

Fr. Martin Kundig 1842

1842 Fr. Martin Kundig, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Waukesha, is designated the first missionary to the people of Waukesha County



“No single priest did more to establish the Church in the present Archdiocese of Milwaukee than the pioneer who landed in Milwaukee in mid-July 1842. He built at least 22 churches and founded the first Catholic schools in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, St. Martins, and Waukesha.” *The Catholic Herald, March 21, 1942*

He was “a priest on horseback traveling about southeastern Wisconsin with saddlebags stuffed with vestments and equipment for Mass.” *Rev. Peter Leo Johnson, D.D. writing in Stuffed Saddlebags: The Life of Martin Kundig, Priest*

“When Fr. Kundig organized a parish, he usually placed the formation of a choir at the top of his list of things to do. He believed that music lifted the worshippers’

spirits and helped them to pray more devoutly. At Mass he would inquire if there were any singers present, and if anyone had a hymnbook. Then he arranged to meet the volunteers after Mass so they could begin singing together.” *Mariangela Pledl, St. Theresa Church Directory 2002*