Parishioner Van Beek shares her memories of the annual church fairs

Golden Jubilee

Christian Mother's Society

The Christian Mother’s Society is women’s branch of the Catholic Central Verien and has the same obligations and privileges as the St. Peter and Paul Society. Although seventy members are on the picture, there are altogether about 150 members.

Submitted by Cecilia (Baumgartner) Van Beek

Sts. Peter and Paul Church Fairs started in 1911. Father Max Speckmeier, O.S.B. was appointed the pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul in 1910 and served the parish for eight years. It was during that time that he and his faithful and dedicated parishioners finished building the new church, built a new rectory, Sister’s convent and St. Benedict’s Grade School. What an undertaking and success for the parish.

It was in 1911 that Fr. Max got himself into a “hot box” when he undertook the renovating of the old church and took turns fueling the women who slept in the older generations told about this undertaking of the church fair; the first ever to be held in the living at temporary housing.

Monday night was also the raffle that was not for the prize, which at one time, was a new car! If memory serves me correctly, a dedicated parishioner by the name of Alex Benthart was always the top seller for those raffle tickets. A story told by one of the women, it was the raffle of Fr. Roman Schmidt, O.S.B., who served our parish for many years, and donated his 1964 Ford to the church fair to be auctioned off in the early 1970s. One interested bidder asked Father if the car was in good condition; Fr. Roma, using dry sense of humor, replied to the man, “don’t all cars use oil?” A laugh from the crowd the car, and the car was sold. The “fancy stand” was always an attractive item for the women who attended. The ladies in the parish would showcase their beautiful embroidery, crocheting, and quilting masterpieces and the raffle tickets would be sold on those items. Women who didn’t have that fancywork on those items. Women who wanted to participate, and some did, they could grind horseradish, and the ladies would sell jars of it for the homemade sausage, which people in this area loved.

For the children, there were grab bags to buy. What surprises we received and the best bags were those that contained money. Then we could always buy another. On Sunday afternoon, a carnival was held for the children. One dollar bought 10 tickets and each game cost one ticket. Oh, how we hoped we would win a decorated doll, a bicycle, a radio, a walk-a or a Fli-Back paddle boat. The lady’s knitting and crocheting skills were on display.

TOP ROW—Mrs. Albert Greigle, Mrs. Anton Wald, Mrs. Frank Kuss, Mrs. Mike V. Dosch, Mrs. Wendelin Senger, Mrs. Fred Mattern, Mrs. Ernie Bort, Mrs. Frank Fettig, Mrs. Fred Goetz, Mrs. Mike Woll. Mrs. Matt Hardesty. Mrs. Eugene Zacher, Miss Dorothy Baumain, Miss Christe ne Wolf, Mrs. Kasper Lipp, Mrs. Leopold Schwann, Mrs. Wendelin Fischer, Mrs. Bennie Feis., Mrs. Martin Fischer, Mrs. John Klein, Rev. Charles Daleiden-Spiritual Adviser.

SECOND ROW—Mrs. Pete Schlosser, Mrs. Vincent Seizer, Mrs. Anton Baumgartner, Mrs. George Bichler, Mrs. Sebastian Dosch, Mrs. Xavier Roschrihr, Mrs. Martin Roth, Mrs. Adam Fischer, Mrs. Adam Dosch, Mrs. Mike J. Feist, Mrs. Frank Giesinger, Mrs. Leopold Baumgartner, Mrs. Anna Mary Mattern, Mrs. John J. Baumgartner Sr., Mrs. Sebastian Voller, Mrs. Balzer Mattnr. Mrs. Joe Kuss, Mrs. Joe Krafft, Mrs. Sebastian Monser, Mrs. Pius Keller, Mrs. Peter Mattnr.

THIRD ROW—Mrs. Karl Keller, Mrs. Max Heidrich, Mrs. Mary Erc, Mrs. Pete Miller, Mrs. Mike R. Dosch, Mrs. Matt A. Fischer, Mrs. Kasper K. Feist, Mrs. Tony Wagner, Mrs. John Wagner, Mrs. Peter A. Kraft, Mrs. Jack Mastel, Mrs. Christ Senger, Mrs. Adam Wolf, Mrs. Symphonora Brinkmier, Mrs. Martha Wagner, Mrs. Cathibine Schaefer.

FOURTH ROW—Mrs. Catherine Baumgartner, Mrs. Kasper Unser, Mrs. Ben Bichler, Mrs. John A. Baumgartner, Mrs. Engel, Mrs. Leo Klein, Secretary; Mrs. Mike Schumacher, Treasurer; Mrs. J. P. Wickenheiser, President; Mrs. J. S. Baumian, Vice-President; Mrs. Joo Volk, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Jack Schneier, Mrs. Matt Fischer, Mrs. A. J. Baumgartner, (Mrs. Wendelin Wickenheiser-not on picture.)

From the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Golden Jubilee Book, this photo is of the Christian Mother’s Society. They were responsible for putting together the annual church fairs.

The first church fair at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Strasburg was in 1911. In the early years, the Christian Mother’s Society, now named the St. Mary Society, carried the responsibilities of the annual fairs. Some of the women parishioners who worked at the fairs in the 1970s gathered for a photo at their church fair on Sun., Oct. 2, 2016. In the front row, left to right, are Ramona Reis, Cil Van Beek and Patty Hardesty; middle row, Virginia Feist, Giovann Zacher, Edna Schwab, Eugenie Roehn-Wagner, Ramona Heidrich, Benedicha Scherr and Victoria Voller; and back row, Helen Fischer, Cil Seaman, Pat Horner, Jeanette Tschosik, Nina Wikenheiser, Evelyn Schwab, Veronica Glass, Rosemary Schaefbauer, Jane Bosch, Lillian Seiletter and Rose Nagel-Volk.

TL Parishioner shares