

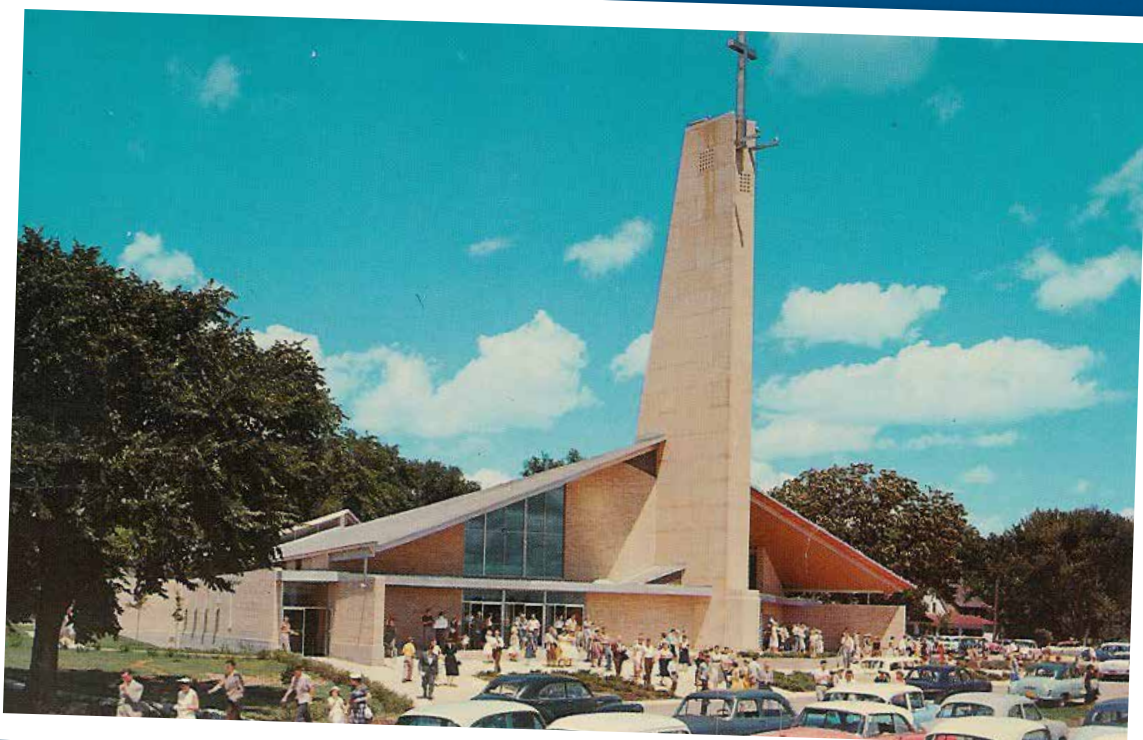


OUR LADY
QUEEN OF PEACE
Parish

Celebrating 75 Years

OF WORSHIP, WORD & SERVICE

Our Lady Queen of Peace History: 1945–2020



Our Lady Queen of Peace

401 S. Owen Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53711



Bishop Donald J. Hying, 5th Bishop of Madison
Msgr. Kenneth J. Fiedler, Pastor
Fr. Rich Litzau, Parochial Vicar
Jeanne McLellan, Parish Administrator
Cheryl Horne, Pastoral Associate & Youth Ministry
Catherine Henderson, Director of Liturgy & Pastoral Music
Bri Patten, Development Director
Andy Russell, Director of the Catholic Multicultural Center
Mary Jo Vitale, School Principal
Christine Spevacek, Assistant Principal
Sarah King, Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Kay Schachte, Director of Religious Education & RCIA
Annette Fox, Director of Social Action & Community Enrichment
Teresa Spevacek, Pastoral Care Coordinator & Business Office Assistant
Sheila Utter, Parish Nurse
Deb Cook, Business Office Manager
Erik Knudsen, Accounting Assistant
Lisa Haas, Mary Sams & Jennifer Krzak, Administrative Assistants
Kathy Balczewski & Sylvia Minaert, School Secretaries
Rosa Bogue, School Nurse

December 12, 2020

1945-1959

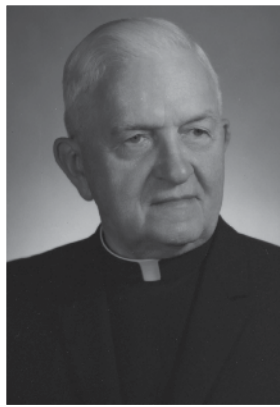
The Beginning

On a June evening in 1945, six couples met on the abandoned Westmorland Golf Course to look at the site. The west side of Madison needed a church, and the site was a good one. Two representatives went to Milwaukee, as Madison was then part of that Archdiocese, to request that Archbishop Moses Kiley establish a church. Archbishop Kiley agreed, on the condition that 300 Catholics west of Franklin Avenue would pledge \$300 each. Six men went door-to-door and soon reached their goal. In the fall of 1945, the Archdiocese acquired 5.5 acres of the former golf course as the site.

Archbishop Kiley established the new parish in November and appointed Father Bernard R. Doyle as its first pastor. Fr. Doyle assumed his duties on December 12, 1945, and Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP), with a membership of 318 families, became the first new parish in Madison in over 20 years. Masses were initially held in the Edgewood High School auditorium. Fr. Doyle's life came to an abrupt end on October 16, 1947, in a tragic auto accident. He left his legacy: the hope of a budding Catholic parish.



Fr. Bernard Doyle, first pastor,
1945-1947



Fr. Francis McDonnell, pastor,
1947-1969



Weiler & Strang architects discuss the new school building plans, 1948



School groundbreaking ceremony, Bishop William O'Connor (L)
and Fr. McDonnell, July 18, 1948



School building under construction, spring 1949

1945-1959

On November 21, 1947, Bishop William O'Connor appointed Father Francis L. McDonnell to shepherd the grieving community. With time, wounds healed and progress continued.

In July 1948, Bishop O'Connor joined the OLQP community to break ground for the first building – a school. The cornerstone was laid in December, and the school opened in the fall of 1949, staffed by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, an order founded by Blessed Samuel Mazzuchelli. Masses were temporarily held in the school basement until Monsignor McDonnell broke ground on the second building, the new church, on June 20, 1954.



2nd & 3rd grade classroom, Sister Marguerite, December 1949



Completed school building, September 1949



Fr. McDonnell saying Mass in the school basement, early 1950s



Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters teaching at the school, 1955



Groundbreaking ceremony for church building, June 20, 1954

Celebrating 75 Years

Based on a European plan, the architectural firm of Weiler & Strang designed the church in a fan shape, both to focus parishioners' attention on the altar and to accommodate parish growth. Queen of Peace parishioners invested their hearts and hopes for the future in the \$480,000 church. By the end of 1956, OLQP served more than 1,000 families, and 515 children attended the school. The third building was completed that November, and the priests moved into the new rectory. OLQP was the spiritual home of 1,700 families by 1959. A fourth building, a convent, opened for the Dominican Sisters in 1959.

After 14 years, the dream of a visionary priest and the founding 318 families was now a completed campus.



Wood laminated beams installed for new church roof structure, 1954



Dedication and blessing of the new church, August 14, 1955



Church cornerstone blessing ceremony, December 1954



Members of the Queen's Guild plan for new convent open house, August 1959



Completed parish rectory shown from S. Owen Dr., 1956
WHS #51264



Completed church spire, 1956



Aerial photo of completed parish campus, 1959
WHS #5076

1969-2008

The Growth

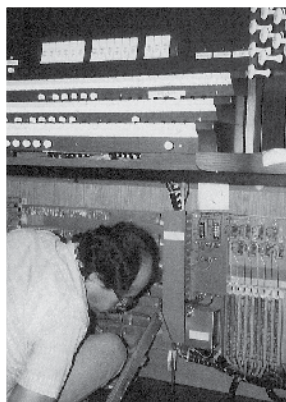
In March of 1969, the parish closed another chapter. After undergoing heart surgery in February, Msgr. McDonnell passed away on St. Patrick's Day. The *Wisconsin State Journal* said of McDonnell, "He was devoted to his parish and was the vital force in developing it into one of the strongest, most active and progressive in the diocese..." Although the passing of Msgr. McDonnell left a large void, Father Anthony Schumacher stepped in as interim administrator until Bishop O'Donnell named Father Edward J. Erbe as McDonnell's successor.

Familiar with Madison and the heritage of OLQP, Fr. Erbe boldly carried the parish community into the next decade. In 1979, the parish updated

the sanctuary to meet Vatican II guidelines, also installing a \$100,000, 40-rank Schantz pipe organ in 1980. In 1984, Dr. Jane Lindle became the first lay principal of Queen of Peace School, and the parish established the School Endowment Fund. After 36 years of faithful service to the school, the Dominican Sisters departed from OLQP school in 1985 due to thinned ranks. The convent then became the Parish Center. Fr. Erbe served Queen of Peace for nearly a quarter century. During that time, he successfully guided the parish through liturgical and theological changes.



Fr. Edward Erbe, pastor, 1969-1993



Installation of a 40-rank Schantz pipe organ, 1980



Guitar groups contribute contemporary music to the Mass, 1970s



Female lay parish members become more involved with the Mass as a result of the Vatican II ecumenical council, 1970s



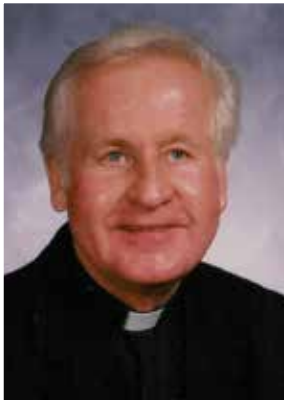
Long-range planning task force members, 1993-1995



Celebrating 75 Years

Father Kenneth J. Fiedler succeeded Fr. Erbe on June 10, 1993. Fr. Fiedler organized a parish Long-Range Planning Task Force, which studied the parish's long-term needs (1993-1995). This study ultimately led to the announcement of a \$4 million proposed building and renovation project, which broke ground in October 1995. The plan called for more seating in the church, a gathering space, a remodeled sanctuary, and an enlarged Eucharistic chapel. In May 1995, the priests moved

into houses purchased by the parish on S. Owen Drive. The Parish Center was relocated from the old convent, which was removed to make way for a new gymnasium, to the former rectory. An enlarged school building provided a larger library, meeting facilities, and computer, music, art, and religious education rooms. The old rectory was renovated to include not only parish offices but also the first kindergarten (K-5) and after-school day care room.



Fr. Kenneth Fiedler, pastor,
1993-present



Groundbreaking ceremony for church and school remodeling, October 20, 1995



Church construction, 1996



New classrooms, office space,
and a gymnasium are added
to the school, 1996



A eucharistic chapel is included in the gathering space
addition to the church, 1996

1969-2008



A multi-use gymnasium is included with the addition to the school, 1996

Bishop William Bullock rededicated the church to the worship of the Lord on August 25, 1996, and the remainder of the project was complete later that fall. Msgr. Ken Fiedler celebrated his 25 years as a priest in May 1996.

Many are not aware that the Food Pantry Gardens got their start at a QP Social Action Committee meeting in the winter of 1999. Mr. Ken Witte attended the meeting to recruit volunteers to glean food from area farmers' markets for the Dane County food pantries. They discussed the idea of raising vegetables locally to supplement the area food pantries. Parishioner Emmett Schulte, newly retired from the UW Department of Soil Science and member of the Social Action Committee, latched onto the idea. Ken and Emmett found three rural



Church and school renovations are completed in 1996

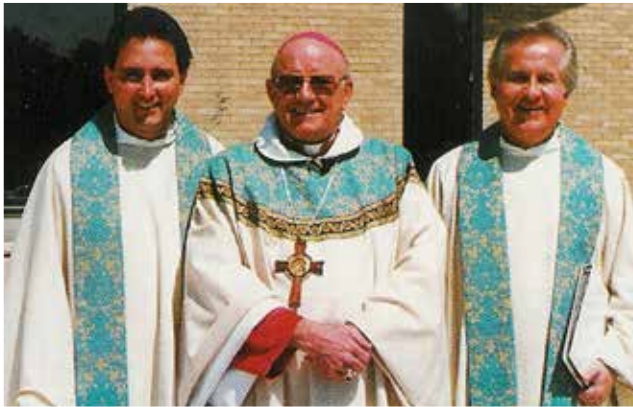


The Parish Center building is remodeled in 2004 and includes a new entrance



A community gathering space is added to the church, 1996

Celebrating 75 Years



Bishop William Bullock joins Msgr. Ken Fiedler & Fr. Tom Kelly to rededicate the church on August 25, 1996

homeowners who were willing to contribute an acre of land each for that purpose. The following spring, the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens were initiated, with three 1-acre gardens in Fitchburg, Mount Horeb, and Middleton Township. In 2008, a group of volunteers began harvesting UW demonstration plots. Today the project has expanded to five gardens.

This year, the gardens provided over 80,000 pounds of fresh vegetables (\$140,000 retail value).

Since its inception 21 years ago, more than 2.5 million pounds have been harvested. Work continues each year with the help of loyal Queen of Peace volunteers, and the gardens are positioned to provide fresh vegetables to our neighbors in need well into the future.

On February 24, 2004, parish staff temporarily moved into the school while the Parish Center was gutted and received a two-story addition on the northeast side. The new Parish Center features an open reception and waiting area, five meeting rooms of various sizes, a larger work room, and office space for staff. December 12, 2005, marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.



Queen of Peace middle school students harvest vegetables at the Schulte Garden



The Emmett Schulte Garden

2009-Present

The Now

In 2009, parishioners again came through with support to make needed repairs, maintenance, and updates to the aging buildings throughout the campus. The Maintain Our Vision five-year plan addressed church and school roof leaks; the spire and foundation were repaired; some windows were replaced; and the church auditorium/school lunchroom was remodeled to include a multipurpose room acoustically designed for choir and band programs. The multipurpose room was dedicated to longtime school principal Steve Bolser who passed away on March 14, 2009. The school expanded to include a 4-year-old Kindergarten in 2009.

On June 5, 2009, QP offered to assume primary responsibility for the operation of the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) on the south side of Madison, which the Diocese of Madison had closed abruptly the previous month due to budget cuts. An outpouring of support from Queen of Peace parishioners, other Diocesan parishes, and the community at large allowed this to occur.

On August 3, 2009, the center reopened. Offering a food pantry, free meal programs, health programs, and English as a second language classes, the center was functioning again. The free meal program expanded to seven days a week the following year. Soon the CMC provided assistance with employment searches and immigration legal services. The Culinary Creations Catering program evolved as a job training social enterprise offering food service training and professional development to participants who faced barriers to employment. The Pregnancy Helpline moved their program to the CMC in 2015. In the fall of 2016, the Knights of Columbus Council 4527 donated its building on Verona Road in Fitchburg to Our Lady Queen of Peace to enhance the ministries of the CMC. After remodeling of the kitchen area, the building, CMC West, became the home of the expanding Culinary Creations Catering program.



New multipurpose room (band room) in the remodeled auditorium is dedicated to former school principal, Steve Bolser, 2009. (From L to R) assistant principal, Patty Chryst, principal, Bob Abshire, Mel Bolser, Msgr. Ken Fiedler, and Sarah Bolser



Msgr. Ken Fiedler reopens the doors to the Catholic Multicultural Center, August 3, 2009

Celebrating 75 Years

Queen of Peace School celebrated its 60th anniversary in October 2009, with alumni traveling from as far away as Germany to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate with former classmates and current students. The celebration fueled an interest in an alumni association, and the Pastoral Council approved the formation of the Queen of Peace Alumni Organization (QPAO) in June of 2010. The QPAO represents the interests of alumni, promotes and supports Queen of Peace School, and strengthens relationships among past, present, and future students of the school and the parish community.

The parish celebrated Msgr. Fiedler's 40th anniversary as a priest on May 15, 2011.

In August 2012, Queen of Peace parish held its first Parish Festival to provide an opportunity for parishioners to engage with each other. Activities included live entertainment, games for children, bingo, food and refreshments, a service tent, and historic display tables. The QPAO hosted a 50-year class reunion for Queen of Peace School's Class of 1962. A parish pictorial directory was published in 2017 including hundreds of photos of parish activities, staff, commissions, sacraments, and parish members. Previous directories were published in 1975, 1988, 1995, 2000, and 2008.



Msgr. Ken Fiedler and volunteers serve a meal at the CMC, 2014



Msgr. Ken Fiedler celebrates his 40th Anniversary as a priest May 15, 2011



The Culinary Creations Catering program's van is used to transport catered meals, 2016



CMC West houses the new Culinary Creations Catering program, 2017

2009-Present

The parish campus has undergone many improvements over the years. The original parish sign on Mineral Point Road was replaced as part of the church and school renovations. Two new signs now sit on Mineral Point Road at the corner of Holly Avenue and the corner of S. Owen Drive. The parish parking lot, originally built in 1955, needed major repairs for many years when it was dug up and replaced in 2019. A dedicated group of volunteers, led by Kirk Jolliffe since 2011, has annually beautified the campus grounds with annual and perennial flowers and shrubbery. A tradition of decorating the many campus trees with lights started in 2010 and continues every holiday season. Retired priest Father Jim Uppena joined the parish as a priest in residence in 2013 and celebrated his 50-year anniversary as a priest with the parish on May 27, 2018. The parish looks forward to celebrating Msgr. Fiedler's 50-year anniversary as a priest on May 15, 2021.



Parish members, Kirk & Nance Jolliffe, volunteer their time each year to beautify the parish campus



Queen of Peace parish celebrates an annual festival beginning in August 2012



Old parish sign



New parish sign



The parish parking lot is reconstructed in the summer of 2019

Celebrating 75 Years

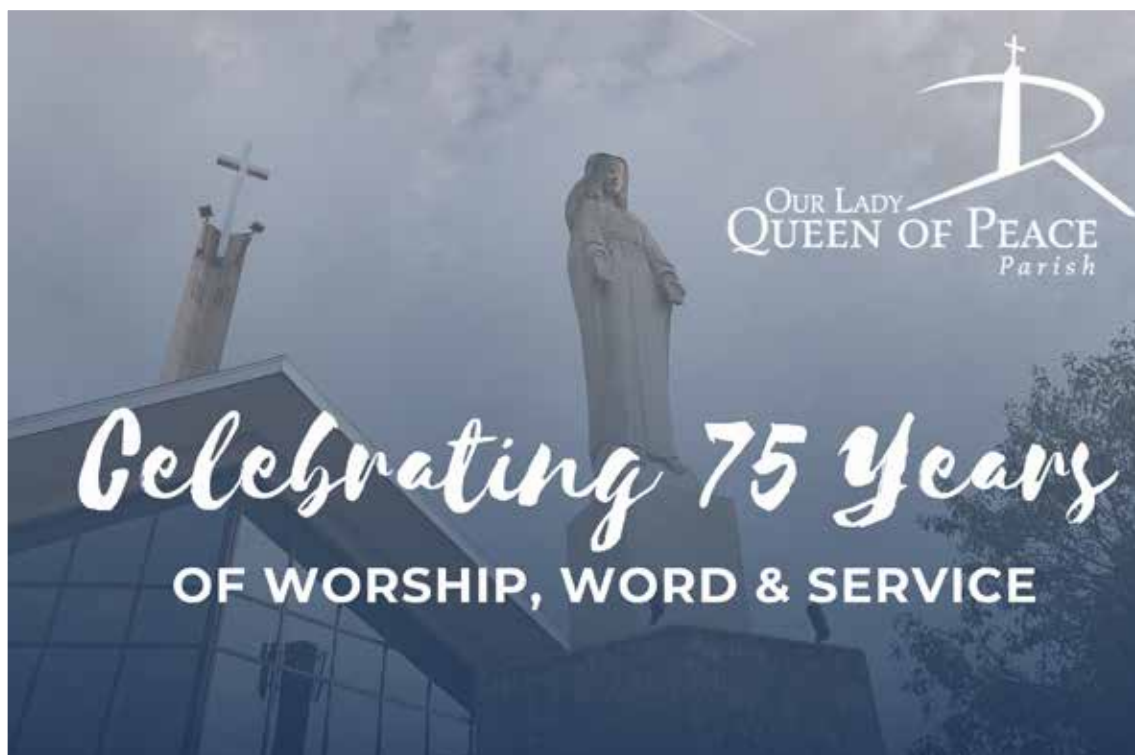
Queen of Peace School had to make adjustments to classrooms due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. In-school classes were moved to at-home virtual learning in March 2020 as the pandemic spread, and a mix of outdoor classrooms, indoor classrooms, and at-home virtual learning was implemented in September.

On December 12, 2020, the parish celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.



Adaptive classrooms for 2020-21, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic

Today, Queen of Peace Parish is the spiritual home to over 2,800 families. Almighty God has abundantly blessed Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. Our parishioners give generously of their time, talents, and financial resources to build a parish community where we serve, give, and receive according to our needs, in the name of Our Lord. The Queen of Peace spirit, tradition, and dedication are firmly established, and with God's help and blessings, the parish will continue to serve future generations.



75th Anniversary Committee

Peggy Wiederholt, Pastoral Council Chair

Cheryl Horne, Pastoral Associate

Mary Jo Vitale, School Principal

Lisa Haas, Parish Administrative Assistant

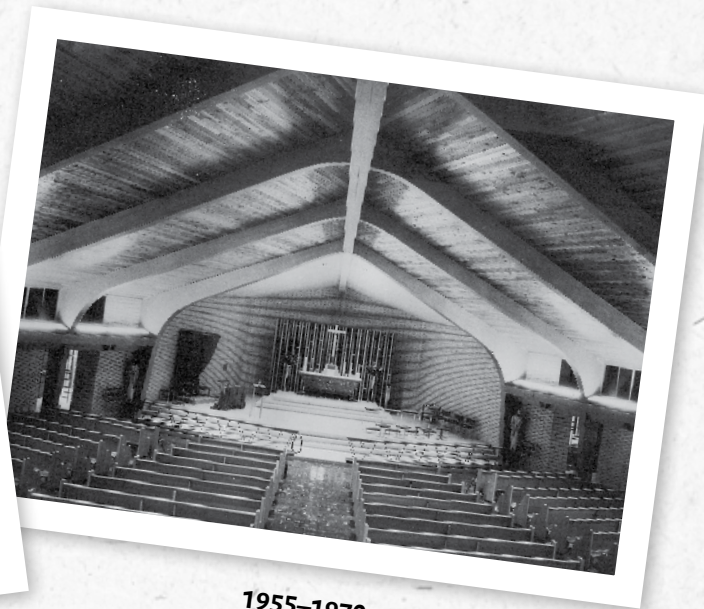
Bri Patten, Parish Development Director

Melissa Cary, School Marketing Coordinator

Tom Martinelli, Parish Historian



1948-1955



1955-1970s



1980s-1996



1996-Present

