

## History of Mary Mother of the Church Parish – St. Thomas More (STM) and St. Pius (SP)

1945 - December	Diocese purchases two city blocks for a south-side parish
1947 – Sept. 12	STM – school ground breaking
1947 – Nov. 2	STM – school cornerstone laid
1948 – Aug. 22	STM – school dedicated by Bp. Treacy who offered a Pontifical High Mass in the building; school opened (271 students in 8 classrooms) with staffing from Benedictine Sisters of St. Bede (Eau Claire)
1950 – November	STM – rectory (prefabricated structure) was constructed at 1824 Weston Street just west of the parish property for temporary use
1953	STM – school adds two classrooms on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
1954 – Oct. 15	STM – convent ground breaking
1955 – Sept. 25	STM – new convent blessed; moving day was September 15
1956 - July	STM – school construction began to add 6 new classrooms
1957 - 1958	STM – school enrollment peaked at 789 students with 16 classrooms
1959 – Sept. 28	STM – church ground breaking (> \$500,000 project)
1960 – June 28	SP – new parish announced (Mass held at Christ the King Chapel)
1960 – July 6	STM – church cornerstone laid & future site of altar blessed; the rectory and office space is part of the construction
1961 – June 2	STM – church used for Mass
1961 – Sept. 17	STM – church dedicated
1962 – May 5	SP – school building dedicated
1962 – Aug. 15	SP – first Mass in school building (lower level)
1962 – Aug. 28	SP – school opened (330 students Grades 1-8)
1973 – Spring	SP – parishioners voted to sell property to city & move to Holy Cross Diocesan Ctr.
1984 – 1985	SP – 25 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year: removed cornerstone from first school-church and created an outdoor shrine honoring St. Pius X
1986	STM – convent was razed
2000	MMOC* – reunification of St. Thomas More and St. Pius X
2008	MMOC – structural remedies were made to the STM school building
2011	MMOC – tornado damage caused a more expansive assessment of STM school building
2012	MMOC – a new appreciation for the core structural problems of STM school building were identified. The Diocesan Director of Buildings and Grounds deemed the building unsafe and directed it be unused until these structural issues were addressed. The Pastoral Council made the painful decision to close (and winterize) the school building.
2014	MMOC – debt-free; establishes Building Our Future Together commission to evaluate parish needs for facility usage

\*A new name was chosen by Bishop Raymond Burke – Mary Mother of the Church – recalling the first Catholic church built in La Crosse, which was St. Mary’s (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary). The patronal feast day is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November because it was on November 21, 1964 that Pope Paul VI declared Mary the “Mother of the Church.”