

HERITAGE RECIPES

And Historical Notes

from Centerville and Hugo,

Minnesota

A collection of recipes and remembrances.

St. Genevieve
Council of Catholic Women

Centerville & Hugo, MN 55038
www.stgens.org

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Dear Friends,

There is nothing like good food and hospitality to bring people together. We have such inspiring examples in the miracles of Jesus feeding the multitudes with loaves and fishes, turning water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, and sharing his own body and blood with the Apostles at the Last Supper. Like Jesus, we break bread together in joyful times and in sad times, with people we've just met, with beloved family, and with treasured friends.

The women of our CCW have done a remarkable job collecting the stories of this region's colorful history, treasured family recipes, and delicious new selections that will appeal to young and old. Our parishioners in Hugo and Centerville have longstanding reputations as excellent cooks, and warm, welcoming hosts and hostesses. As you invite family and friends to the table to share in these wonderful traditions, I hope you will also enjoy sharing this prayer of grace. It was written by Samuel F. Pugh and is one of my favorites.

May God's blessings always grace your table.

Rev. Greg Esty, June 2013

A Thanksgiving Prayer

*Oh God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me
to remember the jobless;
When I have a warm home, help me
to remember the homeless;
When I am without pain, help me to remember
those who suffer; and remembering, help me
to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough to help. by word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Patron Saint of the National Council of Catholic Women

God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

Or Mother of Good Counsel, patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous, and loving leaders of the Church.

Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son. May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation, and compassion for all God's children.

May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.

Council of Catholic Women MISSION STATEMENT

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW), Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW), and the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), act through their membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. Our program responds with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world. CCW's works are committed to keeping alive the tradition of honoring Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, as our patroness.

Fur Traders and Farmers Entrepreneurs and Equestrians Our French Canadian Heritage

Excerpts from the Minnesota Historical Society, Washington County Historical Society, a history of the Houle family written by W. Bruce Houle in 1978 (with Sr. Mary Gabriel Walls, Elmer Joseph Corteau and Sr. Odile Bonin), the history of St. John's of Hugo by James Gits, and oral histories shared by Melvin Dupre and Joseph Peloquin in the early 1990s.

The history of our area is a colorful tapestry, with the threads of early explorers, missionaries and pioneer families interwoven to form the strong and thriving communities of Centerville and Hugo. Long before the first English settlers in the 13 colonies along the Atlantic seaboard ventured west, the French Canadian fur traders of New France were drawn westward in search of beaver pelts to fuel the European passion for beaver top hats, beaver coats and other warm and beautiful outerwear. Some of these explorers were also searching for an all-water passage to the Pacific and the legendary spice lands of the Far East. Among the early explorers to scout the region were such familiar names as Grosseillers (1658), Radisson (1659), Marquette (1673), Father Hennepin (1679) and DuLuth (1679). Traders and trappers rapidly scattered along the chains of lakes and mighty rivers of our state -- the Mississippi, Minnesota, Red, Snake, St. Croix, St. Louis and others.

Voyageurs, Traders, Missionaries and Settlers Arrive

During this time, France was not yet a unified nation and most of its land was owned by independent nobles who were in a constant state of war. During this time, some 10,000 French adventurers set out for a better life in the new world. They settled in what came to be called "New France," now known as the province of Quebec. It was from this region that the first French-Canadian settlers came to Minnesota at least 100 years before the United States became a nation, settling in the Oneka (later named Hugo) and Centerville area, where the natural surroundings and life style were similar to

their homes in Quebec and Montreal. If a family dates much before 1850, the chances are that the family arrived in Minnesota as a result of the fur trade. Later settlers came to the area for farmland, since in Quebec and Montreal, the family farm was typically deeded to the younger son in return for caring for the parents in old age. The older children had to strike out for themselves and many decided to move to unsettled areas, including crossing the border to the U.S. Others came with the logging industry, as it moved from New England westward through America's rich timberlands.

Father Louis Hennepin Explores

The first white man believed to visit what is now Centerville and Hugo was Fr. Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan missionary and historian who played a major role in the development of this state. Sent to explore a portion of the Mississippi, Fr. Hennepin was captured by a band of Sioux and taken to Mille Lacs, a territory that the Sioux then controlled, before being pushed out by the Ojibway (Chippewa). He was rescued by DuLuth, who heard stories of a white captive among the Indians and rushed to his aid.

The route to Mille Lacs from Kaposia (South St. Paul), where Fr. Hennepin was probably taken prisoner, was one that the Indians in those days generally made by way of the lakes and streams converging at Centerville and Hugo. In a 1693 account printed in Paris about his exploration of what was then the Louisiana Territory, Fr. Hennepin described visiting a hunting area that matches perfectly with later written descriptions of Centerville and Hugo, when the region was a seasonal campground for the Indians on their migrations north and south. After Fr. Hennepin, other French-Canadians visited the region and maintained a trading post at the mouth of the Rum River. After 1803 and the purchase of the Louisiana Territory by the young United States, the French Canadians were engulfed by the hordes of settlers arriving from the eastern seaboard and the countries of northern Europe in search of a new life and prosperity.

MINNESOTA'S EARLIEST PIONEER SETTLERS

In 1840, Alphonse Jarvis first came to what is now known as Centerville. The first permanent dwelling constructed by a white man was built in Centerville Township in 1850 by a German, Frederick W. Travers. In 1852, Francis LaMotte (Lamotte on old records) arrived, the first of a large number of French Canadians who formed the "French Settlement" on the east side of the community. The census of 1850 located him at Mendota Heights, where he worked as a blacksmith. In the fall of 1852, Charles Peltier, Peter Cardinal and F.X. Lavalley arrived in the area. Oliver Dupre, born in Sorel, Canada, was one of the first settlers in St. Paul, and he came to Centerville in the winter of 1852. He moved two miles from the village in 1870. In 1853, Paul and Oliver Peltier arrived, and in 1854, Charles Peltier built a sawmill. He joined LaValley and LaMotte in planning Centerville, which was formally organized as a township August 11, 1857. The village was laid out and platted by Charles Peltier, F.X. Lavalley, and F. LaMotte in the spring of 1854. The first officers were: Oliver Peltier, chairman; Frances LaMotte, clerk; Charles Peltier, treasurer; and Stephen Ward, justice of the peace. The population increased rapidly, with the next arrivals named: A. Gervais, Oliver Dupre, Joseph Forcier, Paul and Oliver Peltier, Stephen Ward and L. Burkard.

The western part of Centerville is older and was settled earlier. The first to settle there was F.W. Travers, who claimed section 19 in 1850. He was joined later by Henry Wenzel, also a native of Germany. By 1855, this part of town became known as the "German Settlement."

Surnames of Our Ancestors

In 1850, the Minnesota Territory was a huge area, divided into nine counties. The total percentage of French-Canadians among the first Minnesota settlers is very high, but often the names were Anglicized, so the only clue to the original name is if the family originated in Canada and could trace back its name and heritage. So, the Belairs became the Blairs, Benneit became Benoit. Bosil Galenah became Bazile Galarneau. Narses Demmarah became Narcisse Desmaret. Peter Bebo ti Pierre Bibault became Bibeau. Francis La Ma became Francois LaMothe (LaMotte). Agustis Pereson became Augustus

Pariseau. Lewis Couter became Louis Couture. Lewis Pane changed to Louis Paul. Merance Vadna became Marie Ann Vadnais and Priest Dufrain became Presque Dufresne. Parinton became Parenteau. Ozier became Auger and Tiron became Theroux.

Many of these French-Canadians are among the direct ancestors of those who settled in Centerville and Hugo. Family names in the 1850 territorial census that later appeared in the parish registers of St. Genevieve of Paris at Centerville and St. John the Baptist in Hugo include: Arcand, Asseline, Bernier, Bellanger, Bourdon, Bonin, Campbell, Carpentier, Cournoyer, Crevier, DeMars, Derosier, Dubois, Dupre, Durand, Faucher, Gadbois, Gagnon, Garneau, Gauthier, Goulet, Godin, Granger, Gregorie, Guertin, Houle, Jerome, LaBelle/Labelle, LeBlanc, Lambert, Lacroix, Labore, Levasseur, LaPointe, Laderoute, Lavallee, LeRoux, Maheu, Martelle, Martin, Morrissette, Moran, Morin, Mercier, Nadeau, Parent, Peltier, Pelkey, Pelletier, Perreault, Plant, Roy (King), Rondeau, St. Marin, Martin and Thibault.

Throughout the 1850s, many French Canadian pioneers came whose surnames are still found in the area. Joseph Houle settled in Centerville sometime around 1852. Francis LaMotte's first wife was Leocadie Houle, the daughter of Michele Houle and Genevieve Cartier. The Cartiers, Rivard-Dufresne, Courteaus, Letourneaus, Labelles, Tetraults, Valois, Lamberts, Ducharmes, and Tourvilles were among these families.

People had many different reasons for traveling to the area. Some were here because of the early trade. Others followed the seasonal logging industry, returning to Canada for part of the year. Others moved in response to population pressure in Quebec and the shortage of land, coupled with the demand for cheap labor in the U.S. Family folklore relates that the LaMottes may have left Quebec after a short-lived rebellion by some French-Canadians against the British. One of the Catholic churches desecrated by the British in the aftermath of the rebellion had an Abbe Dufresne as pastor. According to family stories, this may be the reason the LaMottes left Quebec.

For the LeTourneaus, family stories tell the decision to move to Minnesota was triggered by tragedy. For the Houles, it seemed to be a gathering of the clan. At least one branch of the Rivard-Dufresne family left Quebec because they had been flooded out of their farmland and homes by the rising of the St. Lawrence River near Sorel in Quebec.

Joseph Peloquin's grandfather also came from Sorel in about 1850, along with many other French Canadians. He claimed 40 acres of land, cleared it and built a house, married and raised seven children. His eldest son enlarged the farm to 91 acres and served as the assessor for Anoka County in the early 1900s.

HOW HUGO GOT ITS NAME

According to the Washington County Historical Society, the Hugo area was settled primarily by people of French or French Canadian ancestry, and local residents still spoke fluent French and followed old French customs as late as 1949. The township drew its name from Lake Oneka, located in the center of the township. There is disagreement about whether the source of the name was Dakota or Sioux. One source says the word is derived from the Dakota word "onakan," which means "to strike or knock off," the method of harvesting wild rice by striking it so the grains fall from the reeds into a canoe.

Hugo's earliest settlers came to the area to open stock farms and grow hay. In 1869 the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad (later the Northern Pacific) railroads came through the region. Legend says that the residents of Centerville did not want the railroad too near cattle that grazed in unfenced areas. So, the railroad lines were put in to the east in a small village called "Centerville Station." French natives Louis and Francoise Kuchli came to the area in 1872 and built a store, hotel and "sample room." By 1874, the village known as Centerville Station opened its first Post Office. In 1883, the Piette family settled there and set up the first blacksmith shop.

Because the southwest corner of the area bordered Bald Eagle Lake, resort hotels sprang up in the area in the 1880s. Shadyside, a 10-block area adjacent to the railroad tracks, became "summer housing" for families from St. Paul, whose breadwinner commuted back and forth to the city by rail.

By 1906, the village of Hugo incorporated, with a population of 258. The Post Office requested that the village choose a new name to avoid confusion between "Centerville Station" and nearby Centerville. Some people suggested calling the community "Franklin" or "Houle Town," after pioneer settlers. The name Hugo was said to have been proposed by Michael Houle. Michael Houle was inspired by French Author Victor Hugo (1803-1885), who was known for his love of liberty, strong sense of justice and sympathy for the suffering of ordinary people.

After the railroad came through Hugo, many families in the area made part of their living by cutting wood and hauling it to the railroad, which used it to refuel the trains. The Inter-State Lumber Company opened in the early 1900's, soon followed by the telephone office (1905) and a bank (1910). The Hugo Feed Mill, still a historic landmark, was built in 1917.

As automobile touring became popular, the Highway 61 corridor in Hugo sprouted businesses catering to the motoring public. During prohibition years, many "soft drink parlors" peddled moonshine and had slot machines. In 1925, a small community called Weston developed on Hwy. 61 and Big Marine Road, now 165th Street. It grew to 50 people, a garage and store, taverns, a barbershop and a blacksmith shop. Social life in the 1930s and 1940s revolved around the Blue Moon, Fritzie's Place and Tassler's Corner. The most popular tavern was owned by Charles Sibley, a descendant of General Henry Hasting Sibley, the first governor of Minnesota. Charles Sibley later became a Hugo police officer. By the 1940s, most of the businesses in Weston were gone. In 1972, Weston became part of the Village of Hugo and Oneka Township was incorporated into the City of Hugo. A new city hall was built in 2001. Although Hugo has had many businesses over the years, agriculture has been the area's mainstay.



Interior of St. Genevieve's, 1905. The cornerstone for the fourth, and present, church was laid in 1904. This was one of the first pictures taken after completion of the new building.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF ST. GENEVIEVE PARISH

St. Paul's first bishop was the Right Reverend Joseph Cretin. Born in France, he came to the U.S. in 1838 as a young missionary priest, working among the Indians in Iowa. When the new bishop arrived in St. Paul in 1851, he reported to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith in his native France that there were 6,000 Catholics scattered throughout the diocese, 25,000 Indians, four church building and three priests. His first concern was to foster religious vocations, so he founded a school, along with a new cathedral. The first two students, John Ireland and Thomas O'Gorman, were sent to finish their priesthood studies in France. Monsignor Augustine Ravoux the Vicar General, went with them to France. While there, he recruited two other seminarians for missionary work in the new diocese. The first two priests to visit Centerville were in that group. Fr. George Keller and Fr. J. Claude Robert.



Building the basement of St. Genevieve's third church building, 1870.

The first Mass was offered in Centerville village by Fr. Keller in 1854. The first parish church was built under his supervision in 1855. Fr. Claude Robert supervised the building of the second church in 1859, which was dedicated to St. Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris. The third church, a brick edifice, was built in 1870 during the pastorate of the Reverend Joseph Goiffon, who was pastor of St. Genevieve's from 1861-1891, and for whom Goiffon Avenue was named. The fourth and present church, was built in 1904 during the pastorate of Fr. Marcel Masl.

The parish served Centerville and Oneka/Centerville Station (Hugo) until 1902, when the Church of St. John the Baptist was constructed in Hugo. People came from as far away as what is now known as the town of Withrow to attend services. Members of the Letourneau family tell that their family traveled from five miles east of Hugo to

attend Mass and then dine with the LaMottes, who lived across the street from the church, before undertaking the long drive home. In winter, hot stones tucked under fur wraps kept the family warm during the long journey by horse and sleigh.



Circa 1889 - Goiffon Family Collection. L-R standing: Louise Goiffon, Fr. Joseph Goiffon, Antoine Seigneret, Rose Delima Letourneau. Seated: Jacqueline Savoie, Pierre Antoine Goiffon, Pierre Antoine Goiffon (known as Antoine). Children: Francoise Seigneret, Joseph Antoine Goiffon. Everyone in the photo with the exception of Rose Delima Letourneau and Joseph Antoine Goiffon are from Fr. Goiffon's family who came from France to live in Minnesota.

MISSIONARY PRIEST FR. JOSEPH GOIFFON

Fr. Joseph Goiffon was born in France in 1824 and ordained to the priesthood in 1852. He accepted the invitation of Bishop Cretin to work in the Diocese of St. Paul, arriving in 1857. After serving nine months in the City of St. Paul, he was sent to Pembina, North Dakota. In late August of 1860, he received a letter from the Vicar General requesting a meeting in St. Paul. Fr. Goiffon was disturbed by the summons because he feared he would not find it possible to return to Pembina before winter.

He left Pembina quickly by ox cart train and arrived in St. Paul in September. The train was to return to Pembina during the first week of October. Fr. Goiffon thought he would be ready to return with his friends, but was delayed. He left St. Paul a few days later, hoping to join the ox cart train. On November 1, he reached the Great Salt River, beyond the present city of Grand Forks and spent the night with other travelers encamped there. They urged him to wait until the rain stopped to continue his journey. The winter cold was also beginning to set in. But Fr. Goiffon was anxious to reach his parish and continued the journey alone on horseback. The rain turned to snow and quickly, both horse and priest became hopelessly lost. The horse died in the snowstorm, and to save his own life, Fr. Goiffon cut open the carcass and crawled inside. When found, Fr. Goiffon was still alive, but one leg was badly frozen.

Within a few days of reaching Pembina, it was decided to transfer the dying priest to St. Boniface in Canada, where there was a hospital next to the cathedral. Fr. Goiffon's leg was amputated, but the stump would not heal. The doctor, the sisters and priests began to prepare for his funeral. A pot of grease was placed on the stove to make candles, but it boiled over and started the wood frame hospital afire. Fr. Goiffon was moved outside and placed in a snow bank. The hospital burned to the ground, along with the cathedral and the bishop's house. But Fr. Goiffon's leg was cauterized by the snow and he recovered. The industrious priest even carved his own wooden leg. The Vicar General called him back to St. Paul and appointed him the pastor of the Church of St. John in Little Canada in 1861. From 1861-1891, he also served as pastor of the Church of St. Genevieve.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST OF HUGO

In 1901, the villagers of Oneka/Centerville Station requested that the bishop establish another Catholic church to serve the needs of the growing community. The first meeting was called to order by the Vicar General, Rev. John N. Starika, and Mrs. Kuchli, a local resident, turned over the deed to a large piece of property along the railroad tracks, beginning with the first fence post west of the

railroad post. This land was presented to the new parish in exchange for the sum of \$200. A gift of \$100 was donated to be used in the construction of the new church, and another \$100 was donated to Rev. Starika to be used to support the German Orphan Home in St. Paul.

John B. Martin was elected secretary of the new corporation, with John Slawa named treasurer. Elected to lead the effort were: Frank Heney, later the first mayor of Hugo; Antoine Patient, Euclide Brisson, Joseph Letourneau, Joseph Lutz, August Kuhn, and Joseph Carpenter. Within a month, they were soliciting pledges for a new church.

A Mr. Smith was invited to draw plans for the church building and parishioners were recruited to haul rocks for the foundation. In July, a contract for building the church was awarded to W.H. Jackson of White Bear Lake for \$7,897, and on September 29th, the cornerstone was blessed by Fr. H. Bannefous. The church building was in service early in 1902. People in the area attended one or the other church for many years, and the first interim pastor assigned to St. John's was Fr. Van den Bosch, serving for one year. Louise Daninger was the first baptism at the new church, celebrated on May 2, 1902. The first marriage ceremony united Mary Amelia Brisson and Emil Brisson on April 15, 1902. The first permanent pastor, Fr. Jules Perigord, came to the church in 1903.



The interior of St. John the Baptist, 1947. Note the ornate carved altar and communion rail.

The early pastors of St. John's were French speaking and that was a consideration for their appointment. The great majority of the congregation was French Canadian and more at home with the French language than English. At least one Mass, and preaching was done in both French and English until 1941.

The church building was destroyed by fire in 1947 and had to be rebuilt. There was no village water system in those days, and the local fire truck could haul only 300 gallons of water. Fr. Van den Bosch and neighbors hurried into the church through the sacristy and carried out vestments and statues. Housekeeper Louise Vadnais, was cited for her heroism in a *St. Paul Dispatch* newspaper story which reported firemen beat back the flames so she could enter the church and remove the Ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament, and the pastor's chalice and Monstrance, to safety. "Miss Vadnais, being well acquainted with the church's interior, quickly found the tabernacle key," the newspaper reported.

Joseph T. Marier was chief of the fire department at the time. Other members were: Mark Houle, Joseph Gamboni, Patrick Granger, Robert Burkard, T. J. Marier, Clarence Vail, Edmond Granger, Robert Parenteau, Clarence Wenzel, Connie Crever, Herbert

Thielbar, Albert Ethier and Robert Charpentier. Fr. Van den Bosch, who was quite ill, led the clean-up effort, but he died just two months after the fire. A small outbuilding was set up as a chapel when Fr. Fortin came to St. John's. Fr. Fortin served as St. John's pastor for 29 years.



Alimar, ridden by Ray Stoklasa of Luck, Wisconsin won first place in the Purebred Arabian Native Costume Class in the 1974 St. John's Playground International Horse Show.

ST. JOHN'S PLAYGROUND INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

In 1958, the village of Hugo planned a celebration at the completion of the new government building, which included a fire hall. At the request of the mayor, Emil Maslowski, Fr. Fortin set up snow fences around the baseball field, brought in horses, and had them demonstrate the "Art of the Horse." That same year, St. John's acquired land near the church for construction of a future school. In 1959, Fr. Fortin built a training ring just south of the old Herb Rodrigue house on Hwy. 61, putting in poles and connecting them with snow fence. He borrowed jumping props, and not long after, a friend from a riding club suggested that the village host a show using the new ring. It was decided that any profits could go toward paying off debt for the new land the congregation had recently purchased.

In 1960, Fr. Fortin was able to obtain wood from an old freight house in St. Paul. These pieces of wood became the two rows of planks that enclosed the new St. Peter's ring.



Fr. Lloyd J. Fortin with his first horse, Amicus Secundus. Fr. Fortin joined the U.S. Army the day after the Japanese attacked the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered WWII.

Fr. Fortin was uniquely qualified to lead this effort. The U.S. Army Equestrian Team was also the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team from 1912 - 1948. (The U.S. horse cavalry was disbanded in 1949, although the Army did send riders to the 1952 Olympic Games.) Fr. Fortin was an Army equestrian, and while we cannot find evidence of him competing in the Olympics, he most likely trained for it. He served as director of the "Soldiers School" of the 56th Armored Infantry. In 1942, he was sent to serve as a chaplain in the 12th Armored Division, the famed "Hellcats." After WW II, Fr. Fortin stayed in the Army, as an officer and a chaplain. He was elected to a very special honor in 1967, serving as the chaplain for the

Minnesota House of Representatives. The U.S. Army Equestrian Team was eventually replaced by the U.S. Equestrian Team, the sponsoring organization for equestrian Olympians. Fr. Fortin remained a member of that organization throughout his life. He also kept in touch with the other "Hellcats," attending reunions and sending updates to their newsletter.

From 1960 - 1970, the show expanded from 75 to more than 600 entrants. In the 1970s, putting on the extravaganza required hundreds of volunteers. Specialists traveled in from all over the country to St. John's Playground to help handle and judge the many events. Fr. Fortin allocated more money for judges than any show in the state. Judges needed experience training and showing horses, and experience judging at horse shows. More than 50 trophies and many ribbons were awarded. Most of these awards were donated by members of the parish. Many of the horses and their riders went on to national and international competition. In 1963, General Humberto Mariles, a friend of the pastor, came from Mexico to participate. General Mariles, who won a Gold Medal in the 1948 Olympic Games, was a pacesetter for Mexican horsemanship. The 1968 horse show program contained a letter on White House stationery from Cpt. James A. Lovell, the NASA astronaut, who was then serving as a consultant to the president for fitness and sports.

Behind the scenes of this horse show was a very energetic parish community. The children, parents and civic organizations of the community joined forces and lent their talent and hard work toward this annual event. Thousands of enthusiastic spectators attended daily in the final and most successful years of this spectacle. Visitors came from all over the United States and Canada. When asked why the show became so popular, Fr. Fortin stated that its location on the church grounds was the key factor. The local people played host, and the exhibitors liked the genuine friendliness of the Hugo residents.

Story from the Tri-Horseman's Association Newsletter

"As the little summer show that started off as an invitational fun get together for entertainment for the Sisters in their small houses all bearing Saints' names* -- it grew and grew, to close to one thousand

horses competing for the coveted awards of St. John's Playground Horse Show. The storybook happening that not only caught the local press and news media wide-eyed, but went on to national and international acclaim.

The show got so big at times, it almost seemed like a monster ready to devour itself, but adjustments were made and things went on improving. And, in the middle of all the hustle, you could usually find the Padre, in hunt boots and beret, getting the praise or catching hell, whichever surfaced at the time. At times, the fuse was short and at times he was miles away, planning how to improve something for next year."

TWO GREAT CHAMPIONS!

**General Humberto Mariles
and**

Sir Antonio Gil of Mexico



Photo from the 16th Anniversary program from St. John's Playground International Horse Show, 1974.

The 'Sister's Houses'

Starting in the 1930s, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet came to Hugo each summer to teach a three-week summer catechism class. These instructions took place in two of the houses that had been purchased by the parish. Other classes were held in two converted garages and the church parlors. The eight sisters who taught the classes traveled back and forth from White Bear Lake for several years. Then, Fr. Fortin furnished two houses so the nuns could have their own "homes" during their stay in Hugo. They lived in the houses named for St. Anne and St. Anthony. The other houses were named for the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. Michael. The Sisters considered their stay in Hugo a real vacation, enjoying the rural atmosphere and proximity to the lake. In the afternoon, when classes were over, they walked around the village and also visited the sick and invalids.

Two Churches, One Parish United Again

History does sometimes repeat itself, and just as the people of Centerville and Hugo were one parish during the early history of our community, the churches of St. Genevieve and St. John again merged into a single parish in 2012. Our merged parish is once again called the Parish of St. Genevieve. Together, we have two historic church buildings, St. John's in Hugo and St. Genevieve's in Centerville. We also have a lakeside hall on the Hugo location, Parish Community Center in Centerville, and two historic cemeteries.



Workers scale St. Genevieve's bell tower as they prepare to replace the cross on its peak. The church was being re-roofed when it was struck by lightning during a big storm on Tuesday, July 14, 1998. The roofers returned to the church to start work at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday morning and discovered a fire in the attic. If it had not been for the roofers doing the work in the first place, the church probably would have been a total loss. Due to the extensive damage, the city required everything to be brought up to code and the church insurance covered many improvements. Some people say this fire may have been "Heaven Sent."

CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE PASTORS

- 1854-1855 - Rev. George A. Keller - Supervised building the first church in 1855.
- 1855 - 1859 - Rev. J. Claude Robert - Supervised building the second church in 1859, officially named St. Genevieve of Paris.
- 1861-1891 - Rev. Joseph Goiffon - Supervised building the third church in 1870. Goiffon Ave. in Centerville is named after him.
- 1891-1898 - Rev. Francis X. Combettes
- 1898-1901 - Rev. Paul J. H. Bannefous

- 1901 - 1903 - Rev. Alphonse Van den Bosch
- 1903 - 1904 - Rev. Peter A. Quesnell
- 1904 - 1918 - Rev. Marcele Masl - Supervised building the fourth and present church in 1904.
- 1919 - 1921 - Rev. George Van derVelden
- 1921 - 1939 - Rev. Achille P. Schafer
- 1939 - 1940 - Rev. Francis M. Fairley
- 1940 - 1949 - Rev. Joseph C. O'Donnell
- 1949 - 1952 - Rev. Vincent P. Dudley
- 1953 - 1959 - Rev. Francis A. Welch
- 1950 - 1961 - Rev. Edmund M. Barry
- 1961 - 1966 - Rev. Frederick A. Merrz - Supervised building St. Genevieve's Catechetical Center.
- 1966 - 1967 - Rev. Vincent A. Colon
- 1967 - 1975 - Rev. Francis E. Shea
- 1975 - 1980 - Rev. Monsignor Dennis M. Lally
- 1980 - 1987 - Rev. Clement J. Zweber
- 1987 - 1991 - Rev. Gerald J. Kenney
- 1991 - 1999 - Rev. Richard J. Wolter
- 1999 - 2012 - Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald - Supervised building the St. Genevieve Parish Community Center in 2005.
- 2012 - Present - Rev. Gregory Esty - Reunited St. John's and St. Genevieve's churches into a single parish in 2012

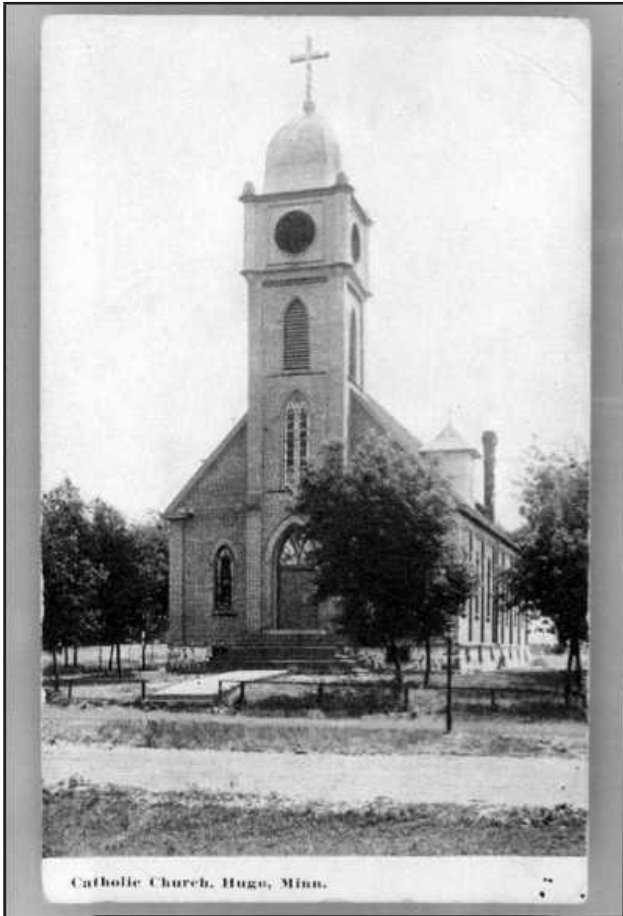
Deacons: Deacon Dan Kirchoffner, 1995 - present.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PASTORS

- 1901 - 1903 - Rev. Alphonse Van den Bosch - Born in Robaix, France. Came to the U.S. and was assigned to the St. Genevieve of Paris parish in Centerville in 1901 and also served St. John's in Hugo from 1901-1903.
- 1903 - 1910 - Rev. Jules Perigord - Born in Saint Lys, Haute-Garonne, France. Ordained by Archbishop John Ireland in 1902. St. John's first resident pastor.
- 1910 - 1912 Rev. Lambert Nicolas
- 1911 - 1914 Rev. Innocent Domestici
- 1914 - 1941 Rev. Jean Claude Laventure - Came to St. John's in 1914, where he remained until his death in 1941. Buried in the parish cemetery.
- 1947-1976 Rev. Lloyd J. Fortin - Originated the *St. John's Playground Horse Show*.
- 1976 - 1982 Rev. Aelred Tegels - A Korean war veteran, he served as a U.S. Air Force chaplain from 1951-1955.
- 1982 - 1986 Rev. William Gamber - Born in Fergus Falls, MN. In 1986, he became a full-time chaplain at the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital.
- 1986 - 1993 - Rev. Nicholas A. Cody - Helped plan and develop the 28-unit Muller Manor, completed in 1990. His brother Rev. John Cody lived at St. John's after retiring from the Winona Diocese. From 1987-1993, Fr. John helped with Mass, confessions and visiting the sick.
- 1993 - 2001- Rev. Daniel Friberg - Was a French instructor at St. Thomas Academy for 25 years.
- 2002 - 2008 - Rev. Sebasien Bakatuinamina. Known as "Father Baktu," from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

•2008 - 2012 - Rev. Jon Shelley

Deacons: Deacon Daniel Kirchoffner, 1997 - 1994; 2012 - present.
Deacon Tom Barrett, 1994 - 2010.



A postcard featuring St. John the Baptist Church, 1947.

LESSONS FROM THE BIBLE

Where to look in the Bible when you...

Feel your faith is weak - Ps. 126, 146; Heb. 11
Are becoming lax and indifferent - Matt. 25; Rev. 3
Are lonely or fearful - Ps. 27, 91; Luke 8; I Peter 4
Fear death - John 11, 17, 20; II Cor. 5; I John 3; Rev. 14
Have sinned - Ps. 51; Isa. 53; John 3; I John 1

Are facing a crisis - Job. 28: 12-28; Prov. 8; Isa. 55
Are jealous - Ps. 49; James 3
Are impatient - Ps. 40, 90; Heb. 12
Are bereaved - I Cor. 15; I Thess. 4; 13:5-28
Feel anxious for dear ones - Ps. 121; Luke 17
Feel that everything seems going from bad to worse - II Tim. 3; Heb. 13
Are tempted to do wrong - Ps. 15, 19, 139; Matt. 4; James 1
Are weary - Ps. 95: 1-7; Matt. 11
Bear a grudge - Luke 6; I Cor. 4; Eph. 4
Need forgiveness - Matt. 23; Luke 15; Philemon
Are sick or in pain - Ps. 6, 39, 41, 67; Isa. 26
Are leaving home - Ps. 119; Prov. 3, 4
Are planning your budget - Mark 4; Luke 19
Are starting a new job - Ps. 1; Prov. 16; Phil. 3,7,21
Have been placed in a position of responsibility - Joshua 1:1-9; Prov. 2; II Cor. 8-1-15
Are making a new home - Ps. 127; Prov. 17; Eph. 5; Col. 3; Peter 3:1-17; I John



This portrait of a First Communion class was taken in front of St. Genevieve's parish house in the early 1900s. Pictured with the children is Fr. Marcele Masl, who was pastor from 1904-1918.

PIONEER SETTLERS OF CENTERVILLE TOWNSHIP

Leopold Burkard, one of the first settlers in the village of Centerville, was born in Ketsch, Germany in 1813. His father was a blacksmith, as was Leopold. He remained home until age 21 and worked his trade in Germany for 10 years. He came to America in 1850, first to Freeport, Illinois; then to Stillwater; and finally, in March of 1854, settled in Centerville to open a blacksmith shop.

Flavius Benson was born 27 miles southwest of Montreal in 1831. At age 14, he left the home of his parents to work in the pineries and on the river. He went to Toledo, Ohio, and Grand Rapids on the Wisconsin River, and finally, to Burlington, Iowa, where he worked in the wood trade. He came to Minnesota in 1871, stayed a few months in Stillwater, and finally located to Centerville. He built a sawmill and operated it for a while, then opened a mercantile business. In 1860, he married Elen Carter; they had seven children.

Clement Cardinal was one of the most prosperous farmers in Centerville. A native of the village of St. Our, Canada, he was born in 1837. He left home for Minnesota at age 13, joining his brother at Lake Como, Ramsey County. He then went to Henderson and assisted in the first clearing at that place for three years. His next employment was in the fur trade with the Indians at Traverse des Sioux, where he stayed for five years, the last three of which he was in business for himself. He then joined a fur company and traded furs for two years in Renville County, where he also engaged in farming. In 1862, he was surprised in his new home by Indians who killed his father-in-law and brother-in-law and carried his wife into captivity. She was released after eight weeks and four days. Mr. Cardinal escaped and enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served a year in the Indian Wars. He purchased a farm in Centerville and later married Margaret Perro of Canada in 1858; they had eight children.

Alexander Cardinal was born in Montreal in 1833. He left home to work in the copper mines of Michigan for about a year and then came to St. Paul. Two years later, he moved to Little Canada. In

1870, he came to Centerville to farm. He and his wife, S. Beban, whom he married in 1862, had 11 children.

J.B. Derosier was born in Quebec in 1844. At age 17, he apprenticed to a blacksmith at Yamaska, working three years for 36 dollars. He came to Northampton, Massachusetts, and remained a year before returning to Canada. He moved to Centerville in 1868 and opened a blacksmith shop. He married Mary Peltier in 1864 and had 10 children.

Michel Dupre was born in Quebec in 1837. He lived with his parents until his marriage in 1855 to Eliza Corbet. Then, he helped his father-in-law manage his farm until the spring of 1865, when he moved to Centerville to farm. He and his wife had 11 children.

Peter Dupre was also a native of Canada, born in 1834. He lived with his parents until age 18, when he came to Little Canada. He bought a farm in Centerville Township on which he lived for three years. He sold that property and bought another farm. In 1858, he married Julia Bergner and they had nine children. Mr. Dupre always took a lively interest in the development of the township and held a number of local offices.

Oliver Dupre was born in Sorel, Canada, in 1830. He was one of the first settlers of St. Paul, arriving there in 1847, when the town had just 10 homes. After two years, he moved to a farm in Little Canada, coming to Centerville in the winter of 1852. He farmed near the village. Oliver married Mary Garso in 1849 and the couple had six children.

Augustin Rivard Dufresne was born near Sorel, Canada, in 1825. His father operated two farms, one of which Augustin managed until his father's death. He came to Minnesota to farm in Centerville in 1860. He married Miss L. Bennoet in 1845 and they had 15 children.

Frank Dupre was born in Quebec in 1829. He left home at 17 to come to the New Northwest, passing through the present site of St. Paul when only two houses were there. He farmed in Little Canada for 14 years, during which time he was also employed by the government as a supply transporter from St. Paul to Crow Wing. In

the fall of 1860, he began farming in Centerville. He married Sophia Dufux in 1846 and they had 12 children.

Joseph N. Forcier was born near Sorel, Canada, in 1850. He came to Centerville Village at age four and continued to live with his parents, occasionally working in the lumber woods. In 1872, he bought a farm. He married Margaret Peltier of Centerville in 1870; they had four children. Forcier lived in Centerville until his death.

Michael Golden, Sr. was one of the pioneers of the German Settlement in Centerville Township and a native of Ireland. He first settled in Providence, R.I. in 1849. In Ireland, he lived on a small farm and was a stone dealer. After three years of working as a stevedore in Providence, he went to Blackstone, Mass. and worked on a farm until 1854, when he came to Minnesota. In addition to farming in Centerville, he served as the Village Constable for 17 years and held other town offices.

Michael Golden, Jr. was born in Ireland in 1850. He came to America as an infant. He occupied his father's original homestead and followed Michael Golden, Sr.'s footsteps into civic leadership, serving as Justice of the Peace for 12 years and holding a number of other town offices. In 1874, he married Ida Scott of Mound View and had three children.

Louie Halley was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1835. He left home for Minnesota in 1852, living in White Bear Lake. He then went to Michigan and lived there for 24 years, working in the copper mines near Calumet for 11 of those years. He came to Centerville to farm in 1878. He married A. Haully in 1864 and had eight children.

Joseph Houle was born near Sorel, Canada, in 1836. His mother died when he was 11 years old. He came to Minnesota in 1851 to visit the township of Centerville. The following spring, he went to work for F. LaMotte. He returned to Centerville in 1871 and became a lifelong resident.

Frank Kraus was born in Bremen, Germany, in 1844. His father died in 1864, and he operated the family farm for 10 years. He came to America in 1874, staying for a short time in Illinois and

then St. Paul. He came to Centerville Township the same winter and engaged in farming, renting land until 1876, when he bought his farm. In 1866, he married B. Suss and had six children.

Francis X. Lavallee was the second man to make a permanent settlement in the town of Centerville. A native of Quebec, he was born in 1825 and came to the U.S. at age 17, He was employed in the woolen mills of Rhode Island for about seven years. In 1849, he came to St. Paul and then to Lake Como, where he remained until coming to Centerville in the fall of 1852. Then, most settlers still supported themselves chiefly by hunting. Mr. Lavallee built the first frame house in Centerville. He married Mary Shepard in 1848 and had 13 children.

Oliver Leroux was born near Sorel, Canada, in 1850. He was eight years old when his mother died. He came to Minnesota in 1870 to work in the pineries in the winter, and worked in a St. Paul brickyard during summer. In 1873, he bought a farm in Centerville. In July of that year, he married Catherine Bebeau. The couple had five children.

Telesphore Lacasse was born in Canada in 1839. At age 18, he went to Massachusetts and then next year to Georgia, where he lived at the outbreak of the Civil War. He was drafted into the Confederate Army, serving in the Seventh Georgia Infantry for eight months. Believing he accidentally ended up on the "wrong side" as a northerner from Canada, he deserted to the Union line while on picket duty in front of Richmond and made his way north to New Haven, Connecticut. There, he enlisted in the Sixth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and came to Minnesota. He lived in Stillwater until moving to a Centerville farm in 1872. That same year, he married Alphonsine Parenteau of Centerville; the couple had five children.

Charles H. Moore was born in England in 1837. He came to Ontario, Canada, at age four with his parents. At age 13, he began working on a farm, and later became a merchant. He came to the U.S. in 1857 and farmed for seven years in Jefferson County, New York, and then spent seven years in purchasing farm produce through the country. He worked on the railroad for three years and

ended up in Centerville Township on a farm in 1878. In 1857, he married Ann Purcell; they had 10 children.

Peter Parenteau was a native of Quebec born in 1819. He came to New York State and lived near Albany until 1842. Then, he returned to Canada, purchased a farm and cultivated it until he came to settle in Centerville in 1856. He married Margaret Vadnais in 1842.

Prisque Peloquin came to Centerville from Sorel, Canada, in about 1850. Like many other French Canadians, he claimed land, about 40 acres, and started clearing the land to build a house. He married and raised seven children; then, in later years, returned to Canada to live. His oldest son, Joseph H. came into the farm and buildings, and expanded it to 91 acres. Joseph H. Peloquin also served as Anoka County Assessor during WWI, serving a territory of about 20 square miles.

Oliver Peltier was born in Quebec near the south shore of Lake St. Peter in 1825. He apprenticed to a carriage maker at Sorel at the age of 15. He visited Ft. Ticonderoga and other portions of New York State, British America, in the vicinity of Hudson's Bay. He lived for eight years in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he learned the trade of moulder. He visited the Republic of Mexico; Cleveland, Ohio; and Chicago, Illinois, before coming to Centerville in 1853. He settled on a farm and worked it until 1871, when he sold out and moved to St. Paul. He remained there for eight years, serving three as a member of the city's police force. He returned to Centerville and took up farming again. In 1848, he married Elizabeth Podvin of Massachusetts. They had 12 children.

Frank Pera was a native of Glengarry, Canada West, born in 1846. At age 18, he came to Michigan to work in the copper mines for five years. He came to Minnesota in 1869 and lived on a farm in Centerville, and married Elizabeth Burkard in 1876. The couple had two children. Frank stayed on the farm until his wife died in 1880.

J. Peltier was born in Quebec in 1822. He lived with his parents until age 21, then settled on a nearby farm for the next 12 years. He came to Minnesota in 1855 and settled in Centerville. He married E. Neveaux in 1843; the couple had 13 children.

William Ramsden is a native Yorkshire, England, born in 1813. His father was a miner and William worked about the mines until he reached age 21. Then he worked as a coachman in Manchester, England for right years. He came to American in 1845 and stayed in New York State. In 1854, he came to Scott County, Minnesota. Then, he worked as a merchant in St. Paul and later, Columbus in Anoka County, where he operated a sawmill for several years. He kept a dairy near St. Paul. He came to Centerville township to farm in 1865.

Johann Redman is native of Prussia, born in 1822. His father died when he was two years old, and he lived with his mother until age 17, when he began to work neighboring farms for the next 25 years. He came to America in 1866, first to Michigan for three and half years, and then to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He came to Centerville to farm in 1876. He married R. Huneka in 1844.

W. Speiser was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1839. He lived with his parents until coming to America in 1866, After a year in Indiana and Michigan, he came to Wisconsin, where he worked on a farm for six months. He came to Centerville in the fall of 1868, and after working for A. Wenzel for four years, purchased his own farm. He married R. Messerschmidt in 1871 and the couple had six children.

J.H. Sherman was born in Green County, New York in 1823. At age 21, he apprenticed to a carpenter for two years, then served seven years as an employee of B.G. Morse of Red Falls, New York. He then lived in Binghampton a few years before coming to St. Paul in 1856. He worked at his trade there for seven years, then went to the Pacific Coast. But, he soon returned to New York State and remained in Brooklyn a few years. In 1866, he came to Minnesota again and settled on a farm in Centerville. He married Ann E. Hard in 1849. The couple had three children.

A. Trudeau is a native of Quebec born in 1841. He was reared on his father's farm until 17, when he became a clerk in a mercantile store. At age 23, he opened his own mercantile business at West Farnham, Canada, and stayed there for 13 years. He came to Minnesota with a Mr. Larose and together they opened a firm named Larose & Trudeau, a general store that also sold agricultural implements. In 1866 Mr. Trudeau married Isabella Dalglish. They had seven children.

Octavis Tourville was born in Quebec in 1857. He moved to the Lake Superior copper mines with his parents at the age of seven. He came to Centerville nine years later and became a farmer. His parents lived with him. He married D. Dupre of Centerville in 1880 and had one child.

Joseph Tauer is a native of Bohemia, born in 1850. He lived with his parents until emigrating to America in 1867. After a year and a half in St. Paul, He came to Centerville to live with his brother. He bought a farm there in 1872, the same year he married C. Moroltor. The couple had five children.

Frederick W. Travers was the first man to make a permanent settlement in Centerville Township. A native of Oldenburg, Germany, he was born in 1814 He came to America in 1841, and enlisted in the First United States Infantry, Company D. After being stationed for a time at New York City and afterwards, in Florida, he was ordered to Ft. Snelling, where he remained until his discharge in 1846. After his discharge, he occupied an abandoned claim on the present site of St Anthony or East Minneapolis, but the threatening attitude of the Indians in the vicinity caused him to leave. He moved to a spot between that and St. Paul for one year. He then lived in St. Paul until 1850, when he came to what is now Centerville Township. He lived on section 19 on the shore of Rice Lake, where he hunted, fished and farmed.

Oliver Valois was born in Quebec in 1851. He lived with his parents until 1868, when he began an apprenticeship as a carpenter. He worked a number of years in Sorel, Canada, and the State of Vermont. He came to his present home in Centerville in

1865 and actively pursued his trade as a carpenter. He married Mary Dupre of Centerville in 1880 and the couple had one child.

Stephen Ward was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1824. As a young man, he learned the trade of brickmason, a trade he practiced until settling on a farm in Anoka County. He came to American in the summer of 1848, living two years in Philadelphia and the same length of time in New Orleans and St. Louis. He traveled to St. Paul in 1851 and stayed there until 1854, when he settled on a farm in Centerville Township. He lived there until his death in 1880. His wife was Sarah Howard of Worcestershire, England.

Anton Wenzel was born in Saxon, Germany, in 1839. His father was a blacksmith and during his boyhood, Anton was employed in his father's shop. Anton came to America with his parents in 1853. He lived in St. Louis, Missouri, and then came to Centerville Township. The Wenzels were the second family in the German Settlement. Anton's father settled on section 19, and that is where the younger Anton Wenzel lived until he commenced farming for himself. His farm was located on the south shore of Rice Lake, and he became one of the most prosperous farmers in the township. Anton Wenzel married Henrietta Neukirch in 1863. The couple had nine children.

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