

## Pioneer Parishioners

### John & Ann Dinkel

It's a long way from Kansas to Redwood City--but John and Ann Dinkel made it in plenty of time to help build our church. John notes, "We joined other founders going door-to-door to find the Catholics in our area and to secure pledges of support and funds."

He adds, "We all pitched in with a great spirit of cooperation and friendship under the leadership of Fr. Lacey with Fr. Casella as his able assistant." He continues, "In the meantime, we attended mass in an old hardware store."

During their early years at St. Matthias, John and Ann were active in helping run fund raisers including the famed Bingo games. He also served as an Usher for 44 years. And, their daughters enjoyed participating in the popular and active Teen Club.

John was born and raised in a little Kansas farming town. He notes, "My dad was County Engineer and my brother and I were farmers." He says, "When the war began, I volunteered for the Air Force and served with the Air Transport Command in South America, Scotland and England." He reports, "A good friend introduced me to a lovely young lady who was to become my wonderful wife, Ann. She was serving with a radar unit in the British Army."

He recalls, "We started going together and fell in love. When I was shipped back to the States, we wrote to each other planning our wedding in Kansas. We were married in 1946."

John states, "We moved to Pacific Grove where I worked as the Service Manager for the Buick Agency. In a few years, I was offered a job to open a Chrysler-Plymouth Agency in Redwood City. We jumped at the opportunity, bought a lot and built our home." When the future St. Matthias Church property was still a horse corral and plans for the new church were just beginning, John and Ann arrived, eager to help.

John concludes, "We really appreciate our wonderful church and our fellow parishioners. We are very happy to be here." Ann and John Dinkel were selected to cut the ribbon to open the renovated church last year.

The Dinkels have 2 daughters. (The younger one graduated from St. Matthias School.) They also have 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren—all in Northern California.

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As active parishioners and founders,

The soon-to-be built St Matthias parish comes into the picture h

wheat John offers, "We really used to have big crowds and the games were a good source of funds for our church.."

that was in the space where the Canyon Inn is now

. When we got enough pledges and diocese support, we could begin building our church."

City and the founding of St. Matthias parish

We built benches to serve as pews and joined the growing numbers of Catholics who were going to mass there until the church was built."

wanted to move to better weather in the West and as I had two uncles who lived in California, we bought a big mobile home and

We found a lot of people who were delighted to hear about St. Matthias and eager to join and support the church

We knew him as a friend. He was always one of us. Happy to be ere and have appreciated all of the priests who have served our parish. Pleasure to go to church.

A lot of us pitched in to help run them every Saturday night..

Through it all. Our skiing, motorcycle riding, traveling Fr Lacey kept it all going

He says, "We really admired Fr. Lacey, he was the spirit of the parish. He was a great leader for the budding parish. Everyone helped and there was a great spirit of cooperation.

n our beautifully remodeled church.