

**ADDENDA TO HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY  
CASPER, 1926-1939, Rev. Thomas O'Reilly**

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CASPER  
1926-1939  
Rev. Thomas O'Reilly

(Complete to January 1st; 1939)  
Casper, Wyoming.

[1] From the time of Father Mullin's assuming charge of the Church of St. Anthony, the Catholic population in the Oil Fields grew steadily. The spiritual wants of these people were occasionally attended to by Father Mullin until 1923, when the Bishop assigned the responsibility of administering to the Franciscan Fathers of Douglas, who began to say Mass once a month, on an appointed Sunday, and so continued until this charge was returned to the Church of St. Anthony.

October 22, 1926, the Rev. Thos. F. O'Reilly, as newly ordained priest, was assigned to Casper as Assistant, thus making a total of three (3) diocesan priests in Casper, the Rev. John H. Mullin, Pastor, and the Rev. John F. Moreton and the Rev. Thos. F. O'Reilly, Assistants. Father Moreton was designated to look after the Oil Field Missions and immediately he began to say Mass every Sunday at Midwest, in the Recreation Building, which was placed at the Church's disposal by the courtesy of the Midwest Refining Company.

Father Moreton, under the supervision of Father Mullin, continued to serve the Oil Fields, until his transfer to Rawlins, Wyoming, April 29, 1927, and in Casper he was succeeded by the Rev. Walter Nicholson, who, until this time of transfer, was the Assistant in Rawlins. After Father Moreton's time, for periods of three months each, the Assistants of Casper alternated in attending to the Oil Field Missions.

In order to afford ample room for the parochial school that was now contemplated, Lot 5, in Block 38, together with the improvements thereon located, was purchased from Julia Mueller, for the cash consideration of Fifty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$5500.00), and the home thereon became the temporary residence of the parish clergy.

Early in the year 1927, negotiations were entered into with Leon C. Goodrlch, Architect of Casper, for plans for a parochial school. With the completion of satisfactory plans, bids for the school construction were opened May 7, 1927, resulting in the contract being awarded to Carson and Schultz, local contractors, for the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$35,580.00): The Plumbing contract went to the J. Donohoe Plumbing Co. for \$7,384.00; The Painting and Decorating was by E.G. Erickson and Son at a cost of \$1,289.95; While additions and changes in plans cost an additional \$1,607.55. Thus the building, when finished, and completely furnished, cost in the neighborhood of \$45,000.00.

[2] Ground for the school building was broken May 11, 1927. No special ceremony accompanied the laying of the corner stone, which was put in place by Father Mullin, but it was decided to have elaborate ceremonies at the time that the School might be dedicated.

Contrary to the belief of the entire citizenry of Casper, who could not believe that building operations could be completed in so short a time as given, the new school building was ready for occupancy in time to begin the Fall term of school.

The solemn Dedication of St. Anthony's Parochial School took place, Sept. 10, 1927, with the Rt. Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, D.D., Bishop of Cheyenne, officiating. Immediately after the ceremonies at the School, the assembled throng repaired to the church in a line of march, headed by the Casper Band. At the church, the Bishop delivered a most scholarly and erudite discourse of Christian Education, which was followed by Pontifical Benediction.

In the evening of Dedication Day, at six, a sumptuous banquet in honor of the Bishop, visiting clergy and guests, was served at the Henning Hotel, with Mr. W.L. Connelly presiding as toastmaster. After the dinner, the following spoke on subjects vitally associated with education:

The Right Reverend Bishop; the Very Rev. Aloysius Breen, S.J., President of Regis College, Denver, Colo.; the Very Rev. Norbert C. Hoff, President of Mt. St. Charles College, Helena, Montana; and the Hon. Robert D. Carey, former governor of the State of Wyoming.

Thus was concluded a day of real parochial celebrating, that marked a new epoch in the advance of catholicity in the diocese of Cheyenne, and foretold choice blessings for the city of Casper.

In order that the Sisters, who were to take charge of the School, might be properly housed, it was decided to remodel the two-story dwelling situated on Lot 4, Block 38, purchased by the parish in May, 1925. Plans for remodeling and adding to this house were perfected by Leon C. Goodrich, Architect, and the bid of Colby and Rongstad, Casper Builders, amounting to \$5975.00 was accepted. In addition to the general building and remodeling contract, the plumbing and heating work was done by the J. Donohoe Plumbing Co. at a cost of \$1985.00. The Convent was completely furnished by the Chamberlin Furniture Co. Thus, when the Convent was ready for occupancy, it had cost approximately \$12,000.00.

The Convent, when completed, resulted in an ideal home for the Sisters, including all ordinary conveniences found in a Convent, not excepting a chapel. It was provided that each sister should have an individual cell, in which was built a spacious clothes-closet and each sleeping room was equipped with hot and cold running water.

[3] It was on Monday, August 22, 1927, that the Sisters of Charity of the B.V.M. (Dubuque) began to arrive, and by the time all had come who were to labor in Casper, the following were here to begin the directing of St. Anthony's Parochial School:

Sister Mary Leander, Superior, Sister Mary Timothy, Sister Mary Aglae, Sister Mary Ethelbert, Sister Mary Demetria, Sister Mary Robert, Sister Mary Camille and Sister Mary St. Elizabeth.

On Monday, September 11, 1927, the first six grades of the school were opened with a total enrollment of 200.

The opening of the School completed the organization of the parish of St. Anthony. From the very outset of his pastorate, Father Mullin had realized that a school was absolutely necessary for his parish, and he ever kept in mind the consummation of this project. The hearty cooperation that he received from his Bishop was the chief factor in the building of the school.

The Church of St. Anthony is a corporation, organized under the Laws of the State of Wyoming. Its directorate includes two (2) lay-members, whose term of office is for a period of two (2) years, and the election of lay-directors came due in 1927. From 1915 to 1927, Messrs. Patrick O'Connor and A. A. Schulte served as directors, making their tenure of office to cover six (6) successive terms. It was during their incumbency of office that most of the church's temporal advance took place, and hence, when an additional building program was projected, they preferred that others should be

selected to succeed them as directors. Accordingly, at a regular meeting of the board, C. A. Cullen and John H. Casey were elected as directors of the Church of St. Anthony.

With the opening of the parochial school a renewed spirit of religious fervor and a greater interest in parochial matters were soon evidenced throughout the parish. The number of those receiving the sacraments gradually increased as did the number attending daily Mass as the children of the parochial school brought into their homes a deeper meaning and fuller appreciation of the our holy faith. Parish organizations, now numerically stronger, became intensively active as the adult members of the parish better realized the benefits of corporate action. Families hitherto unidentified as Catholic warmly acknowledged the many blessings the new school had brought, and when in the spring of 1928 the bishop of the diocese visited the parish the largest class in its history was presented for confirmation, two hundred and five receiving the sacrament at the hands of His Excellency Patrick A. McGovern.

Deeming the time most opportune to further stimulate his flock the pastor arranged for a mission. In October 1928 Fathers Malloy and Collentine of the Congregation of the Holy Cross came to Casper for a two-week mission which proved productive of much spiritual good.

[4] With the close of the school year in 1930, Sister Mary Leander, B.V.M., completed her three years as superior of the convent. Her failing health and advanced years made her retirement from active schoolwork advisable. From the motherhouse in Dubuque, Iowa, she continues to follow the progress of St. Anthony's through the years that have followed with the same kindly interest. Appointed as the new superior. Sister Mary Kyrean, B.V.M., came to Casper in August, 1930, to fulfill what proved to be her last assignment.

On April 26th following, the bishop returned to administer the sacrament of confirmation to a class of one hundred seventeen. Throughout the years of Father Mullin's pastorate he had been signally blessed with excellent health and a robust constitution. When, therefore, in April, 1932 he was suddenly stricken while en-route to Casper from Chicago, little doubt was entertained that his return to duty would not be long delayed. A protracted illness, however, ensued necessitating his absence from the parish during the summer of that year. Returning in September much handicapped by lameness, he nevertheless immediately resumed pastoral control.

To date the diocese of Cheyenne had no Wyoming born priests and when in July, 1933, Father Nicholson and Father O'Reilly, assistants, were assigned to pastoral charge of

Pine Bluffs and Monarch, respectively, they were succeeded by Rev. Leo. Morgan, a native of Laramie, Wyoming, and Rev. Fred Kimmett, who, although born in Colorado, lived from childhood in Powell, Wyoming. Father Morgan remained but a few months in Casper exchanging places in November with Rev. A. Crann, then assistant at Lander. Father Crann continued in the parish until the following September when for health reasons it was found necessary [for him] to take an extended leave of absence. As substitute for Fr. Crann, the Rev. Nicholas Endres, retired, came to Casper to remain until June, 1936.

During the-Winter of 1935-6, a recurrence of Father Mullin's illness proved less amenable to treatment than did the original attack and in May, 1936, the better administration of parochial affairs to which he no longer found himself equal urged him to retire from the pastorate of St. Anthony's which he had occupied for more than twenty years. A former assistant and now pastor of Monarch was appointed by His Excellency to take charge of the Casper parish. Assuming his new duties and greater responsibility on May 14th, 1936, Father O'Reilly immediately set about familiarizing himself with parochial matters demanding immediate attention.

With the appointment of Father Kimmett as pastor of Monarch and the departure of Father Endres who retired from the active ministry during the summer, the year 1936 saw a complete change of pastor and assistants in Casper; a new pastor and a new assistant, the latter being Rev. Francis T. Penny of Rochester New York, recently ordained for the diocese of Cheyenne.

[5] As chaplain to the convent during his years as assistant in Casper, Father O'Reilly had opportunity to observe the excellent religious spirit which characterizes the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It devolved upon him, too, during the years of Father Mullin's illness to frequently consult the superior in matters pertaining to school administration. It was therefore with particular poignancy that he officiated at the funeral obsequies of Sister Mary Kyrean, B.V.M., who succumbed to pneumonia within a week after his arrival. This first death amongst the staff of St. Anthony's school occasioned much sorrow as parents and children mourned the demise of one they had learned to love and admire during the six years of her Casper administration.

On May 30th, 1937, the bishop confirmed a class of one hundred eighty-seven. Due largely to the Alcova Dam construction and the opening of several branch offices of Federal departments, there was a noticeable increase in the city population with a proportionate increase in the communicants of the parish. Sunday Masses were uncomfortably overcrowded until the addition of a fourth Mass. This was made possible by the appointment of a second assistant in June, 1937. Upon the transfer of

Father Penny to Lander in June, 1937, the bishop assigned two members of the Congregation of the Precious Blood to Casper. These remained one year being replaced in June, 1938 by the newly ordained Fathers McCarthy and Father Leiker likewise members of the Precious Blood Congregation. In November of the same year Father Leiker was recalled, being replaced by Rev. Carl Gates.

At the close of the calendar year 1938 the parish continues as a healthy active unit in the church. Four Masses are said every Sunday in the parish church while one assistant celebrates the Holy Sacrifice in Midwest for the Catholic residents of the oil-field community. During the year 1938 there were eighty-two baptisms and twenty-four marriages performed in the parish.

The number of children attending the parochial school (8 grades) 1938-39 was 333.

The net debt on all the church property when Rev. Thomas O'Reilly took charge in May, 1936 was \$101,000.00; by Jan., 1940 this had been reduced to [unfinished. Ed.]

## **Casper 1941 St. Anthony Bishop McGovern**

### **Casper, St. Anthony Bishop McGovern**

[57] The history of St. Anthony's parish dates back to 1888, when a young Catholic couple, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Dunn, came to Casper to make their home. Mr. Dunn was station master for the Chicago and Northwestern railroad.

Shortly after their arrival their first child, a girl, was born. Since there was no priest in Casper, the couple had to journey to the nearest priest, at Chadron, Nebraska, where their baby was baptized.

In 1890, Mr. Dunn, then a member of the legislature in Cheyenne, became a close friend of Rev. Francis J. Nugent. When a son was born to the Dunns, Father Nugent journeyed to Casper for the baptism.

During the years 1895 and 1896, Rev. P. Brophy, of Chadron, made Casper a station and occasionally said Mass there. Mass was celebrated in various places: private homes, the city hall, and once in the Episcopal church.

In 1897, a group of purposeful Catholic women met and made plans for the erection of a church. In the group were Mrs. John Trevett, Mrs. J.P. Smith, Mrs. W.F. Dunn, Miss Julia Mahoney (now Mrs. Jeremiah Mahoney) and Miss Margaret McDonald (now Mrs. Oscar Heistend). The plan was brought to the attention of [58] Bishop Lenihan, who later visited Casper and appointed a building committee.

In 1898 the first resident pastor, Rev. James Keating, arrived in Casper. He immediately proceeded to carry out the bishop's plans relative to church building and called for bids. The contract was let to John Trevett for \$1650.00. The church was built on the corner opposite the present Henning hotel.

In 1901, plans were drawn for a residence for the pastor. Father Keating had been succeeded in the meantime by Rev. George Bryant. The parish had been without a pastor for one year and during that time Father Bryant had come from Cheyenne in answer to a sick-call. Shortly afterward he was assigned to the Casper pastorate by Rev. Hugh Cumiskey, administrator of the diocese. Father Bryant labored on the parish house with great zeal, and on completion it was found to be one of the finest homes in the city.

June 22, 1903, is the date of a new form of temporal administration for the church of St. Anthony. During the episcopate of Most Rev. James J. Keane, D.D., bishop of Cheyenne, each parish of the diocese became a separate corporation. The church of St. Anthony was incorporated with the following directors: Most Rev. James J. Keane, bishop, president; Rev. Hugh Cummiskey, V.G., vice-president; Rev. George [59] Bryant, pastor and manager; Mr. John E. Schulte, secretary, and Mr. John M. Trevett, treasurer.

During Father Bryant's tenure the steady growth in the town of Casper was evidenced in the increase in parish membership. As a step toward the building of a new church, which Father Bryant considered necessary, he bought two lots on the corner of Wolcott and Seventh streets for \$1600.00.

Father Bryant was obliged to resign his charge August, 1915, due to ill health. He was succeeded by Rev. James McGee. Father McGee died November 27, 1915. During the time between Father McGee's death and the appointment of a successor, Father Isidore, O.M.C., of Douglas, was locum tenens, and on December 38, 1915, Rev. John H. Mullin was transferred from Newcastle to take charge.

By this time the need for a new church was imperative. With the approval of the bishop, plans for a larger building were discussed. In December, 1916, the old site on Center street, including the residence, was sold to Jeremiah Mahoney and Michael J. Burke for the sum of \$22,500.00. The old church was set on wheels May 1, 1917, and moved to the corner of Wolcott and Seventh streets, the site purchased in 1913 by Father Bryant. The old church was not ready for services until August 15th, and in the meantime the main floor of the house was used for church purposes.

[60] Another church site was purchased in December, 1916, from Charles C. Warner for the sum of \$4,750.00. The church edifice which stands on the northwest corner of Center and Seventh streets represents an investment of \$150,000.00. The building is of brick with a mottled tile roof and lime-stone trimmings. A graceful campanile becomes the structure. The beautiful altars are of Carrara marble and the woodwork is of oak. The main altar is the gift of the Altar and Rosary Society; the Blessed Virgin's altar is the gift of John and Peter Tobin; the altar of St. Joseph is the gift of Patrick Sullivan; the shrines of St. Anthony and St. Patrick are the gifts of M. W. Purcell and William Swanton; the altar rail is the gift of the Schulte family; the children of the parish gave the magnificent sanctuary lamp; Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Adams gave the onyx candlesticks; Mr. and Mrs. Con. Shea gave the brass candle set; the sanctuary windows were gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Mahoney; Mrs. M. Slizeski, P.E. de Caplane, William Kyne and A.E. Biglin gave the windows of the transept, the four Evangelists. The rose window of the church is the gift of the choir. The windows in the main part of the church were the gifts of Mr.

and Mrs. M.J. Foley, Mr. and Mrs. Angus McPherson, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Burke, Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Burke, Miss Elizabeth McDonald, Mrs. John Daley, Mr. and Mrs. M.W. Purcell, and Fred and Thomas Villnave. The sacristy windows [61] were donated by J. W. Bingenheimer, John J. Tobin, Jean Salabert, Miss Margaret Barrett, Miss Ella McGuire, Mrs. C.A. Holloran and Eugene McCarthy. The five windows in the chapel were the gifts of E.A. Slater and Father Mullin's family. Other donations included the church bell from the Knights of Columbus, the stations of the cross from Mrs. Patrick Sullivan, the pulpit from Mr. and Mrs. P.J. O'Connor, the confessionals from the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Richard Tobin, the baptismal font from Joseph Wimsatt, the vestment case from W.F. Henning, the monstrance from John Heery, of Chicago, and the chalice from Mrs. A.F. Edmonds.

The corner stone of the new church was laid by Bishop McGovern late in 1918. Rev. William O'Ryan, of Denver, preached the sermon. The church was dedicated on August 15, 1920, by the Most Reverend P. A. McGovern, D.D., with Rev. John H. Mullin celebrant of the Mass, Rev. N.J. Endres, of Thermopolis, deacon, Rev. Thomas Nolan, S.T.D., of Chicago, subdeacon, and Rev. James Stenson, of Omaha, master of ceremonies.

The altars of the church were consecrated by Bishop McGovern, on July 4, 1921. He was assisted by Rev. James O'Connor, S.J., and Father Mullin.

Rev. Bernard Schneiders was appointed assistant pastor in March, 1922. He remained in Casper until the following January, when Rev. John F. Moreton replaced him.

[62] Two Jesuits, Rev. John McGuire and Rev. John Cunningham, gave a mission in the fall of 1922. In the fall of 1925 another mission was given by two priests of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Rev. Jos. Boyle and Rev. Bernard Mulloy. A very beneficial result of the Holy Cross mission is an active Holy Name society, formally organized in 1926, by Rev. A.A. Durkin, O.P., of Denver, Colo.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of Father Mullin's regime was the Young Men's Social Club, founded in 1917. Realizing the need of supervised recreational activities in a growing community where many youths had no family restraint, Father Mullin conceived the idea of the club. The clubhouse was erected on one of the parish lots and called the Mullin club in honor of its founder and the donor of the building. During the World War the Mullin club was the headquarters for the local Red Cross organization under the direction of the Presbyterian minister. The Altar and Rosary society also conducts its social activities at the Mullin club. The Catholic Girls' club, a sister organization of the Altar and Rosary society, radiates its social and welfare activities from the parish club.

From the time of Father Mullin's advent in St. Anthony's parish, the Catholic population in the oil fields grew steadily. The spiritual wants of these people were looked after by Father Mullin until 1923. At [63] that time the bishop assigned this responsibility to the Franciscan fathers of Douglas, who thenceforth said Mass once a month on an appointed Sunday.

Rev. Thomas F. O'Reilly, a newly ordained priest, was assigned to Casper as an assistant, October 22, 1926. Father Moreton was designated to look after the oil field mission and immediately began to say Mass every Sunday at Midwest in the recreation building of the Midwest Refining Company.

Father Moreton, under the supervision of Father Mullin, continued to serve the oil fields until his transfer to Rawlins, April 29, 1927. To replace him in Casper came Rev. Walter Nicholson. After Father Moreton's departure the assistants alternated in attending the oil field mission for a period of three months each.

Early in 1927 negotiations were begun with Leon C. Goodrich, architect of Casper, for plans for a parochial school. Bids for construction were opened May 7, 1927, and the contract was awarded to Carson and Schultz, local contractors, for the sum of \$35,580.00. The total cost of the building when finished and completely furnished was \$45,000.00.

Ground for the school building was broken May 11, 1927. No special ceremony accompanied the laying of the corner stone. The new school was ready for occupancy in time to begin the fall term of school.

[64] The solemn dedication of St. Anthony's parochial school took place September 10, 1927, with the Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, D.D., bishop of Cheyenne, officiating. The bishop delivered the sermon at the church after the ceremony.

A banquet was served in the evening at the Henning Hotel. Speakers for the occasion were Very Rev. Aloysius Breen, S.J., president of Regis College, Denver, Colo., Very Rev. Norbert C. Hoff, president of Carroll College, Helena, Mont., and Hon. Robert D. Carey, former governor of Wyoming.

The Sisters of Charity of the B.V.M. (Dubuque) had arrived in Casper in August. Sister Mary Leander was the superior. In order to house the sisters properly, it was decided to remodel the two story dwelling situated on lot 4, block 38, which had been purchased by the parish in May, 1925. When the convent was ready for occupancy it had cost an

approximate \$12,000.00. It provides an ideal home for the sisters. Each sister has her own room, equipped with hot and cold running water.

The first six grades of school were opened Monday, September 11, 1927, with a total enrollment of 200. The opening of the school, a signal event in the history of the parish, completed the organization of the parish of St. Anthony. From the beginning of his pastorate, Father Mullin had been constantly aware of the need [65] for a parochial school. With this thought ever in his mind and heart, and with the splendid cooperation of Bishop McGovern, his ideal was realized.

The opening of the parochial school had an edifying effect on the people of the parish. There was a gradual increase in the number of persons receiving the sacraments and in the number of persons attending daily Mass.

In the spring of 1928, the bishop visited the parish and the largest class in its history was presented for confirmation, two hundred and five.

In October, 1928, Rev. Bernard Mulloy and Rev. Richard J. Collentine of the Congregation of the Holy Cross came to Casper for a two weeks' mission.

Sister Mary Leander, B.V.M., completed her three years as superior of the convent at the close of the school year in 1930. Her advanced years and ill health made her retirement from active school work advisable. She was succeeded by Sister Mary Kyrean, B.V.M., who came in August.

April 26, 1930, Bishop McGovern returned to Casper to administer the sacrament of confirmation to a class of one hundred and seventeen.

In April, 1932, Father Mullin was suddenly stricken ill while en route to Casper from Chicago. It was necessary for him to remain away from the parish for the summer. He returned in September to his pastoral [66] charge, but was handicapped by lameness, a result of his illness.

Father Nicholson and Father O'Reilly, assistants, were transferred in July, 1933, and were succeeded by two young men who were Wyoming's first-fruits for the diocese>In 1924 Bishop McGovern had ordained Rev. Alonzo McHugh, a native of Cheyenne, for the Society of St. Sulpice; and in the early nineties of the last century Rev. Matthias Ternes (see Rawlins), who had lived in Cheyenne as a youth, was ordained for the diocese.> in Bishop McGovern's regime. One was Rev. Leo Morgan, a native of Laramie, and the other Rev. Fred Kimmett who, although born in Colorado, lived from childhood

in Powell, Wyo. Father Morgan left Casper in November and was replaced by Rev. A. Crann. Father Crann continued in the parish until the following September when for health reasons he found it necessary to take an extended leave of absence. Rev. Nicholas Endres, retired, came to Casper, as substitute for Father Crann, to remain until June, 1936.

During the winter of 1935-36, a recurrence of Father Mullin's illness proved less amenable to treatment than his original attack and in May, 1936, the better administration of parochial affairs, to which he no longer found himself equal, urged him to retire from the pastorate of St. Anthony's over which he had presided for more than twenty years.

[67] Rev. Thomas P. O'Reilly, former assistant of Casper, was recalled to the parish, this time to act as pastor. He assumed his new duties May 14, 1936.

Fr. Kimmett was appointed pastor of Monarch and Fr. Endres, who had retired from the active ministry during the summer, departed. With these changes, the year 1936 saw a completely new administration with a new pastor and a new assistant, the latter being Rev. Francis T. Penny.

Sister Mary Kyrean, B.V.M., beloved superior of St. Anthony's school succumbed to pneumonia one week after the arrival of Fr. O'Reilly.

A class of one hundred and eighty-seven was confirmed by his excellency, the bishop, May 30, 1937. The appointment of a second assistant in June, 1937, made possible the addition of a fourth Mass on Sundays. Fr. Penny was transferred to Lander and the bishop secured two members of the Congregation of the Precious Blood, who, with various changes in personnel, served until August, 1940. On their departure Revs. William J. McCormick and Alphonsus H. Grannan were appointed in their stead.

During the year, 1938, there were eighty-two baptisms and twenty-four marriages performed in the parish.

The number of children attending the parochial school (8 grades) in 1938-39 was three hundred and thirty-three.

[68] The net debt on all the church property when Rev. Thomas O'Reilly took charge in May, 1936, was \$101,000.00; by the end of 1940 this had been reduced to \$60,000.00.

## ANNALS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY-CASPER 1940-1950

### ANNALS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY-CASPER 1940-1950

[1] With the declaration of war by the United States on the Axis nations in December 1941, upwards of 220 young men and women left the parish for the various branches of military service. Casper was soon to have first hand evidence of the mighty war effort, and in the spring of the following year construction of a new Army Air Base, 10 miles west of Casper, was begun. Men and planes began arriving in early fall of 1942, and from October of that year squadrons of the huge war planes were familiar sights in the skies until the end of hostilities in 1945. No Catholic chaplain having yet been assigned, the priests of the parish assumed the duties of auxiliary chaplains caring for the spiritual needs of the men until the appointment of a military chaplain in late 1943. Masses were celebrated every Sunday and confessions heard regularly in the field chapel. Marriages of military personnel were numerous as the soldiers brought their sweethearts from home before leaving Casper for overseas duty, many of them never to return.

Father Grannan was appointed pastor of Buffalo and was succeeded in Casper by Rev. John Brady. In October of 1943 a most successful mission was conducted in the parish by Father Cousins, now Bishop Cousins, and Father Hoffman of the Chicago archdiocesan mission band. The zealous efforts of these excellent missionaries drew the admiration of the people who found much solace during the trying years of the war in their renewed to prayer and religious practices. During these years devotion to Our Blessed Mother received a marvelous impetus as anxious parents participated in the Friday evening novena devotions to Our Sorrowful Mother. Indeed to her powerful intercession is attributed the fact that out of so many who saw military service comparatively few failed to return. The increased population of the city of Casper was reflected in the proportionate increased number of parishioners.

In May, Bishop McGovern confirmed a class of 86 in St. Anthony's church. In May 1943, the two-story frame building located immediately north of the church was purchased from Mrs. M. Hiestand for the sum of \$8000, and was sold five years later for \$5000 to Harold Strader with the understanding that it be removed from its location. One of the largest buildings ever to be moved in Casper, this house attracted much attention as it was being hauled to its new site at 17th and Elm St. in Casper in October 1948.

[2] In 1944 Father McCormick, appointed pastor of St., Thomas Church in Monarch, was succeeded by Rev. James Godley who remained in Casper until the following year, when he took up post-graduate studies at the Catholic University, Wasnington, D. C.

The sustained generosity of the people and careful husbanding of funds enabled the pastor to reduce the parish indebtedness by a substantial sum each year until at the end of 1944 sufficient funds were on hand to relieve the parish holdings of all financial encumbrances. Final payment was made January 15, 1945. With the cessation of hostilities in 1945 and subsequent closing of the Casper Air Base, the community gradually returned to peace time standards. The oil exploration program instituted during the war attracted practically all the major oil companies to Wyoming, to participate in the hunt for "black gold." Real estate values skyrocketed as housing facilities in Casper became fully inadequate due to the sudden influx in people directly or indirectly associated with the oil industry in this region. This condition was reflected in the increased enrollment at the parochial school where the facilities provided in 1927 became entirely inadequate to care for the number seeking enrollment. Some fears were entertained that the period of prosperity would be short lived, and that Casper might again experience the economic reverses that characterized the period following the construction of the refineries and still remembered as "The Boom Days." Such fears, however, proved to be ill-founded and businessmen began to adjust their perspective to envision a larger, busier and more progressive city than they knew in the pre-war years.

Never having been frescoed, the parish church after 28 years was now noticeably in need of attention. The pastor invited Carl Matthias Wise, architectural and decorative designer, of St. Louis, Missouri, to submit a scheme for the restoration of the interior of the church. A contract was awarded Mr. Wise and the work was undertaken and completed during the summer months of 1948 at a total cost of \$8,600. It was this same year that the parish corporation acquired title to a tract of land, approximately two and one-half city blocks in area and situated at the extreme south end of Center Street. This property, purchased from the Casper Hospital Association, Inc. for \$5,300 is being held as a possible site of a hospital to be operated under Catholic auspices. In July of the same year an additional 10 acres was purchased from Harry Yesness for \$10,000. This [3] acreage situated along the highway to Rawlins at the City's south confines, will, it is hoped, provide sufficient building sites should a new parish be deemed advisable in later years.

The new coadjutor Bishop, Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, consecrated September 1947, was accorded a cordial welcome upon his first visit to the parish in the spring of 1948. Bishop Newell received the parishioners in a simple function held in the auditorium of the Elks Bldg. A most interesting feature of this program was the recounting of the

growth and development of the parish over the fifty year period since the first pastor took up residence in Casper.

The ever increasing growth of the parish with all its proportionate over-taxing of school facilities made it imperative that more class-room space be provided at the parochial school. For this purpose a campaign for funds was launched in January 1949, according to the plan of the American City Bureau, Chicago, Illinois. \*\*\*[letter inserted at end of this ten year history. Ed.] Under the able leadership of William A. Schulte as general chairman of the campaign, the endeavor met with the hearty approval of the parishioners who gave generously of their time and means to bring the effort to a successful conclusion. Fired by the ardent enthusiasm of the general chairman, committee personnel worked arduously through the parish receiving contributions and assurances in the form of signed pledges toward the quota assigned to them. The final in a series of many meetings was held on Easter Monday evening 1949 and with the announcement that the goal of \$230,000 had been exceeded by \$12,000 the spontaneous outburst and jubilation gave ample evidence of the earnest enthusiasm and cordial cooperation that marked every phase of the campaign. With funds for construction now assured, plans for the building, already prepared by Goodrich and Wilking, associated architects, Casper, Wyoming, were given final approval. To provide the site for the school expansion the building which had served as a parish hall for over thirty years was sold to the local council of the Knights of Columbus, for the sum of \$3000. The building was moved half a block to the corner of Wolcott and Seventh streets, where with its additions and improvements, it was dedicated in December, 1949, and stands today as a suitable Knights of Columbus Club and meeting hall for all council activities. Bids for the school addition were opened on the feast of St. Anthony, June 13, 1949 and a contract awarded to the Casper firm of L. D. Liesinger Company for the sum of \$154,750.

[4] The parish, already happily provided with a fine church edifice, was now assured a school building suited to parochial needs. The time had come when more efficient parish administration required that a new rectory, affording proper living quarters and office space, be provided. Plans for a new rectory had already been prepared by the local firm of architects and bids for construction were opened on August 15, 1949. The low bid of \$74,802, submitted by Cahill & Mooney Construction Company, was accepted and the work of construction began forthwith. The work on school and rectory went apace throughout the fall, winter and spring months. First to be completed was the rectory at 624 S. Center next door to the church, and the priests uttered a fervent "Deo Gratias" when they took residence on July 25, 1950.

The new school wing, providing six additional class-rooms together with a modern library, combination auditorium-gymnasium, lavatories, and principal's office, all completely furnished, was ready for school opening in September the same year. Three more teachers of the order of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary who had so successfully been in charge of the school since 1927 were added to the staff. The ceremonies of blessing and dedication were held on September 24, 1950 with the Most Rev. Hubert H. Newell delivering the sermon in the parish church before a large congregation of children, parents and many visiting priests. The dedication banquet was held the same evening in the school's new auditorium where places were set for some three hundred guests. Speakers on this most jubilant occasion were the Most Reverend Bishop and Rev. Raphael M. McCarthy, S.J., president of Regis College, Denver, Colorado. The anticipated increase in enrollment made it advisable to secure more play ground for the children of the parochial school and, with this in mind, the Wilbur Foshay property adjoining the convent building was acquired in the month of June preceding school re-opening.

During the ten years from 1940-1950 there were varying changes in the clergy personnel attached to St. Anthony's Church. In addition to those already mentioned, assistant pastors included Rev. Charles Bartek, Rev. Herbert Kraus, Rev. Thomas Cleary, Rev. M. McBrien, Rev. William Delaney. The assistants now serving at St. Anthony's are the Rev. W. J. McCormick and the Rev. Charles Brady. The sacrament of confirmation was administered in the parish in May 1949, on which occasion one hundred and sixty-five received the sacrament at the hands [5] of the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell. In the month of October, 1950, a two-week mission was conducted by the two Dominican Fathers, Rev. Leo M. Shea and Rev. Joseph L. Kelly. In the ten year period 1940-1950 five young ladies of the parish have entered the religious life and one priest, Rev. Clement Lafferty, O.S.B., was ordained while three students from St. Anthony's parish are preparing for the diocesan priesthood. It is of interest to note by way of depicting the parish growth that while the total number of baptisms in the parish in 1940 was ninety-nine, the total number in the year 1950 was one hundred ninety-eight.

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April 10, 1952

AMERICAN CITY BUREAU

The Right Reverend Monsignor T. F. O'Reilly

The Church of St. Anthony

Casper, Wyoming

Right Reverend and dear Monsignors

While Easter Week is perhaps not the most satisfactory one during which to try to complete certain details involving the Church, I thought it best to pass the following information on to you and to His Excellency Bishop Hubert M. Newell at Cheyenne, through a copy of this communication, before too much time elapsed. I therefore am sending you at least a partial report on our attempt to develop for you some interest in an order of nursing nuns for your consideration in connection with the proposed new hospital at Casper.

We have screened here, through our own knowledge and by personal telephone calls, and through contacts with a number of our friends and former clients, and have developed at least the tentative interest of three possibilities. We have hesitated to go directly to the top echelon in any of these cases but have been assured by the Superiors with whom we have had discussions regarding your problem, that a formal inquiry from you and Bishop Newell will be welcome.

At the present time, we are serving Notre Dame College at South Euclid, Cleveland 21, Ohio. This institution is operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame, whose Motherhouse is located in Rome. The Cleveland Province is located at 1325 Ansel Road, Cleveland 6, Ohio, and Mother Mary Anselm is the Provincial Superior. This Order operates two hospitals and is anxious, we have been told, to expand this phase of operation. At the present time they are concerned primarily with educational institutions, operating in the Archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, and in the Dioceses of Cleveland, Fort Wayne, Nashville, Richmond and Youngstown, and in Patna, India.

[2] Sister Mary Denis is Dean of Notre Dame College, our present client. She paid us a visit about one week ago during which time we had the opportunity to suggest your problem to her. She expressed great interest in your situation and requested that a letter be addressed to Mother Mary Anselm at the address above, outlining the particulars. She assured us that she would support the program in a direct personal discussion with Mother Provincial at the first opportunity. This may be a timely lead.

As I explained, we do have a very fine relationship with the Chancery Office here in the Chicago Diocese. Another lead for your Hospital developed through a visit of one of our staff members to the Chancery Office, where he was referred immediately to the

Sisters of St. Casimir, whose Motherhouse is located in Chicago at 2601 West Marquette Road. Reverend Mother M. Josepha is the Superior General. Sister Mary Devota is the Executive Director of the Order and makes her headquarters at the Holy Cross Hospital, which the Order operates at 69th Street and California Avenue in Chicago. Mother General has been out of the city until day before yesterday and we plan to see her, if possible, shortly after the Easter season.

The Sisters of St. Casimir operate three hospitals: Holy Cross and Loretta Hospitals here in Chicago, and St. Joseph's Hospital, an institution of limited facilities, at Osmond, Nebraska, in the Omaha Diocese. In addition, the Order also administers one normal school, four high schools, thirty-three grammar schools, one foreign mission and one home for the aged, located in the Archdioceses of Baltimore, Chicago, Omaha, Philadelphia, Santa Fe and Washington, and in the Dioceses of Fort Wayne, Harrisburg, Manchester, Providence, Rockford, Scranton, Sioux City and Springfield, Massachusetts, and in the Archdiocese of LaPlata, South America.

We have not served any of the institutions administered by the Sisters of St. Casimir but are working with them now tentatively on one or two of their financial problems. We are assured, however, that an inquiry to the Mother General will receive interested consideration.

A few years ago we conducted a most active campaign for St. Elizabeth's Hospital at Dayton, Ohio, of the Cincinnati Diocese. Since the campaign, the Superior at the Hospital has been transferred but I did have occasion yesterday to talk by telephone with Sister Celine, secretary to the new Superior. She seemed most appreciative of our suggestion and requested that a letter be addressed to Mother M. Innocenta, Provincial Superior, St. Clare Convent, Compton Road, Hartwell, Cincinnati 15, Ohio. She further stated that she would certainly have an opportunity to support this inquiry when consulted by the Mother Superior.

The Order is the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis, Province of St. Clare. The General Motherhouse is in Rome.

[3] The Order operates ten hospitals, three nurses' training schools and four convents for social service work. It is represented in the Archdioceses of Cincinnati and Indianapolis and in the Dioceses of Columbus, Covington, Kansas City, Kansas, and Lansing, Steubenville and Springfield, Illinois.

Further more detailed data will probably be provided through your own facilities for checking; therefore, I shall not go into great detail here.

Of these three, it seems that the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Sisters of St. Casimir probably are the better opportunities. While we do not have any particular influence with these, it would be our guess that the Sisters of St. Casimir are the most interested. At any rate, it would seem to me that proper overtures from you and His Excellency would receive considered study as I am sure all will be interested.

In my talks with these groups, I have tried to point out what appears to us as the economic value in the operation of a hospital in Casper and the opportunity presented, in our judgment, for their serious consideration. In each case we were reminded of the shortage of nuns. To this it was pointed out that probably three years would be required before staff would have to be provided, which may help considerably in any planning which is indicated.

While all of this is at the moment rather nebulous, I do hope it will be of some value to you and to Bishop Newell. Certainly you know that if we can be of any further assistance you have but to call.

We have one or two other "feelers" out and will forward whatever information is developed on these from time to time. It will be appreciated if you would be good enough to keep us advised as to your progress in order that we might try to be of maximum assistance in this important matter.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours.

Robert A. Dobbin

## **ANNALS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY – CASPER 1950-1960**

### **ANNALS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY – CASPER 1950-1960**

[1] The next decade was to see an almost phenomenal growth in population in central Wyoming and especially in the city of Casper. With the population trend definitely upward the parish as, also business interests in the vicinity, realized that a new challenge was in the making. As it concerned the church both priests and people were reminded almost every Sunday that the seating capacity of St. Anthony's Church was becoming seriously inadequate. Previous years, as noted elsewhere, had seen somewhat similar population trends due to oil exploration and development in the immediate area of Casper and the Salt Creek oil fields. Now, however, the situation was not concerned so much with local development as with the fact that Casper became the central location for exploration in all of Wyoming as well as in the neighboring states of Montana, North Dakota, and to some degree, northern Colorado and the state of Utah.

Happily, in the year 1948 the parish of St. Anthony purchased from a local businessman, Harry Yesness, for the sum of \$10,000 a ten acre tract of land ideally situated with a view to possible further expansion with frontage on highway 220 immediately beyond the then corporate city limits. Shortly thereafter the buildings located on the Army Air Force Base, now Natrona County Airport, were offered for sale by the office of U. S. General Services Administration. The bid of \$1,750 offered by the Church of St. Anthony corporation in August 1952 proved to be successful and immediately negotiations were begun to have the chapel moved to the northeast corner of the tract acquired from Harry Yesness where it became the first parish church of Our Lady of Fatima parish. The removal of the building, approximately eighty-one by thirty-eight feet in dimensions, aroused much public interest and the Casper Tribune-Herald described the undertaking as the largest moving operation ever to take place in this region. Midwest Movers Inc., Fred Trost, owner, realizing the added risk of coming directly to the site and because of the difficulties anticipated from overhead power and telephone lines upon reaching the city detoured by way of Raderville Route, on to highway 220 and approached the new location from the direction of what is now the Fair Grounds.

[2] The moving of a building of this size was without serious incident. Mention might be made of what temporarily seemed to be an impasse. When upon reaching the Platte River bridge just north of Thirteenth Street and advancing half way across the river bridge, the contractor to his dismay discovered that the parapet of the bridge was inches higher than anticipated. Resourceful as he was, he backed off sufficiently to release the building and with huge planks hastily brought from the lumberyards, placed

across the floor of the bridge he soon had sufficient clearance to proceed on his way. Moved and finally set upon the foundation prepared by the L. D. Leisinger Construction Company the trustees and the pastor were in accord with Fred Trost, Moving Contractor, both as to the contract price of \$4,500 and his performance. It is significant that the spire removed during the moving was replaced atop the structure on February 2, 1953, Feast of the Purification of Mary and the formal ceremonies of dedication placing the future parish under the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima took place on March 25th following, Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with His Excellency Hubert M. Newell, D. D., bishop of the diocese officiating and delivering the dedicatory sermon. This first mass, the mass of dedication, was offered by the pastor of St. Anthony's, Casper, Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, V. G., who was celebrant of the first holy mass offered in the same building at the Air Force Base in October 1942. Since additional detail rightly pertain to the existing parish of Our Lady of Fatima these will be outlined in the historical record of that parish as contained elsewhere in this volume. The newly dedicated edifice continued as a mission of St. Anthony's with one mass being celebrated every Sunday until the newly appointed pastor, Rev. Alphonsus H. Grannan, assumed pastoral charge on October 1, 1954.

The next most pressing need of St. Anthony's parish at this time was a convent building to house the Sisters of Charity, B. V. M., who staff the parochial school. The number of sisters had long since outgrown the old residence, once the parish rectory at 624 So. Durbin Street. Suitable building sites in the immediate vicinity of the school were investigated before lot numbered three in block thirty-three owned by the Blackmore Company was purchased. Property values in Casper by this time had skyrocketed and the price for this lot 60' x 140' was \$23,500. The architectural firm of John K. Monroe, Denver, Colorado was engaged to prepare plans and specifications for the new convent.

[3] In preparing the plans thought was given to the future years when the convent would be the home not only for the parochial grade school teachers but also for the faculty of the proposed new Catholic high school. Bids were opened February 1954 by the architect in the presence of Bishop Newell and Monsignor O'Reilly, pastor. The successful tender was the Brennan Construction Company, Pocatello, Idaho with the figure of \$173,800 for the general and electrical contract while the plumbing firm of Edward Davidson and Son as low bidder was awarded the plumbing and heating contract for the sum of \$42,856. Work began immediately upon awarding contracts and proceeded apace under the supervision of Robert Bence, Casper architect, engaged by Mr. Monroe to assure complete compliance with the specifications. The old convent, 624 South Durbin Street, an old building when first occupied by the sisters in 1927, had at this time become unsafe and totally inadequate and the joy of the sisters was unbounded when on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1955, Sister Mary William

James, B.V. M., Superior, led her household across the yard to their new home completely furnished and pleasingly decorated. The sisters had followed the progress of construction since the first day of excavation and their taking up residence on the day mentioned added further rejoicing since 1954 when the convent project was undertaken had been proclaimed as the Marian Year by the saintly pontiff Pius XII, in universal observance of the centenary of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

With the sale of the old convent building to the Salvation Army which brought \$750 and the clearing of ground whereon it stood, a small addition was made to the play ground available for the school children. The trustees had long envisioned the day when all the block on which the new convent and school stood might be acquired for still further enlargement of our school facilities either as play ground or as site for needed buildings. This ambition was partially realized with the purchase in December 1955 of the Blackmore Apartment buildings together with the residence at 615 South Wolcott Street for the sum of \$105,000. This investment proved to be financially sound and the rentals received have been applied towards the retirement of the indebtedness incurred. In the same year residential building had become accelerated in the east section of Casper and it became apparent that this area was destined for expansion. This fact did not [4] escape the attention of the ever watchful trustees, Charles a. Cullen and John H. Casey, attorney, who have served the parish as lay members of the church corporation for the past forty years and in October 1955 a tract in excess of three acres was purchased from the Theatres of Wyoming Inc., for \$3,750. This property at the corner of Country Club Road and Fourth Street is suitably located for purposes of a new parish plant to serve the Catholic people of this east section of Casper which continues to develop as a choice residential area.

In an earlier chapter it was pointed out that the Catholics of Midwest oil fields were cared for spiritually by the priests of St. Anthony's, Casper through the years following 1927. During this period mass was offered in the community hall and while this served the purpose of a church it was recognized as a temporary arrangement until such time as the community might have accumulated sufficient funds to provide a more dignified place for the Sunday mass and other devotions. Here mention must be made of the harmonious relations that always characterized the relations with the church and Stanolind Oil and Gas Company. The company continued to provide the facilities for Sunday mass-assuring heating and lighting without cost. Since some funds were now on hand in hope of a substantial gift from the Catholic Church Extension Society the question of acquiring a site for a church building was immediately taken up for consideration. Application was made to the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management for lease of a one acre tract. The lease was issued in December 1955 and the project seemed to be assured of speedy completion. It was later discovered

however, that the lease just approved encroached on land given to the U. S. Geological Survey in 1923 and forthwith an amended application was made for an adjacent tract which was considered equally suitable. It was not until August of the following year that final action was taken on this application and the church project could be pursued. Meanwhile a large frame structure owned by the Stanolind Oil and Gas Company and located at its gas plant south of Midwest was purchased for the sum of \$1,000. This building measuring 72' x 32' was moved to the newly acquired side, a distance of approximately two miles, by the Midwest Movers Inc., at a cost of \$8,750.00 for both moving and excavation and construction of basement. A basement had been prepared which serves as the church meeting place and hall. The interior was entirely renovated and the altar and pews, donated by St. Stephen's Mission, were set in place. The work continued under the direction of George Sparks, Casper contractor, and dedication ceremonies were held on December 2, 1956, with [5] His Excellency Bishop Newell officiating and preaching the sermon at the mass celebrated by Monsignor O'Reilly of Casper. A pleasant social function followed in the evening with the Catholic ladies of Midwest serving dinner in the community hall. The suggestion that a church which they might call their own had been enthusiastically received by the people of Midwest from the beginning. This fervor continued all through until the final tile was laid and serves as a tribute to all those who cooperated so faithfully and responded so promptly when called upon to lend their skills towards reducing the overall cost of construction and rehabilitating the structure for the purpose for which it was destined. Carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters and laborers, all employees of the local company, gave generously of their time and ability working long hours into the night in the feverish rush to complete the job in time for Christmas masses in the new church. Nor must the labor contribution of the ladies be overlooked. Not only did they give ready support to their husbands but many amongst them will recall the hours of scrubbing and cleaning and waxing, serving refreshments and in every way evidencing the love of holy church by their zealous efforts to establish a place of worship in keeping with the traditional Catholic standards of dignity and decorum. A total expenditure of \$25,500 in the year 1956 has permitted the Catholics of Midwest to provide themselves with not only a chapel a bright, cheerful and neatly furnished social center where catechism classes are conducted for the children, men's and women's organizations meet for pleasant evenings in acceptable surroundings.

As property values in and around Casper do maintain a high market value it became increasingly difficult to acquire any sizeable tract of land that might be considered desirable as to area and location for the contemplated future central Catholic high school. Many small plots of ground were considered but always these seemed too confining for the future needs. It was in the year 1959 that a large unimproved block of ground was offered for sale by Bernard Gangel. Successful negotiations began and at

the price of \$22,000 the parish became owners of this twenty-two acres. At the time of writing this land remains unimproved and with an upsurge in residential building in the vicinity it is conjectured that the land then acquired will prove of inestimable advantage and a wise investment with a view to future church requirements.

[6] Many of the diocesan priests have served as assistants at St. Anthony's during the past ten-year period and it is always heartening to hear of their progress and zeal as they advanced to other fields of labor in the diocese. Amongst those who will recall their years at St. Anthony's at some time between 1950 and 1960 are Rev. Charles Brady, Rev. James Godley, Rev. W. J. McCorniick, Rev. Michael Scullion, Rev. Charles Taylor, Rev. Joseph E. Moroney, Rev. Michael Butler, Rev. P. J. McGovern. While serving at St. Anthony's at this time of writing with Monsignor O'Reilly are Rev. L. Etchingham and the Rev. John F. Murray.

The sacrament of confirmation has been administered by the bishop of the diocese, His Excellency Hubert M. Newell, D. D., every year during the past decade. Classes comprised of children and adults presented for confirmation by the pastor have averaged one hundred twelve. Parish missions have been conducted in the parish at regular intervals by priests of the Paulist Congregation and by the Servite Fathers. In the ten-year period with which we treat, vocations to the priesthood and sisterhoods have shown a considerable increase over previous years. Natives of Casper now serving the diocese are Rev. Philip Colibraro and his brother Rev. Daniel Colibraro ordained in the parish church in 1956 and 1967 respectively. The twin brothers, Rev. Eugene and Rev. Gerald Sullivan were elevated to the sacred priesthood at the altar of St. Anthony's in 1958. Another native of the parish ordained in 1955 is the Rev. James Burke, S. J., while approaching ordination in the same religious society is Rev. Donald Murphy.

## ANNALS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY CASPER 1960-1969

### ANNALS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY CASPER 1960 1969

[2]

1969 [Ed]

Pastor: Reverend Charles Brady

Assistants: Reverend Michael Carr

Reverend Vincent Langfield

Principal of St. Anthony School: Sister Maureen Whalen, B.V.M.

Total number of parishioners: 5300

Approximate number of families in the parish 1500.

Throughout the sixties, the parishioners of St. Anthony parish witnessed with the rest of the world one of the most challenging decades in the history of mankind. In a time of great achievement we recognized the hand of God working through His people. In a time of overwhelming crises we prayed for His guidance.

Now, as we recount the history of the Christian community of our parish, we pray for God's continuing guidance for our Holy Father, our priests and religious, our government leaders and our loved ones. As we enter a new decade to become part of its history, we pray that all men everywhere will come to know love, peace and the Lord of us all.

[3] 1960

Pastor: Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, V. G.

Assistants:

Reverend Lawrence Etchingham

Reverend Patrick McGovern

Principal of St. Anthony School:

Sister Mary Joseph Anthony Phipps, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: -seven hundred thirty-two.

1961

Pastor: Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, V. G.

Assistants:

Reverend Lawrence Etchingam

Reverend Patrick McGovern

Reverend John Murray

Principal of St. Anthony School:

Sister Mary Davidis Devine, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: seven hundred thirty-one.

In May of 1961 the largest eighth grade class in the history of St. Anthony School was graduated. The graduates numbered seventy-eight.

On May 21, 1961 Monsignor O'Reilly celebrated his silver jubilee as pastor of St. Anthony parish.

[4] 1962

Pastor: Monsignor Thomas O'Reilly, V. G.

Assistants:: Reverend John Murray

Reverend Eugene Sullivan

Principal of St. Anthony School:

Sister Mary Davidis Devine, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: seven hundred twenty-six.

1963

Pastor: Monsignor Thomas O'Reilly, V. G.

Assistants: Reverend Eugene Sullivan

Reverend John Murray

Principal of St. Anthony School:

Sister Mary Davidis Devine, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: six hundred thirty~two.

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1963, the church of St. Patrick was dedicated.

The land for the Church, school and auditorium was purchased by Monsignor O'Reilly in October of 1955 at a cost of \$3,750.00. Under the direction of Monsignor O'Reilly, construction began in October of 1961. The contractor was Northern Construction Company (Sam Moore). Cost of construction was \$336,353.00. [5] Goodrich and Wilking were the architects. Installation of carpeting, landscaping, altars, pews, baptismal font, stained glass windows, and all incidentals brought the total overall cost to approximately half a million dollars. Also included in this cost was the school which consisted of six classrooms, office space, auditorium, and kitchen. All monies expended reflected the generosity of all parishioners of the Mother Church and Parish of St. Anthony's.

The dedication ceremonies began with a procession through the grounds. The Most Reverend Hubert M. Newell, D.D. blessed the buildings. The Mass, Coram Pontifice, in honor of St. Patrick was celebrated by Monsignor O'Reilly. Bishop Newell delivered the sermon. Deacon and sub-deacon were the Reverends Eugene and Gerald Sullivan, natives of Casper. Master of Ceremonies was Reverend James J. Powers, pastor of the new parish.

Bishop Newell, in his sermon, paid well deserved tribute to Monsignor O'Reilly for his untiring efforts to make the new parish a reality. He spoke of the day as one of "special jubilation for Monsignor O'Reilly because it was he who planned every phase of this splendid development. He acquired the land and worked hand-in-hand with the builders and the architects to bring this work to completion. In a spirit of charity that has no parallel in the history of the diocese, he not only directed the building, but

arranged for the payment of half a million dollars in construction costs.” [6] The day ended with the dedication banquet in the auditorium; a day that will long be remembered as one of the most important in the history of the entire diocese.

1964

Pastor: Monsignor Thomas F. O’Reilly, V.G.

Assistants: Reverend Eugene Sullivan

Reverend Colm Woods

Principal of St. Anthony School: Sister Mary Davidis Devine, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: five hundred seventy-five.

1965

Pastor: Monsignor Thomas F. O’Reilly, V.G.

Assistants: Reverend Eugene Sullivan

Reverend Angel Ornelas

Principal of St. Anthony School: Sister Mary Davidis Devine, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: five hundred sixty.

On February 14, 1965, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Thomas F. O’Reilly was elevated to the dignity of Protonotary Apostolic by Pope Paul VI. The dignity of Protonotary Apostolic is one of the highest honors given to priests and ranks immediately after the episcopate in importance. With his appointment, Monsignor O’Reilly received the right to offer Pontifical Mass on certain occasions. Monsignor O’Reilly was the only Wyoming priest ever to have received this honor.

In the fall of 1965, Richard A. Tobin was appointed trustee to replace John H. Casey.

[7] 1966

Pastor: The Rt. Reverend Monsignor T. F. O’Reilly, V. G., P. A.

Assistants: Reverend Eugene Sullivan

Reverend Angel Ornelas

Principal of St. Anthony School: Sister Mary Davidis Devine. B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: five hundred-sixty.

On Christmas day, 1966 the sisters donned the new optional black habits. The habits consisted of the long, A-line skirt, blouse and jacket.

1967

Pastor: Monsignor T. F. O'Reilly, V. G., P. A.

Assistants: Reverend Angel Ornelas

Reverend Frank Redle

Principal of St. Anthony School: Sister Maureen Whalen, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: four hundred eighty-seven.

New light fixtures were installed in the church during the fall of 1967.

[8] 1968

Pastor: January-August 1968, Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, V.G.

Pastor: August-December 1968, Reverend Charles Brady

Assistants: Reverend Angel Ornelas

Reverend Frank Redle

Principal of St. Anthony School: Sister Maureen Whalen, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony School: Three hundred seventy-seven.

The year 1968 was perhaps one of the most significant in the decade. This was the year in which re-evaluation became the key to the renovation which would follow in 1969.

In April of 1968 a new school library was opened. In addition to 250 books from the old library, 700 new books were catalogued. The books were received through Title II funds.

On May 11, 1968 Monsignor O'Reilly announced that a year-long study of Catholic education would be conducted under the direction of Monsignor William H. Jones, widely known Denver educator. The purpose of the study, as outlined by Monsignor Jones, was to evaluate religious education in the Casper community, with particular reference to St. Anthony's school. The study was to include the analysis of the curriculum, the school plant, the availability of teaching sisters and lay personnel, cost of operation, and the success of the school's graduates in [9] fitting into community educational structures. Another important aspect of the study was to determine the adequacy of existing religious educational programs for Catholic public school children in the Casper area.

Plans were in the making for a city-wide census in the fall and for extensive testing and evaluation of St. Anthony's school students.

Members of the steering committee included Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, V.G., Sister Maureen Whalen, Rev. Angel Ornelas, Rev. Charles Hardy of Rock Springs, and the faculty of St. Anthony School. Rev. A. H. Grannan, Rev. James Power, and the Benedictine Sisters served as advisory members to the committee.

Wednesday, August 14, 1968, the retirement of Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, beloved pastor of St. Anthony's parish for thirty-two years, was announced by Bishop Hubert M. Newell.

Monsignor O'Reilly, a native of County Cavin, Ireland, succeeded the Rev. John H. Mullin, as pastor of St. Anthony's parish in 1936 and was appointed vicar general of the Diocese of Cheyenne in 1944. In the more than three decades of his pastorate, he was an outstanding leader in all parish and diocesan activities as well as in Community activities.

Monsignor O'Reilly was born November 16, 1900 and was ordained in Ireland June 13, 1926. He came to the United States in the fall [10] of 1926 and received his first assignment to St. Anthony's where he served until 1933 when he became pastor of St. Thomas Church, Monarch, Wyoming. Just three years later, he was appointed to head St. Anthony's, then Casper's only Catholic Church.

Monsignor directed such major improvements in the parish plant as the 'building of a substantial addition to the school, the construction of both the sisters' convent and the rectory. He was responsible for the purchase of sites, and the construction of the initial church building of Our Lady of Fatima parish and of the St. Patrick parish complex. He also directed the building of a new chapel at Midwest.

In addition to his appointment as vicar general, Monsignor O'Reilly was made a domestic prelate with the title of Monsignor by Pope Pius XII in 1952. In 1965 he was appointed as a protonotary apostolic. (see 1965). He was chairman of the Liturgical Commission, a member of the Ecumenical Commission, and was one of the founders and the first president of St. Joseph's Society for sick and retired priests.

Monsignor announced that he would continue to serve as vicar general and as a member of the consultor-senate of the diocese. He also said that he would retain his residence in Casper and would live at 604 So. Durbin St.

The Catholic community will long remember and be grateful for the devoted service of Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly.

[11] On Thursday, August 15, 1968, Bishop Newell announced that the Rev. Charles Brady, pastor of St. Matthew's Church, Gillette, would replace Monsignor O'Reilly as pastor of St. Anthony's parish.

Father Brady was born in County Cavin, Ireland on February 25, 1924. He studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Cavin, and St. Peter's College, Wexford and was ordained on June 10, 1949.

Coming to Wyoming in the fall of 1949, he was assigned to St. Anthony's parish where he served as assistant to Monsignor O'Reilly for three years. While at St. Anthony's Father Brady established and was the first chaplain of the Anthonians which was for many years a popular organization for Catholic young people.

In 1952 Father Brady was appointed assistant pastor of Saint Joseph's parish, Rawlins, and remained there until 1954 when he became assistant superintendent of St. Joseph's Orphanage.

Father Brady assumed the pastorate of St. Matthew's parish, Gillette in 1959. He was very active in community and interfaith activities and directed the construction of a large catechetical center and social hall. Father was also consistently involved in diocesan youth activities.

At all the Masses on August 27, 1968, Father Brady introduced himself as the new pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Casper.

During the summer of 1968 several substantial improvements were made in St. Anthony's school. These included a lighting system, cable television outlets in each classroom, audio-visual equipment, [12] listening centers, and a science room and laboratory. Plans were begun for future improvements to be made during the summer of 1969.

On October 1, 1968 St. Anthony's Parent-Teacher Organization replaced St. Anthony's Mothers' Club. The new organization proved most effective and its success was based upon the standing committee operation and the energetic involvement of both mothers and fathers.

The first officers and committee chairman lent invaluable leadership and cooperation to the project. They were: Warren "Cy" Wallace, president; Mrs. George Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. John Ellbogen, secretary; Charles Curtis, treasurer; Mrs. M. Joseph Burke, spiritual development chairman; Bill Butler, financial chairman; Lee Miller, athletic chairman; Mrs. Dennis Knopik, school plant chairman; Dr. William Harris, health and safety chairman; Mrs. Donald Ackerman, home and school chairman; Miss Mary Lovrien, publicity chairman.

The city-wide census of Catholic homes took place on October 6, 1968. Once the census was completed, evaluation was begun to determine the spiritual and educational needs of the city's Catholic population. Testing of St. Anthony's School students and evaluation of the school plant etc. took place simultaneously.

Members of the evaluation committee included: Monsignor William H. Jones, superintendent of education in the Archdiocese of Denver; Monsignor T. F. O'Reilly; Father Charles Brady, pastor of St. Anthony's; Sister Maureen Whalen, principal of St. Anthony's School; Robert Tripeny, general chairman; Mrs. Jan Wilking, co-[13]chairman and president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women; and Rev. Angel Ornelas, St. Anthony's.

1969

Pastor: Reverend Charles Brady

Assistants: Reverend Michael Carr

Reverend Vincent Langfield

Principal of St. Anthony's School: Sister Maureen Whalen, B.V.M.

Number of students enrolled in St. Anthony's School: three hundred eighty-nine.

In May of 1969, the results of the parish evaluation and school study were presented to all interested parishioners from the three Casper Parishes.

Recommendations of the evaluation committee included a CCD center to be headed by Reverend Angel Ornelas on the secondary level and the Benedictine Sisters from Rapid City, South Dakota on the elementary level. The center was to be operated from St. Patrick's School. C.Y.O. activities for the three parishes would also be combined.

[14] St. Anthony School would continue to operate grades one through eight subject to periodic review concerning retention of the seventh and eighth grades.

During the spring and summer of 1969 the Church was completely renovated, redecorated, and painted. The total project was completed at a cost of \$27,859.54. New bathroom facilities were installed. The choir loft was redone. The floors were tiled and carpeted. New front doors replaced the old ones. The pews were stripped and restored to the original dark oak finish. Mr. Jan V. T. Wilking was the architect for the project.

St. Anthony school was redecorated. All the classrooms and halls were painted. The hallways were carpeted to cut down on the noise. The playground was surfaced and fenced. Recreational equipment was installed and courts were painted. The bathrooms in the older section of the building were completely renovated. The cost of the school improvements was \$26,915,46.

In the Fall of 1969 there were three series of meetings scheduled. All parishioners and parents were invited to attend. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss and evaluate the advisability of continuing the seventh and eighth grades. The Most Reverend Hubert M. Newell attended the final meeting at which time it was determined by an almost unanimous vote to continue the seventh and eighth grades for three years.

The month of August 1969 saw the culmination of a long awaited project: the official opening of the North Side Center. The finances for the Center were accumulated from the freewill offerings of many of the citizens of Casper and from bequeathments from James F. McVaney, Larry Burke, and Margaret Brattis. The Center building, located at

North Durbin and H Streets, consists of office facilities, three classrooms and a well-child clinic. The total cost of renovation was \$15,608.19. St. Anthony's parishioners and clergy and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary have made the Center a great success.

[15] The Center is operated in close conjunction with all welfare agencies, the Unemployed Commission, and many other charitable organizations to make many services available to needy families. Some of these services include the well-child care program; nutrition and budget planning for low income families; adult education; instruction in the use and care of household appliances; counseling and guidance for all ages; cooking and sewing; and religious instruction for Catholic children of the area.

In the Fall of 1969, Mr. M. Joseph Burke was appointed to replace Charles A. Cullen who resigned because of ill health. The dedicated work of both Charles Cullen and John Casey has always been appreciated and will always be remembered. Their assistance to Monsignor O'Reilly was invaluable.

Throughout the school year the P. T. O. continued to operate most effectively under the leadership of Warren "Cy" Wallace, president; Mrs. George Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. John Ellbogen, secretary; Charles Curtis, treasurer; Bill Butler, finance chairman; Mrs. John W. MacGuire, Home and school chairman; Lee Miller, Athletic Chairman; Dr. William Harris, Health and Safety chairman; Mrs. Peter Goedicke, Publicity chairman; Marvin Wilson, School plant chairman; and Mrs. Jerry Hinds, Spiritual development chairman.

[16] This history would not be complete without an expression of gratitude to the many parishioners who have given their time and support to C.C.D., C.Y.O. and other parish activities. A special thanks is due to the past presidents of both Mothers' Club and the Altar and Rosary Society.

#### MOTHERS' CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS:

1960-61 ..... Mrs. Ray O'Brien

1961-65 ..... Mrs. F. H. Haigler

1965-64 ..... Mrs. Aldo A. Dona

1964-65 ..... Mrs. Harold Schmidt

1965-66 ..... Mrs. Charles Gray

1966-6? ..... Mrs. C. E. Stransky

1967-68 ..... Mrs. Fred Kemme and Mrs. George Johnson

1968 ..... Mrs. Hugh J. Bryan

#### ALTAR AND ROSARY PAST PRESIDENTS

The following ladies served as Presidents between 1960 and 1969:

Mrs. Frank Bowron

Mrs. Hugh Bryan

Mrs. Denis Daly

[17] With the continued support of the parishioners the next decade promises many great spiritual and apostolic achievements.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who helped make this history possible, especially Father Brady, Monsignor Thomas F.O'Reilly, and the Sisters of Charity, B.V.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Edward P. McCarthy

## **Casper St. Anthony 1970-1980 Pat McCarthy**

### **Casper St. Anthony**

**1970-1980**

### **Pat McCarthy**

The parish history for St. Anthony's Catholic Church of Casper for the years 1970 - 1980 inclusive follows:

This decade of the parish life records many significant changes. August 15, 1980 marked the 60th anniversary of the present church building. Father Charles Brady was named the new pastor on August 27, 1968, to replace Msgr. Thomas F. O'Reilly, V.G., who retired as pastor but continued until his death on March 22, 1974, to serve the diocese as Vicar General. On August 10, 1969, the North Side Center was dedicated and the first director, Sister Catherine Milder was named in June 1970.

Within a few months of Fr. Brady's taking charge of the parish, he made extensive improvements in both the church and school, and had purchased the property on the corner of H and Durbin Street for what was to become the North Side Center. The Center served many functions, Mass was said on Sunday, the "well-baby" clinic, sewing classes, and some social welfare was conducted from the Center. In 1972, Fr. Brady established the Bargain Shop, which operated until 1976 on McKinley Street. During the summer of 1972, he fulfilled his ambition of building a Grotto in honor of Our Lady. A long needed Parish Hall was purchased at 606 South David in 1976.

Sr. Maureen Whalen was assigned as principal at St. Anthony School in 1967 and served until 1975 when she was elected to the office of Regional Representative for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in this area. Sister Janice Mary Pertle generously accepted the post as principal and served in this post until 1980 when it became necessary for all of the sisters who were teaching to accept teaching positions or school graduate training closer to the Motherhouse. In May of 1980, the fifty-three years of the Sister's teaching at St. Anthony School came to an end and a new principal, Mr. Daniel Quill, became the first lay principal in the long history of the school. In 1980, the faculty of St. Anthony's became a complete lay faculty.

At the request of Bishop Newell, Father Lawrence Etchingham was transferred from St. Patrick's Church in Casper, to become the next pastor at St. Anthony in June of 1977. That same year, Fr. Etchingham renovated the sanctuary in the church, replacing the

temporary altar with a new marble altar to match the decor of the beautiful sanctuary. The following year, a new public address system was installed in the church.

Because of the excessive cost of education, in 1978, St. Anthony School introduced "negotiated tuition." Each family was asked to pay what they could afford for the actual cost of educating each child, which was estimated to be \$450.00 per student. Most parents accepted this reality and the excessive deficit spending for the school slowly began to turn around. By 1980, parents were assuming a substantial share of the cost of education and requested that the ninth grade be added to the school. An increase in enrollment of over sixty students demonstrated the concern the parish has for their community parochial school. During the year of 1980, energy saving windows and doors were installed throughout the school at a cost of \$94,000.

The convent that was built in 1954 to house some thirty nuns was closed in 1980. A smaller convent to house five sisters was established at 604 South Durbin, and presently two sisters live in this convent. One administers to the aging of the parish, the other teaches private piano lessons. It is hoped that in the future, additional sisters will find a desire to serve in parish administration.

The first parish council was established in 1978 and has assisted the pastor in many important parochial decisions. In 1980, the building known as North Side Center became the headquarters for the St. Vincent de Paul Salvage Center. This lay administered society serves a need for the entire community of Casper.

With a continued growth of the parish, it became obvious that the present parish hall was not adequate. It was decided that plans which had been considered many years earlier be explored to establish the parish hall in the basement of the church. The parish hall was sold for \$200,000, and a contract let for \$194,000 for the renovation of the church basement to house the parish hall. It is estimated that the new parish hall will be 25% larger than the old hall and much more convenient.

During the past five years, the City of Casper has shown considerable growth due to the exploration for new energy to serve the needs of our country. As the city grows, thought must be given to establishing new parishes. Property was bought west of the city in the Red Butte area in 1976. It is planned that additional sites will be purchased in the near future for additional growth to the community.

## **CASPER St. Anthony's Parish 1980-1990 Called to Serve**

### **CASPER St. Anthony's Parish 1980–1990 “ Called to Serve”**

From 1977 to 1983, Msgr. Lawrence Etchingham served as pastor of St. Anthony's Church. In early 1983, Msgr. Etchingham was named Chancellor for the Diocese and transferred to his new ministry in Cheyenne. That March, Msgr. James O'Neill came to Casper from Cheyenne, where he had served as pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral for almost 20 years. In addition to serving as pastor of St. Anthony's, Msgr. O'Neill was Vicar General of the Diocese and Dean of the Casper Deanery throughout the decade.

#### **Parish Staff**

Msgr. O'Neill was greeted by Father Ed Dolinar and Father Vernon Clark. Serving as parish secretary was Carol Edgeworth. Father Michael Hellman (ordained May 27, 1983) joined the staff when Vern Clark went to Catholic University. Trish and Bob Pushaw joined the staff in July, 1983, as Religious Education Coordinator and Youth Minister and remained until 1985.

In November 1983, the parish finance committee began looking for a business manager. They requested a Brother of Holy Cross and in September 1984, Brother Edward Dailey became the new parish administrator. Seminarian Patrick Birkle served the parish in the summer of 1984 and was followed by Deacon Terry Hruska in September, 1984. Fr. Terry had been ordained a deacon May 18, 1983 at St. Mary's Cathedral. He was ordained a priest on November 29, 1984.

Bill Houston followed Trish Pushaw as Religious Education Director and Danny Brock followed Bob as Youth Minister. In 1985, Fr. Ed left the parish and in 1986, Fr. Terry was transferred to Our Lady of Fatima Church. In September 1986, Brother Edward left the parish to become Secretary General for the Brothers of Holy Cross. He was replaced by Brother Raymond Phillips. In 1987, the parish was down to only two priests, where previously it had been served by two priests and a deacon. Serving in the parish offices were Louise Macken and Mary Kay O'Brien. Janet Bourdet replaced Danny Brock as youth minister.

Deacon Thomas Cronkleton, Jr. came to St. Anthony's in 1986. St. Anthony's was his first assignment. He was ordained on December 29, 1986. Fr. Tom was young and enthusiastic about the priesthood and an asset to parish. Father Michael remained as a priest-in-residence, serving the Diocese as Vocations Director. Seminarian Peter Johnson came to St. Anthony's in June of 1987. On June 4, 1988, he was ordained a deacon. Father Tom was transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral in Cheyenne in May 1989. His dream was to study Canon Law.

From September to December, 1988, Msgr. O'Neill attended a program of liturgy for the clergy in Rome. His substitute was Fr. Roger Schmidt, OSB. Father Roger was transferred to Newman Center in Laramie in 1990. Msgr. O'Neill and Father Carl Gallinger brought the parish into the new decade assisted by Brother Raymond Phillips, Sr. Janice Hasselo, and parish secretary Mary Heim.

## Sisters

In May 1980, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary announced it would be necessary for many of their order to accept teaching positions or graduate school training closer to the Motherhouse in Dubuque, Iowa. St. Anthony's convent, once built to house some 30 nuns was closed to eventually become the Catholic Conference Center. A house at 604 S. Durbin was put into service to house the five remaining sisters in Casper.

In 1983, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated the 150th anniversary of their order. Though only 3 nuns were left in Casper (Sister Mary Reparata Hartnagle, Sr. Mary Prudentius Fuller, and Sr. Mary St. Luke Belus), they so shaped its Catholic life that a concelebrated mass was offered, attended by other BVMs serving in the diocese.

On Friday, October 5, 1984, Sister Mary Reparata Hartnagle celebrated her Golden Jubilee with the BVM order. She was honored with a Mass and reception at the church. Sr. Reparata spent 25 years teaching music at St. Anthony's School and has served as an office assistant since 1982. The Reparata Conference Room at St. Anthony's school is a tribute to her extraordinary life of service.

In 1984, Sr. Mary Prudentius Fuller, minister of pastoral care to the sick and elderly for 12 years, retired to California. She received a trip to Lourdes from the parish council. Sr. Helen Louise Young, BVM, took her place as minister to the ill and infirm. Sr. Mary St. Luke Belus is in charge of the media center at the Catholic Conference Center

Sr. Ramona Negrette of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi served the Hispanic population of St. Anthony's (see Hispanic Ministry) until she was transferred to Japan. Sisters Mary Judith Brown and Mary Genevieve Cavanaugh serve the senior citizens of Casper at St. Anthony Manor.

Sister Janice Hasselo is a member of the Sinsinawa Dominican order. In August, 1984, Sr. Janice became involved in pastoral ministry at St. Anthony's Parish. In February of 1987, she became Pastoral Associate of St. Anthony's and is Director of Adult Religious Education. Sister Janice has a Master of Theology degree from the University of San Francisco and many years experience in teaching elementary school and high school. Sr. Janice is blessed with wisdom in theological matters. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee in May 1989.

### Parish Council

In 1980, Fr. Etchingham instituted the first Parish Council to assist him in his duties as pastor. In 1983, the council consisted of chair-persons of different organizations within the church. During 1984, the parish assessed its needs and hired a parish administrator, youth minister, religious education director, director for Hispanic needs, adult education coordinator, and principal and vice principal for the school. This was done to better serve the parish. The council then challenged the parishioners to better support the necessary programs.

In March 1986, the Parish Council was restructured based on Diocesan guidelines. There were 8 elected members and 3 appointed members by May 1986. In keeping with the new Code of Canon Law a Finance Committee was appointed so the Parish Council no longer had to be involved in the finances of the parish. The Parish Council would be concerned with ministry in the parish and outreach.

In September 1988, the Parish Council participated in a retreat to enhance their spirituality, communications, sense of belonging, shared responsibility, hospitality, awareness of parish needs, and affirmation. The retreat enabled them to set priorities for the coming year and assume greater responsibility in decision making with regards to pastoral programs to meet the needs of the parish.

### Finance Committee

The responsibility of the Finance Committee is to insure that the parish operation continues on a sound financial basis. They oversee financial matters and adopt a budget

for each fiscal year. They provide suggestions when ordinary income is not taking care of current expenses.

In 1985, the Finance Committee decided that parish pledging will be concurrent with the Programs for People Campaign and that the parish will have separate pledging for capital improvements. A capital fund raising project for Shepherd's Staff building was begun. The budget was cut according to a set of priorities provided by the Parish Council.

In January 1986, the Finance Committee voted to maintain the existing parish ministries but not take on additional ones. In October a 1% Sharing Program was initiated. One percent of the parish's ordinary income would be donated to the Hanna/Saratoga parish. A Parish Development Committee was formed to encourage stewardship in the parish. Ministry representatives spoke at each of the masses to tell the parishioners what different areas the church is involved in.

In January 1989, St. Anthony's implemented "Target 25" a professional program to raise the financial giving of parishioners in keeping with inflation.

### Liturgical Committee

In 1983, each of the different ministries had a chair-person. St. Anthony's had lectors, Eucharistic ministers to bring the Eucharist to the homebound, greeters, and ushers. These ministers of hospitality, the Word and the Eucharist are thoroughly trained and renewed through workshops and evenings of prayer. St. Anthony's holds Information Fairs (presenting 27 ministries) as a very successful annual event.

In 1984, a liturgy committee was formed to see to the full implementation of the directions of the 2nd Vatican Council to bring about greater involvement of people in ministry. In December, 1985, St. Anthony's had an active liturgy committee, 42 lectors, 50 Eucharistic ministers, and candeliers were introduced into the parish. By the end of the decade 2 lectors, 7 Eucharistic ministers, 2 servers, 2 candeliers, 4 ushers, and music ministers were present at each of the five weekend masses.

### Ministering to the Church Family

#### Special Liturgies

In December 1983, Bishop Joseph Hart celebrated the Christmas liturgy on December 19th so it could be shown on local television Christmas Eve. Beginning in January 1984,

weekly Sunday morning Mass was televised for shut-ins at 8:30, pre-taped by priests throughout the diocese.

In December 1986, the Parish Council felt the need to develop a "Welcome Back Program" for alienated Catholics as a long term goal after the Centennial Celebration. An annual Welcome Home Mission was developed to encourage alienated and non-practicing Catholics to return to the Church family and provide an on-going conversion experience for regular parishioners. The first Welcome Home Mission was held Sunday-Thursday, March 12-16, 1989. The themes were Coming Home to Yourself, Coming Home to Others, Coming Home to God, and Celebration of the Mass of Reconciliation. The mission was publicized over radio, TV, the newspapers, and posters. Information and answers to questions were prepared. Invitations were sent out and van transportation provided. Greeters, hospitality ministers, and special music all served to make people feel at home.

In March 1987, Father Patrick Shea became the first grandfather ever ordained at St. Anthony's Church. A widower, Father Shea chose to devote his remaining years to God. His first assignment was St. Margaret's in Riverton.

In July 1989, St. Anthony's Parish celebrated the Casper Centennial with Mass in City Park. Many, many people came to give thanks and praise to God despite temperatures over 100 degrees.

### Healing masses

In 1984, the parish began to hold services for the anointing of the sick. By 1986 communal anointing masses were held with participation from the other parishes and welcomed persons of all faiths. Persons from nursing homes are brought on buses to attend. In March 1986 Fr. Stephan Barnum held a Healing Mass at St. Anthony's. In Spring 1987, he taught a Life in the Spirit Seminar. He returned again in October, 1987.

### Prayer Groups

The Shalom Prayer Group is a charismatic group that meets to sing and pray each month in O'Reilly Hall. Pax Christi is group of parishioners promoting peace. Many parishioners are involved in Right to Life. Small home prayer groups continue as an offshoot of the Renew Program.

### Family Life

In September 1983, Charlie and Rosemary Greer started serving coffee and donuts after Mass on the first Sunday of each month as a means of getting families from the parish acquainted with each other. In December 1986, a nursery was started during Sunday morning masses. Brother Raymond Phillips expanded the coffee fellowship by providing cinnamon rolls and by February 1987, the Sunday morning coffee fellowship was self-supporting. Brother Ray again expanded into providing a full breakfast as a way of raising funds for the parish and the Brothers' work with the poor. The breakfast fellowship is always well attended and has greatly enhanced the concept of the parish as family.

In February 1986, the parish began to hold a "Rainbows for all God's Children Program" for children who have experienced death or divorce in their family. In September 1987 the parish began holding annual Married Couples Celebrations including Mass followed by a dinner and dance. In June 1987, Parish picnics were begun, later to become tri-parish picnics.

Ed and Pat McCarthy developed a Family Life Ministry including: marriage preparation and enrichment, engaged encounters, Natural Family Planning, communication, the parent-share process, and couple celebrations. The ministry expanded throughout the Diocese.

## Ministries

In 1980, St. Anthony's Altar and Rosary Society changed its name to St. Anthony's Council for Catholic Women. It is affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women. The members provide service to the community like dinners for the bereaved on the occasion of a funeral service. There are several committees including a legislative committee. They are responsible for the parish museum.

In 1983, the Social Concerns Committee was handling concerns like Seniors needing storm windows. By 1986 the members were offering their homes to people in need. In 1985, a group of parishioners called "Christ's Closet" started providing clothing giveaways for the poor of the community. From 1985 to 1989 they held fund drives, dinners, and crafts sales to raise money to buy toys for needy children at Christmas. They made dolls and cradles and provided food baskets for hungry families,

In 1983, Sr. Mary Prudentius made the Regal Club available to the Seniors in the community. She ministered to the sick and elderly assisted by Brother Daniel and Brenda Wilking who made home and hospital calls. By 1987 the average attendance at the Regal Club was 65-70. The ministry serves over 100 people.

In March, 1987, Perpetual Adoration was established and the cry room made into a Chapel of Adoration.

St. Anthony's is blessed with several fine music ministers. In April, 1989, Mary Diesburg and Penny Smith became the duo "Spirit Sound" and recorded the tape "Dear One".

### Hispanic Ministry

September 1983 brought Sr. Ramona, of the order of St. Francis, to Casper. She is a native of Fort Laramie, from St. Rose Parish in Torrington. Sr. Ramona served as pastoral minister in order to integrate the Spanish people into the Christian community of Casper. Approximately 2000 Hispanics live in Casper. Parish leaders assisting Sr. Ramona were Cleo Martinez, Benny Isais, and Frances Eccles.

In 1983, there were 15 Hispanic children in CCD and 58 families registered in the parish. Needs of Hispanic community included; adult education in religion, church teachings, liturgy, sacraments, young adult programs, bilingual masses, prayer groups, social services, legal services, hospital visits, home visits, jail visits, nursing home visits, spiritual counseling, psychological counseling, and marriage counseling. Also needed was training for priests and religious to work to unite the Hispanics among themselves healing hurts.

Since 1981, Spanish Masses have been offered once a month. But more emphasis was needed on sacramental occasions. Now each September the Hispanic community celebrates the Fiesta which coincides with the Day of Mexican Independence. In December the community offers a special Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Hispanics participated in RENEW.

In 1983, 200 Hispanic and non-Hispanic persons participated in the Mass and fiesta of Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Over 300 persons were contacted through visits and phone calls. In October 1986, Sr. Ramona started a core committee of the three parishes to plan events for the Hispanic Community. In 1986, 175 people participated in las Posadas, the re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's pilgrimage to Bethlehem to find lodging

The parish began a regularly scheduled Spanish Mass in January 1987 on the last Sunday of each month at 11:30 am. It is a bilingual service and provides the opportunity to understand and grow with the Hispanic Catholic traditions. The rosary is also prayed at 11:00 before the Spanish Mass.

Sr. Ramona served as Hispanic Minister until 1988, when she accepted a assignment to Tokyo, Japan. During the five years she served in Casper, Sr. Ramona strove meet the goal of the Spanish-speaking Apostolate to provide spiritual, cultural, and social nourishment for Hispanic Catholics, to surface the needs of the Hispanic community and bring about Hispanic Catholic leadership within the diocese. Her goal was “to make every effort to integrate Hispanic people of all ages in the on going life of the parish.”

Sr. Ramona was replaced by Carol Green, a teacher with great love of Mexican culture, tradition, music, and history. Carol was the Hispanic Minister for both St. Anthony’s and St. Patrick’s. Carol strove to carry out the Bishop’s Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry to more fully incorporate the Hispanic community without losing their heritage and roots while sharing their cultural identity with other groups through interaction for greater understanding. Carol prepared the monthly liturgy for Spanish masses, conducted bible studies in Spanish and coordinated lectors, musicians, and the Hispanic Choir.

In 1988, a Religious Survey of North Casper was completed in cooperation with Winter Memorial Church. The survey found that many Hispanic families are no longer Catholic but attend Sonlight [sic] Ministries or other Pentecostal churches. Parishioners attending monthly Hispanic ministry meetings are very concerned about members who have left the church.

In May 1989, St. Anthony’s hosted the statewide Catholic Hispanic Ministry (formerly the Spanish Apostolate Board). In 1989, a tri-parish Spanish choir was formed.

### Ministering to the Casper Community

#### North Side Center

North Side Center was founded in 1970, by Sister Cathy Milder, a BVM nun who taught at St. Anthony’s School. She was very concerned about the poor. The Center was established to assist residents of North Casper and expanded to serve anyone who came to the center with compassion and love with no restriction to race, color, or creed. After 10 years of directing the center and raising money for those in need. Sister returned to college to obtain a Masters in Education.

At Sr. Cathy’s request, Kathryn Tripeny became director of the center in May, 1980. The Center receives \$800 yearly from the parishes. Kathryn is a volunteer. Money for the phone, postage, and copies are taken from the budget. The remainder is used for

meeting community needs. A major portion comes from the St. Vincent De Paul Store and donations. By the time North Side Center is asked for help, no other agency has been able to help. Assistance is provided for medical travel, utilities, medical and dental assistance, prescriptions, layettes, motels, special needs, rent, gas, shoes, and occasionally college textbooks. Interfaith keeps duplication to a minimum and Holy Cross Center meets food needs.

### St. Vincent de Paul Store

In 1980, the North Side Center building was converted into the headquarters for the St. Vincent de Paul Salvage Center. The Center is a lay-administered society run by volunteers who serve a need for the entire community of Casper. St. Vincent's offers second hand clothing appliances, and other goods at bargain prices. The store is staffed by director Phyliss Coleman who is always organizing, rearranging, and repairing merchandise for sale. She is assisted by volunteers who devote many hours to running the store and serving its customers in a friendly fashion. In 1983, 4792 persons received help from St. Vincent's. The money earned at St. Vincent's is donated to Northside Center, Holy Cross Center, Seton House, and Interfaith Clearinghouse.

### Interfaith Clearing House

In 1983, Msgr. O'Neill served on an ecumenical board of all the service agencies. In October, the Brothers of Holy Cross recommended a referral system to direct people in need to the services available in the community. In December 1983, the interfaith council met to form a clearing house of services. The interfaith council suggested the Brothers of Holy Cross be given top consideration to facilitate this needed service in Casper. It was hoped they would investigate it and it would materialize. In October 1984, Brother Robert headed the Interfaith Task Force. In January 1985, Interfaith Clearinghouse began under the direction of Joyce Bryan and Barbara Pringle.

### Holy Cross Brothers

On August 10, 1982, five Holy Cross Brothers came to Casper to serve the poor through St. Anthony's Parish. A home was set up for them at 645 S. David. Brother Gerard started their ministry by providing food for the poor. Brother Robert helped establish Interfaith Clearinghouse. Bro. Daniel served in Ministry to the Aged. Brother Edward served as parish administrator.

In May 1986, Bro. Raymond Phillips became the physical plant supervisor and worked part time at the school. Brother Daniel accepted a new assignment and Brother Richard

assumed his duties to the sick and elderly. In September, Bro. Edward left St. Anthony's to accept a new assignment as General Secretary for Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome. A reception was held after Mass on Sept. 28th.

Brother Ray became parish administrator following Brother Edward. His December 1989 state of parish report included many repairs on the church property. He started a physical plant file and checklist for operative and preventative maintenance, a semi-annual inspection file, and renovated the kitchen in O'Reilly hall at reduced cost.

### Holy Cross Center

In September 1983, Brother Gerard gave away 223 bags of groceries and served 400 people. He distributed 2883 bags of groceries in the 15 months between October 1982 and December 1983. He founded Holy Cross Center at 841 North Durbin with the donation of a freezer and 300 pounds of meat.

Brother Francis Kjeldgaard came to Casper in 1985 to replace Brother Gerard at Holy Cross Center. The need for food continued to grow and by 1987 the Center was very active with 6000 people being given groceries. Toward the end of the decade over 10,000 people were being served each year.

In November 1988, Holy Cross Center moved from a one room facility on Durbin Street to 239 East H street. The new building had a total of 3109 sq. ft. There were offices in the front to serve clients and warehouse type storage in the back. The new building was dedicated 01 January 21, 1989, by Bishop Hart who was assisted by the clergy of other churches in Casper. Over 100 people attended.

In 1988, an advisory board was organized to assist Holy Cross Center with development and management. The amount of food being distributed was doubled by using foods obtained at a major food bank in Cheyenne. By May 1988, families were given 12 meals worth of food and as of May 1989, they were receiving enough food for 21 meals. The number of volunteers assisting Bro. Francis has doubled.

In December 1989, Msgr. O'Neill incorporated Holy Cross Center as a non-profit corporation with an ecumenical Board of Directors, making the entire Christian community responsible for the ministry of Holy Cross Center.

Seton House -

The Brothers of Holy Cross serve on the Human Services Commission Task Force for the Poor and Homeless. In the Fall of 1988, they began looking for a building suitable for expanding their ministry to include the homeless. In July 1989, the Brothers received a donation of a seven unit apartment building through the Church of St. Anthony for their work in serving the poor.

Brother Raymond Phillips founded Seton House, an emergency / transitional housing facility for homeless women and children and began renovations immediately. Brother Ray gathered a team of professional volunteers from the three parishes in Casper. They completed the Manager's House, Seton House's exterior, the basement laundry facility and recreation room, and the three main floor apartments in November 1989. Seton House opened on December 5, 1989.

Mary Patrick, who was serving as St. Anthony's Resource Coordinator, developed the social services programs for the shelter, organized its management system, and coordinated the fund-raising efforts necessary to complete and operate the shelter. In December 1989, Brother Raymond incorporated Mother Seton Housing, Inc., a non-profit organization, to direct Seton House. The Board hired Mary as Executive Director, and Seton House became totally independent. The Brothers and their volunteers continued to renovate the building and the four upstairs apartments opened in May, 1990. It has been full to capacity ever since.

## Our Houses Rebuilt

### Physical Plant

In November 1986 an intercom and public address system were installed in the church with jacks in the choir loft and vestibule, a new amplifier, and a higher microphone on the ambo. In October 1987 a special collection was taken to resurface the blacktop of the parking lot. A beautiful new Alien Organ was donated to the church and the front right section of the church was redesigned to accommodate it\*

### Shepherd's Staff Fire

In 1984, the building at 604 S. Center was purchased to house the parish offices because of poor economic conditions in Wyoming, 1985 and 1986 were financially tough years for St. Anthony's. Mary Hagood gave a donation to the school and shortly after donated a huge sum to pay off the outstanding mortgage on the Shepherd's Staff building. A plaque therein honors Mary Hagood and her exceptional devotion to the church. She was a special friend to St. Anthony's, she offered sparkle and hope in troubled times.

Disaster struck in November 1986, when someone broke into the Shepherd's Staff building where the St. Anthony's staff had their offices, piled many church records and files and old pictures in the hallway and set them afire. Damage was assessed at \$150,000. Many records that might have been included in this history were destroyed.

The fire was traumatic for the staff as it destroyed many of their personal belongings. It was fortunate that all parish records, while tinged, were salvageable. The parish still has records of baptisms, confirmations, first communions, and marriages. The staff was temporarily quartered at the Catholic Conference Center until remodeling was completed in May 1987. The building was redesigned by Dick O'Hearn and Brother Raymond, and includes a conference room for meetings and adult education programs. The carved wooden doors symbolize the faith of the people within.

### Rectory

The rectory was remodeled in 1984, with changes in the heating system and plant design.

### Catholic Conference Center

The building was constructed in 1955, as a convent to house the Sisters at St. Anthony's School and eventually those who would teach at the catholic high school the parishes hoped would be built. But changes came and most of the Sisters returned to Iowa. The convent, once built to house some 30 nuns, was closed to eventually become the Catholic Conference Center.

In January 1981, the 32 bedrooms began to be used for Marriage Encounters, Engaged Encounters, men's and ladies' retreats, Priests Institutes, Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings, finance committee meetings, as well as gatherings of the Wyoming Council of Catholic Women and the Priest's Senate, Lay Ministry Formation, and Adults in Ministry to Youth. The Center became "home away from home" for traveling priests and sisters, and provides accommodations for special events like weddings, ordinations, funerals, and even family reunions.

The Center dining room accommodates 50 people and the basement houses a large meeting room which accommodates 50 people. The lounge in the basement which holds 20 people, hosts weeknight groups such as AA, ACOA, and the Alliance for the Mentally 111. The building served as temporary offices of the St. Anthony's staff while the Shepherd Staff building was being restored. In 1983, the main floor bedrooms and living room were converted into offices for the centralized Diocesan offices of Catholic Social Services, Youth Ministry, Family Services, Lay Ministry, Planned Giving, and the

Diocesan Education Office including the library and media center. The upper floors still provide accommodations for Marriage Encounters, retreats, and visiting priests and religious.

### St. Anthony's Manor

One of Msgr. O'Neill's first tasks was to oversee the final phase of construction of the St. Anthony Manor. The building was dedicated December 18, 1983. Bishop Hart officiated at the opening ceremony. St. Anthony Manor is the first federally funded, church sponsored housing complex for the elderly. The eight story structure contains sixty-four subsidized one-bedroom apartments for the elderly and handicapped. A modern retirement residence, the Manor provides a safe tranquil, happy atmosphere for its residents and is lovingly guided by Sisters Mary Judith Brown and Mary Genevieve Cavanaugh, Sisters of Loretto. The residents can help with service projects, attend socials participate in arts and crafts projects, or work out in the exercise room.

### Religious Education

#### CCD

The parish has a successful program of family-based preparation for First Eucharist. The concept of Eucharistic Community brings the entire family into the Church and understanding of Eucharist, as the family works with their child through their first communion preparation.

In January 1987, a Religious Education Certification Program was begun. Persons interested in becoming religious education instructors began the 3 year program leading to certification.

### Youth Ministry

In September 1983, Trish and Bob Pushaw began recruiting religious education teachers and developing the youth ministry program. In October 1983, service projects for the parish youth included a clothing drive for the needy. The youth had a special All Saints Day and Thanksgiving liturgy. A Thanksgiving food drive and Starve-a-thon raised over \$300 and hundreds of cans of food for Holy Cross Center, They performed a Christmas play and liturgy service, decorated the Manor and helped with Santa House. Youth participated in CYO basketball and volleyball and held Christmas tree sales to raise money for a ski trip to Jackson.

In June 1985, Danny Brock took over as parish youth minister and continued to build the program. In December 1986, Janet Bourdett became the parish youth minister. 60 youth attended the Youth Spring Festival. In 1989, Phyllis Jones began to serve as both Religious Education Director and Youth Minister.

### Adult Education

In December 1983, the parish realized a need for an Adult Religious Education Coordinator. Parishioners were interested in scripture classes and classes on the modern presentation of the faith. Mary Harris served as a resource person in the catechetical department of the school and offered materials to parents to coordinate what was being taught in the religious education program of the school and CCD classes.

In January 1984, the parish began a search for full-time adult education coordinator. By February, the Inquiry classes taught by Father Ed and Mary Harris had reached approximately 70 people. In March 1984, Sr. Janice Hasselo was hired as the adult religious education coordinator for the parish. Mary Harris began to teach full-time at St. Anthony's School. The 1986, fire destroyed all of the parish's adult religious education materials. In March 1987, Sr. Janice began to replace the materials and with the help of Mary Patrick, developed a Parish Resource Center. The Center contains library books and videos on religion, spirituality, and personal growth. Sr. Janice facilitates bible study groups, inquiry classes, and ACOA groups. Sales of See's Candies at Christmas time make it possible for the parish to buy adult education materials.

### RENEW

In October 1983, the parish was introduced to the RENEW Program. RENEW gave the parishioners the opportunity to share and spread their faith. They met in small and large groups - praying, discussing, learning more about themselves and Catholicism. In a time of financial crisis in the city, these groups offered support and faith. RENEW was especially important to the Senior members of the parish, and Spanish RENEW groups sought more information on knowing the Faith. After the groups stopped meeting formally, many friendships and prayer groups formed, and faith grew despite the population decline. RENEW had a profound and lasting effect on the lives of many Catholics.

### Lay Ministry

In September 1988, several members of St. Anthony's parish enrolled in the first Lay Ministry Formation class of the Diocese of Cheyenne. They would graduate in May

1990. The participants attended small group meetings, retreats, and did ministry practicuros to prepare for a greater role in the ministry of the Church.

### St. Anthony's School

In May of 1980, the school faced the loss of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The next school year began with a complete lay faculty and the first lay principle of St. Anthony's School, Mr. Dan Quill. Dan Quill came to the school from Brownsville, Texas. The school at this time was a kindergarten through eighth grade school, His first summer here, Mr. Quill, Father Etchingham and a number of interested parents met to discuss adding a 9th grade in September. Adding ninth grade increased school enrollment and allowed students to go directly from St. Anthony's School to the city high school.

Also started in 1980, was negotiated tuition which helped the school financially. In October 1981, the Federal Hot Lunch program was added to the school. This allowed low-income parents to apply for free and /oi reduced lunches.

Mr. Quill resigned to return to Brownsville, Texas in 1983. A nationwide search was started for a new principal. The Search Committee brought applicants in for an interview and then asked a teacher on the staff for her application for this position. She did apply and was offered the job. Mrs. Kozola had been teaching at the school since 1967. In her 16 years she had taught on all levels except kindergarten. Mary Kozola proved to be an exemplary principal earning the love and respect of parents and students alike.

In the Fall of 1983, school enrollment was at 400 students. There were also 62 preschoolers in the building next to St. Anthony's Manor. The preschool opened with a waiting list and has operated yearly with many families wishing to enroll their children. During 1983-1984, the halls were recarpeted and new lighting was added to the hallways with help from various community organizations who donated supplies.

In April 1985, a trust was established to assist with teachers salaries. Student enrollment was 360 in preschool through ninth grade 1985 and 1986 were tough years for Casper. The school received a gift of faith from parishioner, Mary C. Hagood. Having seen three children through St. Anthony's, Mrs Hagood was a firm believer in Catholic education. At a time when parochial schools were suffering financial hardship and Casper itself was in need, Mary's generosity enabled St. Anthony school to add a library, a science room, a classroom and much needed office space.

Grass was added to part of the playground as well as benches, and a wooden fence around the grass area. Trees were planted on the playground area as well as in front of the portable Reading building and on Wolcott street. Flower boxes were put up on Wolcott and on 7th Construction was completed and the St. Anthony Remodeling Project was dedicated by Bishop Hart on September 26, 1985.

The following year more computers were added to the computer lab and computer classes were held daily for students. Spanish classes were held daily for the students of grades 2-9. Religion is very much a part of the life of students at the school. Students attend Mass every Friday with each class preparing a liturgy. In February 1986 the school started a Caring and Sharing program with professional counselors for those students who are shy or have difficulty relating to others.

From 1985 to 1990, St. Anthony School continued to operate despite the drop in enrollment due to school families leaving Casper because of the decline in the oil industry. The PTO became very active during the 1983-89 years. They started a fundraiser called "the Calendar game". The parents did not want the students going door-to-door selling products so they involved only the parents in the Calendar Game. Each calendar has a registered number and that person is eligible for a prize every day of the year and a bigger prize at the end of the month with an even larger prize at the end of the year.

The PTO had a Santa House every season until 1989 (seven years) for 10 days, where each parent worked in some position. Santa House spread the true meaning of Christmas. Most pre-schools and day cares brought children to visit and many people came from surrounding communities. . People from throughout Casper came to help. This project had students from as far away as 100 miles. Each year about 5000 people stopped in to visit Santa House.

The 300 Club is a dinner dance held each year to help support the school budget. It is held in February at one of the major hotels in the city. Many past students and former parents attend. It has become the social highlight for the Catholic community of Casper. In 1989, Representative Richard Cheney was guest speaker.

St. Anthony's students have participated in the Young Authors Program and have been state winners. Students enter the Science Fairs each year and have won on the District and State levels. Grades 5-9 participate in sports programs such as volleyball, basketball, and football. The focus of the sports program is on the students participating not winning and losing. Students continue to do well in all areas of the Stanford Achievement Tests.

In February 1988, a Parent Share Program was started to help parents communicate with their children. The school participated for the first-time in the National Education Program and was one of the finalists.

In February 1989, the school incorporated as a tri-parish school with its own board of directors. The entire Catholic community will be responsible for its operation. This will also enable it to be independent and set up a trust fund to improve teachers' salaries. Ten years ago the parish provided 64% of the school's operating budget, in 1989 it provided less than 10%.

Also in February, Mary Kozola announced she was resigning from her job as principal at the end of the year. A retirement party was held at the 300 Club dinner dance. Mrs. Kozola was given the gift of a grandfather clock. In September 1989, Perry Jones became principal of St. Anthony's school.

### Celebrating Our History

#### Centennial Celebration of the Diocese of Cheyenne \* August 1987

On August 7, 1987, a two-hour historical pageant written and produced by Tom Empey of Casper and starring many of the parishioners of the three parishes of Casper, opened the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Cheyenne. Thousands of Catholics from throughout the state came to join in the celebration. The highlight of the celebration was a concelebrated Mass with the Papal Delegate and bishops from throughout the United States and several foreign countries. The Mass was celebrated on August 8th in the Casper Event Center. A special Centennial Choir led the participants in song.

Casper families provided hospitality for many visiting families. A special Centennial logo was designed by John Post, the son of Virginia Post. A special Diocesan Centennial Committee, chaired by Msgr. James O'Neill, organized the celebration and the special events leading up to and building excitement for the August finale. The event closed with an open air barbecue hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

The Centennial Celebration brought the Wyoming Church closer together, and with the beginning of a new decade, her people look forward to the future and their journey together.

### Acknowledgement

Much of the information in this history is taken from An Irish Legacy a book on

Casper's Catholic Community's first 100 years, written by Linda Doherty. We wish to thank Linda for helping us preserve our heritage.

**St. Anthony of Padua Casper 1990-2000 Sr. Mary Senglaub, OSF, Director  
of Music & Liturgy**

**St. Anthony of Padua  
Casper 1990-2000  
Sr. Mary Senglaub, OSF, Director of Music & Liturgy  
Virginia Trotter, Parish Administrator  
May 2000**

Names of clergy and religious serving during the decade and dates of service.

Msgr. James O'Neill 1983 – 3/1998

Rev. Roger Schmit prior to 1990 – 7/1990

Rev. Carl Gallinger 1/1990 – 7/1991

Rev. Ray Moss 7/1991 – 8/1993

Rev. Charlie Hardy 8/1993 – 8/1994

Rev. Ray Rodriguez 1/1995 – 6/1996

Rev. Michael Ehiemere 4/1996 – 8/1998

Rev. Cliff Jacobson 8/1996 – 7/1999

Rev. Karl Millis 7/1999 – 10/1999

Rev. Michael Carr 5/1998 – PRESENT

Rev. George Reynolds 8/1994 – 4/1996 Adult Rel. Ed & Newman Ctr.

Sr. Janice Hasselo, OP prior to 1990 – 8/1991 Pastoral Associate

12/1995 – PRESENT Counseling

Sr. Reparata Hartnagle, BVM prior to 1990 – 9/1996 Music at St. Anthony's School

Office at St. Anthony's School

Sr. Mary St. Luke Belus, BVM prior to 1990 – 8/1997 Teacher at St. Anthony's School

Diocesan AV Director

Sr. Genevieve Cavanaugh, SL prior to 1990 – 6/1996 St. Anthony's Manor Director

Sr. Judith Brown, SL prior to 1990 – 6/1996 St. Anthony's Manor Director

Sr. Mary Senglaub, OSF 8/1993 – 6/2000 Music & Liturgy Director

Bro. Richard Hurley 1/1990 – 9/1990 Nurse at Shepherd of the Valley

Bro. Martin Kleitz, SC prior to 1990 – 10/1992 Diocesan Supt. of Education

Bro. Francis Kjeldgaard, SC 1990 – PRESENT Holy Cross Food Center

Bro. Raymond Phillips, SC 1/1990 – 11/1993 Holy Cross Food Center, Parish

Administrator

Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners. (Give dates.)

Mike (& Jane) Sullivan – Wyoming State Governor 1988 - 1996

Mike & Jane Sullivan – Ambassador to Ireland 12/1998 – PRESENT  
Don Stewart – Ordained Permanent Deacon 3/1996  
Don Stewart - Knights of Columbus State Deputy 7/1996 – 6/1998  
M. Joseph Burke – Parish Trustee – 50 Years  
Verna Heisey – Sacristan – 40 Years  
Judee Basko – Sacristan – 38 Years  
Tony Haskey – Trustee of the Diocese of Cheyenne  
Laura Burbach – Diocesan Pastoral Council prior to 1990 – 1993  
Bill Coughlin – Diocesan Pastoral Council 1993 – 1999  
Wyoma Gronenberg – Diocesan Pastoral Council 1999 - PRESENT  
Ed McCarthy – DPC prior to 1990 – 1992; Exec. Secretary DPC 1992 – 1994  
Cy Wallace – Diocesan Education Board 1990 – 1995; Diocesan Finance Council 1995 -  
1996  
Mary Kozola – Longest termed Principal at St. Anthony’s School, 1983 - PRESENT;  
First School President, 1999; 1st Chair of Wyoming Catholic Principals Association,  
5/90.

Notable accomplishments by the clergy and religious. (Give dates.)

Msgr. James O’Neill – Coordinator of Diocesan Synod 1990 – 1993; Vicar General of  
Diocese of Cheyenne 1990 – 1998; Celebrated 40th Jubilee in 5/1994; Chair of the  
Centennial Committee 1998; Retired 3/1998.

Deacon Don Stewart – See #2

Sr. Mary St. Luke – Diocesan Supt. of Schools 11/1992 – 7/1993; in Casper for 24 years  
(1968-1977 and 1982-1997).

Sr. Reparata – Taught at St. Anthony’s School and Office 1956 – 1996. Celebrated 60th  
Jubilee in 9/1994.

Rev. Michael Carr – President of Presbyteral Council 1998 to PRESENT; St. Joseph  
Children’s Home Board prior to 1990 to PRESENT.

Construction - new or remodeling. (Give dates.)

Heating System 1992 – 1993

New Kneelers/Pews angled/ Platform for Music Ministry/Church Carpet/ Walls and  
Stations

Painted 1993 – 1994

Sound System Upgraded 1994 – 1995

Eaves & Gutters 1995 – 1996

Ramps & Steps Rebuilt 1997 – 1998

Chapel Renovation 1999

Carpet & Tile – O’Reilly Hall 2000

Land acquisitions. (Give dates.)

Purchased: 605 South David - November 1995

615 South David - June 1999

Pursel Property (10.321 acres) on Alcova Hwy - Sold June 1999

133 & 137 West 6th Street - January 2000

Bequests: Virginia Lange Estate acquired 8/1992; Sold 11/1998

Charles O'Malley Estate – 309 W. 8th Street acquired 3/1998; Sold 2/1999

Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

M. Joseph Burke and Don J. Swanton 1990 - 1992

M. Joseph Burke and Mary A. Price 1992 - 2000

Pastor's overview of the decade.

This decade focused, above all, on the spiritual renewal of all our parishioners. There was a great realization that parishioners needed to be ministered to from cradle to grave. Our religious education program had the vision that religious education was not to be confined to school age years, grade school through high school. Programs were put in place for adult religious education. Our RCIA Program was broadened to include those who had not received the sacraments of initiation at the usual age. An excellent educational staff was put in place. Each minister was dedicated and conscientious and gave much of themselves in reaching out to people.

The Youth Ministry at St. Anthony's made great progress during the decade. The Life Teen Mass was initiated – which became very popular, not only for the teenagers and young people of St. Anthony's, but for the entire Casper community.

Liturgy was seen for the important ministry that it is. A greater effort was made in the training of lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and liturgy planners. Workshops were held regularly with nationally known speakers. These greatly helped in the education and formation of our parishioners. St. Anthony's church was painted and renovated. The pews were refurbished, creating a more fitting setting for liturgical celebrations.

Concern for the poor and the homeless continued to be reflected by the food service at the Holy Cross Center and Seton House. The generosity of St. Anthony parishioners continued to be very commendable.

The celebration of the Centennial of St. Anthony Parish was a great opportunity for all of us to look back with gratitude to all those who have lived and worked before us and who have shared their faith with us. It was an opportunity, too, to strengthen the ties that bind us as One Body, with Jesus Christ as our Head. This has been a decade for

which we are all grateful. (Reflections of Msgr. James O'Neill-pastor of St. Anthony's parish from 1983 – 1998)

Significant parish events and programs. (Give dates.)

Synod 1990 - 1993

Annual Ministry Days 1993 – 2000. Guest Musician-Liturgists: John Foley 10/1994; Bob Hurd 9/1995; Bob Dufford 9/1996; Nick Wagner 9/1997

World Youth Day, Denver, CO 8/1993

Transitional Deaconate Ordination (Chrism Mass) Peter Johnson and Rory Schiffbauer 3/1991; Drew Duncan 3/1993; Ray Rodriguez 3/1994; Bruce Clapham and James Schumacher 3/1995; Karl Millis 3/1999.

Msgr. James O'Neill – 40th Jubilee 5/23/1994

Sr. Reparata Hartnagle – 60th Jubilee 9/1994

Sr. St. Luke Belus – Golden Jubilee 2/4/1996

Sr. St. Luke Belus – Farewell and Celebration of 70 years BVM Service to St. Anthony's School – 8/1997

Msgr. James O'Neill – Retirement Celebration 3/1998

100 Years of Catholicism in Natrona County – Centennial Celebration 8/1998

Block Party (Picnic) – First Ecumenical Picnic (to include St. Anthony's, First Presbyterian & St. Mark's Episcopal Churches) 7/1999