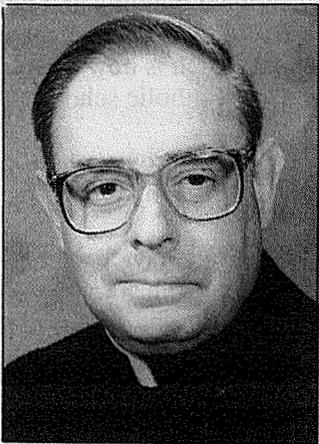


# Sparta Deanery Spotlight



## Greetings from the dean

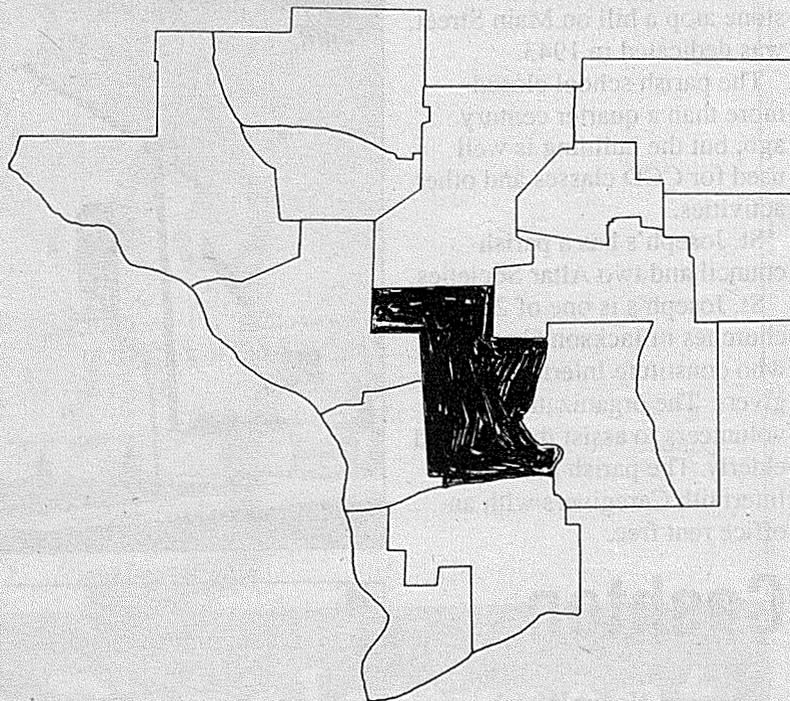
The physical progress of a deanery is discernable, but only God can measure its spiritual growth. And thank God that success in life is not measured by him in the same terms as the world measures it; for there are countless persons who have gone before us who made little stir in the world, but whose grace-



filled lives are seen as having infinite value by our Creator.

We live not in a static church, but in a dynamic church; many valid models of church require not only the priests' expertise and dedication, but active deanery representatives as well. It is fitting that the Clergy Council, DCCW and Deanery Pastoral Council try to work together to offer their time and talents for the temporal, social, spiritual and liturgical needs of the deanery in Monroe County.

*Very Rev. James P. McNamee,  
Dean, Sparta Deanery*



# Black River Falls

**S**t. Joseph Parish, Black River Falls, was founded in 1871. It has 270 households and Father Roy Mish is pastor.

The present church, built of stone atop a hill on Main Street, was dedicated in 1943.

The parish school closed more than a quarter century ago, but the building is well used for CCD classes and other activities.

St. Joseph's has a parish council and two Altar Societies.

St. Joseph's is one of 23 churches in Jackson County who constitute Interfaith Caregivers. The organization sends volunteers to assist the frail and elderly. The parish provides Interfaith Caregivers with an office rent free.

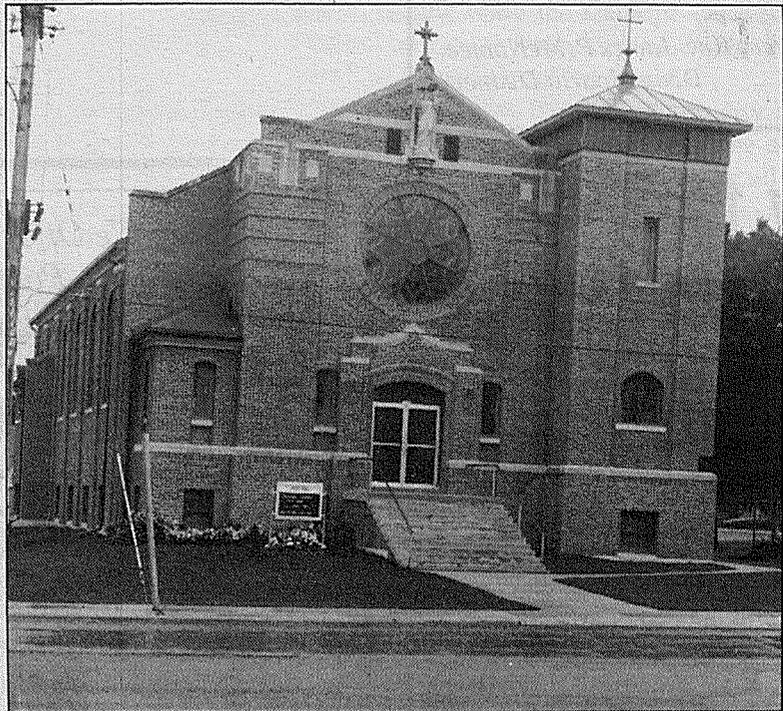


# Cashton

**S**acred Heart Parish in Cashton was founded in 1916. It was preceded by two nearby rural parishes, St. Mary's Ridge and Ss. Peter & Paul at Pine Hollow, the latter having closed in 1964.

The parish presently has about 300 households. Father Eugene Smith has been pastor since 1981.

The parish built a new school and convent in 1959, but its opening was delayed for several years due to a lack of teaching sisters. The parish continues to operate a pre-school-grade 8 school.



## Kendall

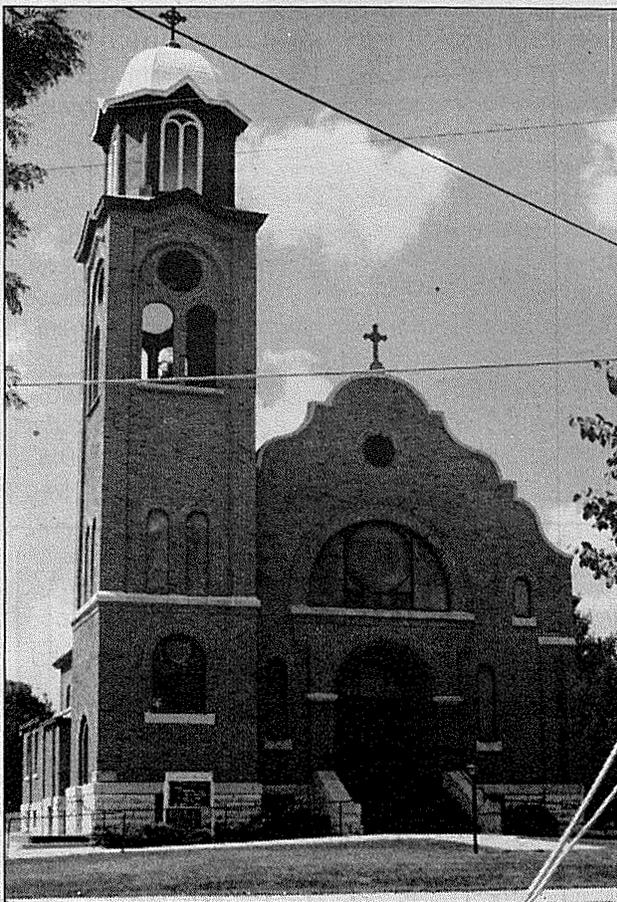


**St. Joseph Parish of Kendall** was founded in 1883. There are 115 households, and Father James McNamee is pastor, with Sister Pat Sheridan, FSPA, serving as director of religious education.

The Knights of Columbus and Parish Council of Catholic Women are active, and there are pastoral and finance councils.

The parish holds an annual strawberry social and rummage and bake sales. There are two priest native sons and seven religious sisters.

## Norwalk



**St. Augustine Parish of Norwalk** was founded in 1903. It has 110 households, and Father Kevin Louis is pastor.

The reason Augustine was chosen as patron of the parish was because the man who donated the most money for its founding was August Brieske.

The parish has a PCCW, Catholic Order of Foresters, parish pastoral and finance councils.

Mass is celebrated at noon on Sundays in Spanish, due to the substantial Hispanic community in Norwalk and surrounding area.

## St. Mary's Ridge

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's Ridge)** was founded in 1856. It has 100 households, and Father Kevin Louis is pastor.

St. Mary's is the mother church of Monroe County, and has the earliest established Catholic school in the La Crosse Diocese. Its huge church is famous for its beauty, especially its wood-carved altars created by the renowned Hackner artisans from La Crosse, and its statues from Munich, Germany.

Other enterprises at the parish include the Convent House Bed & Breakfast, St. Mary's Ridge Cheese, and the annual World Youth Day Anniversary Pilgrimage & Music Festival.



## Sparta



**St. Patrick's Parish in Sparta** was founded in 1876. Prior, Mass was celebrated in an old railroad shanty in 1859, and a mission was founded in 1868. The pastor is Father Mark Walljasper.

Parish organizations include the Knights of Columbus, PCCW, parish council, home & school association, and Boy and Girl Scouts. There are finance, sacred worship, education and cemetery committees.

There are 180 students in grades K-8. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration served here until 1984.

The former convent is now the parish center, used by a variety of groups.

The parish has strong ecumenical ties with other Sparta churches. Summerfest, held on the second Sunday in August, has been an annual event since 1985. The parish also has a St. Patrick's Dinner on March 17.

The parish has three nursing homes and a hospital to serve. St. Mary's Hospital is next to the rectory, and Father Walljasper serves as chaplain there.

### Did you know...

An aerial photo of the St. Mary's Ridge Parish is a famous photo featured at the U.S. Capital and Mitchell Corn Palace, and is in every office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The picture demonstrates the excellent soil conservation practice of contour strip-farming so prevalent in this region.

### Wenzel Jewelers Dala Gift Horse

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Breakfast, noon, and  
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Friday night buffet 5-9 p.m.  
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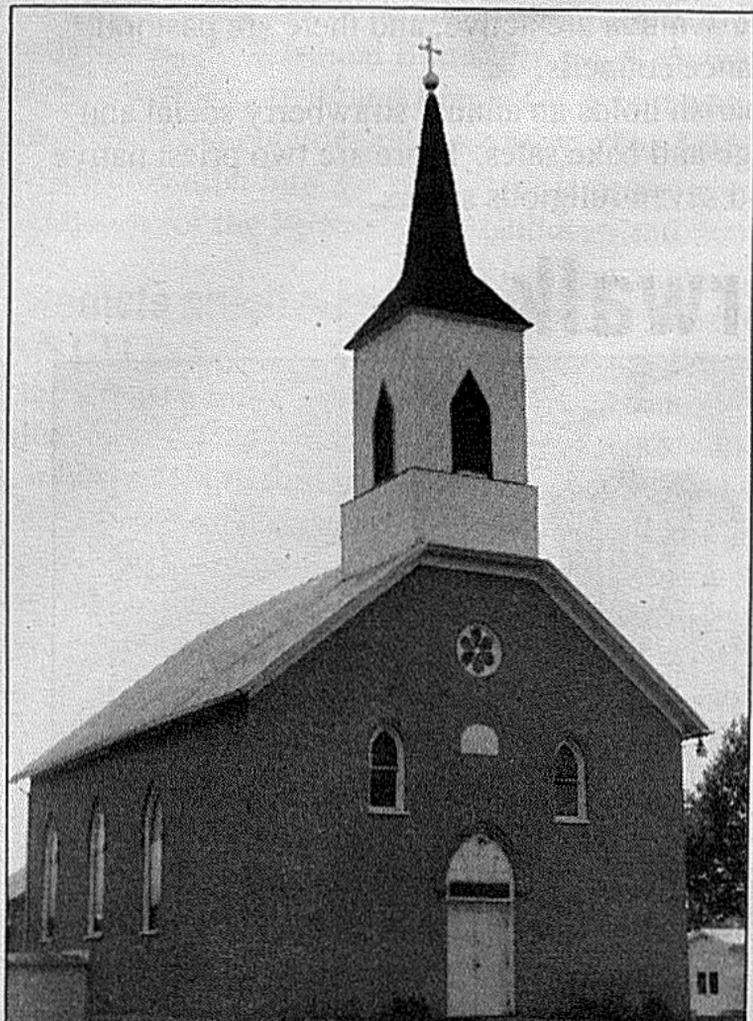
208 South Railroad  
Kendall, WI  
463-7170

# Summit Ridge

**S**t. John the Baptist Parish in Summit Ridge was founded in 1878. It's the smallest parish in the deanery, with 40 households, and Father Kevin Louis is pastor.

St. John's has a Parish Council of Catholic Women, finance and pastoral councils, and a Catholic Order of Foresters.

The church is the original structure of 1878 and could well be the oldest unaltered church structure in the diocese. The parish school building, built in 1900, never served as a school, but is used as the parish hall.



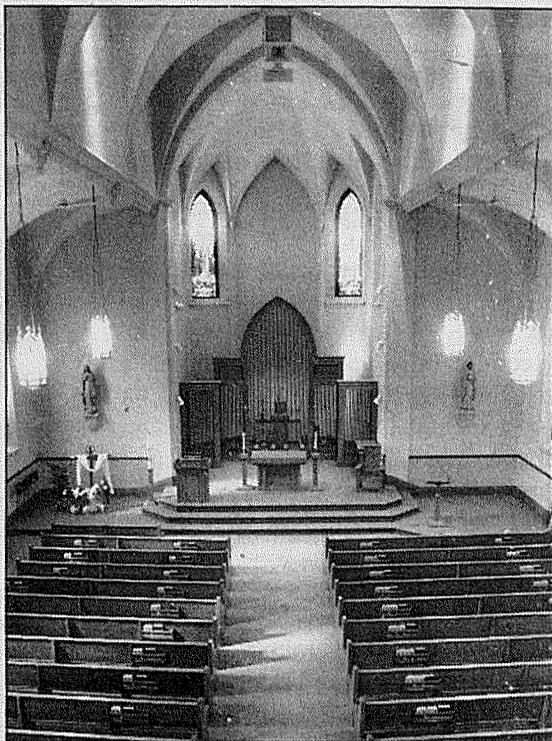
# Tomah

**S**t. Mary's Parish in Tomah was founded in 1867, and has 975 households. Father Daniel Kozlowski is pastor.

Parish organizations include the Parish Council of Catholic Women, Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Parish Home & School Association, education committee and finance council.

St. Mary's k-8 school is the largest in the deanery with 223 students.

In 1990 St. Mary's underwent a pledge drive to renovate its church. The renovation was completed in 1993.



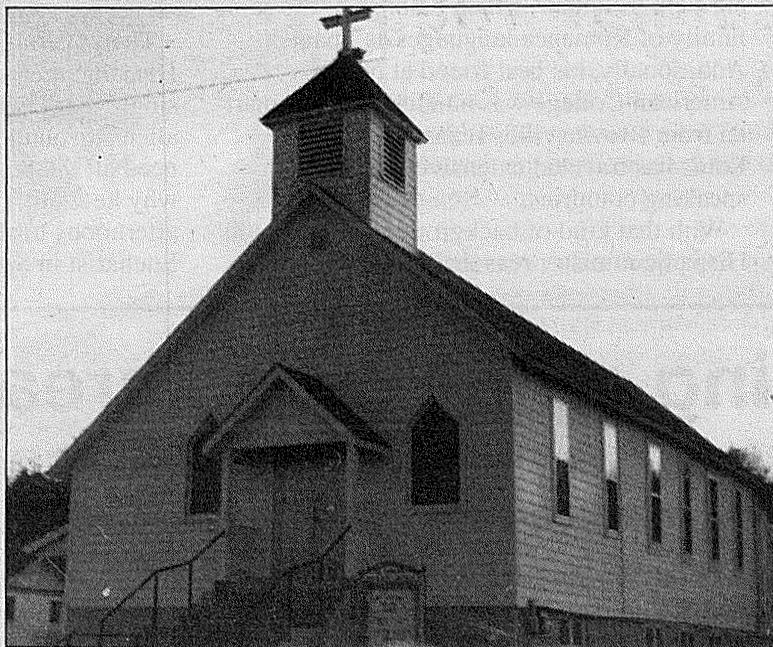
# Warrens

**S**t. Andrew's Parish in Warrens was founded in 1939. The church building was moved from its original site near Millston.

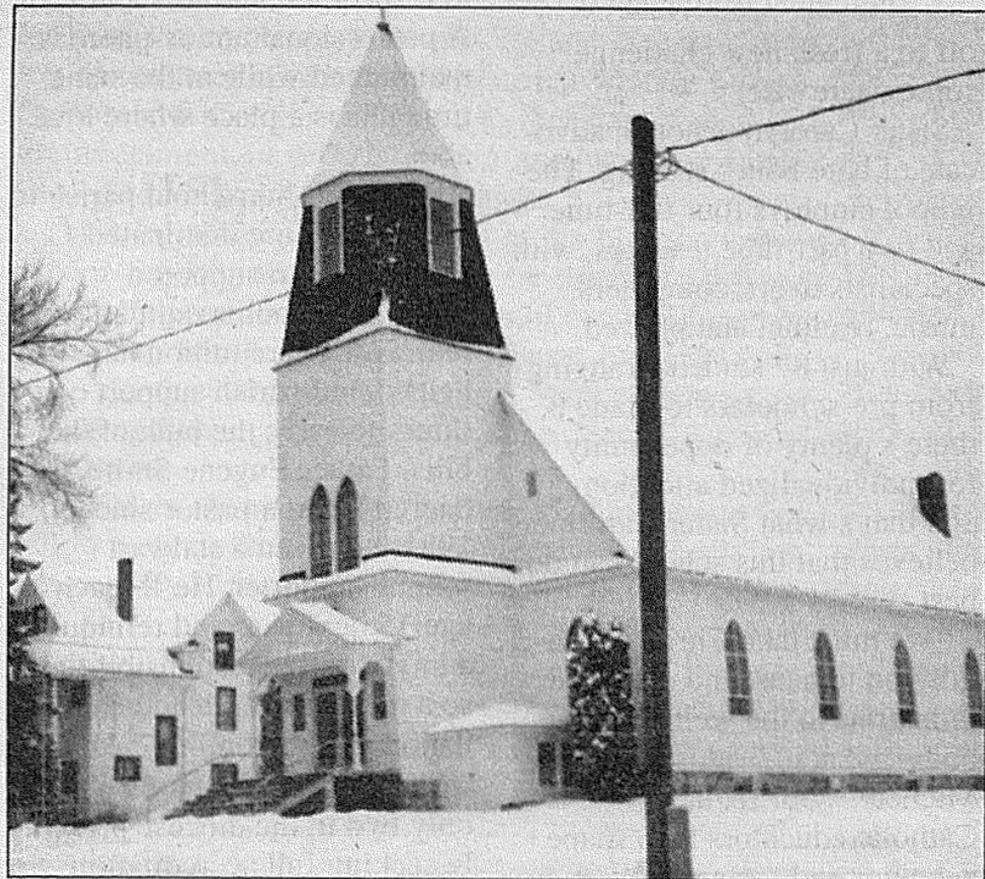
The parish has 40 households. Father Dan Kozlowski, pastor at St. Mary's in Tomah, is also pastor of St. Andrew's.

Father Kozlowski has Mass at St. Andrew's at 7 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Other weeks of the year a communion service is held, led by Tom Abbott, a parish lay minister.

St. Andrew's biggest fundraiser of the year is its pancake breakfast during the Cranberry Fest.



## Wilton



**S**t. John the Baptist Parish in Wilton has 130 households. Father James McNamee is pastor, and Mary Jean Wolf is Christian Religious Education coordinator.

The parish has its own Knights of Columbus Council, a Parish Council of Catholic

Women, and pastoral and finance councils.

St. John's holds a rummage sale each spring and festival and dinner in the fall. It offers family enrichment evenings for married couples in 10-year increments. The parish has two seminarians, Tony and Andy Wolf, as well as two priest sons and three religious sisters.