

ZION CHURCH—

(Continued from preceding page)

**REV. MARTIN ROTHE**

with a slate roof, copper gutters, and copper cornice and pinnacles on the tower. The leaded art glass windows are composed of 90 per cent opalescent and 10 per cent cathedral glass.

The auditorium is 39 feet wide by 55 feet long with a height of 30 feet to the center of the Gothic ceiling. The seating capacity provides for 325 people in circular pews. The floor is an inclined bowl floor, which pitches from the sides and entrance toward the altar.

The total cost of this building was about \$16,500.00 for which the congregation incurred a debt of \$3,000.00. This debt was carried for several years.

A few years after the completion of the new church Rev. Holst's health began to fail. Consequently, he resigned from the Mt. Pulaski pastorate in October, 1905, after 16 years of faithful service.

Rev. Richard Brenner took charge of the Mt. Pulaski Congregation early in 1906.

Early in the year 1920 the pastor received a call from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peoria, which he accepted after about 14½ years spent in Mt. Pulaski.

Rev. H. Wittrock succeeded Rev. Brenner. He came to Mt. Pulaski in October, 1920.

The following year, 1921, the Sewing Circle was organized and in 1922 the Junior Walther League.

Extensive improvements were made in the basement in 1923. When the last quarter was excavated it was arranged so that the basement could be converted from a school room to a hall with a seating capacity of over 200 persons. A new furnace and lavatories were also installed.

In 1928 German services were reduced to one service a month and two years later the constitution was translated from German to English. In 1932 the church steeple was examined and found beyond repair and was removed. Following this recommendation, the steeple was removed, but was not replaced at this time. A Lutheran Laymen's League was organized in 1937 and German services were discontinued in 1939.

The Congregation celebrated Rev. Wittrock's twenty-five years of faithful service in Mt. Pulaski in 1945, and he resigned the following year due to ill health.

Rev. Albert G. Hoffmann, of Cissna Park, Illinois was installed Aug. 25, 1946. Soon after his arrival, plans for the celebration of the Centennial began to grow.

A call was sent to Mr. Arthur Stoeckel to teach the parochial school. He accepted the call and thus in September, 1949, a new era in the history of the school was begun.

Two new societies were organized in 1949, the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society and the Parent Teacher's Association. The following year the young married couples, who had been members of the Senior Walther League, withdrew from the League and organized the Fellowship Club.

In 1951 the Congregation purchased the house and lot adjoining the church on the south to be used as a teacherage.

Continues to Grow

The school term 1955-56 Mr.

Catholic Church 100th Anniversary

Lester Prellwitz served as principal of Zion School. Mr. Otto Hattstaedt from 1956-60.

Following the resignation of Rev. Albert G. Hoffman, August, 1955, the Rev. Milton Beer served as pastor until March 10, 1957.

The Rev. Martin H. Rothe was installed as the twelfth pastor of Zion on June 16, 1957. With the constant growth of the congregation and the school more space was needed so it was decided in 1957 to add an educational wing to the south of the church. The following were appointed as the Building Committee:

Herbert Finke, Wilford Tendick, Albert Horn, Vincent Stoll and Carl Maxheimer.

These five chose Ed Dittus to serve as their chairman and Wilbert Schahl as Secretary-Treasurer. In August 1957, they engaged the services of C. R. Miller as Architect. Ground breaking services were held on October 6th, 1957. Actual construction got under way on October 21st. Because of the mild fall weather and voluntary help, it was possible to get the educational unit under roof by the end of the year. All winter long members of our congregation continued the building. By spring Sunday School was conducted in the new building and the upper grades moved into their new classroom. At the time of the explosion, June 1st, 1958, the building was practically finished and some of the furnishings were in place. In the new addition all 10 sections of frames and windows upstairs on the south and east and all sections of frames and windows downstairs on the south and east were completely wrecked. The three outside doors on the south and east were completely ruined. Some of the inside doors were blown off the casing. The new folding doors were broken, the floor was raised in places and also a section of the roof. Glass imbedded the wood panelling and some of the school desks and Sunday School tables were marred. However, the building remained structurally sound.

The church suffered considerable damage. The east wall had to be partially rebuilt as well as two chimneys. The chancel had to be replastered and supporting pillars rebuilt. The art glass windows were so badly damaged that it was just as cheap to replace the ones on the south and north with new windows. The pews were so marred that it was necessary to refinish them as well as the floor. The entire church had to be redecorated and the rug cleaned. The insurance companies allowed us \$31,065.00, which was sufficient to cover the needed repairs and renovation. Prior to the explosion, we had spent \$77,000.00. With all the furnishings, the entire expenditure was approximately \$120,000.00. The Building Committee deeply appreciate the fine cooperation on the part of all that made our fine edifice possible.

School Faculty

Now there was ample room for other activities that a growing church and school needs. A kindergarten was added to the school in 1959. The present teachers are: Mrs. James Borgerson, kindergarten; Mrs. Harold Tendick, primary room, and Mrs. Albert Awe, upper grades. The total enrollment is 55.

The present membership of Zion Church stands at 580 souls and 420 communicants, several of the members belonging to the 6th generation of the founders.

Baptized Seventh Generation

Tammy Lynn Maxheimer, born Feb. 9, 1961, was baptized March 5 of this year has the honor of being the seventh generation of the family tree of Mr. Erhardt Stoll, Sr., Erhardt Stoll, Jr., Mrs. John Maxheimer, Walter Maxheimer, Everett J. Maxheimer, Jerry Maxheimer, Tammy Lynn Maxheimer.

The latch-string is always out when you come to Mt. Pulaski. Next week the "door" will be wide open.

Ground Broken Last Fall For Present Edifice

The subject of this brief history is in the midst of celebrating its Centennial in a year (1961) during which the city of Mount Pulaski, Ill., is commemorating the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Contemporary with the starting of the town there were a number of Catholic families here. Traveling Missionaries visited Mount Pulaski in the early 1840's, and offered Mass and administered Sacraments. Until the time when St. Thomas Aquinas Church became a mission of the Lincoln, Ill., parish, the visiting priest said Mass in the home of Casper Young.

First Church in 1867

Growing stronger in numbers, the Catholic faithful were able to have a church, a common place of worship. To this end they purchased, in 1867, the Zion Lutheran Church building on South Vine Street. For 35 years this little brick church served its purpose for the congregation. In 1884 John and Christian Schick gave two lots on South Lafayette St., on which a new church was to be built. During the pastorate of Father Thomas Kennedy plans and means were devised for the erection of the new church, and through the zeal and generosity of the good people of the parish the plans were fulfilled in 1901. The frame church, located on So. Lafayette St., has now been in use for 60 years. Severely damaged by the Illinois Central tank car explosion on June 1, 1958, the old frame church will be replaced by a new church of worship. Construction of this new church is now in progress, just north of the present building.

Imbued with the same spirit of zeal and generosity of their an-

PRESENT PASTOR**REV. EDWARD M. KREWER**

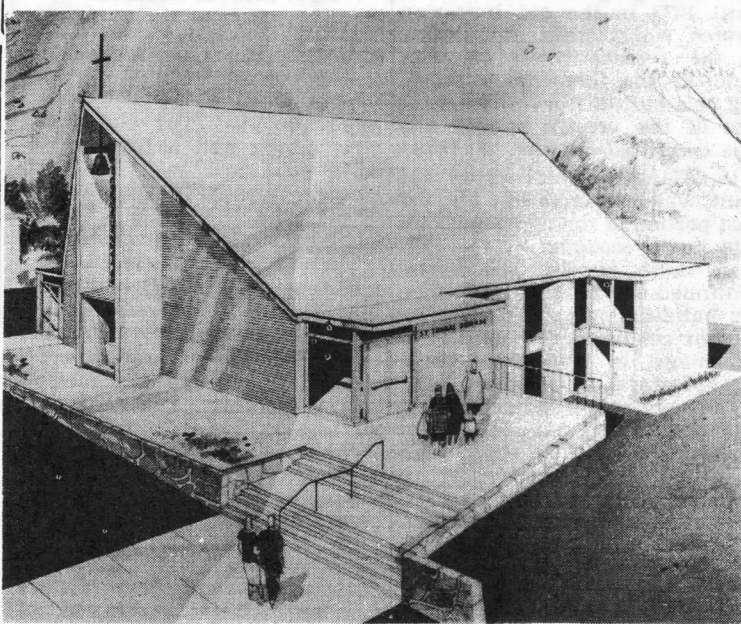
cestors, the present congregation will have its plans fulfilled when, during this year of 1961, the new church will be dedicated to the greater honor and glory of God.

This, then, is but a brief history of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church of Mount Pulaski. And as we of the parish offer gratitude to God in our Centennial year, so too, we give thanks to Him for His care to the community during 125 years, and ask His continued blessing.

Rev. Edward M. Krewer, Pastor

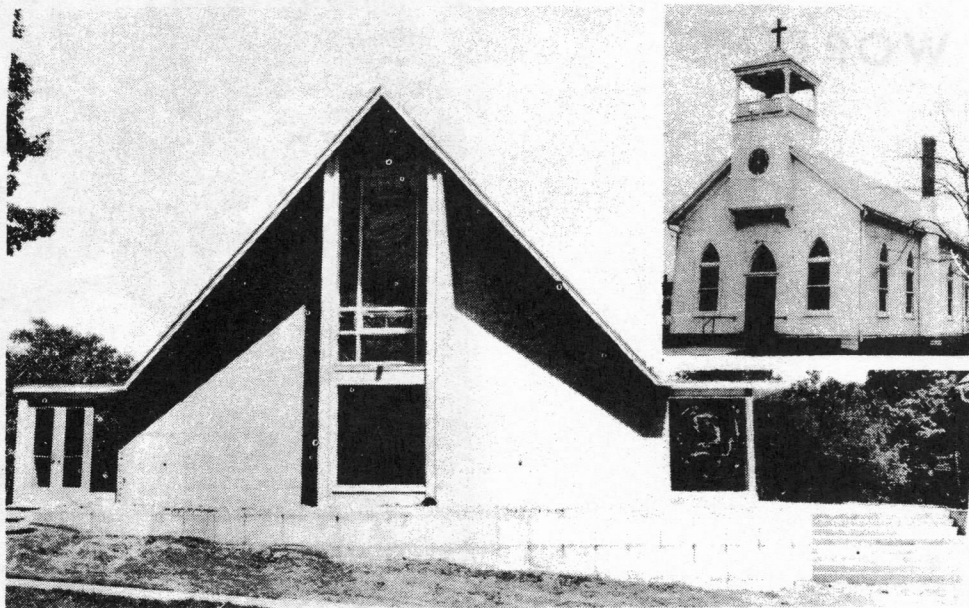
Visitors to Mount Pulaski will find the city filled with gracious hosts and hostesses. Our folks have always had a fine reputation for friendliness and this occasion will fully prove it.

Welcome to the Mount Pulaski Sil-Tennial Celebration July 22-29

ARTIST'S DRAWING OF NEW CHURCH

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1861 :-: 1961



Celebrating Its Centennial

IN A YEAR DURING WHICH THE CITY OF MOUNT PULASKI IS COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING IN 1836.

LET US OF THE PRESENT DAY SO LIVE THAT OUR ACTIONS AND LIVES SHALL REFLECT THE DEEDS AND LIVES OF OUR ANCESTORS