

**R-011**  
**Poem History of Crouchville, New Cassel,**  
**and Campbellsport**  
**by Sister Andrene Flasch**

**Notes:** Unless otherwise indicated, the notes are those of Mr. Roderick J. Reese and originally typed by Jeanne Marchant.

This information was entered on the *Computer by:* Diana Wichman June 2005

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HISTORY OF SAINT MATTHEW PARISH

On the west bank of the Milwaukee River  
In 1846, settlers to this area came.  
Here they built a sawmill and homes.  
Crouchville was it's name.

But not for long,  
For in 1856 – without much “hassle”,  
The name of this little settlement  
Became New Cassel.

Business grew and grew,  
As did families too.  
More and more came to New Cassel.  
And oh, how this settlement grew.

While a part of our country was at War,  
A Catholic Church was established around 1864.  
Served by the neighboring Pastors,  
For about ten years – or more.

In 1872, a mile West of New Cassel  
The railroad purchased Sturat Campbell's land  
And so alas-  
The Village of Campbell's Port began.

Whether by accident or design  
New Cassel – East,  
And Cambell's Port – West,  
Had the very same Main Street.

Early in 1874,  
Rev. Anthony Michels was appointed,  
To be St. Matthew's first Pastor,  
To be St. Matthew's first Pastor,  
For them, "another Christ", - he was anointed.

From the beginning, Father Michels  
Longed to have a school.  
How happy he was to know  
The parishioners did too!

In the meantime, three Sisters from Germany did come  
To America – to begin anew!  
Freedom from the tyranny of Bismarck, they sought,  
And to teach God's children too.  
The Pastor was asking for Sisters  
To open his Parish school soon.  
Too, it was Father Anthony Michels.  
He hoped he could have them by June.

With the help of Mother Caroline  
Of the Notre Dame Convent,  
Arrangements were soon completed  
And the three German Sisters to Campbellsport went.

For the three German Sisters,  
Archbishop Henni opened the door  
To begin a new Franciscan Community,  
And teach at St. Matthew School-all in 1874.

In 1879, Father John Bertram was Pastor,  
Here he did a lot for His Master.  
Enlarging the church, building a new school,  
And administering to the Faithful was his role.

Father Francis Heller came next, in 1894.  
A good Pastor – he was all the time,  
Working and Serving St. Matthew's Parish  
Until 1899.

Although, Father Joseph Proelich's time was short,  
He did serve the church in Campbellsport,  
His successor, Father Bernard July (Julie)  
From 1900 to 1935, he worked long and truly.

Of \$25,000, at the approximate cost,  
The present church was built by Father July (Julie)

Not a minute was lost.  
The building went on and finished in 1905 – you see!

A new rectory was done  
Also, a suitable home – for the Sisters, too, needed one.  
As well as the school's renovation.  
To all Father July (Julie) was an inspiration.

In 1955, Father Anthony Biwer followed as Pastor.  
He was a noble and saintly priest.  
A faithful and loving Shepard.  
Always following and working for his Master.

Truly a good example was he  
For several sons of the parish followed him – a priest to be  
During his time, three were ordained:  
    Father Roland Glass  
    Father William Farrell  
    Father Salvator Schlaefer, OFM, Cap. (now Bishop in Nicaragua)  
Forever to be – you see!

More followed in years to come  
To be St. Matthew's Priests Sons  
They were:  
    Father Austin Schlaefer, OFM, Cap  
    Father John Simon  
    Father Charles Bodden

For this we pray  
Close to God they will stay.

Also some Parish Daughters answered God's call  
To serve His Church by working for all  
They were:

- Sister M. Precordia Haessly, O.S.F.
- + Sister M. Plato Fleischman, O. S. F.
- + Sister M. Carol Fleischman, O.S.F.
- Sister M. Acrosia Little, O.S. F. Katherine
- + Sister M. Alvarita Little, O.S.F.
- Sister M. Martin Wenzel, O.S.F.
- Sister Elaine Gremminger, O.S.F.
- Sister Jeanette Esser, O.S.F.
- Sister Cecilia Schlaefer, C.S.A.

By teaching, nursing, or whatever God wanted them to do,  
And forever, they would be true.

Father Peter Schwamb came in 1951 as Pastor

The Parish was growing ever so faster.  
A new school was needed,  
And in 1956, it was completed,  
With a gym, four classrooms, and all.  
How happy the children were to start in the Fall!

As time went on, Father Schwamb needed assistance.  
So St. Matthew's had a second priest-  
Father Carl Wahlen, first full time Assistant.

A new Sister's Home was needed too.  
Completed in 1961, and filled to capacity in 1972,  
So, three Sisters started St. Matthew School in 1874,  
And 100 years later, there were six more.

With the shortage of Sisters  
There was a need for Lay teachers.  
So, in the 1950's and on – they were employed.  
Oh how, they love St. Matthew's girls and boys.

The enrollment of children grew and grew,  
So the first addition was built in 1962.  
It included the office, and 2 classrooms –  
One upstairs and one down- making lots of room all around.

In 1963, Father Warren Schmitt came  
To St. Matthew's Parish, as Pastor, he was named,  
He Redecorated the Church, and before it was late,  
Built a second addition to St. Matthew's School in 1968.

There were other priests here for a while,  
But in 1970, Father Victor Kemmer arrived with a smile.  
As Administrator, Pastor and Shepard as well,  
His love for children is paramount – you can tell.

St. Matthew's Parish Council began in 1971  
And improvements were needed and done.  
Like a new roof on the school, and expanding and blacktopping the playground,  
And insulating the buildings all around.

The Sanctuary in Church was redone,  
As well as the Mission Room and then some.  
There are many plans in the making,  
To improve, the Parish's undertaking.

In 1972, the children from two neighboring parishes came,  
St. Kilian and St. Martin by name.

This was also the year that \$900.00 was raised,  
To begin the Learning Center – To Our Lord we praise.

Father Kemmer needed help in teaching Religion.  
He called on the priests from St. Martin and St. Kilian.  
Every week, through all kinds of weather, they came.  
Father George Etzel and Father Joseph McDonald are their names.

In 1976, the Home and School Association  
Was in the formation.  
They purchased for us – new drapes,  
Bulletin boards, library books, projector and tapes.

What an asset they are!  
They can't be beat by far,  
For they're aiding the school along  
In their pizza sale, they can't go wrong.

True to Christ's identity  
Is Father Kemmer's love for little children.  
So in 1976 a Pre-school Religion Program  
Under his guidance – began.

The sports program interest is high.  
The boys basketball team – cheerleaders and coaches  
Leave all the other teams to sigh.

Saint Matthew's Board of Education  
Began in September, 1978  
They're interest is a commendation  
For they have the good of the school at stake.

Like the parishioners of old,  
St. Matthew's Parish is bold.  
In conserving and saving energy where it could,  
The Federal Energy Grant enabled it would.

A new furnace was installed,  
As well as storm windows on window all.  
Insulating every corner and nook,  
Receiving this Grant – helped balance the "book"

Be it men, ladies, mixed or teens,  
Any one choir, - by any means:  
It is evident to see  
That parishioners are as active as can be.  
From Mission Sewing Circle to Christian Mothers,

Eucharistic Minister, Commentator, Lecturer and usher,  
CYO and CCD  
Yes, parishioners are active as can be.

For this we are very proud  
And want to shout it very loud.  
That all through the years, St. Matthew's Parish Community,  
Grew spiritually, physically and in unity.

As the footprints of St. Matthew's Parish  
Imprint upon the sands of time,  
God will help us, in this hope we cherish  
For He has blessed us with His Sign.

Sister Andrene Flasch, O.S.F.