Vicar.

2015, August 1 - 50th Anniversary of St. Philip the Apostle

Warren Parishes to Merge

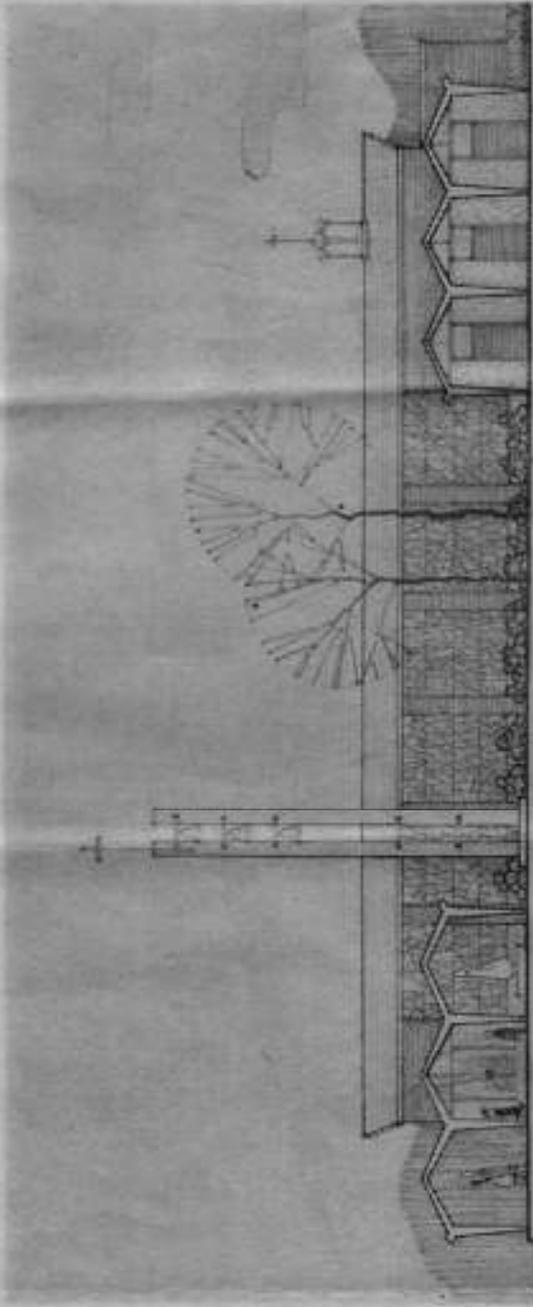
Two Warren county congregations, St. Malachy's, Morrow, and St. John's, Foster, will be merged into a single parish, archdiocesan authorities have announced.

The new parish, under the patronage of St. Philip the Apostle, will be served by a new church to be erected midway between the present churches. Establishment of the parish must await completion of the church, it was said.

The churches at Morrow and Foster are seven miles apart on U.S. route 22. The new church building will rise on a 44-acre site in the village of Zoar.

The decision to combine the two parishes came after members of the churches at Foster and Morrow were queried about the proposal. According to Father Carl B. Lechrs, who has charge of both churches, a large majority in both congregations voted for the change.

A campaign for funds, now in progress, will finance the building program. Work on the building will begin next spring.



Glass Side Walls will be a feature of a church to be erected for the new parish of St. Philip the Apostle in Zoar, Warren county. When the church is completed, the new parish will be formed by combining the present congregations at Morrow

and Foster. The new building will accommodate 500 persons. Its basement will have facilities for religion classes and parish meetings. The sketch here is by Carl C. Bankemper and Associates, Covington, Ky.

About the Patron Saint: St. Malachy

St. Malachy, an Irish Saint, whose family name was O'Morgair, was born in Armagh in 1094. St. Bernard describes him as of noble birth. He was baptized Maelmhaedhoc (a name which has been Latinized as Malchy) and was trained under Imhar O'Hagan, subsequently Abbot of Armagh. After a long course of studies he was ordained a priest by St. Cellach (Celsus) in 1119. In order to perfect himself in sacred liturgy and theology, he proceeded to Lismore, where he spent nearly two years under St. Malchus. He was then chosen Abbot of Bangor, in 1123. A year later, he was consecrated Bishop of Connor, and, in 1132, he was promoted to the primacy of Armagh. St. Bernard gives us many interesting anecdotes regarding St. Malachy, and highly praises his zeal for religion both in Connor and Armagh. In 1127 he paid a second visit to Lismore and acted for a time as confessor to Cormac MacCarthy, Prince of Desmond. While Bishop of Connor he continued to reside at Bangor, and when some of the native princes sacked Connor, he brought the Bangor monks to Iveragh, County Kerry, where they were welcomed by King Cormac. On the death of St. Celsus (who was buried at Lismore in 1129), St. Malachy was appointed Archbishop of Armagh, 1132, which dignity he accepted with great reluctance. It is interesting to note that St. Celsus ended the hereditary succession to his See (bishopric of Armagh) by naming Malachy as his successor. Owing to intrigues, he was unable to take possession of his see for two years; even then he had to purchase the Bachal Isu (Staff of Jesus) from Niall, the usurping lay-primate.

During three years at Armagh, as St. Bernard writes, St. Malachy restored the discipline of the Church, grown lax during the intruded rule of a series of lay-abbots, and had the Roman Liturgy adopted. St. Bernard continues: Having extirpated barbarism and re-established Christian morals, seeing all things tranquil he began to think of his own peace. He therefore resigned Armagh, in 1138, and returned to Connor, dividing the see into Down and Connor, retaining the former. He founded a priory of Austin Canons at Downpatrick, and was unceasing in his Episcopal labors. Early in 1139 he journeyed to Rome, via Scotland, England, and France, visiting St. Bernard at Clairvaux. He petitioned Pope Innocent for palliums for the Sees of Armagh and Cashel, and was appointed legate for Ireland. On his return visit to Clairvaux he obtained five monks for a foundation in Ireland, under Christian, an Irishman, as superior: thus arose the great Abbey of Mellifont in 1142. St Malachy set out on a second journey to Rome in 1148, but on arriving at Clairvaux he fell sick, and died in the arms of St. Bernard, on 2 November. Numerous miracles are recorded of him, and he was also endowed with the gift of prophecy. St. Malachy was canonized by Pope Clement (111), on 6 July, 1199, and his feast is celebrated on 3 November, in order not to clash with the Feast of All Souls. *8

Acknowledgements

- *1 - 20th Anniversary booklet of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church.
- *2 - Excerpt from Alice Cain's Will.
- *3 - Cemetery information was taken from a document written by Kathryn B. Marr, and by personal interviews of Frank Schlake Jr. and George Johnson in 2003.
- *4 - The quote is taken from the court document.
- *5 - Reprinted with permission of the Historical Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- *6 - Taken from the 20th Anniversary booklet of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church.
- *7 - Article copied verbatim from the Western Star newspaper, Thursday, June 26, 1952.
- *8 - Taken from the Catholic Encyclopedia found on the New Advent Web site
- *9 - Information from the dedication booklet by Robert Doane.
- *10 - Information taken from personal notes written at the time of the funeral.
- *11 - Clerus Cincinnatiensis.. Directory of Clergy and Parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati 1826 to 1996.
- *12 - Document detailing the reconfiguration process and personnel involved, located in the master folder.

I want to thank Mr. Don H. Buske of the Historical Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for his invaluable assistance in the research for this document.

2006 - THE RECONFIGURATION IN DEPTH REPORT

(To be kept in the Master History Binder as reference material)

Around the first of March, Fr. Ron asked me how we could get more seating capacity in the Church. The Fire Marshal has said that we must get rid of the metal chairs around the perimeter of the church. I responded "No problem, piece of cake!" That response immediately got me the job. I told no one about the project. I figured that Fr. Ron could tell anyone he wanted. I started thinking and

measuring. I made the first measurements on the 6th of March and came up with basically 4 different configurations.

Fr. Ron was sure that the Worship Office would want to see a professional computer layout, so I then got Dennis Steinke involved because he had a Cad Cam program. This way we could get an exact chair count and move stuff around to come up with the best arrangement and achieve a professional look to our drawings.

We spent a lot of time getting things ready to approach the Archdiocese Worship Office and request permission for the reconfiguration. Fr. Ron sought approval from the Pastoral Council, Worship Commission, and Finance Commission. The fire marshal put in writing the fact that the use of metal chairs around the perimeter had to stop and we would be back to 500 seats.

June 21st was the first meeting of Fr. Ron, Frank Scalese, and me at church to do a walk-thru of the ideas and plan for Karen Kane's visit. I gave them the different plans that I had made. Karen Kane of the Archdiocese Worship Office did pay a visit and approved our plans for the rearrangement of the chairs and Altar. At this time we still could not come up with a suitable backing for the Altar, but that did not concern the Worship Office. Because of the capacity requirements and the Fire Marshall's letter, Karen Kane almost had to approve the reconfiguration.

As soon as Fr. Ron received the letter of approval, he sent out a letter to all parishioners announcing the proposed reconfiguration. June 27th I spent the morning doing last minute planning at Church. Fr. had said something to Mary Ludwig, so then I enlisted Jim and Mary's help. We had our first meeting July 2nd at Ludwig's house. Our idea of an Altar backing was some kind of drapery. Mary would pursue that idea.

July 11, I spent the day shopping for lights for the new choir area. That evening Fr. Ron had an open meeting at Church for anyone interested in the reconfiguration. Not more that 25 people showed up. But two very important people did show, Michael and Lyndsay Rensing, both trained architects. They volunteered their talents. During this week, Jim Ludwig and I started running conduit for wiring.

July 17th Jim and I spent the day running wire for the new choir area. In the evening Fr. Ron, the Rensings, Ginny and I met at the Ludwigs to look over preliminary drawings by the Rensings. One basic style was selected and enhanced from that point. Jim and I finished most of the choir wiring this week. Frank Scalese helped as his schedule permitted. We also installed tracks on the beam

above the new wall for any lighting that we may need. At this time we had no idea of what we would need, but this would give us flexibility. We asked the Rensings to place the new wall behind the beam so that we could use the tracks to light it.

July 23rd at Mass Fr. Ron asked for any building help. Kenyon Sangdahl offered steel framing at his cost and two installers. Gary Merz came forward and offered the drywall, the installation, and finishing. Kenyon also volunteered to make the stained glass frames. Marion Ackman volunteered to build the two new platforms - lectern and celebrant's chair. Now we had a plan. Jim Ludwig came up with a four week schedule for the project. He had the 3rd week as make-up or carry over week for any projects that may slip.

Week 1. I went stained glass shopping and found some in Middletown at Beau Verre Rioddan Studios. Monday evening July 24th a group of volunteers came in to move the choir to its new area and move the chairs off the new sanctuary area. Tuesday the metal framing material was delivered. Wednesday evening we were notified that Cleveland Construction's framers (Kenyon Sangdahl's company) were not going to be there on Thursday as scheduled, but would start on Friday. Jim and I decided that we should be able to figure it out. Neither of us had ever worked with steel framing before. We started Thursday after Mass and built the back section of the entire wall - $\frac{1}{2}$ completed. The framers came Friday and built only 2 of the three front sections. Friday evening volunteers came and helped restore the chairs to the raised area for Sunday services. As of Wednesday, the daily Masses were held in the Church basement. That will be the case until the reconfiguration is complete. Kenyon decided that he couldn't build the wooden stained glass pieces (time constraints), so I contacted Marion Ackman and he said he would build them. We had a couple meetings as to how to build them.

Week 2. Frank Scalese managed a group of volunteers after the 10:30 Mass to move the chairs again. Since the drywall installers from Valcom were scheduled at 0700 Monday morning, Jim Ludwig and I decided to come in at 0500 and build the 3rd section of the front wall. George Johnson also volunteered to help. We had the wall completed by 0630. By Tuesday evening the drywall installation was complete and finishing started on Wednesday. Jim and I moved organ speakers and installed more wiring for track lights. By Friday the drywall finisher had completed everything but the final sanding. Friday the chairs were moved back in place for Sunday Masses. The stained glass frames are now going to be built by George Johnson. Sunday he volunteered to do it and Marion will supply the rough cut walnut wood for the project. Marion is too busy with his bees and honey. He will still build a small stand beside Fr. Ron's chair for his books.

Week 3. This time the chairs were moved completely out of the way to prepare for the platform move. Monday morning several guys came in to help Jim, George and I move the platform for the Altar to its new area. The other two platforms were installed also. The original Communion rails used in the original Church, brought along from St. Malachy of Morrow were installed as dividers for the front row of chairs. We will build kneelers for them. Painters were scheduled for 1300 Monday and they got the primer completed in short time. They came back in Tuesday and finished 1st coat early in the morning and the 2nd coat in the middle of the afternoon. Wednesday I reprogrammed the light computer, installed new lights and we were ready for Mass. Jim Ludwig and I worked one last day installing more lighting for the Altar and lectern and walk behind the wall. The first Mass in the new configuration was 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning July 12th, with Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30 to 10:30 am. It is not 100% complete, but very usable. The stained glass is not installed. George Johnson will need time to get the rough cut walnut planed into useable boards.

Jim Ludwig picked up the stained glass for me. Ginny and I left for Montana and a three week vacation that had been delayed since July. George Johnson completed the stained glass frames while we were out West. I asked him and Jim to complete the installation without me. On September 28th they installed the stained glass.

Charlene Huber suggested to Fr. Ron that we move the statues back into the Sanctuary. It was suggested that we put them on the two outside sections of the front wall. But the two niches created by the Rensing's design were just perfect for the statues. The lighting installed for the stained glass was just perfect for the statues also. I'm sure the Good Lord had this planned from the beginning. Once again I imposed upon George Johnson to build the two shelves for the statues. He made two absolutely beautiful shelves and we installed them October 31st.

When we moved the St. Joseph statue, I asked Jim to look at the bottom of it as I held it to see if there was a date or name. He found a typewritten note thumb tacked inside the base. I quote:

"This Statue of St. Joseph was given to St. Malachy Church, Morrow, Ohio by the Larry Schuchter Family.

1952

May God bless this father and mother and children and may Saint Joseph keep them always. They deserve blessings.

Rev. Wm. J. Goldschmidt, Pastor "

End quote.

Don't know if they also donated the Blessed Virgin Statue, but I aim to find out. In discussing it with Ken Schuchter, he was aware that his dad had donated the statue for the safe return of Ken when he went to war. He is almost sure that his dad did not donate the Blessed Virgin statue. They were probably carved at different times since their bases are different shapes. They are not a matched set.

November 1, 2006

A very personal note: I am completely in awe of what was accomplished. I never cease to be amazed at how the Good Lord works if you just let Him in control, if we are His servants and do as He directs. It is so difficult to overcome the tendency to pray to Him for assistance in accomplishing 'our' project. Months later I am still in awe of the way it all came together. People came forward with assistance at just the proper time. In fact that was the one worry that I never gave in to. I trusted Him to provide. There is no human planning that could have accomplished this task in the same time frame. Look at what happened and how it happened with almost no expense to the Parish. Jesus, I know this was your project and I sincerely thank You for what You have given to St. Philip the Apostle Church.

Carvel R. Steinke February 28, 2007

Volunteers on the relocation project:

Jim and Mary Ludwig - planners & workers

Michael and Lindsay Rensing - architects

Dennis Steinke - Cad-cam design

George Johnson - worker & communion rail installer & maker of stained glass enclosures

Gary Merz - drywall & installation & finishing

Kenyon Sangdahl - steel

Marion Ackman - platform builder & table builder

Frank Scalese - worker

Frank Schlake - platform mover

Larry Tobler - communion rail installer & platform mover

Bernie Lamers - platform & chair mover

Jack Jones - platform & chair mover

Michele Hurst - painter

Peggy Flemming - painter

Carl Orton - painter

Don Scholl - painter

Dick Viox - painter

Bob Klein - painter

Chair Movers on Monday evening:

John. Kaesemeyer

B. Schweikert

Ed Horvat

John O'Neil

Jack Jones

Greg Abrams

David McAlarney

Guy O'Neill

David Hutten

Skip Flemming

Jack A. Gates

Mark Connelly

Dennis Steinke

Frank Scalese

Bill Ferringo

Michael Ferringo

Jay Poulin

Leonard Ardizzone

Charlie Cramer

Jack Simms