

BIOB SULLIVAN EUGENE

Father Eugene Sullivan

[RS OLS 1987, 76] On September 21, 1976, Father Eugene Sullivan was installed as new pastor of OLS and St. Vivian's Church in Superior. This marked the first time Rev. Sullivan was assigned to either church in Rock Springs. Before coming to Rock Springs, he served in Kemmerer, Rawlins, Casper, St. Joseph's Children Home, Torrington, Saratoga, Guernsey and Jackson.

When Father Eugene arrived in Rock Springs, he realized what his twin brother had told him." The surroundings of Rock Springs won't be as pretty as Jackson Hole, but you will discover the friendliness of the people can't be beaten anywhere. Father Eugene found that was and is so.

His first major decision was what to do with Ebony, his dog. He was used to rural parishes (Saratoga, Guernsey and Jackson) and now he was faced with the railroad trains about 100 yards away, busy streets, and a school in the back yard. In October, Father Sullivan decided to give the dog up and let the humane society find him a home in Green River. He heard very little about the decision until the following March when he was told that they thought his dog was running loose in South Green River. When Father Gene was attending a CCW meeting there, he decided to drive around the area looking for the dog. He saw a small, black dog running between some apartments and recognized Ebony right away. He yelled the dog's name and clapped his hands, and the dog turned on a dime and ran to his feet. Ebony was very close to death by starvation and mange. He remembered Father. Later it was found out that the dog had run away and spent the entire winter living out of garbage cans in below zero weather. The dog is now 14 years old and still living at the rectory with Father.

Some of Father Sullivan's memories include the ordination of Rev. Edward Dolinar, a native son of Rock Springs on May 29, 1978; and the ground breaking ceremonies for the new parish center. Also, Archbishop Jean Jadot visited Rock Springs as a guest of Bishop Hart and stayed at the rectory. He was the Apostolic Delegate of the United States from Rome. Father remembers Bishop Hart coming downstairs for breakfast and [RS OLS 1987, 77] remarking, "There was Father Sullivan and the Apostolic Delegate very informally eating a bowl of cereal for breakfast!"

According to Father Gene, "I will always treasure the tremendous assistance I received from the associate pastors: Father Fred Wendel, Father John Hoodack, Father Gary Ruzicka, and Father John Murray. Also the invaluable help from Sister Joseph Eileen who was loved by all the parish for her dedication. In 1984 another native, Terry Hruska, was ordained and gave special blessings to the parish. I will always have fond memories for the people in St. Vivian's in Superior for their many kindnesses."

New Parish Hall Planned

When Father Eugene Sullivan was named pastor in 1976, he felt one of the first priorities was a facility for parish gatherings. Seeing the inadequacy of the old hall (original church build in 1888) for parish functions, he canvassed the parish to see if a new parish center was desired. The vote was unanimous.

