

In the fall of 1936, Fr. Diemer decided that the trees in the church yard needed trimming, and began the chore by himself. He had quite a few limbs cut off of a tree near the church, when he lost his footing and fell into the branches lying on the ground. In a very short time the school children came out. Father was not able to walk and didn't want to be carried. Nonetheless, some boys carried him up to his house while he kept saying, "Put me down, you foolish boys, put me down!" He should not have been moved, but there were no ambulances in those days. Some of his ribs were broken, and he had various bruises and was in a great deal of pain. He was taken to the hospital for a few weeks, and was unable to perform his regular duties for some time.

In late December of 1936, the heavy wet snow started melting, and then came the rain from Pittsburgh down the Ohio Valley. The river was already high and started to rise very fast. In January of 1937, the flooding came and spread over the community, and did not stop rising until it was on the top step of the church. Many families fled to the hills, leaving most of their furniture in the homes because of the fast rise of the river. On "Black Sunday", 17 homes were counted floating down the Ohio River. The school was a shelter for many families and some of their furniture. Families living on the hillside also shared their food and homes. St. Ann Convent also gave food and shelter for many families from Silver Grove and Melbourne. They also had a large boat that was donated by the County and used for aiding flood victims. When the flood came to the top step of St. Philip church, Father Diemer put a statue of the Blessed Virgin there. Every one prayed it would not come any higher, and their prayers were answered. Those truly were dark days, but our parish survived and everyone was grateful.

