



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Articles

### **Happy 75th Anniversary! St. Michael The Archangel parish, established February 1, 1946**

The year 2021 marks the 75th Anniversary of the founding of our wonderful parish. It also marks the 10th anniversary of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist arriving at St. Michaels and establishing a Mission (August 2011).

In the coming weeks and months, we will include little “Did You Know” tid bits of history in the bulletin. We hope you will enjoy them. This week we will begin with a brief story of our parish history, as it was written for our Church dedication book by Fr. Carmen Arcuri (Born January 7, 1935 - Died August 20, 2017) on August 23, 1964.

*Bishop Ready stood before a large map of Franklin County spread out in his study. He turned to the priest standing beside him. “Father,” the bishop said. “I’ve just established three new parishes in the Columbus area; St. Michael, Our Lady of Peace and Christ the King, and I’ve already appointed a pastor for one of them, but you can have your choice of the remaining two.” He pointed to two different areas on the map. “I’ll take Worthington,” said Father Byrne without hesitation. At that instant began a long and happy relationship between the Rev. John P. Byrne, and the new St. Michael’s in Worthington.*

*It was February 1, 1946, when the late Bishop Michael J. Ready erected St. Michael’s Parish. During the evening the day before, Father Byrne had just arrived in Columbus from Chillicothe, where he had served as chaplain at the Federal Reformatory for the previous six years. He was practically a stranger in town, but he had been to the Josephinum, the pontifical seminary, a short distance north of Worthington. That’s one reason why he picked Worthington as the site of his first pastorate – he knew that section of the city better. At Bishop Ready’s suggestion, he stayed overnight at the Josephinum, then hurried back to the Chancery office the next morning to learn more about his new responsibilities.*

*“Where is the church to be located?” he asked the bishop. “Oh, you’ll have to buy a site,” was the bishop’s blithe reply. He suggested that Father Byrne get in touch with a Mr. Charles O’Neil, a real estate man in North Columbus. Father Byrne hustled back to the Josephinum. Bishop Ready had stipulated that the first Mass for the new congregation was to be offered on February 10. That gave Father Byrne just a little over a week to find some place to say it.*

*...As the February 10 deadline neared, nothing had been turned up, so Monsignor Adrian Brandiehoff, rector of the Josephinum, offered Father Byrne the seminary chapel. He accepted. When Father Byrne emerged from the sacristy for St. Michael’s first parish Mass at 10:30 a.m. on the following Sunday, he found 128 parishioners assembled in the chapel. He preached to them about the urgent necessity of finding a permanent place for Sunday services. In the years that followed parishioners celebrated Mass in a meeting hall, a quonset hut and then on June 12,*

*1964, Father Byrne, our founding pastor, celebrated the first Mass in our present church. On June 21, 1964, Bishop Edward G. Hettinger, D.D. helped set the cornerstone of what is presently St. Michael School. Later that year on November 21st, Bishop Ready dedicated our school in a ceremony and Mass that was attended by hundreds in the community.*

### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – The Buildings:**

*Quonset Hut Bus Garage: 1948*

Constructed to house two buses used by St. Michael School

The gas pump to fuel the buses was located on the northeast corner of the driveway of the rectory two-car garage. The gas tanks were filled with sand during the construction of Marion Hall in 1997-1999 and paved over as part of the current parking lot in front of Marian Hall. The Bus Garage also served as the festival garage for many years once the school stopped using the busses. Shortly after the 1999 Marian Hall construction was completed, which also included adding storage areas and a garage to the east end of school, the bus garage was torn down and the new garage storage space began being used for festival.

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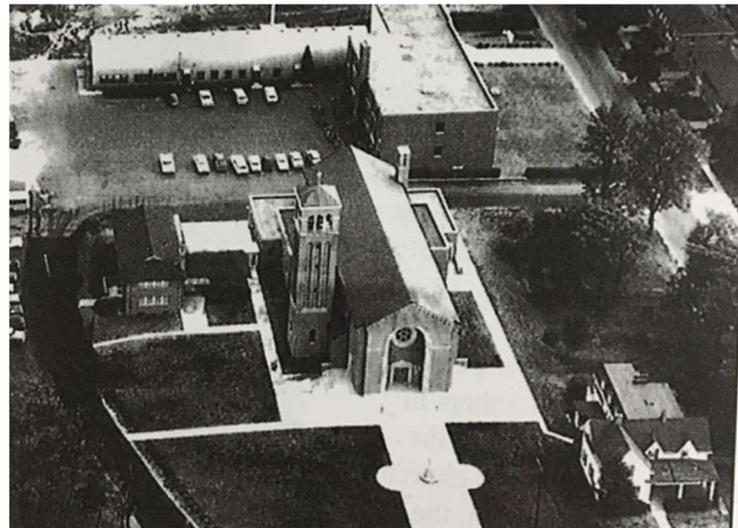
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### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – The Buildings:**

*Current School*

- June 20, 1954: Cornerstone laid
  - November 21, 1954: Dedicated by Bishop Ready
- Location in black and white aerial photo: Top mid right

The school contained 11 classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen. (Five classrooms and administrative offices were added in the February 29, 1982 expansion). The original construction accommodated the majority of parish meetings, and several decades of parish bingo game fund raising, in addition to school activities until some of these



activities were moved to the present church facility in 1966. The basic school structure, at the writing of this post, has been in service for 67 years.

*Rectory-* May 1957 Construction completed

Location in black and white aerial photo: Left of the church, left of white roofed breezeway.

The new rectory had a three-room office wing on the south side of the building, a meeting room in the basement below the office wing, and a two-car garage. The office wing and two-car garage were across from each other with a breezeway in-between. Below the office wing (rectory basement), was a large meeting room. The breezeway connected the rectory with the church. The rectory replaced a small, leased house on Stanton Ave. During the 1997 Marian Hall construction, the breezeway, offices, and garage were removed.

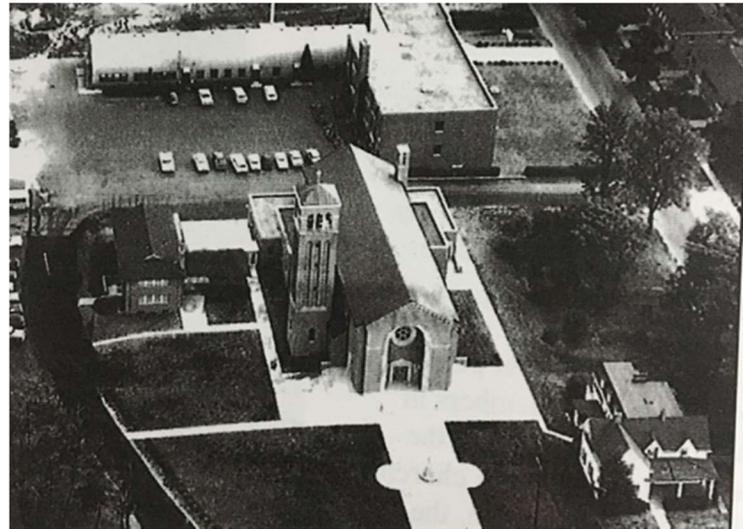
### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – The Buildings:**

*St. Michael’s second parish-owned church: Quonset Hut*

July 11, 1948: Dedicated with Pontifical Low Mass

Location in black and white aerial photo: Long structure, top of photo

Quonset hut (GI style military barrack) stretched north to south along the east end of our parking lot where the hill to the baseball field begins and where the basketball hoops are. The Quonset hut had the church on the south end (near Selby Blvd.), gymnasium in the center and classrooms in the north end (near playground).



*Current church:*

- September 30, 1962: Groundbreaking
- May 14, 1964: Cornerstone laid
- June 12, 1964: First Mass for Grade School graduation
- June 14, 1964: First Sunday Mass
- August 27, 1964: Dedication

Location in black and white aerial photo: Center

Also in color aerial photos:

The Cornerstone lies at the foot of the huge stone arch through which the sanctuary extends into the apse, on the Gospel side (next to the Ambo). It houses a metal box containing a list of 1962 parishioners; the 1962 parish financial report; pictures of Pope John XXIII, Bishop Isenmann and Bishop Ready; a list of officers of parish organizations; copies of the Catholic Times, the Citizen-Journal and the Worthington News; coins of the years 1947 and 1962; a bottle of Lourdes water, and a statue of the Infant of Prague.

The total cost to build our current church was \$636,000, which included furnishings and fees. At the time of dedication 806 persons could be seated in the church at one time. Today, it is around 770.

## 75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – The Buildings:

### *Convent:*

- 1967: Completed as new home for the Franciscan Sisters from Joliet, IL
- June 1974: After serving for nearly 30 years, the Franciscan sisters leave St. Michaels
- October 26, 1974: Dedicated by Bishop Edward J Hermann as home for retired priests, to be known as the Vianney residence.
- April 12, 1992: Bishop Griffin announces closing of Vianney Residence. Building is returned to St. Michael’s and renamed “St. Ann Hall”.
- 2011, The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, accept invitation to join St. Michael School and establish a Mission at the parish.
- June 26, 2011: Baby Shower held for Sisters
- August 2011: Convent Dedication Mass

## 75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – The Buildings:

*School Addition:* · February 15, 1981, Campaign kickoff drive for new school addition to replace classrooms housed in deteriorating Quonset hut.

· June 7, 1981, Groundbreaking began. Original cost of the building was \$476,850.

· February 28, 1962, Dedication/Open House by an enthusiastic crowd that was present, including founding pastor Father John Byrne.

In the 1997-1999 addition of Marian Hall, construction also included a library, school administrative office, an art room and computer lab were added to the west end of the school, and a band room, music room, athletic storage, storage garages, and a collection room for St. Vincent DePaul Society was added to the Gym (East) wing. Additional parking (45 spaces) was also added to the east end of the Gym wing.



*Marian Hall:* · July 1997 Construction began through May 1999.

Cost of the building construction was \$3,500,00. Construction added a gathering space between the rectory and church and meeting rooms in the lower level. Location in color aerial photo: Center left of church

### *Parish Ministry Center:*

· November 30, 2013: Blessing by Bishop Frederick Campbell

The parish ministry center included new parish offices, additional meeting rooms, an adoration chapel, pre-K room, a food pantry and clothing room. Location in color aerial photo: Left front

## 75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – About Our Church

St. Michaels' beautiful new House of God ranks as one of the outstanding examples of traditional Catholic Church architecture in the metropolitan Columbus area. Here, in brief, are some of the noteworthy features of the church:

*THE EXTERIOR*-Is of red brick trimmed with Indiana limestone to match the school and rectory. The outside of the church, measured over its greatest overall dimensions, is 174 feet long and 96 feet · wide.

*INTERIOR*-Like most churches, it consists of three main parts: The narthex, (or vestibule) where you enter; the nave, where the congregation is seated, and the sanctuary.

*THE NAVE* measures 108 feet in length and 54 feet in width. It is characterized by its graceful stone arches and pillars along the side aisles on the outside of the pews, and by the exposed beams and trusses, stained a rich mahogany, of its wood ceiling. From the floor of the center aisle to the peak of the roof, the height is 45 feet.

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*THE SANCTUARY*- following tradition, extends from the nave into the apse. It is dominated by the strikingly beautiful main altar, and is flanked by two sacristies, one on the Gospel side for priests, and one on the Epistle side for altar boys, and a candle and flower room for the sacristan.

*ALTARS*-The main altar and both side altars were designed by a Chicago studio and made in Pietrasanta, a little seacoast town in Northwest Italy. The altars are a combination of various kinds of marble-the gray and green from Italy, the onyx from Spain. At both ends of the main altar, two large marble pillars support the golden-domed baldachino that forms a canopy over the altar. A crucifix with an almost life-sized corpus hangs suspended from the baldachino over the center of the altar. The baldachino is made of wood. It also was designed by the same Chicago studio and made in Pietrasanta. Inside the main altar lie the relics of Saints Vigilans and Eulogius. The design of the main altar and its placement in the sanctuary are such that Mass can be said from either side-in anticipation of the day when the priest will face the people as he offers the Holy Sacrifice.

*STATUES*-The statues of the Sacred Heart on the Gospel side of the sanctuary and of St. Michael on the Epistle side, and those of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph above the side altars are of Botticino marble. They likewise were designed in Chicago and sculptured in Pietrasanta.

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*CORNERSTONE*-It lies at the foot of the huge stone arch through which the sanctuary extends into the apse. It is on the Gospel side, houses a metal box containing a list of 1962 parishioners; the 1962 parish financial report; pictures of Pope John XXIII, Bishop Isenmann and the late Bishop Ready; a list of officers of parish organizations; copies of the Catholic Times, the Citizen-Journal and the Worthington News; coins of the years 1947 and 1962; a bottle of Lourdes water, and a statute of the Infant of Prague.

*STONEMWORK*-All stonework both inside and outside the church is of Indiana limestone, quarried and cut by a Bloomington, Indiana, firm.

*WINDOWS*-The beautifully colored rose window over the choir loft at the rear of the church is of stained glass and was produced by a Covington, Ky., studio. The clerestory windows are of cathedral glass and were made by a Columbus firm.

*STATIONS OF THE CROSS*-One of their most striking features is their location. The church was so designed as to provide seven wall spaces between the arches along each side of the nave as locations for the fourteen stations. They were sculpted by a Cincinnati artist.

*BAPTISTRY*-Is housed in the foot of the bell tower near the rear of the nave on the Gospel side. The Baptismal Font, like the interior statues, was carved out of Botticino marble in Pietrasanta.

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*BELL TOWER*-The tower housing the bell and baptistry rises 80 feet toward the sky, making it one of the tallest structures in the Worthington area.

*BELL*-The bell was cast in bronze in Holland and installed by a Cincinnati firm. It is tuned to F sharp, said to be the sound most pleasing to the human ear. It is electrically operated, and timed so that its tolling of the Angelus and ringing for Mass Sundays and weekdays is automatic.

*CHANDELIERS*-The beautiful chandeliers that light the nave were made by a commercial fixture manufacturer.

*ROOF*-The roof is of copper. The roof trusses and decking inside the church are of Douglas fir, cut in Oregon and prefabricated by a Columbus lumber firm.

*FLOORS*- In the sanctuary, aisles and narthex, the aisles are of slate. Under the pews, they are of asphalt tile installed on concrete subfloors.

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*WOODWORK*-The pews, all of the doors, the confessionals and other woodwork are fashioned out of oak.

*BASEMENT*-There is a basement under the entire church. It houses kitchen equipment at one end, a small stage at the other. Space in the center can be used either for cafeteria purposes, or converted into an auditorium.

*UTILITIES*-The church is heated with gas and air conditioned.

*SEATING CAPACITY*-A total of 806 persons can be seated in the church at one time.

*OUTSIDE STATUARY*-The statue of St. Michael killing the dragon, centered on the broad walk at the High Street entrance to the church, originally decorated the sanctuary of St. Joseph's Cathedral. When the Cathedral was remodeled by the late Bishop Ready, the statue was removed and stored. When St. Michael's was being planned, Bishop Issenmann gave the statue to Father Byrne for the new church.

### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know” – About Our Church**

#### **HISTORY OF OUR ADORATION CHAPEL**

During the week of March 1st, 2003, Fr. Joseph De Luca, Missionary of the Blessed Sacrament, visited St. Michael's to give an hour's reflection each evening about the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for the start of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at our parish. Each evening was well attended. This was the beginning of what is now our current Eucharistic Adoration Hour. Sr. Agnes Goode helped coordinate sign-ups in the weeks to follow and met with division leaders, hourly coordinators and assistant coordinators on April 15, 2003, in preparation for the opening date.

On Thursday, May 1, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. we had a solemn benediction in the Church. At the conclusion of benediction there was a solemn procession to our new adoration chapel (which at the time was located in what is now the convent chapel). A reception followed in Marian Hall. The first hour began at 8:00 p.m. with adorers Bobbie Schilling, Clarence and Catherine Graf and Jennifer and Robert Nuchs.

When the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist moved into the convent, our adoration chapel was temporarily located in the back hallway next to the Altar Server room (behind our St. Joseph altar) before being located in our current Adoration Chapel. It is hard to believe we have been blessed with Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at our parish for over 12 years.

What is Eucharistic Adoration? Eucharistic Adoration is an expression of our love for Jesus, who loves us so much that He never wants to leave us and so stays with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament. For He says: "Behold I am with you always," because "I have loved you with an everlasting love. And constant is my affection for you." (Mt 28:20; Jer 31:3)

What is Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration? Perpetual Eucharist Adoration is simply our response to Jesus' love for us, whereby each of us is willing to spend a quiet holy hour of prayer in His Eucharistic Presence once a week on a regular basis, that we may have perpetual (seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus is never left alone.

### **75th Anniversary "Did You Know" – About Our Church**

Did you know that for St. Michael's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration weekend in 2006, there was a Friday night dinner dance at Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center with fabulous food, great music, dancing, and memories shared by some of our former associate pastors, sons of St. Michael and pastoral helpers.

With Fr. Richard Pendolphi as current Pastor and Fr. James B. Coleman as Associate Pastor, guests that attended included former associate pastors Fr. Dennis Stevenson, Fr. Joseph Klee Fr. William J. Faustner. Pastoral helper Fr. Robert Schuer; Sr. Mary Francis Peters, OSF. Other guests included sons of St. Michael who accepted the call to serve our Lord as Priests of Jesus Christ, Msgr. John Cody, Fr. Peter Gideon and Fr. Michael Watson.

An Anniversary Mass was held in the location of our parish's first Mass, in St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and a picnic that followed on the college grounds where there was good food, games and family fun...Read more next week!

### **75th Anniversary "Did You Know" – About Our Church**

Anniversary Committee supporters included: Joe Milano for the use of his restaurant for our dinner dance, Dee Printing for covering the printing costs for our tickets, brochures and flyers, and much more, Fr. Pendolphi for promoting and supporting our event, Fr. Coleman for also helping with our printing needs, Gina Switzer for helping procure frames for our memorabilia, Frank and Liz Wallenfelz for sorting out a lot of the photos and other memorabilia, Cy Cottrell and the Knights of Columbus for handling the pig roast and serving food at the picnic, and the Josephinum for allowing us the location for our picnic, Nick Droll for coordinating the Anniversary Mass and picnic logistics, Dave Fleck for being MC at the dinner dance, to our cake judging committee at the picnic, School Board, Home and School Association, Youth Ministry, Athletic Association for assisting with the picnic games, Cheryl Brown for helping with the anniversary cake, and the generous donors who helped financially to off-set some of our expenses and anyone else who played a role in the success of our Anniversary celebration.

Anniversary Committee planning members who met for three months included: Nancy Benedetti, Co-chair, Jim Ferega, Food chair; Dorothy Murnane and David Brant, Publicity; Jody Munhall, Pam Hirt, Elinor Morris, Memorabilia display; Gene Krajnak, advisor and set-up; Bob Tatz and his crew, picnic set-up and tear down; Mark Whitehead, picnic games coordinator and MC.

### **75th Anniversary "Did You Know"**

#### **History of The Mike:**

Did you know that on August 20, 1970, St. Michael's began a monthly parish newspaper called "The Mike"? This was a collaboration with Fr. Byrne (our founding pastor) and a group of parishioners who wanted to help fill gap where news of the parish was not reaching all parishioners. As written by Fr. Byrne in the inaugural edition:

"The purpose of a parish newspaper is to foster information and communication. Many significant events and happenings have transpired at St. Michael's in past year, which have failed to reach the parishioners, due to the lack of an "organ" of communication. This parish newspaper is designed to keep you informed about our parish – it's spiritual, educational, and social life along with a preview and a view of the material development. The staff realizes that you have a invested, and spiritual, interest in St. Michael's parish. Thus, armed with more detailed knowledge of our parish, you will be enabled to fulfill your mission in this portion of God's kingdom more effectively, as you spread its fame and name in your area. Congratulations to the staff for the conception of such an excellent idea and birth of this publication."

In reviewing issues of “The Mike” from our archives, that first edition spans from August 20, 1970, through December 1977. There wasn’t an area of the parish that didn’t go untouched with a story.

The newspaper was mailed out monthly to all parishioners and had a staff; Jody Butts, as editor, Bob DiRosario as assistant editor; several staff writers and many contributors from various parish organizations, including Joan Di Rosario, Frank Lampe, Mary Lou Lampe, Frank Lampe, Sr., Sister Rosemary Huzl, Marilyn Keller, Karol Strapp, John Grenier, Carol Sue Edmons, Romana Hemmelgarn, Janie Berry, Lynn Green and many others who contributed through the years. “The Mike” included photographs, which added to the enjoyment of the story being read. You would get news from the Pastor, assistant pastor, deacons, stories about the parish, school, sports, St. Michael’s Youth Group (SMY), CCD, Scouts, the Franciscan sisters who lived in the Convent and taught at the school, and much more. Some of the headlines of the various editions through the years included: From the Pulpit (message from the pastor); First Lay Principal Appointed To Head St. Michael School; Parish Picnic Ends Season, SMY (St. Michael’s Youth Group) News; St. Ann’s Altar Society Picks A New Name; Garage Sale Set For October; Convent Now Home to Nine Sisters; New Grading Form Adopted By School; All About Folks (a welcome of sorts about new members to the parish); Scout News; Choir to Carol At Northland Mall, and many more from the 84 issues that were published during this time.

In August 1999, Fr. Dunn and Parish Council agreed to publish “The Mike” again. This time it was published on a quarterly basis and headed up by Alex Jamieson, writer/editor and Kim Rosmarin, typesetting. Parishioner Dorothy Murnane insisted that her company Dee Printing cover the cost of printing at no cost to the parish. Like the previous newsletters, various members of our parish organizations would contribute stories for each publication, including Martina Jakob, Chris Damo, James Valasquez, Shannon Kapp, Glenn Allie, Gina Finley, Gene Krajnak, Donna Krajnak, Theresa Ficek, Richard Long, Tony Petrarca, Sandy Wigginton, Debbie Dodd, Mary Ann Koncal, Tracy Ceritelli, Barb Bowling, Anne Scarpitti and many more. This phase of “The Mike” ended around 2003.

We hope to soon have all the issues scanned and uploaded on our parish website for your viewing and enjoyment.

### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know”**

In a few weeks we’ll be doing a crossword with some St. Michael History trivia! You may want to memorize or snip out these questions and answers so that you can complete the crossword!

What month and year did our school first open? Answer: September 1946

What month, day and year was the First Sunday Mass held in the current church? Answer: June 14, 1964

What is the month, day, and year our current school was dedicated? Answer: November 21, 1954

On November 30, 2013, what building was blessed by the Bishop? Answer: Parish Ministry Center

In what year did we refurbish the Convent for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist? Answer: 2011

Who was our Founding Pastor? Answer: John P Byrne

Where was the location of our first Mass? Answer: Seminary Chapel Pontifical College

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What is the month and year of the Charter Installation of the Knights of Columbus?

Answer: March 1995

How many parishioners attended St. Michael's very first Mass? Answer: 128

What is the month, day and year of the first Mass held in our second parish owned church, aka, the Quonset Hut? Answer: July 11, 1948

What month, day and year was St. Michael's Homecoming Festival held?

Answer: October 8, 1977

The first Mass was held for our parish at The Pontifical College Josephinum in St. Turibius Chapel. What year was it? Answer: February 10, 1946

Last names of the first Co-Pastors of St. Michael's in 1976? Answer: Geiger and Schneider

What was our second parish owned church called? Answer: Quonset Hut

### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know”**

What is the month, day and year that the Grotto was Dedicated? Answer: June 10, 1976

What country did the Golden Canopy (Baldachino Dome) above the Altar come from?

Answer: Italy

On September 18, 2012, Fr. \_\_\_\_ became Pastor of St. Michaels. Answer: Dinovo

St. Michael's is the only \_\_\_\_\_ parish in one of Ohio's Oldest communities?

Answer: Catholic

In July of 2016, Fr. \_\_\_\_\_ was assigned as Parochial Vicar of St. Michael's. Answer: Lynch

How many students attended the first year we had a school in the Chase Mansion in 1947?

Answer: 44

Before the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist moved into the Convent, we used to have our adoration chapel there and it was called the Divine Mercy Chapel. What is the month, day and year did it first open? Answer: May 1, 2003

What was the name of the Order of the first Sisters who came to St. Michael's and taught in our school called? Answer: Franciscan

Our church is what type of architecture design? Answer: Romanesque

What was the first parish owned church known as? Answer: Chase Mansion

### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know”**

The Baptistry (as taken from the January 21, 2007, bulletin announcement by Fr. Pendolphi):

The Baptistry was painted in January 2007 by a local artist who attended the 6:30 a.m. weekday Mass and the expense was borne by the donation of a parishioner family.

Did you know our baptistry is octagonal? Do you know the significance of “8”? The Jewish Sabbath, Saturday, is the seventh and last day of their week. Jesus' resurrection took place on a Sunday. Its significance cannot be exaggerated. With the resurrection comes a new life, recreation, the conquest of sin and death. These are the same realities that occur at every Baptism. Sunday for the Jewish faith is the first day of the week. For Christians, it is the “8th”

day because it signifies a new creation, a new beginning, and a new life that happened the day after the Jewish Sabbath or 7th day. That is why our baptistery has eight sides.



### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know”**

The Baptistery (as taken from the January 21, 2007, bulletin announcement by Fr. Pendolphi): A central image of Baptism is water because it cleanses, rejuvenates, refreshes, and nourishes. The paintings in our baptistery reflect a water motif. The three paintings on the north wall reflect important events in the Old Testament. Noah and his family descending the mountain after the flood waters subside signal a new beginning for God’s people (same thing happens in Baptism). Moses, in the central panel, leads God’s people out of the slavery of Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea to freedom. (Baptism leads us from slavery of sin to the freedom of holiness.) An older Moses strikes the rock in the wilderness (a symbol of Christ) and the water rushing from the rock quenches our need for God and His salvation. On the south side wall (the entrance to church), there are three paintings from the New Testament. On the left, the first miracle of Jesus, that changing of water into wine at Cana. (In Baptism, we are changed from sons and daughters of Adam and Eve into sons and daughters of God).

On the right side is the Baptism of Jesus by John in the waters of the Jordan River. Jesus did not need John’s Baptism. By being baptized, Jesus made holy the waters for everyone who would be baptized. In the center is the single most salvific act of human history...the crucifixion of Jesus for the redemption of the world. In this painting, Jesus has just died, and the Roman soldier has pierced His side with a spear. Water pours forth from the side of Christ...the birth of the Church. (In Baptism, the water of the sacrament makes us members of Christ’s body, the Church). And so, a baby enters the baptistery from the north under the Old Testament under Moses and, creation, a child of God, a Christian. The walls are glazed Venetian plaster and the ceiling a rich majestic blue.

### **75th Anniversary “Did You Know”**

*St. Michael’s Grotto* –The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes is of Carrara marble hand-carved by artists of Italy. The Grotto is a replica, to some extent, of the famous Grotto of Lourdes, France. We are grateful to all who have made this project attain its final realization.

## A Celebration of 60 Years of Priesthood

*Father John P. Byrne, founding pastor and pastor emeritus of St. Michael Parish, will be honored at a noon mass on Sunday, May 26, in recognition of the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. A reception in the church undercroft will be held following the mass. All parishioners are invited to participate in these ceremonies.*

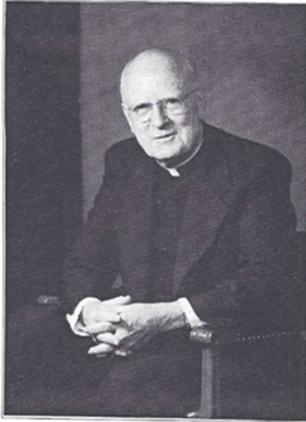
Father Byrne was born on October 22, 1902 in Glynwood, Ohio. On graduation from St. Joseph College, Collegeville, Indiana in 1925, he pursued studies for the priesthood at St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati and Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West in Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained for the Cincinnati archdiocese on May 30, 1931 in St. Peter Cathedral by Archbishop John McNicholas.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Hamilton, Ohio. In 1936 he was given the dual assignment of pastor of St. Aloysius, Elmwood, and instructor at Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati. In December 1939 he was named chaplain of the Federal Reformatory in Chillicothe. When Chillicothe was merged with the diocese of Columbus in a realignment of diocesan boundaries in 1944, Father Byrne became a priest of the Columbus diocese. It was soon thereafter, in January 1946, that Bishop Michael Ready chose him to organize the new St. Michael Parish. He offered the first mass for new parishioners at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Worthington, on February 10, 1946.

Under Father Byrne's guidance, our parish experienced a phenomenal growth beginning with the purchase of the seven acre site of the former Philander Chase Mansion at the northeast corner of Selby Blvd. and High Street in Worthington on April 12, 1946. Religious ceremonies and other parish activities were initially conducted in the former Chase Mansion, but in 1948, a steel fabricated Quonset hut was dedicated as the first parish-built church. (The Quonset has since been demolished.) Our school was opened in 1954, and the rectory was completed and occupied in 1957. Last, but not least, our present church was dedicated in 1964, where the first mass was offered by Father Byrne on June 14, 1964.

Parish and community life also flourished under Father Byrne's guidance, a legacy which still continues after his retirement as pastor of St. Michael in November 1976. At a parish reception honoring him on the occasion of his 75th birthday in November 1977, Bishop Edward J. Herrmann named him "pastor emeritus" of St. Michael in honor of his long years of devoted priestly ministry to the people in the Worthington area.

Since his retirement from St. Michael, Father Byrne has been living at St. Charles Seminary in Carthagen, Ohio where he still assists at various parishes in the area.



**Father John P. Byrne**  
Founding Pastor and Pastor Emeritus  
of St. Michael Parish

### 75th Anniversary "Did You Know" St. Michael Story: In the Beginning Part 1

It was a winter evening, January 31, 1946, and our founding pastor, the Reverend John P. Byrne, had been called to Columbus by Bishop Michael Ready to discuss the establishment of three new parishes in the Columbus area. The Bishop had already appointed a priest for one of the new parishes. Pointing to a map of Franklin County, Bishop Ready offered the former chaplain at the Federal Reformatory in Chillicothe a choice of one of the two remaining parishes. Father Byrne without hesitation chose Worthington. Thus, was born the first and only Catholic parish in one of Ohio's oldest communities and it retains the distinction to this day.

Father Byrne inquired of Bishop Ready, "Where in Worthington is the new church to be located?" "Oh, you will have to buy a site," the Bishop replied, stipulating that the first Mass for the new congregation was to be offered on February 10, 1946. This was just a little over one week until the first services!

Faced with this deadline, Father Byrne turned to Monsignor Adrian Brandiehoff, rector of St. Josephinum, the Pontifical Seminary. Monsignor offered the seminary chapel to Father Byrne, an offer gratefully accepted. This allowed Father Byrne to meet the established deadline set by the Bishop.

## **75th Anniversary “DidYou Know”**

### **St. Michael Story: In the Beginning Part 2**

Bishop Ready created the new St. Michael parish by realigning the parish boundaries of Immaculate Conception to form both St. Michael and Our Lady of Peace parishes. "St. Michael territory included the villages of Worthington and Riverlea, and the communities known as Colonial Hills and Hills and Dales." Announcement of the first mass was welcomed by some 80 families who lived in the Worthington area. A surprised Father Byrne witnessed 128 parishioners attending this first service in the Josephinum chapel. After this first mass, services were held in a former dance hall in an old weather-beaten building on E. North St. in Worthington. An altar, candlesticks, chalice, linens, and a few vestments were donated. A big old upright piano, covered with a white cloth, stood just off to the right of the altar. A month later, services were offered in the I.O.O.F. Hall on Granville Rd. (Rt. 161) when the old dance hall was condemned as unsafe and a fire hazard by the fire department. The rent for the temporary church was \$5.00 per Sunday or Holy Day.

### **St. Michael Story: In the Beginning continued... Part 3**

Although progress had been made in the new parish and attendance was on the increase, Father Byrne's main concern was finding a permanent site for a church. In his daily searching for possible locations within the City of Worthington, he noticed a vacant piece of land on the east side of N. High St. immediately north of Selby boulevard, abutting a large white house.

With this information, the hard-working priest once again met with Bishop Ready to apprise him of his findings. Father Byrne found acquiring the land and the big white house, known as the Chase Mansion, was not that easy. He learned that the Chase Mansion had been sold to Gaylord "Pete" Stinchomb, an All-American fullback at Ohio State University during the football career of the famous Chick Harley.

By April 1946, both the land parcel and the Chase Mansion were purchased for \$5,500 with money loaned by the diocese. The total land purchase was just under 6 acres with a frontage of 450 ft. on N. High St. Soon, the stately old mansion was converted into a combination church, school, and rectory.

### **St. Michael Story: In the Beginning continued... Part 4**

**Story contributor: Ron Eifert**

The parish continued to grow. A fund-raising campaign brought a new school building to fruition in 1954. The new structure housed 11 classrooms, cafeteria, and kitchen. It provided breathing space for Father Byrne and his growing parish, nearly doubling in size. By 1956, the parish witnessed further growth to nearly 400 families and more than 1500 individuals. Further help came for Father Byrne when Father John M. Fulcher, a newly ordained diocesan priest, was appointed St. Michael first full-time assistant pastor.

There was concern, however, by the new parishioners that it would take many years before a new church could be built. Some, like present parishioner, Paul Cotter, surmised, they would never see it in their lifetime. None could have visualized the beautiful new church, and other buildings that would soon make up the St. Michael parish grounds.

A new church had to come sooner or later. It was only a question of "when." Plans for a new church were being prepared by local architect Edward Ramsey, a St. Michael parishioner, who had prepared the plans for the school and rectory. Estimated cost of the new church was roughly \$500,000. Additional funding of \$125,000 was proposed for a new convent for the Joliet Franciscan sisters to replace the 150-year-old Chase Mansion which had been used as the convent since the school had been built. Another \$10,000 was earmarked to remodel the Quonset for more school space.

## **The Dominican Sisters – Part 1**

### **Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist!**

In 1967, a new convent was built for nine Joliet Franciscan Sisters who served the parish school and parish community with dedication for thirty years. From June 1974 until 2011 the parish was without the presence of any Sisters. On August 14, 2011, an open house was held for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, who came down from Ann Arbor, Michigan at the invitation of Bishop Frederick Campbell to establish a Mission at St. Michaels. As the parish celebrates their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Sisters celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 14, 2021.

**The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist**, an Ann Arbor based order of teaching sisters, had accepted the St Michael pastor's request to join St Michael School. The sisters were to provide the school principal and four teaching sisters for the 2012 school year. They would occupy the Convent building, no longer the Vianney Home, and at the time called St. Ann Hall. In order for the Sisters to take occupancy of St. Ann Hall, a plan to remodel the inside of the building was planned, so that it would function as it once did when the Joliet Franciscan Sisters had been in residence. The remodel, largely overseen by Father Stash Dailey, Associate Pastor of St. Michael and friend of the Sisters, as well as volunteers from St. Michaels and other nearby parishes would include; relocating the parish offices to a temporary trailer in the parish parking lot across from the Rectory garage, relocating the St. Vincent DePaul Pantry and storage room, relocating offices and storage rooms in the upper floors, and relocating the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel to other locations around the parish plant, since the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist required use of the entire facility to function as a Cloistered Convent community.

## **The Dominican Sisters continued... Part 2**

### **The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist**

A series of “work-days and clean up days” were organized by Jennifer Mulligan, parishioner John Greve and others, where teams of volunteers spent Saturday afternoons renovating and cleaning the convent for the anticipated arrival of the Sisters. A Baby Shower was arranged and held June 26, 2011, in Marian Hall where many gifts were presented to the Sisters for their now newly renovated Convent. On August 14, 2011, a Convent Dedication Mass was held for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist and was attended by many of the Sisters who traveled down from their Motherhouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan, including Mother Assumpta. Mass was officiated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, along with priests: Fr. Richard Pendolphi, Fr. Stash Dailey, Fr. Carmen Arcuri. The Convent was blessed by the Bishop following Mass as parishioners gathered on the west lawn of the convent. After the blessing all attending had a chance to tour the convent. This was a special moment for many, since after the dedication and tour the convent would then be considered cloistered, with only the sisters and the blessing of the convent following Mass. The first Sisters to move into the convent for the coming school year were Principal - Sister Mary Michael, Spanish – Sister Joseph Maria, Religion – Sister Catherine Marie, Pre-K Program – Sister Mary Jacinta. Other sisters who have served or are currently serving on mission at St. Michael: Sr. Agnes Maria, Sr. Christiana, Sr. Immaculata, Sr. John Paul, Sr. Jude Andrew, Sr. Maria Fatima, Sr. Mary Gabriel, Sr. Mary John, Sr. Maria Kolbe, Sr. Mary Perpetua, Sr. Maris Stella, Sr. Teresa Paul.

### **St. Michael Story: In the Beginning continued... Part 5**

#### **Story contributor: Ron Eifert**

Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann stipulated that half of the total financing (\$635,000) must be on hand before construction could start. Father Byrne had carefully, under various fund-raising activities, managed to "stash away" \$175,000. The balance of the church financing - totaling some \$142,500 - was needed before work could begin.

To meet this challenge, Father Byrne called in parish leaders. Their voice was unanimous. "We'll do it ourselves without any outside help." The goal was \$200,000. In a month's time, parish campaign workers had brought in \$193,500 in cash and pledges. The new St. Michael church would now become a reality. Ground was broken in September 1962 and on June 14, 1964, Communion Sunday for the Holy Name Society, Father Byrne offered the first Sunday Mass at 8 a.m. The beautiful new church was of Romanesque design featuring marble pillars and a golden canopy from Italy on the main altar.

Celebration of the first mass offered in the new church had taken place earlier on Friday evening, June 12, 1964 as part of graduation ceremonies for 1964 graduates of St. Michael elementary grade school. Father Byrne and his beloved parishioners had met the challenge. The Lord had been gracious and kind in answering their prayers. St. Michael Parish had a beautiful new church building. Dedication ceremonies were held on August 27, 1964. To commemorate the event, a dedication book was published featuring a detailed history of the parish, photographs of the church, and various parish organizations.

## **St. Michael Story continued... Part 6**

### **Story contributor: Ron Eifert**

In June 1974, the convent, which had been completed in 1967, was closed and the church saw the departure of the Joliet Franciscan sisters who had so diligently served the educational needs of the school and parish for three decades. The former convent was transferred to the Diocese of Columbus in October 1974 and became a retirement home for priests called Vianney Residence.

By the spring of the following year plans were underway to fund Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Campaign workers were jubilant when it was learned that they had reached their goal of \$5,000 to construct the shrine at the north end of the entrance drive near High St. When our Lady of Lourdes Grotto was completed, the faculty and students of St. Michael Elementary School gathered on June 10, 1976, at the shrine. Father Byrne offered prayers and the Act of Solemn Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

1976 brought several clergy changes when our founding pastor Father Byrne reached retirement age after serving 30 years as pastor of St. Michael Parish. On Oct. 31, 1976, this beloved man of Irish heritage, bade fond farewell to members of his church and their families.

With his departure, Bishop Herrmann announced on Nov 17, 1976 that co-pastors Fathers John A. Geiger and Robert E. Schneider were assigned to St. Michael. Formal installation of the new priests was celebrated three weeks later on December 5, 1976.

## **St. Michael Story: In the Beginning continued... Part 7**

### **New School Addition**

#### **Story contributor: Ron Eifert**

In the summer of 1980, Father Edward F. Trenor assumed duties as the new pastor of St. Michael and was soon involved in a major project of the parish. Time had taken its toll on the physical plant, particularly the aging quonset hut, that had served as church and school over the years. With the influx of new parishioners, school enrollment was on the increase and available space was very limited. By early February 1981, plans were developed to begin construction for a proposed addition to the school. The addition was to include a gym, classrooms, religious education office, library, and lavatories at a cost of \$491,000. In a matter of a few weeks, volunteer workers had reached their goal in raising the required funds for the new addition. As Father Trenor aptly commented, "the response was overwhelming."

Only a year following St. Michael's remarkable fund drive for the new school addition, dedication ceremonies were held. Parishioners, students, and school faculty participated at a noon concelebrated Mass on February 28, 1982. The dedication ceremonies celebrated the successful completion of the new facility. The joyful event included an open house and school science fair. With completion of the new building, the entire education complex was now under

one roof. The debt was retired in February 1984, just three years after the beginning of the fund drive.

### **St. Michael Story continued...Part 8**

On May 1, 1982 a Spring Dinner Dance was held in St. Michael's new gym. Music provided by Sounds of Swing (Relive the Big Band Era). On May 25, 1982 a reception was held honoring Fr. Lowery. Father served as Associate Pastor of St. Michael since July 7, 1980. His new assignment was Pastor of St. Edward, Granville on June 1, 1982. On November 13, 1982 The St. Michael Women's Club held their annual Bazaar in the new school gymnasium. Visitors to the Bazaar could take part in Crafts made by many parishioners, Secret Santa, Raffle, Baked Goods, White Elephant Sale and more. In December of 1982, parishioner Frank Wallenfels designed and built an outdoor Nativity Scene, so we can all be reminded of the birth of the Saviour as they pass St. Michael's during the Christmas season. The nativity scene was located for many years in front of Mary's Grotto. Started by Fr. Dinovo a number of years ago, we now have a new nativity scene that is erected every Christmas season on the southeast corner of our church property along North High Street.

### **St. Michael Story continued...Part 9**

On February 13, 1983, at 7:30 p.m., St. Michael Church hosted and co-sponsored, along with the Worthington Area Peace Coalition, the viewing of a new film by Mary Knoll about the Arms Race called "GODS OF METAL". Featured in the film was Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and Tom Siemer, a former Rockwell International employee. The 27-minute documentary is about the nuclear arms race and people of faith who are trying to stop it. As noted in the flyer we had in our February 6, 1963, bulletin: The documentary tells how the arms race is analyzed from a Christian perspective, showing the economic and social effects on people in the United States and the Third World, especially the poor. The film shows what individuals and groups were doing at the time to halt the arms build-up and gives practical suggestions on what each of us can do to help create a world of peace and understanding. After the showing of the film, Mr. Siemer, at the time "Director of The Holy Family Peace Center", discussed with those attending "what can we do about Nuclear War." Tom Siemer converted from war to peace work after leaving Rockwell. Tom was a "Charter Member" of the Missile Administration at Rockwell and worked there for 23 years before leaving in 1976 to work fulltime for peace.

### **PARISH HISTORY "Did You Know"**

June 2019 memories from a former student: "Hello St. Michael's! I just want to say how much I love the school. I was the youngest child of 4 children who went there. During my years of attending, I was assigned a pen pal in Oregon in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with Mrs. Jacob. We sent letters to one another about our school week. Our daily life, our favorite things, how we vacationed, and other exciting things. I still remember writing letters and waiting for the day to hear from my pen pal. (I also remember feeling so excited that my pen pals name was Krista and mine was Kristi).

Turns out Krista and I ended up friends! A friendship and experience that never would have happened without my family being blessed with attending the school. Krista is an accomplished

woman who still values my friendship since the day it was created, just in the way I value her friendship. We did nothing out of the ordinary other than feel thankful for the school we went to for introducing us. I want to say thank you for everything I was taught. St. Michael's is an amazing school when my daughter turns of age, I hope to send her there. I am so thankful for those who taught me when I was there." - Kristi Gegas

## **PARISH HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW?**

### **October – 1952 ‘Miracle of Fatima’ Float Wins Worthington Contest**

A float sponsored by St. Michael's Church was awarded first prize at a recent celebration in Worthington. The float, entitled "Miracle of Fatima" was tops among nine entries.

Members of the committee who arranged the float were Laura Guerin, Barbara Sherer, Eileen Graham, Shiela Coughlan, Sharon Radcliffe, Pat Joyce, Sally Koehler and Susam Weiland

Taken from a 1952 newspaper article in St. Michael's Archives.

## **PARISH HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW?**

In February 1955, a large delegation of Worthington residents attended the last meeting of the Worthington Village Council to secure an amendment to soften enforcement of the village gambling ordinance enacted in 1922. The recent enactment of the ordinance affected bingo at St. Michael's church & the Parent Teacher Association benefit card party. The delegation shared that all proceeds of their bingo and raffle operations paid for many important educational and welfare activities and urged some form of relief. Mr. Cornelius Tracy of St. Michael's church, John Abbott of the Leasure-Blackstone, Commander Robert Burnham of the local Moose Lodge and Post of the American Legion were some from the delegation making their concerns heard. After an executive session, the Council voted 4 to 2 for strict enforcement of the ordinance.

According to the February 18, 1955 article in the weekly newspaper publication "The Spectator", this led to the last bingo at St. Michaels and cancellation of the school card party benefit fundraiser. In deterrence to the edict of the Worthington Village Council, visitors to the regular Thursday night bingo game at St. Michael's church last week were informed that no prizes would be given, but that a social game would be held. As the game proceeded on a purely social basis, Jim Lewis from the Village Police Department appeared and stated that he had been ordered to make an arrest. When he observed that no ordinances were being violated and that a social evening was carried out in order that those who had come without notice of the ban might not be disappointed, Mr. Lewis departed. It was announced that no further games would be held unless there were an amendment to the present ordinance of the village permitting charity bingo. This resulted in members of the church starting a boycott of Worthington merchants, according to a February 21 follow up article.

## **PARISH HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2003 a parish library opened in the St. Michael Room below Marian Hall. Initial Librarians were Michelle Bissonnette, Nick Droll (now Fr. Droll), Alex Jamieson, Annette Petrozzi, Kim Rosmarin Gina Finley, Mrs. Funk and Alice Heller. The shelves and bookcases were donated by the Knights of Columbus and many parishioners donated books, videos, CDs, and magazines. The Parish Library had religious music (CDs, Audio Tapes), religious children's books, music and videos, religious magazines / periodicals, reference books included the complete collection of the Summa Theologiae from Thomas Aquinas and other well-known catholic reference materials. The library was opened after all Masses for parishioners to visit and check out items. During a flood in the lower level of the building shortly after Fr. Dinovo arrived as Pastor, most items were ruined and could not be recovered.

## **PARISH HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW?**

St. Michael's current choir began in the late 1960's. At that time our directors were current or former music professors from The Ohio State University. In 1976, the choir recorded an album called "Rejoice". Side One contained "The Christmas Story" with lessons and carols. Our founding Pastor, Fr. John P. Byrne does the narration of the lessons. Side Two is "Songs of Worship", and includes various songs of Christian worship, some of which our current choir sings today. The choir was directed by Robert Lynch, with Joan DiRosario as Organist. Choir members who sang for the album included: Ruth Albers, William Colonel, Bette Creighton, William Cumiskey, Mary Lou DePaul, Bonnie Fredericks, Jean Gibson, Nancy Gibson, Gene Krajnak, Janet Lampe, Marian Lampe, Anthony Morici, Rosemary Morici, James Munhall, Anthony Petrozzi, Lucille Rafferty, Michael Rafferty, Susan Rafferty, Thomas Russell, Margaret Sakeley, Carol Sederstrand, Stacy Snyder and Karen VanGilse. You can hear Side 1 at this link: <https://youtu.be/oOylkUXK3gU> and Side 2 at this link: <https://youtu.be/eH7BZmTV7bI>. Today's choir Director and Organist is Ron Barrett. The choir could always use more singers. Consider joining the choir.

## **St. Michael Story continued...Part 10**

On September 21, 1986, Bishop Griffin visited St. Michael to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving in commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish. Father Byrne attended the celebration and delivered the Homily. Other priests associated with St. Michael the past four decades concelebrated the Mass. In 1990, St. Michael witnessed further clergy changes when Father William A. Dunn, who served as Associate Pastor (1965 – 1967) was assigned to the parish. He replaced Fr. Edward Trenor who was named pastor of Christ the King Parish in Columbus. The Vianney Residence was returned to St. Michael in April 1992 and renamed St. Ann Hall. It had served as a convent for the Franciscan sisters, then as a home for retired priests administered by the Diocese of Columbus. After much planning, a \$3.5 million project to meet the growing needs of the parish was formally introduced to the parish at large in April 1995. This resulted in the construction of Marian Hall and basement meeting rooms, the repurposing of the former convent into St. Ann Hall, and many additions to the school. The construction was done between July 1997 and May 1999.

### **St. Michael Story continued...Part 11**

In September 2001 the parish celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the festival. In June 2002, after 12 years as pastor, Fr. Dunn left St. Michael's for a new pastoral assignment at St. John's in Logan, Ohio, while Fr. Richard J. Pendolphi left St. John's to be St. Michael's new pastor.

During Fr. Pendolphi's pastoral leadership we saw the relocation of our tabernacle to the center of the church on Holy Thursday 2003, as well as the renovation of the former convent chapel for the introduction of Perpetual Adoration on May 1, 2003. This was later moved to the server's sacristy, before residing in its current location.

The next few years saw a handful of other updates. In December 2004 the stained-glass windows were installed in the church, and in January 2007 the baptistry was painted. In 2009 the pipe organ was renovated, and the ambo was installed.

### **St. Michael Story continued...Part 12**

With great anticipation, it was announced that the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist would be coming to the parish school in August of 2011. St. Ann Hall returned to its original purpose as a convent, which required another expansion to be planned. On September 18, 2012 Fr. Pendolphi was reassigned as priest moderator of St. Aloysius and St. Agnes Parishes, and Fr. Anthony Dinovo was assigned as pastor of St. Michael.

Ground broke on the parish ministry center on March 17, 2013, and it was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Frederick Campbell on November 30, 2013. It added new meeting spaces, offices, a larger Perpetual Adoration Chapel, and a larger space for the St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

From its humble beginnings with its first Mass at the Pontifical College Josephinum, second Mass in a former dance hall on the east end of E North Street at Pingree Dr., third mass on the second floor of the Odd Fellows Hall at St. Rt. 161 and Hartford Street, to Masses in the Chase Mansion, then in the Quonset Hut, to our current church, St. Michael the Archangel remains the first and only Catholic parish in the City of Worthington.

## **History of our Parish Festivals:**

On June 28, 1947, the year our parish was established, St. Michaels held its first Summer Festival. Our founding pastor was Fr. John P Byrne. The festival continued annually until 1964 when all fund-raising activities were terminated in favor of tithing. St. Michael didn't hold a festival for 13 years, but then things changed. To meet the needs of a growing parish and church expenses, the festival was revived on October 8, 1977, when a group of men from the parish met earlier that year to pitch fundraising plans to parish council and Fr. Byrne. One idea was to have a Festival, which won the majority vote. And so began the next wave of festivals at St. Michaels. The big one-day event had a dual purpose: (1) each parish organization would have the opportunity to enhance its specific treasury, and (2) the extra money netted from the festival would help refurbish the church rectory. The Festival Chairman that year was Gene Krajnak backed by a hard-working festival committee and many dedicated parishioner volunteers.

One of the notable games we have seen from our film archives from those early years was the penny pitch game. It must have been a popular game at the time because we saved the game for so many years. Another was a chance to win a Cannon blanket at only 10 cents and a bottle of pop was 10 cents. A bargain back then.

The following article from our parish newspaper called "The Mike" gives a perspective from their November 1977 issue. The festival we have today is a continuation of that tradition. The Mike was published from 1977 to 1980 then, was revived in August 1999 and was published quarterly until around 2003.

### **"Festival Mood Bright In Spite of Weather"**

There was dampness on the ground and in the air as many people put finishing touches on festival stands and displays during the morning of October 8th, but every face showed the bright mood throughout the day.

It was indeed a festival and people turned out to join in the fun. Throughout the afternoon children-and-adults lined up to go through the spook house, to throw sponges, balls, coins, and rings, and to eat their fill of bratwurst or wieners. Many people gathered to listen and watch as a variety of entertainers filled the air with sound throughout the afternoon and evening.

A great number of people were delighted with the display of arts and crafts in the Quonset's gym, and some expressed hope for a bigger art display sometime in the Spring of next year. By eight o'clock the casino was going strong and continued to be active till the last stragglers were given the word about 1:15 in the morning.

T-shirt enthusiasts were almost as persistent as the gamblers. Attendants at the T-shirt booth continued long after midnight to press decals on the shirts to satisfy eager customers.

General Festival Chairman Gene Krajnak estimated that almost 500 people participated in the work of the festival. He expressed gratitude for the cooperation and enthusiasm people showed. The weather certainly affected attendance, but in spite of dampness the festival

chairman estimated a net profit of \$6,000. After all expenses are tallied, they'll publish a complete report."

## **Festival History**

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FESTIVAL CHAIRMEN & CHAIRWOMEN SINCE 1977

1977-1978 Gene and Donna Krajnak	1998 Alex Jamieson
1979 Jim & Nancy Munhall	1999 Rob & Janet Hale
1980 Tom & Shirley Russell	2000 Gene Krajnak/Tom Russell
1981 Tony & Betty Petrarca	2001 James Velasquez
1982 Doug Elzey	2002 Rob & Ron Fann
1983 Roger & Pat Rees	2003 Mike & Rita McCabe
1984 Bob & Pat McCoy	2004 Al & Sheri Rogers
1985 John Vogel	2005 Alex Jamieson/Kim Rosmarin
1986 Chuck Kaps	2006 Nancy Benedetti/Kim Rosmarin
1987 Don & Pat Stegman	2007 Jim & Maureen Ferega
1988 John & Barb Modecki-Mellett	2008 Ron & Rob Fann
1989 Bob & Dottie Flynn	2009 Bob & Dave Tatz
1990 Karen & John Reitz	2010-11 Scott Mergenthale & Mike Gross
1991 Nancy Benedetti	2012 Alex Jamieson
1992 Klaus & Sharon Fricke	2013 Jeff & Rachel Kubic
1993 Cy & Hollis Cottrell	2014 Shane & Sherry Whitacre
1994 Jeff & Eileen Krotine	2015-16 Brett & Jeanne Gissel
1995 Cy & Hollis Cottrell	2017-18 Alex Jamieson
1996 Jeff & Eileen Krotine	2019,21 Seth Walker
1997 Darnell & Carmen Perkins	