

History of the Parish of Evanston
from the year 1925 to April 1st 1939.

Father John J. O'Connor
continued as pastor in the year 1925
and in this year a number of
improvements were made to the church,
and a substantial decrease made
in the debt on the ^{property adjoining the church.} rented house.
In 1926 further improvements on
the church were made as they were
badly needed.

Confirmation was administered to a class of eight May 1st 1927. In 1928 again a substantial payment was made on the debt, also in 1929 and 1930.

On May 1st 1931 the Most Rev. P. A. McGovern D. D. Bishop of the diocese confirmed a class of 43 which was the largest class in the last 15 years. In this year also the number of First Communion both in Maunston and St. Bridget's increased very considerably.

year the debt was cash to \$,300.00
By the end of the

In January 1932 Father
Donner was changed and the Rev
Edward Leavitt took his place.

Further improvements were continued in both Church and house as the buildings were getting old, and needed ^{frequent} constant repairs. In the years that followed still further reductions in the debt were possible, and in ~~the year~~ 1937 it was completely cleared off.

In the meantime, ⁱⁿ ~~year~~ 1935 a basement was completed underneath part of the Church and house, and the property around the Church was graded making it look much better.

In 1934 Confirmation was administered to 17 candidates on June 17th, and application was made to the Extension Society for help for a new Church

at St. Bridget. There were now about
20 families there and Mass previously
was celebrated in a hall at St. Bridget.
Very generously the Extension Society
gave \$3,000, and a new church was
built and dedicated Nov 11th 1935.
A new interest was immediately
perceptible among the people there,
and hope that spiritually it would
add greatly to this end of the parish
was immediately felt. The results
certainly have been very wonderful
and to the present day an improvement
is quite noticeable.

As stated before, the debt was entirely paid in the year 1937, there being no debt on St Helen's, Ft Bridge, when it was completed.

On May 24th 1938 another class of 24 was confirmed, and a great deal of talk towards the erection of a new church in Evanston was started. This year also saw a class of 14 make their First Holy Communion. There were 5 baptisms and two marriages. At the end of the year there was \$500 in the treasury, and it was planned to

begin a "campaign for funds towards
the erection of a New Church. However
in the early morning of Jan 4th, 1939,
a fire broke out which ruined both
the Church and house, making them
unfit for further use. The insurance
on both amounted to \$4,500. of which
the sum of \$4,200. was received in
insurance. A Campaign for funds
was then started and about \$7,500
in cash was raised. This with
various other helps expected will
suffice the expenditure of \$20,000
on a New Church. Plans already
April 15th 1939 - are being made for
its erection.

A total of four missions
were given during this period
1925-1939.