

the election was over, it was informally proposed that there be a picnic for the people of the parish. Each member or family was to bring a lunch and furnish his own means of going to Blue Lake Park. A public conveyance was engaged to take all persons who were unable to find another way. Each person going in this wagon was requested to pay 25c to help defray the expense of securing it which was \$4.00." (From the Secretary's Book of Minutes.) The Altar Society realized 25c profit from this venture.

Plans were also made at this meeting to sponsor a bazaar and supper on December 1, 1909 with the proceeds to be added to the new church fund. It was decided that a committee of three ladies be appointed to take charge of the supper. Mrs. Marley withdrew from committee work and paid twenty-five dollars in place of working for the supper and sale. The committee was as follows: Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Wise and Mrs. McElroy. Assisting them were Miss Harrington, Margaret Murphy, Mrs. Walker, Helen Murphy, Nora Riordan, Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Greek, Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Keitges, Mrs. Zortman and Mrs. Geibel. The supper returns amounted to \$62.00 and the total receipts were \$498.00. (From the Secretary's Book of Minutes.) These receipts were added to the new church fund which was later used to purchase the present church property on which the church was later erected.

Meetings were held, more or less regularly, in the homes of the various members and from the book of minutes we learn that Father Ryan, the new pastor who succeeded Father Zimmermann, called a meeting of the ladies on March 10, 1912 to elect officers of the Altar Society. Mrs. Esther Walker was elected president and Miss Zada Mustard the secretary-treasurer. The ladies met during this year in the homes of Mrs. J. R. Murphy and Mrs. Clodfelter and in the Parish Rectory. The next year the minutes tell of meetings with Mrs. John Beigel, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Murphy, with sixteen members being present at the Murphy home meeting. Dues during those years were \$1.20 per year. Besides the above-mentioned ladies, other members from 1912 to 1915 included Helen, Mary and Margaret Murphy, Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. William Zortman, Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Frank Mathys, Mayme Riordan, Miss Hick, Miss Madden, Mrs. Teresa Mathys, Teresa Mathys, Mrs. Riordan, Mrs. Mike Marley, Vella Harker, Mrs. Anna McLaughlin, Mrs. Mary McLaughlin, Mrs. Mustard, Miss Weiners, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mrs. Montgomery, Zada Mustard, Molly Brennan, Mrs. J. Brown, Miss Beck, Mrs. F. McGarr, Mrs. Sammin, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Elvin and Mrs. John Beigel. There was very little change in the parish membership during the two succeeding years when Father Edmund Casey was pastor and the ladies continued their good work as in previous years. The secretary's book of minutes shows that

meetings were held during those years at the homes of Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Clodfelter, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. McGarr, Mrs. Montgomery and Mayme Riordan.

In February of 1918, Father T. M. Coghlan was appointed to succeed Father Casey as pastor, and, although he remained only until July 11 of the same year, he was responsible for the change of the name of the Altar Society to that of the Rosary Society. Parish records show that he applied for a charter of the Rosary Confraternity from the national offices of the Rosary Apostolate which was granted on July 18, 1918, just a week after he had been succeeded by Father William Humphries as pastor. The Rosary Society receipts during this, the first year of its existence under the new name were \$126.45.

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, with which the Rosary Society is affiliated, has for its purpose the uniting of its members in the bond of the love of God to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the seeking of her intercession and the winning of her protection. By their united recourse in the prayers of the Rosary, the members pray for themselves, and for others; thus working also for the extirpation of heresy and the conversion of sinners throughout the world. Members fulfill the obligation of the Confraternity by saying each week the fifteen decades of the Rosary. This obligation does not bind under sin but must be fulfilled to obtain the manifold benefits. The Rosary may be recited alone or with others; all the decades at once or a Rosary of five decades on different days, or even separated into single decades said at one's convenience. The members gain by grant of the Holy See: *First*, a share during life, in death and after death, in all the good works and prayers of the countless other members of the Confraternity throughout the whole world; *Secondly*, a share in all the good works, prayers and Masses of the Dominican Order which has been appointed by the Holy See to be the protector of this Society; *Thirdly*, the famous Indulgences of the Rosary, granted to the members which are more numerous than in any other devotion in the Church.

The purpose of St. John's Rosary Society as originally established is *Cultural, Spiritual, Social and Financial*. It attains its cultural and social aims by sponsoring educational and entertaining programs at its regular meetings.

Spiritually the members recite the Rosary at every meeting, have Masses offered for themselves each year as well as for their sick and deceased members, practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy by visiting the sick, instructing the youth, and offering their services at the death of a parishioner.

Financially, they assist the parish by sponsoring dinners, benefit socials, bake sales and card parties, the receipts of which are used for necessary parish expenses or for parish expansion.