



Father Austin Hughes and one of Blessed Sacrament's baseball teams in the 1930's

### *Growth of the Church Complex*

Father McMahon, assisted by Fathers Jeremiah King and Austin Hughes, longed to build a school in which the tenets of the Catholic faith as well as secular disciplines could be taught to the young people. With these goals in mind, the first parish census was taken in January, 1931. This census confirmed that there were enough children in the parish to warrant the construction of a Catholic elementary school. In anticipation of the new school, the pastor had purchased a large, new house at 34-56 92nd Street which would be used as the future convent. Simultaneously, Father McMahon negotiated with the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, who were missioned both in St. Joan of Arc's and St. Leo's Parishes, to come to Blessed Sacrament.

In October, 1931, the St. Vincent de Paul Society was founded to bring relief and solace to the needy of the parish. Bishop Molloy administered the Sacrament of Confirmation for the first time at Blessed Sacrament Church on April 7, 1931.

On February 16, 1932, the parish rejoiced again as ground was broken for the anxiously awaited school building.

The cornerstone for the school was placed on June 12th, and the pioneer group of Sisters arrived in the parish early in September. They began their teaching mission immediately, and the first classes were conducted in the church annex. Shortly thereafter, on November 7th, the school was completed and dedicated by Bishop Molloy. Again the eucharistic motif surfaced as the parishioners gave thanks for the new school and the future promise it held for the youth.

In 1933, Fathers Francis J. Kelly and Louis A. Rausch arrived in the parish; the latter was to remain at Blessed Sacrament for twenty-eight years. With many achievements accomplished, Father McMahon was happily able to celebrate his silver jubilee as a priest in 1934.

Soon, however, the parishioners and priests became anxious over the welfare of the teaching Sisters, and another fund-raising campaign was started to raise money for the construction of a proper convent. This intensive effort to secure the necessary funds culminated in a week-long bazaar from February 25th to March 2, 1935. The convent, located next to the school on 35th Avenue, was completed in 1936, the same year that would see the first graduation