

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The Grimmelsman Years: Part I — Early years of diocese

Editor's note: This article is the first in a series examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana and its leadership and also the trends in the church and in the larger society.

The following text is taken from a supplement to the diocesan newspaper at the time, the *Register of Southwestern Indiana*, published on June 10, 1966. The Article, "A time of Growth: Diocese of Evansville 1945-1965," was published without a byline or credit to a writer.

On Nov. 11, 1944, a new era began for the Church in southwestern Indiana. On that day the Diocese of Indianapolis was divided and the 12 counties of southwestern Indiana became the Diocese of Evansville. Msgr. Henry J. Grimmelsman, who since 1932 had

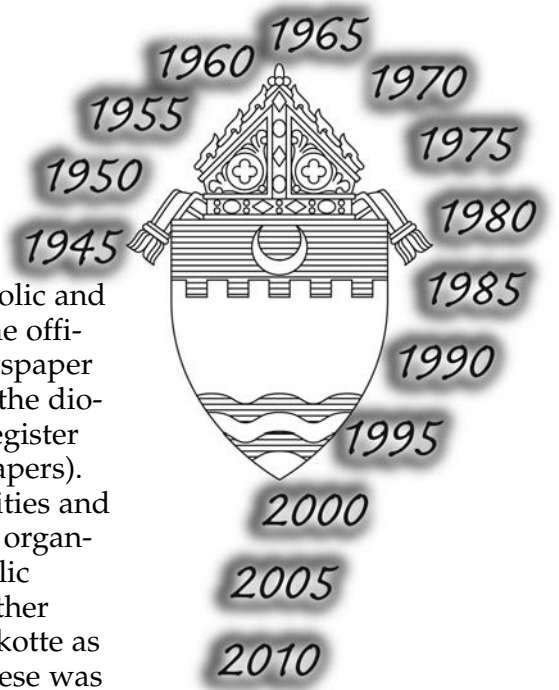
been rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum at Worthington, Ohio, was named the first bishop of the newly created diocese.

On Jan. 3, 1945, before 1,000 priests, sisters and lay men and women at Assumption Cathedral he was installed by Archbishop Joseph Ritter as Bishop and Pastor of the nearly 50,000 Catholics in the diocese. In an impressive ceremony the 75 priests of the diocese renewed their promise of obedience to their new bishop. In the evening a

civic reception, which was later called "the biggest joint religious event of its kind in the history of Evansville," was held in the Coliseum.

To help him carry out his new task of organizing and administering a diocese, Bishop Grimmelsman began to choose a staff. Msgr. Frederic

The *Indiana Catholic and Record* became the official diocesan newspaper (until 1956 when the diocese joined the Register System of newspapers). Social work, charities and youth work were organized under Catholic Charities with Father Charles Schoettelkotte as director. The diocese was placed under the protec-



Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter was born in New Albany, Ind. After studies at St. Meinrad Seminary, he was ordained a priest in 1917. He was Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis from 1933 to 1934, then Bishop and Archbishop of Indianapolis from 1934 to 1946. He was named Archbishop of St. Louis in 1946, was created a cardinal in 1961, and continued in St. Louis until his death in 1967.

Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman was born in Cincinnati on Dec. 22, 1890, and ordained a priest on Aug. 15, 1915. He was consecrated as bishop at the Josephinum on Dec. 21, 1944, then was installed as Bishop of Evansville on Jan. 3, 1945. He retired Oct. 20, 1965. Bishop Grimmelsman died June 26, 1972, and is buried at St. Joseph Cemetery in Evansville.

Msgr. Thomas J. Clarke was born Sept. 29, 1908, and ordained May 22, 1934. He studied at St. Meinrad Seminary and received his doctorate from the Catholic University of America in 1943. He was instrumental in establishing the Diocese of Evansville,

and continued in leadership under three bishops before retiring in 1973.

He served Bishop Grimmelsman as his chancellor and vicar judicialis. He was named a domestic prelate, with the title of Monsignor, in 1953.

Msgr. Clarke died in Indianapolis on March 16, 2001.

Msgr. Frederic Ketter was chosen by Bishop Grimmelsman to be his Vicar General.

He was born in Evansville in 1874, ordained a priest for the Diocese of Indianapolis in 1898, and served in parishes in Sullivan, Newburgh and Evansville. He became a Monsignor in 1933 and Dean of the Evansville Deanery in 1934.

He was 70 years old when Bishop Grimmelsman named him Vicar General.

He served the diocese until his death in 1951.

Msgr. Charles T. Schoettelkotte was the founder and long time director of Catholic Charities, 1940 to 1970, in the Diocese of Evansville.

He also founded the Catholic Theater Guild and was director of the Catholic Youth Organization. He was a teacher at St. Mary's School of Nursing and a chaplain at Camp Breckenridge and at the Evansville State Hospital.

From 1956 to 1971 he was editor of the Catholic diocesan newspaper, an edition of the *Register*. He died in 2002.

Where we are today

Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger was ordained and installed April 11, 1989. He will submit his letter of resignation to Pope Benedict XVI on his 75th birthday, Oct. 20, 2010. The pope is under no time constraints in selecting and appointing a successor.

Vicar General

Msgr. Kenneth R. Knapp has served as vicar general, chancellor and moderator of the curia; he currently serves as vicar general.

Judicial Vicar

Msgr. Charles Koch was judicial vicar until 2002. Father J. Kenneth Walker currently holds this position.

A vicar is a person who takes the place of another and performs acts of authority in an ecclesiastical office in the name of another.

A **vicar general** acts in the name of the residential bishop.

The **judicial vicar** is the chief judge and judicial officer of a diocese.

The **chancellor** of a diocese is the official appointed by the bishop whose primary obligation is the maintenance of the diocesan archives.

Chief operating officer

Tim McGuire is chief operating officer of the diocese, with some responsibilities previously held by Msgr. Knapp and later by Kenneth Krasavage. McGuire's title is new.

Catholic Charities

Gayle Uebelhor is the interim director of Catholic Charities, appointed after the retirement of James F. Collins earlier this year.

Diocesan newspapers

The *Indiana Catholic and Record* was the official newspaper for the Diocese of Evansville from 1945 to 1956, followed by the *Register* from 1956 to 1968, the *Evansville edition of the Criterion* from 1968 to 1970, and the *Message*, from 1970 to the present.

Priests and people

Bishop Grimmelsman began with 75 priests serving 50,000 Catholics, in 1945. In 2010, there are 47 active diocesan priests and three Benedictine priests serving 85,000 parishioners.

Parish viability

A committee has been formed, as part of the emerging strategic plan, to select the criteria to be used in determining the viability of a parish. A parish that is not viable will close or merge.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The Grimmelsman Years: Part II — Early years of diocese

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On Feb. 2 [1945] Bishop Grimmelsman ordained Fathers Clinton Hirsch and Raymond Reising, the first of 58 priests he would ordain in the next 21 years. Soon too he began to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. (The 55,000 children and adults he confirmed as bishop were more than the total

Catholic population when he came.)

Bishop Grimmelsman soon gained the reputation for being a "building bishop." It is easy to see why when one looks at the vital statistics: 50,000 Catholics in 1945, 81,512 in 1965; 7,829 children in Catholic grade schools in 1945, 17,397 in 1965; 1,512 Catholic high school students in 1945 and 4,158 in 1965. Added to this was the mass movement to the suburbs in Evansville.

To accommodate this growing and shifting population 13 new parishes have been founded, seven permanent and many temporary churches built,

33 new grade schools and additions to older schools have been made. Central Catholic high school was reopened in Vincennes in 1947, and greatly enlarged in 1964; Mater Dei in Evansville was built in 1949, St. Ferdinand in 1951, Rex Mundi in Evansville in 1958; St. Rose Academy moved into a completely new

facility in 1964; and finally, St. John high school in Loogootee has been enlarged.

To provide well trained priests to serve the diocese, the bishop guided

the building of the Magister Noster Latin School. It opened in 1963. Seeing the coming need for a retreat house to deepen the religious life of the people of the diocese he opened the Sarto Retreat House in 1961. To care for the aged and chronically ill the Council of Catholic Nurses recommended that a modern

nursing home be built. The 135-bed Regina Pacis Nursing Home was the result. Opened in 1957 it was the first comprehensive nursing care home of its type in the Evansville area.

Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?



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Magister Noster Latin School for high school seminarians was opened in 1963. It was operated only until 1972.



In the early 1960s, a fourth Evansville Catholic high school was being considered by Bishop Grimmelsman, to serve the growing population in the southeastern part of the city. Planning was halted at the bishop's retirement.

The Latin School and Rex Mundi were not the only high schools to shut their doors following the Baby Boom of the post World War II years. Historians cite "the pill" and other factors in society as family

size declined.

High schools at St. John Church in Loogootee and St. Ferdinand Church in Ferdinand became public schools.

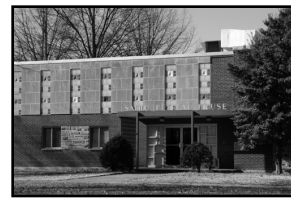
In Vincennes, the Gibault High School was built in

1924 for Catholic males. It closed in 1935 but was reopened in 1947 as Central Catholic High School. Central Catholic became co-educational during the 1970-71 school year when it was joined with the all-female St. Rose Academy. The name was changed to Rivet High School, in honor of Jesuit priest, Jean Francis Rivet. Flaget was established in 1954. Marian Heights Academy, operated by the Benedictine Sisters at Ferdinand, closed its doors in 2000.

Rex Mundi High School, the third Catholic high school in Evansville, was dedicated in 1958. It operated until 1972 when a Catholic school board made the emotional decision, the scars of which remain today. The school is now the site of IVY Tech, which in recent years has expanded and no longer resembles the building it contains.



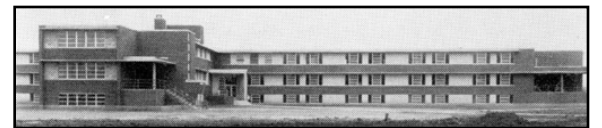
Sarto Retreat House was dedicated in 1961. The Evansville facility was at times staffed with a director who guided retreats and other activities. Sarto



Retreat House shares a 47-acre site in the northern part of Evansville with the former Magister Noster Latin School — now serving as the Catholic Center. Diocesan offices were con-

solidated at the Catholic Center in 1976; in previous years, offices had been located in the Reitz Home where Bishop Grimmelsman resided, at Assumption Cathedral, and at the Pro-Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, all in Evansville.

Regina Pacis Nursing Home opened in 1957, with funds contributed by parishioners throughout the diocese.



The Regina Pacis Home was deeded to St. Mary's Medical Center in 1969. The Regina facility closed in November 2003 when St. Mary's made the decision to end long-term care.

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Where we are today

Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger will submit his letter of resignation to Pope Benedict XVI when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 75, on Oct. 20, 2010.

Until the pope accepts his resignation and appoints a successor, Bishop Gettelfinger will continue with all of the rights and responsibilities of a residential bishop.

He will continue to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at parishes in the diocese; he will ordain deacons and priests if worthy candidates are presented; he will continue to preside at episcopal liturgies on certain Holy Days and Feasts of the Church.

Ordination

Seminarians Brian Emmick and Jeff Read are scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 18, 2011. In previous years, the diaconal ordination was held late in the year; the June ordination provides a longer period of service.

Diocesan offices

Bishop Gettelfinger's office is in the Catholic Center — the former Latin School — along with offices for the chancellor, treasurer, judicial vicar,

superintendent of Catholic schools, vocations director, director of catechesis, youth ministry director, director of worship, director of communications and director of ministry to priests. The offices of Catholic Charities are located in downtown Evansville. Campus ministry offices are maintained at the University of Evansville, the University of Southern Indiana and Vincennes University.

Seminary formation

Magister Noster Latin School in Evansville was opened in 1963 for high school seminarians, part of a formation process that was rapidly disappearing throughout the United States. The school closed in 1972.

Seminarians in the diocese today typically complete Catholic or public high school in their home communities; many begin college or complete college.

In the academic year 2010-2011, diocesan seminarians are studying at Bishop Bruté College Seminary at Marian University in Indianapolis and at St. Meinrad School of Theology.

In recent years, seminarians have also completed formation at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago and at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisc.

Father Ron Kreilein, now the pastor of St. Mary Church in Ireland, attended Magister Noster Latin School until it closed. Almost 30 years later, he returned to priestly formation, completing studies at Hales Corners. He was ordained a priest in 2007.

Schools and enrollment

Elementary and high school enrollment in 1965 topped 21,000, but even then there were signs of dwindling enrollment and changing demographics. The 2010 enrollment was just over 7,300 and included pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Recent developments in Catholic schooling include the establishment of pre-k and kindergarten classes. In 2010, 25 parish schools have reached out to serve younger children.

John Paul the Great High School was established in Jasper in 2009. It is the only private Catholic School in the diocese; enrollment is 15.

School viability

A committee has been formed, as part of the emerging strategic plan, to select the criteria to be used in determining the viability of a parish school. Consolidation is one possible outcome for a school that is judged to be not viable.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The Grimmelsman Years: Part III — Early years of diocese

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The following text is taken from a supplement to the diocesan newspaper at the time, the *Register of Southwestern Indiana*, published on June 10, 1966. The Article, "A time of Growth: Diocese of Evansville 1945-1965," was published without a byline or credit to a writer.

In the years between 1945 and 1965 the number and strength of the Catholic organizations have grown.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, which started with seven councils in 1915 today has 58 councils in the diocese with 341 active members. Over the years they have opened a number of salvage stores to provide clothing and home furnishings for the poor.

Other established organizations such as the Legion of Mary, the Council of Catholic Women and the Parent Teachers Association have also grown.

To meet the needs of the times, new groups and organizations came into being. The Pre-Cana Conferences, the Serra Club, the Christian Family Movement, the Catholic Theater Guild, the Catholic Interracial Council are only some of these. Marian Day School was opened to provide training and religious education for mentally disabled children. Dubois Memorial Hospital at Jasper and St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville have been built. The Little Sisters of the Poor have started an addition to

their home in Evansville.

Like most other cities its size, Evansville has seen a decline in some of its inner city parishes. Since 1944 both Holy Trinity and Assumption schools have been closed and enrollment in several others have declined. To the sorrow of many of its faithful parishioners scattered throughout the city, the Assumption Cathedral was sold in 1965

and razed to make way for a new Civic Center. Holy Trinity has been named the temporary pro-Cathedral.

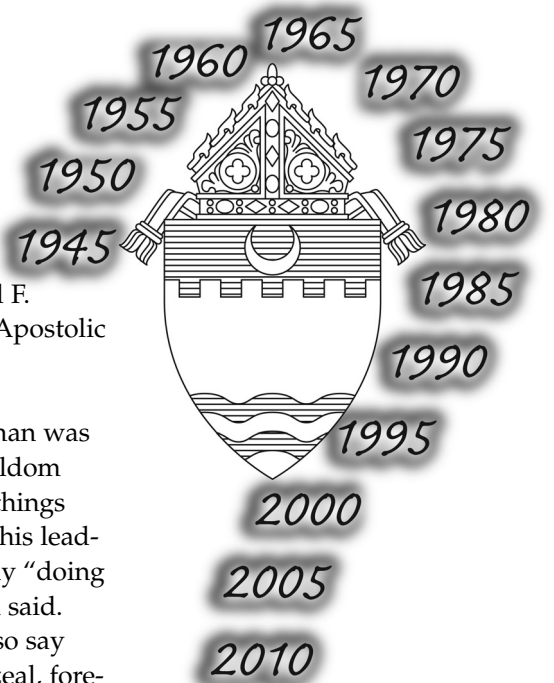
On Oct. 10, 1965, shortly before his 75th birthday, Bishop Grimmelsman resigned as bishop of the di-

ocese and Bishop Paul F. Leibold was named Apostolic Administrator.

Bishop Grimmelsman was a man who would seldom accept credit for the things accomplished under his leadership. He was simply "doing my duty" as he often said. But, many would also say that a man of lesser zeal, foresight and determination could

Where do we go from **HERE** ?

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Cathedrals in southwestern Indiana

The Basilica of St. Francis Xavier (the Old Cathedral) in Vincennes occupies land that was granted to the Catholic Church by the King of France. The first parish records date from 1749. The present building was begun in 1826 and completed in 1839. It was the first cathedral church in the state when Pope Gregory XVI established Vincennes as the first diocese in Indiana in 1834, with Bishop Simon Bruté. The first four bishops of Vincennes are buried in the crypt below the church. In 1898, the See City was moved to Indianapolis and the diocese became the Diocese of Indianapolis.

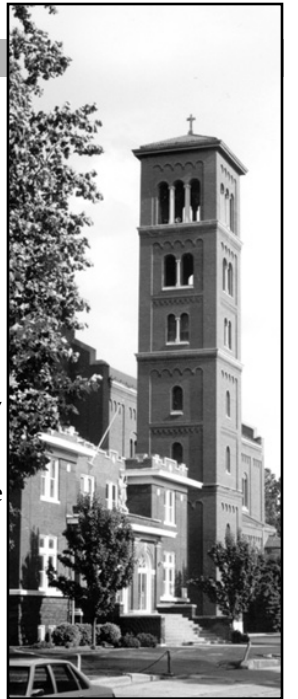


Assumption Church was founded in Evansville in 1837 by Father Anthony Deydier. It was the first Catholic Church in Evansville and the fourth parish established in present diocesan boundaries. The first church, at Second and Sycamore Streets, was sold in 1871, and a new church was built on Seventh Street. Bishop Grimmelsman dedicated Assumption as the diocesan cathedral in 1945. Twenty years later, the property was sold to the city of Evansville to make way for the new Civic Center Complex.



Holy Trinity Church was established in 1849 by Father Francis Kutassy and was the second Catholic Church in the city of Evansville. In 1950 lightning struck the church and it burned to the ground. The present building was completed in 1957. It served the diocese as the Pro-Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity from 1965, when Assumption was torn down, until 1999.

St. Benedict Church was established in 1912. A church and school combination building is now known as St. Scholastica Hall. The current church building was completed in 1928. Both Bishop Francis R. Shea and Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger were ordained and installed here. On April 11, 1999, Bishop Gettelfinger dedicated St. Benedict Church as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Evansville. St. Benedict is both cathedral and parish church, the location of episcopal liturgies as well as daily and Sunday Mass for the parish community.



2010 2010

Where we are today: A partial list of organizations active in the early years of the diocese

Little Sisters of the Poor

From website, www.littlesistersofthepoor.net

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we care for the elderly poor in the spirit of humble service which we have received from Jeanne Jugan. We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death.

We have been serving the needy elderly of Evansville and the Tri-State area since 1882. The present St. John's Home is located adjacent to St. Benedict's Cathedral on Lincoln Avenue in Evansville, built in 1882.

St. John's welcomes needy seniors of at least 60 years of age, regardless of race or religion. We provide a continuum of care in a home-like setting, including:

Independent Living Apartments (21 units), for individuals and couples capable of meeting their own daily needs.

Intermediate Care Nursing (47 private rooms), for Residents who receive complete assistance with their personal and medical needs 24 hours a day, by licensed, trained professionals.

Our Services include: Nursing and Medical Services, Pastoral Care, Recreational and Social Activities, Social Services, Dietary Services, and Laundry and Housekeeping Services.

For more information about the Home, please contact us at (812) 464-3607.

Legion of Mary

"Our main purpose is the spiritual enrichment of our members, and to assist priests," said Jackie Fehrenbacher, president of the Legion of Mary in the diocese.

The parish organization is known as a praesidium; its members meet weekly. A praesidium reports to a comitium, and the comitium to the senatus; the senatus reports to the original organization in Ireland, where the Legion of Mary was founded.

Membership is for men and women. The legion is active in the Evansville and Washington areas.

Contact Jackie Fehrenbacher at (812) 985-5019.

Christian Family Movement

The Christian Family Movement is a national network of parish or neighborhood small groups of families. Parents meet regularly in one another's homes. Through the use of programming available from the CFM USA Office and the dynamics of small group interaction, Christian values are reinforced and families are encouraged to reach out in action to others.

The national office was moved from Ames, Iowa to rented space in the Catholic Center, Evansville, in 2000.

Missy and Paul Parkison are the national executive director couple.

Contact CFM at (812) 962-5508 or see the website, www.cfm.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

From the annual report of the Evansville Diocesan Council, 2008-2009

The mission statement of the society begins with this statement: "Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul."

During the fiscal year, October 2008 through September 2009, the society in the Diocese of Evansville obtained nonprofit status under 501 (c)(3) provisions of the Internal Revenue Service. The Evansville, Jasper, Vincennes and Washington districts were incorporated.

"All of our Conferences and Councils are experiencing increased demand for emergency help and for finding creative ways to help those in need," said Tom Peter, president of the Evansville Diocesan Council. Efforts have expanded.

"Evansville District has bought additional property to expand very limited parking and allow for future store expansion. Jasper District collaborated with churches in the area to provide meals to those in need. Vincennes District completed a significant expansion in their store facilities. And Washington District Council completed construction of a new pantry facility in Loogootee.

During the year, diocesan Vincentians provided 52,037 hours of service to over 58,009 people, and over \$860,355 in financial assistance to clients.

Councils are active in 46 parishes of the diocese.

Contacts include Tom Peter, (812) 636-4909 and Deacon Bob Hayden, spiritual advisor, (812) 402-1868.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part I — Early Beginnings

Editor's note: This article is the fourth in a series and its leadership and also the trends in the church and examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana in the larger society.

The following text is taken from *The First Fifty Years*, written by Msgr. Clinton Hirsch and published by the Catholic Press of Evansville in 2003.

By papal decree of November 11, 1944, twelve counties of south-

(1940 census).

Monsignor Henry J. Grimmelsman of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, was appointed the First Bishop; consecration took place on December 21, 1944 at the Josephinum,

Motherhood of Mary.

Purchased from the Daughters of Isabella, the John Augustus Reitz Home in Evansville became the episcopal residence and so remained for more than twenty years. The music room in this stately, elegant, century-old mansion served as the Chancery Office

Comprising the original School Board were Monsignor Leonard Wernsing, Father Patrick Kilfoil, and Father William Lautner. The first Diocesan Building Committee, destined to be one of the busiest, consisted of Fathers John Rager, Henry Flaherty, Frederic Niehaus and Clarence Lindauer.

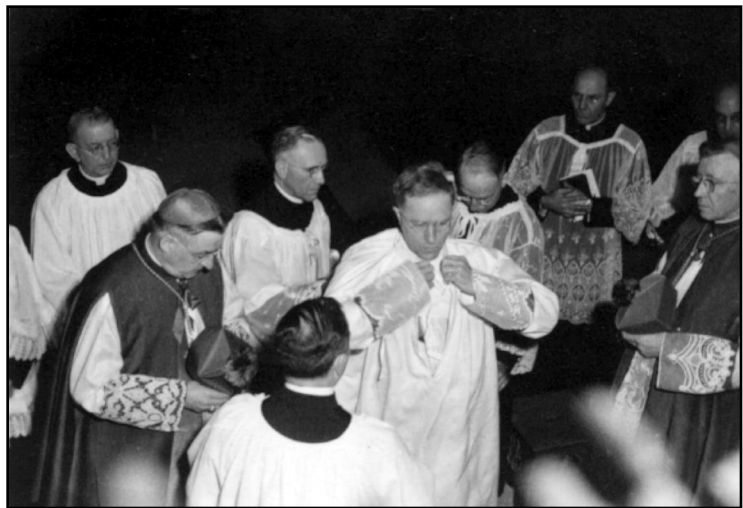
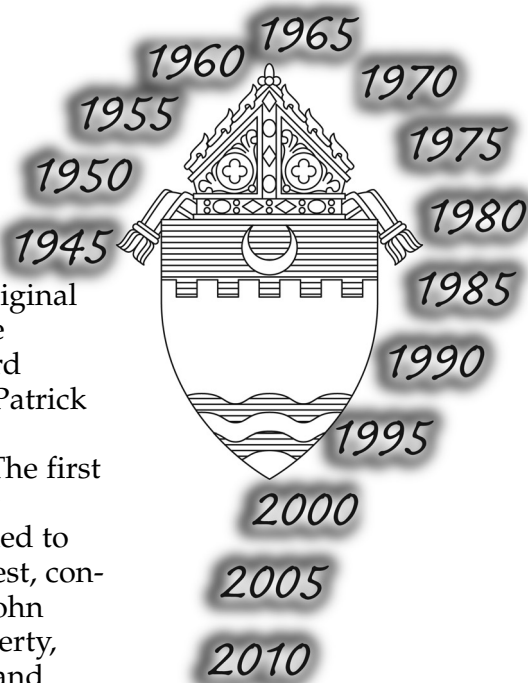


Photo courtesy of Josephinum Archives

Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman begins vesting on the day of his ordination, Dec. 21, 1944, at the Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio.

western Indiana became the Diocese of Evansville, comprising an area of 5,010 square miles and serving the needs of 49,737 Catholics in a total population of 392,889.

and installation ceremonies were held January 3, 1945 at the Assumption Cathedral, Evansville. The new diocese was placed under the patronage of the

until 1957; for a short period during that span, one corner of that room was known as the School Office.

Monsignor Frederic Ketter was chosen as the First Vicar General. Father Thomas J. Clarke became Chancellor, under whose guidance and expertise the mechanics of a new diocese were set in motion. Social work and youth activities were organized in conjunction with Catholic Charities, Father Charles Schoettelkotte as Director.

As the fledgling diocese was learning to fly on its own, now separated from the mother Diocese of Indianapolis, there were 63 parishes, including mission churches, administered by 75 diocesan priests and 19 priests of religious orders; in the beginning, there were 71 seminarians (major and minor). Women Religious in the diocese totaled 542; pupils attending the 43 parochial schools numbered 8,040, while the five Catholic High Schools counted a total enrollment of 1,512.

Where do we go from **HERE** ?
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Photo courtesy of Josephinum Archives

The tower of the Josephinum rises in the summer sun.

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Where we are today

The numbers from 1945 are startling to anyone familiar with current statistics in the Diocese of Evansville:

- 75 diocesan priests
 - 19 priests of religious orders
 - 71 seminarians in minor and major seminaries
 - 542 women religious in the diocese
- In 2010, the corresponding statistics provide data under consideration by planning committee leaders and members, as they craft an emerging strategic plan for the diocese.
- The statistics today include the following:
- 46 diocesan priests active in full time parish ministry.
 - 3 Benedictine priests active in full time parish ministry
 - 16 diocesan priests, retired or otherwise assigned, available for assistance
 - 52 deacons in the diocese
 - 6 seminarians (2 in college, 4 in theology)
 - 250 women religious in the diocese

The average age of diocesan priests is over 63 years; the median age is 65. Retirement age for priests of the diocese is 65. The average age of diocesan retired priests is 79.

When Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman came to southwestern Indiana in 1944, he had 75 priests and 71 seminarians.

At the time, preparation included six years of "minor seminary" and six years of "major seminary" studies, as was the case at St. Meinrad.

Many priests of the new Diocese of Evansville completed their theology studies at St. Meinrad; others went to Innsbruck, Austria, to Rome, Louvain, or to other seminaries in the United States.

St. Meinrad Archabbey was established in 1854 by Benedictine monks from the Swiss Abbey of Einsiedeln. The School of Theology was established in 1857.

In 1959, St. Meinrad reorganized to four years each of high school, college and theology. The high school was closed in 1968 and the college closed in 1998.

St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology now offers graduate-level degrees in philosophy and theology. Priesthood candidates work toward a Master's in Catholic Philosophical Studies or Master of Divinity. St. Meinrad began offering lay degree programs in 1969.

More than 5,000 men and women have studied at St. Meinrad.

Seminarians today

Seminarians Brian Emmick and Jeff Read are scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate in June 2011, and to the priesthood in 2012.

Both are currently in their third year of theology at St. Meinrad Seminary. Emmick is from St. John the Baptist Church in Newburgh; Read, from St. John the Evangelist Church in Daylight.

Christopher Droste, from St. James Church in Haubstadt, is in his second year of theology at St. Meinrad.

Michael Loner, from Holy Family Church in Jasper, is in his first year of theology at St. Meinrad.

Jeremy Goebel and Tyler Tenbarger are in college at Marian University in Indianapolis. Goebel, a senior, is from Resurrection Church in Evansville; Tenbarger, a junior, is from Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Haubstadt.

The Pontifical College Josephinum was started by Father Joseph Jessing, a German war veteran from Westphalia, who emigrated to the United States in 1867. He was ordained in 1868.

The seminary grew out of St. Joseph Orphanage, which Father Jessing had established. He funded it from the German newspaper he published.

He advertised in his paper that he would sponsor two students for the priesthood; more than 40 applied; he accepted 23 for classes in 1888.

In 1892, Pope Leo XIII granted his request to make the Collegium Josephinum a pontifical college. It is the

only pontifical seminary in the Western Hemisphere.

The Josephinum, according to its website, "strives to fulfill its mission of teaching men how to form their lives around the four pillars of priestly formation: the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral.

The Josephinum is an international seminary with students from 30 national dioceses and 6 international dioceses. Ordained alumni currently serve the universal Church in 48 states and 22 foreign countries.

Father Joseph Erbacher is the only priest in the Diocese of Evansville who studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Father Erbacher completed his theology studies and earned his MDiv. at the Josephinum.

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1945 through 1949

During this period of organization, much effort was expended to effect cohesiveness; and so, understandably there were several "firsts:" Diocesan Convention of the Council of Catholic Women, Diocesan Teachers' Institute, Legion of Mary Assembly, Diocesan Church Music Conference, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Meeting, and the Diocesan Synod I (1948).

In the years following immediately on World War II . . . the area was experiencing an increase of population.

Consequently, new parishes: St. Theresa in Evansville, Holy Cross in Fort Branch, and Holy Family in Jasper.

To accommodate the increasing number of youths,

Mater Dei High School on the West Side of Evansville became a reality. In Vincennes, Central Catholic High School opened its doors, and in Dubois County, St. Ferdinand High School was built. Meanwhile, the elementary school at Christ the King, Evansville, was dedicated.

As the first five-year period came to a close . . . there was an increase of some 7,200 Catholics; parishes, including missions, now numbered 66, with 80 diocesan priests serving in the diocese, along with 21 of religious orders. The total enrollment in parochial schools now stood at 8,828, and there was an increase of high school students to 1,721. A very solid beginning.

1950 through 1959

In Evansville, the Catholic Theater Guild was formed, and the Catholic Information Center opened its doors; at this time the Serra Club was

awarded Charter. The Council of Catholic Nurses and the Committee on Scouting had come into existence by this time. Pre-Cana Conferences were attended by couples in the Evansville and Jasper areas.

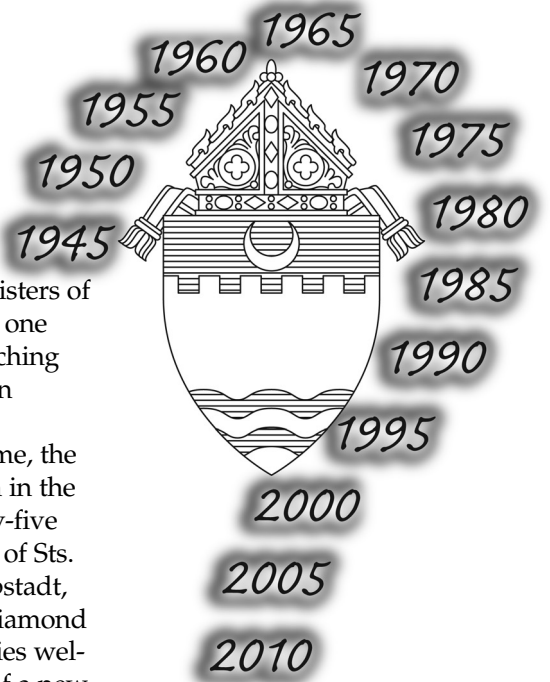
[New parishes included Holy Rosary and Resurrection in Evansville, Precious Blood in Jasper.]

This period witnessed the

opening and dedication of new elementary schools at St. Joseph in Dale, Holy Family in Jasper, St. Joseph in Princeton, St. Benedict and St. Joseph in Evansville and St. John in Newburgh. . . .

Several new churches were blessed too: Sts. Peter and Paul, Haubstadt; Holy Family, Jasper; Holy Spirit, Holy Redeemer and St. Agnes, all in Evansville.

In this period the Sisters of Providence observed one hundred years of teaching service at Assumption Cathedral School in Evansville. By this time, the Poor Clares had been in the United States seventy-five years, and the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, Haubstadt, was celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. The early fifties welcomed the addition of a new



Where do we go from HERE ?

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hospital, Memorial Hospital, in Jasper, Dubois County. And the diocese cheered the ground-breaking for the new St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville.

As the curtain came down on the year 1954 . . . the Catholic population had grown to 64,000, an increase of 7,500 in the five-year period just ended. During the five years, 10 were ordained to the

ranks of the diocesan clergy, making the total 89. In the elementary schools, there were 11,477 pupils, and those in the high schools numbered 2,350.

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

1945

Diocesan priests 75
Priests of religious orders 19
Seminarians in minor and major seminaries 71
Women religious in the diocese 542

2010

46 Diocesan priests active in parishes *
3 Benedictine priests active in parishes
6 Seminarians in college and in theology
250 Women religious in the diocese

* In addition to the 46 diocesan priests in full time parish ministry, 15 priests — retired or otherwise assigned, are also available. Since 1977, permanent deacons have been ordained for ministry in the diocese; active and retired deacons now number a total of 52.

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

Where we are today

By **PAUL R. LEINGANG**
Message editor

Retired priests and their ministry

What do retired priests do all day? If they are within the geographical confines of the Diocese of Evansville, and if their health and circumstances permit, retired priests continue to serve in parish ministry.

Health, age and location make it impossible for others.

"There is also a sizeable number of those who have retired from administration but continue to serve so generously and faithfully as they provide the sacraments to others without the burden of administration," said Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger in an Easter 2010 letter. "I am most grateful and so proud of them all. Without their gift of service, many faithful of our Diocese would be inconvenienced to find a neighboring parish for the sacraments."

Bishop Gettelfinger also noted that there is "another memorable number of priests whom we must not forget. As their lives and energies wane, they need to know that we have not forgotten them."

Following is a list of the retired priests of the diocese.

Father Clemens Hut, age 99, residing in Tempe, Arizona continues to minister to the residents in his retirement home even though in a wheelchair.

Father Jim Rogers, age 96, now resides at the Health Care Center of the Hermitage of the Benedictine Sisters in Beech Grove, Ind.

Father Adolph Egloff, 95, resides in his family home in Vincennes.

Monsignor Clinton Hirsch, age 92, now resides in Holiday Nursing Center in Evansville.

Father Robert Deig, age 85, now ministers at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Evansville.

Father Eugene Heerdink, age 84, resides in Jasper while remaining our senior Spanish speaking priest offering the sacraments daily to the Spanish Speaking members of our community.

Father Robert Wannemuehler, age 84, resides in his own home but continues to minister as Chaplain at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Father Sylvester Loerhlein, age 81, now resides at the Providence Home in Jasper.

Father August Busch, age 80, now resides in his own residence while serving as Chaplain to the Poor Clares and in many other ways.

Father Donald Spaulding, age 80, now residing in his own home in Cannelburg, Ind.

Father Donald Dilger, age 79, now resides in his own home but continues to give lectures on the scriptures and writes for the **Message**.

Father James Endress, age 75, who resides in Evansville in his own apartment but continues in a most generous way to address any sacramental needs in our diocese including the Sacraments in Spanish. (He does this all from his wheelchair!)

Father Donald Ackerman, age 75, resides in Jasper and continues to minister on weekends and Holy Days.

Father Kenneth Graehler, age 73, resides in Washington. He continues to assist in celebrating the Sacraments within the diocese.

Father Leo Kiesel, age 73, resides in Loogootee. He continues to be most generous in providing the Liturgy and the Sacraments in the Washington Deanery.

Monsignor Charles Koch, age 73, resides in Greenwood, Ind., and continues to minister there.

Father Bernard Lutz, age 72, resides in his family home in Snake Run and continues to serve at the diocesan level as the director of ministry to priests.

Father William Wargel, age 70, resides on Chigger Ridge Rd. in Dubois County while serving generously to parishes in need.

Father Earl Rohleder, age 72, resides in his home in Santa Fe and continues to minister to a parish there. He is also a "scrap metal" artist.

Father Raymond Kuper, age 72, resides in his own apartment in Evansville.

Father Theodore Tempel, age 73, omni-present for all ministerial needs while serving as chaplain at the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. John's Home in Evansville.

Father Ralph Schipp, age 72, lives in Santa Claus and continues to be available for weekend ministry.

Father Joseph Kane, age 69, now resides in his family home in St. Louis, Mo. He has been so generous in returning to our diocese in our need.

Father Bill Dietsch, age 66, lives in Fort Branch and continues to be available to help at parishes in the diocese.

Bishop Gettelfinger also pointed out that Father Hilary Meny, age 95, resides with his family in Haubstadt. "He is a most dear friend and priestly brother of mine of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis," said Bishop Gettelfinger. "I am so very proud to follow his example of generous service as a brother priest. I rejoice most of all with him as he celebrates his 70th anniversary of priesthood!"

Priests for the years ahead

Seminarians Brian Emmick and Jeff Read are scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate in June 2011, and to the priesthood in 2012.

Both are currently in their third year of theology at St. Meinrad Seminary. Emmick is from St. John the Baptist Church in Newburgh; Read, from St. John the Evangelist Church in Daylight.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part III — The Building Boom

Editor's note: This article is the sixth in a series examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana and its leadership and also the trends in the church and in the larger society.

The following text is taken from *The First Fifty Years*, written by Msgr. Clinton Hirsch and published by the Catholic Press of Evansville in 2003.

The Building Boom — 1955 through 1959 . . .

This period opened with the establishment of several new parishes:

Good Shepherd, to accommodate the expanding East side of Evansville; and as well, Corpus Christi on the West Side was founded; in Bloomfield, the new parish of Holy Name became a reality in Greene County.

A number of new school facilities were added to the diocese at this time: St. John, Elberfeld; Holy Spirit and Holy Redeemer in Evansville; St. Simon,

Washington; St. Clement, Boonville; a new addition to St. Theresa, Evansville; Corpus Christi, Evansville; Precious Blood, Jasper; St. Wendel, Posey County; St. Mary, Ireland; St. Joseph, Vanderburgh County; and a major addition to secondary education in Evansville, Rex Mundi High School.

Also in this period, new structures for divine worship were blessed and dedicated: Blessed Sacrament, Oakland City; Holy Cross, Fort Branch; Corpus Christi, Evansville; Holy Trinity, Evansville; Precious Blood, Jasper; St. John, Newburgh; and Good Shepherd, Evansville.

At Vincennes, the Catholic Community Center began its operation.

St. Vincent de Paul Salvage Bureau began to function in Evansville and Jasper. And at about this same time, the Catholic Federation for Special Children was formed.

In 1957 the new Chancery Building in Evansville was dedicated and began to function as

the central office of the diocese.

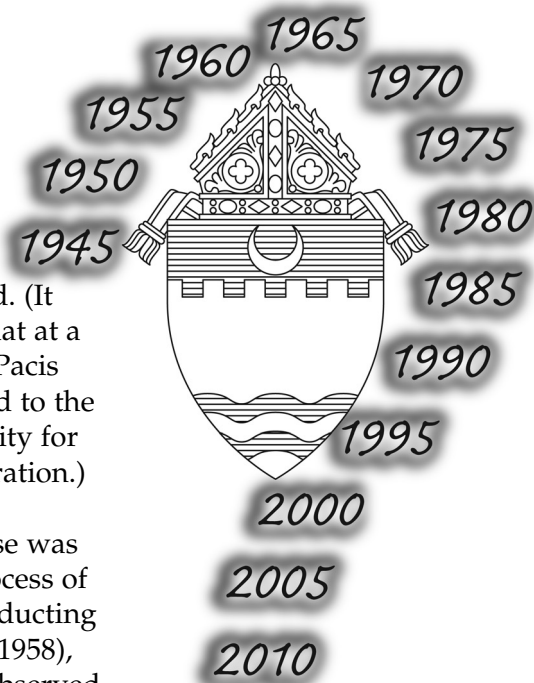
On adjoining properties on the East Side of Evansville, two new health care institutions, St. Mary's Hospital and, the diocesan built (albeit amid differences of opinion), Regina Pacis Home, opened their doors to patients in the middle

years of this period. (It should be noted that at a later date, Regina Pacis would be conveyed to the Daughters of Charity for its continuing operation.)

While the diocese was engaged in the process of preparing and conducting its Second Synod (1958), centennials were observed

at St. Matthew parish in Mount Vernon, and at Mary, Help of Christians in Mariah Hill.

By the end of this five-year period, the diocese was fifteen years old and had grown considerably, now numbering almost 70,000 members, served by 101 diocesan priests, 42



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men religious, and 465 women religious. The total number of students in Catholic schools (elementary and secondary) had climbed to 18,400.

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

Catholic Schools: History continues to be written

School	Opened	Status
St. Joseph School, Jasper	1842	1928 Signed over to state
St. Anthony School, St. Anthony	1864	1965 Leased, 1981 Purchased by SE Dubois District
St. Mary School, Ireland	1891	1969 Leased to Greater Jasper School District
St. Mary School, Huntingburg	1962	1971 Leased to Public School District
St. John High School, Loogootee	1862	1969 Closed
St. Francis Xavier School, Poseyville	1897	1971 Closed
St. Clement School, Boonville	1957	1971 Closed
Rex Mundi High School, Evansville	1958	1972 Closed
Magister Noster Latin School	1963	1972 Closed
Nativity School, Evansville	1963	1972 Closed
St. John School, Elberfeld	1869	1976 Closed
Holy Spirit School, Evansville	1956	Pre-K to Grade 8, 178 students (2009-10)
Holy Redeemer School, Evansville	1956	Pre-K to Grade 8, 237 students (2009-10)
Corpus Christi School, Evansville	1957	Pre-K to Grade 8, 273 students (2009-10)
Precious Blood School, Jasper	1957	Pre-K to Grade 5, 254 students (2009-10)
St. Wendel School, St. Wendel	1844	Pre-K to Grade 8, 162 students (2009-10)
St. Joseph School, Vanderburgh County	1875	Pre-K to Grade 8, 202 students (2009-10)
St. Matthew School, Mount Vernon	1866	Pre-K to Grade 5, 90 students, (2009-10)
St. Bernard School, Rockport	1877	Pre-K to Grade 8, 155 students (2009-10)
St. James School, Haubstadt	1847	Pre-K to Grade 8, 157 students, (2009-10)
Resurrection School, Evansville	1963	Pre-K to Grade 8, 359 students (2009-10)
Christ the King School, Evansville	1949	Pre-K to Grade 8, 205 students (2009-10)
Good Shepherd School, Evansville	1959	K to Grade 8, 327 students (2009-10)
Holy Rosary School, Evansville	1953	Pre-K to Grade 8, 420 students (2009-10)
St. Benedict School, Evansville	1913	Pre-K to Grade 8, 452 students, (2009-10)
St. Theresa School, Evansville	1949	Pre-K to Grade 8, 88 students (2009-10)
Holy Cross School, Fort Branch	1948	Preschool to Grade 5, 142 students, (2009-10)
Sts. Peter and Paul School, Haubstadt	1866	Pre-K to Grade 5, 169 students (2009-10)
Holy Family School, Jasper	1951	Pre-K to Grade 8, 264 students (2009-10)
St. John the Baptist School, Newburgh	1940	Pre-K to Grade 8, 425 students (2009-10)
St. Philip School, Posey County	1851	Pre-K to Grade 8, 216 students (2009-10)
St. Joseph School, Princeton	1898	Pre-K to Grade 5, 161 students (2009-10)

Consolidation: Some, not all succeed

Ascension School

St. Anthony School in Evansville opened in 1888 and continued to operate until 1987. St. Anthony and St. Joseph School in Evansville (established in 1906) were consolidated as Ascension School, kindergarten through grade 5, with older students going to either Westside Catholic or St. Benedict School. Ascension School, located at St. Anthony facilities, lasted just one year, and closed in 1988.

Vincennes Schools

Vincennes Catholic schooling dates back to 1792; in the twentieth century, schools included St. Rose Academy, which opened in 1964 and then in 1970-71 merged with Central Catholic. Flaget Elementary was opened in 1954 and is currently a Pre-K to grade 5 school, with 225 students (2009-10 statistics). Rivet Middle and High School, with its origin in 1792, currently serves grade 6 through 12 with 198 students (2009-10 statistics).

Westside Catholic

Three parish schools consolidated in 1974, and continue to serve students and their families on Evansville's west side. The Sacred Heart building, pre-K, has 43 students; the St. Agnes building, K-grade 4, has 94 students, and the St. Boniface building, grades 5 through 8, has 87 students (all according to the 2009-10 statistics.)

Washington Catholic

St. Simon, Washington, which opened in 1837, consolidated with St. Mary School in 1973. Pre-K to grade 5 enrollment was 280 students in 2009-10. Washington Catholic Middle and High School, grades six through 12, has 144 students (2009-10 statistics).

Private schools

The Sisters of St. Benedict at Ferdinand opened St. Benedict College in 1914, which continued until 1970. The sisters also operated Marian Heights Academy, a private Catholic school, from 1980 to 2003. John Paul the Great High School opened as a private Catholic school in Jasper in 2009.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part IV — Patterns of change

Editor's note: This article is the seventh in a series and its leadership and also the trends in the church and examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana in the larger society.

Deliberate Pace — 1960 through 1964

The Sarto Retreat House and Magister Noster Latin School, planned and built but not without struggle, were dedicated and opened for use in this period of the early sixties. Likewise, the Diocesan insurance commission was formed and in 1963, a diocesan-wide census was conducted

Kordes Hall and St. Benedict College in Ferdinand were put in operation by the Sisters of St. Benedict. In Vincennes, St. Rose Academy was dedicated, while in Loogootee dedication ceremonies for St. John High School were held. In 1962, Nativity parish in Evansville was established on the far East Side and St. Joseph Church in Evansville was renovated.

Made available for divine worship were the following

church structures: Holy Name, Bloomfield; Holy Redeemer and Nativity in Evansville; St. Peter, Linton; and Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Crane Naval Depot.

Dictated by a rising number of school age children, several more new schools were added to the list: St. Joseph, Jasper; St. Anthony, Dubois County, in the period when the parish was observing its centennial; Sacred Heart, Vincennes; St. Matthew, Mount Vernon; St. Bernard, Rockport; St. Mary, Huntingburg; St. Francis Xavier, Poseyville; St. James Haubstadt; and Resurrection, Evansville.

As the diocese reached the middle sixties, a continuing growth could be recognized: the number of Faithful now totaled 80,800 in an overall population of 419,530 (1960 census). There were 365 women religious engaged in the apostolate, along with

115 diocesan clergy and 38 men religious. High school enrollment had reached 4,000, and there were 16,800 pupils attending parochial elementary schools.

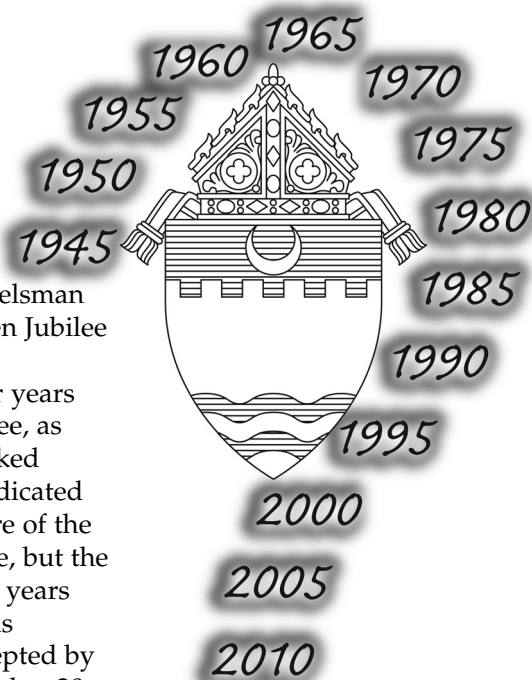
Patterns of Change — 1965 through 1969 . . .

This period opened on a traumatic note for many whose families claimed

Assumption Cathedral as their parish, as the property had been sold to Evansville Future, Inc. The buildings were razed, and the property became a part of the present Evansville Civic Center. The last Mass was offered in the Assumption Cathedral by Bishop Grimmelsman on Sunday, January 17, 1965. Holy Trinity was designated as the Pro-Cathedral.

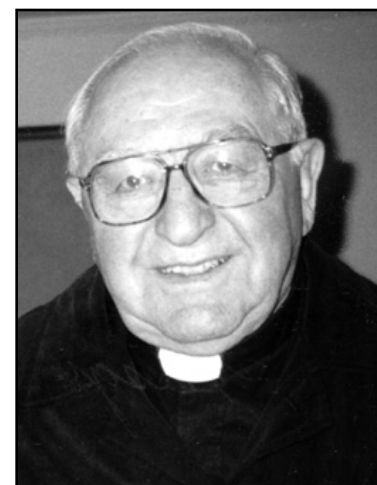
In the same year, and his

75th, Bishop Grimmelsman celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood, and four years later, his Silver Jubilee, as bishop. He had worked vigorously in his dedicated efforts for the welfare of the people of the diocese, but the strain and weight of years had taken its toll. His resignation was accepted by the Holy See on October 20,



Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?



**MSGR. CLINTON
F. HIRSCH**

Msgr. Clinton F. Hirsch is the author of the "First Fifty Years" of the Diocese of Evansville — drawing not only on historic documents but on his own personal experience.

He was the first priest ordained for the new Diocese of Evansville, along with the late Father Raymond Reising, on Feb. 2, 1945.

Msgr. Hirsch retired in 1991 but continued for several years assisting in the diocesan Tribunal.

Msgr. Hirsch held leadership positions in the diocese throughout his active years, including serving as diocesan administrator during the period between the departure of Bishop Paul F. Leibold and the installation of Bishop Francis R. Shea.

He also authored a series of reflections, including a popular evaluation of the Family Table as the home altar.

Whenever he was asked about his nickname, Hirschy — as in Hershey Bar — he would say it was "the nutty kind."

Msgr. Hirsch, 92, resides at Holiday Village in Evansville. Mail may be sent to him at 801 Williams Drive, Mount Vernon, IN 47620.

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

From deliberate pace . . . to trauma and change

In his history of the Diocese of Evansville, Msgr. Clinton F. Hirsch headlined the period beginning in 1960 as "Deliberate Pace" — switching to "Patterns of Change" for the period starting with 1965.

Change included a "traumatic note" — the closing and demolition of Assumption Cathedral. Other changes included the retirement of Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman, the installation of Bishop Paul F. Leibold, the impact of Vatican II, movement to the suburbs and the declining size of families.

Listed below are some of the institutions affected by change then, and affected by further changes in recent times.

Sarto Retreat House

Sarto Retreat House continues to serve the diocese, hosting Cursillos, parish retreats and other events. It is also used by other organizations, religious and secular. Among improvements since its opening was the installation of an elevator making the building more accessible to the handicapped.

Magister Noster Latin School

This high school for boys considering seminary and priesthood was opened in 1963 by Bishop Grimmelsman and closed in 1972 by Bishop Shea. In 1976, the building became the Catholic Center, consolidating diocesan offices. The Catholic Center today continues to serve as the diocesan office center. Located on the same property as Sarto Retreat House, it is also a facility available for parishes and other organizations.

Kordes Hall

Kordes Hall, located on the campus of Monastery Immaculate Conception, offers retreats and workshops.

St. Benedict College

The Sisters of St. Benedict opened St. Benedict College in 1914. Doors closed in 1970. The sisters operated Marian Heights Academy, a private Catholic high school, from 1980 until 2003.

St. Rose Academy

1970 was the last graduating year for St. Rose Academy and Central Catholic High School in Vincennes; the two schools were combined into Rivet High School.

The opening date of St. Rose Academy was incorrectly published in the *Message*, Oct. 8.

According to Vincennes history, the Sisters of Charity opened St. Mary's Female Academy in 1838; St. Mary's Academy was re-named St. Rose Academy in 1865.

(Historical information was drawn from *Images of America: Vincennes*, Copyright Richard Day and Bill Hopper, 1998, published by Arcadia Publishing.)

St. John High School, Loogootee

The parish high school was opened in 1862 and continued operation until 1969. The Martin County Catholic Churches were among the first to embrace the need for collaboration and creative parish staffing. Father Joseph Erbacher is pastor of the four churches in the county, in Loogootee, Bramble, Shoals and Whitfield.

Nativity Church, Evansville

The parish was established in 1962, opening an elementary school in 1963. The school closed in 1972. Among other ministries, Nativity is now engaged in outreach to the Spanish speaking.

St. Joseph Church, Evansville

The parish was founded in 1905, and opened an elementary school in 1906. Ascension School, located at St. Anthony Church, served the two parishes from 1987 until 1988.

Joshua Academy, a public charter school, currently occupies a large portion of the school building.

Holy Name Church, Bloomfield

Holy Name Church in Greene County was founded in 1959, with Father Eugene Heerdink as pastor.

In 1983, under the guidance of Bishop Shea, Holy Name became the first parish in the diocese to be led by a pastoral life coordinator. The pioneer was Benedictine Sister Mary Terence Knapp, followed in 1991 by Benedictine Sister Diane Fischer.

Father Michael Madden became pastor in 2002, adding another parish to his responsibilities, St. Peter Church in Linton, in 2008.

Holy Redeemer Church, Evansville

The parish on the near North Side of Evansville was formed in 1952, under the guidance of the first pastor, Father Lawrence Moll.

The first school, in 1956, housed students and teachers; five Benedictine sisters had living quarters in the building. A convent was built in 1959 and a new auditorium style church was completed in 1960. The present church was dedicated in 1992. In 2002, ground was broken for the current parish and school facility. Dedicaton of the addition was held Nov. 2, 2003.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part V — Patterns of Change

Editor's note: This article is the eighth in a series examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana and its leadership and also the trends in the church and in the larger society.

Patterns of Change — 1965 through 1969 . . .

[Bishop Grimmelman's] resignation was accepted by the Holy See on October 20, 1965, and Bishop Paul F. Leibold, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, was appointed Apostolic Administrator, officially assuming office on November 10, 1965. In the following spring, he was appointed the Second Bishop of Evansville, with installation ceremonies on June 15, 1966, at St. Joseph Church in Evansville.

While Bishop Leibold was becoming the new spiritual leader, life in the diocese moved on. The sesquicentennial celebration was held at the Old Cathedral in Vincennes. The parish of St. Ferdinand was observing its 125th anniversary, and the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Convent in Ferdinand were celebrating their centennial. In Newburgh, St. John parish, and in Red Brush, St. Rupert, were enjoying their centenary also. Meanwhile, the St. Vincent de Paul Society observed its Golden Jubilee of service in southwestern Indiana. And throughout the state, the Indiana Catholic Conference

was being set in operation.

The new addition and enlargement of Reitz Memorial High School was completed and put in service. The new church of St. Celestine was completed, and the Newman House of the University of Evansville was opened. (Campus ministry programs were to follow at Vincennes University, Indiana State University Evansville, and at Oakland City College). St. Nicholas was founded as a mission in Santa Claus, and St. John Church in Evansville became the "Apostolic Center," (but was returned to parochial status in 1978). In Vincennes, members of the Diocesan Christian Family Movement had assembled in convention; meanwhile, the Catholic Diocese Purchasing Division was started.

We were encouraged by the news of a New Home for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Evansville, Madonna Manor; and the former St. Mary's School of Nursing was renamed Seton Manor and designated as the future home of the Senior Sisters of the Daughters of Charity, East Central Province. Marian Day School, for special children,

was relocated at St. John Church in Evansville.

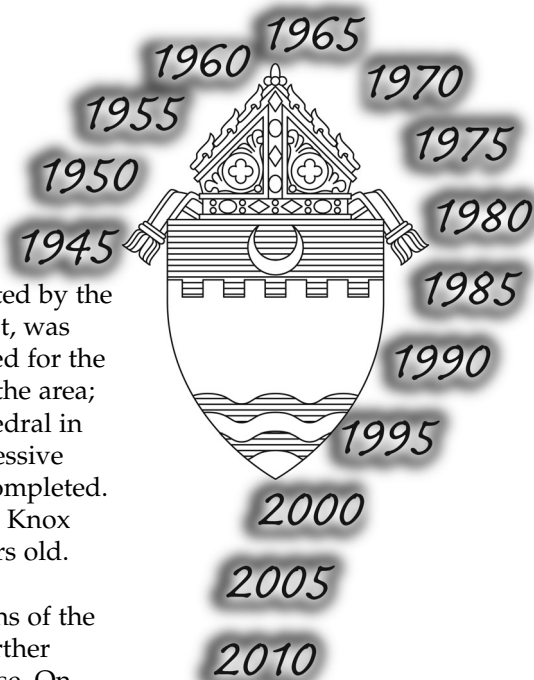
The impact of Vatican II was felt in the diocese at this time, as witnessed by the formation of the Priests' Senate (and its Continuing Education Committee), the establishing of Area School Boards and School Survey, the issuance of the Diocesan Directory of Worship, and formation of the Personnel

Board for Priests. Renewal sessions were conducted throughout the diocese in preparation for the establishment of parish councils. The Diocesan Council was organized, and the first meeting held in Washington.

"One in the Spirit" was the theme of the Third Synod of the Diocese held in 1969 at the Vanderburgh Civic Auditorium, Evansville. The 80 parishes and missions were represented by 2,000 delegates as they came together to vote on 11 documents drafted by the commissions. In the same year, St. Joseph Hospital,

Huntingburg, operated by the Sisters of St. Benedict, was dedicated and opened for the service of people of the area; and at the Old Cathedral in Vincennes, the impressive Bruté Library was completed. St. Thomas parish in Knox County was 125 years old.

The closing months of the period witnessed further changes in the diocese. On October 2, 1969, Bishop



Where do we go from HERE ?

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MSGR. CLINTON HIRSCH

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

ICC: Then, now and beyond

In the history of the Diocese of Evansville, Msgr. Clinton Hirsch noted that the Indiana Catholic Conference came into reality in the late 1960s.

From the earliest time, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has been and continues to be the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana regarding state and national matters.

The mission statement follows:

The Indiana Catholic Conference is the statewide coordinating body for the five Roman Catholic Dioceses in Indiana. Its basic purpose is to serve the spiritual, moral and material well-being of the people of the state

- by serving as the official spokesperson for the Bishops and Catholic faithful regarding state and national matters
- by representing the Church and developing cooperative relationship where common public policy interests exist with religious and civic, social and governmental units
- by serving as liaison between the Catholic Church in Indiana and national Catholic groups in areas of common public policy interests.

Who serves you as an elected official?

Find out through the ICC

Among the services of the ICC available to Catholics – and to all conscientious citizens – is a feature of the ICC website which allows users to identify which elected officials are in power.

Go the web site (www.indianacc.org) and click on the menu choice, Legislative Action Center. By entering your ZIP code or address, you can find out who serves you in the state house and in many other elected positions.

Where does the church stand on an issue of public policy?

Find out from the Indiana Catholic Conference (www.indianacc.org). The ICC offices are located at 1400 N. Meridian Street, PO Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Telephone (317) 236-1455, fax (317) 236-1456; email: icc@archindy.org

Marian Day School takes 'an exciting new direction'

Marian Day School, which began in brick and mortar buildings, has changed its structure in recent years.

After location at Evansville's St. John the Apostle Church, then moving to classrooms at St. Theresa School in Evansville, Marian Day School was transformed into Marian Education Outreach, now serving an increasing number of students at Catholic schools throughout the diocese.

Beverly Williams is the executive director.

According to the MEO website, "MEO provides support to elementary and high schools so they can better meet the academic, spiritual and social needs of their students with varying abilities.

"The new structure, direction and mission define the future benefits in the life of a child with unique learning needs through our schools and churches.

"MEO is now structured as a funding agency to enable Evansville Catholic Diocesan Schools to provide professional development experiences for their teachers and to provide additional special education programming for all their students with unique learning needs.

"More students can stay in their own home parish school.

"MEO strives to provide on-site funding to all of the 28 Evansville Catholic Diocesan Schools for special education initiatives to better serve an increasing diverse population of students.

"More students can attend school Mass in their home parish church.

"Marian Educational Outreach is a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville committed to providing opportunities for students with unique learning needs to reach their highest potential while remaining in the Catholic school system."

MEO is a 501(c)3 organization funded by charitable donations and grants.

MEO provides financial support to the diocesan schools through staff development, professional resources, personnel costs and instructional materials.

Leibold left the Diocese of Evansville to become Archbishop of Cincinnati, and on the day following his departure, the Diocesan Consultors elected Monsignor Clinton F. Hirsch, administrator for the Diocese. On December 10 of that year, the personable Msgr. Francis R. Shea of Knoxville, Tenn., was appointed by Pope Paul VI as the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Evansville.

In the five-year period just completed, much had happened in the Diocese, so that there was every reason to think of it as the era of "patterns of change."

Msgr. Hirsch

Address correction

An article in the *Message* Oct. 15 incorrectly listed an address for Msgr. Clinton Hirsch, whose published history provides details of the first 50 years of the Diocese of Evansville.

Msgr. Hirsch resides at the Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 1415 Country Club Road, Mount Vernon, IN 47620-9301.

About this series

This dedicated page of the *Message* is the eighth in a series of reports designed to shed light on the Strategic Planning Process in the Diocese of Evansville.

The series uses historic documents and data as a starting point, then adds updates and details about the people and places.

Readers invited to participate

Comments, questions and suggestions are welcome, to help respond to questions such as, "Whatever happened to . . . ?" or "Where are they now?"

Mail: The *Message*, P.O. Box 4169, Evansville, IN 47724-0169.

Email: message@evdio.org

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part VI — Deepening Awareness

Editor's note: This article is the ninth in a series and its leadership and also the trends in the church and examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana in the larger society.

Deepening Awareness — 1970 through 1974 . . .

Bishop Francis R. Shea was named Third Bishop of the Diocese of Evansville on December 10, 1969, by Pope Paul VI. He was ordained a bishop and installed as head of the twelve county area of southwestern Indiana on a snowy 3rd of February 1970,

The new bishop assumed the reins of the Diocese of Evansville, now grown to 82,600 faithful, with 118 diocesan priests, 33 men religious and 48 seminarians. There were 80 parishes, including mission churches, 39 elementary parochial schools taught by 254 women religious and 314 lay teachers. St. Benedict College in Ferdinand counted 200 students; there were seven high schools, diocesan and parochial, and one private academy. Total enrollment in Catholic schools (elementary and secondary) amounted to 14,185.

During the early years of Bishop Shea's tenure, these events occurred:

- The diocese participated in the State-wide effort for Aid to Non-public Schools;
- The Campaign for

Human Development was initiated by Catholic Charities.

- In 1970, the Second Annual Diocesan Convention, "Doers of the Word," was held in the Civic Center Auditorium in Evansville, with emphasis on the need for lay participation in the life of the Church.

- The Diocesan Communications Office was established.

- The Buildings and Lands Committee was established.

- The Secretariat on Worship was established.

- The Outpost (near Lincoln State Park) was put in operation by the Vocations Office.

- The Sisters Senate began to function as a channel of communication and a vehicle of representation for women religious in the diocese.

- The **Message**, diocesan weekly, began publication.

- The Clerical Medical and Retirement Association was formed.

- The Catholic Education Foundation became operative.

- The provincial headquarters of East Central Province of the Daughters of Charity had established

itself on Evansville's far West Side.

- In 1972 the Leadership Conference of Women Religious of Indiana and Michigan was conducted in Evansville.

- In Cannelburg, the Diocesan Rural Life Conference was held.

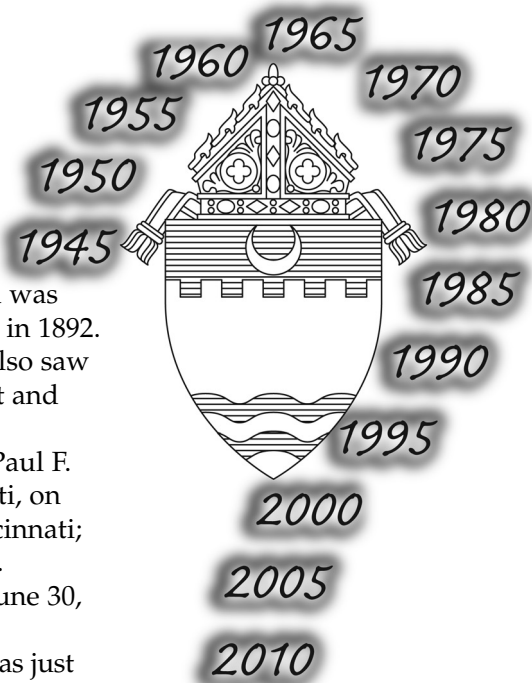
- The Permanent Deacon Program was taking shape.

- The Old Cathedral in

- Nativity School was closed in Evansville in 1892.

The early 1970s also saw the death of the first and second bishops of Evansville, Bishop Paul F. Leibold in Cincinnati, on June 1, 1972, in Cincinnati; and Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman, on June 30, 1972, in Evansville.

Bishop Leibold was just 57; Bishop Grimmelsman, 81.



Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Religious Communities

Little Sisters

The Little Sisters of the Poor continue to serve the poor elderly at their location in Evansville.

The community recently celebrated the canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan, the foundress.

Providence Home

Providence Home was founded by the Sons of Divine Providence in the 1930s, starting in the 1880 building that had been Jasper College, purchased from St. Meinrad. The new building was completed in 1973, and blessed by Bishop Francis R. Shea.

In 1997, it became Providence Home Health Care Center, to emphasize its purpose in providing long term care.

Father Angelo Quadrini is the superior, the last of his community to serve in that capacity. He divides his time between his home in New York and his ministry in Jasper.

David McDaniel is the center's director.

Don Louis Orione, founder of the Sons of Divine Providence, was canonized in 2004.

Daughters of Charity

The East Central Province is headquartered on the far west side of Evansville.

Facilities at the site also include Seton Residence, a home for about 65 Senior Sisters of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

The property also is the site of Seton Harvest, a community supported agriculture project.

Vincennes was elevated to the rank of Minor Basilica.

- Campus Ministry was founded at Indiana State University, Evansville.

- The new building at Providence Home in Jasper was completed and dedicated.

- The new structure of St. John's Home for the Aged (Little Sisters) was completed in Evansville.

The early 1970s also brought about the end of some institutions:

The operation of St. Vincent Orphanage in Knox County was discontinued during this period.

- Rex Mundi High School and Magister Noster Latin School, both in Evansville, were closed in 1972.

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

From then until now: Institutions and trends in the diocese

By **PAUL R. LEINGANG**
Message editor

In 1970, there were 118 diocesan priests and 48 seminarians, according to Msgr. Clinton Hirsch, in *The First Fifty Years*.

In 1990, the Diocesan Yearbook and Directory reported a total of 114 priests. There were 10 seminarians in theology studies, and nine more in college.

In 2010, there are 75 diocesan priests, of which 24 are retired. Seven seminarians are in college and theology studies.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Many of the developments of the early 1970s have a familiar ring. For example, the efforts to provide financial assistance to Catholic school students and their families continue today.

Scholarship Granting Organizations

In 2010, the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), for southern Indiana is now legally named the Tuition Assistance Fund of Southwestern Indiana and has received final approval from the Internal Revenue Service and the Indiana Department of Education.

The Tuition Assistance Fund of Southwestern Indiana, Inc is a state tax credit program designed to assist low and middle income families in attending the eligible private school of their choice. Funding will come from private, charitable donations to the scholarship fund. Donors (individuals or corporations) are eligible to take advantage of a 50 percent credit against their state tax liability.

Margaret Boarman is executive director for the organization.

Catholic Education Foundation of Southwestern Indiana

Catholic Education Foundation applications are available for parents wishing to apply for tuition assistance for their children to attend either Mater Dei or Reitz Memorial High School.

Tuition grants are awarded on the basis of financial need. Names of applicants and awards are confidential.

Since its establishment, CEF has provided more than \$2 million in tuition assistance.

Christian Educational Foundation of Vincennes

The Christian Educational Foundation in Vincennes is an organization interested in preserving Catholic Education in Vincennes, according to the CEF website. Its sole function is raising funds to support Catholic Education, grades K-12 in Vincennes. The not-for-profit corporation is committed to raising over \$250,000 each year.

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

Among other developments in the diocese is the establishment of Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Southern Indiana, the University of Evansville and Vincennes University.

Father Bernie Lutz started the Newman Center in Vincennes and helped to initiate the Indiana Newman Foundation in the 1960s, and started campus ministry at what was then ISU-Evansville in 1972.

Father Lutz, now retired, continues to serve as director of ministry to priests.

Father Tony Kissel was engaged in campus ministry, at the diocesan level and both at the University of Evansville and USI, from the late 1970s through the early 1990s. In 1996, Father Kissel was released from the diocese to teach and minister at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Fla.

Direction of campus ministry was handed to the diocesan office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, first headed by Michael Eppler, and now by Steve Dabrowski

Christine Hoehn is diocesan coordinator and campus minister at USI; Mike Roesch is the campus minister at UE. A search committee has been formed for the position at VU.

Catholic Campus Ministry information is available on the web at www.evdio.org, where Campus Ministry is one of the tabs available. Activities are listed at each of the campuses served, with time, locations and contact information.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part VII — New Horizons: 1975-1979

Editor's note: This article is the tenth in a series and its leadership and also the trends in the church and examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana in the larger society.

*From The First Fifty Years
By Msgr. Clinton Hirsch*

As the middle seventies began, the parishes of Washington were launching an all-out community campaign for the support of their Catholic schools. Their efforts were successful and rewarding. Meanwhile, St. Bernard Church in Rockport observed its 125th anniversary. Centennials were celebrated at St. Martin, Whitfield; at St. Joseph in Martin County, and at the Monastery of St. Clare in Evansville. The renovated parish churches of St. Ferdinand, St. John in Loogootee, and St. Peter in Montgomery, were dedicated.

In observance of the Holy Year (1975), the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Roberts Stadium in Evansville was staged. Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, was the principal speaker. The official tally shows that 8,000 came by bus, car and on foot from every segment and parish of the diocese to participate in this display of unity and dedication to the cause of Christ, for peace and reconciliation. In the same year, a Family Life Director was appointed, to be followed in the ensuing months by the appointment of the Director of Pro-Life; likewise Directors of Ecumenism, Project Human Equality, and Youth. The new building at St. Vincent Day Care Center was nearing completion.

Parishes and institutions of the diocese participated in the statewide project of the Indiana Catholic Conference, "Speak Up — I'm Listening." This was an endeavor to give Catholics throughout the state an opportunity to voice their opinions and indicate priorities for the Church in Indiana. Likewise, the diocese was a participant in the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, and in the U.S. Bishops' Conference on "Liberty and Justice for All," held in Detroit. The Bi-Centennial Anniversary of American Independence (1776-1976) was celebrated at the Old Cathedral in Vincennes. John Cardinal Deardon of Detroit was the principal speaker.

After six years of struggling existence, the Diocesan Council's operation was suspended, chiefly because of its cumbersome structure and process.

At St. Joseph Church, Jasper, the Parish Center was dedicated, as was the new church of Holy Rosary and the renovated church of Christ the King, both in Evansville.

Toward the end of this period a number of historical observances were held: The Sisters of St. Francis marked 100 years of teaching at St. Wendel, as did the Benedictine Sisters at St. Bernard parish in Rockport; while in Jasper, the Little Company of Mary observed its centenary. And the

parishes of St. Benedict and Sacred Heart, both in Evansville, were 50 years old.

The building that formerly housed Magister Noster Latin School was converted into a consolidated diocesan office complex called The Catholic Center. This renovated complex, dedicated in the spring of 1977, was geared to provide facilities for diocesan

meetings, and educational programs and projects, along with space for the Book Shop, the diocesan owned religious goods outlet. The adjoining Sarto Retreat House continues to function as a part of this complex.

In 1977, a Department of Justice and Peace was formed in the diocese, and as planned, it served also as the channel of communication with the Indiana Catholic Conference. In the same year, the Program of Stewardship was inaugurated and was scored a success, and the first Permanent Deacons were ordained.

The year 1978 witnessed the establishment of Kordes Enrichment Center at Ferdinand. In November, Bishop Francis R. Shea made his ad limina visit to Rome, reporting on the condition of the Evansville Diocese.

In February 1979, a Bi-Centennial Mass was

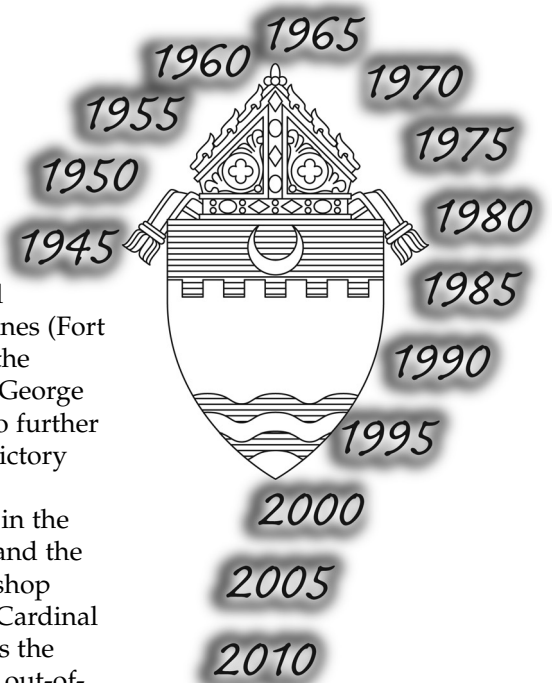
celebrated at the Old Cathedral, as Vincennes (Fort Sackville) observed the liberation victory of George Rogers Clark. Also to further commemorate this victory (the Conquest of the Northwest Territory in the Revolutionary War, and the 200th Birthday of Bishop Simon Bruté), John Cardinal Cody of Chicago was the main celebrant at an out-of-

doors Mass, in June, at the Old Cathedral French and Indian Cemetery grounds.

In the waning months of 1979, completion was near at hand on the new Church of Holy Family, Jasper.

In early October of 1979 the Diocese of Evansville officially greeted and welcomed Pope John Paul II in Chicago. The diocese was well represented for that celebration by a caravan of 25 buses, carrying more than one thousand of the People of God from all sections of this diocese.

As the seventies drew to a close, the number of young people receiving Catholic instruction and training was 17,421, 7,632 attending Catholic schools, while 9,789 were enrolled in CCD classes. The Catechist Program was initiated in 1976, and more than 900 catechists are actively engaged in this work of instruction and formation.



Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?



*Magister Noster
Christ the Teacher*

A statue of *Magister Noster*, Christ the Teacher, is displayed in the Councils Room at the Catholic Center, Evansville.

The statue formerly stood in the entry area of the building when it served as Magister Noster Latin School from 1963 to 1972. The school was for high school boys considering further seminary studies toward priesthood.

Cast in bronze in Austria, in a small village near Innsbruck, the statue was given as a gift by the priests of the Diocese of Evansville, many of whom prepared for priesthood at the Canisium in Innsbruck.

Father Donald Dilger was the rector of the Latin School. Father Dilger, now retired, continues to write a column in the **Message** on the week-end Scripture readings.

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Diocesan Pastoral Council offers 'service, advice and support'

The diocesan council established by Bishop Paul F. Leibold was too cumbersome for Bishop Francis R. Shea who disbanded the council in 1976.

Following "Synod '93" Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger established a new diocesan pastoral council, drawing initially on the same group of clergy, religious and lay members of the group that had coordinated the synod.

While there were some uncertainties about the authority of that earlier council, and some hard feelings about its disbanding, the current council has a purpose carefully spelled out.

"In accord with Canons 511 and 512, the Diocesan Pastoral Council exists as a key, consultative body to the Bishop in order to advise him on pastoral issues, especially in the development of pastoral policy and planning."

The purpose of the DPC, along with information about its responsibilities, may be found on the diocesan website, www.evdio.org

Some important functions of the Diocesan Pastoral Council are:

- to recommend pastoral priorities
- to initiate discussions regarding pastoral questions pertinent to the diocese
- to make appropriate, practical recommendations for effectiveness of life of the Diocesan Church
- to bring diverse viewpoints to bear on questions or concerns for which the Bishop seeks counsel.

The DPC meets five times a year "in the context of prayer and with deep faith in the presence of God in its midst," according to the description on the website. "This council gathers around the Bishop to offer him service, advice and support

in his role as the Chief Shepherd and administrator of the Church of southwestern Indiana."

The Diocesan Pastoral Council includes clergy, religious and lay members from the seven deaneries in the diocese, "whose diverse gifts represent the many levels of insight and experience of the Diocesan Church."

The group is both stable and fresh, with about one-third of the members appointed new each year, two-thirds continuing.

Current members, with terms expiring in 2011, are Julie Ann Walker from the Evansville East Deanery, Robert Covington from the Evansville West Deanery, Jeff Sickman from the Newburgh Deanery, John "Tom" Woods Jr. from the Vincennes Deanery, Deacon David Cook and two religious community members, Sister Sheila Carney, a Daughter of Charity, and Sister Darlene Boyd, a member of the Sisters for Christian Community.

DPC members whose terms expire in 2012 include Tony Fehrenbacher from the Evansville East Deanery, Bob Martin from the Evansville West Deanery, Jeff Mehling from the Jasper Deanery, Therese Meisling from the Newburgh Deanery, Mary May from the Princeton Deanery, Elaine Pepmeier from the Vincennes Deanery and John Helfen from the Washington Deanery.

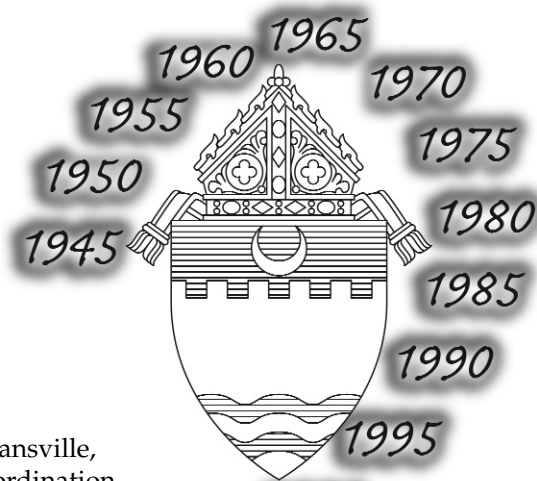
DPC members whose terms expire in 2013 include Charlotte Wilz from the Washington Deanery, Elaine Schitter from the Jasper Deanery, and Beth An Selby from the Princeton Deanery. Sister Patricia Ann McGuire, a Ferdinand Benedictine, serves as a representative of vowed religious. Father Zach Etienne, pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Evansville, is a representative of the clergy.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part VII — Settling and steady

Editor's note: This article is the eleventh in a series examining the Catholic Church in south-western Indiana and its leadership and also the trends in the church and in the larger society. The history of the Diocese of Evansville: The First Fifty Years, was written by Msgr. Clinton

Hirsch, the first priest — along with Father Raymond Reising — to be ordained by the first bishop of Evansville, Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman. Edited excerpts of "The First Fifty Years" are used below in preceding portions of this series.



1980 to 1984: Settling in . . .

This period began with the observance of Bishop Francis R. Shea's Tenth Anniversary, on February 3rd, of his Ordination and Installation as the Third Bishop of Evansville.

In the summer of 1980, the Daughters of Charity observed the 150th anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady to St. Catherine Laboure. This observance was held at Mater Dei Provincial House in Evansville. Also during this period, the Daughters of Charity celebrated the 350th Anniversary of their Founding.

In the early 1980s other anniversaries were observed: the 100th Anniversary of St. Joseph Church, Jasper, as well as St. Boniface Church, Evansville, and St. Clement Church, Boonville. Likewise, the Blessing of Resurrection Church, Evansville, and St. Mary Church, Sullivan took place in this period. Meanwhile, the Little Sisters of the Poor marked the centenary of service to the care of the Poor and the Aged in Evansville, at St. John's Home. Also, Mary, Help of Christians Parish, Mariah Hill, celebrated 125 years of existence. At about the same time, St. Mary Church, Daviess County, observed its 150th Anniversary.

The Sesquicentennial celebration of the establishment of the Diocese of Indianapolis was taking place at the Old Cathedral, Vincennes.

In 1983, Bishop Francis R. Shea traveled to Rome for the ad limina visit. At which time, the bishop reported to the Holy Father on the status of religion in the Diocese of Evansville. A short time thereafter the Diocesan Holy Year Observance took place at the Vanderburgh County Auditorium.

The Poor Clares moved from the Kentucky Avenue location to the new Monastery on the West Side of Evansville, and the dedication of the new facility took place. Also, St. John Church, Elberfeld, was relocated in Daylight with new church buildings and facilities.

As the Diocese reached the middle eighties, a steady growth could be recognized: the number of the faithful now totaled 87,390, in an over-all population of 466,821 (1980 census). There were 401 women religious engaged in a variety of apostolates, along with 92 diocesan priests active in the diocese, and 13 men religious; permanent deacons numbered 21. High school enrollment now stood at 1,584, and 4,806 attending parochial elementary schools.

Seminarians for the Diocese totaled 14.

1985 to 1989: Steady Progress . . .

In 1985 Catholic Schools Week was observed in the Diocese from February 3rd

through February 8th. In the same month, St. John the Evangelist Church in Daylight was dedicated, and St. Henry Church, in rural Ferdinand, celebrated its 125th Anniversary.

In this period, the Most Reverend Daniel Buechlein, a Jasper native, was ordained and installed as the Bishop of Memphis. Priests of the diocese gathered at Kentucky Lake for a Convocation.

The 125th Anniversary was celebrated at St. Mary Church, Huntingburg in the spring of 1986; St. Benedict Church, Evansville, was observing its 75th Anniversary in the Spring of 1988; and at about the same time St. Anthony Church, Evansville, and St. Michael Church, Daviess County, were celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

Reverend Monsignor Gerald A. Gettelfinger of Indianapolis was named the

Fourth Bishop of Evansville, March 11, 1989; his ordination and installation took place at St. Benedict Church, Evansville, on April 11th.

Retired Bishop Francis R. Shea observed the 50th Anniversary of his ordination

to the priesthood, March 19th; the celebration was held at Holy Rosary Church, Evansville.

Catholic Schools in the Diocese participated in "Celebrating the Tradition" at Roberts Municipal Stadium, Evansville, in April of the same year, 1989. In this period, Phyllis Beshears, M.A., was appointed Director of Schools.

As the five year period was drawing to a close there were realities to be reckoned with . . . The total Catholic population was 82,125; (the total was 87,390 in 1985). Reception into the Church by Profession of Faith was 164 as differentiated from 142 in the year 1985. There were 86 diocesan priests active in the Diocese and 11 men religious; at that time there were 356 women religious in the Diocese. The number of permanent deacons had risen to 26, while the number of seminarians stood at 19.

Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Benedictine priests serve parishes in the diocese

Three Benedictine monks from St. Meinrad Archabbey are parish pastors in the diocese.

Benedictine Father Gregory Chamberlin, 72, is pastor of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

Benedictine Father Damian Schmelz, 78, is pastor of St. Henry Church, St. Henry.

Benedictine Father Mark O'Keefe, 54, is pastor of St. Mary Church, Huntingburg.

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Church operates under civil law and canon law

Throughout the United States, archdiocesan and diocesan plans for parishes are being developed as populations shift and other changes take place.

Some changes in corporate structures are also taking place within the Catholic Church. In the Diocese of Evansville, the St. Vincent de Paul district councils now operate as separate non-profit corporations.

Other dioceses have taken larger steps, including the Diocese of Phoenix and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

According to a report in the Criterion, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis recently moved to have each of its parishes recognized as separate, non-profit corporations — a restructuring process that aligns its civil law structure with its already established canonical structure.

While the move is designed

to provide greater legal clarity about the relationship between the archdiocese and its parishes, it will have minimal impact on the day-to-day operations of parishes, according to archdiocesan officials.

"I don't think it really changes anything, but it does help people understand the rights and responsibilities of a parish, a parish's pastor, the archbishop and the archdiocese," said Jeffrey Stumpf, the chief financial officer of the archdiocese. "Parish members should not notice any changes. Parish leaders will have a little more documentation to take care of."

The connection between a parish and the archdiocese won't change either, according to John "Jay" Mercer, the attorney for the archdiocese.

"The archdiocese still retains the hierarchical structure required by canon law and recognizes the arch-

bishop as the principal pastoral officer entrusted with the care of the diocese," explained Mercer, who filed the paperwork for the parishes' incorporation with the Indiana Secretary of State's office on Oct. 28.

Archdiocesan agencies and high schools were incorporated in June of 2009.

In anticipation of the restructuring, Stumpf and Mercer met with pastors and parish leaders across the archdiocese to discuss the process. One of the tools they used is a set of "Frequently Asked Questions," starting with the reason why parishes in the archdiocese are being separately incorporated.

The answer to that question reads, "According to canon [Church] law, every parish in the archdiocese has its own unique set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to hold and administer

Church property. Under our current civil structure, however, parishes have no recognized legal identity, and thus no right to buy, sell, hold or administer their own property.

As part of its incorporation, each parish will be required to have a board of directors with the pastor, priest administrator or priest moderator serving as the chairman of the board.

The board will also have to have at least one annual meeting and be required to file an annual report with the Indiana Secretary of State.

The action in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is similar to action taken in Phoenix in 2008.

According to a diocesan newspaper report from Phoenix, that diocese had been "a corporate sole — a legal entity consisting of a single incorporated office occu-

ried by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted." The change in structure meant that each individual parish became a separate, non-profit corporation.

At the time, Father Fred Adamson, vicar general and moderator of the Phoenix curia, described the situation in this way: "While this is a civil restructuring, we cannot forget who we are as Church." He went on to say, "The way the Church structures itself provides a great deal of autonomy at the parish level to minister to the local needs of the people of God."

The diocesan newspaper report noted that under the former civil structure, Bishop Olmsted was listed as the property owner of all parish assets in trust for the given parish. But in actual practice, as prescribed by canon law, the pastor makes almost all decisions at the parish level.

Putting Strategic Planning into context

The First Fifty Years: Part VII — New Regime

Editor's note: This article is the twelfth and final in a series examining the Catholic Church in southwestern Indiana and its leadership and also the trends in the church and in the larger society.

Each article in the series included excerpts from documents related to the history of the diocese; each article noted some of the changes that had taken place over the years in the people, places and institutions mentioned in the historical document.

New Regime — 1990 through 1994 . . .

Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger had been ordained and installed [April 11, 1989] as the Fourth Bishop of Evansville, and [as the decade of the 1990s began, he] was now beginning his first complete year in Evansville.

At this time the Presbyteral Convocation for the Diocese of Evansville was held in October near Bloomington, Indiana.

In the summer of 1991, Villa Maria, a retirement home for diocesan priests, was opened for occupancy. This building, now renovated, was the former convent for sisters who taught at Memorial High School in Evansville. Villa Maria has been so planned to accommodate seven resident priests.

Also, at this time, Sister

Louise Bond, S.N.J.M., was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese and the following year, Ron Baumgart was appointed the first lay Treasurer of the Diocese.

During this time period, St. Nicholas Church in Santa Claus was raised from mission to parochial status and the diocese also witnessed the dedication of three new church buildings — Holy Redeemer, Good Shepherd, both in Evansville, and St. John in Newburgh.

Plans were underway for the Fourth Synod of Evansville, scheduled for 1993. Committees were formed and plans were set in operation. The Formal Session of the Synod would be held at Holy Redeemer Church, November 6th and 7th.

Concluding Observations

. . . It would be unrealistic

This final article is once again drawn from a booklet published in 1995, authored by Msgr. Clinton F. Hirsch, entitled, "The First Fifty Years."

Msgr. Hirsch's sketches take us into the first five years of the episcopacy of Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger. Other historians will analyze Bishop Gettelfinger's final years as chief shepherd of the diocese.

not to take note, and not be concerned, that during this period of 50 years there has been a leakage from the Church; and if the figures were available, they might show a

considerable loss. The reasons? As varied as individuals: apathy, marital situations, confusion, misunderstandings dissatisfaction with the turn of events, disagreement with the Church's teaching and discipline, or simply "not practicing any longer." Whatever the reasons, these are realities to be reckoned with.

. . . In a sense, the diocese is a composit reflection of the life of us all, and as well, typifies the life of each individual -- successes but sprinkled with mistakes; and as so, describes

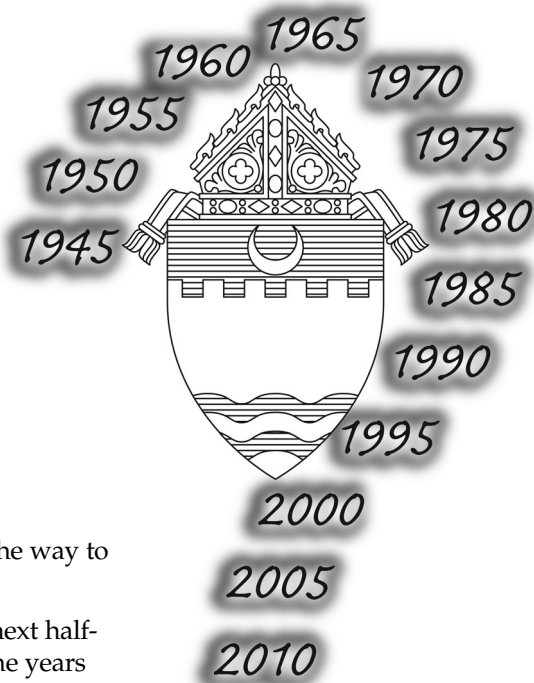
a pilgrim people on the way to the Father.

. . . What will the next half-century bring? Will the years ahead rush upon us

unexpectedly, or will we in the diocese be ready?

In the light of what has happened in these past 50 years, planning for the future is an endeavor that warrents our best efforts; and it seems, this should include an on-going concern for the religious educaton and training of our youth; a strengthening of Christian family living; and a strong emphasis on genuine practice of the Faith. Let us go forward with prayerful courage!

Msgr. Clinton F. Hirsch
May 10, 1995



Where do we go from HERE ?

AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Viability: Example from St. Louis Archdiocese

As two committees in the Diocese of Evansville labor on a draft description of what it takes to have a viable parish and a viable school, other dioceses in the United States are also following through on a similar path. One example is the Archdiocese of St. Louis, where Archbishop Robert J. Carlson recently pointed to "seven characteristics of a vibrant parish" which were published Nov. 5 in the *St. Louis Review*.

Vibrant parishes

1. A strong sacramental life.
 2. A serious commitment to prayer and Christian spirituality among parishioners.
 3. Faith formation and catechesis as a priority for children, youth, young adults and adults.
 4. Social Justice, outreach to the poor, assistance to other parishes or communities beyond parish boundaries.
 5. A focus on being welcoming, hospitable and committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others without imposing their Catholic beliefs on anyone but also without ignoring or minimizing the moral values and doctrinal principles that are at the heart of our Catholic faith and practice.
 6. Strong, collaborative leaders.
 7. The ability to transform the lives of parishioners and the people they serve.
- In the Diocese of Evansville the parish and school committees have each met twice, and each has two more meetings this year. Their process is expected to produce a list of characteristics or qualities for parishes and schools.

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

Statistics in the mid-1990s*

- 32,387 families, or 87,707 Catholics in the diocese
- Catholic High School enrollment: 1,497 with 130 students in Marian Heights Academy
- 24 elementary parochial schools
- 5,081 elementary enrollments
- Diocesan priests, active: 80
- Religious priests, active in the diocese: 8
- Engaged in teaching are 44 women religious, two brothers, and 426 lay teachers.
- 24 permanent deacons
- 12 seminarians

* Statistics taken from the booklet, *The First Fifty Years*.

Statistics in 2010*

- 31,427 families, or 83,650 Catholics in the diocese
- Catholic High School enrollment: 1,645. John Paul the Great High School, Jasper has 15 students.
- 24 elementary parochial schools
- 5,564, elementary and early childhood enrollment
- Diocesan priests, active: 51
- Religious priests, active in the diocese: 6
- Engaged in teaching, counting full and part time, are 12 women religious and 552 lay teachers.
- 51 permanent deacons
- 7 seminarians

* Lists from Chancery and the Office of Schools

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

Beginnings and endings, trends in the Diocese of Evansville

Presbyteral Convocations

Since 1990, priests who serve the diocese have gathered on an annual basis with their bishop and various professional presenters for a convocation lasting several days, usually during September.

In the early years, great anxiety developed among parishioners as they faced the fact that almost all priests in the diocese were away, out of the diocese and unavailable to anoint the sick or celebrate any other sacrament.

Emergency arrangements were published, providing for at least one priest or contact person in each deanery.

In recent years, parishioners have become more accustomed to the absence of a priest and the unavailability of daily Mass, for convocations and other realities.

Villa Maria Retirement Home for Priests

Villa Maria, the former convent building adjacent to Memorial High School in Evansville, was opened in 1991 as a retirement home for priests, with seven available apartments, a chapel and a common area. Occupancy, never fully realized, dwindled in recent years. The retirement home is now closed and a search for an alternate use of the building is nearing completion.

Chancellor, Treasurer

Holy Names Sister Louise Bond was the first "non-priest" chancellor of the diocese, who was engaged in much of the planning for "Synod '93." She was succeeded by Judy Neff, a lay woman who continues in the post, responsible for diocesan

archives. After the untimely death of Ron Baumgart, Bob Cox was named Treasurer and continues in that position.

Mass attendance

The annual "October Mass Count" is nearing completion in the Diocese of Evansville, with all but four of the 69 parishes reporting the numbers of individuals attending Mass on three designated weekends in October.

The number of people attending, compared with the total number of individuals registered, provides the parish percentage report.

For example, St. Benedict Cathedral reports an average of the three week attendance figures to be 1,298; with reported parish membership of 2,807, St. Ben's has an average Mass attendance of 46 percent, slightly better

than the diocesan average, almost on par with the rest of the deanery.

Although some parish reports are not yet included, here are the total deanery statistics to date:

- Evansville East: 47 percent
- Evansville West: 45 percent
- Jasper Deanery: 38 percent
- Newburgh Deanery: 38 percent
- Princeton Deanery: 43 percent
- Vincennes Deanery: 41 percent
- Washington Deanery: 53 percent

The highest percentage is at St. Joan of Arc Church, Jasonville, where 61 persons are registered, but where an average of 99 persons attended Mass: 162 percent.

Every deanery had one or more parishes with an attendance percentage in the 30s.