

## Quotes from Fr. Eugene Kiernan's "Golden and Silver Jubilee" book:

1840's – Priests were few and far between in those days of privations and pioneer hardships, but truly heroic were the efforts of that generation of apostolic men in providing the consolations of religion for the scattered children of the fold of Christ. This lamentable scarcity of priests rendered it impossible to satisfy the yearnings of the good people of Winfield and Dellona to have a pastor of their own to reside in their midst. Their spiritual cravings were but partially appeased by the periodic visits of a priest from Sauk City or other distant points who came by the slow process of oxen team or even on foot to administer the sacraments and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in some private home where all the Catholic of the neighborhood would eagerly assemble.

1870's – Reedsburg at that time had already become an important and flourishing business center. It was recognized then, as it is now, as the most up-to-date and progressive city along the line of the North Western railroad from Madison to LaCrosse. As far as can be ascertained, however, Catholics were unknown in Reedsburg in the years of its early history. The little mustard seed had not yet found its way into this corner of God's domains, but Divine Providence had decreed that its coming would not be long delayed, and that another cell would soon be added to the mystical body of Christ.

1878 – Within two years [of the formation of the congregation at Reedsburg] sufficient funds had been procured mostly through the efforts of Mrs. [Bridget Hogan] Buelow, to build the first church at a cost of \$1200.00. Edward Buelow, the husband of our great heroine, although a member of the Lutheran sect, was for many years the Treasurer of the little Catholic congregation. But his fidelity in looking after the temporalities of this new cell of the mystical body of Christ was rewarded by the pearl of great price, the gift of true Faith, and many years after the death of his saintly wife he was admitted into the Church by Father O'Reilly, now of Baraboo, in the summer of 1911.

1900 – A beautiful city, a splendid people, most enterprising business men, but a very tiny Catholic Congregation, a dilapidated church, a poverty stricken rectory, no money in the treasury and none of the scanty parishioners endowed with a superabundance of worldly possessions. Not dismayed, however, by these conditions which might have palsied a weaker spirit, Father Condon set about

immediately to lay the foundations for greater development.

1902 – But now a terrible calamity befell the poor little struggling congregation. Hardly had the debt on the new pastoral residence been paid off when the old church, humble though it was, completely burned to the ground. Sadly dejected, but not discouraged, Pastor and people, trusting in Divine Providence, resolved at once to build a new church of more ample proportions. God always makes the back to bear the burden and in this crisis, Reedsburg was blessed in having a pastor whose natural and supernatural endowments qualified him well for the task before him. Father Condon's intellectual attainments, his power of oratory, and his winning personality gave an assurance that could not be gainsaid, that in spite of smallness of numbers and poverty of purses the church would be built and paid for, too, before many years would have winged their flight into the eternal past.

1928 – Everything now being ready for the celebration of our double Parish Jubilee [Golden Jubilee of the Parish, Silver Jubilee of the then Present Church] . . . The order of the day will include many early morning Masses offered by the visiting priests, at which it is to be hoped that every Catholic in the neighborhood will receive Holy Communion. Solemn High Mass will be sung at ten o'clock at which the Rev. Dr. R. B. Condon, who built the church twenty-five years ago, will preach the sermon. Lunch will be served to the Rev. Clergy after Mass, and refreshments and entertainment for the public will be provided during the day. In the evening a grand banquet will be held in the Armory at which one thousand people may be seated. Many speakers of note will respond to toasts and a fine musical program is assured.

1928 – I do not wish that you close this little brochure and think that the Sacred Heart Parish has simply increased numerically and progressed materially and that our jubilee celebration is intended merely to commemorate our numerical and material development. Spiritually, as well as materially, progress has been made and we believe that if we were vouchsafed a glimpse at the books of the recording angel, we would see there the names of many saints of God, transferred from the Sacred Heart Parish to the mansions of celestial bliss. But it is for God to pass judgment on those who have gone before us, and for us to so lead our lives that we may forever bask in the sunshine of His blessing.