

### St. Luke's High School In Action

World War II had finally ended and immigrant families in the U. S.A. could once again write freely to their families in Germany.

One of the first letters came from Sister Hartwiga Wankerl, Order of Notre Dame. She begged for food and clothing for her orphan children. She asked for enough muslin cloth to make habits for herself and the other nuns. The Nazi government destroyed all, their religious garb and they were forbidden to make new ones.

I was a Sophomore in St. Luke's High School at this time. I asked the Dominican Sisters of St. Luke's if they could help find the correct material for making the new Notre Dame habits. My parents purchased the cloth and sent it via C.A.R.E.

Then it was decided by the Dominican Sisters of St. Luke's that the Home Economic class would donate all their sewing projects to the Orphans in the orphanage in Germany. There was much excitement in class as each girl (there were no boys) chose a project such as a dress, blouse, jumper, shirt, or trousers and even a hat. Then everything was packed and again sent by C.A.R.E. directly to the orphanage at Grafenrheinfeld, Germany.

There were tears of joy when these two pictures of the German orphans arrived. All of them dressed in their new outfits. Note the Sisters' habits! The smiles on the children's faces tell it all!

Joe Wankerl  
October 2007



Orphan children with Sr. Hartwiga Wankerl



**Clothes made by St. Luke's Students in 1945-46**

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